

the Elm Tree

for the alumni and friends of Lawrence Academy

Spring 2009

First Word

On November 7, 2008, Gene Batiste, vice president for leadership education and diversity at the National Association of Independent Schools, addressed an audience at our annual Board of Visitors' meeting. In his keynote address, he spoke of three critical phases that schools must complete to fully realize the dream of becoming inclusive communities.



Head of School D. Scott Wiggins

During the Q&A that followed Mr. Batiste's talk, a board member asked where Lawrence Academy was on Batiste's developmental spectrum. Reflecting on the work we have done in these past six years, I answered that I believe we have advanced to the second developmental phase and that, though we still have a good distance to go, we are determined to reach that third phase. Wonjen Bagley, Lawrence Academy's director of diversity initiatives, concurred with my assessment. The progress we have made during this time is the focus of my remarks in this issue of *The Elm Tree*.

To describe the good work that has been and is being done on campus in our quest to become a more inclusive community, I want first to summarize the three phases of diversity development as described by Mr. Batiste in his remarks.

Mr. Batiste noted that in the first phase of development, schools think that they have been successful if they have achieved "numbers diversity"—that is, if they have brought in a fixed number of students and teachers who are of different races, ethnicities, socioeconomic backgrounds, and the like. The problem with "numbers diversity" is that if the numbers take on primacy and little attention is paid to cultivating an environment where all groups and individuals feel supported, valued, and comfortable, there will be an exodus of those made to feel unwelcome. In Mr. Batiste's words, "working for diversity isn't about having others come in, but building a community to maintain what in fact you're able to achieve." Maintaining the "numbers" is the work of the second phase of diversity development, which he refers to as the multicultural phase.

In the multicultural phase, schools examine and reframe their policies, programs, and practices with an eye toward building communities out of differences. To do this, schools need to expand their notion of the representative types of students and teachers who will be found and welcomed within their communities. Schools that describe this representative profile narrowly tend to force students and teachers into roles with which they are neither comfortable nor experienced. However, when schools embrace differences and celebrate *all* community members for who they are, a natural drift from the deliberate to the automatic takes place, which signals a transition to the equity and justice phase of diversity development.

continued on page 3

Prisoner of His Own Sound: A Profile of Jon Abrams '01

by Andrew J. Brescia, director of communications



photo by Joan Marcus

Jon Abrams '01 landed his dream job in November 2008 when he became one of two professional pianists touring as Billy Joel in *Movin' Out*.

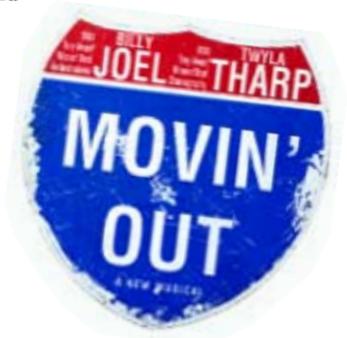
Speaking in the Williams Arts Center Recital Hall, none of the Ninth Grade Program teachers could have possibly known just how difficult it was for Jon Abrams '01 to pay attention. The teachers might as well have spent the first two weeks of classes blowing bubbles for all the effect their words had on the 14-year-old from Lowell. Jon could think of little else than the new apple of his eye—the Steinway standing silently against the wall.

Longtime music teacher Peter Hazzard and Jon remember pretty much the same story of the first time he fingered its keys. Jon ventured into the recording studio and asked the music teacher he had met only once before if it would be OK if he played the piano. Of course; that would be absolutely fine, came the reply. A few minutes later, the choral director recalls, he heard "some pretty incredible piano music coming from the Recital Hall" and he thought, "Wait a minute—did he bring in a boom box with some recordings that he was trying to listen to and play?"

Intrigued, Peter stepped into the 100-seat hall to find the Steinway's lid propped open and Jon lending his voice and hands to a performance of Billy Joel's "Scenes from an Italian Restaurant." According to the veteran music teacher and former instructor at the Berklee College of Music, Jon "proceeded to go into several other Billy Joel tunes complete with piano renderings that were virtually identical to those that I had heard on records all those years."

Now, only a few years later, Jon is performing many of the same songs to halls seating thousands of paying customers. As a result of not straying from his passion and dream to lift himself and others with music, in November 2008, at 25, Jon became one of two professional pianists to perform the role of Billy Joel in *Movin' Out*, a Tony Award-winning Broadway musical on yet another national tour.

continued on next page



Board of Visitors – Students For a Day

see page 4

First Came Roy Orbison

When Jon arrived at Lawrence Academy, he was already a much-practiced musician with an ear like few his age have.

In addition to his skills as a singer and pianist, he was adept at playing the guitar and the bass, and even sounded good when he sat down with a drum set. “In other words, here’s a kid who had a terrific musical ear and had taught himself to play a number of instruments. He was no jack-of-all-trades, master of none; he was a jack-of-all-trades and master of many,” Peter Hazzard recalls.

Over the next four years, Jon admits, he continued to be distracted from his coursework by that Steinway and all the music he played on it. As a first-grader he had fallen for the sounds of Roy Orbison, and that certainly helped to charm his mentor, whose a cappella group SLACS has, over his years as its director, performed “Pretty Woman” to the delight of young and old audiences alike. But it was more than the Grammy Award-winning artist’s sound that made an impression on Jon.

“As a young kid, I liked the fact that people could play or sing music and have that be their job. That’s what I always wanted as a kid growing up, but no one tells you how to get those jobs.” It was not long before Jon turned his attention to the music nearly everyone falls in love with at some point growing up. “Most of my life was taken over then by the Beatles. I would say that from 1991 until 1997, I listened *only* to the Beatles. Then came Billy Joel. After that, I started soaking up a lot more material by different artists as my age and tastes matured, including Sinatra and also lots of classical music. But I give most of the credit [for my development as a musician] to the Beatles.”

Peter waited until the spring of Jon’s first year to usher him onto the stage during an instrumental concert. Predictably, Jon performed a few Billy Joel songs, and many times thereafter audiences at Lawrence Academy—at concerts and, increasingly, during all-school assemblies—were treated to a growing repertoire of songs.

Jon played in the jazz band at Lawrence Academy for only one year because he was always busy playing in pickup bands around school. By the time he was a junior, the self-taught musician had developed an appetite for courses in music theory, history, and composition, becoming a more schooled musician, according to Peter, who became his advisor after Jon’s freshman year. Jon had also successfully auditioned for SLACS. Slowly, he began performing his own compositions, and during the final months of his LA career—when he might as well have been studying music full-time—he recorded and produced a CD of nine original songs. The title track was “More to Me than Me.” Friend and classmate Andy Whitegiver, who occasionally performed with Jon, assisted him in producing the CD.

“As a young kid, I liked the fact that people could play or sing music and have that be their job. That’s what I always wanted as a kid growing up, but no one tells you how to get those jobs.”

“By his senior year, Jon was known around the school as sort of the in-house entertainer,” Peter Hazzard recalls. “If the president of the student body came to him and said there was nobody available for a Friday assembly, Jon would hop up on stage at 7:45 in the morning and play and sing some music.”

But as it turned out, Jon didn’t need all that much assistance. “Through the magic of multi-track recording, he was able to play the piano, play the bass, play the guitar, and, with minor exceptions, do all of the vocals. We brought in both some Lawrence Academy student musicians and some outside professionals to play on a couple of the tunes where he wanted a rather fat horn section,” Peter said, adding that he also pitched in once by playing the clarinet.

On May 3, 2001, Jon capped his career at LA with a CD-release concert and party; in addition to a professional trumpet player, Duncan Pelletier ’02 and Paul Meniates ’02 joined Andy Whitegiver in backing up the featured musician. Peter Hazzard served as the event’s impresario. Among the songs performed was “Waltz for Claire,” composed by Jon for his mother.

Later that month, at graduation, Jon was saluted by his mentor in a way undetected by anyone else at the ceremony—in a Beatles riff of a mere five notes that Peter had buried in a brass ensemble performance piece composed in honor of the graduating class, of which his daughter Laura was a member. Nearly eight years later, could Jon recall anything special about the ceremony? What springs to mind is watching as the head of school covered the microphone and instructed a nearby graduate-to-be to put out a very big cigar. “That was pretty good,” he smiles. Two beats later, his smile widens. Yeah, he remembers “this one lick that was pretty much lovingly stolen from the Beatles, from *Sgt. Pepper’s*—actually from “A Day in the Life”—it was the part with the horns,” he says, before reproducing the sound we might all recognize but might not notice embedded in a brass ensemble’s performance of a graduation-day recessional: “I heard the news today, oh, boy”

One Gig Leads to Another

During his career at Allegheny College, where Jon earned a bachelor’s degree with a major in music education and composition, he continued to find ways to surround himself with music away from the classroom. While continuing to compose his own music, he served as the musical or choral director for area churches and theatre productions, often drawing on student and faculty musicians at Allegheny when it was time to assemble a band.

Following his graduation, he found a job as a substitute for a music teacher on maternity leave from a school in Lowell, Massachusetts, and the next year he secured a yearlong maternity-leave position at Esterbrook Elementary School in Lexington, Mass, directing the 4th- and 5th-grade choruses and teaching elementary general music in the classroom. The first year was sink-or-swim for a young man who had never been entirely at home in a classroom, and he discovered ways of swimming he didn’t know he had. By the second year, he realized why he and his students were having so much fun, and it got him thinking.

“Kids are absolutely in love with music. When I was a kid their age, I just thought that it was just me because I knew that I was a musician at that point and that I loved to play the piano. But it’s pretty much every kid who really, really loves music. And pretty much every kid can do it at some level; he may not be the greatest singer, but he may be a really good bongo player. Or they may just have a rhythm inside of them that they didn’t know about until they had music class.”

He felt what it feels like to make a difference in the lives of others, but not only as an educator. “I realized that as a musician I have the power to really make a difference in somebody’s life. It happened with these kids, so why couldn’t I take that to the next level?”

With that kind of dream, he auditioned to be keyboard player for a Beach Boys tribute band called All Summer Long. Playing a few Billy Joel songs wouldn’t get him the job. Instead, the producer decided on the spot to build a Billy Joel cover band called The Strangers around his newly discovered talent, and for two years Jon played venues in New England with five other musicians. The membership of bands being fluid, Jon would eventually play alongside David Brown (who performed with Billy Joel in the late ’70s and into the ’80s) and saxophonist Mark Rivera, who currently performs with Billy Joel. John Islee also sat in on some concerts to play sax for The Strangers.

Islee, while playing with *Movin’ Out*, learned that the band would need to replace one of its two piano men for the 2008–2009 tour. He recommended to the casting director and producer in New York that they call Jon Abrams in for an audition. Soon after that, the “impossible” happened.

“When I get up in the morning, I have a fantastic job,” Jon says. “So many theatres and so many hotel rooms look alike, and every show sounds the same, but I don’t ever want to get used to it or take it for granted.”

Becoming the Piano Man, Again—for Real

On Broadway soon after its creation in 2003, *Movin’ Out* is part concert and part modern dance, relying on 24 songs by Billy Joel and choreography by Twyla Tharp to form a modern dance story. In two acts, a cast of 24 dancers brings to life the fictitious characters from Billy’s songs, including Brenda, Eddie, and Anthony from “Scenes from an Italian Restaurant.” The audience follows the story, which passes through the mid-’60s and the Vietnam War and into the early ’80s. In this musical, however, there is no overlooking the band. Led by its piano man, the band is suspended above the stage for all to see.

As soon as he had the chance, Jon’s Lawrence Academy mentor was in the audience. “It’s like going to a Billy Joel concert that’s being interpreted dramatically with full costumes, sets, and props by 24 dancers,” Peter observes.

“When I get up in the morning, I have a fantastic job,” Jon says. “So many theatres and so many hotel rooms look alike, and every show sounds the same, but I don’t ever want to get used to it or take it for granted. A year ago, my ‘crowd’ was 15 kids. Now there are 2,000 people in the audience who paid \$60 to be there, and in today’s economy, that’s nothing to sneeze at.”

He feels both the weight of expectations and the satisfaction of meeting them. “It puts a lot of responsibility on my shoulders to really deliver the product—a Tony Award-winning show—each time I perform. They are not coming to it hoping to be pleased; they are coming to it expecting it. That is my job, and I feel really lucky to have it.”

But there is something more that you need to know about Jon Abrams. Before leaving Lawrence Academy, Jon donned his Brooks Brothers’ finest to stand, not sit, on stage during an all-school assembly. He wanted to be sure that everyone at school understood the message delivered in the music of his CD: that there was more to him than just a musician with a remarkable ear who can imitate Billy Joel with uncanny accuracy. He felt compelled, at the time, to make clear that he, not those entertained by his performances, would be defining who he was—and that he was more than a piano man, an on-call assembly performer.

“I wanted to be careful that I wasn’t backing myself into a corner where I would only ever be perceived as a musician. That was a time in my life when I wasn’t totally sure that this was the course my life was going to take, or rather, I didn’t want to be sure. I wanted to keep my doors open. My speech that day was to acknowledge that I had allowed myself to be labeled as a musician.”

In hindsight, he says that it was “a silly talk to give” because his own actions were defining him. “If people get that impression, it’s because that’s the impression I give.” He may not look back now on that speech with pride, but it certainly helps to encapsulate what he remembers learning about himself while at Lawrence.

Jon knows now that he has already met and performed with some amazingly talented musicians, and, flying high while playing Billy Joel covers, he is thrilled to perform in *Movin’ Out* because he can share his sound with audiences who are there for his performance, not to judge the songs themselves. “It allows me to make an impression on my listeners without putting my soul on the line.” It is something altogether different to be performing his own songs live, which he continues to birth in recording studios just as he did when at Lawrence.

“I’m far better at replicating Billy’s songs live than I am performing my own music live. So it’s really hard to compare the two. But I do know that when I’m in the studio recording a song, and when it starts really sounding like something, I get to the point where I can’t sit down anymore. I have to be standing in the studio because my

energy is just so out of control at this point. I want to go, go, go all night until the song is finished. *Nothing* gets me going as much as hearing my stuff start to come alive in the studio. Not even playing in *Movin' Out* makes me feel this good."

During the performances of *Movin' Out*, when he is not playing, he can look out at the audience and take it all in. Sometimes, he even takes pictures of the audience taking in the show. And he's thinking of the next step. He thinks of composing. He thinks of living in L.A. and scoring films, knowing that such work will require moving away from performing live. In fact, one expectation of his current employer is that he continue composing and recording his own music—and that, after his show, he offer for sale a CD of his own music.

That suits him just fine: "I want to continue writing my own music and get to the point where my music is a product that I can sell ... If I could be on tour with my own music, whether or not I'm selling 18,000 tickets ... now that's the American dream!"

Jon will tell you that his years at Lawrence Academy mean the world to him. "Lawrence is a place that is really nurturing not only when it comes to academics but also when it comes to people skills. Lawrence is a place that asks you to find the best in yourself and to understand why it is the best in yourself and to put your best foot forward. The NGP is a great example because you get yourself organized and you learn to present yourself in ways that will impress people—whether you are looking for a job or to be a good person. Most people will figure that out in the course of their lives, but you can't help but figure it out at Lawrence. That's probably the most priceless thing."

He also says that it is a place where kids are supported in ways that help them to make discoveries about themselves. In his case, he explains, he learned two lessons very much at the heart of his life as a musician and performer. Jon the musician sees himself clearly:

"I realized that I was comfortable being my own person. I didn't feel the need to conform to what society thought or my high school thought I should be." The performer Jon learned something else: "Whether it was college or the next phase of my life, I realized that there were certain things that were expected of me—and that was something I didn't understand coming in."

Leaving Lawrence, he understood that his friends—so many seemed so happy to him—had confirmed for him that life's glass is always at least half full. It is no wonder, then, that Jon remembers as if it were yesterday when English teacher Ned Mitchell tossed him a \$20 bill after Jon had ordered some pizza only to realize that he had left his wallet in the Music Tech Lab. "Mitch cares so much about the students and knows what it's like to be growing up at this school or at this age. Or maybe he didn't want to hear anything more from me that night—I have no idea. But it left a lasting impression on me. I never had Mitch as a teacher; that's the funny thing. I knew him only as a face around campus."

From a 14-year-old itching to get his hands on a Steinway to a 25-year-old performing as Billy Joel himself, Jon Abrams has in some ways not moved very far at all. Playing music transports him to a place where he both finds and loses himself. "I sometimes think I get detached from normal life and don't feel like I'm myself: I become a prisoner of my own sound."



Proud LA alumni fans surround Jon Abrams '01, seen in center wearing a black sweater, when the *Movin' Out* tour performed in Boston in March 2009. Jon's parents, Jack and Claire, are standing to his right.

First Word, continued from page 1.

In the equity and justice phase, a school seeks to sustain itself as an inclusive and diverse institution by automatically countenancing diversity as part and parcel of all conversations leading to institutional decisions and informing its strategic planning.

During my first year at LA in 2003–2004, I was persuaded by what I was seeing and hearing regarding diversity that it would serve the school well to engage in a diversity audit to weigh prevailing views and opinions then existing in our student, faculty, staff, and parent bodies. We secured the services of VISIONS, Inc., of Cambridge, Massachusetts, to conduct the audit. Over a period of several weeks, VISIONS staff conducted over 30 focus groups covering a variety of diversity topics. For purposes of the audit, we used an expansive definition of diversity.

The results of that audit revealed that a number of under-represented groups in our community felt marginalized, misunderstood, and pressured to conform to profile representations with which they were not comfortable or experienced. In retrospect, I believe that the audit placed us in the "numbers diversity" phase at that point in time and showed us that we had a good deal of work to do.

The next year, we called on VISIONS to shepherd us through the work and program development it had recommended to us based upon the results of the audit. With their help, that year we launched our first affinity group for students, ABLE (the Association for Black and Latino Encouragement), which is today a group of some 20 students who are active in planning each year's Martin Luther King Jr. Day assembly and who, more recently, planned a Cultural Coffeehouse event on hunger awareness.

VISIONS also helped us run diversity workshops for faculty and students throughout the 2004–2005 year, but some missteps in the planning and organization of those workshops, in tandem with an increasing appetite among many of our faculty and students to take on more ownership of diversity work and initiatives, led us to form a Diversity Coordinating Committee in the spring of 2005. The DCC, which is composed of faculty, staff, students, administrators, and two members of the Board of Trustees, serves as a critical advisory body for envisioning and implementing diversity initiatives at Lawrence Academy.

In the early going, the annual operating budget at LA could not fund all of the work we wanted to do with VISIONS. Recognizing how important this work was to Lawrence Academy, and desiring to pursue as expansive a program as possible, we submitted a grant proposal to The Donna Ann Poulack Foundation of Amherst, New Hampshire, which had as a priority the support and funding of programs that promote diversity awareness and serve under-represented communities. Thanks to a \$150,000 grant that was paid out over a three-year period starting in 2005, Lawrence Academy has had adequate funding to pursue diversity work during these past four years. (The funding dollars will run out at the end of the current academic year, so we continue to mine fundraising possibilities aimed at this important work.)

Contemporaneous with the work we were pursuing with VISIONS, a new program emerged on campus called the Cultural Coffeehouse Series. Through the efforts of three founding faculty advisors, Jennifer O'Connor, Karen Bowley, and Caroline Grinnell, the program was launched in the fall of 2004 to explore a different dimension of culture each month. The series garnered broad student support over the years and continues to thrive. Topics examined by the Cultural Coffeehouse Series have included Black Men in Independent Schools, The Culture of Money, The Dos and Don'ts of Online Communities, The Gender Gap, The Middle East, and Sex and Relationships.

While created as a faculty-led organization, the CCS has become a more student-led organization during these past two years. Bi-weekly meetings of its student focus group have generated great leadership in envisioning, planning, and carrying out CCS programs. Also, the frequent contributions of guest faculty presenters have added much to the breadth and depth of CCS programming. The series has created a warm, friendly environment where students can talk openly and honestly about issues of diversity and culture, which does much to advance our understanding of each other by exploring what it is like to walk in someone else's shoes. (To read an article about the genesis of the CCS, turn to page 14.)

A huge boost to our diversity efforts came with the arrival of a new assistant head of school in the fall of 2005. Now in his fourth year, Henry Horne served as the chair of the DCC in the early going and continues to serve on that committee. Henry's perspective as a person of color and a key administrator in the school has been extremely valuable in helping Lawrence Academy to be an ever more inclusive community.

Another pivotal step in advancing our diversity work at LA came with a recommendation made by the DCC during the 2006–2007 academic year to capitalize on the school's progress by hiring a part-time administrator to oversee our diversity initiatives. As a result of that recommendation, Wonjen Bagley joined the faculty as the director of diversity initiatives.

Under Wonjen's leadership, diversity programming has increased exponentially. For example, for the past two years running, we have sent close to a dozen faculty and students to the annual NAIS People of Color Conference each December, and attendees have brought back great ideas and understanding that have advanced the diversity work undertaken by both students and teachers.

Wonjen has also been instrumental in organizing powerful and meaningful assemblies to celebrate Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Last year she invited Dr. Roland Fryer Jr., a young, African-American economics professor at Harvard University who has researched and spoken widely about the achievement gap in America's urban schools; this year, she brought in a professional theatrical group to perform the play *The Meeting*, a fictional story about a meeting between Dr. King and Malcolm X. Both of these assemblies were transformational for many of us and did much to clarify why we want so much to achieve equity and justice in our community and in the world at large. Another of Wonjen's initiatives is to host campus visits each year by authors who specialize in writing books for teenage readers. These all-day visits—most recently by Patricia McCormick, author of *Sold*—have given our students the opportunity to spend some valuable time with practicing authors who are writing about issues of diversity for young adults.

Other initiatives on Wonjen's list for the future include developing a Habitat for Humanity Winterim trip to New Orleans for Spring 2010; increasing the membership of the Multicultural Faculty & Staff Book Club that she launched in January 2009; envisioning a teacher internship program to attract faculty of color to Lawrence Academy; and creating a special orientation program for new students of color to accompany the new student orientation program we have each August. She is also working closely with the DCC this spring to craft a diversity mission statement for Lawrence Academy and to create a strategic plan for diversity initiatives over the next five years. In addition, Wonjen is working with enthusiasm to broaden and strengthen our applicant pool for under-represented students and teachers.

Through the development of programs, opportunities for dialogue, and increased attention to issues of diversity, I believe that we have made great progress in the last six years on the road to equity and justice at Lawrence Academy. What is certain in this quest is our commitment to pursuing a vision for Lawrence Academy that builds community out of celebrated differences—and that the process of building and sustaining that community is every bit as important as the product.

Board of Visitors: Alumni Perspectives

Why did you join the BOV, and what do you most enjoy about the annual meeting?

I joined the Board of Visitors to preserve my connection to the school. Lawrence provided me an opportunity that changed my life and opened my eyes to the world and expanded the expectations I had for myself. Now, I'm able to share a perspective from historical, professional, and multi-cultural points of view. I learn about the policies of the school, absorb the campus atmosphere, and reflect on whether Lawrence is true to its mission statement. Many institutions have goals, objectives, and mission statements, but very few have a true commitment to actualize their aspirations.

As a local alumnus, I try to attend campus activities more than once a year. Meeting as many students as possible gives me the opportunity to answer their questions and a more informed perspective on today's student experience. For me, this is especially important for LA's students of color; they can be encouraged just by seeing me and knowing that someone like them made it. Besides the academic adjustments, they must also make tremendous personal and social adjustments. Supporting them at LA is necessary for the total development of the community, and as a BOV member, I'm able to be a part of that.

How has your view of Lawrence Academy changed since serving on the BOV?

Over the years that I've been on the Board, I have seen the administration think through its responsibility to the Lawrence Academy student and seen its mission in action through classroom participation. They have an environment where it's good to learn. I envy the education that they receive. The students are comfortable with themselves and have a well-developed ability to express their thoughts from a personal and existential perspective.

Socially, I've observed that Lawrence has an open, honest campus, where students and staff are respected and, more important, appreciated for what they bring to the community. I appreciate the administration's ability to make the tough decisions with personnel and students. There is a low tolerance for stagnation on staff and for students who disrespect the community, and that benefits everyone. Lawrence continues to look for ways to refine its ideals, analyzing itself to become a better community.

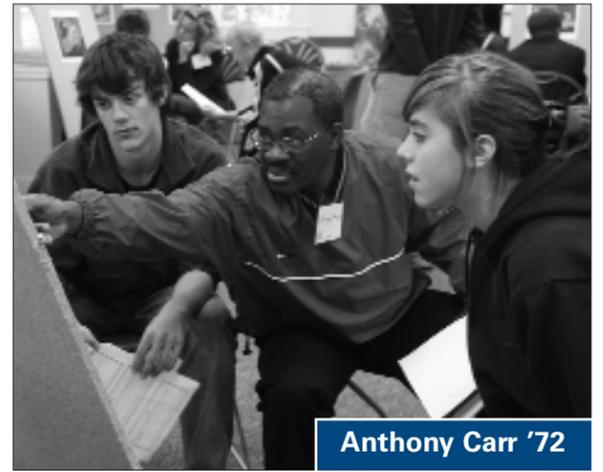
As a result of attending the BOV, what areas do you feel need attention to make Lawrence Academy a stronger school?

Lawrence Academy would be stronger if it was to define more clearly its codes, traditions, and values. Who does not remember their Girl Scout or Boy Scout oath? Great institutions have strong traditions and engender strong loyalties through their members participating in traditions. People want to belong to what is unique and special. In some ways, Lawrence has gotten away from its roots as an independent boarding school. We are more Lawrence and less Academy.

If the school does not have many traditions or has lost them, the community should create new ones. Otherwise, Lawrence is a pass-through institution with a nonsustainable identity, and its brand of education is never fully optimized. When students leave Lawrence Academy, they should know what it means to be a graduate and what that reflects to the world.

What has made you want to return to attend the BOV meeting? What would you tell alumni who have been invited to join?

At the Board of Visitors meetings, I listen, learn, and provide input and feedback to the administration. I enjoy



Anthony Carr '72

Anthony Carr '72 joins Nick Yavorsky '11 and Hannah Corbin '11 in a BOV class devoted to interpreting visual images, "Entry Points: How to Read Art."

my glimpse of the rich educational experience of the students, a chance to view the physical changes on campus, and time to connect with the faculty, who are wonderful people and who have had a significant effect on my life. As alumni, we have a responsibility to maintain and nurture an institution that has had an impact on us whether that impact has been positive or negative. If it was negative, make it right; if it was positive, make it better. By happenstance or choice, Lawrence Academy was on the path we walked, and I, for one, would not want my footsteps to disappear. Some see and do, others watch and do nothing. Participate and help define Lawrence Academy's future.



Nina Koules Anton '78

Nina Koules Anton '78 compares the details of an experiment with what students, including Zach Sarkis '11, are doing during a BOV master class, "Greenhouse Effect in a Bottle."

Why did you join the BOV, and what do you most enjoy about the annual meeting?

Lawrence is an extraordinary place! I reflect with gratitude on my experience there, realizing how lucky I was to attend. Serving on the BOV has been an opportunity to gain knowledge about its innovative curriculum and enhancements on campus. More important, the invigorating energy I felt in the learning environment when I observed classes at the annual meeting was a highlight because it underscored the ideals of the school.

How has your view of Lawrence Academy changed since serving on the BOV?

My career in higher education administration makes me appreciate that translating a school's mission and vision into daily practices is not an easy task. With Scott Wiggins's leadership and such dedicated faculty and staff, Lawrence is well positioned as a student-focused learning community that values all students and their unique talents.

As a result of attending the BOV, what areas do you feel need attention to make Lawrence Academy a stronger school?

Although I did not come away from the annual meeting with a specific issue that needs attention, certainly—in these uncertain economic times—maintaining financial-aid initiatives should be a priority to ensure that Lawrence Academy continues to draw families from across the income spectrum.

What has made you want to return to attend the BOV meeting? What would you tell alumni who have been invited to join?

The lessons I learned at Lawrence guide everything I do. The BOV is a worthy endeavor. It has been valuable to participate and know that the school's enduring purpose and legacy of student-focused learning continues. Lawrence advances into this 21st century with inspiration and insight, which make me very proud.

Why did you join the BOV, and what do you most enjoy about the annual meeting?

Unlike reunion weekends, a Board of Visitors meeting brings a small group of alumni from a variety of classes and areas of the world together for a daylong look into the lives of the current students. As a result of attending the meeting, I learned about the current curriculum, the unique styles and methods used to facilitate learning, and all of the amazing opportunities available to the students. I can now advocate for the school with a new perspective. I also reconnected with old friends and made some new ones whom I would not otherwise have had the opportunity to meet because our reunions never overlap.

How has your view of Lawrence Academy changed since serving on the BOV?

