Serving in northern Thailand as a program manager for Rustic Pathways, Megan McAdams ’04 and her team mix cement for a community center’s foundation.
Dear Readers of Sewickley Speaking,

What does it mean to have a global perspective? We hear this phrase increasingly, including at Sewickley Academy, and it is perhaps worth pausing to note what is meant when we talk about global perspectives, especially through the lens of a Sewickley Academy education.

Simply put, a global perspective is one that, while grounded in the basic, traditional skills and values that have long been the hallmark of a Sewickley Academy education, provides students a window into worlds that are different from their own, ways of thinking that are different from their own, and ways of operating within those worlds that will allow for greater success.

Generations ago, schools were seen as vehicles for accelerating and assimilating the children of immigrants into mainstream American life. Today, this imperative is complemented by a growing understanding that to be cultured, to be educated, to be competitive in the 21st century means having an understanding of the world beyond our borders. More than that, it demands a set of skills that will allow our young people to learn from and with people who are different from them. We sometimes hear people say that the world is getting more diverse, but that is not true. The world has always been a remarkably vibrant and diverse place; it is just increasingly, including at Sewickley Academy, and it is perhaps worth pausing to note what is meant when we talk about global perspectives, especially through the lens of a Sewickley Academy education, provides students a window into worlds that are different from their own, ways of thinking that are different from their own, and ways of operating within those worlds that will allow for greater success.

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One powerful linguistic example comes from the auto industry, when Chevrolet was attempting to market its highly successful Nova sedan in Argentina more than 25 years ago. The marketing department did not pay attention to the fact that “no va” in Spanish means “does not go,” certainly not an effective marketing strategy for a car!

Take another example from childhood. Remember when a friend, holding his hand up with the thumb and index finger joined to form a circle, said to you, “Can you poke your head through this hole?” You said, “No,” only to see your friend put the circle up to his head and then, using the index finger of his other hand, poke his finger at his head through the circle. He laughed, and you turned around and played the trick on your dad. Some problems that seem difficult or even insoluble can be solved quite easily by assuming the right perspective.

In his timely and compelling book, The Difference, Scott E. Page, a professor of complex systems at the University of Michigan, writes powerfully about the difference that perspectives can make in the solving of problems. Ultimately, he argues that bringing together diverse perspectives by bringing together people in possession of diverse perspectives makes it more likely that seemingly insoluble problems can be solved. Collective collaboration, thus, is a fundamental skill that needs to be taught so that our young people will know how to take advantage of the different perspectives present in a group.

As the Academy moves to refine our efforts to prepare our students for success in the 21st century, we know that the foundational basics must be assured; we also know that, in the world our children will inherit, the basics are no longer enough. Additionally, we know that the same set of skills that will allow our students to be more successful in the future is also the one that will lead to even greater success in our classrooms today.

In the following pages of Sewickley Speaking, you will see that global perspectives are already well represented at Sewickley Academy. In fact, the school has a long tradition of reaching beyond our borders, and we are proud to build on this legacy to ensure that the education we provide our students today is as relevant and inspiring as it was in years gone by.

With best regards,

Kolla O’Connor
By: Debbie Osterhout

THE ACADEMY’S FIRST ROMANIAN EXCHANGE

Sewickley Academy and ISC, a private school in Cluj, Romania, have an exchange agreement with the Academy. The following is a personal account of the life-changing experience.

My participation on the Global Task Force here at the Academy resulted in the opportunity to attend the 10th Annual Global Connections Conference in July 2007. This task force was a faculty subcommittee asked to devise a more challenging, rigorous diploma program with additional connections to business and political changes taking place in our world today. The Conference is a yearly gathering of educators wanting to make world-wide connections in order to brainstorm, share, and rejuvenate. What a privilege it was to sit among heads and administrators of private independent schools the world over as they shared ideas and strategies for leading and encouraging faculties and families who make education a priority in an ever-changing world.

I was fortunate enough to make an immediate connection with Mrs. Simona Baciu, founder of the International School of Cluj (ISC) in Romania. We found common interests and talked for hours about education, our students, and our schools. After three days, we began to discuss seriously the possibility of beginning an exchange between our schools. We planned and exchanged information necessary to take the next steps once we both returned home. It was exciting to make a new friend and to think that this friendship might impact Sewickley Academy as well.

In October, I went to the Middle School with this idea and opened the opportunity to take three students. From a pool of 13 applications, three young men with courage, confidence, and strong interests in history and travel were asked to participate: Evan Fuhrer ’12, Will Kleeman ’13, and Connor Sebastian ’12. Mr. Kurt Cerny, song and dance teacher and descendant of Eastern European heritage, was also very interested in making this trip and together we discussed our hopes to encourage new growth and independence in our students through this experience. Shortly after our team was assembled, the students began attending weekly meetings to discuss, research, and prepare for a week-long integration into life in Romania.

Seventeen hours and three plane rides later, we arrived in Cluj on March 21 and began our adventure. Our week included an overnight stay in Transylvania visiting both Peles Castle and the Castle of Dracula. We spent the majority of our time on ISC’s campus, observing and taking part in day-to-day activities. Mr. Cerny even had the opportunity to teach the waltz to a group of sixth and seventh graders. Also that week, we were all interviewed and filmed for a national television documentary on the changes in the Romanian educational system.

Currently enrolled at ISC on two different campuses are 250 students, half of whom are in the pre-school and Kindergaten. The other 125 range in age from six to 14 years, eighth grade being the highest grade enrolled for the 2007-08 school year. The Romania these children know is much different than the one their parents knew only a short time ago — no longer are foods rationed in small amounts, nor are multiple families living in one small apartment. The country has a long history of communism, repression, and poverty, and for 24 years was under the communist rule of Nicolae Ceaucescu. Then in December of 1989, the communist regime was overturned in a week-long series of violent riots known as the Romanian Revolution of 1989.

As founder and president of ISC, Simona Baciu and her husband have established the school, which was built within the last 10 years. From my perspective, watching Simona in action is comparable to standing next to Martin Luther King, Jr. when he gave his, “I have a dream” speech. Simona has a dream as well, and that dream involves the leading the way for new ideas to develop in the educational system throughout her country. She is a bundle of energy, excitement, and the force that currently encourages her faculty and staff to try new things. She is willing to petition the Minister of Education for changes that her faculty would like to try. Currently, the entire system for the education of children in Romania is mandated by the government. Strict regulations on class time and structure prohibit the enriched education that a student enjoys in the United States.

A curriculum that incorporates technology and additional courses in the arts and physical education has been in place in the American school system all of my 30 years of teaching and even earlier. But, yet, during our stay at the International School of Cluj, we heard questions such as, “Sports connected to the school day?” “A class called Song and Dance?” “Alumni giving? This is a new idea for us!”

Much like their democracy, the existence of private schools is very new in Romania. So new, in fact, that a business manager and marketing director have only recently been hired at ISC. Connor, Evan, and I were asked to sit down with the four administrators of ISC to discuss job descriptions and how things are done here at the Academy? Two hours and many questions later, our young gentlemen had given insights into their own school, which will impact this school in Romania. The exchange of ideas was stunning and something of which we should be proud.

Weeks after we returned from Romania, five students and Head of School Julia Breitfalken from ISC spent a busy week here in Pittsburgh. Academy host families were dedicated to showing them everything possible in that short time. As is typical in an emerging capitalist society, the goods in Romania come at a high cost. In fact, a pair of Dockers® in Romania costs $150! It is no surprise then that shopping was high on the priority list.

Shopping was high on the priority list. The first day in Cluj, we went to the Children’s Place and Gap Kids with Iulia browsing the racks, amazed at the quality and color of the clothing. She repeatedly asked, “Will the colors go out of the clothing after I wash three times?” I quickly assured her that the quality would last, even if we just changed as many times as possible in that short time. As is typical in an emerging capitalist society, the goods in Romania come at a high cost. In fact, a pair of Dockers® in Romania costs $150! It is no surprise then that shopping was high on the priority list.

Looking back on the exchange, it was a dreamlike whirlwind of activity and memorable moments. I loved Romania, all of the people I met and things I saw there, because I could. From my safe vantage point as an American citizen with a good life, family, and security, I was free to observe the lack of stop signs and traffic lights at any intersection and ponder. I was free to appreciate whatever I was given while not dwelling on all that was not. However, the most impactful experience for me took place in Romania in the era with Iulia and her husband, Alex, as they toured me around the city of Cluj. We looked at the old city, the University of Cluj, and the cathedral, as well as the old tenement buildings labeled “communist” buildings by Romanians today. Alex and Iulia recounted the afternoon in 1989 when the sirens began to howl. “Tension had been very high, everyone knew that something was about to happen,” said Alex. Upon hearing the sirens, Iulia drove down into the city, oblivious of the danger. She needed to find family members to see that they were safe and she wanted to stand among her fellow Romanians shouting, “Down with Ceausescu!” as the man and the government fell from power. As Alex told me this story, about freedom and lighting, as friends watched friends shot down and killed at their feet, he talked about people rallying to make a difference in a life full of government control and lacking in the most basic freedoms. While he recounted these memories, tears ran down his face and mine as well. Here I was listening to people 10 years younger telling me how a very different life changed, and it was not so long ago. The beginning of freedom, which is still in the making today, requires stamina, courage, and most definitely a willingness to think in new ways.

Upon her return to Romania, I received an email from Iulia. She wrote, “I saw in America a more normal life and I know now that it is up to us to make our lives better and our school a wonderful place.” Let her words be an inspiration to us all.
The Academy's First Romanian Exchange (Continued)

Weeks after the exchange was concluded, I sat down with those involved and we debriefed on our experiences. Here are just a few of the responses shared:

**WHAT WAS THE MOST CHALLENGING PART OF THIS ENTIRE EXPERIENCE?**

Before meeting our exchange families we all had each other for comfort and support. Getting into separate cars, driving to our host family’s home, and getting my first glance at Romania made me very nervous. It was really nothing like I expected it to be, but I was hoping for the best and it turned out to be great.*

Evan Fuhrer ‘12

*I think the hardest part of the Romanian trip occurred the first ten minutes after leaving the airport. I had to say goodbye to my friends and get into the car with the family I was staying with. I knew my host, Alexandru, a little bit through the emails we had been sending back and forth but other than that, everything was new to me. The ride home from the airport was rough. I was trying to make conversation, but there was not much common ground yet. I didn’t know the limits of their English and they knew I did not speak Romanian. But we had agreed to be flexible and to open to whatever happened. It all turned out to be a great time.*

Connor Sebastian ‘12

*The most difficult thing about hosting a foreign student was gaining her trust in such a short amount of time. If she did not trust me, she was not going to have fun. Trust was certainly a big factor in this experience. One night, my exchange student, Iulia, and I went to a Pittsburgh Pirates baseball game. I know it’s a simple thing, but that's when I realized how different Romanian culture is from ours.*

Will Kleeman ‘13

*Living with a mom, dad, grandmother, and my exchange friend in a new apartment in the city was different for me. Eating every meal together as a family made the distance from my own life seem both more real and yet far away.*

Evan Fuhrer ‘12

**WHAT ABOUT THIS EXPERIENCE IMPACTED YOU THE MOST?**

*On the first morning at my new home, I experienced both room temperature milk from aseptic packaging for my cereal and a PS3 video game in my room. At once I was in a completely foreign land and yet with amazingly familiar things around me.*

Will Kleeman ‘13

*Before meeting our exchange families, I didn’t actually realize how much we have in common, and how much we all have each other for comfort and support. Getting into separate cars, driving to our host family’s home, and getting my first glance at Romania made me very nervous. It was really nothing like I expected it to be, but I was hoping for the best and it turned out to be great.*

Evan Fuhrer ‘12

*As I was talking to Alex in his home on our first day there, I was trying to talk about Romania. He stopped me and said, “Enough! About America now.” I asked him why and he replied, “Romania is not a great place to live. America is the most advanced country in the world and I want to see it. Tell me about that.” I think I just laughed. It gave me a new perspective on how people on the opposite side of the world view our country. Alex and his family, at least, look at America like it is the pinnacle of technology and power. I think after his work here he was overwhelmed by all he did see. I will remember this always.*

Connor Sebastian ‘12

**IMPLICATIONS OF THE GLOBAL ECONOMY: 2008 SECTOR SPEAKER SERIES**

In its 12th year, the Albert and Bertha Sector Speaker Series hosted a panel to speak on the global economy. The panel was composed of Frank Cahouet, retired Chairman and CEO of Mellon Financial Corp, Hugh W. Nevin, Jr., Director of Cohen & Grigsby Law Firm, and Josephine Olson, Director of the International Business Center, Katz Graduate School of Business, University of Pittsburgh.

