Former President speaks at Dedication Day
Potomac alumni shine at Oscars
School receives transformational gift
Iconic faculty retiring
The Potomac Term

Head of School
Geoffrey Jones

Director of Development
Christine Owens

Managing Editor
Deborah Kolt

Art Direction & Design
Catalone Design Co. LLC

Contributing Writers
Cort Morgan, Faculty ← John H. Arundel,
Class of 1981 ← Isabelle Conner Class of 2009 ←
Sheila O'Marah ← Jill Lucas ← Jinene Christian ←
Anita Homan ← Deborah Kolt

Contributing Photographers
Deborah Kolt ← Cohen/Wireimage ← Grani/Wireimage

The Potomac Term
1301 Potomac School Road
McLean, VA. 22101
Tel: 703.356.4100
Fax: 703.749.6308
www.potomacschool.org

The Potomac Term is published twice per year.
Send letters, comments, and article submissions to the
address above or email to alumni@potomacschool.org.

Alumni inquiries should be directed to The Potomac
School Alumni Office at: alumni@potomacschool.org.

Cover: Fourth grade science students take their study
of aerodynamics and atmosphere outside for some
experimentation with bubbles.

This issue of The Potomac Term has been printed on paper certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), which sets the highest social and environmental standards in the paper market. FSC ensures that forestry is practiced in an environmentally responsible, socially beneficial, and economically viable way.
Dear Friends,

In his book *Last Child in the Woods* Richard Louv argues that in today’s society, we are beginning to lose the ability to experience the natural world directly, that as we spend more and more time in front of the TV and computer, we lose an essential connection to who we are and our dependence on nature. We have no direct connection to the food we eat, the energy we use, and the life cycle of our planet’s plant and animal world. Our experience of life is less and less a primary one.

A host of recent studies shows that connectedness to the natural world is good not just for our health, but for our cognitive and emotional development. We are more creative and our senses more alive in nature. We benefit when we experience even a small part of the older, larger, natural world. Louv marvels that our connection with nature, that once seemed so timeless, has been so quickly lost. He calls this state “de-natured.” The ramifications for our children are already apparent—their experience of nature has been diminished and with it their experience of the senses, wonder, and awe.

At Potomac we have a long-standing appreciation of nature and a reverence for the spirit of place. Our teachers use the outdoors for exploration, for lessons of science and the environment, and for an appreciation of the aesthetic, thereby achieving an immersion in the “whole.” We are grateful for the foresight of our forebears who chose this magnificent campus and preserved its natural setting.

This spirit of place at Potomac is critical to who we are and what we want for our children. As every culture and civilization have understood, so do we understand, that our humanity is connected to our knowledge and understanding of nature. We want to ensure that every student experiences the sensory magic that nature provides and to appreciate its life-generating power. I firmly believe that learning and creativity are enhanced through this connection to nature, that it nurtures our intelligence and our spirit.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey A. Jones
Head of School

“The voice of nature is always encouraging.”

*Henry David Thoreau*
“Potomac’s greatest power is in the way it educates its students”

Lacey Huber, Class of 2007

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The mission of every school is stewardship, the cultivation of something one will never possess. The most obvious stewardship is the nurturing of young lives, and the essence of a school environment, of course, is an intangible fabric of relationships. The tangible surroundings, though, are inseparable from the experience. Turn-of-the-century philosophers and teachers like John Dewey and Maria Montessori recognized this reality, as did the founding families of The Potomac School. About a decade before the school appeared in a house on Dupont Circle, Walt Whitman, too, considered the effects of environment on children:

“There was a child went forth every day; And the first object he looked upon, that object he became; And that object became part of him for the day, or a certain part of the day, or for many years, or stretching cycles of years…”

*Leaves of Grass, Final Edition, 1892*
A Gift We Do Not Own
In our case, thanks to the remarkable foresight and generosity of five generations, Potomac has managed to acquire and to enhance 90 acres of land just a few miles from Washington. This tract is rich with human history, but even richer in its own deep and ancient presence, mute in spoken language, but eloquent to those who open all their senses. The rolling hills, crowned with our libraries, classrooms, courtyards, and playing fields, were only yesterday pastures and croplands. Our patriarchal trees shaded summer herds, and those pastured cattle shared their turf with the tents of Union soldiers. Our floodplain fields and our Pimmit Run trails only yesterday heard the creak of wagon wheels, and the clop of hooves, as farmers carted their goods to the sawmills and gristmills along the creek. Before that, matchless hunters honed the elegant points our students still spy in creekbed gravels. But these are recent stories.

The traditional concept of the “commons” is of land which every person shares and which no person possesses. Our rolling hills, hardwood groves, and twining streams are part of an unspeakably ancient pattern, etched on the land by time and the elements. Bedrock and clay, meadow flowers and secret tendrils, lightning, mist, raindrops, and spiky frost, dragonflies and bullfrogs, possums and whitetails, all have tenanted these 90 acres, and all still hold their prior claims. The mystery and the wonder of our “commons” is that within such a little parcel so much remains from former ages, to be experienced and loved. How could we not respect this gift, and pass it on? And what better use for this gift than as a place to teach children?

Just as the school community, with all its values and rituals, has been a spiritual common ground for five generations, so too, the campus land itself is a tangible common ground for all who have experienced it. So many of the School’s most memorable rites are tied to the cycles of the seasons, and the life of the land itself: Fall Frolics festivities spread out across what once were harvest pastures, Winter Assemblies gather in warm and radiant halls, fortified by song and storytelling against the outer chill, and May Day, the flowered crown of the school year, is celebrated on a green sward, beneath an ancient tree, new-leaved. The land and the life upon it have been and will be interlocked.

Challenges
As we express gratitude for our gift of land, we must also take responsibility for its health and integrity. As Wendell Berry has remarked,

“There are no unsacred places; there are only sacred places and desecrated places.”
- from “How to Be a Poet,” 2005

Our attitudes, our words, and most powerfully, our deeds, will teach the next generation what to do with our gift of land. Of course, The Potomac School, like every human community, is part of a greater context. It would be vain to pretend that all of our practices are perfect. We struggle with problems common to other institutions of our region and of the world. Our concerns are familiar ones, including reducing consumption and re-using materials, our paved land and its effect on storm-water runoff, our reduction of woodland areas and the effect on wild species, our new construction and its unforeseen consequences. These questions will demand our most thoughtful and conscientious attention for years to come.

Fortunately, as we move, daily, upon the land, the land also moves within us. Jane McAllister, Class of 1970 and Chair of the Centennial History Committee, wrote that former Headmistress Carol Preston recalled the decision to move the campus to McLean as “a joyous one… reached by the Board sitting by the light of a full moon under one of the big gum trees in an open meadow…” The beauty and the potential of our gift from that farsighted group is deeply appreciated today, and our present Potomac School community has more than its share of informed, dedicated, and active stewards. These people are making a difference on both a local and a global scale.

Here are thoughts on environmental stewardship from some of our modern stewards.

Peter Munroe, Teacher and Naturalist
Now in his fourth decade at Potomac, Peter began teaching here in 1969. Although retired, he continues to work with teachers and with students of all ages. The School’s most experienced and active steward of our land and resources, he has planned and executed a remarkable enhancement of the Nature Trail and its watershed.

“For the last 5-10 years, I’ve tried to get to the point of thinking about the environment in everything I do, all day
long... when I’m washing the dishes and taking the trash out. At first this was a bit of a strain, but later it became almost automatic. I try to examine and change my daily habits. Many of us have good intentions, we follow political issues, national and global developments, but this idealism doesn’t percolate down into our daily habits. How many shopping bags do I really need to carry home from a store?

“At some point, all students should be asked to grow something outdoors. They should feel what it is like to work with the soil, to work with plants, to have real, hands-on contact with nature. For children, hands-on experience is everything; they need to do something. Then, as time goes on, they are faced with problems to consider, and they begin to realize that the environment is a complex set of factors. They begin to ask themselves, ‘What should we be doing? Should we doing things differently? If the deer begin eating our tulips, how should we react? What are the different values of deer and tulips?’ All of this prepares childrens’ minds to think on a deeper level.”

**Cathie Kaplan**, Lower School science teacher and alumna, Class of 1973

*Cathie brings a unique mixture of personal and professional dedication to Potomac. In the Lower School garden and throughout the woodlands, her students experience nature with their minds and with all their senses.*

“Environmental stewardship is the responsibility that each human being has to respect and to protect the natural world. A school can cultivate stewardship through teaching and involving people of any age to appreciate the natural world and to understand how all life on earth is interconnected. What humans do to the Earth has an effect on all living things.”

**Matt Fagan**, Upper School science teacher

*Matt’s own background and approach to teaching combine the theory and the fieldwork of environmental science. In his Environmental Science elective for seniors,*

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Fifth graders Jessica Howard (left) and Jessica Cruzado bag trash along Pimmit Run during Earth Day.

Third graders learn to appreciate nature’s cycles as they plant and tend the Lower School garden.

Matt takes them far beyond the classroom, to understand the complexity of ecological issues.

“Environmental stewardship is taking ownership and responsibility for a place. I say ‘place’ purposefully, instead of environment, since place implies a concrete presence and understanding of land, an intimacy that can only come from caring and loving knowledge of the land. It means we cannot hide behind an abstract knowledge and an abstract commitment to do better: it means that we must care for the land and know it like our brother or our sister. When the land ails, it is a sickness that has stricken our family. Love moves us to take responsibility for the land’s health. And when the land is healthy, we laugh with the land. We have conversations with the land, and by taking the time to listen to it, we learn its wonderful secrets.

“A school is often, by necessity, four walls and a board to write on. It is hard to cultivate a true sense of stewardship in a school without going outside or bringing the outside in. To cultivate a sense of environmental stewardship among my students, I try to emphasize two principles: connectedness and responsibility. In my freshman Biology and AP Environmental
Science classes, I take my students around the campus regularly in the fall and spring to work on field labs. In class, I connect what they learn to environmental topics that interest them. I also take my AP class on field trips to the Potomac and Anacostia rivers, our local landfill, our local water treatment plant, and our local coal-fired power plant. There, I try to show them that they are part of nature and that the waste they produce and the electricity they consume have a source and an end in nature.”

Lacey Huber, Student, Class of 2007
A co-founder of Students for Environmental Action (SEA), Lacey has worked hard to improve Potomac’s recycling program and to keep her schoolmates aware of contemporary environmental issues.

“Everything we do affects the environment. Environmental stewardship is a conscious effort to impact the world in a beneficial way, and to encourage others to do the same.

“Potomac’s greatest power is in the way it educates its students. When children learn about environmental stewardship at an early age, it is something that will stick with them for the rest of their lives. Environmental education is as important as any other subject taught at Potomac. As a school, we should use our bountiful outdoor resources to teach students about the environment, both its joys and its problems.”

Anne Sprunt Crawley, alumna, Class of 1969, and current parent
At the U.S. Department of Energy, Anne has worked since 1993 to make federal buildings sustainable, including the “Greening of the White House” project. She helps government agencies create and maintain environmentally responsible buildings. Recently, Anne offered her expertise in the planning process for Potomac’s new Lower School.

“In the big picture, environmental stewardship is caring for and managing the environmental resources of the planet so that those resources are available for people and ecosystems in the future. Environmental resources are the things that allow the ‘web of life’ to continue. These resources are clean air and water, land that can support life, and the plants and animals that live in the ecosystems of the planet.

“For The Potomac School, environmental stewardship is protecting the environmental resources of the beautiful campus, and the resources of the direct community of the school. These include resources in the Washington area and the Chesapeake Bay watershed, from Pimmit Run to the ocean, materials that the school community uses, the waste stream of those materials, energy, water, healthy indoor environments. The list can get pretty long.”

Potomac’s woodlands, grassy meadows, streambed, and ponds are a rich learning environment for students.
Where the Wild Things Are
The Importance of a Child’s Natural Exploration

By Isabelle Conner, Class of 2009

In an essay for English class, Potomac sophomore Isabelle Conner described her childhood summers spent running free on Wilmington Island, Georgia and reflected on the influence that days spent outside exploring the environment had upon her view of the world and herself. The following is an excerpt from her conclusion.
After spending eleven summers on Wilmington Island, where each morning began at dawn, each night ended long, long after sunset, and spending the majority of time outside, with no barrier between me and the heavens, I developed an intense, extremely personal relationship with my low-country land, one that eventually expanded to a relationship with all of nature, extending beyond the park at home where I played and my friends’ and school’s trimly manicured lawns. Despite current parenting practices, which dictate that children must be supervised at all times and that warn the world is far too dangerous for a child to encounter alone, children absolutely must develop a relationship with nature, one that is their own: organic and tangible. Children need to feel the thick warmth of sun-baked mud oozing between their small fingers, the damp fragility of decomposing tree branches in their palms, the roughness of a fish’s scales, the satisfaction of catching, cooking, and picking their own crab feast, the insidious, navy darkness of the night, otherwise they will never understand and fall in love with nature. Children must feel the compulsion to run outside, in the woods, on the beach, and muck in the foul-smelling marsh, free from the purported safety of their homes, their parents’ convictions and beliefs, or they will never become whole people, no matter the steeliness of their character, the prestige of their education, or their success in a material and contrived world, if they do not develop a complex intimacy with a natural, tangled, unmarred place, as this relationship is perhaps one of the most basic components of mankind’s existence.

Nature has always been an important part of a Potomac education.

Environmental stewardship at Potomac takes on a variety of forms. Our science classes in Lower and Middle School develop the interest and habit of observing nature on our campus, the first step in becoming aware of the richness of our environment. Our eighth graders are currently partnering with scientists as our campus becomes a Smithsonian biodiversity monitoring site. Our Intermediate School continues a decade-long recycling program, recently expanded by our Upper School environment club, Students for Environmental Action (SEA). This group is raising money to plant trees around the new Upper School and will organize the School’s Earth Week celebrations. And to help coordinate and enhance our stewardship efforts, parent volunteers are starting a new Environmental Stewardship committee. Some of the goals of this group are to:

- Stimulate use of the campus landscape by teachers and students
- Review large and small development plans
- Create coherency in the campus landscape
- Plan actively for the future of the campus landscape
- Make informed and responsible choices of planting materials
- Provide information on best practices of land use and horticulture

The committee’s initial project is to restore the Environmental Science Garden outside the Intermediate School. One of our US students is creating a design for the garden that will enhance the appearance of this area and the view from the Upper School, as well as serve as a hands-on learning opportunity.
Mapping the Woods

Potomac’s campus has been designated a Smithsonian Institution biodiversity monitoring site. Our students are learning to map, identify species, and collect data as the School participates in this world-wide program.

Created in 1986, the Smithsonian’s Monitoring and Assessment of Biodiversity Program helps assess and monitor biodiversity around the world. Smithsonian scientists work with governments, non-governmental organizations, academics, and community groups, training individuals to collect data on species growing in their area, concentrating on temperate and tropical forested regions. The ultimate goal of the program is to foster the use of sustainable natural resources.

Working with science teacher Mary Cahill, Smithsonian scientists selected and surveyed a one hectare plot in the wooded area adjacent to Pimmet Run. Then, in February, Smithsonian scientist Jennifer Buff arrived on campus to instruct Ms. Cahill’s seventh grade students on the proper way to map and identify the tree species in Potomac’s plot. Tramping through the woods on a chilly fall day, students began mapping and tagging the trees in the first quadrants. Mapping will continue throughout the spring.

Eventually, students in all divisions will be able to use this plot to study biodiversity and design projects for their science classes.

New Look, Old Values

The Potomac School’s new Upper School facility, which includes new Tundra and East buildings and a renovated original building, was designed to be energy efficient and environmentally sound and sustainable. In keeping with the original design of Potomac’s campus, the architects sought ways to link indoor spaces to the outdoors.