I have a much better understanding of how Lawrence differentiates itself amid a very competitive group of schools in the ISL [Independent School League]. The students are coming away from Lawrence with skills that enable them to participate in global learning environments through their experiences with student-centered learning. It is impressive, and I am excited that the faculty at LA has embraced this style of teaching.

As a result of attending BOV, what areas do you feel need attention to make Lawrence Academy a stronger school?

We were lucky to be joined by Gene Batiste, the VP of leadership, education, and diversity [at the National Association of Independent Schools]. He gave a talk on the importance of developing diversity in schools. It is difficult to define diversity and to strive to create an environment where all people are accepted and valued. As long as Lawrence is committed to attempting to maintain a learning environment that includes and values everyone in the community (faculty, staff, students, parents, and alumni), it will continue to be a strong school. I am beginning to realize, however, as I near 40 years of age, that there is no end result. It is the journey along that path that makes people strong, and, as a result, the people within a community strong.

What has made you want to return to attend the BOV meeting? What would you tell alumni who have been invited to join?

It was a great experience and I would encourage anyone to attend for all of the above reasons. I feel incredibly connected to Lawrence, but if you are currently not in touch, it's a great way to get back.



Nancy-Geer Hamilton '87

Nancy-Geer Hamilton '87 spent some of her time as a BOV member this year listening to students debate each other in John Curran's "Nukes and Commies" master class before they discussed topics with visitors.

Why did you join the BOV, and what do you most enjoy about the annual meeting?

For me, the Board of Visitors is a great way to stay connected with Lawrence and, at the same time, to share some of my life experiences, hopefully adding value to the school as a whole. Equally important is that being on the Board allows me the opportunity to hear from others about their experiences. The annual meeting enables faculty, administrators, and staff to carefully consider the perspectives represented by board members and apply their findings, where possible, to the daily operations in ways consistent with the philosophy of the school.

How has your view of Lawrence Academy changed since serving on the BOV?

My view on Lawrence hasn't changed since joining the BOV. Rather, my participation has reinforced for me the fact that Lawrence Academy is a unique community dedicated to developing the whole student.

As a result of attending BOV, what areas do you think need attention to make Lawrence Academy a stronger school?

I would like to see more continuing education programs for faculty, administration, and staff. The ongoing risk is that LA is a small community. Having the ability to step out of the community and gain a new experience or perspective is an invaluable tool. It keeps the community leadership stimulated and, as such, the educational development of the students directly benefits.

What has made you want to return to attend the BOV meeting? What would you tell alumni who have been invited to join?

Lawrence has always been dear to me, and rarely has a day passed since graduation when a life situation hasn't drawn me back to my LA days. I actually didn't know the BOV existed until a few years ago, and when I was asked to join, I jumped at the opportunity. I encourage participation on the BOV because it is a great way to give a little bit back to a place that has offered so much through the years. Your input can positively influence the lives of hundreds, if not thousands, of young people.



John Lord '80

2008 Board of Visitors chair, John Lord '80 speaks about the value to him of his time at Lawrence Academy.



Sue Meenan Barron '86

Sue Meenan Barron '86 looks over a print as she and students in a BOV master class, including Dan Caesar '11, discuss how to interpret the image.

Why did you join the BOV, and what do you most enjoy about the annual meeting?

Honestly, I joined because I was invited. :) I loved getting a sense of the way the Ninth Grade Program works and seeing the kids so engaged in their school community. I also was pleased to see that the teachers and staff still all carry the same passion for the students and their education. It was like I had never left—except that I didn't have to worry about turning in any homework! Thank goodness!

How has your view of Lawrence Academy changed since serving on the BOV?

I was happy to see that LA's philosophy, as supported by Mr. Wiggins, is as strong as ever. The visit was energizing, inspiring, and also exhausting! You forget the schedule and pace of the day of a high school student. Man!

As a result of attending BOV, what areas do you feel need attention to make Lawrence Academy a stronger school?

I'm not sure if this is a result of attending BOV, but as a parent of a potential applicant (watching the tuition numbers—ouch!) as well as discussing the idea of private school education vs. public school education with my peers, a big concern that I have heard discussed is a private school's ability to deal with various learning differences, challenges, or disabilities.

What has made you want to return to attend the BOV meeting? What would you tell alumni who have been invited to join?

It's a great way to reconnect with Lawrence Academy—to get a sense of all that the school is accomplishing while remaining true to its core values.

Why did you join the BOV, and what do you most enjoy about the annual meeting?

I joined the Board of Visitors to allow me to keep a closer tie to LA. After our 40th Reunion and the fun we had in planning the event and then spending the weekend in Groton, I realized how important my years at Lawrence had been to me and how friendships made as a young man are important today. Aside from talking with alums of many different classes and generations, I most enjoyed the opportunity to interact with current students, both in Mr. Woo's math class and just wandering the campus and chatting. Being a college professor now, I had the opportunity to see where my current students came from!

How has your view of Lawrence Academy changed since serving on the BOV?

My brief experience with the Board of Visitors has changed my view of LA from that idyllic memory of the school 40 years ago to one of a great school facing everyday challenges to maintain that greatness today.

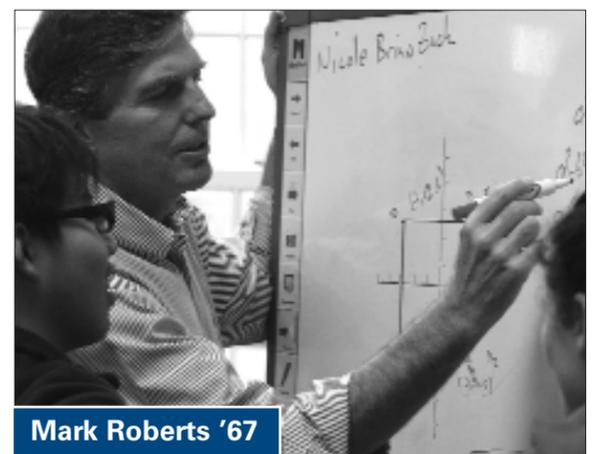
Through my role on the board, I hope to be able to play a role in helping LA meet and overcome those challenges.

As a result of attending BOV, what areas do you feel need attention to make Lawrence Academy a stronger school?

I am not sure I have enough information to comment on this area yet. The recent meeting's topic of diversity certainly was right on the money. The comment that has been rustling through my mind since the meeting has to do with the issue of socio-economic diversity. How can the school do a better job in preparing its students to face this issue?

What has made you want to return to attend the BOV meeting? What would you tell alumni who have been invited to join?

The opportunity to become more involved with a school that was very influential in my development I view as a gift. In addition, it is a lot of fun!



Mark Roberts '67

Mark Roberts '67, a college professor, takes on an active and familiar role while working with students on a whiteboard in Mr. Woo's Math 2 class.

NAIS VP for Leadership and Diversity Addresses Board of Visitors

Where do you go for a chance to create material for a modern dance, examine scenes in *Othello*, plot graphs in Algebra, debate the origins of the Cold War, or learn how to "read" visual art? If you are a teenager, go to Lawrence Academy. If you're not that lucky, then hope to get invited to join the Board of Visitors and then attend the annual fall meeting.

On November 7, 2008, members of the Board of Visitors gathered in the Recital Hall of the Williams Arts Center to be greeted by BOV Chair John Lord '80, who spoke with heartfelt appreciation about the long-standing benefits he has enjoyed from his Lawrence Academy education. Following John's brief remarks, Gene Batiste, vice president for leadership and diversity for the National Association of Independent Schools, delivered a thought-provoking address about diversity and inclusion.

Keynote Address on Diversity

Beginning with two common myths—that conversations about diversity are only about race and that having those conversations will tear a community apart—Mr. Batiste explained that schools that are committed to being inclusive must progress beyond what he called a *Sesame Street* notion of diversity as measured by adding up the numbers. Further, a school needs to understand its commitment to diversity as ongoing, like its commitment to the overall mission. For both, the driving force must be vision, not mere rhetoric. "Working for diversity isn't about having others come in, but it's about building a community to maintain what in fact you're able to achieve." *continued on following page*



Gene Batiste

In retelling a story told by Episcopal bishop Gene Robinson of New Hampshire, Mr. Batiste illustrated the need for a school community committed to diversity to continue moving the fence that circumscribes that diversity so that the community becomes multicultural. “How often we are willing to move the fence to incorporate the experience of someone who is different is the work of multiculturalism,” he said, noting that the desired change should be institutionalized in the school’s policies, programs, and practices—and certainly in its curriculum.

With a strong enough commitment to diversity broadly defined to include such categories as race, gender, class, age, and disability, a school moves on to seek equity and justice in its community by incorporating all such considerations in its long-range strategic planning. At such a stage of development, he said, the leadership will “have goals, objectives, and strategies to build and sustain an inclusive school community.” Using Maslow’s hierarchy of human needs as a guide, Mr. Batiste explained that inclusive communities will not, like humans, be only at one level of development: “Our school could be in a self-actualized area when it comes to its mission, but it could still be at the foundational stage when it comes to building a faculty, staff, administration, and board that reflect the racial, ethnic and cultural diversity of the student body.”

In concluding his remarks, Mr. Batiste, who addressed the faculty on this subject in the spring of 2008, broadened his focus to include how communities treat (honor, respect, empower) members whose bodies do not fit the image promoted by a commitment to competitive athletics, for example. Speaking personally, the keynote speaker explained how differently he is treated three years after having gastric bypass surgery. “I’ve lost 165 pounds and I will tell you that I had family members who treated me differently because of the way I look now. I’m the same Gene, the same person, but they literally treat me differently, and in fact they treat me better because of the transformation I went through.” Similarly, how supportive are our communities of members who espouse political views not in step with the majority? That, too, is the work of a school committed to being inclusive.

Student Panels, Master Classes, Plenary Session

Following that address on the rewards and challenges of building and sustaining an inclusive school community, BOV members split up to attend one of two student panel discussions (student-centered learning; the Ninth Grade Program and student leadership).

The students-for-a-day attended one of ten 70-minute master classes on subjects as different as modern dance choreography, greenhouse gases, Latin, and the history of Boston. Learning beside or from current students or teaching them from firsthand experience of the Cold War, Board members were immersed briefly in the waters of student-centered learning before toweling off for lunch. The school day ended with a closing plenary session, when the visitors were given the chance to offer their



Brooke Simpson '11, Jarmarcus Shelton '12, and Emily Gregoire '12 speak on a BOV panel focusing on the Ninth Grade Program and Leadership.

impressions of what works well and what needs some work at Lawrence Academy for the school to be more true to its stated mission.

For those with the time and inclination, student-guided tours of the campus capped off a day on campus. Any visitors remaining in Groton for the evening were invited to attend a performance of *The Visit*, written by the Swiss dramatist Friedrich Dürrenmatt.



History teacher John Curran calls on a classroom visitor during a discussion in his BOV master class, “Debate: The Origins of the Cold War.” Of those students who can be seen seated behind John and waiting to take questions are Sam Feigenbaum '09, Jess Lunt '09, and Nate Saideh '09.



Duke Adams '56, Mark Roberts '67, and Jim Barnes '69 share a laugh during a question-and-answer session held in the Recital Hall of the Williams Arts Center.



Emily Bovenzi '12 and Geoffrey Keane '12 enjoy a chuckle during a master class as BOV member Bruce Miller '73 looks on.

Trustees of Lawrence Academy 2008–2009

Mr. Albert B. Gordon Jr. '59, President
 Ms. Barbara A. Brammer '75, Vice President
 Mr. Geoffrey P. Clear, Treasurer
 Mr. Bruce MacNeil '70, Secretary

Ms. Lucy Crocker Abisalih '76 VP
 Mr. Kevin A. Anderson '85
 Mr. Ronald M. Ansin
 Mr. Timothy M. Armstrong '89
 Mr. Craig C. Arnold '63
 Mr. William R. Coke Jr. '74
 Ms. Ann N. Conway
 Mr. Patrick Cunningham '91
 Ms. Judi N. Cyr '82
 Ms. Greta L. Donahue
 Ms. Charlotte Floyd
 Ms. Catherine J. Frissora

Ms. Carole S. Hill
 Mr. Bradford Hobbs '82
 Mr. Jonathan Jodka '79
 Ms. Victoria Bowers Lamb '73
 Mr. Daniel T. Lemaitre
 Mr. Peter C. Myette
 Mr. James S. Polese '84
 Mr. Harold W. Potter Jr., Esq.
 Mr. Gordon W. Sewall '67
 Mr. Norman D. Shanklin '76
 Mr. David Stone '76
 Ms. Ruth Glazer White '76

Honorary Trustees

Mr. Arthur Blackman
 Mr. George A. Chamberlain III
 Mrs. Jeanne (Jay) Crocker
 Mr. Henry S. Russell Jr.
 Mr. Albert Stone
 Mr. Robert F. White '40
 Mr. Benjamin D. Williams III

★ The Obama Inauguration ★

Students Reflect on Barack Obama's Inauguration

Lawrence Academy students reflect on having witnessed, during an all-school assembly on January 20, 2009, the historic inauguration of Barack Obama as the 44th president of the United States. The notable exception is Liz Plowman '09, who traveled to Washington, D.C., for the inauguration. For faculty and staff reflections, turn to page 9. Alumni reflections are distributed throughout Class Notes, beginning with one by Witney Schneidman '70 on page 28.



★ Liz Plowman '09 ★

The Monday before the inauguration, I went to the University of Maryland to hear from several prominent speakers, including Al Gore, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and Colin Powell. Powell was by far my favorite. He talked about why he chose not to run for president (because he felt he had no vision for the country) and why he believed that Obama would be a great president (because he had a vision of where he wanted the country to go).

After Powell's speech, we formed groups of about 40 kids to talk about Obama's election and the inauguration. It was interesting because kids from southern states talked about how black people said, after Obama was elected, that there was going to be a kind of a reverse slavery. They thought that Obama was going to just help the blacks. It was hard for me to believe that there could still be racists in this country today. Coming from Maine, I have never really been exposed to racism. Obviously, I knew that there were racists in the country at one time, but I thought that people would have learned by now how idiotic and ridiculous racism is.

The next morning, I woke up at 4 o'clock to go to the National Mall. The crowds there were unbelievable. It took about four hours for me just to get into the ticketed section. Once in that section, fortunately, there was a lot more space. It was freezing,

even though I was wearing a ton of clothes. Despite having to deal with the cold and the crowd, everyone seemed so excited to be there. Even people without tickets, who probably could not see anything, were excited to be there.

People were laughing when Obama screwed up the words in the oath, but as soon as he was finished, the crowd was cheering as loudly as possible. There were lots of emotional people, especially among the blacks. After he took his oath, someone tapped my shoulder. I turned around, and suddenly an old black woman was hugging and crying all over me. I never found out anything about her, not even her name. I think I was simply the first white person she could find to hug. This made me realize that a black man becoming president was a much bigger deal than I had thought. It made me think of how much the inauguration must have meant to a black woman who had lived through segregation and racism.

Overall, this trip was a big eye-opener for me. I had never realized how much I had been sheltered from certain things in my life. It helped me to understand how far this country has come since the days of segregation and how far some places still have to go. I was so lucky to be able to attend this historic inauguration. It is a trip that I will remember for the rest of my life.



★ Anna Banker '11 ★

Obama's inauguration is a symbol of hope for me. It represents the turning of a page in American history about the years of degradation and humiliation for African-Americans. It is a time of joy for those who could not use the same water fountain as so many of their fellow citizens, and who now can see one of their own elected by millions. It is a part of Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous dream and a tribute to him. It also means a change for the American people: out goes the greasy, egotistical, and money-related politics of the past. Obama presents a government truly of the people and for the people, being a man from working-class roots. He has experienced hardship and struggles, as well as racial barriers. Surely, no one is more fit than this man to be president of the American people who are at this moment in time heavily laden with burdens and difficulties. Obama can understand and knows best how to solve the issues facing us efficiently and

responsibly. At this time more than any other time in history, the United States is ready for Barack Obama. We desperately seek a change from the failed policies of the last eight years, and he will provide it. It is no accident that we compare him to the likes of John F. Kennedy, who will forever remain a symbol of hope and change for our country. A cloud of desperation and hopelessness has gathered above our country, and Barack Obama and his new administration are going to restore the brilliant sunshine.



★ Tim Caron '09 ★

At first, the day seemed to have all the trappings of a nightmare. There everyone was, congregated for the sake of worshipping a relatively inexperienced politician who was carried into the White House by media hype. I was sure that Lawrence didn't do this for Bush's inauguration. However, I was in no position to make a big fuss over it. Another young Republican, junior John Stimpson, was sitting a few rows behind me, firmly sunk down in his seat, arms crossed and eyes looking forward beneath a heavy brow. Other people were looking at him, the archetypal sore loser of the day. I certainly felt feelings similar to his, but I didn't want to fully express them and draw attention to myself.

So, the inauguration commenced, and as expected, there were the bad moments: seeing the smug and plagiaristic Joe Biden take his place as our vice president; Obama's overeagerness helping to botch the oath; and watching George and Laura Bush exit the Capitol Building and then depart by helicopter. (I will admit that I was one of the few who applauded for George Bush, acting out of respect for his time in office. Watching him leave seemed like a big part of my childhood going off into the sunset.)

However, by the time Obama assumed his place as president, I felt a strange sensation come over me. In retrospect, it was something akin to that idea about love: when you don't love your companion, but merely love the idea of being with him or her. Perhaps I enjoyed the sense of unity and nationalistic pride within our auditorium and out on the National Mall among the American people; it was something I hadn't witnessed since the aftermath of 9/11. By the end of the ceremony, my respect for Obama had not grown, but I found that there was a sense of hope in me that I couldn't repress.





★ Marina Bousa '09 ★

On January 20, 2009, I sat with excited anticipation as nearly 500 members of the LA community filed into the theater. CNN's coverage of the inauguration was projected directly in front of me and my classmates enrolled in the course on the presidency (we snagged the front row, naturally). As people gathered, some alone, some with friends, some as a class, I sensed a tension that connected all of us in a kind of serious, contemplative way rarely associated with high schoolers. It manifested in the quiet comments to a friend, the grab of an arm, the silence during Aretha Franklin's song, even the quick, confused glance following Justice Roberts's oath-giving mishap.

colleges I would apply to. I was forced to examine my educational and personal values and find institutions with which those values were aligned, while also trying to define myself politically and determine which candidate would best embody that definition. It was a time of tremendous evaluation, analysis, and decision-making that strangely all happened at the same time.

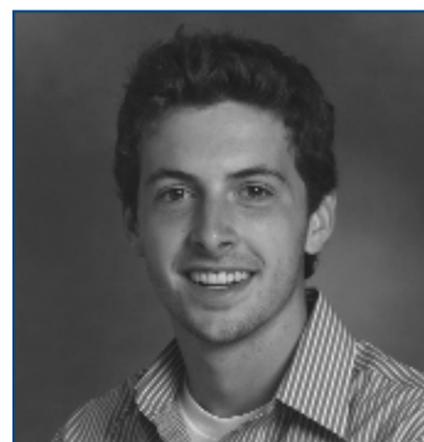
January 20, then, was not only the beginning of a new era for America, but in many ways a fitting culmination to a young voter's first active hand in democracy. Democracy thrives with an educated populace, and Lawrence Academy fosters the kind of forward-thinking, responsible idealism necessary to elect a leader like President Obama. In his address that day, the president called on Americans to enter a "new era of responsibility," a responsibility characterized by "hard work and honesty, courage and fair play, tolerance and curiosity"—all values supported and encouraged as part of our LA education. On Inauguration Day, I was reminded of the real interconnectedness of the American experience, the surprising relationship between these two hills—one Capitol, one elm tree—shaded. Whether in the voting booth, working on the Common Application, or committing on the stage, on the playing field, in the classroom, or in our relationships, we respond to President Obama's call to duty. These "values upon which our success depends" are not limited to the success of the nation but should be applied to our scholastic and personal successes as well. January 20 was a remarkable day, an exciting beginning, and a reminder of our unique position to take on greater responsibility as learners, leaders, and Americans.

This connection, no doubt reinforced by the powerful experience of watching it unfold together, was derived from an acknowledgement that we, as young people, were bearing witness to history. This election was enormously consequential for the youth of America, but for me, as a voting senior, the election season proved especially significant. In those final months, I was evaluating not only which candidate I would vote for, but also which

I had my 18th birthday last Thursday, and it is much to my chagrin that I missed the election by a mere couple of months. However, while I was not able to vote, I am overjoyed and blessed to have experienced such a historic occasion. Of course I write of the swearing-in of the first African-American president. I feel as if hope has been restored to the land of opportunity and freedom....

So as Barack Obama rises to the presidency, I wait with anticipation in hope that a new wave of acceptance will filter through America, "from sea to shining sea." Even in my parents' elementary years, the idea of electing an African-American to the presidency was unforeseeable. This only further speaks to the profound steps we have taken since the time of Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X.

I wrote my junior year term paper on MLK's teachings, and the disarmament of his enemies through love spoke to me and forever made a mark in my mind. MLK was the face of hope for the minorities in the civil rights movement, and President Barack Obama is the face of hope for our entire country. Never have I been more proud to be an American citizen. For me, the face of my pride and of my hope for American restoration in the upcoming years manifest themselves in none other than Barack Obama.



★ Tyler Davis '09 ★



★ Rosa Valentin '09 ★

Growing up, I went to a school where, when I looked around, I didn't see anyone who looked like me. I asked my mom why I was the only girl with brown eyes and black hair, and she cried, telling me that not many Hispanics like us got the chance to go to private schools. As the years have passed, I've grown up to be the only one in my family who has had the education that can make me successful one day. When I was little, I always thought that I was different in a bad way, but as I've grown older and wiser, I've learned that standing out not only has helped me to grow into a strong-minded, independent individual, but it has also opened other people's eyes to see that it is possible to survive and succeed while being in a situation where you are the only person of your kind.

Although I am not African-American, on that Tuesday, I sat in my seat listening quietly to the proceedings because I felt a connection with Obama. To me, he is someone who was granted the gift to speak and be heard—enough to be elected to the most respected leadership position in our government—and from what I have seen, he never gave up hope in becoming the first African-American president of the United States. Of course, the African-American population had a lot to be thankful for on that day, but I think that he was also making a statement for every single person who has ever had a dream to prove that success is possible for *everyone*. I look up to Obama because he has helped me to gather the strength to be able to look at my mother and tell her that she will be seeing my brown eyes and black hair on television one day pursuing my dreams, too. I'm not ashamed, embarrassed, or sad to look different anymore because being different is what's going to make me stand out as a role model and as a leader, just like Obama.



★ The Obama Inauguration ★

Faculty Reflect on Barack Obama's Inauguration

Members of the Lawrence Academy faculty and staff reflect on having witnessed, during an all-school assembly on January 20, 2009, the historic inauguration of Barack Obama as the 44th president of the United States. For student reflections, turn to page 7; alumni reflections are sprinkled throughout class notes, beginning with one by Witney Schneidman '70 on page 28.



★ **Dick Jeffers** ★

Dick Jeffers, director of archives

My first reaction was that it's too bad that this is a special event. It shouldn't be. It signifies to me that we still haven't come close to where we want to be. That is my feeling, though; I don't think the kids [in the auditorium] were feeling that way. They probably felt that it was about time!

I found myself thinking of my sophomore year roommate at Bates, a fellow by the name of Cal Weeks. His mother was the registrar at the Tuskegee Institute, and we often talked about blacks in education. Now there's a guy—really a fascinating person—I'd really like to talk to about the inauguration. I wish I had roomed with him all four years. Before coming up to Bates, he was exposed to a lot of southern prejudice, as opposed to a lot of northern prejudice.

When we were in college, I would have assumed that this day would have come sooner. We had a two-year course at Bates called Cultural Heritage, and the whole point of the course was to bring all the liberal arts together and to expose students to how they mix and what they mean. As part of the course, we had many guest speakers come to campus and stay for two or three days. Two of the most memorable speakers for me were Benjamin May, a Bates alumnus, who gave the eulogy at Martin Luther King Jr.'s funeral, and Thurgood Marshall, who was there to speak about law and justice. These men were giants. I listened to them speak and watched how they presented themselves and how they were presented to us by Bates College. There was no one saying, "You can't speak here." There was no one saying, "We don't want you here." That was my exposure to leadership; it wasn't a black or white concept to me. Clement Atlee was another one who came; I sat right next to him at dinner!

I think of people I met like that when I did, and I think of growing up a white Protestant in a predominantly Italian and Catholic neighborhood in Swampscott [Mass.]. I never felt any discrimination, but I sure felt different when I dated a couple of Jewish girls, and their mothers would never let me pass beyond the front porch. I understood what it was like to be different from what someone wanted me to be, and yet that was nothing compared with what the black kids over the years at LA talked with me about.



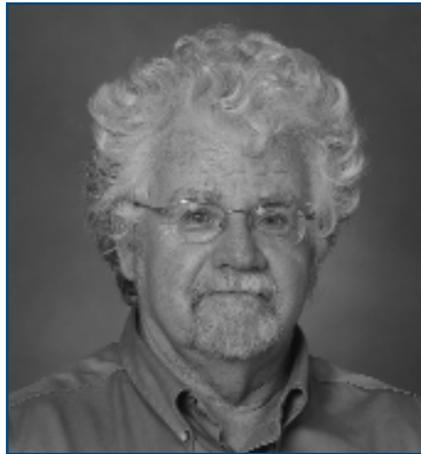
★ **Wonjen Bagley** ★

Wonjen Bagley, director of diversity initiatives

I feel fortunate to be a witness to this time in history. I couldn't be prouder of Barack Obama, his lovely family, or America.

Fifty years ago—just two generations ago—our country was in such turmoil. My mother and father lived in Tallahassee, Florida, and were in college in the 1950s at FAMU [Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University], a historically black college. What people may not know is that the bus boycott in Selma, Alabama, inspired other bus boycotts in other cities; one was in Louisiana and the other was in Tallahassee. My father was working, attending college, and raising his young family that would grow from the two or three children they had then to seven. He also owned a car. In spite of the huge demands on my parents, they wanted to get involved in the movement like many of the blacks and particularly the college students in Tallahassee. My father gave me the one thing he had at the time, his car. Someone would drop my father off at school or work and use his car throughout the day to transport blacks to and from their jobs. In the late evening, they picked him up at his evening job only to do the same thing the next day. The boycott lasted six months. I don't like being without my car for a day. I am grateful for the big and small sacrifices the past generations made to get us here. I called my parents the morning of the inauguration just to hear the excitement in their voices.

Their story, our story, reminds me that we each have a part to play and there are many to thank who have helped elevate President Obama to the highest office in this land. What we do next is the question. It is up to this generation not to be satisfied with progress, but to learn from the efforts of many and continue to work toward equality in every arena. It has been done. We are witnesses.



★ **John Curran** ★

John Curran, history department

At one level, I thought it was very cool that the entire school watched the inauguration in the auditorium. Suddenly, having a black man as president and seeing so many people in D.C. put up with so much to be there in the crowd—that was pretty emotional, to be sure.

But what struck me most was that Obama, instead of shooting in his speech for soaring rhetoric, was, in fact becoming president very, very quickly—right before my eyes. His facial expression reflected a seriousness about the work that he needed to do; he seemed focused immediately on what needed to be changed and the problems that he needed to address. At the same time, he seemed to have no time for soaring rhetoric or even making a big deal of the historical significance of his inauguration as the nation's first black president. He was ready to go to work, and I think you could see that in his face even during the celebrations at Grant Park the night he won. It was particularly interesting to me to watch how he was taking it all on himself.

Clearly, his inauguration is a pretty big deal historically. It is such an amazing thing if you think about how slavery ended as a military necessity in 1863; black people didn't really get to vote in the South until 1965, after the Civil Rights Act and the Voting Act; and then not even 50 years later, we are electing a black man president. It's pretty amazing—and I have no doubt that Obama's presidency will change the way students will view Reconstruction, the New South, and how blacks were intimidated, cheated out of the vote for so long.



★ **Ned Mitchell** ★

Ned Mitchell, Ninth Grade Program

I think watching the inauguration and listening to the [president's] speech were moving experiences partly because that was my hometown they were sitting in, but mostly because people cried. People were moved—even here, at Lawrence Academy.



★ **Susan Hughes** ★

Susan Hughes, assistant to the head of school

I was happy to be among the LA community for the inauguration and I quickly realized that the experience was not the same for many of the students as it was for me. While watching Obama being sworn in as president, I was remembering my first week at high school. The city of Dallas had just instituted busing (taking black students from their neighborhoods and busing them to other neighborhoods, sometimes clear across town, so they could attend white schools). School was delayed by three weeks because the original order was to cross-bus students, with whites attending black schools, too. But white parents and lobbyists fought that, and eventually school opened with just black children coming into white schools. Well, that first day there was a big fight between the students, resulting in the police being called and everyone being sent home. And I am talking about the early 1970s, after the civil rights movement.