Moderator Glen Masek, Co-Founder and Managing Director of Masek Becker Venture Capital, facilitated the morning panel with Senior School students and the evening panel with members of the community. Each session was open for questions from the audience and the large attendance at both events proved the community’s interest in the timely topic.

While opinions varied on issues that ranged from alternative energy sources, the U.S immigration policy, job security, to the liquidity crisis, the distinguished panelists were in sound agreement on one theme: our students must be educated today so that they are able to participate in, and make valuable contributions to the competitive international marketplace of tomorrow.

When an audience member asked, “What can Sewickley Academy do to prepare students for the global economy?” Professor Olson replied that foreign language study is of utmost importance not only because it allows students to discourse with another culture, but it also raises the awareness of the students’ role as global citizens.

Next, the encouraged students to find opportunities to travel abroad and interact with different cultures. Expanding on that point, Hugh Nevin added, “We need to instill in students the ability to look outside of their own country and realize that this is no longer a U.S.-centric world. The perspective has quickly shifted.”

The sessions concluded with panelists’ remarks to stress that although globalization brings some difficult changes to our nation, in this current day, it also brings with it innovation, success, and promise for the future.

The Albert and Bertha Sector Speaker Series was established by retired Middle School history teacher and Faculty Emeritus, Alden Sector, in honor of his parents.

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*Images credit: Michael Call SFE 2008*
The 2008-2009 school year will see the launch of the first Sewickley Series. The Sewickley Series presents creative, cultural, and enlightening events designed to bring authors, speakers, performers, artists, and musicians to Sewickley Academy for the educational benefit and enjoyment of the community. The Series provides artistic and intellectual enrichment, creates a forum for diverse opinions on timely topics, and offers inspiring performances to engage members of our local and school community. All programs are free and open to the public. Mark your calendars to join us for our inaugural season.

Check www.sewickley.org for times and locations.

November 13

CHERYL CHARLES
Cheryl Charles, Ph.D., is President of the Children & Nature Network and has worked closely with Richard Louv, author of Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder, to develop training and education for emerging regional leaders in the children and nature movement. Louv and Charles have developed programming based on his provocative study which shows children’s lack of connection to nature causes obesity, distraction, and depression. Charles offers helpful suggestions on how to develop an environment-based educational program that can enhance children’s problem-solving, critical thinking, and decision-making skills.

March 5

PATRICK BASSETT
Patrick F. Bassett has been affiliated with independent schools for more than 38 years. During his career he has been a teacher, coach, headmaster, association leader, and author. Since 2001, he has served as the president of the National Association of Independent Schools. Bassett’s interests include the concept of “right-brained” creativity, rooted in ideas from Daniel Pink’s book, A Whole New Mind, exploring the implications for teaching and learning in 21st century schools. Bassett examines the core competencies of our right-brained future and illustrates exercises related to it. He imparts insights on what skills and values the 21st century will demand and reward, and how independent schools will teach them.

December 4

JHONNATAN MATA QUARTET
Academy strings teacher, Jhonnatan Mata, and his quartet will perform a selection of holiday music. Mr. Mata has previously instructed the Patagua Symphonic Orchestra and the Venezuelan Children’s Symphonic Orchestra. He has also participated in numerous Master classes, and performed for various orchestras, including the Gran Mariscal de Ayacucho Symphonic Orchestra, the Orquesta de Camara de Venezuela, and the Erie Philharmonic.

April 2

DAN KINDLON, PH.D.
As co-author of the best-selling book, Too Much of a Good Thing: Raising Children of Character in an Indulgent Age, Dr. Dan Kindlon examines groundbreaking research that reveals the detrimental effect of overindulgence on American children. He identifies patterns of behavior common among children of affluent times, known as the “seven syndromes of indulgence,” and encourages family dynamics that foster accountability and strong, meaningful relationships. Dan is a clinical and research psychologist specializing in child and adolescent behavior. In addition to his professorship in child psychology at Harvard University, he is also the author of other best-sellers including: Raising Cain: Protecting the Emotional Life of Boys and Alpha Girl: Understanding the New American Girl and How She’s Changing the World.

Along with her fellow skiers, Marnie went to work raising the necessary funds to keep the resort open. Their efforts were a success and Marnie soon became vice president of the Arapahoe Basin Corporation. In her leadership position, Marnie was very much involved in the development and upkeep of the area. Inspired by the accomplishments of the legendary Andrea Mead Lawrence who won gold medals in both the slalom and the grand slalom in the 1952 Winter Olympics, Marnie began to provide competitive opportunities for skiers of all types during the ensuing years. “At that time, most people in the ski world were interested in developing different aspects of skiing, and so we looked for ways to bring the sport to different audiences.”

Marnie is responsible for organizing the first Veterans Race sanctioned by the U.S. Ski Association in 1953. This program later evolved into the premier adult ski racing series in the country, the Masters Racing Series – a competition Marnie participated in until her late seventies. In 1968 she organized Colorado’s first program for handicapped skiers that included amputees from the local children’s hospital and Vietnam War veterans from Fitzsimmons Hospital. Programs of this nature have since been widely developed across the nation. For her unwavering devotion in this ground-breaking work, Marnie was honored with a Certificate of Appreciation from the U.S. Army.

Today, Marnie has three grown children, five grandchildren, and even a few great grandchildren. Marnie still remains active in the Academy alumni community, having recently attended the last two Colorado alumi events. Just turning 90 this August, she reveals her secret to longevity, “You must always maintain a healthy lifestyle and a positive attitude.” Now filling her days with swimming and games of bridge, Marnie can be proud of the legacy of innovation and service she has built.

“Marnie Jump has been an integral part of building Colorado into the ski country that it is today. Her 50 years of service and quiet efficiency will be long remembered by all those who celebrated the spirit of skiing.”

This tribute comes from the Colorado Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame upon the induction of Marjorie “Marnie” Brown Jump in 2000. Marnie’s lengthy list of accomplishments is awe-inspiring.

Adept at athletics at a young age, Marnie played field hockey and basketball during her days at the Academy. She fondly remembers her friends and teachers from a time when the Academy was shaping into the institution it is today. “The Academy was a wonderful school, in fact, one of the best. I have nothing but the best of memories about my time there.” Because the school only went up to ninth grade back then, she later attended the Ethel Walker School and went on to study at Bennington College where she graduated in 1940. In the mountains of Vermont, she and her college roommates learned to ski on wooden skis at Mt. Bromley and Pico Peak. At that time, skiing was a fairly new sport in the nation and one that she quickly came to love. Her days on the mountains were soon interrupted by World War II. “After Pearl Harbor, the whole nation was shocked and we were all truly eager to serve and show our patriotism,” she says. And so, Marnie joined the U.S. Navy and was first sent to Jacksonville, Florida, as a “radioman” specializing in communications technology. Shortly after, Marnie became a commissioned officer and was assigned to teach communications to Navy personnel at Smith College, Massachusetts. Her final assignment for the Navy was in Maui, Hawaii, as a communications officer where she was stationed on the day the Japanese surrendered (V-J Day) in 1945.

Soon after her discharge, Marnie ventured out west to explore western skiing, some thing she had wanted to pursue before the war. There, she met skier and future husband, Larry Jump, who was involved with a struggling resort in the Arapahoe, Colorado, ski area. Debt-ridden, the resort was in danger of not opening for the 1947-48 ski season.

Along with her fellow skiers, Marnie went to work raising the necessary funds to keep the resort open. Their efforts were a success and Marnie soon became vice president of the Arapahoe Basin Corporation. In her leadership position, Marnie was very much involved in the development and upkeep of the area. Inspired by the accomplishments of the legendary Andrea Mead Lawrence who won gold medals in both the slalom and the grand slalom in the 1952 Winter Olympics, Marnie began to provide competitive opportunities for skiers of all types during the ensuing years. “At that time, most people in the ski world were interested in developing different aspects of skiing, and so we looked for ways to bring the sport to different audiences.”

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“Wide worlds may call to us, but you hold our hearts.” To alumni, these words should be a familiar lyric from the school anthem, “Hail Our Academy.” Chances are, however, these words were not given much thought as you stood to sing the song in assemblies or special events at the Academy. Much in the same way, the following alumni never realized how these words would ring true as they find themselves far from home with careers that bridge cultures through service, the arts, and business.

INSPIRING PATHWAYS OF SERVICE
Megan McAdams ’04 - Cambodia
Walking through Tuol Sleng genocide museum in Cambodia in 2006, Megan McAdams ’04 knew she had found her call for service. In a room blanketed with eerie silence, she was overcome by the genocide victims’ photos that were taken upon their capture, and she struggled to hold herself together. It was then she knew that Cambodia was where she was to stay.

Two years later, now a graduate of Skidmore University, Megan works as a program manager for Rustic Pathways, an organization that offers travel abroad programs for high school and college students, families, and groups. As a senior at the Academy, Megan had hopes of spending her summer traveling to Thailand with the program, but a bad case of strep throat kept her home. Her plans were thwarted in the same way she witnessed other students suffering in exchange for a completely new set of norms. “Even after numerous less-than-comfortable nights spent in a bamboo hut on a straw mat, she says this skill is one she is still developing. “On some days, I would much rather stay inside my hotel room than go outside where tuk tuk drivers and street vendors follow me down the street. However, each day I overcome the desire to be comfortable, I grow to some degree.” Her global perspective and experience abroad allows her to appreciate each opportunity to represent America to the best of her abilities. While sometimes a source of frustration, Megan says that she seeks each day to be a good ambassador of our nation, and reminds her students to do the same.