The environmentally-green buildings strengthen our school-wide focus on environmental stewardship that includes a 12-year-old recycling program and a comprehensive bus transportation system with 30 buses running on biodiesel*, reducing the number of cars commuting to campus and serious air pollutants such as carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, and particulate matter.

Renovation of the Existing US Building

The decision to renovate rather than replace the original Upper School initiated an environmentally sound building process. The renovation included upgrading to energy efficient windows and lighting and resulted in cost-savings as well as environmental benefits.

*Biodiesel is a domestically-produced renewable fuel manufactured from natural, renewable sources. We use soy biodiesel delivered to a tank on campus. All Neighborhood and Shuttle buses (30) use biodiesel. The remaining 16 buses are gas-powered because they are used for athletic and other trips where access to biodiesel is limited.
Green Roof
A highlight of the new East building is the green roof over the biology labs. Green roofs are covered or partially covered with vegetation and soil. They reduce dependence on artificial heating and air conditioning systems. Our science teachers will integrate the green roof in the curriculum.

Roofing materials used on all three buildings were selected to reflect light and conserve energy.

Window Quality and Orientation
The buildings’ many windows take advantage of natural light. All windows in the Upper School are made of special glass tinted with a low-emittance (Low-E) coating, the most heat-efficient material in building design. Some have a ceramic frit fused to the glass surface that acts like a blind and reduces heat build up.

The type of glass used in the windows varies, depending on their orientation. For example, north- and east-facing windows have clear Low-E coating; south and west windows have additional green tinting to further reduce heat gain.

All windows can be opened to avoid using air-conditioning during comfortable spring and fall days. Rooms at ground level have doors to the outside to allow easy access to the outdoors.

New Technology in Lighting
Energy efficient lighting is installed throughout the Upper School. The classroom lights provide both downlight and uplight. The uplight is bounced off the ceiling for light quality and efficiency. Corridor lights outside classrooms use a new technology for light quality.

Occupancy sensors for light switches ensure that the lights go off when classrooms and staff offices are empty.

Hand Sensors in Restrooms
Hand sensors on restroom faucets ensure that water is not left running longer than needed.

HVAC Plant
Building a dedicated plant and thus using the same equipment to serve multiple buildings will result in significant energy savings over time.
Far from the shimmering klieg lights of Hollywood’s Oscar night, the lights in The Potomac School’s drama department in McLean were dark March 4, while 3,000 miles away four of its Academy Award-nominated alumni walked the red carpet. By the end of the evening, two of the school’s graduates emerged victorious, clutching shiny statuettes and fulfilling dreams of winning the ultimate industry accolade.

By the next morning, the hallways of Potomac were buzzing with the news that Davis Guggenheim, a 1979 graduate, had won an Academy Award for Best Documentary for his film, “An Inconvenient Truth,” and first-time screenwriter Michael Arndt, a Great Falls native who attended Potomac from 1974 to 1981 and graduated from Langley High School in 1984, had won the Original Screenplay Oscar for “Little Miss Sunshine.”

Also nominated with ties to Potomac were musician Teddy Shapiro ’93, who wrote the score for “The Devil Wears Prada,” and Hunter Gray ’93, who produced the film “Half Nelson.”

“Arts at The Potomac School encourage and engage everyone in the creative use of stories, drama, and music in pioneering ways,” said Head of School Geoff Jones.

While in Hollywood there were no on-air salutes to favorite high school drama teachers, Arndt did tell the worldwide television audience of more than a billion people that he drew inspiration for his winning script from the Volkswagen bus that ferried him to and from school every day from their home in Great Falls, and on extended family trips. “When I was a kid, my family drove 600 miles in a VW bus with a broken clutch,” he said, describing a road trip that mirrored the film’s plot. “It ended up being one of the funnest things we did together.”

Ah yes, the yellow bus.

As Michael’s classmate at Potomac from kindergarten through sixth grade, I vividly recall Mrs. Arndt picking up Michael and his twin brother David after school every day in that beat-up, banana-colored beatle bus with the noisy muffler. Mr. Seely, the larger-than-life head of the Lower School, would loudly call out the boys’ names as the bus pulled up, and they’d dutifully pile into the back, leaving us behind to take in that

Al Gore next to his film partner, 1979 Potomac School graduate Davis Guggenheim, Sunday night after the Oscars. © 2007 Grani/Wireimage
An odorous plume of inky black exhaust it left as a calling card.

At our 25th reunion last June, Michael and I happened to be standing near the site of our childhood car pool line, reminiscing, and I asked him whatever had become of the legendary bus, which for some reason had defined my only memories of the Arndt boys. “We retired it decades ago,” he responded wistfully. “But funny you should ask, because I’ve just written a screenplay about it.”

I thought little of the comment, not because I doubted his extraordinary writing ability, but figuring a screenplay about a rickety old bus would have little traction in Hollywood, where it appears screenplays get picked up these days more for their whiz-bang special effects and saucy writing than for their ability to tug a heart string. Besides, he told me it was his first screenplay.

A critical favorite
But the summer 2006 release of the road comedy became a critical favorite, collecting $50 million in box office revenues and a string of awards for the independent film. Suddenly, the low-budget film that Arndt originally thought was “dead,” subsequently experienced, in his words, “Murphy’s Law in reverse.” At the awards ceremony, Arndt thanked the cast and crew—repeatedly—for helping bring to life his cherished screenplay. “I was unemployed when I wrote this script and I didn’t have an agent,” he told a reporter from Variety backstage. “I feel this is my first big shot, and the fact that they did such a great job bringing these characters to life really saved my life.”

Arndt is no longer jobless, having signed a lucrative writing deal with Pixar Studios to pen “Toy Story 3.” This is the same studio he bested for top screenplay honors on Sunday, something for which he expects some teasing on his first day of work there. “They’re a pretty merciless bunch,” he said. “It’s the one place where you can get an Oscar nomination and they just say, ‘cool, you’ve got one,’ because they’ve won so many Oscars. I work across the hall from Gary Rydstrom, who’s won seven Oscars. I’m sure I’ll get lots of ribbing when I get up to Pixar.”

Guggenheim’s Oscar journey
Davis Guggenheim, according to Potomac’s yearbooks, was also involved in the school’s dramatic arts program, starring in several plays and interning for his father, the legendary producer Charles Guggenheim. Grace and Jonathan Guggenheim are 1974 and ’75 graduates of Potomac, respectively, and Grace is an acclaimed filmmaker in her own right. Davis Guggenheim, 46, now lives in Los Angeles with his wife, the actress Elizabeth Shue, and their three children. He’s currently producing the film “Gracie,” inspired by Shue’s teenage years, in between directing for television recently completed episodes of “The Shield,” “Alias” and “24,” as well as the critically acclaimed programs “ER” and “NYPD Blue.”

When Davis was growing up in McLean, his father won his first Academy Award in 1968 for “Robert F. Kennedy Remembered,” a documentary about his lifelong friend and McLean neighbor culled from thousands of feet of film he’d shot of RFK over the years.

In 2002, several months after his death, Charles Guggenheim was honored at the Academy Awards with a lifetime achievement award. At the time, he held the record for most Academy Award nominations for documentaries (11) and the most Oscars for documentary short subjects. In a paternal salute Sunday at the Oscars, Davis said, “This is for you, Dad.”
Upper School Dedication Day May 2, 2007

“A dedication signifies both completion and beginning. We stand witness to an incredible achievement—the completion of the new Upper School. But at the same time, we are participating in a beginning as our students progress from one division to the next and upon graduation, to the world beyond Potomac.”

Dorothy McAuliffe, Chairman, Board of Trustees.
It was a day of dedication, celebration, and gratitude for the teaching, values, and community that have inspired generations of Potomac students. More than 600 parents, alums, and trustees joined us to formally dedicate our new Upper School and for student tours, a festive luncheon honoring donors, and a student assembly with former President Bill Clinton. The theme for the day was Building Enlightened Leadership. Each division participated by selecting a theme to support the School’s mission and conducted a series of classes, projects, and other initiatives to commemorate the day.

Lower School focused on Stewardship and celebrated with a special Earth Day assembly, buddy classes involving nature, and posters urging protection of the environment. The students created the inspiring slogan, “Take care of yourself, take care of each other, and take care of this place.”

Middle School considered Generosity of Spirit. The students held class meetings to discuss integrity and generosity and how to express those qualities. Activities included a “Mix It Up” lunch, encouraging children to reach out to diverse groups of friends; a picnic and clean-up along Pimmit Run; teambuilding activities; and an exploration of the Clinton Foundation Web site.

The Intermediate School illustrated their theme Independent Voices through student documentaries, sculpture, a mock courtroom, a genetic research showcase, public speaking, and a discussion of the First Amendment.

And the Upper School, under the banner of Building Enlightened Leadership, demonstrated how Potomac students learn best by learning together as they joined their fellow students in every division partnering on the projects described above.

President Clinton Engaged and Challenged Students
Former President Bill Clinton engaged Potomac students in grades 8-12 in a discussion of our 21st century world—where it is now and where citizens might lead it—and answered students’ thoughtful questions that ranged from the environment, to the role of religion, to whether the U.S. should advocate for democracy in the world.

He said that every citizen should be able to ask and answer five questions. Those questions included, “What is the fundamental nature of the 21st century world?” President Clinton answered “interdependence,” which he called both good and bad. He said that interdependence is good for richer nations like the U.S., but for half the world’s people, it is not a good thing. He said we should move from interdependence to “integrated communities” where every individual has opportunity, responsibility, and a genuine sense of belonging.

President Clinton spoke to America’s future. He said that as long as we “keep getting better at home and keep reaching out” we will remain a profoundly important country. “We are much more an idea than a race, or even a piece of land. America is an idea that is constantly capable of becoming.”

President Clinton challenged the students to start a Potomac NGO, where every year a student board would decide on a project. “You could do it, and I’d be glad to help you set it up,” he said.

Before the presentation in the Langstaff Auditorium, President Clinton met with the senior class. He recounted his advice to them: “Study something you love and push yourself to the limits; spend as much time as you can trying to get to know people who are very different from you—politically, culturally, religiously—because we live in a world where we can’t escape each other. And stay in touch with your friends from high school.”

We Recognized Key Leaders
On this special occasion we recognized the members of the Founders Fund, whose leadership and generosity made the new
Upper School possible, with the unveiling of the Founders Fund Wall in the Tundra Building. The Kettler Crossroads was dedicated in recognition of the gifts of time, talent, and generosity given to the Campaign by Bob and Charlotte Kettler. In addition, the most generous gift in the School’s history was announced. Rich and Chris Fairbank have committed $12 million to fully fund the construction of the new Lower School.

The Campaign for Potomac’s Future:
Setting the Pace for the 21st Century
The Potomac School continues to lead the way in building a national model for excellence in K-12 education. Fusing our vision, programmatic excellence, and our essential values ensures the kind of education that will prepare our students to be 21st century leaders. Fundamental to Potomac’s future growth is our ability to provide top notch facilities, attract top tier faculty, and build a robust endowment.

Together with over 300 families who have contributed to the Campaign, we have achieved 79% of our $50 million goal. We have gifts of every size and each one is making a difference.

The Campaign for Potomac’s Future celebrated a milestone September 7, 2006 with the opening of the new Upper School. The new structure accommodates the current 319 students and allows for the expansion of up to 400 in planned enrollment, bringing Potomac’s Upper School numbers closer to our peer schools. The building offers a host of new classrooms and labs, a 4,750 square foot library, a three-story “Crossroads” gathering place, a tiered college-style lecture hall, expanded visual art studios, and a Black Box Theater. The new classroom spaces allow greater flexibility in course offerings and scheduling, as well as science labs for advanced research. The building was designed to be environmentally sound and energy efficient, incorporating a maximum of natural light and a green roof biology/botany laboratory.

Our new Lower School will be designed to reflect our respect for childhood, play, and joyful learning. Scheduled for completion in 2009, the new structure will feature an expanded library, art display areas, a

Since President Clinton’s visit, a team of Upper School students and teachers have begun the process of making a commitment to the Clinton Global Initiative (CGI). In essence, this partnership would support Potomac in creating a project to address one of the four global challenges of the CGI mission. As one of the specific goals of the project, we would explore the viability and benefits of forming an NGO to organize and pursue our objectives.
gymnasium, and outdoor gathering areas. Through the intentional creation of cozy nooks and crannies, and expanded assembly spaces, the design preserves an integral and cherished part of The Potomac School’s culture.

Endowment growth is a top priority. Nearly 30 percent of campaign dollars will be directed to financial aid, faculty professional development, and operating support for the new facilities. Attracting and retaining first-rate faculty members is among the highest priorities. Compensation and professional development for our faculty accounts for nearly 70 percent of our budget. Our goal is to increase the endowment by $1.5 million in support of faculty professional development.

Cultural and socio-economic diversity is a similarly high priority at The Potomac School. Currently, over 11 percent of tuition and related fees received by the School are allocated to financial aid. In order to secure this commitment now and into the future, our goal is to increase the endowment by $3.5 million.

As we move forward, we encourage and invite everyone to join this community-wide effort to complete The Campaign for Potomac’s Future.

To see the videocast of President Clinton’s address to Potomac students go to the Potomac School Web site www.potomacschool.org, click “In the News” at the bottom of the page and see “Potomac Podcasts.”
Potomac’s Debate Club, whose members had never before competed or traveled, entered the world of competition this fall with stellar results. A high school team is normally required to debate in the Novice Division throughout its first year of competition. However, on the strength of wins in their initial outings, the Panthers quickly moved up to the junior varsity level. By mid-February, four team members had qualified for the Harvard Tournament, the largest in the United States. It was not unusual for Potomac debaters with two months of experience to find themselves facing opponents who had been competing for two years. Nevertheless, three of the four made it into the semifinals. Two Panthers qualified for the city trials.

The Potomac team’s accomplishments are particularly remarkable considering their youth and inexperience. Five of the six members of the Panther team are underclassmen; the sole upperclassman is a junior. None had ever debated competitively before the beginning of this season. They are also dedicated. The debate season extends from just after Labor Day until late spring, during which team members usually prepare for two hours a day.

Potomac parent Thomas Rollins, father of first grader Tommy Rollins, provided the catalyst that propelled the Debate Club into competition. Rollins was a debater in high school in part, he says, because sports were not a viable option for a 4’11”-80-lb freshman. Debate quickly became his life, and he continued to compete throughout college. Today, Rollins still considers debate the most important part of his education.

Despite the fact that his son is still eight years from the Upper School, Rollins proposed the creation of a Potomac debate team and then followed through by helping prepare the students for competition. Parent participation has always been a hallmark of Potomac life, but it is rare to find a parent involved with students three divisions older than his own child. When asked about Potomac’s Upper School students, Rollins characterized them as wonderful young people who are delightful to work with. Expecting to meet typical “kids,” Rollins says he found himself relating to the Potomac US students more as peers with less life experience than as teenagers. Rollins predicts that most of these very talented team members will rise to the Varsity Division next year and expects them to qualify for five to six debates of national caliber.

Mimi Dwyer and Adam Gerchik discuss strategy.
A National Geographic film crew spent the day on campus this winter documenting a Potomac sixth grade science class project on hurricanes and building design. During the exercise, teams of five to six students designed and constructed buildings using paper, cardboard, popsicle sticks, duct tape, clay, etc. All materials had an assigned price. Students later discussed the correlation between cost of a structure and its ability to withstand a hurricane.

The complex project required each team to create a design, select appropriate materials, establish a budget, and finally construct a building. The completed edifices were then subjected to increasingly heavy wind, using fans, water, and finally a leaf blower, to simulate gale-force storms.

For 16 years, Potomac’s MS science students have participated in the JASON project, a multi-disciplinary research initiative directed by renowned scientists to inspire in students a life-long passion for learning in science, math, and technology. Science teacher Mary Cahill has been actively involved with the project. The footage shot at Potomac was used to create an instructional CD for science teachers and is available as part of the JASON curriculum program. The JASON project was founded in 1989 by explorer Dr. Robert Ballard and was named in the spirit of the Greek myth of Jason and the Argonauts.