So it was very emotional for me to hear that Obama was being sworn in just yards from the location of the pen that held the black slaves who built the Capitol. While the commentator was relaying this information, several students behind me expressed their boredom at hearing this "ancient" history. For a moment, I was mad that they didn't seem to understand the significance I saw in the event; at the same time, I was embarrassed that I was crying over this "ancient" history. But in the end, I was relieved at the understanding that the race issue just wasn't their issue. I felt glad for them. And even happier for me!

See pages 28, 29, 32, and 33 in Class Notes sections for **Alumni Reflections** on Obama's Inauguration.

FINDING POWER, FORMING PARTNERSHIPS: A PROFILE OF BRIAN FEIGENBAUM

by Andrew J. Brescia, director of communications

Having already taken two semesters of dance classes with Brian Feigenbaum, Jared Mezzochi '04 walked into the Black Box Theatre, the dance studio, to meet with him on the first day of a dance independent study in the winter of his junior year.

"I distinctly remember my first meeting with him, coffee in hand, for my independent study. We sat on the empty risers in the Black Box. 'So what is going on, man? I mean, man, what is happening in that head of yours? Crazy stuff? Right? Let's be honest. We're crazy. I know I'm crazy. You're crazy. We're all mad. So what's going on?'"

"I laughed and then ripped myself open, and Brian would join in my rant. I couldn't tell you the mapping of that conversation because before one sentence was over, we were already on to the next. It wasn't about grammar, it wasn't about being polite. We just talked. I felt a massive sense of relief by the end of it. I had just wanted to talk! For so long, my main need as a student was to speak out little things that I kept within."

Brian's "ridiculous notion" that Jared choreograph a dance based on what had just flowed out of him resulted in movement that felt liberating for Jared, in a valuable partnership, and in a creative process that has carried him through his film studies program at Fairfield University and has him immersed in experimental multimedia performance. Jared, who hopes he will some day work again with Brian, will complete his MFA in performance and interactive media arts at Brooklyn College this May.

"BOYS FROM BROOKLYN DANCE"

At their Sweet Sixteen, Brian's sisters encouraged him to dance by saying that "boys from Brooklyn dance." So he danced, and they said that he was a good dancer. "In college, I found that even though I liked to dance, I sometimes felt people staring at me, and that made me very uncomfortable," Brian remembers. On the suggestion of his girlfriend, a dancer at Connecticut College, he entered his first class as a sophomore.

Dance immediately appealed to Brian because of the physicality of it. He had grown up having lots of fun swinging a bat and playing left field in Brooklyn, New York. Good enough to win All-Conference honors in his senior year, he continued playing at Connecticut College, where he started at third base and ended his collegiate career behind home plate.

By the time he had graduated with a double major in American studies and history, Brian might as well have majored in dance, too. He had two summers of dance at Connecticut College under his belt, had joined the performing arts program, had danced in works choreographed by graduate students and in numerous faculty pieces, and had made time to perform in his girlfriend's final jazz choreography.

He began his professional career with Kirk Nurock Natural Sound. For a full year he performed what he calls "definitely Olympic-level weird stuff" at well-known venues such as the Brooklyn Academy of Music and Merce Cunningham Studios.

He quickly learned, after rehearsing for three months, what it feels like to run out of money after being paid \$50 for each performance. "If you're in the business long enough, even if you meet somebody whose company is established with a 40-week tour or 40 weeks' worth of jobs, the pay is not great." A job with a publishing house paid for room and board as he also found opportunities to learn from teachers and dancers in New York's best companies. When he realized that he couldn't keep up with those dancers, and after he and his longtime girlfriend had parted ways, Brian moved to Boston to earn his law degree at Boston University.

THE BIRTH OF AN ACTIVIST

Having been interested primarily in racial and economic issues, he had reason in his second year of law school to become an environmental activist following the nuclear accident at Three Mile Island in March of 1979. "I was also studying environmental law, and I had begun to see the changes in policy that were reflected in law cases, and not in the 1900s—in the 1800s. I became really, really interested to see how public policy was influenced by legal decisions."

For the next few years, it was pedal-to-the-metal activism. Brian joined the Clamshell Alliance and the Boston-based Coalition for Direct Action at Seabrook, and he formed Food, Not Bombs and then its more mainstream offshoot, the Food for Free Committee. He ran for a seat on the Cambridge City Council in the early 1980s and soon began giving lectures all over New England on energy policy.

His full-time activism ended almost as quickly as it had begun when he realized how afraid his audiences were of some of the issues being debated—afraid, that is, of the radical positions expressed by the political left. His expressions. "That's what spurred me to go back into theatre and dance. I thought that people were more frightened than they were disagreeing [over the positions]. I saw theatre and dance as a way of emboldening people, making them happier, making them a little more hopeful."

Perhaps most notable to Brian's development as a dancer—and his success with many students who would not otherwise see themselves as dancers—is his time studying with Tom Molinaro in Boston. "He was the first teacher I'd had who understood the difficulties with my athlete's body because he had been a champion ice skater before he was a dancer, and he understood the difficulty of loosening or not weakening, but stretching the muscles of an athlete."

Following the advice of his next teacher, Marcus Schulkind, Brian returned to New York to earn a master's in dance at NYU's Tisch School of the Arts in 1989. Then, after shuttling between Boston and New York, where he worked for a season with choreographer Doug Verone at The Joyce Theater, Brian received a call from Richard Colton and Amy Spencer. Having settled in Concord, Massachusetts, the two former Twyla Tharp dancers were teaching at Concord Academy and asked Brian to join their company. For five years, beginning in 1990, one constant in his life was rehearsing and performing with the Spencer/Colton Company at venues as noteworthy as Jacob's Pillow in the Berkshires, New York's Dance Theatre Workshop, and the Lincoln Center Out of Doors Festival.

MOVING INTO THE CLASSROOM

In the early 1990s, Brian had cobbled together an assortment of jobs as he and his wife, Lizzie, were starting a family. After he started teaching modern dance for the Granite State Ballet, he met a jazz dance teacher



Brian Feigenbaum

who was leaving Lawrence Academy's employ. Beginning in 1993 with one class during the day and one in the afternoon, Brian was hired full-time in 1996 to teach dance classes, history electives, and work with LA's dancers in the afternoons.

In his first years at Lawrence Academy, Brian says he was blessed with a series of students who were talented and hungry. Among the very first to greet him was Tony Guglietti '94. An ice hockey player who had begun his dance education in the sixth grade in Lunenburg, Tony had already studied with three dance teachers at LA in his two years. Tony found in Brian what so many dance students have found: a teacher eager to form partnerships with them.

"Brian actually wanted to be there and was as interested in us as we were in him," Tony now says, "and I think that this was obvious on the first day of class. Many teachers tell you how you should dance, how you should perform, and what would be interesting when you are trying to choreograph. Brian actually asked me to think about what I was doing and why I was doing it, whether it was dancing in class or choreographing my own work."

Tony went on to study dance at the Tisch School of the Arts and become an all-star on NYU's hockey team—twice—before graduating and performing as a founding member of the Sean Curran Company.





“Brian was the first person to show me that in life there aren't logical steps to follow that will somehow turn you into a skilled artist or person. He showed us all what it meant to really make art, to be completely original and honest with our movement, to make work that came directly from ourselves.”

Sam Greiff '08

Now, Brian is one of five dancers in Guidance, Inc., a company Tony and his wife, Ellen, formed in New York City and relocated to Fitchburg, Massachusetts, and which also includes **Amanda Doyle '98**. For Tony, nothing has really changed. “My initial reaction to Brian still holds very true and always did. From the moment I met him and started to work with him, he struck me as someone who wanted to learn from me as much as I learned from him. He didn't want to be my teacher; he wanted me to learn to be my own teacher.”

Samantha Greiff '08, who is enrolled at NYU in the Tisch School in the Experimental Theatre Wing, is studying drama and applied theatre in the Experimental Theatre Program. Like **Adrienne Fadjo '97** and **Kathryn McCann '98**, who came before her and have launched careers as professionals, Sam considered herself a serious student of ballet before meeting Brian. From her previous teachers, she learned that dance is “a series of steps that, if followed correctly with care and accuracy, would turn me into a skilled artist. The steps were logical; line, balance, precision, momentum and the order, the accuracy in the steps were comforting.” Brian, however, has never understood dance as something so precious and removed from the tumult of life—especially in adolescence.



Adrienne Fadjo '97

“My first impression of Brian was that he couldn't possibly understand the fundamentals of dance. He wanted us to move how we wanted, to *feel* and to let that inform our bodies. To make movement through whichever process

was natural. There was no ‘step one.’ That was the first jarring difference in the approach to dance between Brian and any dance teacher I had had before. He wanted us to make movement without following any technical process. And he looked absolutely nuts! That hair!”

Trained for so long to listen, watch, and mimic, **Marina Bousa '09** was prepared for a new teacher to introduce movements she would then be expected to reproduce. “But it's what happens next [with Brian] that is unique: He gives us lots of opportunities to extrapolate—to take what he did and give it our own twist. We are expected to use his movements as building blocks to create something more, something bigger, so that when you see our performances, they are a kind of composite of Brian's material, our responses to his material, and material that we generate removed from his choreography.”

BEING OPEN TO CHANGE, FORMING PARTNERSHIPS

Brian says that he begins forming partnerships with his students from the first time he sees them—perhaps even before speaking with them. He'll tell you that he looks first for their “power” by relying on his fluency in body language as he watches them walk, sit, hold their hands, or even fall asleep on the risers in his classroom. He looks to see which positions seem the most natural, the most authentic to each student.

“I was born and raised in a huge city, Brooklyn, where you learn to keep your eyes open to watch people and watch their body language. And now I'm trained in theatre—and I mean dance. We are trained to observe where a dancer's power might be, and, as a teacher, I feel that it is my job to observe where kids' power lies,” he explains.

Brian will put some music on or give the student some words, and if nothing happens, he's OK with that. “That's all right. You're stuck! That means you are doing it right: it's not easy to find good material,” he says. “I'm simply trying to have them successfully find their own material. I've come to understand that the material is there; it's just a matter of our discovering it. I only suggest where they can look.” In all those ballet classes, he says, they weren't looking; they were just posing.

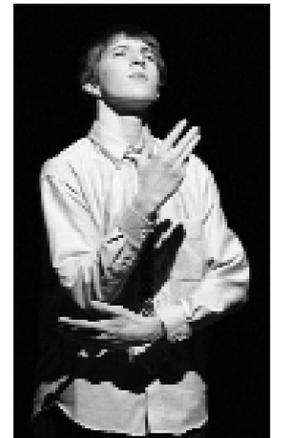
Amanda Champagne '01 was stuck for more than a class when beginning work on a solo, so Brian suggested that she pull herself off the floor and sit in a chair; then he asked her not to change a thing but to stand up and do it.

“That makes it different, but not that different. But it's different. Now get off the chair, now crawl back to the chair ... and then she began to play with standing on the chair, and then she stood on it and it tipped over. Then, lo and behold, she began to discover that she was comfortable in that mode of expression. It was like watching someone come out of a tunnel and into the light, the light being her own sense of power.” It's the kind of power found by expressing the truths we discover within ourselves.

Amanda, now a producer and host for Fuel TV, in addition to being a sports journalist, went on to stun audiences with the solo's raw, powerful choreography. The most valuable lesson she learned from Brian is contained in the five words he uses when his suggestions have helped students to unearth something important to them: “Now make it your own.”

“I'm pretty open to change, so wherever I see power coming out of somebody, I'm remembering my early political and legal training—I'm acting from a philosophical base of the empowerment of the masses. I hate to be philosophical, but that's what it's about. Any political system is only as good as the empowerment of the individuals within that system. I'm interested in seeing where people's power lies. That is more interesting to me than anything—even dance. If I could snap my fingers and everyone in the world could feel empowered, I would give up dance.”

Peter Galvin '08 took ballet for seven years from a teacher who had danced with George Balanchine. A talented visual artist, he credits Brian with empowering him to choreograph material found in the same interior places from which he has found inspiration for his work in the visual arts.



Peter Galvin '08

“He showed me how to scare even myself by the power of the human mind to create such wonderful pieces of art. Brian showed me that theatre is at its best in the surreal, in the open-ended interpretation of movement. This was huge for me, as most of my training had been in ballet. He pushed me beyond my limits, helping me to shape my own choreography into more refined movement.” Peter is studying electrical engineering at Boston University.



“In Brian's world, being a student is being so many different things, and he encourages us to embrace all the different definitions—as long as you are thinking critically about the world and

the community around you and trying to think of ways to notice and to serve, then you are learning.”

Marina Bousa '09

Let's Dance!





Hilary Cranston '09, who will perform in Scotland this summer, confers with Brian in the Black Box Theatre.

Amanda Doyle '98, after years of disciplined training, refused for a long time to apply the word “dance” to what Brian was teaching. Four years later, however, she made audiences squirm with the unflinching honesty of “Letter to My Father,” which to this day Brian says is perhaps the best dance-as-theatre piece incorporating the spoken word that he has ever witnessed. An art form that involves the body, in its three dimensions, is never very far from being unpleasant for audiences, Brian says, because it “implies all the issues that we hesitate to talk about: sex, death, life, power, fear, humiliation.” With Brian’s help, Amanda had discovered how to express herself using the language that she had spent so many years learning.

Now a dance teacher herself, she performs with Brian and views him as her most valuable resource. She attributes his success to his willingness to embrace the adolescence of teenagers. “More than so many teachers appear to, Brian understands adolescence as a time of awkwardness and first-ever experiences. At the same time as he validates adolescents, though, he also compels them to be honest with themselves both in and out of his studio.”

Not surprisingly, Brian doesn’t change his methods when his partner is a product of 10 years of hockey or football coaches, not Julliard-trained dance teachers.

Ben Wellenbach '98 was one of many competitive athletes who stepped into the Black Box Theatre because of how others were made to feel welcomed. “I was an athlete all my life and I performed on the field or ice. This class, as well as others that I subsequently took with him, opened my eyes to how we all perform in different ways. His view of the world and the people who live in it is filled with balance, gratitude, and joy.”

Since taking The World of Dance as a sophomore, Syracuse-bound quarterback Charley Loeb '09 has returned to the studio frequently and has choreographed and performed a solo. “You do some weird stuff in there, but opening up to do it is a lot of fun,” he says. “Brian can be brutal with you, that’s for sure; but he also encourages you to be open, to use your own background [as an athlete] as a starting point to step into another world. It’s about letting go—like taking the governor off a car.” Brian, who encourages students to approach dance and life with openness, would be pleased to know that Charley believes that this is exactly what his time in the studio has helped him to develop.



Ollie Taylor '09 (front), Steve Brown '08 (back left), and Tony Desbler '07 (back right) perform in the original choreography, “Three Gentlemen,” in May 2007.



“Brian taught me to be a creative, unique, and independent individual, teacher, and dancer. He was the first person to expose me to modern dance, and now I am that person to many of my students.

He is, by far, one of the most influential teachers I have had in my lifetime.”

Kathryn McCann '98

THE BIG QUESTIONS

Adrienne Fadjo '97, who has assisted Brian with both LA companies to perform at the Fringe Festival in Scotland, is going strong as the artistic director of ACFDance, a professional modern dance company she established in New York City eight years ago. Looking beyond all the remarkable choreography and performances he pulls out of his students, she reflects on the larger context.

“Brian encourages his students to be truly present and honest with themselves while recognizing the responsibilities they have to one another as human beings. In one moment, there’s the challenge of learning a new dance step within a frame of time and space; in the next moment, Brian reminds his students to ask themselves, ‘Why am I here?’ so that they never lose the sense of purpose. For Brian, dance is more than the creation of movement set to music on stage under lights—it represents what makes us people, animals and souls on this planet,” she says. One former student calls this Brian’s “huge thinking.”

Because of the partnerships that he forms with his students, they discover a stronger sense of self, purpose, and responsibility, Adrienne says. “He inspires young men and women to see beyond themselves, while encouraging them to communicate their most personal thoughts to their peers through movement and live dance performances.”

It’s a typical afternoon in the studio, and Brian notices that the dancers have become distracted or somehow disengaged. In the middle of a sentence, he interrupts himself to share observations on life. At the center of those infamous rants, and his work with students, is the passion that he has for dance and its ability to empower students. The rant will end with something like this: “Nothing out there makes any sense. This—what you are doing right here, right now—this is what makes sense. Be here, nowhere else.”

For Brian, both the activist and the dance teacher, the purpose of living is first to discover the power of our own truths and then to use what we find to effect change in ourselves and in others.



Fringe 2006: Sitting, l-r: Megan Sebasky '06, Jina Lee '07, Liza Coolidge '06, Courtney Blanch '07, Jessica Tanner '07, Lysa de la Parra '07, Clare Curran '07, Amanda Sibley '08, Katie Markham '07 (below Amanda), Amy Reggio '06, Hayley Didriksen '06 (below Amy), Sam Greiff '07, Alanna Gandelman '06; back row: Brian Feigenbaum, James Macon '07, Jenna Richardson '06 (bending), Peter Galvin '08, Adrienne Fadjo '97, and Adam Mendelson.

While in Scotland (right), the dancers performed for passers-by in the streets of Edinburgh.



Unspoken Ruler

by Jon Mahoney



photo by Laura Barisonzi

Editor's Note: The following profile of Boston College-bound Steve Whitney '09 is reprinted from the January/February 2009 issue of RISE magazine, an ESPN publication that focuses on high school sports. Steve, pictured on the cover, is described with the subtitle "NHL prospect Steve Whitney burns up the ice." It might interest readers to know that Joe Whitney '07, who helped BC win the national title in 2008, appeared on the cover of the December 2006 issue of the same publication.

Lawrence Academy hockey star Steve Whitney is the last player teammates would expect to give a fiery pre-game speech, but there's no question he's the one everyone looks to at crunch time.

When Steve Whitney arrived at Lawrence Academy as a freshman in 2005, it was tough coaxing even a few words out of him.

Now a senior, Whitney has learned to open up more, especially if he gets to know a person. But he hasn't quite mastered the gift of gab like, say, Terrell Owens. He also happens to have the polar opposite personality from his gregarious older brother, Joe, a former teammate at LA who's currently a star sophomore at Boston College.

Whitney instead chooses to let his play do the talking, and that's been good enough for the 5-foot-7, 160-pound right wing.

A four-year varsity standout with the Spartans, the Boston College-bound Whitney is one of New England's top hockey players. A potential mid-round pick in the 2009 NHL Draft, Whitney has been a mainstay for the U.S. Under-17 and Under-18 National Teams the past few years. He was even selected in both the Quebec Major Junior Hockey League and United States Hockey League drafts last spring, eschewing both elite junior leagues to suit up for LA as a senior.

"He's a quiet, reserved individual," LA coach Kevin Potter says. "But on the ice, it's a different story."

Using a mix of speed, agility, and tenacity, Whitney has managed to stand out among his peers. While he may not possess the ideal size of a prototypical top-line forward, players of his kind are much more valuable in today's game now that hockey is more focused on quickness and skill than power.

Just look at the NHL, where stars such as Brian Gionta, Martin St. Louis, Danny Briere, and last year's Rookie of the Year, Patrick Kane, have all made names for themselves despite standing 5-foot-10 or shorter. Whitney got an up-close look at undersized players having success last winter when he watched his 5-foot-6 brother team with 5-foot-5 Nathan Gerbe to key Boston College's run to the national title.

"I think if you're my size, you definitely have to carry a chip on your shoulder," Whitney says. "You have to be gritty."

"He plays a lot bigger," Potter adds.

Indeed, since lacing them up for LA as a freshman, Whitney has been tallying points like Boston Bruins forward Milan Lucic racks up hits. In his first game with the Spartans, Whitney potted a goal in a 3-3 tie with Phillips Andover. He finished his freshman season with eight goals and 10 assists despite missing time with a shoulder injury. LA finished the year 21-5-4 and lost to Cushing, 8-2, in the NEPSAC Tournament Division I quarterfinals.

In the loss to Cushing, Whitney provided one of the Spartans' few bright spots when he fired a shot from just inside the blue line past Cushing goalie Richard Bachman, who's now a standout at Colorado College. "He's got an unbelievably quick release," Potter says.

As impressive as his debut was as a freshman, Whitney was even better as a sophomore. He led LA in scoring with 53 points (23g, 30a) while his brother (then a senior) was second with 52 points.

While many of his goals are of the highlight variety, Whitney is also an excellent passer. In a 3-2 overtime win over Belmont Hill as a sophomore, Whitney fed John Simpson, who's now playing at Union College, for the game-winning goal in the extra session to cap a thrilling comeback. Whitney had sent the game into OT by scoring off a nifty dish from his brother with 18 seconds remaining. LA had trailed Belmont Hill, 2-0, with 56 seconds to go in regulation.

"Everyone likes to play with Steve because he sees the ice so well and can put it right on your tape," Potter says. "He takes everyone to another level."

The same can be said of Whitney when he's representing his country. In 2006, as a 15-year-old on the Under-17 National Team, he netted a team-high seven points (2g, 5a) in four games en route to leading his squad to the title at the Under-17 Three Nations Tournament in Rochester, N.Y. The following year, he again led the Under-17s in scoring (4g, 3a) as Team USA finished second to the host Czech Republic at the Under-17 Five Nations Tournament.

Last summer, he tallied a team-leading six points (2g, 4a) for the Under-18 National Team at the 2008 Memorial of Ivan Hlinka Tournament in the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

Whitney began building the foundation for his success while growing up playing street hockey in Reading and in on-ice pickup games with Joe and younger brother Tyler, who's now a freshman at LA.

By watching Joe, Steve realized everything that went into earning a scholarship to a college hockey powerhouse.

"I look up to him because I got to see firsthand his work ethic and his commitment to hockey," Steve says.

In turn, Joe admires everything Steve brings to the ice. "He's as good as anybody in his age group," Joe says. "He's better than I was at his age, but he's got a long way to go to be the player he wants to be and the player I want him to be."

Part of that progression for Steve is turning in a scintillating senior campaign at LA before he's reunited with his older brother at BC. Last season, Whitney earned ISL All-Star honors after recording 15 goals and 22 assists, but LA failed to qualify for the NEPSAC Tournament.

It's partly why he turned down the junior ranks to return to the Spartans. "I felt like we had some unfinished business," Whitney says. For a man of few words, that speaks volumes about how much this year means to him.

Steven Whitney LA Career Stats

2008-2009: 21 goals and 34 assists for 55 points in 28 games played

2007-2008: 15 goals and 22 assists for 37 in 26 games played

2006-2007: 23 goals and 30 assists for 53 points in 29 games played

2005-2006: 8 goals and 10 assists for 18 points in 20 games played

Career totals: 67 goals and 96 assists for 163 points in 103 games played





Coffee, Culture, and Conversations



The three founders of the Cultural Coffeehouse Series: Caroline Grinnell, Karen Bowley, and Jenn O'Connor

By Denny Blodget

The girl's question hung in the ensuing silence. Some students shifted uncomfortably in their chairs or giggled; some stared at the floor; but most—especially the younger girls, who were wondering how the adults in the room would react—looked at Caroline Grinnell, who was leading the discussion.

It was 2005, an April evening right after dinner. About 75 people had come to MacNeil Lounge for the year's final session of the Cultural Coffeehouse Series, this one titled "The Culture of Gender: What They're Really Thinking." The boys

and girls had been separated and were discussing questions they wanted to ask each other, questions that would give them some insight into the thinking of the opposite sex.

For the three teachers who had created the Coffeehouse—Jenn O'Connor, Karen Bowley, and Caroline—the girl's question about oral sex was an important moment. "There was an adult there who didn't think the question should be asked," recalls Caroline, "and the students turned and said, 'This is something we've worked up to.' And they asked me, 'Mrs. Grinnell, can we ask it?,' and I said yes. You may ask any question you want as long as the language you choose to ask it in is respectful and not inflammatory."

For all three women, hearing the question was "evidence that we had built a program where people feel comfortable in asking and talking about things that they clearly need to discuss," Caroline says. "That question was then brought to the guys, and they were not comfortable, but they responded. This is a high school, but there's so much more to growth and learning that needs to happen outside of the classroom, and the Cultural Coffeehouse has been able to provide that in a safe environment."



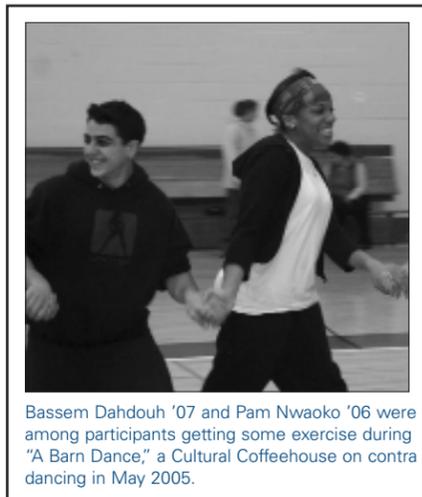
Matt Cruz '09 helped to start a CCS discussion on ethics in MacNeil Lounge in December 2008. Topics included immigration, abortion, and private choices/public consequences.

The story of the Cultural Coffeehouse illustrates one of the strengths of an independent school, where program and innovation tend to reflect the passion and vision of teachers and, sometimes, of students or parents.

In the fall of 1996, Greta Donahue, trustee and parent of Erin '98, recognized that Lawrence, with its international and minority populations, needed to foster intercultural knowledge and understanding. So she rallied the students and laid the foundation for the Multicultural Alliance, and, with the help of parents and Associate Director of Development Molly Richardson, who then oversaw parent volunteers, started an annual cultural celebration known as Rhythms.

During its six years (1997–2003), first under the direction of Greta and then of Molly, Rhythms offered international and minority students the opportunity to decorate booths and share whatever they wanted to about their heritage. Many wore their native clothing, offered samples of home cooking, displayed family photographs and maps, and answered questions. With the help of Laurey Isanski, then head of the school's food service, the kitchen produced an impressive variety of foods from other countries. For the first Rhythms celebration, former science teacher Paul Schlotman organized a Native American powwow and dancing, and often there was a band for a student dance. Before long, a fashion show featuring students modeling clothing from different cultures was added.

In 1999, after Greta turned Rhythms over to Molly, French teacher Caroline Grinnell and ESL Director Jenn O'Connor offered to help and created a contest of "cultural monuments," sculptural collages of culture designed by various language classes. Spanish teacher (now ESL director) Karen Bowley joined them. All three had traveled extensively and shared a deep interest in cultures. Caroline is a Francophile who studied and lived in France for seven years; Jenn spent much of her childhood in Puerto Rico; and Karen came to Lawrence from



Bassem Dahdouh '07 and Pam Nwaoko '06 were among participants getting some exercise during "A Barn Dance," a Cultural Coffeehouse on contra dancing in May 2005.



Allie Backman '07 listens to Language Chair Megan Trask during a January 2006 meeting of the Cultural Coffeehouse Series.

Kuwait. And all three had become dissatisfied with Rhythms.

Rhythms simply didn't reach deep enough, they thought. It was a wonderful festival, and it tapped into the eagerness of the international students to share their cultures with Americans. However, as Karen says: "Culture is more than the trappings of culture—more than the Eiffel Tower and food and clothes. It's the beliefs and the feelings and the experiences, and the interactions of the people that underlie these symbols. We were interested in viewpoints, in the ways people both are different from each other and intersect with each other."

The three teachers envisioned a program that would explore culture more than once a year. Though it might culminate in a year-end celebration of culture, the Cultural Coffeehouse Series needed to be something that happened every month. The school community needed more than an event, they decided; it needed an ongoing conversation about culture.

In 2003, a consulting firm came to campus to help the school examine and discuss issues about race and gender.



Amy Hollstein '06 participates in April 2005 as a small-group scribe in a discussion on sports at Lawrence Academy.

While its daylong workshop was perceived by many to be ineffective, it did reveal the depth of the need felt by the students to discuss real issues. "What interested me," says Jenn, "was that students wanted to talk about things, but they needed a safe place to talk about cultural issues because they would include topics like race."

"There are good things to talk about as well as tough things to talk about," adds Karen, "and maybe sometimes it's easier to start with what you have in common." "To talk about that with people you already know and trust," Caroline adds.

"Yes," says Jenn. "We needed a venue where the community could discuss some of the things that people have concerns about because we know diversity of every kind brings issues with it."

And it was this broad view of culture, "diversity of every kind," that became an essential aspect of the Coffeehouse as it reached out to include everyone in the community—students, teachers, maintenance workers, spouses, administrators. Between its first year in 2004 and today, a rich variety of issues has attracted both student and adult participants and leaders. International students, American adults who have lived in other countries, African-Americans and Latinos, parents, politicians—all have experiences, inviting others to walk in their shoes into the sometimes scary, dimly lit rooms of difference—gender, race, class, nationality, ethnicity, sexuality, disability.