While she looks forward to leading more student trips in the country, putting smiles on villagers’ faces, Megan has future plans to specifically aid women in Cambodia. As only two percent of women in the country have the opportunity to pursue education, many have very limited options. Ultimately, these women are sold into the growing sex trade industry and kept far away from their families. With tourism as a booming business in the country, there is currently a need for individuals with hospitality skills and a good command of the English language. After determining the best location, she hopes to buy a guesthouse and employ young Cambodian women, keeping them from the dark life of sex trade and also empowering them with additional income. Lessons in hospitality, English, and accounting would aid their chances of acquiring employment in the tourism sector, which would make it possible for these women to educate their children and empower younger generations. She hopes the guesthouse could also become a haven for local children to work on art projects and receive tutoring for their homework.

Megan’s nickname among the Thai Rustic Pathways’ staff is “ma gat” which means “dog bite.” This is one that, unfortunately, she has earned. Early in her stay in Thailand last year, she was attacked by a dog while running down the street. Megan spent the next few weeks in and out of hospitals to clean the puncture wounds on her leg. When she returned to base at the end of summer, she was excited to learn she had earned a nickname because in Thai culture, a nickname is often a sign that one has been accepted as a friend. Because of her selflessness and unwavering devotion to those in need, it is safe to assume Megan’s future is one that will be full of nicknames.

UNITING CULTURES THROUGH THE ARTS
Lisa Booth ’67 - New York City
Those in the Class of 1967 might remember Lisa Booth for her creative guises and organizational skills that resulted in themed dances and festive activities. For instance, the Roman-themed surprise birthday party for her Latin teacher, Mr. Levesque. Much to Lisa and fellow collaborator’s credit, students dressed up in togas made from sheets and honored him as he came into class with a red carpet leading up to a throne with music playing in the background. After presenting the cake, they formed an impromptu parade and stomped around campus with Mr. Levesque in the lead shouting, “Ave Imperator!”

Lisa’s college friends remember her for the same event planning skills — as the one who started a coffee house on campus.

“Each day I overcome the desire to be comfortable.”

Megan travelled by boat to the remote locations of Cambodia.
Her travels have led her all over the globe to Cambodia, India, Europe, Japan, and China. As a parent of Peter Jr., who is now 21, Lisa says that one of the best gifts she and her husband gave their son was a fascination and appreciation of different cultures, as she made many of these trips with him in tow. Lisa's global perspective was further inspired a few years ago when she read a biography of Benjamin Franklin. His perspective on America was enriched because of his postal work, which required him to travel through all of the colonies. “His travels gave him the broader vision from which we are still benefiting today,” she says. “It is so important to realize that our way of looking at the world is only one of many viewpoints.”

Lisa is currently working with a performing arts company, the Khmer Arts Ensemble, as they resurrect centuries of old traditions almost eradicated by the Khmer Rouge regime in the Cambodian genocide. Ninety percent of the country’s artists were killed in the genocide and those who remain work hard to restore this essential piece of the nation’s culture. The Khmer Arts Ensemble travels the nation performing contemporary works of art set in the classical Cambodian dance technique.

Since 2000, Lisa’s firm has been working to organize national tours for Spirit of Uganda as they raise money for vulnerable children in Africa and spread the word about the devastating effects of HIV and war in their home country. The group of young dancers and musicians has performed all over the nation as they share the histories, legends, and beliefs of East Africa. “This probably would have been impossible for Condoleezza Rice or any other United States diplomat. Artists can lead the way and go where others fear to tread.”

“It was the 1980s all over again for Doug Schafer ’86 when he opened a letter from his mother that included one of his Sewickley Academy report cards. He reflected on his time in the Senior School as he perused over the handwritten comments from each teacher. “Looking back as an alumn and now a parent, I am appreciative of teachers who took the time to provide supportive and positive feedback – even when my grades weren’t always As.”

Growing up in Churchill and commuting to the Academy each day, Doug never would have guessed that 22 years later he would be living in Japan as the president of two national companies, Toyo Beverage K.K. and Toyo Shokuhin. K.K. Doug’s first ties to Japan were established after he completed his B.A. in economic theory at American University. Doug participated in one of the first Japanese Exchange and Teaching Programs (JET) in 1990. Though he enjoyed the experience, he came to realize that teaching was not his end goal, and returned to the States to reassess his career plans. Doug spent the next year in Washington, DC at a financial company that tracked assets and funds of endowed institutions such as Harvard and Northwestern. It was not long, however, until Doug was offered an opportunity he could not resist. During his time with the JET program, Doug met his now-wife, Sayuki. Sayuki’s father, the owner of a family operated food distribution company, offered to sponsor Doug’s visa as an employee of the company. It was then that Doug decided to return to the country he now calls home.

Doug’s entrepreneurial skills as evidenced in the success of Toyo Beverage K.K., allowed his father-in-law to confidently make Doug president of his business, Toyo Shokuhin, K.K., in May 2007. This transition made Doug the first non-citizen in Japanese history to take over an established family-owned business. Now as president of both companies, he oversees 110 employees and travels the globe to build his product base. He was recently featured in the Wall Street Journal and also owns several cafes in Japan. When not running the businesses, Doug and Sayuki enjoy traveling with their three sons, Yuki Aaron (13), Avi Koki (10), and Tobi Tobias (8). As parents, they want to provide their children with a variety of global experiences and a well-rounded education. “Today’s traditional education systems are not set up for the next stage of this global marketplace,” he says. “Schools are not emphasizing the arts when there is truly a need for the fostering of creativity.” With his global perspective, he can attest to the importance of creativity in a time when so much of our work can and will soon be automated. He stresses the importance of an education that teaches to the right and left sides of the brain – an education he feels he received at the Academy. With hopes of sending his children for at least one year of schooling in the U.S., Doug is exploring the possibility of sending his sons to the Academy, so they too can look back on their report cards and smile.
What does it mean to have a successful college search? For each of the 68 members of the Class of 2008, the answer to this question varies as different as the playlists on their iPods. One senior might tell you that finding the best college for fashion design would equal success. Another might say that finding a school where he could pursue his interests in medicine and business would be best. Yet another might tell you that playing NCAA Division I lacrosse is an important component of her college process. The president of the National Association of College Admission Counseling reminded students that “college is a match to be made, not a prize to be won.”

After the Wall Street Journal article “How to Find the Right College” was published in 2008, the answer to this question of the 68 members of the Class of 2008, the college process empowers students to be decision makers and their own advocates. To think critically about themselves and their future. At its best, the college process is vastly different from even four years ago. Technology plays a large role in the college search and the college application processes. Ask any upperclassman at the Academy about “Naviance” scattergrams and online college applications, and they could give you a tutorial that would make your head spin. Academy juniors are enrolled in a college seminar class that meets once a week to allow students to learn about themselves and about important milestones in the college process (what to do at a college fair, how to prepare for a college interview, tips for writing the college essay, etc.). One thing that has not changed, however, is that the college process remains a journey of self-discovery, rooted in an educational environment that both nurtures and challenges students to think critically about themselves and their future. At its best, the college process empowers students to be decision makers and their own best advocates.

When you read the college list, know that you are not reading merely “a list.” You are reading the results of years of hard work, late nights, and soul searching. You are reading a list that may have looked drastically different in January than it does in June. Students change and evolve and, as a result, so do their college choices. It is a pleasure and an honor to work with such amazing young people who are committed to their studies, their community work, and to each other. To that extent, the college process has concluded for 68 Sewickley Academy students, and the list of college matches is shown on the next page.

[Continued]
The Elizabeth Bishop Martin Award is presented to a faculty member who has made a significant contribution to Sewickley Academy by advancing the mission of the school through their actions. The annual award was established by David and Ellen Martin, former Academy parents, and honors the memory of their daughter who graduated from Sewickley Academy in 1979.

The recipient is chosen based on faculty and staff nominations, which are then reviewed by a selection committee of previous Martin Award recipients and Head of the School.

The 2008 honoree is Senior School French and Italian teacher, Sira Metzinger, who has been a member of the Senior School faculty for 35 years and is chair of the modern foreign language department. In describing this year’s recipient, colleagues speak of a gentle yet demanding educator, a thoughtful guide able to lead students and colleagues alike as they strive to achieve higher levels of excellence. One colleague, upon visiting a class taught by this master educator, saw technology being used as a window to the wide world of art, language, music, and culture. “Indeed,” the colleague writes, one could almost “imagine him or herself touring an Italian town” without leaving the classroom.

“This award is special to me because I knew Beth Martin and taught her in class,” comments Metzinger. “It is wonderful to receive an award like this because it is given by my colleagues and I consider that a tremendous honor.”

Previous award recipients include Julia Tebbets, John Charney, Lawrence Connolly, Cheryl Lassen, Susan Pross, Guy Russi, Gil Smith, Pam Scott, Jessica Polusa, Linda Bowers, and the late Barbara Salak.
LESSONS FROM FIRST GRADE

When you walk into first grade teacher Kelly Gary’s classroom, it’s easy to see from the dozen class photos on her wall that every child she has taught is memorable to her. Looking at the photos of 16 students from her very first class in 1996, she can name every child and is quick to point out the seven faces that went on to complete their education at Sewickley Academy. It’s a bittersweet trip down memory lane because that very special group of students is now part of the Class of 2008 that recently graduated from the Senior School.

“I can’t believe how time has flown,” Kelly comments. “I remember my first class like it was yesterday. In reading, writing, and math, this class enjoyed learning. It was amazing to be in a classroom and witness the moments when the children ‘got it.’ To see the little light bulbs go off is something I looked forward to then and it’s something that still makes teaching so enjoyable today.”

Reading has always been an important part of the curriculum in Kelly’s first grade class. Bradleigh Sherry ‘08 credits Mrs. Gary with setting the foundation upon which her academic education flourished. “She taught me how to read and that set the stage for my efforts in living up to that charge. “Mrs. Gary was so kind and giving and was there for me when I needed help.”

 Fellow classmate Collin Sullivan ‘08 echoes the importance of reading in Mrs. Gary’s class. “Every morning we’d sit on the floor in the corner of her classroom and she’d read to us. She stretched your creative mind and was awesome for giving extra reading help if you needed it. She always tried to make learning fun.”

Working with and observing other talented teachers at the Academy, and coupling teachable moments with elements of fun are integral parts of Kelly’s classroom style. Two milestone events that every first grade student is able to vividly recall are the “authentic” trip to Hawaii and the popular first grade circus, both of which Kelly sees as one of her main responsibilities. “I help them learn in an atmosphere of positive reinforcement and constant praise.”

Her former students give her an A+ for her efforts in living up to that charge. “Mrs. Gary constantly gave us positive feedback and wanted students to succeed,” said Vikas. “She was one of the best teachers I had in Lower School. I’ll never forget when I moved on to Senior School and was inducted into the Cum Laude Society; she made a point to congratulate me the next time I saw her.”