The testing phase began with water and a mild fan, then moved outdoors where a member of the Potomac ground crew aimed a leaf blower at each structure.

Duct tape was a popular, and effective, building material.
Running the Table
Mike Schroer

Head Coach, Cross Country, Indoor Track, and Varsity Track and Field

Stop by the track in the afternoon and you’ll see groups of students involved in what appear to be completely random activities. Some are on the ground stretching, another group circles the track, a few are off practicing baton handoffs. But observe more closely and you realize that all this activity is being subtly choreographed by Coach Mike Schroer, a man who multi-tasks so well that he can yell split times and encouragement to a passing group of runners while simultaneously distracting his small daughter from taking up residence in the middle of the track.

Mike’s career is the perfect example of how friends can shape your life. As a high school freshman, he tried out for track because a friend was doing it. His coach encouraged Mike to stick with running and by the time he graduated from Clarkstown High School South four years later, the Nyack, New York native was an eight-time State Champion and National Champion in the 800 meters. He garnered a full scholarship to Georgetown University, where he was an All-American for three years. After college, the mid-distance runner ran professionally for Reebok Enclave and twice competed in Olympic trials.

In spring 2001, Mike became Potomac’s Assistant Track Coach. His responsibilities quickly expanded, and Mike now coaches both the boys and girls cross country and track and field teams during all three seasons.

Mike has developed Potomac athletes to extraordinary levels in just six years. Panther track and field athletes are now invited to public school meets, which tend to be more competitive than the independent school circuit. The girls team has dominated the ISL for the past four years, and the boys just won their first-ever MAC Track and Field Championship. The girls captured the Virginia state track and field title for the first time this spring. On a national level, the first Potomac runner to attend track Nationals qualified in 2004. This past March, six girls qualified for the Indoor Nationals.

This success has been achieved by making the best out of the available talent. None of our runners were recruited; Mike takes the students who come out for track and coaches them to success at the league, state, regional, and national levels. A superb training program combined with the personal touch gets results. Students still talk about one cross country runner who started the season in September running a 20:30; by the end of November, she was the 14th fastest in the U.S., having cut her time to 17:02.

Mike loves to coach, and the affection clearly runs both ways. His athletes describe “Coach Mike” as someone who gets excited about every athlete’s success, and who knows exactly what each athlete needs to do and hear to achieve his or her best. Mike’s memory is legendary among team members: he is credited with remembering every athlete’s personal best times as well as knowing their friends, boyfriends, and pets, despite commuting from as far away as Baltimore.

“Once people start running for Coach Mike, they keep running,” says Charlotte Lawson, Class of 2005. “He’s the best high school track coach in the country.” Mike was just honored as Boys Track Coach of the Year by The Washington Post.

The only sad note is that Mike’s tenure at Potomac is limited. At the end of next year, his wife Amy Ross, also a former Georgetown and professional runner, will complete her medical residency. Then she owes the military five years of service. They don’t yet know where she will be posted, but Mike will follow. In the meantime, expect Potomac’s runners to continue breaking records.
Panther Spirit

White Out. Black Out. Orange Aid. During the 2007 varsity boys basketball season, school spirit blossomed in brilliant color. Varying the theme from game to game, students announced a color theme before the game, then attended dressed in color-coordinated splendor. At some games the student section was dressed all in white for a “White Out.” Other games had a “Black Out” theme where everyone wore black. Orange was also a popular choice. The new color themes seemed to inspire both higher attendance and louder cheering.

Half-time entertainment further ramped up the excitement this winter. A team made up of male faculty and staff fell to the 8th grade IS boys basketball team in a half-time exhibition, while their female counterparts handily defeated a team of senior girls in half-time play. A community service free throw contest entertained spectators at yet another game.

In a spontaneous show of spirit, the student section began singing a spirited rendition of Potomac’s alma mater in the waning minutes of Potomac victories. Rumors suggest that students may be composing a fight song, but for now the alma mater seems to be working out just fine.

An all-school pep rally kicked off Homecoming 2006. Students in each division prepared and performed a cheer,

Each division contributed a distinctive cheer to the All-School Homecoming 2006 Pep Rally.

A February “White Out” drew an unprecedented standing room crowd to see the Panthers defeat conference rival Flint Hill 53-44.

IS students urged the crowd to cheer for P-O-T-O-M-A-C.

and the Potomac Panther treated the crowd to a tug of war victory over an impressive group of other team mascots led by Slapshot from the Washington Capitals Hockey Club.
Conventional wisdom says that track is a solitary pursuit. But attend just one meet, and that misconception is quickly dispelled. A single runner may be at the starting block for Potomac, but once the starter’s pistol fires, teammates crowd the edge of the track to yell encouragement. Their voices are clearly heard over the roar of the crowd.

In part, this camaraderie comes from the structure of meets. Each athlete competes alone in his or her own event. But the competition for a team title, much more difficult to win, means everyone’s contribution is vital, every event contributes points for the team. So no matter how intense and competitive they are during their individual events, Panther athletes value their teammates’ success as much or more than their own.

There are 65 students on the track and field team this spring, meaning nearly 20% of the Upper School runs, jumps, or throws. There are actually three track seasons at Potomac. Cross country competes in the fall, while track and field occupies the spring season. The newest sport, indoor track and field, was introduced in 2004, making it possible for track and field athletes to compete throughout the academic year. (Indoor track is known by most students as “winter track,” since the hearty Panthers practice outdoors throughout the late fall and winter months. Some occasionally get to warm up by shoveling snow off the track.)

Charlotte Lawson, Class of 2005 and in her sixth season of track at the University of Pennsylvania, credits track’s popularity at Potomac to an incredible coach and an environment where older team members support and encourage underclassmen. Preparation for success in other sports has also drawn some Potomac athletes. After one season when all the freshman girls who ran winter track and tried out for lacrosse made the varsity team, track experience came to be seen as a real advantage.

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Samantha Adelberg, shown here at the Nike Indoor Nationals, received Honorable Mention in The Washington Post All Met selections this winter for her Indoor Track accomplishments.

Potomac track has grown not just in popularity, but also in success. In the fall, the girls cross country team captured their first ever Division II Virginia Independent School Athletic Association (VISAA) State Championship. Meanwhile, the boys cross country team finished third in the state. Senior Michaeline Nelson placed second in the girls competition, as did junior Johns Ross in the boys. In league action, the boys team won the MAC for the first time since 1988. The girls took second place in the ISL for the second year in a row.

2007 was the first year that the VISAA held a state championship meet for indoor track and field events. Although this was only the third year of Potomac’s program, our girls team took second place in the state; the boys placed eighth. Panther athletes captured first place in five events at the state level: senior Morgan Watts in shot put, senior Samantha Adelberg in the 300m and 500m runs, Johns Ross in the 3200m run, and the Girls 4x400 relay team consisting of Catherine Cook (sr), Natalie Heintz (jr), Trish Brandt (fr) and Samantha Adelberg.

Our talented track and field athletes have also made their mark in national competition. Six girls—five runners and one field athlete—qualified for the Nike Indoor Nationals held in Landover, Maryland in March. The 1600m sprint relay team of Cook, Heintz, Brandt, and Adelberg finished 10th in the nation. Adelberg and Michaeline Nelson finished 12th and 16th, respectively, in the 800m run. And in her first appearance at the national level, Potomac thrower Morgan Watts placed 33rd in shot put.

Head Coach Mike Shroer expects the girls to continue to improve. The boys, he says, are making steady progress and are now on the brink of making the jump up to competition at the national level.
Squash Team Nationally Ranked

Although our program is barely a decade old, Potomac squash players have already debuted on the national stage. This winter, both the boys and girls teams qualified for the U.S. High School National Squash Championship for the second year in a row. The boys team ended the 2007 competition ranked 15th in the nation; the girls finished 25th.

Potomac teams have been equally impressive in conference play. The boys were undefeated in the conference this year, and have captured the conference title three out of the last four years. The girls came in third in 2007. Both teams compete in the Mid-Atlantic Conference, an association of schools in Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, the District of Columbia, and Virginia with squash programs.

Head Coach Wendy Lawrence describes the current crop of Potomac squash players as especially strong. For example, the boys number 1 and 2 players, seniors Nick Echeverria and Alex Gross, were ranked 8th and 20th, respectively, in the nation in the 17 and under category. Both were heavily recruited to play squash in college: Echeverria will be playing for Bates College and Gross for Tufts.

Coach Lawrence, who is a strong fan of cross training, points out that Echeverria and Gross are excellent examples of the benefits of playing multiple sports. Both compete frequently in squash tournaments, but also have strong commitments to Potomac’s soccer program, where they were varsity starters.

Echeverria and Gross have played squash since they were five or six years old, but many of the boys playing for Potomac took up the sport within the last four years. This year’s varsity team also included two freshmen: Bryan Keating and Zander Nassikas. Keating, who is the team’s number 3 player, is already nationally ranked.

The Intermediate School squash program is critical to the success of the Upper School squash teams, says Coach Lawrence. Squash remains very popular among IS students—this year 46 students tried out for the team.
We bid farewell to eight retiring faculty and staff whose dedication and talent have made a lasting impression on generations of Potomac students. They have logged a combined 136 years of service to our community. We wish them all the best.

Gail Nields > 31 years

In 1976, two years after her oldest children had graduated from Potomac, Mrs. Nields learned that the school was searching for a teacher of Comparative Government. She drew up a proposal for this new course and began a 31-year career at Potomac.

Mrs. Nields taught 9th grade until the Upper School was opened and she moved to the US History Department. She credits her long tenure to the atmosphere at Potomac, saying, “It is a great place to be.” Plus, the move to the high school felt like the beginning of a second career at a new school. As for future plans, Mrs. Nields plans to complete a book she is writing on the history of New York.

Her colleague in the History Department, Dr. William Brown, reminisces about Mrs. Nields’ time at Potomac.

“As I prepare to leave Potomac, I have been reflecting on my fourteen years at the school. At the heart of those reflections is my colleague Gail Nields. It was Gail, then History Department Chair, who brought me to Potomac. Yes, she made me go through the whole teacher applicant routine, including teaching a class (as I recall it was something about class conflict in ancient Rome). And now, as we retire together, we have been sharing the exciting opportunities and looming uncertainties awaiting us. Actually, I first met Gail when I was the Academic Dean and College Counselor at The Madeira School, and she was the parent of Madeira students. Our daughters, we each have three, grew up alongside each other in classes and summer theater programs. Along the way there has been abundant good humor. During our time together at Potomac, we both have become grandparents and have helped each other learn that role, bragging to each other about our splendid grandchildren, sharing anxieties about our children’s parenting. As Gail retires, Potomac loses a giant, a master teacher, a founder of the Upper School, a guardian of the school’s academic rigor, and an insistent, patient nurturer of her students. One of the particular pleasures of my Potomac tenure has been sharing with Gail the teaching of United States History. Indeed, I have been one of her students, for she has taught me much about the challenges of teaching the subject we both love so deeply, and the democratic values of the nation that holds our hearts. How many days have been marked by sharing some new facts about United States history, or by conversations enriching the nuances of our understanding? For Gail, teaching our nation’s history has always been more than an academic exercise. It was, I dare say, a purposeful inquiry into the values of our democratic society. Every day on this campus she has given life to Potomac’s Mission Statement: “We expect students to act with kindness, civility, and generosity of spirit, and in our daily activities, we find opportunities to foster their integrity of character and civic conscience.”

Pat Haislip > 24 Years

Pat Haislip has taught at Potomac for 24 years: 18 in Pre-K, and six in kindergarten. A transplant from southern Virginia, where she taught in Williamsburg and Norfolk, Mrs. Haislip accompanied her husband to Washington when he enrolled in Law School at George Washington University.

When her children started school, Mrs. Haislip came to Potomac at the behest of Billie Orr, with whom she had taught
first grade at Kent Gardens in McLean. Once she settled in, Pat declared that she would remain at Potomac until retirement because “the school has everything I need.” Potomac has become such a large part of her life that she anticipates some difficulty separating from it. “A teacher,” she says, “is what I am.” But retirement will finally give Pat and her husband the time to enjoy their retirement property in Winchester.

During Dedication Day, Pat’s contribution to Potomac was praised by Potomac parent Rich Fairbank, who said “Many of you have a smile on your face because your children were blessed to have had Pat teach them. Just the other day I was at school, and Pat was working with one of our daughters and I sat back and watched and marveled. That is greatness, you can reach out and touch it.”

Marsha Greenwood > 16 Years

The indispensable Marsha Greenwood has kept the Middle School running smoothly for 16 years. She has done it so well, that when a recent applicant for the position asked Suzanne Marshall, current Head of the Middle School, what Marsha Greenwood does, Mrs. Marshall answered, “She walks on water.”

Doc Brown, as he is known to students, also leaves the US History Department at the end of this year. Dr. Brown came to Potomac in 1993 from Holton-Arms, where he had been Head of their Upper School. Although he arrived at Potomac hoping to get out of administration and back into the classroom, within a year Dr. Brown found himself serving as college counselor, a position he held for eight years. In addition to Holton-Arms, Dr. Brown taught previously at Madeira and Landon.

Dr. Brown speaks eloquently about the positive atmosphere at Potomac, particularly for boys. It is unusual, he says, to find a school where boys can comfortably excel not only in athletics, but also in the arts. He characterizes the collegiality and support from faculty and administration as “unbelievable,” and has found it enormously rewarding to be able to teach outside his field of Italian Renaissance history, developing courses in such diverse areas as Nazi Germany and the Middle East.

Doc Brown plans to join the stable of retired History Department faculty who still occasionally substitute teach at Potomac, to enjoy his grandchildren, and to return to his first career: singing opera.

His colleague Gail Nields remembers Bill Brown:

I first met Bill Brown in the fall of 1982 when I was the mother of a ninth grader at Madeira and he was in charge of college counseling there. He gave an address to ninth grade parents, who did not yet know much about parenting high-school daughters and who knew even less about the college picture. I have never forgotten what he told us. “Don’t think of Madeira merely as a ‘prep school’—a stepping-stone to college—but instead focus on the uniqueness of the high school years and on the richness those four years will mean in your child’s life.”

I could have been given no better advice. It helped me relish the high school experiences of all three of my daughters. I know that all those who have had the opportunity to be either a colleague or a student of Bill Brown in any of the high schools he has served have come away with immeasurable richness added to their lives. I am grateful for the wisdom, the humor, the collegiality, and the deep friendship he has offered me over the quarter of a century that I have known him.

Ai Caine > 14 Years

Fourteen years ago, Ai Caine, known as “Sensei” to her students, arrived at Potomac after having taught at both American and George Washington Universities. She initially taught Japanese in the Upper School, then later expanded the
program into the Intermediate School. Her tutelage has made it possible for Potomac students to study Japanese, the only non-Romance language offered at Potomac, for a full six years.

Her students are the reason Mrs. Caine has remained teaching at Potomac for so long. She has particularly enjoyed seeing her students mature and return to campus for visits after graduation. Over the years, says Mrs. Caine, she has been invited to weddings, admired baby pictures, and generally enjoyed the warmth and affection of an extended community of former Potomac students who have studied Japanese language and culture. She will miss them most of all in retirement.

Describing Mrs. Caine at her retirement party, senior Patrick Foust said, “Caine Sensai’s passion was what made me and all my classmates grow to love the culture and language of Japan…Caine Sensei is a gem of a teacher.”

Pat Beverly > 13 Years

Pat Beverly came to Potomac in 1994, when the IS first created the position of Language Arts Resource. Suzanne Marshall, now Head of the Middle School, had worked with Mrs. Beverly at the Kingsley Center, and encouraged her to apply for the new position when it was announced.