Caroline remembers what for her was a particularly important Coffeehouse, "The Culture of Money," which explored economic classes and was suggested by Monique Dunton, who works on the Buildings and Grounds crew. "She had grown up in the low-income housing across the street, and her feeling was that people treated her differently. People seemed prejudiced against those who lived on minimum wage, and this community, in particular, needed to talk about this issue."

In the early years of the Cultural Coffeehouse Series, the ideas came largely from brainstorming sessions of its three founders, who would also talk with students and other adults in the community and who were always open to interesting topics. **Bassem Dahdouh '07**, an international student from Saudi Arabia, recalls the session he led on the Middle East. At the time, he explains, he was eager to respond to questions he received while at Lawrence Academy and "to counteract the tendency of a society to dehumanize other cultures or entities which they cannot comprehend completely."

Bassem confirms the founders' belief that the Coffeehouse stimulates conversations that don't always happen in class and that continue beyond the monthly sessions. "Many of the students enjoyed the Cultural Coffeehouses because they challenged a side of the mind that classes usually cannot touch," says Bassem. "My session achieved my goal; people kept the conversation going for months. Even to this day, I still have people sending me e-mails about specific details they need to know about some culture in the Middle East."

Jonathan Wilkie '08, a participant in the "Young Black Men" Coffeehouse in 2006, had a similar experience. "I got involved in this event because I thought it was important for people from Lawrence Academy to understand how racial diversity works. I feel everyone (myself included) has preconceived notions about races that are not true. I

thought it was a good opportunity to get feelings out there and discussed." Jonathan wanted people to understand what it was like to be different from the majority; he wanted them to begin to imagine what the barriers of racism feel like. Even at a school like Lawrence that sees itself as open and accepting, separation is a fact, as the cliques in the dining hall make manifest. "It is good to discuss certain topics that are kept low on the radar," Jonathan says, "because people just don't like to talk about them."

Like Bassem, Jonathan measured the success of the evening by the duration of the conversation. "Over the three weeks following the meeting, I received numerous emails about how important my story was, and how much it meant for some people to hear it. It made me feel good to know that people actually listened and weren't just there messing around. Most of the responses were from white students." Even three years after the event, you can hear the sense of relief in Jonathan's voice when he says, "It was



In an Oxfam-inspired activity on world hunger, Chandler "Scooter" Manly '09 ate like a king as compared with what Andrea Fei '12 received during the same meal in April 2009.

good to get race discussed out in the preppy, 'elm tree-shaded hillside."

From the beginning, Jenn says, the goal has always been "to keep the focus on the students," and today an active group of students makes up the Focus Group, the steering committee for the Coffeehouse that, with input from the student body, decides on the topics and helps to publicize each session.

Frances Hamilton '10 joined the Focus Group after she attended one Coffeehouse. "I saw how people reacted to it in the days afterward and how much of an impact it had on them." She was especially influenced by a session on ethics and, in particular, a discussion about abortion. "I have very strong beliefs about abortion. During the discussion, one of my friends said, 'You don't really know what it's like because you haven't been through it,' and I think that made me put myself in that situation. My friend and I kept talking about it for an hour after the session while we waited for our ride, and then we talked about it in the car with the other students all the way back to Andover."

Focus Group members **Jeffrey '10** and **Thomas Chen '09**, brothers from Taiwan, share Frances's enthusiasm. They enjoy sharing their international experiences. "The first time I came," says

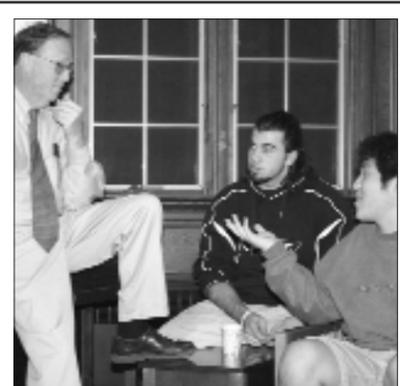


E.B. Davis '07 was one of several young black men who participated in an event devoted to exploring what it is like to be a black student at Lawrence Academy.

Thomas, "was because Mrs. Bowley gave extra credit, and now I go to all of them, so I guess her plan worked. I don't get extra credit now; I enjoy them." Jeffrey values the insights he gets into teachers: "At the Coffeehouse, we hear what the teachers believe, and I usually don't hear that much about what they believe. Listening to Mr. Johnson talk about dealing with some students who did drugs changed my view about how teachers behave."

Such experiences define the value of the Cultural Coffeehouse Series. It is all too easy for people to know so little about each other, even in a school as small as Lawrence. We react to each other, judge each other quickly, based on roles and appearances as we rush through the day, but the Cultural Coffeehouse Series slows us down, gives us time for reflection, carves out 90 minutes when we can listen and notice and rethink and discuss our beliefs with each other.

As Karen, Caroline and Jenn hoped, the Coffeehouse has become a safe place at which people can see and be seen. It meets what may be two of the deepest human needs, to feel understood and to be respected. Equally important, it provides an essential condition for education: the permission and freedom to ask genuine questions, no matter how uncomfortable.



In November 2004, English teacher Ned Mitchell and Eddie Kim '07 get into the spirit of Cultural Coffeehouse Series discussions. Michal Gajdos '06 waits his turn to speak.

FOUNDERS' DAY – OCTOBER 24, 2008

During this year's Founders' Day assembly, held on Thursday, October 24, 2008, the school community examined the topic of service from a perspective born from tragedy. In light of a fall term marked by the death of an LA sophomore, Head of School Scott Wiggins called on faculty and students to reflect on what it feels like to be on the receiving end of the kindnesses of others.

Speaking from the stage of the Richardson-Mees Performing Arts Center, Mr. Wiggins credited former head Ben Williams with creating Founders' Day. Following Lawrence Academy's bicentennial celebrations, Mr. Williams, then a trustee, established the annual ceremony to help celebrate its heritage and salute those with a steadfast commitment to serving the school. The 44th head of school then called on previous Founders' Day Award winners in the audience, including alumni **Kevin McDonald '70** and trustees **Norm Shanklin '76** and **Ruth White '76**, to stand and be recognized.

After noting that people serve others for a variety of reasons, and asking students and faculty to assess the importance of service in their lives, Mr. Wiggins enumerated some of the ways in which the community was supported during the weeks following a car accident that claimed the life of Winchester sophomore **Mark Frattaroli** and resulted in serious injuries to Stow junior **Zach Phillips**.

He recognized EMTs Tony Hawgood and Mike Culley, faculty members who donate their time to serve the Town of Groton on its fire department and who were among the first to arrive at the scene of the late-September accident. He also reminded students that **Kate Deasy '98**, a youth director at a nearby Catholic parish, helped to prepare the community for what to expect at the wake and funeral Mass. The ultimate act of service, he said, came from the Frattaroli family, which, in the midst of their grief, established a scholarship fund at Lawrence Academy in their son's memory.

If ever there was a time for the community to appreciate the value of service to others, the head of school made clear, the fall term's events illustrated how acts of kindness can heal and strengthen people in need. "Service to others," Mr. Wiggins concluded, "is a common thread that connects all of the special presentations that will take place today."

Next, **Shannon Muscatello '09** was introduced by Assistant Head of School Rob Moore to salute the 2008 student recipient of the Greater Good Award, **Frances Hamilton '10**.



Frances Hamilton '10

Shannon explained that Frances had logged over 100 hours of community service during her first two years at LA—without counting what Shannon called the limelight-shy junior's "larger projects" at LA or what she had already undertaken this year. "She dedicates herself to the whole service project, not just the fun parts," Shannon said of Frances.

While starting the Lawrence Academy chapter of A Precious Cargo to help to raise support for African orphans, Frances continued her work collecting toys for disadvantaged children through Toys for Tots. A finalist in last year's public speaking competition, Frances used the bully pulpit to raise awareness about world hunger.

"She realizes that even something small can make a difference in others' lives, and she uses every chance she can to try to help the world," Shannon said. "She's always thinking about others first." Frances also has served in student government, the Faculty-Student Senate, and the Honor Council.

"The message of the Greater Good Award is that education is not an end in itself," Shannon added. "It's not just about getting into college or even becoming lifelong learners; it's about a person's doing something with his or her education to benefit humanity—to benefit the greater good. Because she demonstrates an understanding of her responsibility to use her education for the greater good of humanity," Shannon said in concluding her remarks, "the Cum Laude Society proudly presents the Greater Good Award to Frances Hamilton." The Greater Good Award is made possible by a grant from the Lawrence Academy Endowment Fund for Service, Social Justice, and Global Awareness, which was created in 2005 by **Jay Dunn '83** and his family.



Andrew Craig '09, Chelsea Gruttadauria '10, and Jean Hommel

"When I first met Jean, I was absolutely terrified," Andrew confessed, drawing laughter. "It was the first M/X block of my junior year, and I had just wandered into the brand-new library for the first time." He described what he heard that unforgettable morning (a loud, threatening voice) and what he saw (Jean "storming out of her office"). "I have never been so afraid of anyone wearing a red sweater," he said, amusing the audience, and he decided to move quickly out of sight into the back of the library. M/X block, he explained, is not Ms. Hommel's favorite period to oversee students in the library. In time, he came to learn what other students understand: "It is Jean's accessibility, sense of humor, and eccentric spunk which help her make Lawrence Academy great."

On hand to help present the award were George Peabody and his son **Mark '86**. The Kathy Peabody Book Prize, established by **Kevin McDonald '70** and the other 1966–67 residents of Pillsbury House, is given in memory of George's wife, Kathy, to recognize a member of the non-teaching staff whose good nature brightens many a day at Lawrence Academy.

The Founders' Day Award, the school's most prestigious award for service to the school, was presented to longtime faculty member **Dick Jeffers** and his wife, Beverly, by



Dick Jeffers and trustee Ruth Glazer White '76



Kevin McDonald '70, Jean Hommel, and former faculty George Peabody and son Mark '86

Bruce MacNeil '70. Mr. Wiggins introduced Mr. MacNeil, father of **Stuart MacNeil '04**, as the second-longest serving member of the board and a co-chair of the school's most recent successful capital campaign.

Bruce MacNeil wasted little time in getting to his point: "Frankly, many of us alums look back on the relationships that we made with people like Dick Jeffers and others, and we can say that our growth and our success are directly related to the support that they provided us during our time at Lawrence Academy." Citing examples of teachers who also coached, mentored, and advised students from both his father's experience in the 1940s and in his son's more recent one, Bruce credited Dick Jeffers with having been an invaluable mentor: "He quietly guided me along and helped me mature, helped me develop confidence in myself, and, most importantly, helped me better understand my strengths and weaknesses."

He recalled being told by Dick Jeffers that to succeed as a hockey player on the junior varsity team he would have to make up for weak skills by "hustling 110 percent of the time and developing a very strong work ethic." Mr. Jeffers said to him, "Beat the other guy to the puck every single time you go for it, and you'll be able to contribute to this team's success every bit as well as those outstanding players." That year, he worked his way from the third line to the first, and the following year he made the varsity squad.

Bruce went on to enumerate the ways in which the school had changed for the better under Head of School Ben Williams and his late wife, Nan, including the decision to admit girls in 1971. He was quick to add, however, that behind a head of school are faculty members and their spouses who make those changes work one student at a time, and Bruce called Dick and Bev Jeffers two such "cornerstones" of those important and lasting renovations at Lawrence Academy.

"The vision, the dedication and the perseverance that faculty members like Dick and Bev Jeffers had are why we can be proud of Lawrence Academy today. We owe them a tremendous debt of gratitude for their 47 years of devotion to the entire Lawrence Academy community, and they are most deserving of this prestigious award," Bruce said. "Please join me in celebrating the outstanding careers of two fabulous people that have made such a difference in Lawrence Academy and in so many lives."

After Mr. Jeffers accepted the award, Mr. Wiggins invited the student a cappella group SLACS to sing "Lawrence, Here's to Thee!" Award recipients and their families were invited to a special luncheon in MacNeil Lounge following the assembly.



Dick Jeffers and Bruce MacNeil '70

Theatre at LA

THE VISIT

Performed on November 6-8, 2008 • Richardson-Mees Performing Arts Center



Front row, L-R: Teresa Romero, Tim Caron, and Alex Vassilakos; back row, L-R: Bliss Parsons, Fenn Macon, Jennifer O'Connor, Maggie Raemer, John Stimpson, Stephanie Saywell, Rosie Dempsey, Meg Lewis, and Marina Bousa.



Bernie Leed



Marina Bousa



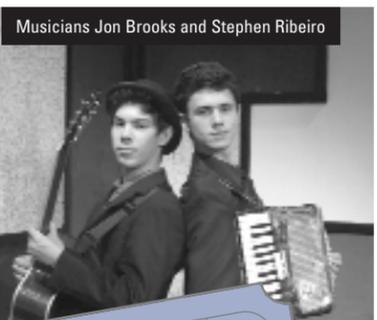
Izzy Lawrence



Matt LeBlanc and Miguel Lozano



L-R: Bliss Parsons, John Stimpson, and Teresa Romero



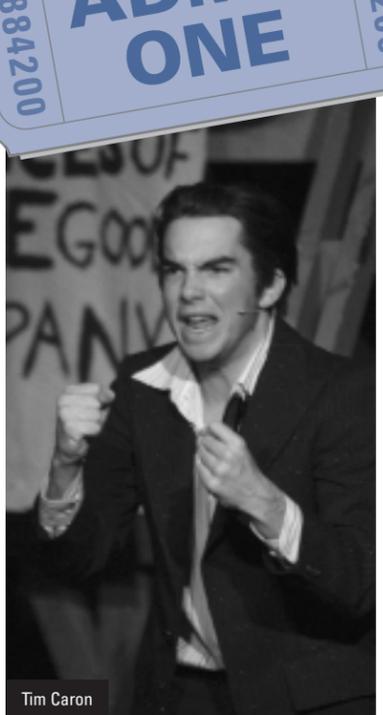
Musicians Jon Brooks and Stephen Ribeiro



L-R: Maggie Raemer, Stephanie Saywell, Andrea Kimbrell, Jennifer O'Connor, Izzy Lawrence, Bliss Parsons, Alex Vassilakos, Marina Bousa, Rosie Dempsey, and Meg Lewis



Izzy Lawrence



Tim Caron

URINETOWN

Performed on February 12-14, 2009 • Richardson-Mees Performing Arts Center



L-R: Izzy Lawrence, Jamarcus Shelton, Anna Banker, Sam Carr, Marina Bousa, Rosie Dempsey, and Meg Lewis



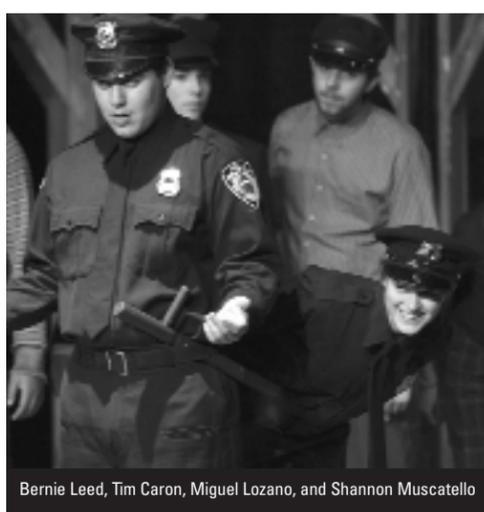
Meg Lewis and Bernie Leed



Bliss Parsons



L-R: Miguel Lozano, Jamarcus Shelton, Marina Bousa, SuYeon Park, and Anna Banker



Bernie Leed, Tim Caron, Miguel Lozano, and Shannon Muscatello



Andy Savage



Rosie Dempsey



Beth Penney

A Science Teacher Watching Out for Students and the Environment

by Ned Mitchell, English Teacher

The helmeted figure that I watched dismounting from her bicycle one early spring day in front of Pillsbury House was Beth Woodbury, looking forward to becoming Beth Penney that August. She was returning from a ride much shorter than the trip along the continental divide she took three summers ago. Unsnapping and removing the shiny helmet, she turned with one hand on the seat of the bike to greet the smiling though slightly more tired figure of David Smith '65 pumping up the road on his bike. Beth called out, "Great ride!" Hopping off, David agreed. I moved on as the two walked away to their cars.

David has a lot to say about Beth, starting with their bicycle connection. "Beth is a natural teacher, a talent I experience firsthand at the top of steep hills whenever we go mountain biking. Typically, she churns her way efficiently to the top, watching me as I tumble off and push my bike the rest of the way. While I hang over my handlebars, wheezing loudly and waiting for the woods to stop spinning around me, she keeps up a pleasant monologue about what bushes are in flower and what birds she can hear in the distance. Although she's no doubt evaluating just how much more she can push her student that afternoon, her demeanor belies any impatience she might be feeling. Instead, you'd think that she felt fortunate to have arrived at that precise time and place and that she would love nothing better than to spend the rest of the day taking it all in. It's the same demeanor I see her bring to her classroom—a steady forward pressure, delivered with energy and a smile that says, "This is a great thing to be doing right now, isn't it?"

Such an outing or a similar bit of earnest, ground-covering exercise is almost a daily occurrence for Beth. Mucking stalls at home, being on ski patrol on weekends when



Kate Donahue '11 joins Beth Penney in the Schoolhouse boiler room as students in Beth's Winterim course learn how to conduct energy audits.

she's free, carving pumpkins, or picking apples to make pies for parents with the dorm residents of Dr. Green are all matter of course.

For the last three years, she has been one of our science teachers and an unceasing advocate for recycling, sustainability, and the environment in whatever voice she can muster. In addition, she researches and produces a weekly environmental tip for the school's email news conferences. (One of her ventures this year has been to run a paper-free classroom, and she called on boarding students to unplug electronic gear before leaving for vacation after Winterim.) She carries the same smile and the same enthusiasm she wears on the bike ride into our ensemble work as NGP faculty and into her classroom and her labs, and she finds all kinds of ways to entice her ninth graders (and her fellow bike riders and her colleagues) into the hard work she loves.

After earning a degree in zoology at the University of New Hampshire and a master's degree from Antioch New England Graduate School in Keene, New Hampshire, Beth landed back at her own high school, Souhegan, in Amherst, New Hampshire, with her former teachers, Dan Bisaccio, Paul Schlotman, and Chris Balch—all also formerly teachers at LA. She came to Lawrence in 2006 and got as involved with the school as we all do, coaching, dorm parenting (in Dr. Green), and serving on committees (our Sustainability Committee) as well as teaching. Her Winterim offering this year (Go Green!) helped her students to conduct a school-wide energy audit before formulating recommendations to be presented to the Board of Trustees, in the same way her students had done for the Souhegan School Board three years before.

Truth be told, her enthusiasm sometimes becomes intransigence and what she would call firm conviction; Beth can argue a point or a point of view with the same intractable passion she has for everything. In the setting of the NGP's ensemble curriculum building, our debates are very productive. Beth's inspiration and creativity, as well as her dogged persistence, are nearest at hand in the creation and implementation for the last three years of the NGP's Earth Energy Efficiency Summit, which, known as the E3 Summit, has become the mainstay of our winter term.

We began because of a charge from the history department that we add more geography to our curriculum. Never at a loss for dealing with novelty or for running with ideas until they play out, Beth brought her concern for things environmental to our team discussion about geography, and within a couple of meetings, we were all contributing to the overarching idea that we hold a mock international treaty summit modeled on the Kyoto Summit of 1997. We would spend time learning about the nations. Then we would learn about their cultures and their carbon emissions. Beth's initial enthusiasm for answering the history department's call was contagious, and the idea has grown with all of our work into a wonderful project.

Once the plan was in place (a plan that we refine together yearly), Beth has volunteered every year to generate the schedules and calendars for us all and then to distribute them to all six of us and to the students. In the package is double-sided paperwork that includes charts for note-taking she has designed with input from us all as well as rubrics to be used in assessing students for the various writing, thinking, and speaking assignments. She also manages the process of collecting and recording all the grades.

The image that will always remain with me from this six-week project is of Beth as 70 delegates representing 18 countries, seated in MacNeil Lounge around a U of long tables draped in white cloths and artwork, propose amendments and debate the merits of their final proposal. With dry marker in hand, she repeatedly turns to a white board to keep the delegates updated with each amendment to each proposal brought before the assembly—all the while standing in stocking feet atop a table!

Beth's strengths are natural in the classroom, where she helps students to learn and practice skills in a variety of sciences. Michael Veit, the chair of LA's science department, knows Beth well and says, "I believe I can speak for the other veteran science teachers in the department in stating that our students have been better equipped when entering our mainstream science courses since Beth has been with the NGP. Beth has done a great job of focusing on teaching her students a set of universal science skills that helps establish a foundation that we can then reinforce and expand upon in our courses."

Then he goes a little closer to Beth's real focus, paying attention to her students: "The emphasis on environmental science that she has brought to the program is timely, plays to the concerns and interests

of our younger students, and provides them with many opportunities to think and act like scientists while engaged in classroom, field, and laboratory activities."

Beth is a teacher who generates a personal level of attention for and interest in as many of her students as she can, and, as time goes on, forms a connection that translates into conversations in the hall or visits for advice from even the most quiet of our students, about everything from ethical issues to the variety of learning styles

“Nature inspires me, especially in the forest when I can find the small details that help me put the whole picture together. Kids are the same way: You never know the whole picture—all you get are the little details and it is not until you weave them together and form some hypothesis that you can really pull out of them the work they are truly capable of doing. My hope is that by the end of each year in the skills-based NGP program, the students begin to put together the pieces of themselves as learners and adults.”

Beth Penney

“The emphasis on environmental science that she has brought to the program is timely, plays to the concerns and interests of our younger students, and provides them with many opportunities to think and act like scientists while engaged in classroom, field, and laboratory activities.”

Michael Veit, LA's science department chair

that we all see. She is especially keen on helping students reluctant to ask for help to begin developing strategies for coping with the demands of academic life while also learning to advocate for themselves. Above all, the students know that she will treat them as individuals and human beings, not children or vessels to be stuffed with information.

Rachel Niemoller '10, one of Beth's advisees, is quick to comment on her devotion to her students. “Not only is she supportive in the classroom,” Rachel says, “but she's also someone students can turn to as a friend.” “I honestly could not have asked for a better advisor,” adds Jessica DeVito '10.

“Beth has been there for me through

so much these past three years, and her willingness to help is what makes her the amazing person I have come to know.” All good teachers share these propensities, and, as her colleague Dina Mordeno puts it, “Beth gets it” when it comes to the students and their journey through school and adolescence. “She communicates her respect at the same time as her high expectations, and then she works to support each kid with a sensible mixture of reality, with cajoling, rigorous but appropriate instruction, and earned encouragement in appropriate doses.”

Watching Beth help her students tackle their NGP mastery project (the cross-disciplinary project of independent work that all ninth graders work on for the entire spring term) is another good way to understand how she has gotten so many interested in learning and *doing* science.

Stephanie Saywell '10, for example, came to us, as most students do, with a serious interest: She wanted to study vampires as the central focus of her work and projects. Meeting the requirements for the humanities and the artistic components was not too difficult, and she was set for the project's agendas in those areas with relatively little fuss. Science was another thing, though. Beth wanted to honor Steph's maturity and intentions, and yet also maintain her own expectations while challenging this capable young person.

No less a part of Beth's personal goals for all her students, she wanted to nurture Steph's serious interest in animals, in creating experiments, and above all in science. Conversation about vampires led, naturally, to blood, and blood led the two of them to leeches. But Beth knew very little about leeches and so jumped in with her to learn as much as she could about the *phylum Annelida* and a good deal about leeches and their “interest” in blood. She helped and then stood back as Stephanie designed controlled experiments about what attracted leeches to the blood they were after, starting with proximity.

Both scientists were dismayed one morning when faced with an apparently failed experiment. The leech had expired. Left with two sources of blood to choose from, one closer than the other, it had gorged itself on both. Stephanie had discovered that leeches can overindulge, which forced her to hypothesize about her dependent and independent variables and eventually about the abating influence of a “victim's” own circulatory system to stem the rate of ingestion. Stephanie (and Beth) learned a lot, and Beth's vigorous support at the end of a problematic experiment kept Steph going through two more phases, eager for more science.

So Beth Penney's days are full of the people and tasks that make teaching such an involving profession and that make her life so full of things that matter to her. Having moved out of Dr. Green at the end of last year, she now heads home after coaching skiing to Lyndeborough, New Hampshire, where she rises at 5:00 to care for the dogs and horses in her charge before heading back to Groton in her truck. She has frequently said that she would bike home and back if she could.

“I honestly could not have asked for a better advisor. Beth has been there for me through so much these past three years and her willingness to help is what makes her the amazing person I have come to know.”

Jess DeVito '10



Fall Sports Summary



Every team has at least one or two players with an energy that epitomizes the give-it-110% rule, and coaches will frequently wish for more of them. To have players with that energy and athletic talent is the beginning of a winning team; add a competitive hunger, and the team could go "all the way." One fall team did precisely that, and another very nearly did. What follows is a recap of the fall season.

Football

Led by senior captains **Darryl Cato-Bishop**, **Logan Gillis**, **Charley Loeb**, and **Ollie Taylor**, the 7–1 football squad generated plenty of excitement for its fans. Entering the final game of the season as an undefeated squad to face off against another unbeaten team with an explosive offense, the Spartans, coached by LA parent Mike Taylor, had routinely overpowered their opponents, scoring an average of 33.6 points per game for a season total of 269. The attack-style LA defense added to the misery of opponents by allowing an average of only 8.4 points per game, for a total of 67.

Practices began in earnest with a four-day camp in August led by former Giants and Super Bowl XXI champions Perry Miller and Curtis McGriff and former NFL quarterback Todd Krueger. In the opening two games, the team recorded a shutout against Thayer Academy, 27–0, and the following week scored an astounding 40 points before pulling the starters and giving up a touchdown to Groton School. Later that weekend, news spread of an automobile accident that claimed the life of rookie sophomore Mark Frattaroli and severely injured returning junior Zach Phillips. When the players returned to the gridiron, following the postponement of the game with Buckingham Brown and Nichols, a new understanding of their own brotherhood and resolve to honor two teammates resulted in a 51–3 drubbing of Rivers School.

Beginning with the home game against Brooks School (32–7), the boys played with a #44 painted on Murbach Field in honor of Mark Frattaroli. In LA's closest games, they defeated Roxbury Latin (31–14) and Governor's (35–14). The final game of the regular season gave them a 46–3 victory over St. Paul's School at home.

On November 14, the 7–0 team traveled to Russell Field in Cambridge to face an even more prolific offense developed by the Knights of BB&N, and the Spartans fought hard and proudly in a game fraught with miscues on both sides, eventually losing, 20–13. Coach Taylor faced a disappointed team by calling on them to lift their heads: "You have absolutely nothing to be ashamed of," he said. Soon after,



All-ISL honors were awarded to seven players: Darryl, Logan, Charley, **Tyler Orfao '09**, and Ollie, and sophomores **Dan Giovacchini** and **Marcus Grant**. Junior **Denzel Brito** and sophomores **Tyler Cardoze**, **Max Ricci**, and **Peter Taylor** earned honorable mention.

Three players—Ollie, Charley, and Darryl—won the honor of being selected First Team All–New England. Ollie was named LA's team MVP, while Charley earned MVP for the offense and Dan Giovacchini garnered MVP for the defense. Logan Gillis received the John Madden Award. The captains and coaches selected the following players to serve as the captains of next year's squad: **Denzel Brito**, **Dan Giovacchini**, **Marcus Grant**, and **John Kelley '10**.

Cross Country

Girls' Cross-Country

The girls' cross-country team struggled to win meets as injuries and sickness often removed runners from the team's race-day line-up. Nevertheless, according to Coach Michael Veit, the girls "practiced with determination and ran with passion and courage. They took risks by experimenting with their pace and form during races, and most made significant improvements over the course of the season." Captains **Frances Hamilton '10** and **Anna Jacques '09** led the other girls with the example of their competitive spirit and positive attitudes, Frances earning the Coaches' Award and Anna the Thomas B. Warner Award.

After the first two meets were held at home, the team had three weeks before running on their home course again, allowing them a chance to set a goal or run a home-course personal record during Parents' Weekend in mid-October. Five of the six who ran that day set PRs, and the remaining runner came very close. Another one of the team's best races came at Rivers School against Rivers, Thayer Academy, and St. Sebastian's School. Despite arriving late and not having enough time to walk the course, all six girls who raced that day ran their fastest times of the season at that point. Although the team did not defeat any ISL teams during the regular season, the girls out-scored St. George's at the ISL championship race

at St. Mark's, where they tied with Brooks School and lost to Rivers School by a mere eight points. "It's a testament to their tenacity that they were able to make such progress," said Mr. Veit.

Junior MVP **Emily Holmes** was the first LA runner to cross the finish line in every race. Comparing their results during the 2007 and 2008 seasons, Anna, Frances, and **Becky Bostick '11** made considerable progress, according to Mr. Veit. The team will lose only two of its runners to graduation, seniors **Sakurako Mori** and Anna Jacques.