Bradleigh recollects similar fond memories of Mrs. Gary’s impact. “If a child doesn’t learn the way I teach, I must teach the way he or she learns,” she states, borrowing a quote from educator and psychologist Anna Gillingham that she has posted in her classroom to sum up her role in shaping young lives. “I help them learn in an atmosphere of positive reinforcement and constant praise.”

For Collin, Mrs. Gary’s impact has remained steadfast throughout his Sewickley Academy education. “Her teaching style and constant use of positive reinforcement made me unfraid to make mistakes.” That life lesson made Collin’s choice as to which teacher to be for Senior Teacher Day an easy one. He chose to spend the day shadowing Mrs. Gary. “I was very hands on with the students and tried to make the lessons fun while using positive feedback just like Mrs. Gary did for me.”

When the decision loomed as to where he should go to college, Collin didn’t hesitate to consult his favorite teacher. “I wanted her opinion because she knows me so well.” Mrs. Gary’s advice? “She encouraged me to go to the school that I thought would be best for me and not pick a school just because someone said it was the best.”

Given the indelible mark Kelly has made on her students, it’s no surprise that she was greatly impacted by a teacher in her youth. According to Kelly, her fourth grade teacher, Mrs. Sheldon, was a tremendous influence on her. “Mrs. Sheldon managed to make even uncomfortable things a learning experience,” Kelly recalls. “She always managed to find a book or a story that could provide a teachable moment without making the child feel singled out. I try to do the same thing by consulting with Mrs. Brach to find a library book that might help solve an issue or encourage a child to model more positive behavior.”

With her strong connection to reading, it seems only fitting that at the recent Senior School graduation, Kelly chose to give a literary memento to the seven students who helped to launch her career at Sewickley Academy. No, it wasn’t a tome by Shakespeare or a classic book of poetry by Keats. As is now a tradition, students in Mrs. Gary’s first grade class each serve as the author of one page of a book which Kelly then compiles, binds, and makes available in the class library. Back in 1996, the students each wrote a page for the Eric Carle tale, The Very Lonely Firefly, the story of a young firefly that searches for companionship by first following other lights, such as a candle and a lantern, by mistake, until ultimately finding the friends it was searching for — other fireflies.

After holding on to that student-made version of the book for 12 years, Kelly presented each of the graduating seniors with the page they wrote in her class more than a decade ago. A fitting reminder that Sewickley Academy will always be a place where they can find fellow “fireflies” and a fitting gift to their students as they turn the page on their Sewickley Academy education and start a new chapter in their lives.

The Class of 2016 had a smooth flight on the “airplane” to Hawaii. This first grade tradition is a fond memory for many Academy students.
Senior School teacher Larry Connolly and students were featured on KDKA’s Pittsburgh Today Live for the innovative use of the SMART Board in the classroom.
In Linda’s 19 years at the Academy, she has realized that her true passion lies in teaching and being in the classroom where students have their “ah-ha” moments as they discover things about themselves and the world around us. This year, she will teach at the Montessori Children’s Community. With her family spread across the nation and with her new role as grandmother, Linda looks forward to this next chapter in her life.

SHARON MATTHEWS

Friends and colleagues at the Academy have said farewell to Director of Admission Doug Goodman. During Doug’s eight years here, his friendly personality welcomed Middle and Senior School prospective families to campus. He quickly became a trusted advocate for families as he counseled them through the admission process. In addition to his role in admissions, he has served as a Senior School advisor, ethics teacher, Aviation Club advisor and also as coach of Middle School boys’ lacrosse and soccer teams. The Academy wishes him the best of luck in the future.

For many colleagues, the first thing that comes to mind when Sharon Matthews is mentioned is “the voice of reason.” During her 29-year career at the Academy, she has become well known for her gentle, poised, and professional demeanor in each situation. She did not shy away from additional responsibilities in the Senior School, thoughtfully contributing as a member of numerous teams and support services such as Hear to Help and the Teachers as Partners program. She also served for many years as math department chair and as ninth grade coordinator. Year after year, she left the comforts of home to travel with the ninth grade class to the Lindy Outdoor Center, leaping from high ropes and hiking through the often-muddy trails. Perfectly put together and unrelentingly calm, the role of each grade coordinator fit her well as she advised students transitioning from Middle to Senior School. In each duty she took on, her commitment to fairness resonated along with her commitment to excellence.

A graduate of the University of Pittsburgh, Sharon arrived at the Academy in September of 1979, first teaching math in the Middle School and then moving to the Senior School, where she remained for 19 years. She contributed to the evolution of the somewhat traditional department into one that implements new teaching styles and technology. The clarity with which she explained complex mathematical equations fostered in students a love and appreciation for math, even for those whose subject did not come naturally.

FRANCIE McKENNA

For 21 years, Frances McKenna has served in various teaching roles throughout first to ninth grades. Moving to the Academy with previous teaching experience in California, Francie was responsible for implementing progressive teaching methods in the Lower School math and science programs. With her vision and attention to detail, the Lower School curriculum began to include activities that integrated both math and science and taught the fundamentals of problem solving. Her passion for science and mathematics was perhaps inspired by her father, a scientist by profession, who would excitedly show her the tools to teach so dynamically. With her speciﬁc passion for science and technology “trinkets” in hand, Francie came alive in the classroom as she made science exciting for each student that entered the door, no matter his or her learning style.

Her years of experience and willingness to help made her a trusted resource for many teachers in the Lower School. She frequently put new teachers at ease by offering to help in any way she could. Her natural loquaciousness paired with her listening ear made Francie’s classroom a safe haven for her students at ease by offering to help in any way she could. Her natural loquaciousness paired with her listening ear made Francie’s classroom a safe haven for her students.

Perhaps it is this collection that provided Francie the tools to teach so dynamically. With her speciﬁc passion for science and technology “trinkets” in hand, Francie came alive in the classroom as she made science exciting for each student that entered the door, no matter his or her learning style.

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When Pat rose into the teaching faculty in 1975, her plan was to teach at the Academy for only a little while. Somewhere in the midst of 33 years worth of Feast of the Gods, To Kill a Mockingbird, and Shakespeare, her plans changed. Legions of students are grateful they did.

After graduating Phi Beta Kappa from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Pat’s love of literature and the English language led her to a career teaching English as a Second Language to Vietnamese refugees. In time, she took a position in the Middle School, quickly discovering that adolescent students were ideal partners in exploring the world of ideas presented in literature. With her vigor, poise, and charm, Pat inspired students to love literature just as she does.

Through the years, Pat has completed additional studies at Cambridge University in the United Kingdom and attended the prestigious Wrangell Workshop at the University of Iowa. Her works have also been published in a number of books and journals. Surely, Pat’s exceptional talent provided her with a myriad of career opportunities, but she remained faithful to her students and the Academy. In 2006, she was honored with the Clark Faculty Chair for Excellence in Teaching for her gifted work in the classroom.

Pat taught her students to read not just with their eyes, but also with their ears and the heart to understand more fully what a writer was trying to convey. She never accepted less than her students’ best efforts, as she accepted nothing less from herself. A former colleague, Ginny Hughes, described her in this way: “Pat was truly wonderful to work with. She was a partner in education for each and every student. She inspired her students.”

Her legacy of lifelong learning as she spends her first year of retirement teaching adults at the Academy of Lifelong Learning at Carnegie Mellon University.
NEW TRUSTEES

THOMAS S. JONES

Thomas S. Jones graduated from Sewickley Academy in 1985. In addition to being editor of the newspaper and debate champion, he also kept busy while at the Academy playing varsity baseball, basketball, tennis, and soccer. Tom went on to receive a B.A., with a double major in philosophy and government, from The College of William and Mary. In 1992, he completed his law degree from the Marshall-Wythe School at William and Mary in Virginia where he was editor of the Law Review, an inductor into the Order of the Coif, and Moot Court champion. After serving as a law clerk for a judge in Philadelphia, he relocated to Orange County, California, and became a litigator for corporate mergers and acquisitions. In 2002, he returned to Pittsburgh and joined the law firm, Jones Day, where he is a partner in the trial practice group of the international law firm. His practice includes business disputes, securities litigation, and product liability.

For the last two years, he has served as president of the Alumni Council. Tom and his wife, Courtney, live in Sewickley with their three children: Mary (Class of 2017), Katie (Class of 2019), and Jack.

MARK POEPPING

Born and raised in St. Cloud, Minnesota, Mark Poeppping graduated cum laude from St. John’s University in Collegeville, Minnesota, in 1980 with a bachelor’s degree in mathematics. He went on to earn a master’s in computer science from the University of Wisconsin at Madison in 1982. Mark began his career as a systems programmer at Tell Laboratories in suburban Chicago where he worked for three years before moving to Pittsburgh. He started his career at Carnegie Mellon University’s Software Engineering Institute in 1985, moving to a campus position in 1996. Mark is currently the head architect for Computing Services, the central campus organization that supports the information technology needs of the teaching, research, community, and administrative functions for the global Carnegie Mellon enterprise.

Mark and his wife, Julia, moved to Sewickley Heights four years ago so their sons could be closer to school. Bennett, a Class of 2008 Academy graduate, is dually attended Carnegie Mellon and in the fall and Thomas, who will be a sophomore in the Senior School in the fall, is a proud charter member of the Sewickley Academy Science Olympiad team.

SUZANNE GENTER FRIDAY

Suzanne Genter Friday graduated from Sewickley Academy in 1976 and went on to earn a B.F.A. in interior design from the University of Georgia in 1981. She began her career as a project designer in the Pittsburgh field office of New York-based Neville Lewis & Associates where she worked until 1985. Suzanne joined L.I. Astorino & Associates in 1984 and was promoted to vice president of interior design in 1987, a position she held until she left the firm in 1997 to start Friday and Genter Interior Design with her mother, Anne Genter.

Suzanne and her husband, Peter, live in Sewickley with their daughter, Lily, a sixth grade student at the Academy. Additionally, Suzanne has two adult daughters, Alexandra and Claire Shorall, both age 21, who will be seniors at the University of Pennsylvania and Rice University, respectively.

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NEW FACES: FACULTY AND STAFF

WILLIAM GELLMAN
William Gellman has joined the Summertime staff as executive director. Mr. Gellman joins the Academy from the Kinkaid School in Houston, Texas, where he has been a member of the faculty since 1996. His classroom experience includes teaching anatomy and physiology, biology, and chemistry. For eight years, Mr. Gellman also served as the assistant to the director of the Kinkaid/Houston Independent School District Governing-Math-Science Institute, a program that brings minority students to the Kinkaid campus for intensive summer instruction in math and science. His teaching career also includes three years at the Asheville School in North Carolina. Fluent in Spanish, Mr. Gellman acted as a liaison for a Montana-based organization involved in the construction of a church/daycare development center in Nayarit, Mexico. Mr. Gellman also worked as a fisheries biologist for the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service in Anchorage, Alaska. He earned a bachelor’s degree in biology from Pennsylvania State University and a master’s degree in zoology (genetics) from the University of Montana.