Asked what kept her at Potomac for 13 years, Mrs. Beverly speaks fondly of the strong sense of community with both faculty and students. She has enjoyed working with Intermediate School students and considers them an age group whose charm is often underrated. Students in this age group are enthusiastic and more capable of dealing with abstraction and outside ideas, she feels.

In retirement, Mrs. Beverly anticipates having time to try all the things in life that she has not yet had a chance to experience. She also has stacks of books begging to be read, and grandchildren in Texas waiting for her to visit. Travel is high on Mrs. Beverly’s list of things to do, and she looks forward to having the flexibility to travel at different times of the year.

Mora Solano > 10 Years

Mora Solano has taught Spanish in the Intermediate School for 10 years. She has been a part-time faculty member in order to be able to devote time to her first priority in life: her extensive family. Mrs. Solano will miss her students, as well as the academic stimulation of teaching at Potomac. Along with spending more time with family, Mrs. Solano plans to continue her volunteer work in the community, where she has always been active.

Not shown: Fran Wilson, kindergarten music and movement teacher, who was unfortunately not available by press time. She is retiring after 14 years at Potomac.
A SLICE OF life

The grassy amphitheater formed by the new Tundra and East Buildings has become a favorite place for US students to hang out.

At Fall Frolics, families enjoyed a fun-filled day of activities for all ages. Under the leadership of Fall Frolics Chair, Sheri Klein and Carnival Chair, Sarah Mathias, Fall Frolics doubled its contributions in support of financial aid and faculty professional development.

Third grade Science Fair projects covered a wide range of subjects, from flower coloration to catapults. Displays and colorful t-shirts were all made by the students during class.

Kindergartners and Lifers cut the ribbon to open the new Upper School building on the first day of classes.
The cross country team was honored with specially-designed state championship t-shirts.

A last minute touchdown by the senior girls resulted in a 7-0 win over their junior opponents in the Homecoming Eve Powder Puff Football Classic.

Kindergartners performed the “Turkey Tango” to a resounding ovation.

Spring Concert gives Upper School students an opportunity to showcase their accomplishments. Whether instrumental or vocal, the quality of their performances was polished and professional.

The highlight of the IS Winter Assembly is the eighth graders’ humorous presentation of “St. George and the Dragon”. Students teetered on the edge of their seats waiting for the doctor to dose St. George and, of course, the audience with marshmallows.
Halloween brought pirates, princesses and puppies to Potomac as kindergartners paraded across campus.

A spirited rendition “Children How Shall I Send Thee?” led by Head of School Geoff Jones closed the LS Winter Carols Assembly.

IS French classes called upon students in all divisions to Laissez les Bonnes Temps Rouler! during Mardi Gras.

The IS production of “Bugsy Malone” featured gangsters shooting silly string and a chorus of talented flappers.

Halloween brought pirates, princesses and puppies to Potomac as kindergartners paraded across campus.
Fourth grade students concluded their study of Egypt by creating exhibits on various aspects of everyday life in ancient Egypt, complete with costumes. This group demonstrated the correct procedure for mummification to classmates.

"Rosenkrantz and Guildenstern are Dead" appeared on the stage of the Langstaff Auditorium this fall.

The Chester Gym resounded with all the traditional May Day songs as rain moved this year’s celebration indoors.

Fagan and his band of urchins kept the audience entertained during the Upper School’s superb production of “Oliver!”

The Middle School celebrated the holiday season with music, song, and dance.

Fifth graders donned costumes and came to life as their favorite Greek gods and goddesses for the Wax Museum.
Where the Journey Begins

Rally Around A New Lower School

A Message from Donna Lewis, Head of Lower School

It is an educator’s dream to be asked to envision the ideal learning environment and then watch as it is brought to fruition. One year from now—in the spring of 2008—we hope to break ground on the construction of a building that will embody the traditions of Potomac’s Lower School and, at the same time, inspire the creative spirit of current and future generations of children beginning their journey at Potomac School.

From the start, our challenge has been to create a child-centered environment that will match the feel of our current building yet without the flaws that currently limit us. While much beloved, our current building, built in 1959, does not accommodate the changing needs of our youngest learners.

Our design for the new Lower School reflects thoughtful integration of principles fundamental to a Potomac Lower School education in a state-of-the-art facility.

The focus of our planning has been the students. Though the students’ ideas for this new space differ slightly from mine, they, too, are excited about the dream of a new Lower School. Their “shark tank,” I translate into an improved Science Room with an emphasis on natural habitats for our resident animals. They seek “a Lego™ Room,” and I see spaces that will allow students to create, construct, and wonder about the world around them. They imagine a “chocolate fountain;” I envision a water feature that will bring nature indoors. (I am not quite sure how to draw parallels to the cotton candy machine or the hot tub that are on their list!)

A new building will enable us to attain our ultimate goal: to provide the best learning environment at this critical time in our children’s development. For example, the new library, centrally located in The Gathering, preserves our ritual of coming together each morning. Dedicated assembly spaces reinforce and expand our tradition of assembly. Hallways dotted with niches where groups of children and faculty can gather to study or work on projects make learning both a personal and communal experience. Direct access from every classroom to the outdoors, a design unique to Potomac, ensures the continuation of Potomac’s partnership with nature, offering discovery, study, and play as children learn the importance of stewardship.

Visions can be realized, as is clearly evident by our new Upper School. We realize that it takes the commitment of the entire community to attain the goal of building a new Lower School. The journey of learning begins here, and with the help of all parents, faculty, and friends of The Potomac School, we can reaffirm our dedication to this defining period in our children’s lives.
The Fairbanks Contribute Transformational Gift to Potomac

“This is a very special institution, one that blends academic excellence in education with an uncompromising sense of humanity,” Rich Fairbank said in his address to the more than 600 parents, alumni, and friends of The Potomac School who gathered to dedicate the new Upper School on May 2nd.

The remarkable gift from Rich and Chris Fairbank to The Campaign for Potomac’s Future in the amount of $12 million will fully fund the construction of a new Lower School. Their gift is the most generous in the School’s history. Together, with over 350 families who have contributed to the Campaign, the Fairbank gift brings the Campaign total to $39 million of the $50 million goal.

According to Head of School Geoff Jones, “This transformational gift will help build Potomac’s future as we continue to develop an inclusive learning environment focused on academic excellence and a commitment to community.”

Chris and Rich each came from a background of elementary education and working with children. Rich said that he would still be working with children but fate intervened and he entered the business world. Rich noted the importance of “holding true to the values that brought so many of us here to this school.” He credited kindergarten language enrichment teacher Pat Haislip who has taught generations of Potomac students, as an exemplar of the values that are the hallmark of a Potomac education.

Rich said about Pat, “If I in my job could have half the impact on this world that you do in yours I would be really proud. Where Chris and I come from there is no higher calling. That’s why we’re here today.”
ANNUAL GIVING

As volunteers and donors, your annual involvement and investment help to cultivate and sustain the unique community and culture that make The Potomac School such a remarkable place. Gifts to this important program help to support our students and faculty in every division of the School. Thanks to you, Potomac is able to:

- Hire and retain outstanding faculty and staff,
- Provide financial aid and scholarships to our students and families,
- Offer meaningful opportunities for leadership, citizenship, and community service, and
- Maintain and upgrade our outstanding research and technological resources.

Volunteer Leaders
The Annual Fund could not succeed without the dedication and commitment of our volunteer Chairs and committee members. Thank you for your tremendous work this year!

Annual Fund Phonathon
Thank you to the many parents, alumni, and students who volunteered their time to support the Annual Fund phonathon, which has raised more than $300,000 this year to date.

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Parents of Alumni Co-Chairs
Tyla and Tom Winland

Grandparent Co-Chairs
Betty and Chuck Ewing – Chairs
Ann and Curtin Winsor – Vice Chairs

Faculty and Staff Co-Chairs
Kristin Smith – Lower School
Cathy Farrell – Middle School
Tiffany Bridgewater – Intermediate School
Steve Miller – Upper School
Ken Okoth – Upper School
Cas Blanchard – Administration and Staff
Domonique Campbell – Administration and Staff

Our Panther mascot kicked off this year’s Annual Fund drive to raise $1.6 million.

Student volunteers played an important role in the Annual Fund Phonathon. Betsy Duff, Development Committee Chair, is assisted here by seniors BG Green and Zach Leonsis.
Alumni Events

For over a decade alumni have eagerly returned to Potomac to take on the varsity boys basketball team. We always have a great turnout for the event and this year was no exception.

Three years ago an alumni squash tournament was added. Wendy Lawrence, the boys and girls squash varsity Head Coach, puts together a terrific round robin tournament so the boys varsity squash team has the opportunity to play against all the alumni players. Save the Friday after Thanksgiving to come back to Potomac and join in these alumni games as spectator or player.

Back Row (left to right) Bob Montgomery ’02, Dan Direnfeld ’05, Robbie de Picciotto ’04, Brian Fairbank ’03, Taylor Kettler ’02, Philip O’Bannon ’02, Sean Sullivan ’02, Brandon Jackson ’02, Tom Simeone ’06, Robert O’Connell ’05, Len Pfeiffer ’06, Marty McNerney ’03, Chris McNerney ’04, Matt Carlin. Front Row (left to right) Brandon Gopaul ’05, Brendan O’Connell ’02, Pete Dalla ’04, George Barsness ’06, Michael Fischer ’04.

The alumni team defeated the varsity 15-12. Playing for the alumni were (left to right) Russell Powden ’07, Phinney McIntire ’06, Zach Swope ’06, Rob Barnett ’05, Justin Stilwell ’05, Shane Donovan ’05, Bradley Allen ’01, Tony Kupersmith ’01.

Robert O’Connell ’05 drives past Tim Prowitt ’08. In a strong showing, this year’s varsity players defeated the alumni team.
Alumni attending the University of Virginia enjoyed dinner and sharing reminiscences about their years at Potomac.

**College Dinners**

Jason Nadeau ’03, Chris McNerney ’04 and Pete Dalla ’04.

Axel Cooper ’05 and Eric Rosenthal ’03.

Bettina Hartley Tierney ’52, Philip Tierney and Willia Fales Eckerberg ’54.

Sarah Holmes ’74, Tom Macy ’67, and Victoria Frankhauser Esposito ’83 Alumni Governing Council President.

**Revels Reception**

Dede Potts ’06, Jennifer Feigert ’05 and Pamela Barris ’03.

Alumni gathered at George Washington University Club for a reception preceding this year’s Revels. The Alumni Office arranged tickets to the performance and hosted the get-together.

Pamela Moffatt and Jay Moffatt ’46.
Our Alumni Office went on the road, sponsoring events from New York to San Francisco. Here are a few of the former students who took advantage of the chance to get reacquainted.

**Los Angeles**

**New York**
John Skillern ’94 and Ben Rose ’00.

**New York**
Mina Faltas ’96, Ebbie Wisecarver ’97, Dan Paradis, Head of Upper School, Kathleen Lubin ’97, and Jennifer Eakin ’97.

**San Francisco**
Aly Sudow ’00, Lindsay Stowe ’00, Cas Blanchard, Girls Athletic Director, Anne Donovan ’91, Steven Aviles, Mara McMillan ’94, and Susan Barber, former faculty.

**Los Angeles**
Zal Batmanglij ’98, Cora Olson ’96, Peter Kloman ’96, Heather Wilson ’96, and Danny Adrien ’96.
ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

Kindergarten  Front Row: Carla Cecchi (Antonio Cecchi ‘84, uncles John Cecchi ‘92, Enrico Cecchi ‘85, Carlos A. Cecchi ‘90), Katya Karpoff (Michael L. Karpoff ’74, grandmother Carol Olive Karpoff ’48), Jamie Gerstel (aunt Allyson G. Bloom ’92), Lily Holmes (uncle Eric Malawer ’92). Back Row: Megan Tierney (Christopher Tierney ’79, grandmother Bettina Hartley Tierney ’52, uncles David Tierney ’82, Andrew Tierney ’80), Megan Sharkey (Christine Rosenbauer Sharkey ’83), David McKean (David McKean, Jr. ’82), Ellen Oskoui (Ramin Oskoui ’78), Emelie Jarquin-Manegold (Elizabeth Jarquin-Manegold ’82).

First Grade  Front Row: Lily Longwell (Natalie Washburn Longwell ’86), Marlee Rietano (grandmother Sorrel Mackall McElroy ’52), Isabella Sagarese (Sally Ewing Sagarese ’85, uncle Ewing ’78, aunt Cindy Ewing Miller ’79). Middle Row: Miles Wilson (Speke Wilson ’79, uncle Reid Wilson ’82), Sebastian Cox (Allison Vest ’81, aunts Emily Vest ’78 and Victoria Vest ’80), Patrick Lenihan (grandmother Janet Spencer Dougherty ’56), Courtneyne Caskin (Christopher Caskin ’77, uncles Francis Caskin ’76, Michael Caskin ’81, grandmother Susan McKnew Caskin ’41, great aunt Patricia McKnew Nielson ’35). Back Row: Hayden Cherouny (Merrell Redway Cherouny ’82, aunt Annabelle Redway Dunn ’85, grandmother Annabelle Loud Redway ’57), Alex Crawley (Anne Sprunt Crawley ’69, uncle Charles Sprunt ’72), Mary Kate Ausbrook (Keith Ausbrook ’73, uncle Michael Ausbrook ’71), Rebecca Crawley (Anne Sprunt Crawley ’69, uncle Charles Sprunt ’72), TJ Sharkey (Christine Rosenbauer Sharkey ’83).
Second Grade  Front Row: **James Pitzer** (Vinnie Lemon Pitzer ’82, grandmother Lavinia Plumely Packard ’57),  **Cece Catto** (William Catto ’78, aunt Isa Catto ’80),  **Beata Vest** (Victoria Vest ’80, aunts Alison Vest ’81, Emily Vest ’78),  **James Betts** (grandmother Alice Patterson Slade ’45). Back Row: **Claire Pitzer** (Vinnie Lemon Pitzer ’82, grandmother Lavinia Plumely Packard ’57), **Maggie Ewing** (JC Ewing ’78, aunts Cindy Ewing Miller ’79, Sally Ewing Sagarese ’85),  **Ted Tierney** (Christopher Tierney ’79, uncles Andrew Tierney ’80, David Tierney ’82, grandmother Bettina Hartley Tierney ’52),  **Peter Holmes** (uncle Eric Malawer ’92).

Third Grade  Front Row: **Tyler Crowley** (Ayse Uzer Crowley ’85),  **Justin Frazier** (David Frazier ’77, uncle Christopher Frazier ’80),  **Sheila Rietano** (grandmother Sorrel Mackall McElroy ’52)  **Grace Moses** (David Moses ’76, aunts Barbara Moses ’71, Jennifer Moses ’74, Amalie Moses Reichblum ’78)  **Sydney Frazier** (David Frazier ’77, uncle Christopher Frazier ’80). Middle Row:  **Charlie Ausbrook** (Keith Ausbrook ’73, uncle Michael Ausbrook ’71),  **Toby Robinson** (Scott Robinson ’80, Farida Robinson ’80),  **Val Karpoff** (grandmother Carol Olive Karpoff ’48)  **Gabrielle Cecchi** (Enrico Cecchi ’85, uncles Antonio Cecchi ’84, Carlos Cecchi ’90, John Cecchi ’92). Back Row:  **Catie Mathias** (Rob Mathias ’77, uncle Charles Mathias ’74)  **Bram Wilson** (Speke Wilson ’79, uncle Reid Wilson ’82)  **Holly Frank** (Randy Frank ’72, uncle Lanier Frank ’76, aunt Eleanor Frank Hazard ’73),  **Ellie Frank** (Randy Frank ’72, uncle Lanier Frank ’76, aunt Eleanor Frank Hazard ’73).
Fourth Grade Front Row: Christopher Caskin (Christopher Caskin ’77, uncles Francis Caskin ’76, Michael Caskin ’81, grandmother Susan McKnew Caskin ’41, great aunt Patricia McKnew Nielsen ’35), Greta Schaaf (Lise Metzger ’72, uncle Jon Metzger ’74), Mark Betts (grandmother Alice Patterson Slade ’45), Max Speil (Jane McAllister ’70, uncle David McAllister ’65, aunt Susan McAllister ’76). Back Row: Kyle Paul (Isabelle Chester Paul ’77, uncles John Chester ’73, Charlie Chester ’81, grandmother Clara Mills Chester ’45), Brooks Arundel (Peter Arundel ’75, aunt Wendy Arundel Willauer ’77, uncles John Arundel ’81, Tom Arundel ’90), Emma Resor (James Resor ’75, uncle Tom Resor ’73), Grace Cherouny (Merrell Redway Cherouny ’82, aunt Annabelle Redway Dunn ’85, grandmother Annabelle Loud Redway ’57), Kelly O’Gorman (Scott E. O’Gorman, Jr. ’76).