Boys' Cross-Country

Many on the boys' cross-country team often reset their personal best times as the 2008 season progressed, and, like the girls, several of them—seven of the 12 who raced in the third home meet on Parents' Weekend—recorded their fastest times to date.

In a race at Rivers School against Rivers, Thayer Academy, and St. Sebastian's School, the team arrived too late to walk the complete course, but nine of the 10 boys who raced that day ran their best races of the season by then. Five boys ran their fastest times of the season at the ISL championships on the very challenging St. George's course, and two others came within just a few seconds of running their fastest races.

Team MVP **Ian McWilliams '10**, who was injured for much of the 2007 season, was the first Lawrence



Academy runner to cross the finish line in most of this year's varsity races, frequently reaching his goal of finishing in under 20 minutes, regardless of the course's difficulty. Even though he was injured for most of the season, junior captain **John Plummer** was LA's second finisher in several races early in the season.

The Coaches' Award went to a very promising freshman, **Peter Ryder**, who made considerable progress during the season, breaking the 20-minute barrier twice. He finished second to Ian in most races and finished first for LA in three races, including the ISL championships. In addition to John and Peter, juniors **Eric McKnight**, **Andy Savage**, and **Jeffrey Chen** and freshman **Charlie White** should make up the core of LA's varsity team next season. Senior **Albert Sun** earned the Thomas B. Warner Award.



No fewer than 14 Lawrence Academy seniors are joining a Division I athletics program in the fall. Pictured here in Stone Athletic Center's gymnasium are, L-R, beginning with the front row, Logan Gillis (baseball at Northeastern); Kelly Horan (hockey at University of Connecticut); Nicole Bartlett (hockey at Union); middle row: Ollie Taylor (football at Syracuse); Kat Spring (field hockey at BU); Sarah Riggert (soccer at University of Delaware); Lia Palmacci (soccer at Sacred Heart); Steven Whitney (hockey at Boston College); back row: Micah Williams (hockey at Bentley University); Darryl Cato-Bishop (football at North Carolina State); Charley Loeb (football at Syracuse); Chelsea Knapp (hockey at The Ohio State University); Ashley Motherwell (hockey at Boston College). Not pictured here: Wayne Simpson (hockey at Union College)



During an all-school assembly, after Head of School Scott Wiggins congratulated the boys' ski team for repeating as NEPSAC Class C champions, he stood with the team's starters for a picture: l-r, Athletic Director Kevin Wiercinski, Nick Caesar '09, Will Beck '12, Barrett Kelly '12, Scott Wiggins, Matt Tower '11, and Dan Caesar '11. Also on the team were Will Joumas '10, John Stimpson '10, Brendon Donoghue '11, Brendan Donahue '11, Keith Britt '12, and Charlie White '12.



Wayne Simpson '09 was presented the 2009 John Carlton Award by Boston Bruins Vice President Cam Neely on March 31, 2009, in the TD Banknorth Garden. The award is given annually by the Boston Bruins to two outstanding student-athletes who combine exceptional hockey skills with academic excellence. The recipients, one boy and one girl, must be high school seniors playing in Eastern Massachusetts high school or junior hockey.

Soccer

Boys' Soccer

As with the two most successful teams of the fall season, the boys' soccer team (4-9-4) benefited from several players working hard during the off-season and from a five-day camp on Cape Cod. Captained by seniors **Marc Dellacanonica**, **Tyler Davis**, and **Scooter Manly**, the team acquitted itself well by winning preseason scrimmages, most notably a 5-1 victory over Cushing Academy. By the end of the preseason Holderness Jamboree, the team had prevailed in two more games and tied the third against host Holderness School.

The season began well enough, with LA's first goal scored by freshman **Matt Baldino** in what became a 3-0 win over Proctor Academy. After four one-goal losses, the team tied 2007 league champions Buckingham Browne & Nichols, 1-1. "That was a huge turning point for us despite the fact it was not a win," said coach Jeff Good. "Tying on the road against last year's league champion gave us a mental boost. We followed that tie with another magnificent game against a St. George's squad that had been lighting up the league. We battled them to a 0-0 tie at home."

They tied Cushing, 1-1, and were overpowered, 4-0, by the league-leading team from Rivers. Following another close loss to St. Sebastian's, the Spartans pleased fans with a 3-1 win over Brooks. After three more losses, the team won its first back-to-back wins in several seasons against Governor's (1-0) and Milton Academy (2-1).

The team's final game epitomized the season for Coach Good. "After giving up a goal in the first half, we did what we had done all season and battled back, scoring two goals on penalty kicks in the second half and taking the lead, which held until St. Paul's scored on a penalty kick to tie, 2-2. This exciting match, a battle right to the final whistle, typified the kind of season we had: lots of joy and disappointment, but exciting and unpredictable." Named to the All-ISL team was team MVP Scooter Manly, with Tyler Davis earning honorable mention, Marc Dellacanonica and **Steven Zaloudek '09** sharing the Pickering Prize, and MIP honors going to senior **Nick Caesar**.

"This has been one of the strongest and closest senior classes to come through the soccer program in quite some time," said Mr. Good. "I have not seen a tighter group of guys since the 2001 squad, which was captained by this year's assistant coach, **Matt Green '01**."

Girls' Soccer

Led by senior tri-captains and multi-year starters **Lia Palmacci**, **Ellie Moore**, and **Sarah Riggert**, the girls' soccer team (7-9-0) started the season with a bang, reeling off three wins against Cushing Academy (4-1), Thayer Academy (2-1), and Newton Country Day (5-0). Buoyed by their scoring spree, the team entered "a tough stretch in the schedule," said Coach Charles Franklin, and the Spartans could not break through against the top teams in the league. By the end of a five-game drought, the team regrouped to win three of the last five games, prevailing against St. George's, St. Mark's, and Milton Academy. The team's best performance of the season came in their 1-0 victory over Milton Academy (8-5-2) at home, where the girls defeated a strong and talented Class A opponent.

Lia Palmacci, once an All-ISL player and twice earning honorable mention, provided the main attacking threat throughout the season and was responsible—directly or indirectly—for most of Lawrence's goals this year, making clear that she was one of the most dangerous attacking players in the league. Her performance against St. Mark's (2g, 2a) and her game-winning goal against Thayer Academy, the team that knocked the Spartans out of the playoffs last season, were highlights for the team offensively. Ellie Moore, at outside back, provided a solid presence in the defense and showed a very good ability to read the game and break up an opposition's attack. The team's four shutouts this season were due in large part to her defensive awareness and strength. Team MVP Sarah Riggert, a two-time All-ISL and All-State selection, was the backbone of the defense and a commanding presence around the ball. She added five goals over the course of the season, many off of set pieces because she is very dangerous in the air.



Seniors **Sherri Bergstrom Brooks**, **Jess Lunt**, **Shannon Muscatello**, and **Sarah Roop** contributed greatly to the offensive effort by scoring important goals. Sarah Roop's two goals against St. Mark's were a highlight, along with Sherri Bergstrom Brooks's goal against a talented Brooks team, Shannon Muscatello's goal against Dana Hall, and Jess Lunt's goal against Newton Country Day School. Seniors **Michelle Ng** and **Nell Lapres** helped anchor the midfield and showed considerable improvement this year. Both contributed offensively but proved themselves most valuable as defenders by working hard every time they took to the field. Finally, senior **Bradie Hutchinson** started the season as a midfielder, scored two big goals early in the season, and then agreed to make the switch to goalkeeper during the middle of the season. She showed much promise and courage before an injury kept her out of several games until she rejoined her teammates in the finale. This year's Saltonstall Award was given to Jess Lunt, and the Coaches' Award went to **Kelsey Carroll '11**.

"With back-to-back seasons of seven wins," said Coach Franklin, "the seniors on the team have helped to put Lawrence Academy girls' soccer back in contention for playoff appearances, while demonstrating that LA can beat some of the best teams in the league."

Turn to the back cover for coverage of the NEPSAC championship field hockey team.



Kelsey Heavey

Kelsey Heavey '09 Takes Aim at Bullying

by Andrew J. Brescia, director of communications

Andover senior brings firsthand experience as bully, bullied, and spectator to students at her former middle school

Standing at the head of the class, Kelsey Heavey '09 faced her students wearing jeans and occasionally crossed her arms over a long-sleeved button-down sweater left open to reveal a giant butterfly on her white t-shirt. She was smiling, as Kelsey usually does, and she had her students' attention.

When she was in elementary school, she said, a girl asked to be one of Kelsey's friends. Only if you have your ears pierced, Kelsey had said; otherwise, forget about it. The girl did have her ears pierced and then did join Kelsey's circle of friends, and that embarrasses Kelsey today. And so it should, she says to her audience during a presentation to help students at Wood Hill Middle School understand bullying and what they can do to reduce it in their own lives.

"I'm here to talk to you about bullying, but I'm not coming in telling you that I'm being bullied, that I'm being made fun of at lunch. That's not true. But I have been bullied, I have bullied someone else, and I've watched bullying happen. So I've been the abused, the abuser, and the spectator—all of which have been painful for me," she confessed. "I'm here to talk to you because I am now the kind of person who cannot watch a girl being made fun of because her clothes aren't cool."

After Kelsey's first presentation during Thanksgiving vacation, Chip Gregory, her former teacher at Wood Hill, asked Kelsey to come back to meet with the second half of that team. Within a month of her first presentation, when she was also working to complete college applications, the senior from Andover had used vacation time or, combining free periods with lunch, had shuttled between Groton and Andover to work with six different groups of students.

The idea of conducting the workshops came to her during a 2008 summer internship in the offices of District Attorney Gerry Leone. While copying materials for a presentation, she took time to read the newspaper stories of domestic violence that were included. She was shocked to read about a mother who "hid snacks and drinks for her kids in their bedroom wall because their father, her husband, would lock them in there for hours on end." There was also a nurse who treated her own contusions inflicted by her husband. The case she found the most disturbing, however, was of a woman who, after taking action against an abusive husband to see him imprisoned for seven years, was murdered by him upon his release.

"The fact that so many of these abusers get the minimum sentence and are allowed bail, and the other half are not even prosecuted at all, was bewildering to me," she said. With the copier churning away, she then turned to cyber-bullying cases involving children. The domestic violence cases, though, had left their mark.

"As I thought about it more and more," she said, "I made a connection between middle school bullying and domestic abuse. If things like pushing someone in the hallway, or calling someone ugly, are tolerated [in middle school], I believe they can escalate into more violent bullying. There needs to be a time when the bullying stops before it turns into violence or worse. That's why I chose to talk to kids in middle school, where bullying is prevalent yet where they are still shaping their moral values."

Having explained to each class why she was returning to her former school to discuss bullying, Kelsey coached students in small groups to perform in their own bully-themed skits. Following performances lasting only one or two minutes, students were invited to comment on what points about bullying had been illustrated in each of the skits. Asking students to perform skits was her younger sister's idea to help "active" students stay engaged in a serious subject.

"Actually, I didn't expect them to know so much about bullying, but what I found most interesting was seeing them perform the skits because you know [that] what they say in the skits comes from what they have said or heard." Following the gender-segregated skits, she invited students to drop in a box made for the occasion their handwritten anonymous comments or questions.

During the Q&A, Kelsey read aloud and answered questions that were amusingly irrelevant ("Do you have a boyfriend?"), teachable-moment poignant ("What do you do when someone won't stop bullying you?"), and eminently practical ("Does bullying occur in high school?").

Have you bullied someone? Yes, she replies, recalling her pierce-your-ears-or-else ultimatum. The girls still know each other today, she explained, and the girl will tease Kelsey about her bullying ways.

Has anyone bullied you? Yes, again. A girl who clearly didn't like Kelsey kept her from leaving the bathroom one day. Others left with the bully's permission: "She stood at the door and said to everyone else, 'You can go out; you're not Kelsey.' I missed my class, which is a big deal in elementary school, and for a week I didn't tell my mom why I had missed the class. When I did finally tell her, she talked to my teacher and we sat down with the girl and talked about it, and she didn't do that again."

At the end of each class, the 17-year-old aspiring lawyer left the students with three challenges: to think before they speak, to reach out to someone who is being bullied, and to talk to someone if they feel that they are being bullied. "Bullying is not necessary; it does not need to happen. If you tell someone, people will help you," she said.

When she approached former teacher Chip Gregory and proposed conducting a workshop like one she had seen done for adults during her summer internship, he quickly agreed. "I was so happy to hear from a former student who was interested in speaking to the students about this topic," he said, and after six presentations, he was thrilled with his former student's teaching. "As a young person who is still in high school, she has immediate credibility with our students, and her ability to connect with them proved to be remarkable."

Kelsey's Lawrence Academy advisor for two years, history teacher Eileen Keever, is not at all surprised. "No matter how big or small the endeavor, Kelsey dedicates herself to doing her best. Not only does she want to succeed, but with her enthusiasm and diligence she makes those around her push themselves."

And that's apart from the senior's modesty, she adds. "When she let me know that she was going to be leaving school during the day to work on 'just something I'm doing at my sister's school,' she completely downplayed both the size and importance of her project." In fact, had not Dean of Students Charles Franklin probed when Kelsey asked for permission to leave campus, this story might never have come to light.

In the summer of 2007, Kelsey participated in the National Youth Leadership Forum in Washington, D.C. The special focus of her work was on law and advocacy. Kelsey was also one of six finalists in LA's public speaking contest established in the spring of 2007. She spoke on how much better the world could be if everyone truly listened to each other.



Kelsey Heavey '09, pictured here with students at Wood Hill Middle School in Andover, Mass., returned to her former school to teach students how to help prevent bullying. Kelsey will be attending Boston College in the fall.

Education



Matters

Your generous gifts to the Annual Fund DO make a difference. Please make a gift today at www.lacademy.edu/onlinegiving.



Kevin McDonald '70

Dear Alumni:

As I was preparing to leave Lawrence Academy in the spring of 1970, Francis Head, alumni secretary, asked if I would consider being a class agent. Having worked with Mr. Head for two years in the school store, I could hardly refuse. I wasn't really sure what a class agent was, but I was happy to assist him and the school in any way that I could.

When I went to the post office at Holy Cross that fall, I received a box with postcards, envelopes and a class list. There was little by way of an instruction manual to provide me with direction on how to fulfill my new duties. That was not Mr. Head's fault; as we have come to learn since, Lawrence did not at that time have a formal development program or a tradition of giving. I served as class agent for two years and then passed it back to the school as I was consumed with other interests at the time (which sometimes included my studies).

A few years passed, and I was once again approached to serve as class agent. This time, I asked few questions to see if there was more of a support system in place to provide me with direction and, hopefully, the tools to ensure that my efforts would make a difference. Fortunately, the development and alumni relations program was well on its way to bringing LA into the 20th century. Sean O'Neil, Gordon Sewall, and Andrew Searle had begun laying the foundation of the Alumni and

Development Office, which, under the present long-term leadership of Rob Moore has provided LA with consecutive Annual Fund successes and capital campaigns that have made it possible to modernize the classrooms, athletic facilities, and dormitories, and, at the same time, increase the endowment.

The work of the class agent hasn't changed over the years. The primary function is to keep classmates informed of news on campus and to help them stay in touch with the school and each other. Being a class agent, which takes about 20 hours or less each year, has been very rewarding for me. I have found keeping my classmates informed to be immensely gratifying. In fact, one of the rewards of the work has been developing new relationships with classmates who played other sports, lived in different dorms, and traveled in different circles while at LA. And today, we have the school Web site, school publications, and e-newsletters—coming to your email boxes soon—to help keep everyone informed.

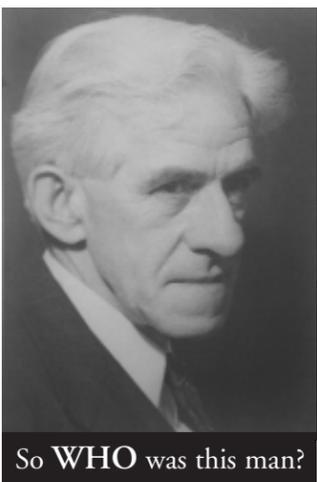
My classmates often point out that the reason they support the Annual Fund on a regular basis (usually at a 70% participation rate) is that they feel connected to the school—a school they remember for its sense of family and community—through these methods and, most importantly, through my calls and emails. As Congressman Tip O'Neill used to say, "Everyone likes to be asked," so when it is time for me to ask for a classmate's continued or renewed support of the Annual Fund, it comes very easily because they understand why it is important for them to support LA one, five, 20, or 40 years after graduation.

The Annual Fund is certainly one of the primary concerns of the class agent. Its success determines whether the school can meet its annual operating budget. In these uncertain and challenging economic times, the need to expand our base of alumni support is critical. Whereas comparable ISL schools enjoy a 30% level of alumni participation, LA's has been between 20% and 24%. By effectively extending our outreach to all alumni and increasing our level of participation, we would be sending a powerful message to current and future supporters of the school. I am convinced that the primary way to accomplish this goal is to reenergize our class agent network.

If you are looking for a way to give back to LA, or may have been involved as a volunteer at one time but family or career prevented you from continuing, consider yourselves asked! If you would like to get involved, we stand ready to assist you in becoming an effective class agent! Please feel free to contact Judy Clark (jclark@academy.edu), Molly Richardson (mrichardson@academy.edu), or me (mcdkev1@verizon.net).

Sincerely,

Kevin McDonald '70
Alumni Council President



So WHO was this man?

In the most recent *Academy Journal*, we published the picture seen to the left with a challenge in the form of a simple question: "Who is this man?" Paul Husted '64 and Dick Jeffers provided the information upon which the following answer is based.

First to reply was Ted Madfis '45, who recalled seeing the framed picture covered with dust

high on a shelf in Mr. Norman Grant's chemistry lab in the school building that burned down in 1956. According to Ted, the students thought that it was a picture of Norm's brother. (Mr. Grant's brother, Leonard Grant, played football for the New York Giants.)

It was, however, William Lawrence of Concord, Massachusetts, who correctly identified the gentleman as William Dawborn, the assistant to Dr. Harry Hosking, superintendent at the Groton Leatherboard Company. Mr. Dawborn was known to be a mechanical genius who could fix or maintain anything from boilers to buildings. Mr. Lawrence reported that the Groton Leatherboard Company was founded in 1899 by William A. Lawrence, his grandfather and a trustee from 1909 until 1925, and Michael Sheedy, a member of the Class of 1873 who was also a trustee (1894–1946). It was subsequently run by his father, Carl A. P. Lawrence, a member of the Class of 1910 and a trustee (1954–1973), and Winthrop Sheedy, a member of the Class of 1909 and a trustee (1947–1960).

He thinks that his father or Winthrop Sheedy might have suggested that Mr. Dawborn's mechanical expertise would be helpful to LA.

A report in *Turner's Public Spirit* of August 1, 1914, noted that William Dawborn, machinist at the mill, lost many valuable tools and his motorcycle in a fire that burned down the mill on July 24, 1914.

According to William Dawborn's obituary, appearing in the *Lowell Sun* on June 25, 1965, he was born in Shirley on April 6, 1881, and died on June 24, 1965, at the Nashoba Community Hospital at the age of 84. He was survived by two sons, Donald and William Dawborn, and a sister, Alice C. Dawborn, of Shirley, as well as Joseph, a brother living in Natick.

Parenthetically, Mr. Lawrence thinks that he did not attend Lawrence Academy because his mother did not favor the influence on her sons from veterans returning to campus to complete their education. One of those veterans was Norman MacNeil '47, who served as a trustee from 1960 to 1983 and was president of the board from 1969 to 1977.

Confirming the identity of Mr. Dawborn was Eugene Gray, who taught woodworking at Lawrence Academy in the 1970s and 1980s, served on the Board of Trustees (1978–1982), and served as the superintendent of Groton Leatherboard Company. Mr. Lawrence also contacted Mr. Dawborn's granddaughter, who confirmed that the picture was of her grandfather.

William Lawrence, to whom we are grateful for the correct answer, is descended from Deacon Samuel Lawrence, one of Lawrence Academy's founders. Should information reported here seem to be in error, please know that corrections to the record are welcomed!



Pictured here is one of 25 campus trees felled by the December 2008 ice storm. For more pictures by faculty member Jenn O'Connor, visit the campus life photo gallery at www.lacademy.edu.

Tori Wellington Hanna '97

We asked **Tori Wellington Hanna '97**, now the director of sports marketing for Under Armour, to comment on her experience at Lawrence Academy by responding to some prompts. We would be thrilled to receive submissions—with a current photograph—from other alumni interested in responding to the same prompts. Please submit your answers and photograph to Andrew Brescia at abrescia@lacademy.edu

My most memorable teacher or mentor at LA
Jerry Wooding is the person who introduced me to LA, but it was Donna Mastrangelo who took me under her wing and kept me on the right track. I'm sure that is no surprise to anyone who knew of our relationship. Donna was my coach in soccer and basketball, my advisor, and my Spanish teacher in my senior year. I think we can all look back on our high school years and laugh at some embarrassing moments. I can definitely thank Donna for saving me from having more of them. Being an athlete growing up, I was very familiar with the word "team"—do what's right for the "team," be a "team" player, etc. It wasn't until being a part of Donna's team, though, that I truly understood the meaning of the word. She instilled selflessness, teamwork, encouragement, accountability, and, most importantly, a knowledge and acceptance of your role on the team. These lessons have guided me through all aspects of my life. It was very fitting that Donna married Frank Mastrangelo as he always knew when to have the ice bath and heat pads ready for us and when to tell us to suck it up. Tough love runs in that family and we are all better people for having experienced it.

What inspires me the most today

While I love my job and the brand I work for, what inspires me are the people close to me who give so much of themselves to help improve the lives of others. I'm inspired every day by my husband and my mother.

Matt is a 10th-grade history teacher at Cristo Rey High School in Baltimore, an inner-city Jesuit high school. The kids admitted to the school are intelligent kids who just need a chance to be able to survive and succeed. Without the school, these kids would most likely not be given the chance to experience higher education. Cristo Rey is designed to teach a high school curriculum four days a week while providing the students with an internship one day a week at a local company. Every night I come home from work I hear all kinds of stories about my husband's day. Some are funny, some are sad, but all of them are moving and inspiring. Being able to see him touch and influence the lives of these kids puts everything in perspective for me. The Baltimore school is in its second year, so the athletic program is slowly developing; Matt coached the varsity basketball team this past winter and will introduce the kids to lacrosse this spring.

Just as teaching asks much of Matt, my mom's profession asks her to give so much of herself to help people around her. She is a psychotherapist and hears some of the most horrific stories and comes across some hopeless situations. My mom always finds the most positive light in every situation, but, more importantly, she passes that on to her patients. She gives them the realization that they can move on with their lives, always using their past as a crutch, or they can move on and look toward the possibilities they can create for themselves.

What I am most proud of, personally or professionally

So often we get caught up in accomplishing the next big feat, whether at work or at home. We always want the next best thing, which I suppose is human nature. We all have a lot to be proud of and a lot we've accomplished, so by no means am I playing down anyone's accomplishments. But my proudest moments are those rare moments that I get to myself



Tori Wellington Hanna '97 with her husband, Matt.

when I can reflect on my life and accept my life for what it is. I can be proud of where I am and I can accept what I am not. It doesn't stay with me long, but it is a peaceful feeling that makes everything okay.

What I would like to accomplish in 5–10 years

I was fortunate enough to go to China this past summer, and it completely opened my eyes. Being immersed in a culture very different from what you're used to is exciting and challenging. The company I work for is a global sporting goods company, so if the opportunity ever comes up to move overseas for a few years, my husband and I would certainly jump at it.

LA Class Notes for 2008–2009

'33

Charlie Dodge shared with the Alumni Development Office that he had graduated from MIT (in aeronautical engineering) in 1937. He worked as a design engineer and in supervisory positions from 1937 until 1985 for Chance Vought Aircraft (CT), Vought Sikorsky Aircraft (CT), Sciaky Welding Co. (which made machines for aerospace), Bell Aircraft (NY), Stanley Aviation (CO), General Electric Jet Engines (OH), Martin Marietta (CO; now Lockheed-Martin), and Frost Engineering (CO). He remarried in 2001 after the death of his first wife in 2000. He and his wife now live in northeast Washington about 50 miles north of Spokane on 24 acres owned by his wife's daughter. He writes, "We are both blessed with excellent health for our ages (I'll be 93 on October 24). Since my retirement in 1985, I have spent much time, with the aid of a computer, in an in-depth study of the Bible. This has been very fruitful and rewarding, resulting in a perspective that is significantly different from that portrayed by most of denominational Christianity."

'35

Brad Monk sent in this noteworthy message with his alumni update from Penacook, New Hampshire: "Louise, my wonderful wife of 57 years, and I are maintaining our own home, with frequent visits and assistance from family living fairly close."

'44

Carl Campagna shared some interesting details about the Class of 1944 on the alumni update form he mailed: "Wartime class: 25 seniors, two in the military before graduation. All served. Zero casualties." That's one time that having a zero is terrific news!

'46

Ernest Systrom, who had inquired about a few classmates and relatives, wrote in a letter saying, "I have many fine memories of my days in Groton. Memories of friends and mentors that I will always cherish. If anything, I learned the *art* of study, and it has aided me all these years through college (Penn and later Harvard) and in my careers in industry. I learned a great deal from my time at the Academy. We had some wonderful mentors...tops

were Arthur Ferguson, who was the soul of the school. Frank Head, Joseph Howard, Mr. Jenkins, and many others. Life goes on..." Ernest reports that he is "facing back surgery" and believes that he won't be making it back to campus for a visit. From the elm tree-shaded hillside, we wish him a quick recovery.

'53

John Ferguson wrote to report that "all is going well as I approach 75. I am still enjoying Florida in the winter and Maine in the summer."

'54

Terry Marinos has retired as an educator and is now in the antique business. He's been showing at Brentwood Antiques in Hampton Falls, New Hampshire.