SAMUEL Z. HAMILTON
Samuel Z. Hamilton will join the Middle School faculty in the fall as an English teacher. His classroom experience has all been in the Pittsburgh area and includes teaching English at Mount Lebanon Senior High School and Community Education Partners at Clayton Academy and one year as an intern teacher at Wilkinsburg Senior High School. In addition, he has served as a forensics coach at Upper St. Clair Senior High School. Mr. Hamilton earned bachelor’s degrees in modern and postmodern literature, creative writing, and structural writing, both cum laude, from the Robert E. Cook Honors College of Indiana University of Pennsylvania. He earned a master’s degree, summa cum laude, in secondary English education from the University of Pittsburgh. He also attended the Scottish Universities’ International Summer School at the University of Edinburgh.

MARK HAMILTON
Joining the Academy as the new head of Lower School is Mark Hamilton. With an education career spanning more than 20 years and five countries, Mr. Hamilton comes to the Academy from Berlin Brandenburg International School in Klamathmachen, Germany, where he has served as the elementary principal since 2001. His administrative experience also includes serving as the elementary principal at Northern Hills Elementary School in Overland Park, Kansas, a Reese Elementary School in Orange Park, Florida, and Morehouse College and Jackson State University in Mississippi.

ALISON HOWELLS
Alison Howells is joining Sewickley Academy as a full-time Lower School Spanish teacher after serving as a substitute teacher since January. Prior to coming to the Academy, she was a bilingual financial sales consultant for PNC Bank. Her teaching experience includes a variety of positions both in the United States and abroad. For her college practicum, she served as a second grade Spanish teacher at Wilson Christian in Minnesota and she also was a teacher at Pioneers Esperanza, a bilingual church in Riverton, Minnesota. Her international experience has taken her to countries such as Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Ecuador where she has developed curricula, taught English, volunteered for women’s rights organizations, and completed accredited coursework in Spanish. Mrs. Howells earned a bachelor’s degree in Spanish with a minor in teaching English as a second language from Bethel University in St. Paul, Minnesota.

NEAL HOLMES
Accepting the position of director of diversity and global education, Neal Holmes comes to us from Savannah, Georgia, where he has served as the Lower School director of diversity and director of Harambee, a Savannah Country Day School program for gifted minority second through eighth graders. Mr. Holmes also served as a Spanish teacher and taught modern, jazz, tap, and hip-hop dance as electives at the School. His experience also includes serving as a teacher and assistant director for the National Honor’s Organization and adjunct instructor teaching English at Armstrong Atlantic State University, both in Savannah. His career also includes two years as the director of public relations of Inner City Inc., a division of Anita Rodica, in Atlanta. Mr. Holmes earned a B.A. in English at Morehouse College and Jackson State University and an M.A. in English from Jackson State University in Mississippi.

NICODE HUGHES (FINDELY)
Nicole Hughes (Findeley) is coming to us from Fairfax County Public Schools in Vienna, Virginia, where she has taught third grade for the last four years. She will be teaching fifth grade at the Academy in the fall. She completed her student teaching at a fifth-grade classroom in the New Wilmington Area School District. New Wilmington, Pennsylvania. In addition to serving on several committees and taking on the role of team leader for the past two years, Ms. Hughes also facilitated a Teachers as Leaders group to improve literacy instruction. She received her bachelor’s degree in elementary education from Westminster College in New Wilmington and her master’s of education degree in curriculum and instruction with an emphasis in literacy from George Mason University in Virginia.

RICHARD ISAACS
Richard Isaacs will join the Senior School as a history teacher this fall. He comes to us from Hild Academy. Mr. Isaacs taught history and English since 2005. His primary school teaching career has been at both the Silver Spruce Day Institute in Silver Spring, Maryland, and with Denver Academy in Denver, Colorado. Mr. Isaacs earned his bachelor’s degree in history and world literature at the University of Toronto in Canada and a master’s degree in history from Trinity College in New York City. His education also includes School Leadership Certificates I and II from Harvard University and graduate courses in education taken at The George Washington University. Mr. Isaacs is also a United States Hockey certified ice hockey coach and a National Youth Sports Coaches Association certified baseball coach.

MATTHEW MICHAELS
Matthew Michaels will join the Academy as a math teacher in the Senior School. He comes to us from Pennypack High School in Orange Park, Florida, where he has taught calculus, algebra, and Cambridge Math, in addition to creating critical thinking math activities for the senior class. He has also taught geometry honors at the Community College of Allegheny County during the summer and served as an intern/substitute math teacher at North Allegheny Senior High School. Fluent in Japanese, Mr. Michaels is a Japan Fulbright Memorial Fund Scholar who traveled to Japan to study the country’s educational system during the summer. He has a bachelor’s degree in mathematics and a master’s degree in teaching, both from the University of Pittsburgh.

BRENDAN SCHNEIDER
Joining the Academy as the new director of admissions is Brendan Schneider who comes to us from Western Reserve Academy in Hudson, Ohio. During his 12-year tenure there, he served as the director of technology for six years, the dean of students for three years, and most recently was the director of enrollment and financial aid. In addition to his administrative responsibilities, he has taught Web publishing for more than a decade. Mr. Schneider served as a member of the admissions committee of the board of trustees as well as the school’s executive committee. His career also includes serving as the assistant director of admissions at Washington & Jefferson College, where he received his B.A. in political science. Among his extensive participation in campus activities at Western Reserve Academy, he spent time as a student advisor, dorm master, and football, lacrosse, and basketball coach. Mr. Schneider is a board member of the Academy. He was also a certified baseball coach.
Sharon Hurt Davidson – Formerly the director of communications, Sharon transitioned into the role of director of advancement in April. She will now oversee development, alumni relations, marketing, and community relations.

Larry Hall – Larry Hall is a 38-year veteran of the Academy. During these years he has served as a German teacher, Senior School dean of students, director of college guidance, Middle School English teacher, and as advisor to a number of clubs. For the past 18 years, Larry has taught Middle School German, inspiring students with his love of German culture and music – especially Wagnerian opera. A visit to his classroom was to enter a charming land where the cuckoo clock, shields, Germanic headgear, and other assorted artifacts of German life and culture stimulate a love of the culture. He has made a lasting impression on his colleagues for his dedication, humor, and unwavering support. As a result of his leadership in the Alumni Council, Tom was recently appointed as a trustee on the Academy’s Board and will serve again on the Technology Committee. He also has plans to remain actively involved in the Alumni Council, “Suzanne has great skills and contacts that will allow her to continue to effectively represent alumni, making sure concerns are addressed as she guides the Council in this exciting time. She is a successful business woman, and her organizational abilities make her the ideal leader to head the Council,” says Tom.

Gil Smith – One colleague describes Gil Smith as the “MacGyver” of teaching – resourceful and always prepared. Others who had the pleasure to teach with him in his 35 years of teaching agree. “If there was ever an emergency, I would head to Gil’s classroom,” says one colleague. His wit, creativity, and intellect not only earned him respect among fellow teachers, but also among his students. Even on short trips to and from the cafeteria, students were prepared to quiz him on material by Mr. Smith. He seized each teachable moment, large or small. While his composure and wisdom are evident to all those he meets, his students and those who know him best can attest to his quick wit and humorous side.

With a natural aptitude for mechanics, one of Gil’s favorite classroom activities was with students launching rockets on a sandwich. His mechanical skills were also put to use each year as he traveled with the fifth grade to McKeeve Environmental Learning Center, equipped with his power tools, to build birdhouses. For his uncompromising leadership and selfless dedication, he was awarded the Elizabeth Bishop Martin Award in 2003. Generation of Academy students have benefited from his calm, thoughtful, and witty teaching. A wise resource in times of question, Gil has left a lasting impression on the younger children and being a part of first grade traditions such as the Ho Ho Ho Down, circus, and the trip to Hawaii.

On Thursday, May 29, outgoing Alumni Council President Thomas S. Jones ’85 and Council members welcomed Suzanne Genter Frady ’76 as the new president. President and Alumni Council members and the Office of Advancement paid tribute to Tom’s two years as president and applauded his leadership and efforts to re-energize the Council. Since 2003, he has been one of the most active members, spearheading new initiatives and building a closer relationship between alumni and Academy administrators. During Tom’s term as president, the Council established the Alumni Scholarship Fund that will continue to grow and benefit children of alumni for many years. Tom trusts that the school and the Academy will continue their dialogue about the future of the Academy and will utilize technological innovations to personalize communication with alumni.

As a result of his leadership in the Alumni Council, Tom was recently appointed as a trustee on the Academy’s Board and will serve again on the Technology Committee. He also has plans to remain actively engaged with the Alumni Council and is eager to see the direction in which the Council takes. “Suzanne has great skills and contacts that will allow her to continue to effectively represent alumni, making sure concerns are addressed as she guides the Council in this exciting time. She is a successful business woman, and her organizational abilities make her the ideal leader to head the Council,” says Tom.

New President Suzanne Genter Frady graduated in 1976 as an Academy life. Her brother David also graduated in 1972. She went on to receive her B.F.A. in design from the University of Georgia. She currently owns and operates the interior design firm of Friday and Genter Interior Design, which she started in 1997 with her mother, Anne Genter. She is the mother of Alexandra and Claire Shorall, seniors at the University of Pennsylvania and Rice University respectively, as well as Lily Friday, a member of the Academy’s Class of 2015. As the designer for many homes in Sewickley, she has also been an active community volunteer through her involvement in the Carnegie Museum, Warhol Museum, AIDS Task force, and the Child Health Antique Show and House Tours.

Suzanne joined the Council in the fall of 2007, upon her return as a parent to the Sewickley Academy Community. She quickly distinguished herself as a strong advocate on behalf of the Council and valued the opportunity to hear the thoughts and perspectives of fellow graduates throughout the years. For President Suzanne “I would like to see the core group expanded to include a larger concentration of individuals who are like-minded in their affection for their alma mater and willing to participate as conduits of goodwill” she encourages alumni to be involved and engaged with their alma mater as they share their Academy experiences and feedback. Under Suzanne’s leadership, the Council will undoubtedly continue to engage in new projects that will best serve the alumni community and Sewickley Academy as a whole.

The Alumni Council, under the leadership of President Suzanne Genter Frady ’76, will continue to strive to serve the needs of growing alumni population. Regardless of where your alma matter is, this Council wants to ensure that you remain connected to the school. In the upcoming 2008-2009 school year, the members are engaged in an evaluation of their current operational procedures and structure. The Alumni Council will continue to assist with open houses and engage in personal visits, phone calls, and emails with alumni who have school-age children.

New member recruitment remains essential for the Alumni Council to remain a valuable community of the Academy. While the Council currently comprises local alumni, they eventually hope that regional clubs and chapters will develop in many parts of the country that have a significant concentration of alumni living. If you are interested in learning more about the Alumni Council, please contact Megan Colt, director of alumni relations, at mcotl@sewickley.org.

Nhan Ngo – This fall, Nhan will take on a new role as a Grade 5 home-room teacher. As she has for the last two years, she will also be teaching Grade 4 and 5 math and science.

Christina Pales – This past year, Christina worked under the direction of Kindergarten teacher Ashlee Hoffman. Beginning in the 2008-2009 school year, she will be teaching Grades 4 and 5 math and science. Christina has a B.S. in elementary education from St. Mary’s College, Notre Dame, Indiana, and she looks forward to her new role in the Lower School.