Fifth Grade Front Row: Anna Regan (Nina Howard Regan ’78), Clare Mathias (Rob Mathias ’77, uncle Charles Mathias ’74), Liam Catto (William Catto ’76, aunt Isa Catto ’80), Ben Rietano (grandmother Sorrel Mackall McElroy ’52). Back Row: Adam Moses (David Moses ’76, aunts Barbara Moses ’71, Jennifer Moses ’74, Amalie Moses Reichblum ’78), Rosemary Ewing (JC Ewing ’78, aunts Cindy Ewing Miller ’79, Sally Ewing Sagarese ’85), Sydney Robinson (Scott Robinson ’80, Farida Robinson ’80), Jessica Howard (Victoria Howard ’77, uncles Jay Howard ’75, Philip Higginson ’79, aunt Irene Howard Higginson ’79), Nicholas Arundel (Peter Arundel ’75, aunt Wendy Arundel Willauer ’77, uncles John Arundel ’81, Tom Arundel ’90).
Sixth Grade  Front Row: Cyrus Nassikas (John Nassikas III ’74, Georgia Chafee Nassikas ’74, uncles John Chafee ’71, Quentin Chafee ’77), Caroline Resor (Jamie Resor ’75), Devon Winsor (Curt Winsor ’78, aunts Anita Winsor Edwards ’79, Monica Winsor Washburn ’83, Rebecca Winsor ’97), Allegra Wilson (Speke Wilson ’79, uncle Reid Wilson ’82). Back Row: Jack O’Gorman (Scott O’Gorman ’76), Max Ausbrook (J. Keith Ausbrook ’73, uncle Michael Ausbrook ’71), Phillip Bennett (Frank Bennett III ’73), Ellie Pitzer (Vinnie Lemon Pitzer ’82, grandmother Lavinia Plumely Packard ’57), Randy Frank (Randy Frank, Jr. ’72).

Seventh Grade  Front Row: Cameron Kahl (Caroline Baldwin Kahl ’72), Kip Strong (Henry Strong ’72, aunts Sigrid Strong Reynolds ’67, Barbara Strong Doty ’68, Dana Strong van Loon ’70), Emma Regan (Nina Howard Regan ’78), Lacy Rosse (Gray D. Rosse ’74). Not pictured: Rebekah Ausbrook (J. Keith Ausbrook ’73, uncle Michael Ausbrook ’71), Zachary Meza (Anny Lowery Meza ’71, Scott Meza ’71, uncles Christopher Lowery ’66, Mark Lowery ’66, Nick Lowery ’71).
**Eighth Grade** Front Row: Carrita Thomas (Paul Thomas ’76, uncle Alan Thomas ’74, aunts Margaret Thomas Trinity ’77, Anne Thomas Weinberg ’79), B.J. Jackson (Broadway Jackson ’76), Hana Betts (grandmother Alice Patterson Slade ’45), Ali Moses (David Moses ’76, aunts Barbara Moses ’71, Jennifer Moses ’74, Amalie Moses Reichblum ’78). Back Row: Christopher Jaffe (Kim Shorb ’71, uncles Robert Shorb ’72, Christopher Shorb ’74), Alex Day (Roxana Oppenheimer Day ’71, uncle Edward A. Oppenheimer ’72), Kyra Paul (Isabelle Chester Paul ’77, uncles John Chester ’73, Charlie Chester ’81, grandmother Clara Mills Chester ’45), John Diamond (uncles John O’Neill ’69, Stephen O’Neill ’74, aunt Barbara O’Neill Douglas ’71), Helen Labadie (Liza Kuhl Labadie ’72).

**Upper School** Twelfth Grade: Aja Ewing (JC Ewing ’78, aunt Cynthia Ewing ’79), Patricia Green (grandmother Julie Arnold ’49), Chanel Jackson (Broadway Jackson ’76), Tribbie Nassikas (John Nassikas III ’74, Georgia Chafee Nassikas ’74, uncles John Chafee ’71, Quentin Chafee ’77), Allie Rowan (Emily Train Rowan ’65, grandfather Russell E. Train ’33). Eleventh Grade: Jonathan Eakin (Richard Eakin ’65, aunt Carol Eakin-Burdette ’62), Christopher Ewing (JC Ewing ’78, aunt Cynthia Ewing ’79), Laura Gutierrez (Polly Pittman ’74, grandmother, Barbara White Pittman ’47), Molly Jaffe (Kim Shorb ’71), Sarah Moses (David Moses ’76, aunts Barbara Moses ’71, Jennifer Moses ’74, Amalie Moses Reichblum ’78), Caitlin Rooney (Mittie Brooks Rooney ’78), India Rosse (Gray D. Rosse ’74), Kiely Webster (Armistead Webster ’71). Tenth Grade: Robbie Thomas (Paul Thomas ’76, uncle Alan Thomas ’74, aunts Margaret Thomas Trinity ’77, Anne Thomas Weinberg ’79), Catherine Kahl (Caroline Baldwin Kahl ’72). Jessie Diamond (uncles John O’Neill ’69, Stephen O’Neill ’74, aunt Barbara O’Neill Douglas ’71), James McElwain (Bill McElwain ’70). Ninth Grade: Alexander Nassikas (John Nassikas III ’74, Georgia Chafee Nassikas ’74, uncles John Chafee ’71, Quentin Chafee ’77), Jessica Catto (William Catto ’78, aunt Isa Catto ’80), Lucy Green (grandmother Julie Arnold ’49), Ann Bellinger (Dawn Renzy Bellinger ’77, aunts Rachel Renzy Meima ’82, Ann Renzy ’86), John Henry Strong (Henry Strong ’72, aunts Sigrid Strong Reynolds ’67, Barbara Strong Doty ’68, Dana Strong van Loon ’70), Jenna Meza (Anny Lowery Meza ’71, Scott Meza ’71, uncles Christopher Lowery ’66, Mark Lowery ’66, Nick Lowery ’71), John Bennett (Frank Bennett III, ’73).
Dear Fellow Alumni,

I hope everyone has taken advantage of the many chances to reconnect with Potomac over the last year. Perhaps you were able to spend some time with classmates at one of our regional receptions, or gather at one of the more informal events during the holidays. You may have read about a favorite tradition on our Web site or seen photographs that brought back fond memories of your time spent at Potomac.

The previous issue of The Term undoubtedly reminded everyone of the cornerstone of a Potomac education—our dedicated teachers—and the relationships we enjoyed with them.

As we reflect on the values instilled during our years at Potomac, we remember learning to respect and enjoy its beautiful campus. The new Upper School is truly in keeping with the learning environment we remember and its classrooms spill into the outdoors. With plans underway to build a new Lower School, it too will remain connected to the outdoors which is the heart of a Potomac education. I hope you enjoy reading about the work of some of our alumni who are dedicated to protecting and enhancing the world in which we live today and for the future.

Also in this issue of The Term we feature alumni who have been recognized in the film industry. For so many of us, our love of the arts was born during Potomac assemblies where we watched as well as recited, created, and performed together. What greater distinction than to be nominated for, no less win, an Academy Award! We applaud with fervor our fellow alumni who were honored at the 2007 Oscars.

Warmly,

Victoria Frankhauser Esposito ’83
Class Notes
Summer 2007

1933

Patricia Morris Young writes, “I have recently entered a retirement community in Seattle after decades of living in the New York area and Thailand. Horizon House is congenial and interesting in the appealing city of Seattle. Sorry no Potomac School alumnae around!”

1940

Margaret Shumaker Nalle writes, “Sadly, our multi-talented classmate Mimi Griffin Crowell died in September. She will be sorely missed.”

1941

Ann Distler Brown writes, “There never seems to be news from ’41. I am volunteering with the Greenwich Adult Day Care, the League of Women Voters, and the Junior League while helping maintain a household for an Alzheimer patient. My two children and five grandchildren live in Vermont and South Carolina so we don’t get together enough. Would love an excuse to come to DC but no one did anything about our 60th or 65th.”

1943

E. Tillman Stirling writes, “I finally retired at age 78 from practicing law. I’ve been married for 54 years and have three children and seven grandchildren. I am in good health and am looking forward to many more years.” Day Ely Ravenscroft writes, “In August I had my 3rd bionic piece of bone. The daughter of our former middle school history teacher came as long as possible and then continued organizing the post-surgery care long distance. Jack is nearly 91 but we still do civic and church service and enjoy the theater and music thanks to friends who drive. We do more reading—I’ll send to Potomac a good book on 3 Abrahamic Faiths and maybe its “blurb” could be as a review in the Alumni Magazine.”

1945

From Tricia Mulligan Briska:
Elizabeth Beach Rea left Washington for London on December 10th to join her daughter, Libet Sterling Perske ’72, and Libet’s children; Cameron, 12, Harrison, 10, and India, 8. They flew to New Delhi for a tour and on to Goa, a fantastic tourist destination on the western coast of India, for the rest of their holidays. She returned to D.C. on January 2nd. Georgiana Glenn Rodiger writes, “My year started out with an adventure in the Far East. We boarded our ship in Phuket, Thailand, sailed down the Straights of Malacca, stopping in Malaysia, and finally arrived in Singapore just in time for the New Year celebration. Phuket was amazing. Just a year after the devastating tsunami leveled the resort town, people had rebuilt it all! Our ship was the Start Flyer, an authentic clipper ship. We returned just in time for several celebrations of my 75th birthday. What a blessing to be able to celebrate three score and fifteen! I’m still working, loving it, and spending weekends doing retreats, workshops, and assisting in whatever way I can at the Episcopal Church of the Transfiguration in Arcadia. The Center continues to faithfully

Class Correspondents

1938
John Dugger
4970 Sentinel Drive, #106
Bethesda, MD 20816
jadugger@comcast.net

1942
Katharine Stanley-Brown Abbott
3 Tucks Point Rd
Manchester, MA 01944-1434
glasshead@nii.net

1944
Juliet Gill Davis
2237 48th St NW
Washington, DC 20007-1036

1945
Patricia Mulligan Briska
201 Silverthorn Rd
Gulf Breeze, FL 32561-4361

1946
Marjorie Key Andrews
1107 Route 292
Holmes, NY 12531

1949
Laura Lee Larson
14101 Lewisdale Rd
Clarksburg, MD 20871-9629
serve the needs of the community. God keeps providing me with lots of energy. I spent August on Greater Cranberry, ME with daughter Cristy and visiting family. In September, I traveled to Portland and the Czech Republic with Fr. Richard McAlear and a hundred other pilgrims. We stayed in Warsaw, Krakow, and Prague. Our journey included important historical sites, i.e. Auschwitz, the Warsaw Ghetto and the monastery of Maxmilian Kolbe.” Georgiana concludes, “Son John is in West Linn, OR doing important financial assessments of some sort. Biff continues his busy life in San Marcos with his wonderful wife Peggy. Daughter Margaret has relocated to the San Luis Obispo area. Cristy works hard as a lawyer and lives nearby with the two youngest teenagers. The older two are off in college.” Frances Rowan had a wonderful reunion with Louise Hoover Neuhoff and husband Roger at Martha’s Vineyard this summer. Franny is looking forward to Louise’s visit to her this winter at Captiva, FL. Louise will be following on the heels of Tricia Mulligan Briska who also visits her in February. Franny also met with Anne Mackall Sasscer and Besty Beach Rea for their annual luncheon up Upper Marlboro way. Franny reports Anne is younger than springtime. Meanwhile, Franny is enjoying life at the Watergate. J. Wright Rumbough, Jr. spent 10 days with all of his family (grandchildren included) on the Middle Fork on the Salmon River in Idaho. He went kayaking down the rapids at 76 (and that wasn’t miles per hour!). Wright was the oldest in the group and was pleased he didn’t turn over. Wright had a great experience and recommends it to all his classmates and their families. Barbara Barry Straut continues to live in Princeton. She enjoys her family, especially her grandchildren. Patricia Mulligan Briska began her travels this year with a drive to Captiva, FL, to visit Franny Rowan. She writes, “We laugh a lot and I enjoy, usually, a week of warmth compared to winter in the panhandle of Florida which can deteriorate to the 25 degree mark with most serious cold fronts from Canada. I accompanied my daughter Marguerite Crozier and her family to Europe in April and May. (40 days and 40 nights). Madrid was a delightful surprise compared to the grimy city of the seventies. However, the prosperity of Spain is proportionate to the widely exposed abdomen of all ages. The country is growing more prosperous every moment. We also spent time in England, France, and Italy. Marguerite planned every aspect of the trip and many of our accommodations were very imaginative. An example, our Rome quarters were in a lovely monastery outside the Vatican wall. No English spoken, of course, but hand signals were adequate. Most of September was in the Brooksville, Brunswick areas of Maine. The beginning of fall was a sight to behold.” On another note: I have been your secretary since our beloved Clara Mills Chester’s death lo these too many years ago. It is time for a different pen. Perhaps a person in our Class located geographically closer to the School. The column might be handed into the office in a more timely fashion. I’ve so enjoyed being in touch and will miss you. – Tricia.

Audrey Gordon Woodgate writes, “We are moving to a smaller house with a lovely small garden. Busy packing up! Daughter Alicia married Chip Wren from San Francisco. Husband Arthur is heading up Public Affairs for his Civil Air Patrol Group. Life is very pleasant here and weather suits us. Lots to do and see.” Sally White Lee writes, “I enjoyed the three years—5th, 6th,
7th grades—I attended Potomac. It was on California Street then. We had always lived in the country so it was the first time I ever lived in the city. We now live in South Carolina during the winter months but during the summer go to Maine. I am married to Charles Lee. We have four children and eleven grandchildren. All are wonderful so we consider ourselves lucky. Diana—our second daughter—lives in Perth Australia. She and her family come to Maine for several weeks during our summer—which is great.

**1949**

Mary Gale Buchanan writes, “Busy in Annapolis and working on the formation/completion of the Navy Lacrosse Hall-of-Fame at our stadium here.”

**1951**

Sandra Hagner McElwaine writes, “No particular news here. Have retired from active EMT duties on the rescue squad but am heading up a financial advisory committee for them and also the treasurer for our local civic association. My granddaughter just turned 15, and my grandson just turned 16. Both are naturally the most remarkable youngsters on earth! One of my husband’s plays ran in London last January so we were over there for rehearsals and performances then. The rest of the time we bask in mountain top living very close to Anne Dulany Lee’s family’s place.” Shirley Young Adams shares, “My husband Walt and I are back in our permanent residence in Reston, VA. Greetings to everyone in my class.”

**1955**

Gretchen E. Becker writes, “The second edition of my first book, *The First Year: Type 2 Diabetes* is due out on December 28, 2006. I really enjoyed seeing classmates at the 50th, well, the 51st. Amazing that I easily recognized almost everyone. The school and environs, on the other hand, were like a foreign country. I liked the old school better.”