'56

Thanks to **Jay Beades**, the class agent, the Class of 1956 has much news to read. To begin with, Jay shared part of a Christmas letter from **Win Adams** and his wife, Carroll: "We have rented our condo in Alabama so we only visit now, not stay. Chatham is where we are! Come on over! Tracy (daughter) is now in her 10th year

teaching autistic children for SEDOL (Special Education District of Lake County, in Illinois). She continues to love her work. Richard is studying to be a physician's assistant at Weill Medical College of Cornell University and he is enjoying his challenging courses along with 33 other students. He will graduate in the fall of 2010. Win's delight, after a trip to Alabama to visit our friends, was our junket to Oklahoma to see his beloved 1955 Lancia Aurelia Spider being restored, which he hopes will 'come home' for good in the spring of 2009. In the meantime, he enjoys his '85 Mustang GT convertible and '63 English Daimler Roadster. (Oh, he loves his toys!) We are both inherent, compulsive volunteers:



Susan Wiggins, Jay Beades '56, and Scott Wiggins at the Boston Blazers reception on April 4, 2009

Carroll visits hospice patients; drives cancer patients to local hospitals and to Dana Farber Brigham & Women's in Boston for the American Cancer Society; and is a mentor and library aide at Chatham Elementary School. Win is the chairman of the Auto Committee at Heritage Museums and Gardens; a docent at Chatham Railroad Museum; and a representative to the Chatham Chamber of Commerce. Time does fly by when you are having a good time!" Jay himself writes, "We all have been saddened by the loss of our buddies, **Frank Goldie** and **Jim McCarron**, which has severely affected our reunion gatherings for golf matches, luncheons, etc. However, we are pleased that our friends are remembered via our class's Kirby's Korner and the undefeated wall!" **Bob Cornell** is enjoying his retirement but still seems to be working very hard. He has traded positions in the classroom and is now a student in an acting class while also working with his brother in installing lighting and sound for special events. Another busy member of the class is **Howel Evans**, more commonly known as Buzz, who graduated from Tufts University in 1960 and was married to Ann Taggart, a psychologist, in 1961. They have two children and six grandchildren, and their hobbies include landscape gardening and hiking. Buzz is now retired from his work as a senior managing director of Bear Stearns & Co. As winter settled in, Buzz and Ann wrote, "We're enjoying our fireside, watching the beginnings of the four cords of wood Buzz cut and split and Ann stacked, thinking of friends and family. It's been a good year for us, beginning with a marvelous trip to Australia and New Zealand—beautiful scenery, wonderful people, and great wine! We have a new yellow Lab pup, Jacki, to follow Buzz around and fetch sticks." In their next letter, they wrote about a trip to Ecuador and Peru, which included experiencing the Andes, the Galápagos Islands, and Machu Picchu before moving to family: "Our children and their children are all thriving, working hard, active and growing. California kids, all, Grace is a sophomore, Mitchell, in 8th grade; Davis, in 5th; and Quinn, in 3rd. The younger two are totally fluent in Spanish, which is quite remarkable. Maris and Amelia are beginning school and loving it. We enjoy our trips to the 'other coast' to see them all and will spend the holidays with both families. We continue to love living here—Buzz, the super gardener/ landscaper, is out on the land every day. Ann still works part-time seeing children and families." **Paul Graves** had a nice visit with Chris Margraf and Kevin Potter on their admissions trip to Florida. Meanwhile, at the other end of the east coast, **Jack McCarthy** and his wife were establishing a new home in the "Far Northern Exposure" of Cherryfield, Maine, where they celebrated the news of the arrival of their first grandchild, a gift from their daughter Lottie, who now resides with her family in Buffalo, New York. They plan to spoil their grandchild "rottenly." According to Jay, those classmates who wish to see Jack can find him "standing on the cliffs of Maine at dawn, with his legendary white R.A.F. scarf whipping in the wind, peering through his binoculars searching for that last threatening U-boat." But Jay's grasp of the past may not be what it once was. **Gene Moloy**, upon hearing of Jay's claim that he was the leading pass catcher on the '56 undefeated team asked, "Was he

on the team?" Jay didn't seem to mind because he still passed this nice note along: "Gene has been dividing his time between Florida and Cape Cod and is looking forward to re-establishing contact with our '56 teammates and classmates, as well as visiting Kirby's Korner at LA." **Ken Rice** has been keeping up with the trend and staying very busy with Myers Park United Methodist Church, in Charlotte, as a Stephen Minister and a member of the church's board of trustees. He wrote to Jay, "I am playing a lot of golf and traveling. I play golf four times a week most of the year and still play well despite my age. I shot my age or better four times when I was 70 and five times when I was 71. I won the Super Senior Championship at Raintree CC here in Charlotte in August, shooting a 2 under par 70 in the last round to win by 12 strokes. I still love to play and enjoy the groups with whom I play. Kay and I went to Africa and South Africa from August 12th to September 3rd. We spent one night in Johannesburg and then spent three nights each in four different camps in Namibia, Botswana, and Zimbabwe. We went on 20 game



Kay and Ken Rice '56 with lions

drives, observing animals in their natural habitat. It was amazing to see lions, elephants, giraffes, cheetahs, impalas, wildebeests, buffalos, baboons, hippos, kudus, and zebras as we drove through the bush. We were lucky enough to see the Big Five (buffalo, elephant, lion, leopard, and rhino); we saw three cheetahs track down and kill an impala; we rode an elephant and walked with lions. While in Zimbabwe, we took a helicopter ride over Victoria Falls and then walked around the falls on the Zimbabwe side. After our unforgettable time elsewhere in Africa, we went to Cape Town, South Africa, for five days visiting Cape Point, Cape of Good Hope, and the wine country of Stellenbosch. We spent about 22 hours on the plane each way, but it was worth it. One of the 14 people on the trip heard me mention Lawrence Academy and said that his freshman roommate at Dartmouth was from Lawrence Academy. It turned out to be a fellow 1956 classmate from Bigelow Hall, **Bill Davidson**. It is a small world! In early November, **Jerry Creteau** [see obituaries] came to spend a week here in Charlotte with my wife, Kay, and me. We played a lot of golf and continued our relationship of over 60 years. We met when we were both in the 5th grade in Nashua. It has become an annual thing for us to do in late October or early November each year." While Ken didn't have much



Jerry Creteau '56

more than that to report on Jerry, he did tell all about a reconnecting phone call between him and **Hal Jackson** that seemed to bridge the gap of 52 years. "Jackie," much like the rest of his classmates, is now retired. He is living in Milwaukee after being a judge, assistant

Ken Rice '56

While I was at Lawrence Academy, Jerry Creteau '56, Jackie Jackson '56, and I went to my house in Nashua for lunch, got in the car, and drove to Cambridge to park the car near Harvard and ride the bus to the Garden to see a Celtics game. When the bus arrived, there was nobody on it but the driver, so Jerry and I paid our fare and sat across from the driver. Jackie paid his fare and started up the aisle toward the back of the bus. I told him to sit with us, but he said he had to sit in the back of the bus, so Jerry and I went back and sat with him. I have thought about that incident often over the years but never more than when Jerry and I were together on election night when the first African American was elected president of the United States. What a long way the nation had come despite the fact that it was 52 years ago when Jackie had to sit in the back of an empty bus in Boston. I decided after the inauguration that I had to talk with Jackie and called him. Although he wasn't there at the time, he called me back and we talked for 45 minutes.



Kay and Ken Rice '56

Editor's note: Although this story was included in Class Notes, we hope that our making it one of the reflections by alumni on Barack Obama's inauguration meets with Mr. Rice's approval.

district attorney, and law professor. Ken writes, "He got his law degree at Marquette after getting his undergraduate degree at Colgate. His dad, the legendary Harold B. Jackson, is still broadcasting at age 93 at a low-wattage station (WBLS) in New York. Jackie's mother is 89 years old but in poor health at a place in Harlem where she requires 24-hour care. Jackie has three children and two grandsons. One daughter lives in San Francisco and the other lives in South Africa. About four or five years ago, doctors discovered that Jackie had a brain tumor, and after the first surgery, it grew back; subsequent treatments have been more successful, and it seems to be under control. He told me that he had worked extensively with a therapist for three years to get his speech back, but he sounded very normal to me. He told me that his knees were shot but he took up tennis and has enjoyed doing that. I really enjoyed talking to Jackie after 52 years, and he seemed very pleased I had called. Before he had to leave for another obligation, we told each other we would keep in touch by phone and/or email." Here, finally, is news from Jay on another classmate: **Irv Weiner** has retired from full-time work but is still doing financial consulting. He has moved to a new home in Norton and is very eager to join his classmates, whom he remembers well, at future gatherings. He still plays basketball to keep in shape and does a wonderful impression of the old Celtic, Wayne "The Wall" Embry.

'59

Chris Bramley retired in December 2006 from TD Banknorth. He is now enjoying his days doing some consulting and playing golf; he spends winters in Naples, Florida. Now that doesn't sound half bad! **Brad Latham**, on the other hand, is still working hard with his three sons following in his footsteps and working with him at the law firm of Latham, Latham and Lamond, P.C.

'61

Tom Dowd proudly shared that he has traveled to 46 states. **Hank Farnham** passed along a request to add bookstore items to LA's Web site so that alumni could purchase items online (a request we have passed on to the Web team, which is busy working to launch a new site for the school in August or September 2009).

'64

Neil Klar passed along the exciting news that his son Daniel was married on June 13, 2008, to Dina Dessner.

'68

Gary Scheft writes about having started Ice House Garlic several years ago in Northern Litchfield County, Connecticut. All of the proceeds of its community-supported agriculture are donated to the town of Colebrook and its fire department, first responders, recreation board, and scholarship fund. He also enclosed a packaging label with the Ice House Garlic logo. Upholding a 19th-century tradition, Ice House invites members of the town to support one another through a cooperative gardening project. To order garlic or to volunteer, please contact Gary at gscheft@hellercd.com.

'72

Everett Warner writes that he is divorced but is on the rebound with "a great engineering/maintenance manager job at a new hospital in the western part of Virginia." He reports that his daughter Tiffany, now 20, is getting married this month and that his son Brent, 17, is a senior on the tennis team.

'73

Jon Ladd urges, "Keep on rockin' in the free world!"

'74

Joe Ippolito, admitting that he has always been a late bloomer, writes that he is happily married and living in Swampscott with wife and 9-year-old son Michael. "If any old friends are around, come on by or call me. If you are involved in sales, sales management, or a leadership position in your business, I would be happy to get reacquainted and provide some complimentary training!" **Dick Johnson** is currently co-authoring an illustrated history of the Boston Marathon with his son while also writing a history of New England Patriots.

LA Alumni Gatherings



Nicoletta Ski Day at Wachusett Mountain on January 19, 2009

Front row, L-R: Chris Margraf, Austin Colby '00, Chris Gothorpe '99, and Ashley Jones '02; back row, Rob Moore, Carolyn Stimpson (John '10), Trish Seuss (CG '99's girlfriend), Bill Andrus, Amanda Doyle '98, Lindsay Andrus '04, Matt Greene '01, and Josh Sagor '98.



photographed by Sarah Bearden

CA Gathering on November 13, 2008

Hosted by Greg Boro '83 at Max's Restaurant
Front row, L-R: Dianna Hahn '99, Joan Richardson (Peter '78, GP Jenna '06, Andrew '11), Molly Richardson, Associate Director of Development, Gina and Ernie Blanchette '48 (Peter '74, Larry '78); second row, L-R: Neesha Tandon '00, Lauren Schwartz '83, third row, L-R: Sara Mahoney '00 and Danielle Ferris '98; fourth row, L-R: Andrei Romanov '03, Katie Himmelmann '03, Greg Boro '83, Naomi Schatz '85 and Molly Rogers '96; back row, L-R: Jay Conway '98 and Chris Margraf, director of major gifts



DC Gathering on February 12, 2009

Hosted by Kyle Gaffney '85 at Old Ebbitt Grill
Front row, L-R: Harry Reisman '75, Mary Firth, John Craig (GP of Andrew '09), Mike Hilder, Beth '84, Eric '88), Bob Kimball '70, Tiffany Anderson, Katherine Gagné '85, Lauren Maxwell '00, Courtney Bishop '06, Alice de Michaelis, Karen McCann '88, Maria Graceffa Taylor '88, Molly Richardson, Alex Brown '95, and Lindsey Brown; middle row, L-R: Tom Firth '72, Kevin Anderson '85, Sean Agranov '87, Ann Grey, Leila Engman, and Lilia Tyrrell '98; back row, L-R: Kelvin Moses '06, Chris Margraf, Ryan Vear '03, Whitney Schneidman '70, Bill Helming, (Matt '98, Nate '02, Tim '05, Luke '11) Bob Grey '53, Ted Engman '54, Tom McCann '91, Tom Edgar '59, Doug Birkey '98, Rob Moore, Kyle Gaffney '85 (host), Tori Wellington Hanna '97, Christian Converse '76, and Jerry de Michaelis '63.



Winter Alumni Games gathering at the Billiards Café, Ayer, MA, on January 10, 2009

Front row (kneeling), L-R: Mike Stix '03, Ann Steward '03, Stefan Rozembersky '99, Kevin McDonald '70, Amanda Nickels, and Dev Barron '85; second row, L-R: Chris Margraf, Matt Steward '05, Jen Wheeler '01, Ben Rogers '02, Mike Ryan '02, Dylan Parker-Roach '05, Molly Richardson, Anne Rowan, Sean Sheehan '87, and Sue Meenan Barron '86; back row, L-R: Matt Coleman '98, Corey Smith '05, Andrew Straub '05, Steve Barrow '05, Matt Greene '01, Todd Moore '01, Kevin Hill '99, Jarred Gagnon '03, Greg Lauze '00, Amanda Doyle '98, Colin Cook '00, Brian Tudrick '99, C.J. Moore '99, and Kevin Sullivan '98.



Boston Blazers Gathering on April 4, 2009

Ryan Ansin '05, Veronica Barila '05, Liz Lynch, Ann Steward '03, Robyn Conway, Eliza Brown '03, and Grace Moore '04.



Boston Blazers Gathering on April 4, 2009

Paul Husted '64 Donald Armstrong '87, Marianne Crescenzi Balfour '88, Kevin McDonald '70, John Armstrong '93, and Grady McDonald '10.

Alumni reflection on Barack Obama's Inauguration

Witney W. Schneidman '70

Tom Willits '70, my son Sam, and I showed up at the designated gate, in view of both the Capitol and Union Station, at 8:30 a.m. on a cold, crisp Washington morning, incredibly excited that we were going to attend the inauguration of Barack Obama.

The crowd grew quickly, and the excitement of Obama's swearing in, just hours away, was palpable. Somewhat harried, we finally slipped through the gate three hours later and rushed through the final security check to enter the grounds of the Capitol. To the sounds of Vice President-elect Joe Biden being introduced, we cut through the throngs of people to find a vantage point. Climbing up on a wall, we found ourselves directly in front of the Capitol, 200 yards from the podium. The ordeal of entering the Mall faded quickly into the incredible majesty of the moment, shaped by the beauty of the Capitol, the unfurled American flags, and the many, many people around us, in front of us, and down to the Washington and Lincoln monuments.

Aretha sang, Reverend Rick Warren gave a spiritually generous benediction, others spoke, and then Chief Justice Roberts rose to administer the oath of office. At its conclusion, a tremendous roar broke out, cascading back and forth along the Mall. A fusillade of canons cut loose, saluting our new commander-in-chief. President Obama then began his inaugural address. For more than 20 minutes, with the sun gleaming down, I hung on every word, every moment. When it was over, I realized I had never experienced anything that was at once so sweeping and transcendent yet so personal and intimate.

Tom, Sam, and I began to leave the Capitol grounds. Spontaneously, people started singing the national anthem. The sense of national pride was thrilling. We walked, now chilled to the bone, through the streets of a locked-down but bustling Washington to meet my wife, Lee, and daughter, Ellie, who had been watching the events on television.

For those few hours, it felt that everyone in Washington, indeed, throughout the world, had shared in this extraordinary moment of promise and, hopefully, renewal.

Also appearing in this issue of *The Elm Tree* are reflections on the inauguration written by students (see page 7) and faculty and staff (see page 9).



Witney Schneidman '70 & Tom Willits '70 ★

then." Chip is still heavily involved in the vibrant New Mexico motion picture business, working behind the camera on feature films and TV shows. This is his 18th year in the business!

'83

Lauren Schwartz shared on her returned alumni update form, "I continue to live and work in San Francisco. I own Kaboom Productions. We produce TV commercials, music videos, and longer-form branded content. Recently, a film called *Call & Response* that we helped to produce was released across the country. It is a very important film that exposes the horrid practice of human slavery. I was very proud to have been a part of it. Meanwhile—on a lighter note—it's been great reconnecting with LA classmates on Facebook!" Tim Thomsen is enjoying his eighth year teaching in the Mendon Upton School District. He writes, "I really enjoy my position as a 4th-grade teacher. I



Jillian Dora Mersky (5) and Jack Benrich Mersky, children of Amy Chitoff Mersky '84.



Jim Petkiewicz '83 and his wife, Margaret Morris, at the LA California Gathering.

trained with beer brewers in New York State, Vermont, and Pennsylvania, and he currently runs weekly tours of his facility. He brews two varieties of beer, with several seasonal and specialty beers during the year, and has refillable 64-ounce bottles called Growlers. Todd is expanding his location by 2,000 square feet, which will allow his business more room for tours. The business was recently given an award for its recycling and sustainable efforts. In addition to refilling and recycling the Growlers, Cape Cod Beer sells its composted hops to local farmers as feed for cows. Naomi Schatz writes that she is "looking forward to an upcoming teacher exchange program with a school in Australia next year." She also saw a few alumni at a gathering in San Francisco and offers this assessment: "Good times!"

'75

Ted Russell informed us on his returned alumni update form that he is coaching youth recreational hockey again at the Mite level (7–8-year-olds), years after running the program when his own kids were younger. "Now it's just fun to coach other little kids so that they learn this great game."

'76

Craig Comjean made a shout-out to his classmates: "Hi to all my classmates! Can't believe we're 50 years old! Hello, AARP!"

'78

Laura Whittall-Scherfee, who is still enjoying life in Sacramento and California, is still the chief of multifamily programs for the California Housing Finance Agency. After 13 years, she still finds it very rewarding. "Affordable housing needs just never seem to go away," she writes. Ken is still self-employed at the Whittall-Scherfee Law Office, a commercial/business law firm. Her son Guy is 13 and in 8th grade. He plays the trumpet, loves his science class, enjoys his video club after school, and loves downhill skiing. "Life is good!"

'79

Tom Fitz shared on his returned alumni update form that he is involved in bicycle racing.

'80

Ted Bernson now owns five Gold's Gyms in New Hampshire (Nashua, Merrimack, Manchester, Milford, and Goffstown). His son, Jared, is 12 years old and plays for Nashua World Cup soccer. They are

hoping that he gets to be on the Manchester United Team. A happy Karen Day Pierce just celebrated her 25th anniversary! She enjoys working for a nonprofit conservation organization. Her kids graduated from different ISL schools; one is out of college, and daughter Emily is a junior at Harvard. John Lord, who resides in Hong Kong, attended the Clinton Global Initiatives Summit held there in November 2008. John said he was pleased to get a chance to meet and talk with the former president (see photo). Business and environmental leaders from all over the world attended the summit. Also in the fall, John served as the chair of Lawrence Academy's Board of Visitors.



John Lord '80 with Bill Clinton at the Clinton Global Initiative Summit in Hong Kong.

'81

John Clough wanted to share that he is "still extremely conservative and voted for McCain." We're not sure who Suki Hamburger van Dijk voted for, but she had a wonderful time at her 20th Reunion and writes that she enjoyed seeing so many friends who "all turned out so well" and hopes to return to campus soon.

'82

Chip Byrd and his wife, Trish, purchased the *Essential Guide: Santa Fe & Taos in 2007* and writes that they "have been pleased to be more involved in the northern New Mexico community since

saw Betsy Wieland Veidenheimer '82 twice this summer as she was dropping off and picking up her sons at my family's summer camp in New Hampshire. I also talked with Jon Moore last spring. He seems great!"

'84

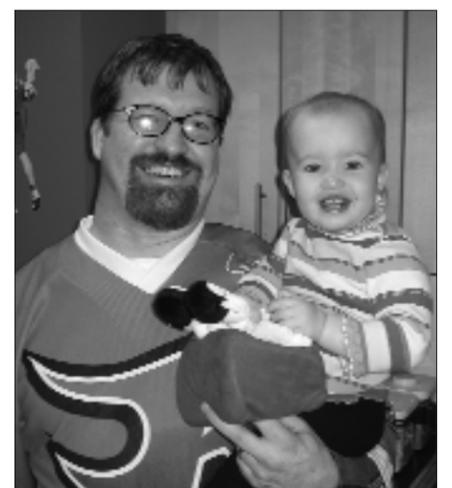
Amy Chitoff Mersky sent a picture along with an email that she wrote to Rob Moore. In the email note, she writes, "The good news to send your way is that I had my second child last May. Jillian Dora Mersky is 5, and Jack Benrich Mersky is 9 months. My business since 1994 is Amy Edit, Inc. I mostly produce legal videos. Occasionally, someone can convince me to work on a family photo montage, class play, or dance show. I am happily married and living in the sunshine in West Palm Beach."

'85

Molly Richardson and Judy Clark from the Alumni Development Office met with Todd Marcus at Cape Cod Beer and were treated to a first-rate tour and history of how he began his career as a brewer, leaving behind his life as an engineer. Todd has

'86

Noelle Desjarlais Slattery wrote on her alumni update form, "We had our fifth child two months ago. We now have three girls and two boys." She and Tom have been married 18 years and live in San Diego, California. "I am a family law attorney and Tom is a manager at a biotech company. We are diehard New England sports fans and make regular trips to the East Coast. I keep in touch with Rebecca Keller and Brooke Hodess '85."



Jack Hurstak '87 and daughter Veronica



Paul Mitchell '87, Luke Cisna '94, Assistant Head of School Rob Moore, and J.D. Sawyer '88 at the LA Denver Gathering on January 12, 2009.

Boston Blazers' Tim Armstrong '89



Tim Armstrong '89 at center court at a Boston Blazers game with Red Sox great Jim Rice and two Boston Blazers players.

Tim Armstrong has always loved lacrosse. His passion for the sport began on the fields of Lawrence Academy, playing for Dick Gagné and Charlie Corey. After LA, he continued playing at Connecticut College, where he captained the team in his senior season. Although he is no longer playing, Tim has figured out a way to share his love of lacrosse with others. Thanks to Tim, fans around New England have an opportunity to watch men's professional indoor lacrosse at the TD Banknorth Garden.

Over the past two years, the Blazers have come to life with the support of a number of Lawrence Academy alumni. Tim has enlisted the help of his brothers, Don '87 and John '93, and Steven Brook '89 as legal counsel for the Blazers. Nancy-Geer Hamilton '87 is director of marketing, media relations, and game-day operations and has worked on numerous projects

with Jack Hurstak '87, who oversees all of Tim's private investment accounting. Jack's sister Kelly Hurstak '86 has also pitched in promoting at local area lacrosse tournaments throughout the past two summers. Team president Doug Reffue, hired by Tim, enlists the help of his wife, Eliana Brown Reffue '90, to promote the team to South Shore lacrosse enthusiasts on a daily basis.

This has truly been a collaborative effort and was no small feat. Starting a pro sports team in a weakened economy is difficult. The up side? The average ticket price is only \$24, and the quality of lacrosse is fantastic!

After dropping their first two games, the Blazers surged into playoff contention by winning seven of their last eight games, led by the standout play of NLL All-Stars Dan Dawson and Anthony Cosmo, who have stabilized the team at both ends of the floor. Dawson leads five Blazers with 30 or more points, with 21 goals and 48 assists (69 total points is second best in the NLL). Other key offensive contributors include rookie Daryl Veltman (21g, 29a), Brenden Thenhaus (14g, 20a), Matt Lyons (13g, 21a) and Gary Bining (13g, 17a).

Defensively, goalie Anthony Cosmo has backstopped the Blazers in net. After giving up 32 goals in their first two games, the Blazers have allowed just 71 goals (8.9 goals-against average) in the last eight games while holding opponents to 10 or fewer points in six of these eight contests. Overall, Cosmo ranks fifth in the NLL with a 10.27 GAA and a .772 save percentage. (All stats were current in mid-March, when this extended note was submitted. The team finished the season at 10-6.)

The Boston Blazers professional indoor lacrosse franchise was established in May 2007, when owner Tim Armstrong was awarded an expansion team in the National Lacrosse League (NLL). The team made its debut in January 2009 and played eight home games at Boston's TD Banknorth Garden as part of a 16-game regular season schedule. For additional information on the Boston Blazers and tickets to Blazers games, fans can visit the Blazers' Web site, <http://www.blazerslacrosse.com>, or call 1-888-BLAZERS. Tickets are also available via Ticketmaster and at the TD Banknorth Garden box office.

Now in its 23rd year, the NLL is the world's premier professional indoor lacrosse league, featuring 12 teams playing in state-of-the-art arenas throughout the United States and Canada.

After nine years with Google as their president of the Americas Operations, Tim Armstrong '89 has signed on as chairman and chief executive officer at AOL, a Time Warner company. To read more about Tim at AOL, go to <http://corp.aol.com/>

In addition to Tim's ownership of the Boston Blazers, he is an investor in the United Football League (UFL), which begins play in October 2009 with four teams. Check out the UFL Web site for more information: www.ufl-football.com.



Jim Finlay '88 with daughter Regan

'88

Bryan Culverhouse-Crews celebrated her 20th reunion last year. She wrote to share that she had a great time and is "looking forward to staying in touch with friends and going back for #25!" Erika Whipple was not able to make it back last May because she was busy working at Springfield College on her master's degree in athletic administration.



Jerry Wooding, Jan Holtberg, former faculty member Arnie Holtberg, Sharon Wooding, and Stephen Wooding '88. See note on page 33 in Friends and Former Faculty.

Alumni reflection on Barack Obama's Inauguration

Seth J. Itzkan '78

Let me quickly convey the emotional highlight of yesterday. It stems from seeing the Capitol for the first time at about 8:30 a.m.—after standing in line for 100 minutes with thousands of others, freezing my keester off.

We had gotten off at a station (Capitol South) that was farther away than we were originally told to get off (Federal Center) because apparently the Federal Center platforms were so crowded with people that the train kept going to the next one. You can't imagine the mob scene on the Capitol South platform, where I did manage to exit. It was edge-to-edge with people and a woman was barking over the loudspeaker, "Please keep moving. Exit through the gates. Please keep moving. Quickly and calmly. Please keep moving. Please keep moving. Exit through the gates. Exit through the gates. Quickly and calmly. Please keep moving."

We were of course, a herd. Baaaa. But we were a happy herd. I suppose all herds are, absent the wolves.

And that brings up another theme: the happiness and calmness of the crowds. Even the large presence of police and National Guard was in no way a psychological deterrent. The large numbers of National Guard whom I saw actually looked happy. They were often joking around. They posed for pictures. They held up Obama signs. Of course, most of the National Guard weren't actually doing anything. They were on hand for precaution, in case they were needed, and even though I describe the city in a kind of lock-down regarding traffic, and it was a traffic nightmare beyond belief, there was never a psychic lock-down or a sense of intimidation. In spite of logistic issues beyond belief, the system worked.

So, back to the platform. Despite the crowds and the loudspeaker lady, the crowd was still ecstatic. People were going to see the inauguration of "their" president. What else could matter? So, in the midst of all this, the platform crowd started chanting, "Yes, we can. Yes, we can," and then, in the transformative moment of a lifetime, the loudspeaker lady started chanting with the crowd, "Yes, we can. Yes, we can." The crowd had altered the script of the loudspeaker lady. Indeed, it seems that anything is possible.

Back outside now, in the bitter breeze, the hundred thousand others who were in my section and I, who had traveled and waited and been herded, saw the Capitol, and suddenly we knew that it was real and worth it. At that moment, I became emotional because it wasn't just about a dream or an event or crowds or media or parades or history. It was about a man having the right to swear an oath to office, to serve the people who had elected him. And at that moment, when I turned the corner at Third Street and saw the Capitol, like a snow-capped Mount Olympus, I knew, as did all of us in that crowd, that the day had come.

Also appearing in this issue of *The Elm Tree* are reflections on the inauguration written by students (see page 7) and faculty and staff (see page 9).



★ Seth J. Itzkan '78 ★

Calling All Green Alums!

We are interested in sharing stories about how you are generating or supporting green/sustainable initiatives—big or small—in your professional or personal lives. Please contact Amanda Doyle at adoyle@academy.edu or 978-448-1573 and fill us in on what you are doing to turn yourself or others a deeper shade of green!

New Additions to the LA Community

Amy Chitoff Mersky '84, her husband, Mike, and their daughter, Jillian Dora Mersky (5), are proud to announce the birth of Jack Benrich Mersky last May.

Kara Murphy Ritz '85 and John L. Ritz '83 are the proud parents of twin girls! Heather Amy Ritz and Megan Elizabeth Ritz arrived on March 6, 2009.

Hana Yamashita Pierce '93 and her husband, Jason, are thrilled to announce the birth of Seiji Nathaniel Pierce on December 4, 2008, at 5:30 a.m. He was born weighing 7lbs. 2 oz. and measuring 20 inches long.

Christine Randazzo Quill '94 and her husband, Patrick, are happy to announce the birth of their first baby on September 18, 2008. Patrick Henry Quill was 8 lbs. 4 oz. at birth.

Catherine Knake Emanuel '95 and her husband, Richard, celebrate the birth of their first child on February 6, 2009. Emma Louise Emanuel was born at 11:31 a.m. and weighing 8 lbs. 3 oz.

Lena Cobb Adams '96 and Darcy Adams '97 are pleased to announce the arrival of their daughter, Quincy Adams, on June 26, 2007.

Mark Deasy '96 and his wife, Michelle, announce the birth of Cameron John Deasy on February 13, 2008.

Dan Grossman '96 with his wife, Gabrielle, and their son, Eliot, welcomed twins into their family this fall. Oscar Jacob Grossman and Oliver Joseph Grossman were born on September 15, 2009.

Hathaway Findlay Jade '96 and her husband, Joshua, welcomed the birth of their daughter, Harper Margaret Jade, on December 3, 2006.

Elena Beleno Carney '97 and her wife, Karina Beleno Carney, are the parents of a baby girl, Sofia Felicidad Beleno Carney, on January 21, 2008.

Alex Altieri Tarzia '97 and her husband, Joe, welcomed the birth of their baby girl, Siena Lucia Tarzia, on June 6, 2008. Siena weighed 7 lbs. 4 oz. when she was born (on her father's birthday).

Giselle Hardy Atabek '98 and her husband, Caglar, welcomed their baby boy, Emir Alexander Atabek, into the world on June 13, 2008.

Geoff Mitchell '98 and his wife, Megan, had a baby boy on November 30, 2008, whom they named Hazen Charles Mitchell after Geoff's grandfather.

Alexandra Garcia-Trias Rioux '00 and her husband, Gregory, welcomed Kali Madison Rioux into their family on January 13, 2008, at St. Joseph's Hospital in Nashua, New Hampshire.

Rick Poulack '04 and his partner, Michelle Kirouac, had a baby boy, Lucas, on May 2, 2008, with the help of midwife **Rebecca J. Keller '86**. Says Rebecca: "It was a privilege to catch their beautiful baby boy!"

Former faculty member **Christie Maria Borden** and her husband, K.B, welcomed Parker Borden into the world on October 19, 2008. He weighed 7 lbs. 8 oz. at birth.