Jerryln Scott – After teaching fourth grade for the last six years, Jerryln Scott will again be joining the first grade team. She looks forward to working with the younger children and being a part of first grade traditions such as the Ho Ho Ho Down, circus, and the trip to Hawaii.

Renee Williams – First grade teacher Renee Williams will be joining the fourth grade team in the fall. Ms. Williams was named the Academy last year. Renee brought with her years of independent school teaching experience.

Haley Woods – This past spring, Communication Specialist Haley Woods transitioned into her new role as director of marketing and publications. Her duties will include the monthly Under the Cupid newsletter, editor of Sewickley Speaking, and other marketing responsibilities throughout the school.

Sewickley Academy welcomes Suzanne Genter Frady ’76 as the 2008-2010 Alumni Council President.
REGISTRATION
You can now register for Reunion Weekend and check for updates by visiting www.sewickley.org/alumni/reunion2008. All RSVPs must be received by Wednesday, September 24, 2008. Invitations, including a list of finalized activities, are forthcoming.

HOTEL RESERVATION
A block of rooms have been reserved at the Courtyard Marriott in Coraopolis for Reunion Weekend. Mention “Sewickley Academy Reunion” before September 5 to receive a special rate of $89 per night (Friday and Saturday only).

Courtyard Marriott Pittsburgh Airport
450 Cherrington Parkway
Coraopolis, PA 15108
412-264-5000

REUNION 2008 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
(Schedule subject to change)

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3
Sports Hall of Fame
Induction Ceremony
Honoring David Gibson ’58
10:30-11:15 AM
Rea Auditorium
All Reunion Celebration!
6:30 PM
Allegheny Country Club

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4
Registration with continental breakfast
9:30-10:30 AM
“State of the Academy” – Head of School Kolia O’Connor
This is a special opportunity to learn about the Academy’s strategic and master plan, status of PICTURE THIS Campaign, and the launch of the class relations program for the 2009-2010 academic year.
10:00-11:00 AM
Tours of Campus

Coed Alumni Soccer Game
Wardrop Field
11:00 AM
Picnic Lunch
MS/SS Cafeteria and Gregg Family Theater Courtyard
12:00 PM
Alumni Council General Meeting
Boyd Room in the Hansen Library
1:15 PM
Games Day – Show your support for the Panthers!
Varsity Girls’ Soccer vs. Quaker Valley
Nichols Field 1:00 PM
Field Hockey vs. Vincentian
Wardrop Field 2:00 PM
Varsity Boys’ Soccer vs. Beaver Nicholas
Field 3:00 PM

CLASS PARTIES
Invitations from host to follow:

1958
Dinner at Andora Restaurant
Mt. Nebo Road
6:00 PM

1973
Party at Dingy ’67 and Robin Hay’s home in Sewickley
6:00 PM

1978
Party at Katherine Bantleon Walker’s home in Sewickley
6:00 PM

1983
Mike Fitzgerald’s Barn at Treesdale
600 Warrendale Road
Gibsonia
7:00 PM

1988
Roof deck of Smith Bros. Advertising
Bronson Smith, Host
116 Federal Street
Downtown Pittsburgh
7:00 PM

1993
Happy Hour at Sharp Edge
510 Beaver Street
Sewickley
5:30 PM

1998
Firehouse Lounge
Penn Avenue in the Strip District
7:00 PM

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!

1958  Elsie Oliver
1967  Dingy Hayes
1973  Robin Hays
1978  Katherine Walker
1983  Bill Goehring and Mike Fitzgerald
1988  Bronson Smith
1993  Jonathan Glance
1998  Sara Donatelli and Katie Joy Rosinski

The Class of 1998 congregates outside in front of Rea Auditorium before graduation.

The Class of 1958 celebrates their graduation from ninth grade and heads off to various high schools.

The Class of 1973 poses for their first class picture at Sewickley Academy.

The Class of 1993 performs “Nicholas Nicklby” as their Middle School play.

The Cum Laude Society of 1988 recognizes the outstanding students in this class.

The Class of 1993 eagerly await their entrance into the Senior School.
On May 28, the community gathered for the third annual Every Gift Counts Celebration, an evening to celebrate the accomplishments of the year and honor all donors who have supported the school in 2007-2008 and through the Picture This Campaign.

Along with great company and live music from the Senior School jazz ensemble, guests especially enjoyed the photo booth and the ice cream cart stocked with a variety of flavors.

We hope to see you all at next year’s celebration!

Every Gift Counts Celebration

Making our way to $20 million, the Picture This Campaign has raised $17 million for people, programs, and Phase I of the Master Plan at Sewickley Academy.

Colorado Reception

On Friday, April 18, Kolia O’Connor, Sharon Hurt Davidson, and Julie Bevevino ’99 traveled to Denver for a campaign reception and alumni reunion. Approximately 20 people attended the reception, and the guest list included a mix of alumni from the Class of 1933 through the Class of 1988, in addition to a parent of alumni and former staff member. The guests asked questions and were enthusiastic about the Academy’s plans for the future, especially the increased emphasis on faculty professional development and global experiences for students.

Picture This Campaign Update

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Portrait of Giving: The Bevevino Family

As long-time members of the Academy community, the Bevevinos recognize the importance of philanthropy and its ability to positively impact a community. By making the decision together to support the Picture This Campaign, the Bevevinos want to ensure that current and future families experience the same quality and wealth of opportunities that Sewickley Academy has provided them over the years.

“As the years have passed, our involvement and roles have changed from parents and students, to parents of alumni, alumni, and staff, but regardless of how we define our roles, we have deep appreciation and respect for all that the Academy has provided to our family.”

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“Delivering on the Promise” highlights a number of the initiatives identified during the strategic planning process that have been supported by the PICTURE THIS Campaign and that are now being implemented at the Academy. Each of these components contributes to a broad vision of Sewickley Academy as a school at the forefront of preparing students for the challenges of the 21st century.

[1] ATTRACT, RECRUIT, RETAIN, AND DEVELOP AN OUTSTANDING FACULTY, ADMINISTRATION, AND STAFF.

The Academy has sought to establish ten faculty chairs. One Chair will be established through a planned gift, and unrestricted gifts have been received to date that will allow the funding of an additional seven.

A new Professional Development and Evaluation Plan has been implemented, and professional development funds have been increased by 17% in the past three years.

A Compensation Task Force has developed a framework that aligns the way faculty are compensated with the school’s long-term strategic goals, as well as our Mission and Core Values.

A New Employee Mentoring Program (NEMP) has been established, with Master Teachers serving as mentors for faculty and staff who are new to the Academy. Initial funding has provided stipends for the mentors and for the leadership of the NEMP Program growth will depend on being able to release faculty from teaching duties, and this will require additional resources to cover the classes from which the releases have been granted.


A new “Middle Class Grant” program has been instituted as part of the financial aid budget for students.

We received a $1 million gift to establish the McAdams Scholars program, and the first scholar has been named; in addition, a $1 million challenge has been issued by the Alumni Council to fund an alumni scholarship program. Overall, our financial aid budget continues to grow, but additional resources are necessary to fund this initiative fully.

A consultant who specializes in the recruitment of faculty and staff of color in independent schools has been retained, and every effort is being made to broaden the pool of qualified candidates of color for open positions on campus.

The Committee on Trustees has made diversity a priority in the recruitment process for new Trustees.


An Intercontinental Classroom was successfully piloted with our sister school in Wuhan, China last year. This initiative will provide our students unparalleled ability to interact with students in other countries in real time.

A new strings instructor has been added to the faculty, and this has dramatically improved the quality of the music experience for our stringed instrument students.

A Mandarin program has been established with great success this year. Mandarin is currently being taught in Grade 9. Next year, students will continue their studies in Grade 10, and new students will be able to begin Mandarin studies in both Grade 9 and Grade 6.

Additional SMART Boards have been added to classrooms every year as resources become available. In addition, ELMO Document Cameras are now being added to classrooms to expand the capabilities of teachers to blend old and new technologies.

Community service has grown slowly with a dedicated director of community service who now works part time; expanding this role to a full time position would allow a greater expansion of service opportunities for our students.

The Global Studies Task Force has been working hard to develop a comprehensive Global Studies program. With additional resources provided by the endowment, we have been able to move to hire a director of diversity and global education.

A Language Arts Task Force has been examining our Lower School program and has already begun implementing some changes, with recommendations for additional enhancements to be implemented in the 2008-2009 school year.

The Middle School has also undertaken efforts to improve English instruction by creating writer’s workshop opportunities for students of all ability levels.

[4] FOSTER A STRONGER COMMUNITY OF RESPECT, RESPONSIBILITY, AND WELL-BEING TO PROVIDE A FOUNDATION FOR CONSTRUCTIVE INTERACTIONS WITH THOSE BEYOND THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY.

A fully integrated character education program PK-Grade 12 is being developed by our new guidance counselor.

A new Honor Code, developed by our student leaders in conjunction with the administration of the Senior School, has been implemented in the Senior School this year.

A new Cross Age Tutors (CAT) program has been developed. In addition to supporting students in need of academic remediation, the program provides students in the Middle and Senior Schools the opportunity to work together. Together, the Gr8 Aid program will provide a similar opportunity for Middle and Lower School students.

[5] MAINTAIN AND DEVELOP OUTSTANDING FACILITIES THAT SUPPORT OUR PROGRAMS AND REFLECT OUR VALUES.

We are now in the process of obtaining the necessary approvals and permits from the Borough of Edgeworth so that Phase I of the Master Plan will be able to proceed, with construction beginning February 2009 and completion slated for August 2009.

In the Cross Age Respect Education program, Lower School students learn about the Academy’s Community of Respect from a Middle School student.

During a web cast with students from Cluj, Romania, these fourth grade students learn about Romanian culture.

Phase 1 of the Master Plan.
He leaves his two children, Robert Four grandies in the group. I saw mers in the 1000 Islands. We have our winters in Naples, FL, and summing anniversary and love spending Finn O'Sullivan. He is my fifth former classmates excitement in meeting up with enjoying dinner together.

Carolyn Malone Bonier ‘55, Dick Hull ‘57, and Arthur Delmhorst, husband of Wynne Paffard Delmhorst ‘55, writes, “I 1953 past June. He says, “Wow, what a wonderful time. It was really terrific to see them all again. Wyane and Betsy and their husbands had come to my ’72 wedding to my now late wife, Patty. I hadn’t seen them since!”

1958 Alice Baker Duff ‘58, ‘Look- ing forward to seeing everyone at our reunion! It can’t be 50 years! When did we get that old I? I guess with four grandchildren (three girls and one boy), I have to admit to grandparen-
thood, but the rest of us? Not true! Still playing tennis and paddle and
trying to sell real estate in a tough environment.

Jann Pafford Nichols ‘58, ‘I’m in Seattle for five months being a nanny to two grandchildren while my daughter finishes her medical residency. Will return to NYC in the fall to continue teaching acting at Yale School of Drama and preside-
Sw Trudli (Oliver) ‘40 and Art ’58 Binghamton for lunch last month. They both look exactly like they did 40 years ago! So do I, of course.