**1956**

Eloise Morris Clark writes, “I so enjoyed seeing those in the class who came to the wonderful dinner at Diana Hardin Walker’s. Chris and I just got back from Shangri-La, an exotic trip to Angkor Wat in Cambodia, and down the coast of Vietnam.”

**1957**

Alice Fales Stewart writes, “My book on the history of the Palisades neighborhood in Washington, D.C. (the area around MacArthur Blvd NW) is now in its third printing. I am planning a trip to visit friends in England and Egypt between chemo and radiation treatments. I was diagnosed in ’06 with very early breast cancer, handled the treatments well, and I am feeling great!”

**1961**

Emma Bragdon writes, “I’ve just finished my first film on spiritual healing in Brazil with an award-winning documentary filmmaker (see johnofgodfilm.com). But nothing compares to having a two-year-old grandchild! Often see Celina Kellogg Moore ’57 and Eliza Kellogg Klose ’55—Potomac alums who continue to be soul sisters. Alexandra Villard de Borchgrave writes, “I was fortunate enough to see my poetry (inspired by the children calling out their parent’s names on the anniversary of 9/11) published on September 11, 2005 by Glitterati, Inc. The book is called Healing Light: Thirty Messages of Love, Hope, and Courage. John C. Whitehead, Chairman of the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation, sent 4,000 copies of Healing Light as a gift to all the survivors’ families of 9/11, and he and I were honored in a ceremony at the United Nations on September 11, 2006. Julia Williams Robinson writes, “I continue as a faculty member at the University of Minnesota - The School of Architecture. A book I authored is being published by Techné Press in the Netherlands: *Institution and Home: Architecture as a Cultural Medium*. All of my children are thriving. My oldest child, daughter Esther, 37, is just completing a film that is to be presented at the Berlin Film Festival in February, “The Danny Willam’s Story” about my brother. Phillida Spingarn Alcantar writes, “Yes, we’re (my son Rory, 13, and I) back in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii after two years in D.C. After my divorce and Dad died in May ’05, we emptied his house of 50+ years of things and sold it this July. Lummy Sargent Gannett’s brother John, the CEO of Randall-Hagner was instrumental in the sale! It was a horrendous job but alls well that ends well! When the Oct 15th earthquake hit, we hadn’t bought yet, thank God. We’re in a spacious, new house we’re renting not too far from Rory’s new school and waiting for the market to cool before I buy. We love it here but miss Lee Elliott and Julie Grennan Ronhvode whom I reconnected with. ALOHA to everyone!!! Once I get a new email, I would love to hear from classmates.”

**1962**

Deborah Johansen Harris just landed in a new job as Director of Communications at the Harvard University Graduate School of Design. Katherine Marshall writes, “I am now a visiting professor at Georgetown University, with the Berkley Center.”

**1965**

Emily Train Rowan writes, “I am busy with botanical watercolors, two of which were displayed at the Corcoran Museum of Art as part of a show on the plants of Lewis and Clark. My husband continues to work too hard as an investment banker at Stifel Nicolaus. My older daughter, Emily P. Rowan ’04, is a junior at Wesleyan University, and my younger daughter, Allie, is a senior at Potomac. They are both thriving.” Lindesay Holdsworth Aquino writes, “I continue my work as a private secretary to several clients. I’ve been up to Martha’s Vineyard several times this year, which is always wonderful. In November, we all went to Argentina for a wedding in Buenos Aires. I am working on a scrapbook of our class through the years at Potomac for our 45th reunion. I’ll be in touch for any memories or memorabilia to be included.”
1967

From Boucie Addison:

Alice Major Fogle writes from sunny and this year hurricane-free Florida that she and her husband have sold their law practice and are now free to start traveling in their motor home around the U.S. She still has 3 of her 4 kids in college, but they are happy, well adjusted and eager to see their parents cutting loose! Eric Bagdikian continues to be with the Boulder County Sheriff’s Office as a Reserve Lieutenant. He coordinated training for the Reserve Unit as a firearms instructor and when he can get out from under administrative stuff gets to the streets and is part of the warrants and alternative sentencing apprehension team. He also owns and operates a public safety equipment business that supplies police, fire and EMS and search and rescue. His wife Nan travels a lot training animal control and humane officers, leaving Eric to be Mr. Mom to dogs & horses. Could be worse, it’s not diapers and shuttling to soccer games! Lori Todd lives in a very informal and comfortable house with her two boys (10 & 14) in L.A., seriously outnumbered by dogs, cats, birds and fish! She would love to have classmates keep in touch loritodd@earthlink.net. Mark Cameron is living in Rhode Island with Ian a high school senior and freshman Shreve, so lots of changes a foot. He has had some health issues but is looking forward to traveling to a warm, sunny location at Christmas. Jay Medaris has bought an Exit Realty franchise in Virginia and has been seriously working in the real estate field. He hopes that his daughter will be the sales manager of his first office. She and her brother have been in the business in the summers since they were 18. As for me, Boucie Addison, my husband and I are looking forward to being empty nesters when our youngest, Coleman, graduates from high school in June. The only problem with retiring now is three kids in college at the same time!

1969

From Alexander “Sandy” Dominick:

John Cochran writes that he’s been with the Weitz Company for the last eighteen years, where he is currently a construction manager working on a project in Snowmass, CO (interestingly enough with my brother Peter, who is an architect in Denver). John adds that he is married, has three great children, and that he works too much, and would love for “someone” to call him and bring him back to reality. He can be reached at 303-860-6630. He asked me if we are really over 50—I haven’t decided yet. Peter Kimball checked in. He’s in his 19th year at Harvard, and is Director of their Office of Gift Planning. Wife Miriam is still “championing the plight of the homeless” in Providence, RI, and both daughters are Masters Degree candidates—the older in Marriage and Family Therapy, and the younger in Occupational Therapy. He also writes that he saw Steven Wolf at his father’s memorial service recently, and was “enchanted” by his 19-month-old daughter Sage and his wife Lisa. Having not heard from Steven, I’m guessing that both congratulations and condolences are in order…. Craig Davis wrote and said he’s still in Chicago, and that after 30 years his advertising career morphed into a real estate pursuit; he’s also preparing to set up a studio to paint again, in his sanctuary in Wisconsin. Though he says he’s often in DC, he has yet to reconnect with the Class of ’69, but that maybe the 40th will do the trick. I hope so! Victoria Edwards wrote to say she’s still happily living in Berkeley, CA, with daughter Emma and son David. Emma’s a sophomore and just finishing up field hockey season, while David’s in 6th grade at Victoria’s school, roaming the neighborhood with his friends and struggling slightly with diabetes. She says she’s pondering her next step, but doesn’t ever seem to have a free moment. She’d love to see anyone who’s visiting the area, and can be reached at victoriabedwards@mac.com. I also heard from Cyrus Vance recently that he and his family have moved back to New York City from Seattle, and that they are happily ensconced in an apartment on the West Side that reminds him a bit of some of the neighborhoods we visited in Paris some years back. I’m still in Arizona, and enjoying the fall weather after another brutal summer that included a major remodel of our home. My daughters are growing up way too fast—my oldest followed in my footsteps and graduated from Thunderbird, and is now in Napa, CA, working as a marketing manager for the Day Pharmaceutical Company. The twins are 15 going on 25, but my blessing, so far, is that they are reasonably well behaved, not at all like their father was at that age. Thank God. I am currently Development Director for the Desert Southwest Chapter of the Alzheimer’s Association, and enjoying it...
From Liza Gookin Hodskins:
Hi, alums. Our class has a listserv on yahoogroups.com, which is open to classmates plus faculty and staff who were there during those formative years. If you haven’t gotten an invitation, or have no idea what I’m talking about, let me know—it’s a great place to keep up with your classmates more often than once a year. Here’s the news from recent e-mails: John Chester’s son Tommy, 17, is looking at colleges and David, 14, is looking at boarding schools. “A year from now Laurie and I will be empty nesters. We did get a second dog—a puggle named Kiltie—to help fill the void. We’re dealing with the modern world of technology and global competition in our art business, Wild Apple Graphics, and it’s quite an ongoing education. Only two years for the next reunion, right?” Right! Chris Albert Carnes says, “My life is mostly the same: part-time veterinary work, part-time non-profit board work. One of my non-profit boards, which places service dogs, is in the throes of reorganization. I now know more than I ever thought I would about non-profit governance! Daughter Jess is applying to colleges. Oh, my. The grandchildren are four, two and one years old. Oh my.” Louise C. Putnam-Stoner tells us, “News from here continues to be the classic mid-life crisis tale: eldest daughter off to college; second child 12 going on 13—adolescence overload. Mother settled in retirement community—most of her belongings lodged in my now overflowing basement. Breast cancer diagnosis in July has meant surgery and now chemo for me, but prognosis is excellent and I’m feeling very grateful for all who have suffered through this before me and have spurred on such great leaps in treatment. The children, my ex-husband, and my wonderful friends have been unbelievable in their support and I am looking forward to regaining a semblance of normal chaotic life in the New Year! My love and best wishes to all - Louise.” We’re glad to hear she’s recovering—I’m sure she’d love to hear from you. Visual Resources Collection, McIntire Department of Art, University of Virginia, POB 400130, Charlottesville, VA 22904-4130, 434-924-3678. Tina Adler (tmadler2@verizon.net) got us in touch with long-lost Donna Greene (see below) but had sad news to report. “My Mom passed away Oct 15, at her home in Falls Church. On a cheerier note, Doug and the girls and I had a great year living in New York City, while Doug got his masters degree from Teachers College at Columbia University. We are now back at our home in Cabin John, Maryland. I’m writing a book about Alzheimer’s disease and Doug and the girls are back at Burgundy Farm Country Day School. Doug is teaching, and the girls are in 4th and 2nd grades this year.” Donna (“Magic”) Greene Alexander writes: Here’s the short version . . . I’ve been nicknamed Magic since 1972—earned as an undefeated lacrosse goalie—god we’re old. After Potomac, Tina & I ended up at Westtown, which was one of the finest experiences ever. Did GWU for undergrad, Rutgers for Grad school, worked between DC & NYC for years ’til I no longer had elders to care for. I’ve been in Reno for six years as the managing and solo librarian at Saint Mary’s Regional Med Ctr. In the early 80s, I got my BS in what the rest of you would call Phys Ed (athletic mgmt & physiology), & thought a career in women’s sports promotion was where I wanted to be. I changed
gears, found myself in Berkeley and fell in love with information science. I’ve been at it 25 years.” I’m so glad to hear from her—thanks Tina for the connection and Magic for the quick response. Cathie Davis Kaplan writes, “Some fun news…. I was strolling around the (National) zoo this past Wednesday afternoon and ran into Lizzie Edgeworth Cantacuzene ’75 and her three children enjoying a beautiful fall day at the zoo. I haven’t seen Lizzie in a long time, so it was good to see her again.” Cathie and I get to see each other a bit more this year as we work to improve Potomac’s recycling efforts. I just saw Diana Morgan this fall when she co-sponsored our Georgetown Day School 30th reunion. She is living in a wonderful house she and her boyfriend have just remodeled in Chevy Chase. Her son, Julian, just started at Johns Hopkins where he is studying cognitive science and philosophy. Daughter Camilla is a 10th grader at GDS, on the crew team and getting interested in yoga. Diana recently started as Director of Communications at Resolution Health in Columbia, Maryland. Keith Ausbrook, in answer to my plea for info on lost classmates, wrote, “John Keller was here with the first Bush administration. Don’t know what happened to him after that.” With that clue, I did a little Googling, and found the following: “John G. Keller, Executive Vice President, Operations, FundsXpress Financial Network, Inc. Mr. Keller oversees FundsXpress operations’ departments including research and development, installations, security, National Data Center operations and customer service. Prior to joining FundsXpress, Keller served as Chief of Staff to the founder and Chairman of Foundation health systems, Inc. (NYSE: FHS), in Pueblo, CO. From 1993 to 1997, he served as President and was a founding partner of Visionscape/JGK & Associates, a management consulting and strategic communications company specializing in image management and interactive electronic systems development (Intranets). Keller also served as Deputy Assistant to the President in the Bush White House. He graduated from Iowa State University with a B.S. in microbiology. (You can find more details at www.fundsxpress.com / pressroom / press_releases/1998/12-16-98.pdf.) As for me, Liza Gookin Hodskins, Steve and I did a whirlwind trip through Europe this summer, visiting 6 countries, 19 cities/towns, seven zoos, and as many museums in three weeks, living out of one bag each. We just spent the warm Thanksgiving weekend at Rehoboth with our retriever Molly, and dreamed again about having a place there. My GDS reunion this fall made me appreciate how many good classmates I had at both schools, and how comfortable we all felt with each other after so many years. Please join our listserv (Potomac73) to keep in touch. Unfortunately, we’re still missing contact info for the following people—do you know how to find Ken Baker, Carlos Meyer, Channing Page, Paolo Pettrignani, Janice Hill Smith, and Marian Smith?

Lisa Shipp Logue writes, “Bob, Caitlyn (now seven), and I are still living in the hill country in Helotes, TX, just outside of San Antonio. This time of year makes me yearn for the colors of fall back East and the promise of snow in the coming months. My best to my classmates for a wonderful 2007.”

Wendy Arundel writes, “I’ve been working hard marketing my organizing business while training for my second marathon. Also challenging has been my role as a single mom. 2007 goals: Make more money, swap running for yoga, and skydive again.”

Robert M. McDowell writes, “Jennifer and I are expecting baby number three on April 15, 2007. Life is wonderful!” Ann Addison Freniere writes, “I work in the Middle School office at Stone Ridge School of the Sacred Heart with John Blakeslee ’74. What a small world!”

Cynthia Ewing Miller writes, “Five of my six grandchildren are currently Potomac students! (The sixth is too young). My niece is a senior. Where has the time gone? Class of 1975 classmates were reunited at Lizzie Edgeworth Cantacuzene’s house for their 30th Reunion. Front: Edward Jewett, Sue Keith Elverston, Lizzie Edgeworth Cantacuzene, Chip Chapin, Jamie Resor, and Michael Richardson. Middle: Peggy Griffin Bego and Alison Macdonald von Klemperer. Top: Sandy Sterrett, Susan Holmes, Alessandra Humpstone, Elizabeth Leigh, and Ivan Blinoff.

What a reality check. Other than that, life in Northern California is terrific!” Ralph Savarese writes, “After many years in Florida, I’m now teaching at Grinnell College in Iowa. I have a book coming out in May of this year called Reasonable People: A Memoir of Autism and Adoption. It tells the story of adopting from foster care a badly abused, non-speaking six-year-old with autism, a boy said to be profoundly retarded. Eight years after having been adopted, he’s a fully included eighth-grader who uses a computer to speak and who just aced the Iowa Test of Basic Skills! He has written the book’s concluding chapter, a sad yet triumphant account of his very difficult journey. Check out the book’s Web site: www.reasonable-people.com.”

Jonathan Osha writes, “Living in Houston, TX (20 years!). Have own Patent Law firm. Also, father of five kids and one grandchild. (Maybe the 1st grandfather in our class!).” Jennifer Davis writes, “My husband Kennon, son Leo and I welcomed
our baby girl, Esme, in September. We have just moved to a new home and are loving the extra space and ample light!"

1982

Rachel Renzy Meima writes, “We moved this past year into the house where my husband, Steve, grew up. Still getting settled. Rose, eight, and Hughes, five, think it’s pretty cool to be sleeping in the same bedroom as Daddy did when he was a little boy!”

1983

Middleton Martin, Jr. writes, “On September 2, 2006, Jennifer, Elizabeth (four years old), and I welcomed two healthy girls, Caroline and Rebecca, into our family.”