If you have welcomed a new addition to your family, we would love to help you share the news. Please send pictures and details to **Amanda Doyle '98** at adoyle@lacademy.edu.



Donald Armstrong '87, Kathy Armstrong, and her husband, John Armstrong '93



Gretchen Koch Legro '88, Jeff Legro '88, Jim Balfour, and Marianne Crescenzi Balfour '88 at the Blazers Gathering.



Molly Richardson, associate director of development, and BJ Nault '93 with girlfriend Jackie at the Denver Gathering

'89

Tim Armstrong, formerly a Google senior vice president, was recently named chairman and CEO of AOL, a Time-Warner company. At Google, Tim contributed to building one of the most successful media teams in the history of the Internet, helping to make Google the most popular online search advertising platform in the world for direct and brand marketers. AOL announced that the company feels privileged to have him come on board. Tim seems just as excited about the new adventure. "AOL has a wide-ranging set of assets and audience," he said recently. "The company is well positioned to enhance those assets into a larger share of the Internet audience and advertiser communities. AOL and Google have been partners for years, and I look forward to collaborating with Jeff Bewkes and his team as we explore the right structure and future for AOL." Tim was a member of Google's Operating Committee and served as the president of the Americas Operations, where his team managed publishers' and advertisers' relationships and platforms with some of the world's most widely recognized media and agency brands. Tim started at Google in 2000 and opened the first office outside of the Mountain View, California,



Seiji Nathaniel Pierce, son of Hana Yamashita Pierce '93 and her husband, Jason, born on December 4, 2008

headquarters. He sits on the boards of the Interactive Advertising Bureau, the Advertising Council, and the Advertising Research Foundation, and is a trustee at Connecticut College as well as at Lawrence Academy. Tim is also a member of Mayor Bloomberg's MediaNYC 2020 committee. Meanwhile, classmate **Nate Lambert** wrote on the back of an Annual Fund envelope, "I am currently teaching biology at Goffstown High School in Goffstown, New Hampshire. I have just moved to New Boston with my wife, Bridget, and son Atticus, who is 6."

'92

Jess Rowse Moran has graduated from Simmons College with a master's degree in English! Her husband, **Rob Moran**, is changing careers and is preparing to apply to physicians' assistant programs in Boston. **Adrian Murray** has really enjoyed seeing everyone at local reunions and writes on a returned alumni update form that he really enjoyed his time at Lawrence.

'93

Nicole Murra writes, "Loving life in Boston with my live-in boyfriend. I love all of the Lawrence Academy people whom I have reconnected with on Facebook. Hope everyone is well and happy!"



Ethan Marro and Alex Sheppard '94 were married at Lawrence Academy on Aug. 23, 2008.

'94

Chrissie Randazzo Quill writes that she is the nurse manager of a 23-bed medical cardiac unit at Winchester Hospital in Massachusetts.

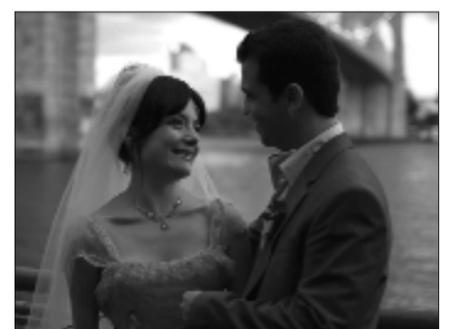
'95

Alex Brown is employed as a certified financial planner with the Phaup Brown Wealth Management Group of Wachovia Securities in McLean, Virginia, where he and his wife currently live. **Kelley Henry** just finished a two-year fellowship in pediatric neuropsychology and is performing neuropsychological assessments in the Newton offices of the Integrated Center for Child Development. **Ciaran Tyrell** was cast in *Au Pair 3: Adventures in Paradise*, an ABC Family movie that aired on Sunday, March 15, at 8:00 p.m.

reinforce ideas for sustainable living in the Hotchkiss community and will work specifically with those teaching courses on environmentalism and environmental issues, with Students for Environmental Awareness (SEA), and with those working on other eco-initiatives on campus. When asked by the school's newspaper about this new position, Josh responded, "I am truly honored to become a member of the Hotchkiss community, with its strong commitment to ecological issues, which are increasingly important in both the global and local economic and political landscape. Hotchkiss is setting an example of how to define sustainability and the

'96

Josh Hahn was appointed the first assistant head of school for environmental initiatives at Hotchkiss School, where he will begin work on July 1, 2009. Josh is also one of the co-founders of the Green Cup Challenge, which will help to



Philippe Boujnah '95 and wife Ana Lucia Rosales-Boujnah

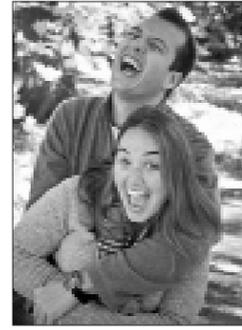
Join us on Facebook—To learn about gatherings near you and to find friends from your LA days, make sure you join the Lawrence Academy Alumni All Ages group.



Alexander Brown '95 married Lindsey Coates on October 11, 2008. The ceremony and reception were held at Lighthouse Sound Golf Course in Ocean City, Maryland. Groomsmen included Gabriel Brown '98, Damon Corkin '95, Colin Cushman '94, Clayton Mitchell '92 and Doug Shaller '95. Other Lawrence Alumni in attendance were Daniella Bonazzoli '94, Dewey Golub '94 and Leila Mitchell Leary '94. Alex and Lindsey enjoyed their honeymoon on the Hawaiian islands of Kauai and Maui. They currently reside in McLean, Virginia..



Lara DePietro '97 and husband Jason Daniels were married on the Oregon Coast on February 16, 2008.



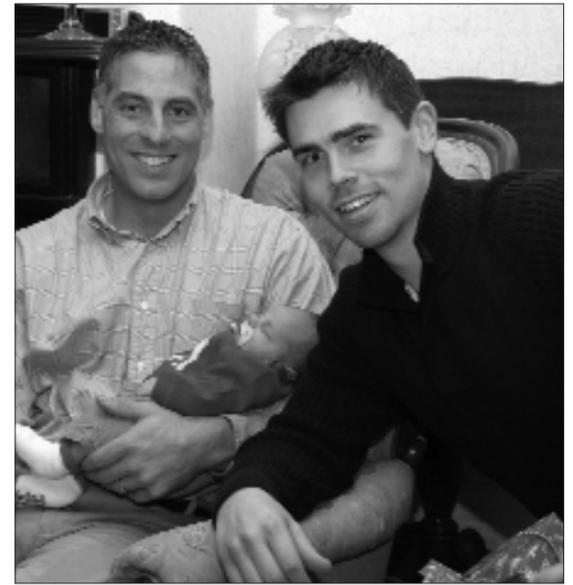
Katy Baldini '98 and Eric Gamage were married on September 20, 2008, at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts.



Alex Altieri Tarzia '97 and her husband, Joe, welcomed the birth of their baby girl, Siena Lucia Tarzia, on June 6, 2008.



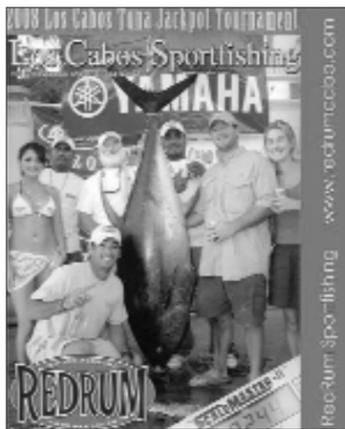
Julie Ladik '98 and Denis Bastien, married on September 30, 2006, at Clay Hill Farm in Cape Neddick, Maine.



David Mitchell '87 holding brother Geoff Mitchell '98 and wife Michelle Mitchell's baby, Hazen Charles Mitchell, named after the paternal grandfather.



Allison Clear '98 married William Fastow in August 2008 in Newport, Rhode Island.



Ryan Donovan '98 RedRum Sportfishing

environment in the context of a school." Also stepping into a position at an independent school is classmate **Sean Padgett**, who has joined the faculty at Applewild School as a librarian and a member of the technology support staff. He will be living in faculty housing.

'97

Natalya Johnson made us all proud when she wrote in on her alumni update form, "Doing exactly what I always wanted to do!" Natalya owns and operates Toro Loco Bar & Grill, which is located in Bocas del Toro, Panama. It is billed as a great place to get a beer after a long day of surfing.

'98

Ryan Donovan extends an invitation: "I moved to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, in July of 2007 to manage my sport fishing company, RedRum Sport Fishing. We run daily, 8-hour sport fishing charters, entertaining clients looking to catch marlin, sailfish, tuna, wahoo, and dorado. Entertaining up to 600 clients a month on six boats, we stay super busy—but also love to explore the outdoors here in Baja. This past November, this 244-pound yellowfin tuna took first place in the Western Outdoor News Los Cabos Tuna Jackpot."

Weddings

Kate Finlay '91 married longtime partner Amy Zimmerman in Duarte, California, on September 27, 2008. Amy is a vice president at Santa Anita Racetrack and a producer of Horse Racing TV for NBC, while Kate is a human resources manager for a well-known company in Los Angeles.

Alexandra Sheppard '94 and Ethan Marro were married at Lawrence Academy on August 23, 2008. The ceremony was held on the Quad, and the reception was on the new McDonald Library terrace overlooking the Quad and Gibbet Hill. **Jenna Goodman '94** and **Erin Taff '96** were there to help them celebrate!

Philippe Boujnah '95 was married in a wine store to Ana Lucia Rosales-Boujnah on September 28, 2007, in Manhattan.

Alexander Brown '95 and Lindsey Coates were married on October 11, 2008, at an outdoor ceremony at Lighthouse Sound in Bishopville, Maryland. Alex's brother, **Gabriel Brown '98**, was the best man, while close friends and classmates **Colin Cushman '94**, **Doug Shaller '95**, and **Damon Corkin '95** were the groomsmen joining Alex's stepbrother, **Clayton Mitchell '92**. Alex and Lindsey enjoyed their honeymoon on the Hawaiian islands of Kauai and Maui!

Gregory Sheehan '96 married Marci McColloch at Sunset Gardens in Las Vegas, Nevada, on April 4, 2008. The service was provided by a close friend with guests and family in attendance.

Lara DePietro '97 was married on the Oregon Coast to Jason Daniels on February 16, 2008.

Katy Baldini '98 and Eric Gamage were married on September 20, 2008, at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. **Kevin Sullivan '98** was in attendance.

Julie Ladik '98 married Denis Bastien on September 30, 2006, at Clay Hill Farm in Cape Neddick, Maine. **Meghan McBreen Moreau '98** was there to celebrate with them.

Robert Berberian '98 and Rebecca Lynn Potts were married in Palm Beach, Aruba, on October 20, 2007. **Kevin Sullivan '98**, **Jeff Sullivan '01**, **Greg Lauze '00**, **Matt Coleman '98**, and **Marc Goldstein '98** all made the trip to join in the celebration.

Allison Clear '98 married William Fastow in August 2008 in Newport, Rhode Island. Her brother, **Michael Clear '01**, was in her wedding party.

Frederick Lovejoy III '98 and Amanda Berger celebrated their wedding on Saturday, June 21, 2008, in New York City.

Paul Beauchemin '99 married Julia Moran on August 26, 2008, in Altoona, Pennsylvania. Paul's brother, **Dan Beauchemin '97**, was his best man, while classmates **Stefan Rozembersky '99** and **Cullen McGuire '99** were his groomsmen.

Tatum Bevis '99 and Andrea Berardino were married on September 1, 2007, in Greenwich, Connecticut.

Danielle Culgin '99 married Jonathan Goodwin on June 21, 2008, in Woods Hole, Massachusetts. Bridesmaids were Danielle's classmates, **Jessica Knapp '99** and **Shannon Menard '99**, and **Stephen Wood '00** was a groomsman. Also there to partake in the festivities was former faculty member Caroline Heatley.

Deborah Siller '99 and William Houston celebrated their marriage on July 19, 2008, at North Parish Church in Andover, Massachusetts. The bridal party included alumnae **Dianna Hahn '99**, **Jessie Parker '99**, and **Alyssa Vangeli '99**.

James Wyant Rappaport Jr. '99 and Elizabeth "Teddie" Hansen were married in Sedona, Arizona, on May 19, 2007. Wedding receptions in honor of the newlyweds were held in James's hometown of Boston, Massachusetts, and in Teddie's hometown of Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Bill Carroll '00 and **Liz Kendall '00** were married on Saturday, September 27, 2008, in Dennis, Massachusetts. **Ben Darsney '00**, **Kelsey Carroll '11**, **Jared Hoole '00**, **Lauren Maxwell '00**, **Andrew Caraganis '00**, **Andrea Sargent '00**, **Mike Cataldo '00**, **Aaron Swan '01**, and **Andrew Klopfer '00** were all there to celebrate with the happy couple.

Andres Amitai Wilson '00 was married to Asia Mei on August 28, 2008, in Israel during a traditional Jewish wedding. His best man was friend and classmate **Markus Hoeren '00**.

Calling All Green Alums!

We are interested in sharing stories about how you are generating or supporting green/sustainable initiatives—big or small—in your professional or personal lives. Please contact Amanda Doyle at adoyle@academy.edu or 978-448-1573 and fill us in on what you are doing to turn yourself or others a deeper shade of green!



L-R: Danielle Culgin '99, Jessica Knapp '99, Stephen Wood '00, Shannon Menard '99, and former faculty member Caroline Heatley. Danielle Culgin '99 married Jonathan Goodwin.



L-R: Alyssa Vangeli '99, Jessie Parker '99, Deborah Siller Houston '99, Patsy Siller, Amy Voegeli, Sharon Horozaniecki, and Dianna Hahn '99 on the occasion of Deborah's marriage to William Houston



L-R: Eliza Brown '03, Ann Steward '03, Blazers Mascot Scorch, and LA friends Liz Lynch and Robyn Conroy at Blazers game on April 4, 2009

'99

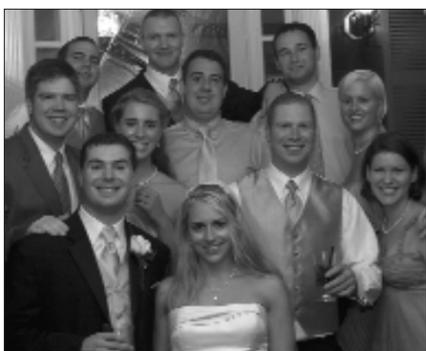
Melissa Armstrong is teaching preschool in the Midwest and loving it. She writes, "I wish I could have made it to my 10th-year reunion but am sure that everyone had a great time. I hope to get up to Lawrence in the near future." Deborah Siller Houston recently transitioned into the Global Internal Audit division of General Mills in Minneapolis and is looking forward to the international travel. Also changing jobs this year is Chris Milmo. He has left Choate Rosemary Hall for the Saint James School in Maryland, where he has been named the head football coach and assistant athletic director. His team went 6-3. In his first game, he modeled his pregame speech after Sean Sheehan '87's—right down to smashing a light bulb!



Alexandra Garcia-Trias Rioux '00 and her husband, Gregory, welcomed Kali Madison Rioux into their family on January 13, 2008, at St. Joseph's Hospital in Nashua, New Hampshire.

'00

Nick Taylor called the Alumni-Development Office looking for Peter Hazzard's and Doc Haman's contact information. During the conversation, we learned that he was about to be stationed in Japan. He is still in the Navy and was, at the time he contacted us, in Florida. He was married 18 months ago to Andrea Taylor.



Bill Carroll '00 and Liz Kendall '00 were married on Saturday, September 27, 2008, in Dennis, Massachusetts. Pictured: 1st row L-R: Bill Carroll '00, Liz Kendall Carroll '00; 2nd row L-R: Ben Darsney '00, Kelsey Carroll '11, Jared Hoole '00, Lauren Maxwell '00; 3rd row L-R: Andrew Caraganis '00, Andrea Sargent '00; 4th row; L-R: Mike Cataldo '00, Aaron Swan '01, and Andrew Klopfer '00.

'01

When contributing to the profile of Brian Feigenbaum (see page 35), Amanda Champagne wrote in an email, "I'm currently working as a sports journalist/on-air correspondent for Fuel TV, a channel owned by Fox Sports. I interview action sports athletes and celebrities, covering competitions, awards shows, movie premieres, etc. I also produce segments and host the monthly Gear Guides, which highlights the latest trends in surf, skate, snowboard, and motocross. I started working as a TV host while at USC (on TrojanVision, USC's station). Right after I graduated, I won a national model/correspondent search by Revlon and MTV and was hired as the face of Revlon's 'Rocker Chic' campaign and also as an MTV VJ on the Red Carpet at the VMAs." To learn more about what Amanda has been up to, check out her Web site, www.AmandaChampagne.com. While Amanda has been reporting on it, Erik Kent has been doing it. He had served as an assistant coach of the Newburyport High hockey team last winter, weighing the possibility of retiring as a professional player. "I knew that I could [still] play pro hockey, and I wanted to give it one more shot. I had a void to fill." Erik was one of the first three athletes to sign with Danbury Mad Hatters of the Eastern Professional Hockey League. Through 25 games, he had led the team in scoring (16g, 14a) and been named EPHL Player-of-the-Week. "I think I'm opening doors for future options," Erik said. "I'm talking to a few people, so hopefully I can advance my career." The Mad Hatters play the equivalent of Single A hockey, and Erik would like to play in the East Coast Hockey League (Double A) next season. He ranks 13th in the EPHL in scoring. Jon Abrams attracted the attention of a different kind of talent scout. For his exciting story, turn back to the featured alumni profile, which begins on the cover.

'02

Paul Meniates graduated from the Army Special forces qualification course and was awarded the Green Beret in March of 2008. At the time that this class note was received, Paul was deployed to Iraq. We are all hoping for your safe return home soon, Paul.

'03

Chris Hazzard spent his winter writing for Purple Stuff TV, which is a 5-minute weekly YouTube show. It is a news-of-the-week show based on the idea of the "Weekend Update" segment of Saturday Night Live, but the twist is that the anchors are African-American. In fact, Chris is the "token white guy" on the staff of all black writers and producers. Episode 108 marked his first on-camera appearance, as he anchored a segment called "What white guys shouldn't do when dating a black girl." The show has received enough views that some production people for Black Entertainment Television are interested. To see more results of his writing,

search for episodes 105, 106, and 107. (Note: Put any children to sleep before viewing the episodes.)

'04

Mary Valley has graduated from Fairfield University and was teaching in England at Malvern St. James. She is now home and coaching jv girls' lacrosse at LA.

'05

Alex Harbison is going to the University of Denver and is rooming with Mike Muscatello. He graduates this month with a degree in biology and hopes to continue on to medical school.

Alumni reflection on Barack Obama's Inauguration

Rayden Sorock '04

My girlfriend and I drove to D.C. to stay with my uncle, who lives within walking distance of the Capitol. The next morning, we woke up at 8. My uncle had left at around 4 or 5 to volunteer for the event. We walked from about 9 until noon, arriving just in time to hear Obama announced. It took us so long because each block we walked brought more and more people. We got "stuck" at several intersections that were mobbed with people! Swept along in that flood, we kept getting pushed farther south of the Mall. We (and thousands of others) crossed the on ramp to Rte. 395. The highway was taken over by people! And when emergency vehicles had to pass, we all parted for them. Someone overlooking the highway crowd yelled, "Raise your hand if you love hot dogs!," and everyone went wild.



★ Rayden Sorock '04 and Ocean Capewell ★

Everyone dressed to stay warm, some people wearing crazy Obama-gear outfits and lots of people trying to sell hand warmers throughout the route. We didn't have tickets so we stayed outside the fence, mostly. We could see that tons of people had climbed atop the Port-o-Potties to get a better view; some of them fell off. People climbed up trees, too, and some tried to jump up and fell, and the crowd playfully jeered.

At one point, we got stuck in a fenced-in area. This was the only time I felt really alarmed. There was no room to move, hardly room to breathe. There were old people and young children stuck with us, and only a trickle of people were able to get out. But everyone was helping everyone else and taking turns, so it didn't get crazy. We helped people hop over the fence (the only way to get out), and we were relieved once we were over the fence. We grabbed a spot on the curb in the shadow of the Washington Monument and strained to hear the loudspeakers. We couldn't see any Jumbotrons from where we were. We could only listen and try to hear the good parts above all the sirens of emergency vehicles passing by. When [President] Bush was announced, all I could hear all around us were boos and jeers. When we heard Obama, we all shone. My girlfriend and I held each other tight. It was so cold, but it was also so romantic!

When we walked toward the parade route, we saw a mass of people sliding on the frozen reflecting pool by the Capitol. When we reached the parade route, we found only a row or two of people on each side. Lucky us—except that by this point we were frozen to the bone! It finally started over an hour after it was supposed to. The band came by, the officers on motorcycles, the press in their big trucks. Then we saw the limos, and Obama's was on our side! We saw one of his daughters sitting behind the middle window and then Obama's smiling face appeared, and he waved right at us! He really has the most beautiful smile. He looked genuinely happy to see all of us waving and wailing like fools at a boy band concert.

We finally made our way back to my uncle's house, feeling so tired and so cold but also elated. Overall, the day showed me that being in the midst of an enormous mass of people is not necessarily a frightening, violent situation. People were so nice. I didn't witness any hostility the whole day, and, in some ways, that is even more amazing than Obama as president.

Also appearing in this issue of *The Elm Tree* are reflections on the inauguration written by students (see page 7) and faculty and staff (see page 9).

Calling All Green Alums!

We are interested in sharing stories about how you are generating or supporting green/sustainable initiatives—big or small—in your professional or personal lives. Please contact Amanda Doyle at adoyle@academy.edu or 978-448-1573 and fill us in on what you are doing to turn yourself or others a deeper shade of green!



Chris Margraf, Alex Harbison '05 with girlfriend Kate Lilliard, and Mike Muscatello '05 at the Denver Gathering on January 12, 2009.

'06

Kyle Hutton spent the summer in Beijing completing an intensive Chinese language course while also taking in some of the Olympics at the Bird's Nest. Also planning on traveling for school is Katy Meniates, who is a junior at Queens University of Charlotte in North Carolina. This month, she will participate in a Travel Abroad Program with Queens to Germany, Austria, Hungary, and the Czech Republic. Jenna Richardson will graduate a year early from Temple University with a double major in sociology and African studies. She has been accepted into the master's program in social work at Temple University.

'07

Courtney Blanch, who is now a sophomore at Connecticut College, took part in the winter dance department concert held recently at the college's Palmer Auditorium. The concert featured works choreographed by students and faculty, along with student light designs, costumes, and film. Courtney danced to "I Am Still Waiting," with music composed by Michael Wall, and in "The Voice," with music composed by Imogene Heap, and Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes. Nina Serach has declared conservation biology as her major at St. Lawrence University. She made the Dean's List in the fall term and is enjoying her college experience more and more every term. Nina is working in the college's theatre department making costumes. Last spring, she made costumes for fellow SLU student Chris Leon '05!

Friends and Former Faculty

Margery Gagné reports that she is enjoying the lovely Allegheny Mountains in Lexington, Virginia, which is located in the Shenandoah Valley, and she invites everyone to come and visit!

Susan Hendricks was introduced as a new professional member of the Independent Educational Consultants Association in the February–March 2009 *Insights*, the newsletter of the IECA. "Susan Hendricks (NY) previously worked as an ESL teacher in Nyack public schools; an admissions and college counselor at Taft School; director of admissions and financial aid at Lawrence Academy, Miss Porter's School, Franklin College in Switzerland, and The Masters School; and assistant head and director of admissions of the middle school at The Masters School. Susan is a member of ERB and the Association of Independent School Admission Professionals (AISAP). She earned a bachelor of arts at Columbia University and a master's in education at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. Susan is a founding member of the New York Boarding Schools Marketing Collaborative and a board member and co-chair of the membership services committee at AISAP. Susan has two sons: Sam is a writer/editor for the United Nations; Dave is a business executive who, with his wife, Jen, has three children. She loves music, cooking, and grandmothering!"

Science teacher Jerry Wooding and his wife, Sharon, were in Dallas visiting their granddaughter Emma and her parents, Stephen '88 and his wife, Deb. While they were in Dallas, former faculty member Arnie Holtberg and his wife, Jan, came for dinner. "We have always exchanged Christmas cards with the Holtbergs and have sent some pictures back and forth, too," Jerry writes. "We had dinner together at Stephen's home in Dallas shortly after Christmas 2008. Arnie and Jan have lived in Dallas for a number of years. He is head of school at St. Mark's School [there]." Knowing that readers would remember Jan and their kids, Sharon provided a bit more information: "Jan is a nurse practitioner at Women's Health Services at the University of Texas, Arlington. We also got to visit with Jan and Arnie's children, Nate, Jena, and Mike. Jena is an executive for John Deere; Nathan is a professional photographer; and Mike is a student at Purdue. Jena and her husband recently adopted a baby, Kai, from China."

flown over Japan from a base in Saipan. A resident of Weston for over 63 years, he was known there as "Mr. Veteran" and was a longtime organizer of the town's Memorial Day observances; in his earlier years, he resided in Hopkinton and Framingham. George was an accomplished author and historian who lectured internationally. He was a member of the Boston Authors' Club, the Weston Historical Society, and the Crescent Street Historical District Commission. He was also a published poet and author of many papers and a book titled *Rise of the Ironclads* (1988). He served the town of Weston as the graves officer and recently as a measurer of lumber. He also spent many hours as a volunteer to speak in schools about his WW II experiences and his life. With Elizabeth "Betty" Reed Amadon, who died in March 1992, he

Alumni reflection on Barack Obama's Inauguration

Zaneta Pinkney '07

Throughout the weekend, I attended many events [of the University Presidential Inaugural Conference], which included various seminars, a speech by Colin Powell, a speech by Al Gore, and the opening inauguration concert. On Tuesday morning, after staying up all night to keep from falling asleep, a group of other Inaugural Scholars and I left our hotel, the Marriott-Wardman Park Hotel, at 2:30 a.m. The Metro had not started operating yet, but we had been warned to avoid using it because of the millions of people who would try to use it that morning. We began what we were told would be a two-mile walk that later turned into over five miles of searching with various other people, all trying to find a place in the National Mall. As we approached the Mall, we saw soldiers, Secret Service, and police blocking roads and directing people. It was freezing cold, and no one seemed to know where they were going. A few times, we could tell that police were telling people that they were in line to be allowed to go into the Mall when they were actually being lined up for the parade. A few of us split up and after one person made it into the Mall, he directed us to where we needed to be. We finally found the Third Street Tunnel but realized that officials had blocked it and told people that they would not open it until 7, which later turned into 8 and then 9 o'clock. We walked and waited for a total of five hours, but after hearing that the Mall was filling up and that even people with tickets were being turned away, we ended up going back to our hotel via the Metro.



★ Zaneta Pinkney '07 ★

This whole experience, despite the cold and walking and waiting, was an amazing one. As I met many people from different states and countries, all in D.C. to celebrate our new president, I felt an overwhelming sense of unity. There were pictures and souvenirs and signs with his name and face everywhere, and it seemed as though no one could get enough of him.

Watching him walk down to his inauguration was so incredibly inspiring. He is so humble and grateful, and it is so touching and incredible that someone with the very same background as I have can achieve what he has. Ironically, Colin Powell advised us in his speech that it's not your GPA that matters; it's the strength of your drive. He had a 2.0 and still achieved greatness. We all share in the final realization of MLK Jr.'s dream that it doesn't matter what your skin color or background is; you can still reach the pinnacle of leadership in America. Though the struggle against racism is not over and there is still a lot of work to be done, the fact that there is now the precedent of someone just like me fulfilling all of his dreams motivates me and shows me that maybe, in America, dreams really can come true.

Also appearing in this issue of *The Elm Tree* are reflections on the inauguration written by students (see page 7) and faculty and staff (see page 9).

Dale Sherman Blodget, a former Lawrence Academy dance teacher and forever the mother of Casey '03, sends word of her inclusion as a fine artist in the upcoming quadricentennial celebration *Champlain's Lake Rediscovered*. Her painting, "9am from Mt. Defiance," can be seen over the next six months in several venues, including the National Arts Club, New York City, June 1–15, and the Boston Public Library, June 29–Aug 3. More information is available at www.daleblodgetpaintings.blogspot.com and <http://champlainlakerediscovered.org/> Meanwhile, Denny Blodget, former assistant head of school, is publishing work online periodically with *Independent School*, a magazine produced by the National Association of Independent Schools. His work also appears occasionally in *The Elm Tree* and *Academy Journal*, as well as online at this blog, <http://www.edusophia.org/sustainable-teaching-blog>.

Grandparent James K. Polese, father of trustee James Polese '84, says that it is a thrill having grandson Trippe Reineman '12 at LA. "He loves it!"