1967 Candy Fowler ‘67 shared news of her family. ‘My younger daughter, Laura Brooker, graduated summa cum laude from Duke University in May. She will move to Boston in the fall to begin a job as an associate with L.E.K., a strategy management consulting firm. Her older sister, Elizabeth, is already in the Boston area, where she has just finished her second year at Harvard Law School. I continue to teach English composi-
tion and literature at George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia, and my husband, Bob Brooker, is a litigation attorney with a Washington, DC firm. I loved seeing old friends (however few of them) at my last reunion and would welcome a call or visit from Academy alums who find their way to the DC area.”

1969 Nilad Mortimer 19 st, ‘2018 will see a number of milestones in the Mortimer household. Oldest son, David, will graduate from Columbus with a graduate degree in physics and will get married to Life Carey on August 2 in Woodstock, New York; middle son, Sam, will graduate from New York University; youngest son, Adam, will graduate from high school and be a freshman at Bowdoin College, followed dad and brother, David.

1968 Darcy Wilkinson Achtiger ‘68 writes, “I have released my first CD Go to www.darcyjane.com to hear a brief of it. I am continuing to pursue my singing, having performed in Los Angeles and Chicago, in addition to New York in the last year. I am VP of Elliott Lauren, a women’s clothing line, and still loving traveling and selling!”

Martha Wyant Springstead ‘72, writes, “I will receive my Doctor of Musical Arts in Music Education on May 10. My daughter, Jane, and I will graduate from Shenandoah University on the same day—she will receive her teacher’s degree in music therapy. I am the proud mother of four fabulous musicians—all have been participants in All-State Chorus and are still ac-
tive in music activities. I am the choral director at Landstown High School in Virginia Beach and also director of music at a large Methodist church. My husband, David, is a worship leader.”

1970 Scott Ferguson ’70, writes, “Fuel-
ing the fire on rumors of a full scale Jadis Reunion, Scott Ferguson will be joining Doug Rice ’70 at Doug’s Annual Brom Patch Unplugged Music Festival in Stonington, Connecticut, the weekend of August 9. This will be the first time in 37 years Scott and Doug will perform together. I’m still waiting to hear from Tom Stanson and Jeff Gray.

1971 Hilary Higgins Parker ’71, writes, “Husband, Tom, and I just finished our 28th year at Woodberry Forest School where he teaches English and I do project work for the academic dean and the development office. Son, Warren, graduated from Guilford College in ’07 and works in concert (music) production in Charleston, South Carolina.”

1972 from Texas, Sherry Hawes Conrad ’72, writes, “Bob and I am plan-
ning our fourth church. This one is called NewSong Covenant Church. Our daughter, Chelsea, just gradu-
ated from Trinity University in San Antonio. Sean (25) works for the TX Health Dept. in Austin. Christopher (28) is an eastern D.A. in Houston.”

Mark MacWilliams ’70 was promot-
ed to full professor in the Religious Studies department at St. Lawrence University, and looks forward to a year’s sabbatical – hopefully, part of the time in Japan, Iran, and points as yet unknown!”

1973 Eileen Minnock ’73, writes, “Mark and I celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary this year. We were able to use our dual/multiple stalls on a mission trip to Mexico, with our youngest daughter, Megan, in April. Our oldest, Sara, graduated with her MBA/CFA and is with KPMG in Pittsburgh. Our middle daughter, Marie, is in pre-med at Gannon. It’s a whirlwind with lots of travel to watch the girls play basketball and volleyball year-round.”

Margaret Mitchell ’73 updated the school on her recent retirement from Penguin Bookstore. “After 25 years of being a bookseller, I decided to ‘lighten up’ The 78-year Penguin tradition has been passed on to spe-
cial Sewickley people (Scott ’67 and Karen Fadzen) who are committed to the Village of the Arts in aspoon and
grow. Nothing has brought more joy into my life than placing the right books in the right hands at the right time for so many years. (A special thank you to Kay Kruse who installed my book passion beginning in second grade.) On to the next adventure!”

1974 Doug Rice ’70, and his daughter, Julie, celebrate their simultaneous graduation from Shenandoah University.
Charles Cross ’76 recently appeared on The News Hour with Jim Lehrer on May 12. He currently serves as the president of United Oil with an office in the north side of Pittsburgh.

Nicholas Gray ’77 sent in a recent update. “I want to send my sympathies to the Berringham family on the loss of their daughter, Tanya. We are all saddened by the loss of our friend and classmate. My family and I are getting ready for a return to the U.S. after three years living in Europe. It has been an exciting and educational opportunity for us here in Belgium, but we are looking forward to being back in our home country. We are hopeful it will be back to northern NJ where we had lived before this assignment. Ian just turned seven and is ready for his next grade!”

Brian Haas ’78 writes, “Dianne and I are still busy documenting as usual, but with fewer in the nest. My two stepchildren are globally dispersed: Eric is in San Francisco working for Bain Consulting; Simone is working for Weiden and Kennedy in Amsterdam on their Nokia account. As for my boys, Zachary is graduating from high school this May and appears to be headed to college here in Florida, despite my strong encouragement to explore another region of the country. His brother, Jackson, is four and a half. In the north side of Pittsburgh, we have a beautiful mountain retreat called Windemere. Understandably, all of our free time is now occupied coordinating schedules so that we can all see each other once in awhile! This and Texas No-limit Hold’em are my new hobbies: I hope to return to campus for our 30th (wow, can it really be?) reunion and to return to campus for our 30th (wow, can it really be?) reunion and will then be ordained as a priest). I am excited to announce that I have accepted a position as assistant rector at Redeemer Anglican Church, and we will be moving to Jacksonville, FL in June! We praise God for His faithfulness, His provision, His grace, and His guidance through these past few months and years. Please continue to pray for us as we seek to sell our house, determine where to live (schools, distance from church, etc), and as we prepare to relocate all that we are and have to sunny Jacksonville.”

Mark D. Moore ’81 updates us on his recent career move. “My latest career move lands me on the ground floor of a restructured community bank in northern Virginia – John Marshall Bank. We just completed a $22 million capital raise and are now off to the races! I serve as EVP and chief lending officer. Also, Julie and I are sending our oldest daughter (Lia) off to NC State and she felt – amazing how the years roll by! Best regards to all and hope to connect in 2008 if you’re in the DC area and need a loan, give me a call.”

Matthew Pilarski ’82 writes, “Robin, Jonathan, Jacob, and I have moved to Chicago. I, as I have been promoted to corporate director of food and beverage for Select Hotels which is part of the Global Hyatt Portfolio. I currently oversee all the food and beverage operations for all the Hyatt Place and Hyatt Summerfield Suites brands. We moved last September and are loving Chicago, Naperville, and all that they both have to offer. Look forward to hearing from anyone and everyone.”

Lorie Zug Quimby ’83 writes. “In 2005 we left Yale so my husband, Peter, could take a job as associate dean of the College at Princeton. University and I began working as a physican in the health center at Princeton. Our children are 14 and 11 years old.”

Bill Driscoll ’87 shared his future plans via email. “Three years ago, I retired from our family business after 14 years, and set out on a new journey. My first two years at the business was for the best with regard to my relationship with my dad and brother-in-law, but nonetheless the Lord made it clear it was time for the next thing – His next thing. My final day at the business was July 31, 2005, and I attended the MDIV program at Trinity School for Ministry in August. Fast forward to the present. I am currently taking the final two classes of my seminary career, will graduate on May 17th, and will then be ordained as a priest). I am excited to announce that we have a beautiful mountain retreat called Wineberry Hill. Where we have a beautiful mountain retreat called Windemere. Understandably, all of our free time is now occupied coordinating schedules so that we can all see each other once in awhile! This and Texas No-limit Hold’em are my new hobbies: I hope to return to campus for our 30th (wow, can it really be?) reunion and to return to campus for our 30th (wow, can it really be?) reunion and to return to campus for our 30th (wow, can it really be?) reunion and will then be ordained as a priest). I am excited to announce that I have accepted a position as assistant rector at Redeemer Anglican Church, and we will be moving to Jacksonville, FL in June! We praise God for His faithfulness, His provision, His grace, and His guidance through these past few months and years. Please continue to pray for us as we seek to sell our house, determine where to live (schools, distance from church, etc), and as we prepare to relocate all that we are and have to sunny Jacksonville.”

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Lucie Hoeh '93 writes, “I officially changed my name to Lucie Hoeh this year. I have lived here for almost a year and a half. I am enjoying my twelfth year at PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as a director in their Advisory services practice where I work primarily with energy and utilities companies aiding them on strategy and process. I recently travelled to Meadville, PA, to attend my sister, Lauren’s (SA ’03) graduation and I also watched my brother, Matthew (SA ’05) in the VPI&suot; tennis team finals. I made another trip back to Pittsburgh with my sister, Tammy (SA ’93), for my brother Matthew’s graduation from SA this year. I have also been reconnecting with some classmates on Facebook, including Brad Pasanek ’93, Greg Walters ’93, and Allan Daily ’93. It’s a good year to be a nerd.”

D. Staley ’93 shares, “This summer, I’m finishing my Ph.D. in computer science, marrying my sweetheart Jessica Evans, and moving back to Pittsburgh where I’ll be working for Google. We recently had the pleasure of attending the wedding of Jason Long ’93 and Deborah Eggeman, accompanied by Brad Pasanek ’93, Jason Fincke ’94, Jon Glance ’93, Greg Walters ’93, and Allan Daily ’93. It’s a good year to be a nerd.”

Nicole Althea Keane ’93 and her husband proudly announce the birth of their daughter, Lillian, on April 11. Nicole is enjoying being a stay-at-home mom to Lili.

Chris Burnham’s ’96 first graphic novel, Nixon’s Puls, published in March from Image Comics. The novel focuses on a parole officer for super-villains and is jam-packed with utter lunacy. Chris lives in Chicago and sanctions his writing by drawing pictures.

Randy Newman ’97 is currently working in Ypsilanti, MI, as an operations controller for an air cargo company, called Murray Air. He’s also a member of the Air Force Reserves located in Dayton, OH, as Wright-Patterson AFB and is going to Afghanistan in September. Randy is in civil engineering in the Reserve.

Brett Fulesday ’99 accepted the position of senior accountant with the Economic & Valuation Services department in the Pittsburgh office of KPMG in April 2008. Andrew Vincent ’99 recently founded Acta Interactive Incorporation which launched DropToMe.com. The site allows you to see what your friends like, discover things you’ll love through our amazing algorithm, while meeting new people who like what you like. It is social networking based on shared interests rather than shared e-mail addresses. It’s company is always looking for new users, and Andrew invites all of you to check out DropToMe.com!