1985

From Christy Halvorson Ross:
We had a fantastic twentieth (!) reunion this spring, both at Potomac and at Town Hall in Glover Park. There were quite a few of us in attendance and we all had a great time catching up. Included were: Connie Pendleton, Liza Graham, Liz Padwe Muhlbau, Almus Thorp, Chris Arndt, Annabelle Redway Dunn, Joe Colantuoni, Prentiss Vallender Lay, Julie Dugger, Mary Dempsey Lembke, Cricky Long, Carl Lettow, Burt Gray, Chrissy Coughlin, Robert Creamer, Ayse Uzer Crowley, Enrico Cecchi, and myself. Both Ayse and Enrico have children at Potomac. Ayse’s son Tyler and Enrico’s daughter Gabrielle are in the same third grade class. Enrico and his wife moved to Evermay a few years ago and look out their front door at the Gum Tree Field! They have three children—Gabrielle (8), Enrico (4) and Giuseppe (2). He is on the board of the Elsie Whitlow Stokes School, a K-6 language immersion charter school in DC, and is also involved with the Signature Theater in Arlington. He encourages all of us to attend the new Shirlington facility’s opening performance of “Into the Woods.”

Leff Lefferts reports: “All is well here in San Francisco. My wife Jenny & I have three incredible kids: Kyra (9), Leff III (8), & Max (4). Jenny is hard at work building her company: MadMaps. As for me, after many years in the music business, I have turned to the Dark Side and joined the team at Skywalker Sound.”

Almus Thorp has a new job, a new house, and a new baby due in June! He and his wife Elizabeth already have two daughters named Lucy and Isabelle. Connie Pendleton made partner this fall at her law firm Davis Wright Tremaine LLP in Washington DC! The firm specializes in media and First Amendment law, representing newspapers, broadcasters, book and magazine publishers in defamation, privacy, newsgathering, and reporter’s privilege matters. Congratulations!!

I (Christy Halvorson Ross) have the good fortune of seeing Connie and also Liza Graham frequently. They are both godmothers to Garth’s and my children Si (5) and Eva (4). Garth and I celebrated our tenth wedding anniversary this year! Julie Kerwin Redpath gave birth to her third, Thomas Kerwin Redpath, on August 18th. He joins his big sisters, Julia (5 1/2) and Maggie (3 1/2). She is staying home this year with baby Thomas. Her husband, Todd, was recently promoted to the rank of Sergeant with the Maryland State Police and is now stationed at the College Park Barrack. They are still living in Queenstown on Maryland’s Eastern Shore. James Newbold and his wife are spending a six month sabbatical in Patagonia. Their son, Fleming, loves the outdoors, chasing the sheep and turkeys. If anyone is planning a trip to Chile, please look them up at www.elalamo.cl. And, finally, Alden Hall, who was missing from reunion, but very present prior to it in the email exchanges regarding random people that I had not seen or heard from in years. Made me almost want to see him. In the end, I am sorry that we had a wedding to go to. In the exchange, I passed along most of my news (and olds): we’ve moved to Lebanon, New Hampshire, the fall was spectacular, now I’m playing club hockey (which I haven’t done much of since my 7th grade days at the Chevy Chase Club, and it shows), and lastly I’ve got the ace. Oh, yeah, it is always a good idea to have somebody standing at the base of the ladder, you know, in case it gets tippy or something.”
Danielle Kleman Porak de Varna writes, “I married Austrian, Dr. Victor Porak de Varna, in Austria this April. My sister, Nicole Kleman Neufeld ’92, was my Maid of Honor. Victor and I have recently moved to Vancouver, BC.”

Virginia Martin Reece writes, “My husband, David, and I would like to announce the birth of our son, Chapin Middleton Carpenter Reece on February 4, 2006.”

Ama Amoako Adams shares, “Sandra L. Miller’s first book of poems, Oriflamme, was published by Ahsahta Press in 2005 and nominated for the LA Times Book Award. She publishes in little magazines and edits her own, 1913 journal of forms (www.journal1913.org). Sandra is currently Visiting Assistant Professor in the MFA Creative Writing Program at Hollins University, where she lives on campus (i.e. Maggie’s farm) with her husband, the poet Ben Doyle, and their dog, the dog Ronald Johnson. They’ll soon be commuting to Boise, just for fun.” Kathryn Modecki writes, “I’ve accepted a post-doctoral fellowship at Yale University—so I’ll be in New Haven for the next few years. I’m also engaged to my longtime partner from Telluride, CO, Rich Holden. Would love to catch up if folks are in the area....” Elliott Holt ’92 writes, “Lizzie Holt ’94 and Willy Darman ’94 married two years ago and are expecting a baby in March 2007. They bought a brownstone in Park Slope, Brooklyn. They live in the duplex on the top two floors. Jonathan Darman ’99 rents the parlor floor, and I rent the garden floor. So we’re one big happy family of Potomac alums. Katie Holt ’98 doesn’t live with us, but lives just a few minutes away so she’s over at our house a lot. Willy still works in the leveraged finance group at Goldman Sachs; Jonathan is a Senior writer and political correspondent for Newsweek magazine; Katie is getting her PhD in Slavic Literature at Columbia University; I am a copywriter at Saatchi & Saatchi (the advertising agency) and write fiction on the side; and Lizzie is a yoga teacher. The Holt-Darman clan has five pets.” Angela Miller writes, “After 10 years in Austin, TX, I’ve returned to DC to attend law school at the George Washington University. I’m living in Columbia Heights and would love to reconnect with old friends from Potomac. My email is angmill08@hotmail.com.” Mia Whang Spiker writes, “I’ve been busy applying to law school. I see Perry Aldige Shure, Lizzie Holt Darman, Willy Darman, Paige Mader, Tyler Wilkins, Cynthia Robinson, Jonathan Rivers, and George Miller all of the time!” Julia Morrill married Jesse Sweet in May 2006. Abigail Whitehead Craine was the Matron of Honor.

Nabeena Chatterjee Banerjee writes, “My husband Arnab and I recently bought our first home in White Plains, NY. Our son, Aranya, was born on February 3, 2007. I am currently a litigation associate for Jaffe & Asher, LLP in Manhattan.”

Jack Brown is teaching at the University of Washington. Jim Lewis recently received a Masters degree from John Hopkins School for Advanced International Studies. He is fluent in Russian and is currently employed by HSBC Bank in Moscow. Seth Gaudreau is a student at Suffolk University Law School in Boston.

Kate Brown graduated All International Law and is joining US Army JAG. Hollyday Perkins finished her Masters in Special Education, and she is currently student teaching. She lives in Stuart, FL and is engaged to be married in late spring. Aldridge Sower shares, “Got married!” John Loizeaux married Jennifer Crider on July 15, 2006.

Elizabeth DeMuth Gresham writes, “Living in England with husband and five month old (amazing!) son. Speak to Susan Reynolds all the time. Will be in D.C. for Easter ‘07, if anyone from class of ’98 is around, would love to catch up!” Elena Sylos-Labini writes, “Currently living in Chicago and applying to graduate school.”

Lucinda Brown is working as an energy analyst in Washington, DC. Emily Duncan is in her second year at Duke Law and will be studying abroad this spring in Singapore. Brady Millar and Dan Doty were married on September 23, 2006. Ilia Domon is living in Palm Desert, CA and is employed as a news producer for KMIR-TV, an affiliate of NBC. Katherine Pritchett writes, “I am excited to graduate from the Institute of Integrative Nutrition in NYC in June 2007 with a diploma in Health Counseling. I currently work in Old Town, Alexandria as a marketing specialist and community liaison for Whole Foods.” John Warin has relocated to Boston and joined Alliance, a business consulting firm. Burke Brownfeld writes, “I am an Alexandria Police Officer and studying Spanish. I am still in close touch with Jon Andrews, Tom Hiney, and Ivan Sifton ’01.” Fontaine Marcoux Haskell writes, “I married Samuel Drayton Haskell on July 29, 2006, and I am now teaching art.
at Highlands School.” Teddy Symes writes, “I am a documentary filmmaker. Traveled to Rwanda, Ethiopia, Guatemala and Honduras in 2006-2007.” Kathleen Kiernan just started her first year of medical school at the University of Southern California, and she is enjoying West Coast living in her few moments of spare time!

2001

From Daphne Chester and Stirling Kelso:
It was great to see everyone who attended our fifth year reunion and dinner in May. Thank you to Stephanie Amann and her family for hosting our class dinner. Congratulations to Alexander Chapman on his recent engagement to college sweetheart Kelly Barker! Alex is working at Booz Allen Hamilton as a consultant specializing in change management strategy and is looking to go to law school in a couple of years. Congratulations are also in order to Sarah Bosiack Ross who married high school sweetheart, Joseph Ross, in Savannah, Georgia this past August with Potomac classmate Stephanie Amann in attendance as a bridesmaid. Sarah graduated from the University of Georgia and is now living in Savannah working for her family’s furniture business, Seabrook Classics, in design and marketing. Stephen Gavula is living in New York City and has taken a new job in the sales and trading program at BNP Paribas working in their fixed income division. Laura Smith spent two weeks sailing on the same tall ship that she sailed on for her Potomac senior project, and has now accepted a new job with Western Geco, a division of Schlumberger, an oil services company. Laura will be working on a seismic ship blasting air guns into the Indian Ocean looking for oil, though is currently in New Orleans for offshore survival training (underwater helicopter escape, basic firefighting, and personal survival). After receiving a masters degree in Latin American Studies from USC, Noah Miller moved to San Francisco and has been working for local politicians. However, he will soon be heading to Japan for a year or two to work for the government of Kaishay. Lina Gomez has been traveling the world with her international communications company, IBINS, producing promotional country reports on such places as Malta, Argentina, Spain, Trinidad & Tobago, Iceland, Belize and South Africa. C.J. Fahey is living and working in Rome, where he has been playing a lot of music and learning to cook pasta! He was unfortunately involved in a very serious car accident this summer in Italy, but is now fully on the road to recovery and back living in Rome. Christine Varoutsos is studying for an M.S. in Spanish Linguistics at Georgetown University and is living with Christina Trabandt in Rosslyn. Marc Langer is living in Taipei, Taiwan working as a translator for a newspaper called the Taipei Times. Rory Pillsbury graduated with a BA in political science from Kenyon College along with Potomac classmate Garrett Clarke and is now working as an assistant project manager for Peris Companies, a commercial interior renovation firm based in Falls Church, VA. Alex Cheek lives in Boston and works for New Boston Fund. He loves to cook. Elissa Brown and Daphne Chester are living together in New York. Elissa is working on a documentary film project, while Daphne works for a domestic oil shipping company. Tom Cannell is living in New Orleans, but will be heading to South Africa in February to get his masters in Theology and Development at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. Whitney Petersmeyer is also living in New York and in her second year at Monitor. Ben Smith is pursuing a career in film and loving his New York apartment in the East Village. Marian Smith will soon graduate with her masters in journalism from NYU and plans to move to London in January. Stirling Kelso, Elena Knappen, and Stephanie Amann continue to live together in Brooklyn, NY. Elena and Stephanie are both in their second year of teaching in association with Teach for America, and Stirling is working as an Editorial Assistant for Travel + Leisure magazine. Kate Jackson recently moved to London from New York, and she is still working for Reuters organizing their corporate events. Will McIntire is teaching History at Western Reserve Academy in northeastern Ohio. He is also in charge of a boy’s dorm and coaching lacrosse and hockey. He spent two weeks this summer backpacking through Germany and Austria and got to go to the USA Ghana World Cup game. Skipper Calvert was selected to fly attack jets (F/A 18 Hornet, to be exact) for the Navy. It is quite an honor. After ejection seat and survival training, he will be moving to Meridian, Mississippi to continue on this exciting path.
Elizabeth Fabiani
1418 Harvest Crossing Drive
McLean, VA 22101-1819
Fabsnyc@aol.com

2004
Kathryn Johnson
6715 Benjamin Street
McLean, VA 22101-1503
stbb7@hotmail.com

Regina Lee
208 Primrose Street
Chevy Chase, MD 20815

2005
Charlotte Lawson
2438 Belmont Road, NW
Washington, DC 20008
ccl1987@aol.com

Jordan Yarboro
12950 Oak Lawn Place
Herndon, VA 22071
captinjd2@cox.net

2006
Trevor Lewis
6512 Western Avenue
Chevy Chase, MD 20815
Wagzo4930@aol.com

Virginia O'Connell
841 Mackall Avenue
McLean, VA 22101
Love4socr@aol.com

From Elizabeth Fabiani:
Sarah Duncan is a senior at Harvard in the history and science concentration. As a history of science major, she’s comparing the differences in regulation of hormone replacement therapy and the birth control pill for her thesis. She spent the summer working at Arnold and Porter in DC on diet drug litigation. Sarah’s applying to law school this fall, but hopes to defer a year and go abroad. She still works for Current magazine, a college news magazine with circulation >200,000, is the head of the intramural referee program at Harvard, works on her residential house’s house committee, and is also coaching a U-10 girls soccer team, the Red Vipers (they’re undefeated—of course). Aleem Ahmed returned to Haverford College for his senior year after studying year abroad in London. While abroad he met up with Potomac alumni Griffin Vanze, Elise Baran, and Emma Jackson. Aleem is a political science major and serves as a student representative to the College’s Presidential Search Committee. Ian MacLeod spent the summer conducting Biology research at Clarkson University in upstate New York, and he returned to Wesley University this fall for his senior year. Ian studies Biology and Environmental Science and is looking forward to graduating from Wesleyan this spring and venturing into the great wide world. He hopes to work for a South African company involved in the bio-fuel business. His fraternity team won the Intramural Soccer C league championships, quite an accomplishment! Ian socializes with Hunter Craighill ’05, Yale Yng-Wong ’05, and Will Runge ’05 and they are soon to perform a rock show at Ian’s senior house. Jimmy Mersereau is a senior at Tulane University. He spent time at American University as part of their Washington Semester Program and loved it. He then spent half of his summer making-up classes due to Hurricane Katrina and used the rest of his summer to sail and take road-trips around the country. Since Jimmy’s ahead

2002

Susannah Haworth writes, “I am currently attending the Sotheby’s Institute of Art in London getting my MA in Contemporary Art.” Anne Romatowski writes, “I am graduating from Harvard College in June.”