Join us on Facebook—To learn about gatherings near you and to find friends from your LA days, make sure you join the Lawrence Academy Alumni All Ages group.

In Memoriam

Alumni

1937

George Frazee Amadon, 92, died on November 2, 2008, at the Caritas Norwood Hospital following a brief illness. Born in Framingham on October 9, 1916, the son of the late Paul H. and Ada Morrill Amadon, George attended The College of William and Mary after graduating from Lawrence Academy. Having enlisted in the Army Air Corps shortly after Pearl Harbor, he was a technical sergeant who became a command gunner on an 11-man B-29 bomber and eventually received a Distinguished Flying Cross, four air medals, three battle stars, and the Purple Heart for 30 missions

raised one daughter and one son. He is also survived by his wife of nine years, Meredith Lightbown-Amadon of Weston, in addition to seven grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, one stepson, and one step-granddaughter.

1939

Dr. John E. Fleming, 86, a longtime resident of Pepperell, died on November 7, 2007, surrounded by the love and care of his family. John was born in Ontario, Canada, in 1921, the son of Edward J. and Nora T. Connolly Fleming. For over 30 years, he resided in Pepperell, where he was a dentist and very active in the town. He later moved to Homosassa Springs, Florida, and Manchester, New Hampshire. For 36 months during WWII, he served his country in the U.S. Army Air Corps, assigned to the 415th

Night Rider Fighter Squadron as a B-29 crew chief, primarily stationed in North Africa and Italy. He served in seven campaigns, and upon his return, he attended St. Anselm College, where he earned a bachelor's degree in economics, magna cum laude, and met his wife, Margaret Walsh. After graduating from Tufts Dental School, John resided with Peggy in Pepperell, where they built a dental practice over three decades. A quiet philanthropist, he regularly gave to religious and educational institutions. John was a member of the American Dental Association and the Massachusetts Dental Society, and was on the dental staff at the Nashoba Community Hospital in Ayer. He was elected to the Pepperell Board of Health and served on the Hawthorne Brook Elementary School and Varnum Brook Middle School Building

Committees. A former member and past president of the Groton-Pepperell Rotary Club, John also served as a trustee of the Pepperell Public Library. He was a communicant of St. Joseph's Church, Pepperell. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, five children, and nine grandchildren.

1943

Irving Gould, 83, died peacefully in home hospice care on January 19, 2009, after a series of illnesses. As a running back playing for Brookline High, Lawrence Academy, and the University of New Hampshire, he was known as "Crazy Legs." A man who woke up smiling, Irving called every day "terrific!" After returning from his service in the U.S. Marine Corps in WWII, he learned to play squash, but he favored tennis. A manufacturers' representative in the commercial lighting business, he was president for many years of Gould Associates, Inc., and he was working until several days before his death. He leaves behind his wife and best friend, writer Jean Colgan Gould, and three children; another daughter predeceased him. He also leaves a sister and six grandchildren.

John D. Rudnick, 83, died peacefully at Cape Cod Hospital on October 18, 2008, after a brief illness. He was born in Lynn on June 30, 1925, to Mabel and John Rudnick. After graduation, he attended The Citadel. He served in the U.S. Army during WWII in France, after which he was honorably discharged as a decorated veteran. He continued his higher education and earned a bachelor's degree in business from Suffolk University and a master's degree in education from the University of Massachusetts (as Boston State College). Jack married Theresa Hailer of Roslindale, and they made their home in West Roxbury before relocating to Cape Cod in 1995. He enjoyed a successful career educating many high-school business students in the East Boston and West Roxbury communities before retiring in 1995. John's interests included golf, music, fishing, and gardening. He was a master gardener for the town of Dennis and served as a volunteer for community inquiries. In addition, he was elected as a member of the Republican Town Committee and served as an usher at St. Pius X Church in South Yarmouth. In addition to Theresa, Jack is survived by his three children and nine grandchildren.

1946

William D. Crory Jr., 81, of Littleton, died at his residence on March 22, 2009. Born in Concord on May 27, 1927, the son of the late William and Jennie Mathison Crory, Bill was a lifelong resident of Littleton, growing up on Cobb Farm. After Lawrence, he attended Boston University. Bill started in sales with Met Life, he went on to sell for San-Vel Corp of Littleton for 20 years, where he was a vice president until 1980. Bill also worked for many years at Leahy Trucking Co. and drove for Littleton Limo. He was a member of St. Anne's Catholic Church, where he was a Eucharistic minister and a member of the Holy Name Society. He was a past president of Littleton Rotary Club, a trustee of Middlesex Savings Bank for over 25 years, and an officer of American Concrete Institute, and he was active in scouting with his sons. He enjoyed biking and tennis. Bill is survived by his wife of 53 years, Mary Patricia Leary Crory of Littleton, and his seven sons and their spouses, one daughter, two sisters, 23 grandchildren, and a cousin. He was also the brother of the late Fred Crory and Arthur Crory.

Glenn Newell Finnegan, 82, formerly of Westford, died on January 13, 2009, at the Community Hospice House in Merrimack, New Hampshire, after a long illness. He was married to Barbara Brown Finnegan, with whom he would have celebrated their 55th wedding anniversary on January 16. Glenn was born in Lowell on August 17, 1926, the son of the late James E. and Marion I. Jones Finnegan. While a resident of Westford for many years, he worked as a conductor for the Boston & Maine Railroad and Amtrak for over 41 years, retiring in 1988. After his retirement, he and his wife enjoyed the winters in Edgewater, Florida, and the summers at Newfound Lake, New Hampshire. He was a member of West Chelmsford Methodist Church and of the United Transportation Unit Local 898 in Boston. Besides his wife, he is survived by a son and daughter, a brother, and four grandchildren.

1949

Edward B. Brooks, 77, a resident of Owasso, Oklahoma, passed away on September 15, 2008. Ed was born December 25, 1930, in Haverhill to Edward J. and Irene A. Goudreault Brooks. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in September 1949, and before receiving his honorable discharge in 1953, he had the opportunity to do some work with the Central Intelligence Agency. In 1954, Ed married Betty J. Bowersock in Ft. Worth, Texas, and in 1957, he received his bachelor's degree in international affairs from Texas Christian University, graduating cum laude. He returned to TCU to receive his master's degree in government in 1965. After one year as an assistant professor in the department of social services at Angelo State College in San Angelo, Texas, he taught government at East Central University in Ada, Oklahoma, receiving his doctorate in political science from the University of Oklahoma in 1982. After becoming a full professor in 1987, he remained there until retiring in 1993. Ed sponsored several student organizations, including the Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature (OIL), Legal Professions Association, Young Democrats, and Interfraternity Council. He created new courses and developed a Pre-Law Concentration in Government, which became the Legal Studies major. In 1984, he instituted a Pre-Law Day at ECU. He was a member of the national honor societies Alpha Chi, Pi Sigma Alpha (Political Science), and Pi Gamma Mu (Social Science). While teaching at East Central, he was a coordinator and educator for Oklahoma Girls State for 10 years; was active with the Oklahoma Political Science Association; assisted in forming the Environmental Science School; served on several faculty committees; and organized the East Central Lawyers Alumni Association. Ed was a longtime member of the Elks Lodge. From 1980 to 1984, he served as a member of the Ada Water Committee, being appointed by the City Council. He was guest on the KADA weekly radio show on public affairs and commentated on each election for the community. In his spare time Ed enjoyed golfing with his friends. He also enjoyed traveling the country with Betty, visiting family and friends. In 2001, he moved to Owasso with Betty, who is among many who hold many cherished memories of Ed.

Arthur M. Tiernan Jr., 79, a retired Suffolk and Norfolk assistant district attorney, died of pneumonia on November 1, 2008, at Edith Nourse

Rogers Memorial Veterans Hospital in Bedford. Colleagues described Art, a longtime Needham resident, as a thorough and dogged prosecutor who never wanted to give up or admit defeat on a case. District Attorney Daniel F. Conley, who began working in the office when Art was a senior member, said that he was well liked by colleagues and by courtroom personnel. Mr. Conley described Art as unconventional and "a real courthouse personality, a real character" who was so versatile that he seemed to be part police officer and part lawyer. Art was born in Boston and raised in Brighton. After graduating from Lawrence Academy, he attended Colby College until 1951, when he joined the military. He spent one year in the Coast Guard and then went into the Army, being stationed in Germany from 1952 to 1956. In 1953, Art returned to Brighton and married Grace Gibson. In 1959, he began attending the present-day New England School of Law in Boston, taking classes at night while working at Employers Liability Insurance Co. as a claims adjuster. After passing the bar, Art worked in a private practice for several years. In 1970, he began working for the Norfolk District Attorney's Office as a special assistant to the district attorney. A year later, he was appointed assistant district attorney, serving until 1979. When he joined the Suffolk District Attorney's Office as assistant district attorney, he was in charge of the violent crime unit in the Suffolk Superior Court and also worked on unsolved, or "cold," cases. Art was active in local and state politics and a member of Needham's Democratic Town Committee and the Democratic State Committee. He was also a member of the electoral college that elected President Carter, his daughter said. He enjoyed playing hockey and was an avid golfer; after retiring in 1995, he began spending winters in Ft. Myers, Florida, so that he could play golf more frequently. In addition to his wife of 55 years, Art leaves behind six daughters and 11 grandchildren.

1950

John David Engman, 75, died on November 2, 2008, at home in Warwick from complications from a form of ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease). Born in Waltham, in 1933, the son of John Henry and Edith Taylor Engman, Dave grew up in Concord and Acton and received a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering from the University of Pennsylvania. After serving in the U.S. Army from 1954 to 1956, he worked several years as an engineer on railway equipment and guided missiles and then worked in developing computer software, which he did until he retired. He, with his late partner, Virginia Glennon, designed and built his house in Warwick. In retirement, he helped to build several houses for Habitat for Humanity in Orange, Greenfield, and Northampton. Dave had lifelong interests in railroads, the history of technology, and industrial archeology. He held several appointed offices in the Town of Warwick. He also enjoyed reading, music, travel, cutting firewood, gardening, and cats.

William A. Kilbourn, 75, of Lancaster, died on September 23, 2008, in his home. Born in Groton, the son of Walton G. and Gladys Cameron Kilbourn, he was a graduate of the University of Massachusetts. Prior to his retirement in 1994, Bill was a teacher in various area schools. He was a U.S. Army veteran and a lifelong member of the First Church of Christ Unitarian, Lancaster; the Lancaster Charitable Fund;

the Lancaster Historical Society; and the Lancaster Republican Town Committee. Bill loved gardening, cooking, and researching his family's genealogy. He is survived by three brothers, three nieces, and eight nephews.

1955

Kenneth A. "Tony" Berlandi, 72, of Holliston, died on March 8, 2009, at the Whittier Rehabilitation Hospital in Westborough. Tony was born in Boston, the son of the late Joseph and Emilia Ardolino Berlandi, and was married for 15 years to Patricia M. Doherty Berlandi of Holliston. Tony attended Lawrence Academy after spending three years at Boston English High. He then matriculated at Bowdoin College and later earned his master's degree from Cambridge College. Tony was a teacher and administrator for 35 years in Boston public schools and was active in many civic and community affairs. Besides his wife, Patricia, he is survived by a son, daughter, stepchildren, a brother, and sister. He also leaves five grandchildren, as well as many nieces and nephews. A son predeceased him.

Daniel F. Sullivan, 71, of Naples, Florida, and Wenham, died on October 16, 2008, after a brief illness, surrounded by his wife and family. A native of Lawrence and the son of the late Daniel F. Sullivan Sr. and Margaret Ready Sullivan of Lawrence, Dan received his bachelor's degree in engineering from Villanova University and an MBA from the University of Chicago. Dan was employed as an engineer at Western Electric in North Andover for five years following his graduation from Villanova. He began his career as a financial analyst and financial manager at Connecticut Mutual Insurance Company in Hartford, Connecticut, which was followed by three years at Davis, Palmer, and Biggs in New York. Sullivan then became a partner at Rollert and Sullivan in Boston, and later was a founder and president of Sasco Capital in Southport, Connecticut, where he spent seven years managing the pension fund investments of major national corporations, including IBM and Marriott Corporation. In 1993, he retired to his home in Naples, Florida, where he continued to be active in financial circles. Dan was a member of the New York, Boston, and Naples Security Analyst Societies, the New York Athletic Club, and the Club at Pelican Bay in Naples. He is survived by his wife of 29 years, Phyllis Cotti Sullivan, among others.

1956

Gerard Creteau, 71, died on March 20, 2009. Born in 1937, in Rochester, New Hampshire, Gerry was raised in Nashua and attended Nashua schools, later attending Wake Forest University and Saint Anselm College. Gerry was a communicant of the Parish of the Resurrection in Nashua. An ardent supporter of all New England sports teams and an avid golfer, a sport he played his entire life, Gerry spent most of his career working in the printing and publishing industry, primarily as a typesetter with Sullivan Brothers Printing in Lowell. He also owned and operated a small typesetting business, finally retiring from the United States Postal Service. He often said that his greatest accomplishment was his four sons, in whom he took great pride; he spent many hours coaching and volunteering for his sons' various sports interests. A lifetime member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks Nashua lodge, Gerry was commissioned as a Kentucky Colonel in 2005 and, throughout the years, was involved in

various golf leagues. He enjoyed gardening and traveling, and he shared many memories of golf trips with friends. Gerry is survived by a brother and four sons.

1959

Robert Brian Pybus, 67, died on November 28, 2008, at Mt. Ascutney Hospital in Windsor, Vermont, after a long battle with lung cancer. Bob was born in 1941, in Lawrence, the eldest of seven children of Raymond and Margaret Eileen Bolan Pybus of North Andover. He earned his bachelor's degree from Nathaniel Hawthorne College and married Beverly Eleese Bailey on May 2, 1987, in Woodstock, Vermont. They lived in Georgetown until retiring to their home in South Woodstock, Vermont, in 2003 and then to Reading in 2004. He was a member of the Myopia Polo Club of Hamilton, Quechee Polo Club, Green Mountain Horse Association, and Woodstock Country Club. Before retiring, Bob owned and operated with his two brothers, Timothy and Jeffrey, Georgetown Sand and Gravel, Georgetown Construction, and Gloucester Transit Mix. Survivors include his wife, Beverly, and four siblings. Robert enjoyed playing polo, riding and training his horses, fly-fishing, golf, and caring for his three Cavalier King Charles Spaniels.

2002

Joana R. Dean, 26, of Keene died on August 6, 2008, at Cheshire Medical Center, Keene, New Hampshire. She was born in Nashua in 1982, the daughter of Elizabeth Ketchum Wolczko of Amherst and the late John A. Dean. Joana lived in Keene for the past three years and also resided in Williamsburg, Virginia, for several years and in Amherst for most of her life. She attended Souhegan High School before attending Lawrence Academy. Joana was employed as a payroll specialist for C & S Wholesale Grocers, Brattleboro, Vermont, for the last two years. She was a member of the American Gerbil Society and a devoted fan of Harry Potter. In addition, she was a Girl Scout for many years, a big sister for Big Brothers Big Sisters of America, and a hospice volunteer for Beacon Hospice. She also sang for several years with The Keene Chorale. Joana was a member of the Church of Our Saviour in Milford, New Hampshire, and sang in the choir. She was also part of the fellowship of the First Baptist Church of Troy, New Hampshire. While living in Williamsburg, she was a member of Bruton Parish Church and the Pelham Choir. She was also a tour guide at Colonial Williamsburg. In addition to her mother and stepfather, Peter Wolczko, she is survived by many family members and her fiancé, Nathan Schmidt of Keene, whom she was to marry on September 28, 2008.

Friends, Family, and Former Faculty

Frances Ellen Hennessey Anderson, 91, of Shelburne, Vermont, and Gloucester died at Fletcher Allen Hospital in



Frances Anderson

Burlington, Vermont, on Saturday, November 29, 2008. She was born in 1916 in Bellows Falls, Vermont, the eldest child of John Charles Hennessey and Katherine Bernadette Herlihy Hennessey. After attending St. Charles School and Bellows Falls High School, she graduated from the University of Vermont in 1938 with a bachelor's degree in biology. She

was a member of Pi Beta Phi and of Mortar Board and had been active all of her life in alumni activities, attending her 70th reunion earlier this year. She served on the Executive Council of the UVM Alumni Association and, in 1986, received a Distinguished Alumni Award from the University. In September 1942, she enlisted in the United States Navy in the WAVES, serving in the code departments in San Francisco and Boston. In November 1943, she was discharged with the rank of ensign. In recent years, she was an active member of WAVES National, an alumnae association. On August 14, 1943, in Bellows Falls, she married Albert Ernest Anderson, who was serving in the U.S. Army. While residing in Cleveland, Ohio, a few years after the war, they began a business that became New England Business Service, or NEBS, a leading producer and supplier by direct mail of customized business forms for small businesses. They moved to Townsend in late 1951, running the business as a two-person operation, with Fran serving as clerk and bookkeeper. They were joined in 1955 by a partner, Jay Rhoads, and Fran served as personnel director of NEBS until 1956. While residing in Townsend, Pepperell, Harvard, and Groton from the 1950s through 2004, Fran was active in many community organizations. While raising a large extended family and nurturing a wide range of friends and acquaintances, Fran earned recognition as a community leader. She served for 18 years as a trustee for the Nashoba Community Hospital and later the Deaconess Nashoba Hospital in Ayer. She chaired the hospital's board, the first woman to hold that position, from 1976 until 1978. She served on the hospital's audit, finance, and executive committees and was later named an honorary trustee. For 30 years, she served as a member of the Hospital Auxiliary, for which she served a term as president. Fran was also a trustee of the Groton Public Library. While a resident of Harvard, she chaired a study committee that recommended that the town purchase the Hildreth House. For their contributions, Fran and Al received honorary degrees from Fitchburg State College in 1984 as doctors of public service. In 1994, the college named them two of the 100 people who have "made a difference" in the region. For 45 years, Fran enjoyed a summer home at Wingersheek Beach in Gloucester. She was predeceased by her husband, Al Anderson, who served on LA's Board of Trustees; son **Bruce '73**; and brothers John Hennessey and William Hennessey. She is survived by two sisters, three sons, including **Robert '61**, and three daughters, including **Barbara Brammer '75** of Cambridge, and 10 grandchildren, including **Denise Brammer '06**.

Noreen C. Beck, 49, of Bolton died on December 15, 2008. Wife of Michael A. Beck and mother of **Lilly '09** and **Will '12** of Bolton, Noreen was the co-founder and leader of Just 'Cause Breast Cancer 3-Day Walk. Noreen inspired all around her, personally assisting in fund-raising more than \$750,000 for breast cancer research and patient support. She leaves behind her mother, Irene Flynn, one brother, and four sisters, in addition to many nieces and nephews. Memorial contributions may be made in memory of Noreen Beck to any of the following: The Virginia Thurston Healing Garden, 145 Bolton Road, Harvard, MA, 01451; Bolton Conservation Trust, P. O. Box 14, Bolton, MA, 01740; or Gillette Center for Women's Cancers, Massachusetts General Hospital, c/o Dr. Irene Kuter, 165 Cambridge Street, Suite 600, Boston,

MA, 02114.

Ann Meany Caldwell, 66, of Hollis, New Hampshire, passed away on March 25, 2009, at the Community Hospice House in Merrimack, New Hampshire, surrounded



Ann Caldwell

by her family following a valiant battle with ovarian cancer. She was the wife of the late David Caldwell, who died in 1998. Born in Worcester, Ann was the daughter of Philip E. Meany Sr. of Grafton and the late Ruth McNamara Meany. A graduate of Notre Dame Academy in Worcester, Ann attended Rhode Island School of Design and Chamberlain College in Boston. She was passionate about the Hollis community and volunteered much of her energy and time to implementing Beaver Brook's summer youth program. Ann also was a member of the Hollis Planning Board. Appointed by the Hollis town moderator to assist at town meetings and those of the Hollis School District, Ann was a member of the New England Association of Planning Council and served on the Nashua Regional Planning Commission from 1985 until 1999. Ann was a parishioner of St. Joseph's Church in Pepperell, serving as a Eucharistic minister, as a member of the Parish Council, and as a teacher in the Christian education program at the church. For six years, Ann worked as assistant to the office of residential life at LA. She was previously employed at Immersive Design in Acton and had also worked at Frye's Measure Mill in Wilton, New Hampshire. For more than 15 years, Ann ran the day-to-day operations of I.P.S., her husband's home inspection business. Ann's survivors include her two daughters, her father, a brother, and two sisters, as well as eight grandchildren and many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and cousins. Although she loved flowers, Ann also found great enjoyment in helping others. In keeping with her wishes, her family requests that memorial contributions be made to Community Hospice House, 210 Naticook Road, Merrimack, NH, 03054.

John E. Culbert, 78, formerly of Haverhill, died on January 21, 2009, at the Haywood Hospital in Gardner. He was born in Haverhill on July 3, 1930, the son of the late George L. and Ruth Misener Culbert. John graduated from Lawrence High School and in 1957 from Clark University in Worcester with his bachelor's degree in political science. He was a member of the university's championship contract bridge team in both 1955 and 1956. A teacher at Lawrence Academy for many years and later in the school system of Lawrence, John was active in politics and was a delegate for the Democratic Party while living in Boston, where he volunteered as an elderly companion. John was an active member of the Calvary Baptist Church in North Andover.

Mary Lou Condon Didriksen, 55, died on October 16, 2008. An Acton resident for 20 years and native of Yonkers, New York, Mary Lou was married for 24 years to David W. Didriksen and was the mother of **Hayley '06** and **Drew '11**. Mary Lou was the co-owner of Willow Books & Café, an active member of the town of Acton, and a gracious community volunteer. She was the daughter of Claire Condon of Hastings, New York, and the late David Condon, and sister of David Condon of Hastings and Claire Marie Condon of Yonkers. Those who wish may make memorial contributions to The

Virginia Thurston Healing Garden, 145 Bolton Rd., Harvard, MA, 01451, or Susan G. Komen for the Cure, LBJ Freeway, Suite 250, Dallas, TX, 75244.

Charlotte "Chick" Doe, 86, died on September 19, 2008. A Latin teacher and language department head, Chick retired from Lawrence in 1987 after 14 years on the faculty, capping a long and distinguished career as a teacher of classical languages at independent schools. Known affectionately as "Ma Doe" to her students at Lawrence Academy, Chick revived and strengthened the Latin program at Lawrence. Her annual Roman Games, held on the Quad



Charlotte "Chick" Doe

and a highlight of the spring term for many years, featured the "Imperator" riding in on his chariot, usually an old red Radio Flyer wagon. For days before the event, posters appeared around school, urging everyone, "Venite ad ludos romanos!" ("Come to the Roman games!") Generations of Lawrence students came to appreciate Chick's low-key manner, her gentle humor, and her kind heart, as well as her superb teaching. The Does' many faculty friends have fond memories of cookouts on the porch or under the old oak tree at the big farmhouse in Harvard, where she and Whit presided over the family apple orchards. Chick was a member of the Federated Church of Ayer, where a memorial service, held soon after she died, was attended by a great many Lawrence alumni and past and present faculty members. She is survived by three children, including **Jonathan "Jay" Doe '72**, as well as by three grandchildren and one great-grandchild; her husband, Whitney C. Doe, predeceased her in June 2006. Memorial contributions may be made to the Nashoba Nursing Service, 2 Shaker Road, Shirley, MA, 01464.

Other Alumni and Friends of LA

We have learned of the passing of the members of the LA community listed below but were not able to gather any other information on them. If you have any additional information to be shared with our readers, please contact Associate Director of Development Molly Richardson at mrichardson@lacademy.edu or 978-448-1574.

1940 George Weston, who died on January 12, 2005

1959 William Bradford Fisher, who died on January 24, 2007

1959 Joseph A. Rizio, who died on June 7, 2007
1977 Gholam H. Gamini, who died on April 12, 2007

William L. Saltonstall, parent of **Claire Saltonstall '76**



Wendall Wickerham, father of Lia '10 and Will '12, died on February 4, 2009.

the Elm Tree

for the alumni and friends of Lawrence Academy

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
LEOMINSTER, MA
PERMIT NO. 17

Editor
Andrew J. Brescia
Director of Communications

Layout/Design
Dale Cunningham
*Assistant Director of
Communications*

Proofreader
Jack Burnett

Photography
Andrew J. Brescia
Jon Chase
Gus Freedman
Laurie McGowan

Editorial Council
Amanda Doyle '98
Assistant to Constituent Relations

Robinson C. Moore
*Assistant Head of School,
External Affairs*

Molly Richardson
Associate Director of Development

Beverly Rodrigues
Communications Publicist

Joseph S. Sheppard
Faculty

Lawrence Academy
P.O. Box 992
Groton, MA 01450-0992

978-448-6535
alumni@lacademy.edu
www.lacademy.edu

Save the Date!

**Gagné Winterim Classic
October 5, 2009**



Sports Highlights *continued from page 21. For more sports highlights, see page 20.*

Field Hockey

Undefeated NEPSAC Champions

Field hockey coach Eileen Keever says that she began the season with eight returning starters and “two huge additions to the line-up in Ashley Motherwell '09 and transfer Kerrin Sperry '10,” not to mention a team of players who arrived in shape for preseason. She credits the players, led by co-captains Kat Spring '09 and Brenna Morrissey '09, with cultivating a chemistry through team-building activities off the field that helped to capitalize on the individual talents each player exhibited in practice and during games. While on the field, the girls were determined to make fewer mistakes as the season unfolded. “We worked hard on learning the game—rules, tactics, and skills were emphasized on a daily basis,” Coach Keever said.

By the end of the regular season, the work, determination, and concentration paid off for players who had proved fit and fortunate enough to avoid injuries that had weakened teams in previous years. When their last ISL opponent, St. Paul's, offered no more resistance than any other, surrendering 3-0, the girls became the undisputed league champions at 16-0-1, with their lone tie coming against Middlesex School. They had ended the season with five consecutive shutouts.

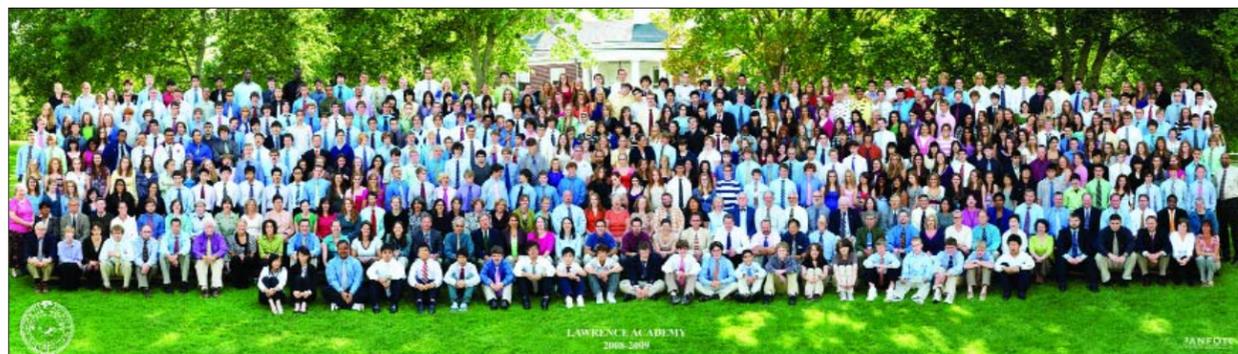
Into their postseason games against three perennially strong teams, the girls brought their relentless pursuit of the ball—and the back of their opponents' goal. They defeated Thayer Academy, 4-1, in the quarterfinals and buried the Berkshire School Bears in the semis, 8-2. In the finals, the team rarely relinquished control of the ball. “The girls showed the same tenacity, athleticism, and discipline that brought them success all year,” said Ms. Keever, “and they beat the Middlesex squad 1-0 on their own turf to win the NEPSAC Class B championship.”

Along the way, the Spartans recorded 12 shutouts while outscoring their opponents 77-9. As the team's defense kept competitors to an average of only three shots on goal per game,



no fewer than 11 players scored. The leading scorers were Kelly Horan '09 (20g, 5a) Emily Field '11 (17g, 2a), Brenna Morrissey (14g, 4a) and team MVP Kat Spring (6g, 13a).

Seniors Hilary Cranston, Brenna, and Kat were voted All-ISL, and joining them in the postseason awards with All-ISL honorable mention were seniors Nicole Bartlett, Danielle Doherty, Kelly Horan, and Ashley Motherwell, as well as sophomore Emily Field. Hilary, Kelly, Ashley, and Kat were named to the All-Tournament team. Katie Joumas '09, who scored the lone goal in the championship game, earned the Coaches' Award.



**Order your Lawrence Academy
all-school photo!**

If you are interested in purchasing the 2008-09 all-school photo taken in September 2008, please call the school store at 978-448-1512.

The price is \$25.00 for a color print
(size: 25-1/8" x 8")