Not completely satisfied with a B.S. and M.S. (in electrical and mechanical engineering, respectively), Casey Goodwin ’97 has decided to pursue his pursuit of an engineering Ph.D. Having not yet decided on the branch of engineering in which he’d like this degree, he has taken a position with Renaissance Polytechnic Institute’s Multidisciplinary Design Lab, a “trans-disciplinary” group that will allow him to take classes while putting off the decision for 10 years (or so we like to think). Non-standard career paths aside, he’s enjoying the bachelor’s lifestyle, and is exploring a handful of personal and professional hobbies along the way, including hybrid vehicle engineering, home brewing, SCUBA diving, and sporting events, among several others.

Elizabeth Burnham ’94 graduated cum laude from William and Mary in May. She was a member of Phi Alpha Theta History Honor Society, Kappa Delta, ballroom dance team, a facility supervisor at the Recreational Sports Center, a Tri Beta Ambassador for the Admissions Office, and a certified fitness instructor.

Laura’s (SA ’04) younger daughter Margaret (Meg) Evans South, daughter of Patrick and Lauren Echavarria ’04, was born on April 24, 2007. I graduated from Indiana University School of Law several years ago and worked briefly for an attorney specializing in adoptions, but now I am busier than ever as a full-time mom.”

Laura Thomas South ’94 and her husband, Patrick, (Quaker Valley High School Class of 1992), celebrated their daughter Margaret (Meg) Evans South’s first birthday this June.

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IN MEMORIAM ALUMNI

We wish to express our sincere condolences to all family and friends of the deceased.

MARY KNEECE ARMSTRONG '33

Mary Kneece Armstrong '33 died January 27, 2008, in Walpole, Massachusetts, of natural causes. Mary was the daughter of Charles J. and Margaret Kneece Armstrong, both of Quakertown, Pennsylvania, and had lived in New Hampshire since 2004. Mary's husband, daughters Martha A. Kneece and Mary Powers, and grandchildren Erin P. Powers and Allison A. Fuchlo, survive her. Marigay Gray Powers, and son, Charles Kneece Whobec '36, predeceased her. Mary enjoyed learning throughout her life, enrolling in microbiology and dendrology courses at UNC when in her 50s and 60s. In her decorative arts inspired her to volunteer at the Mint Museum, doing research on pottery.

ANNE BERGMANN '77

At sunrise on May 9, 2008, Anne Bergmann '77 passed away peacefully in her home with her husband, Chris Allsopp, son, Liam, and family and friends at her side. Anne was the cherished daughter of Pamela and Norris Bergmann of South Londonderry, Vermont, and beloved friend and sister to Jill Isbister '82 of Boulder, her four brothers Bill '70, Stephen '72, Douglas '74, and Thomas '76. "Tia" to 14 nieces and nephews. Born on January 10, 1956, in Greenwich, Connecticut, Anne was a 1974 graduate of Sewickley Academy. She raised her children in Wellesley, Massachusetts, where she met and married Chris. Anne placed a high value on being mother to her beloved son, Liam. Anne attended Tufts University, graduating in 1986. She pursued many interests including politics, serving as a precinct volunteer, and local radio station KGNU. Anne spent a sabbatical year, with her wife, Linda, and their two children, traveling around the world through the Semester at Sea program. Anne restored an 1811 farm house and passionately hiked their first mountain, swim, or fish. Through the encouragement and enthusiasm he displayed with friends of the Sewickley Academy and her community by engaging people with her naturally playful and positive personality and her enthusiasm for others. As a much-loved teacher in Boulder, Anne and her talents to work at Friend's University, Boulder Waldorf Kindergarten, Shining Mountain Waldorf School, and Shaleford Valley Waldorf School. Her summers were dedicated to running her own summer camp where both during and after hours, Anne always had time to teach each child to ride a bicycle, play tennis, hike their first mountain, swim, or fish. Through all of these experiences, Anne beautifully and inspiringly affected the lives of hundreds of youth. The enormity of Anne's open and generous heart allowed her to share her boundless love and generosity with all for life with everyone that she knew. Her spirit will live on in the loving words and actions of all who loved her. Anne's spirit showed through her commitment to volunteer efforts supporting many non-profits, the closest to her heart being local radio station KGUV.

CHARLES B. FORCEY '39

Charles B. Forcey '39 of Ft. Myers, Florida, President, Powers of America, History of Binghamton University, died on February 8, 2008, at age 83. His death was precipitated by severe anaphylactic reaction to a bee sting while on vacation in Mexico. Professor Forcey was born in Sewickley in 1925 and after the Academy, was educated at the University of Michigan and Princeton University. He then studied American History at Columbia University (M.A., Ph.D) where he continued his membership in Richmond Club and the University of Wisconsin (Ph.D, 1954, 1956). Charles served five years as a Peace Corps volunteer in Indonesia and has been a professional career included teaching at the University of Wisconsin and in Berlin, Germany. Charles was active in professional and political organizations and wrote "The Crossroads of Liberalism: Crusoe, Weyl, Lippmann and the Progressive Era, 1900-1925" and a "Strong and Free Nation", and edited many publications. Professor Forcey was in the U.S. Navy Reserve from 1943-46, serving as liaison to the Air Force in the Pacific. He is survived by his beloved wife of almost 41 years, Professor Emeritus Linda Rennie Forcey; and their son, Charles Budd Forcey III. He is also survived by his children, Blythe Forcey Toussaint and Peter Cotter Forcey, with his previous wife, Pamela Cotter Forcey; and his grandchildren, Peter Adam Nosh, and Margaret Nosh Myrick. He is also survived by siblings, Barbara Fran '38, Evelyn Gasko '48, and Harry Leonard Forcey '47. He was predeceased by his parents, Dr. Charles Budd Forcey and Evelyn Morang Forcey, and half-brother, William Forcey '29.

While teaching at Binghamton, "Petey," with his enthusiasm for life and his brilliant mind, restored a 1811 farm house and passionately cared for the 400 acres of maple trees, gardens and flowers that surrounded the Susquehanna River. Pete was also an avid sailor. He was a Fulbright lecturer at Xavier University, where he earned a degree in industrial education in 1986. He pursued many interests including politics, serving as a precinct volunteer, and local radio station KGNU. Anne spent a sabbatical year, with her wife, Linda, and their two children, traveling around the world through the Semester at Sea program. Anne restored an 1811 farm house and passionately hiked their first mountain, swim, or fish. Through the encouragement and enthusiasm he displayed with friends of the Sewickley Academy and her community by engaging people with her naturally playful and positive personality and her enthusiasm for others. As a much-loved teacher in Boulder, Anne and her talents to work at Friend's University, Boulder Waldorf Kindergarten, Shining Mountain Waldorf School, and Shaleford Valley Waldorf School. Her summers were dedicated to running her own summer camp where both during and after hours, Anne always had time to teach each child to ride a bicycle, play tennis, hike their first mountain, swim, or fish. Through all of these experiences, Anne beautifully and inspiringly affected the lives of hundreds of youth. The enormity of Anne's open and generous heart allowed her to share her boundless love and generosity with all for life with everyone that she knew. Her spirit will live on in the loving words and actions of all who loved her. Anne's spirit showed through her commitment to volunteer efforts supporting many non-profits, the closest to her heart being local radio station KGUV.

MARION COLLIN MOLLER '36

Marion Collin Moller '36, a resident of New York City since 1961, died on May 9, 2008, at age 83. Margaret was the daughter of Marion and Wilbur Moller of Shungansha, Maine, and granddaughter of Sewickley, Kennebunk River Club, Arundel Yacht Club, and the Acorn Club of Philadelphia. She is survived by her husband of five and children and grandchildren. Although she was frequently absent from arthritis in her senior years, she rarely ever spoke about her personal life. She was predeceased by her husband of 52 years, Marion Moller Jr., who died in 1998. She is survived by her four sons, Kenneth Mollers Jr. '62 of Brunswick, William Collin Moller '62, and John Moller '62, her brother, Richard Moller '73 of Birdshor, Pennsylvania, and her two sisters, Mary Linnard '41 and her daughter, Marion Elisabeth Davis '71 of Lyman, Maine. She is also survived by her two sisters, Helen Moller '36 and Elizabeth Biddle '33 of Ligonier, Pennsylvania, her two grandchildren and their caregivers, Sherry Black and Janice Dubois.

Charles was a graduate of Sewickley Academy, where he began his career at Colonial Steel in Monaca. When Colonial Steel was acquired by Alloy Steel Company, the Mollers transferred to Lego and Ruthcraft, an executive at the company for 35 years. Charles was preceded in death by his twin brother, William Kennedy Nimick, who died in infancy, his wife, Carolyn (Schmidt) Nimick; his parents, Francis Bailey Nimick Sr.; and his twin brother, William Kennedy Nimick, '32, and his sister, Eleanor Howe Nimick '35, '36, and his second wife, Mary (Spring) Nimick. Charles was succeeded by his brothers, Charles Bailey Nimick Jr. '32, and his sister, Eleanor Howe Nimick '35, '36, and his second wife, Mary (Spring) Nimick. Charles was a graduate of Sewickley Presbyterian Church, where he served as deacon, elder, trustee, and Sunday school teacher and loved being a member of the City of Latrobe as a member of the school board and was a 30-year member of the board of directors. He also volunteered to Torrente State Hospital. He served with the Alumni Association and founded a scholarship in his name at Exeter. He gave generously to numerous national charities and sponsored scores of children throughout the world.

We wish to express our sincere condolences to all family and friends of the deceased.

IN MEMORIAM FRIENDS OF THE SCHOOL

MARGARET KNETYK

Mother of Mary Ann Knetyk '73

Betty Norris Mother of Cynthia Norris Roberts '88, Scott A. Norris '74 and Robert W. Norris '73

Caroline Moody Roberts Mother of W. Drake '74 and Caroline Roberts Wrighting '76

Jean Seymour Michael of W. 86 and Henry 75 (Lisa Seymour Baker '77)

John W. Todd Father of Virginia "Gigi" Todd Pindrivel 82

William Wolof Father of Marietta Wolfe Renne '78, Ronald W. Wolfe '81, and Daniel A. Wolfe '84

IN MEMORIAM PARENTS OF ALUMNI

J. Sterling "SKIP" Davis

Married to Harriet J. Davis '33 and Catherine DAVIS '33, Candace Davis Palys '86, and Christine Davis Clark '78

Samuel Green

Father of Janet Green Gunn '67 and Matthew Green '71

Patricia Van Bree Houghton

Mother of Christine Houghton Asher '72

Heleen OSWALD HALL BEARD

Married to the late Drayton Osbourn '37, mother of Drayton '76, John '80, and Helen Hetherington '68, aunt to Elizabeth Osbourn '66 and Jeannette Osbourn '69

Margaret Knetyk

Mother of Mary Ann Knetyk '73

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IN MEMORIAM PARENTS OF ALUMNI
FROM RECORD PLAYERS TO IPODS®, TIMES HAVE CHANGED SINCE YOU WERE AT THE ACADEMY! MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR REUNION 2008 TO COME BACK TO SCHOOL AND CATCH UP WITH FRIENDS.

Visit www.sewickley.org/alumni/reunion2008 for updates and to register.

This photo and short story on the newly constructed Mary Ellen Davidson Building appeared in the Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph on March 24, 1957. If you are able to recognize any of these Kindergarteners, email mcolt@sewickley.org.