2003

Golnar Oveyssi is working as a research assistant at the American Enterprise Institute (Middle East policy), and he is applying for graduate school in London. Nate Guggenheim graduated with an M.A. in Art History from the University of St. Andrew’s in Scotland, and he is now selling real estate for W.C. & A.N. Miller in Washington, DC. Juliana Bennison writes, “I’m a Princeton in Asia Fellow working with Cecilia Ochoa in the Philippines country office. I moved to the Philippines to work with SC after graduating from undergrad and have been here for almost two years. I am writing because I just noticed that the lecture on ‘Innovation and Reaching Vulnerable Children’ will be held at my alma mater, The Potomac School. I am thrilled to see SC Philippines, Save the Children’ will be held at my alma mater, because I just noticed that the lecture on ‘Innovation and Reaching Vulnerable Children’ will be held at my alma mater, The Potomac School. I am thrilled to see SC Philippines, Save the Children’ will be held at my alma mater, because I just noticed that the lecture on ‘Innovation and Reaching Vulnerable Children’ will be held at my alma mater, The Potomac School. I am thrilled to see SC Philippines, Save the Children’ will be held at my alma mater, because I just noticed that the lecture on ‘Innovation and Reaching Vulnerable Children’ will be held at my alma mater, The Potomac School. I am thrilled to see SC Philippines, Save the Children’ will be held at my alma mater, because I just noticed that the lecture on ‘Innovation and Reaching Vulnerable Children’ will be held at my alma mater, The Potomac School. I am thrilled to see SC Philippines, Save the Children’ will be held at my alma mater, because I just noticed that the lecture on ‘Innovation and Reaching Vulnerable Children’ will be held at my alma mater, The Potomac School. I am thrilled to see SC Philippines, Save the Children’ will be held at my alma mater, because I just noticed that the lecture on ‘Innovation and Reaching Vulnerable Children’ will be held at my alma mater, The Potomac School. I am thrilled to see SC Philippines, Save the Children’ will be held at my alma mater, because I just noticed that the lecture on ‘Innovation and Reaching Vulnerable Children’ will be held at my alma mater, The Potomac School. I am thrilled to see SC Philippines, Save the Children’ will be held at my alma mater, because I just noticed that the lecture on ‘Innovation and Reaching Vulnerable Children’ will be held at my alma mater, The Potomac School. I am thrilled to see SC Philippines, Save the Children’ will be held at my alma mater, because I just noticed that the lecture on ‘Innovation and Reaching Vulnerable Children’ will be held at my alma mater, The Potomac School. I am thrilled to see SC Philippines, Save the Children’ will be held at my alma mater, because I just noticed that the lecture on ‘Innovation and Reaching Vulnerable Children’ will be held at my alma mater, The Potomac School. I am thrilled to see SC Philippines, Save the Children’ will be held at my alma mater, because I just noticed that the lecture on ‘Innovation and Reaching Vulnerable Children’ will be held at my alma mater, The Potomac School. I am thrilled to see SC Philippines, Save the Children’ will be held at my alma mater, because I just noticed that the lecture on ‘Innovation and Reaching Vulnerable Children’ will be held at my alma mater, The Potomac School. I am thrilled to see SC Philippines, Save the Children’ will be held at my alma mater, because I just noticed that the lecture on ‘Innovation and Reaching Vulnerable Children’ will be held at my alma mater, The Potomac School. I am thrilled to see SC Philippines, Save the Children’ will be held at my alma mater, because I just noticed that the lecture on ‘Innovation and Reaching Vulnerable Children’ will be held at my alma mater, The Potomac School. I am thrilled to see SC Philippines, Save the Children’ will be held at my alma mater, because I just noticed that the lecture on ‘Innovation and Reaching Vulnerable Children’ will be held at my alma mater, The Potomac School. I am thrilled to see SC Philippines, Save the Children’ will be held at my alma mater, because I just noticed that the lecture on ‘Innovation and Reaching Vulnerable Children’ will be held at my alma mater, The Potomac School. I am thrilled to see SC Philips...”

of schedule academically, he only has to take one class this spring but he is also in the process of looking for jobs. Maya Jaafar spent the past semester at the University of Tasmania in Hobart, Australia and took courses in Art and Environmental Studies. She spent most of her time rock climbing and has come back to Bowdoin and is the social chair of the rock climbing club on campus, organizing climbing events with Colby and Bates. She substitute taught at Potomac and is currently teaching environmental science to 3rd graders at the Longfellow Elementary School in Brunswick, ME. She is considering a career in teaching for next year. Anne Benveniste spent her junior year studying abroad in Paris, France. She met up with Lisa Rainey in Prague—which Anne thought to be an amazing city. This past summer, Anne interned at a PR firm in New York City. She is currently working on her International Relations thesis which is comparing the effectiveness of Muslim integration policies in France and Britain. Next year she plans on living in NYC with hopes of gaining a job in marketing consumer products. Elizabeth Fabiani is an English and Communications major at Boston College and is currently writing feature articles for a local newspaper in Boston, The Dorchester Reporter. She also translates articles from Spanish to English for the online International Network of Street Newspapers Service, an organization which raises awareness about international violence, poverty and immigrant issues. She spent the past semester studying abroad in Quito, Ecuador and then stayed for the summer in order to teach English and travel throughout South America. Brett Shear-Heyman is graduating early with a major in print journalism and a minor in theatre. After graduation she plans on going to Florida to horseback ride and work and train for the winter and then go on to Europe to do the same. She spent the summer working and riding for her trainer. She also works for a magazine, and though it is a horse related publication, the circulation is international. She also freelances for a small magazine in New Jersey. She has her own little shoebox studio in DC and loves it. Rachel Dyke is a senior at Stanford and is finishing her major in international relations and her minors in economics and environmental engineering. Her plans after school are very up in the air but may include getting her master’s at Stanford and staying in the Bay Area. She is still a member on the varsity lacrosse team and has been named captain. She does not want to graduate from college. Cal Nannes has been taking the next step towards medical school. After a brutal junior spring filled with early mornings for MCAT practice tests and late nights of extra review class time, he has finally finished his applications and has been waiting to hear from schools. He is also writing a senior thesis in psychology in eyewitness memory. He is also taking a comparative anatomy course in which he slices dogfish sharks and cats—it reminds him of his days of slicing frogs in Ms. Blanchard’s biology class. Pete Carrington is back in Florida after a brief but very enjoyable semester in LA with Truman Morrison and Ben Gillespie. He spent the summer living and working in East Harlem at a youth development organization which was trying but rewarding. He looks forward to graduating and moving on to get an MSW or Masters in sociology or just go straight into teaching high school. He has a nice lady friend and would also like to purchase a boat. Misa Bretschneider is currently engaged and is planning on getting married to an alumnus of University of Chicago (Chris Freeberg). Claire Simeone is a Physiology and Neurobiology major at the University of Maryland. She plans to graduate in the spring and has applied to several veterinary schools. Last summer she spent a month in the Turks and Caicos Islands studying sustainable development of the fisheries there through the School for Field Studies. Next semester she will be a Teaching Assistant for a Developmental Biology class, and next year she will hopefully either be enrolled in Veterinary school or apply for a volunteer position in the Peace Corps. Kathryn Brand returned from studying abroad in Sydney, Australia where she spent her time surfing and traveling a lot. She is now working at a PR firm on the Hill and editing for one of Georgetown’s papers. She is applying to the Peace Corps for when she graduates. Jessica Liu writes, “I spent the spring semester (2006) studying abroad in Melbourne, Australia and visited Maya Jaafar in Tasmania for Easter break.” Margaret McClintic writes, “I recently returned from ten months in China (Yunnan Province and Beijing), and I just transferred from Kenyon College to Scripps College in Claremont, CA with plans on continuing to study Mandarin and international relations. I hope to start a squash club team at Scripps.” Andrew Duncan spent his summer studying in Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, and London. He returned to Charlottesville in the fall.

2004

Cooper Jones writes, “I am spending my fall term in Buenos Aires, and I am having a great time.” Caroline Reid spent the fall semester studying abroad in London. Kennedy Kanagawa spent the summer performing one of the leads in “I Love You, You’re Perfect, Now Change.” At Muhlenberg, he is a founding member of the Multi Cultural Task Force, a tour guide, and he sings in the Dynamic acapella group. Golbanou Tabatabaie recently got a job writing for the Herald newspaper in New Jersey. She also made Drew’s Dean’s List in 2006. Arielle Samuelson was on the Dean’s List her sophomore year and she spent the summer studying at The Mediterranean Center of Arts and Sciences in Siracusa, Italy. Mattie Cowan spent the fall semester in Russia at St. Petersburg Polytechnic, and she will be back at Bowdoin this spring. Tesia Smith writes, “I spent the month of July working with Vervet monkeys at the Vervet Monkey Foundation in Tzaneem, South Africa. I will now be heading to Japan to study at Kansai Gaidai University for the semester.”

2005

From Charlotte Lawson:
It’s been a busy eighteen months for the Class of 2005! Most of us have spent our second year at school building on the activities we enjoyed as freshmen, yet we have also used the year to make some exciting changes. I still run for the University of Pennsylvania’s Women’s track and cross country teams; I also tutor and guide campus tours on the weekends and plan on declaring a Bio major in the spring. I often run into Sam Lee ’03, Lauren Brandes ’06, Ellen Benveniste ’06, Alissa Kur, and Jenny Pahira on campus. I especially see a lot of Charlie Tansill ’04, who moved into my dorm this year after transferring to Penn from UNC. Many of the former Panthers I heard from are now representing their new schools either on the athletic fields or on the stage. Dare Kolawole walked-on to the varsity Track and Field team at Stanford as a
The Class of 2003 got together during the holidays. L to R: Griffin Vance, Scott Richardson, Eric Ryan Jordan or Morocco this summer. Molly or that she hopes to study abroad either in International Relations and Middle Eastern Studies and is going to double major in International. 

Maria Abramovich ’06

Lauren Clarke

Charles Regatta in Boston. In New York, Shane also recently saw Yui Hashimoto row for Macalester College. Romatowski ’02

Shane also recently saw Yui Hashimoto row for Macalester College when her team came to the Head of the Charles Regatta in Boston. In New York, Lauren Clarke is still playing varsity squash for Cornell and I had the pleasure of seeing her play in Philadelphia. On the stage, Jake Cohen is representing Potomac well, as always. In an email he described a recent Potomac reunion: “On Sunday evening, Edward Scott, Christine Ryan ’06, Derek Thompson ’04 and I headed over to former IS Art teacher Anna Herzlinger’s Evanston apartment for some laughter, reminiscence, and delicious vegetarian home cooking. While the Chicago cold has already begun its onslaught, the Potomac warmth has left these Panthers-turned-Wildcats smiling.” Allison Hutchings, who recently transferred to William and Mary from Smith College, also says she sees various Potomac alums on campus including Ryan Forster, Jessica Miller, Lucia Abramovich ’04, and Maria Abramovich ’06. Allison says she is going to double major in International Relations and Middle Eastern Studies and that she hopes to study abroad either in Jordan or Morocco this summer. Molly Ryan, a nursing major and psych minor at Georgetown, is planning to travel soon as well. Molly writes, “This winter break I will be traveling to a rural Mayan village in the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico on Intercambio with 10 other Georgetown students for 10 days…. We will be living with local Mayan families, building a community center and running a health and dental clinic.” Like Allison, Lolly Cunningham and Jamie Nemeroff decided to transfer schools this year as well. Both Lolly and Jamie now attend UVA, coming from Denison College and the University of Richmond respectively. Lolly writes that UVA is “amazing”; she has chosen to remain affiliated with her same sorority, Pi Beta Phi, and will most likely major in foreign affairs with a concentration on the Middle East. In North Carolina, Meaghan Kiernan is studying art history having declared the subject as her major last spring. Meaghan worked for an architect on Cape Cod last summer and is currently working for Susan Carson Associates, an interior design firm in Winston-Salem. Also in North Carolina, Amanda Gutierrez is busy as ever at UNC. Among other things, she runs for her school’s club track team and just completed her second half marathon. One state over in South Carolina, Meaghan is studying art history having declared the subject as her major last spring. Meaghan worked for an architect on Cape Cod last summer and is currently working for Susan Carson Associates, an interior design firm in Winston-Salem. Also in North Carolina, Amanda Gutierrez, is busy as ever at UNC. Among other things, she runs for her school’s club track team and just completed her second half marathon. One state over in South Carolina, Ashley Burnett says she is loving life at the College of Charleston. As for those “up north”, Kris Subhash is enjoying Tufts. He recently attended his brother, and fellow Potomac alum, Dev Subhash’s ‘94 wedding. Also in Boston, Katie Fabiani decided to transfer into Boston College’s business school this year. As for Beantown itself, Katie says she is loving the city but not the weather. Having done a post-grad year at the Interlochen Academy of the Arts, Andrew Green is now in his first year at Lawrence College in Michigan. He is a Music Performance major and has performed many times already this year.

Robbie Taylor has also decided to pursue his musical interests as he is majoring in Jazz Guitar studies at Shenandoah University in Winchester, VA. Robbie writes: “I get to study music every day and I also am learning to be fluent in piano. I am learning a lot about music and theory, and I couldn’t ask for anything more.” Last summer, Brendan Reilly participated in the Marine Corps Officer Training program at Quantico. He attends Princeton University and is a member of the men’s Varsity Lacrosse team. Also at Princeton, Katie Kelly spent last summer working for The Geographic Project at National Geographic. She is majoring in engineering and joined the Pi Beta Phi sorority. Justin Stilwell writes, “I transferred from M.I.T. to Yale. By and large, the Class of 2005 seems to still be doing “what they want.”

Colleen McGavin writes, “I am loving Duke and studying engineering, most likely biomedical.” Sam Gulland writes, “Will play spring football and will participate in Army ROTC.” Tom Simeone writes “After a great summer working at T&T Landscaping and hanging out with friends, I started college August 12th. I arrived early at football camp, where teammates often weigh almost 300lbs, indicating I was no longer at Potomac!” Phinne McIntire writes, “The fall lacrosse program is pretty demanding but I am loving Colby.”
In Memoriam

Kamila Stapko Allen ‘60
Sister of Gregory W. Stapko ‘65, Joseph Stapko ‘68,

Marjorie S. Arundel
Grandmother of Peter W. Arundel ‘75, Wendy Arundel ‘77, John H. Arundel ‘81, Thomas B. Arundel ‘90, great-great grandmother to Nicholas W. Arundel ‘14, Brooks Arundel ‘15,

Kathleen Bell ‘36

Charles Crowder
Husband of Helen Crowder, past faculty

Lawrence C. Dalley, Jr.
Husband of Agnes Dunn Dalley ‘43, father of Laura Dalley Tobin ‘67, Lawrence C. Dalley, III ‘70, Richard D. Dalley ‘72, Sarah Dalley Shannon ‘79

Avery C. Faulkner

Claudia Flynn
Mother of Robin Warren ‘10,

Randolph A. Frank, Sr.
Father of Randolph Frank, Jr. ‘72, Eleanor Frank Hazard ‘73, J.L. Frank ‘76, grandfather of Randolph A. Frank ‘13, Eleanor Frank ‘16, Catherine Frank ‘16

Bob Harris
Grandfather of Patrick S. Harris ‘04,

Nikitas Kambanis
Father of George N. Kambanis ‘98,

John G. Keller
Father of Anne Keller Dunbar ‘66 (dec), John G. Keller ‘73, Victoria L. Keller ‘78

John Kirkman
Grandfather of Michael E. Kirkman ‘03

Jonathan C. Lett ‘92
Brother of Sara Lett Mulhall ‘93

Diana Hazel Lowery
Mother of Christopher W. Lowery ‘66, Mark Lowery ‘66, Dominic Lowery ‘71, Anny Lowery Meza ‘71, grandmother to Jenna Meza ‘10, Zachary Meza ‘12,

Nancy Anne Johnston McNear ‘51

Floyd L. Miller
Grandfather of Michael Wilhelm ‘94

Frances McKee O’Brien ‘22
Half-sister of Frederick H. Brooke, Jr. ‘28, cousin of E.B. Lee, Jr. ‘31

Richard Clayton Peet
Father of Victoria C. Peet ‘81, Alexandra Peet ‘83, Elizabeth Peet ‘85, Clarissa Peet ‘91

Julie L. Pell ‘68
Sister of Dallas Pell Yates ‘65

Schuyler Beebe Savage ‘68
Sister of Alexandra Beebe ‘66 (deceased)

Henry Strong

C. Woods Vest
Father of Emily Vest ‘78, Victoria Vest ‘80, and Alison Vest ‘81, grandfather to Beata Vest ‘17 and Sebastian Cox ‘18

Edward O. Welles
Father of Parmelee Welles Tolkan ‘63 and Johnathan E. Welles ‘69
From the Archives

The Potomac School needs your help!

If you can identify any of the students pictured below, please contact the Alumni Office at 800-725-8664 or alumni@potomacschool.org.


Thank you to Belinda Winslow ‘60, who graciously submitted corrections to the Pilgrim photo. The correct names are italicized.

From left to right: Charlotte Ecker Hepner ‘60, Dede Gray Joesting ‘60, Janet Auchincloss Rutherfurd ‘60, Margaret Jarman Gantner ‘60, Belinda Winslow ‘60, Sharon Smith ‘60, Martha Hamm Spencer ‘60, Eve Auchincloss Lilley ‘60, Missy Smith Kipp ‘60, Connie Casey ‘60 and Molly Warner ‘60 (standing behind).