

The Potomac Term

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THE ALUMNI MAGAZINE OF THE POTOMAC SCHOOL

THE ARTS
AT POTOMAC



The Potomac Term

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[Cover] Jene Wheelless '12 performs in "Bugsy Malone" in 2007.



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“The arts ... keep alive and develop our most important human possession — the imagination, our human spirit.”

—Carol Preston, 1957

Dear Potomac Community,

We devote this issue of *The Term* to Potomac’s long tradition of excellence in arts education. As the highest expression of every culture, the arts are at the core of the collective human experience. The complex, multi-disciplinary nature of artistic work requires different ways of seeing and thinking that result in creative growth, as well as a means for the brain to function at its highest capacity. In order to be good at anything, one must also be a good humanist.

Our founders recognized the essential role that music, drama and the visual arts play in the development of the mind and the exploration of meaning and perspective. Upon her arrival at Potomac in 1938, Carol Preston broke with convention to lure gifted artists and musicians to the School, developing Potomac’s already strong arts tradition into an outstanding music and arts program. Those teachers — from Jack Langstaff to John Hebler to our impressive faculty of today — have provided our students rich opportunities to actively participate in the full range of creative expression.

All of our students participate in assembly, class plays, music performances and art classes from their earliest years. Creative expression is integral not just to our academic program but to each student’s development as a scholar and citizen. Self discipline, sustained focus and the development of internal standards of excellence lead to personal responsibility and expansive thinking.

I hope the vignettes that follow capture the dynamic diversity of the arts that every Potomac student experiences. Each one provides a window into the unique program we offer our students. Our faculty encourage, guide and inspire, while our students continually surprise and delight us with their discoveries and growth. We believe these pursuits stir the mind and the soul.

Geoffrey Jones

Head of School

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Upper School students perform in the musical "Oliver!" in February 2007.



In the studio Potomac students have the opportunity to work with a variety of media. Here students work on self-portraits and throw pots on the wheel.

ORIGINAL THINKING

REFLECTIONS ON THE ARTS AT POTOMAC AND BEYOND

BY CORT MORGAN | Chair of the art department and Intermediate School and Upper School art teacher.

GREAT TEACHING, in general, is not by command, but by invitation. For 100 years at Potomac, teachers of the arts have invited and inspired children to explore the worlds of music, visual and performing arts for themselves. These teachers have led by example, as mentors and fellow-explorers.

Today they still begin by establishing safe, organized and stimulating environments, then they help stir dialogue between students and raw materials, between students and musical



instruments, between students and their own inner cast of characters. The teacher is essential as an intermediary only in the beginning, until children hear and feel their own summons. Beyond this, the teacher, no stranger to the innermost country, can be a trusted and treasured companion on the journey. Part of this companionship is to help each child put off what is external, clinging, and false, and to help each child cultivate what is innate, growing and true.

"My idea of an art teacher is someone who is clairvoyant, who is able to penetrate the mind and soul of a child. A teacher must comprehend what the child wants to do. He must never interfere with the child's mental image by telling him how to begin. The idea — the mental picture — must be the child's."

- Peppino Mangravite
 Painting Professor, Columbia University
 Potomac School Art Teacher, 1926-1928

OLD AND NEW

In a Stanford University laboratory in 1999, scientists carbon-dated a group of six Chinese bone flutes to between 7,000 and 9,000 years old. These flutes, carved from the wing bones of red-crowned cranes, were designed with patterns of five, six, seven or eight holes. The eight-hole flute still makes lovely sounds.

In southeastern France in 1994, explorers revealed a cavern full of drawings, maybe 20,000, maybe 30,000 years old. The drawings, miraculously fresh and undisturbed by the elements, bring to life the power and presence of Ice Age animals. Those majestic beasts live on, in each practiced gesture, in each stroke of charred wood, with the spirits of their makers, in an eternal present.

Sculpted forms in ivory, bone, and stone come down to us from still more ancient folk, ourselves, but more at home in their land and in their senses. Smooth and round, polished by touch and time, old talismans still charm the eye and hand and mind.

In the foggy autumn forest, stags leap and clack their antlers. Boys on an open green leap and strike their Morris sticks, keeping time with the ancient dance. Blossoms emerge on boughs in May, slender, bending in the breeze. Girls with garland hoops turn, dip and interweave, keeping faith with rhythms of earth and sky.

The blessings of the arts, like the gifts of nature, are our own birthright and our legacy to those who follow. Like sun and frost, seed-time and harvest, the old songs and stories, colors, shapes and dances reappear. Not new, but constantly renewed.



Teachers at Potomac through the years have brought their own special gifts to students. [top] Darcy Swope has been teaching Lower School art since 1983. She will retire this year. [bottom left] Jack Langstaff was Music Director at Potomac from 1954 to 1968. [bottom right] John Hebler also arrived at Potomac in 1954. Except for a brief break from 1954-1956, he taught art here for more than 40 years until his retirement in 1996.

"There are moments in our lives, there are moments in a day, when we seem to see beyond the usual. Such are the moments of our greatest happiness. Such are the moments of our greatest wisdom. If one could but recall his vision by some sort of sign. It was in this hope that the arts were invented. Sign-posts on the way to what may be. Sign-posts toward greater knowledge."

- **Robert Henri**
American painter and teacher
The Art Spirit, 1923

FOX TRACKS

Art works, whether those of children or adults, are but the tangible half of exploration. They are the outer traces and remnants of an inner journey, often beautiful in themselves, but never so valuable as what they teach about the spirit that produced them. Fox tracks in snow record the search in darkness, the chase, the capture. Upward rushing leaves reveal the whirlwind. Elegant, whitened, surf-tossed, a shell can only suggest the deep and hidden life that brought it

forth. Neither treasures nor trinkets, art works are material meditations, formed of both spirit and substance.

"The most important aspect of a youngster's studio art class is the process, the activity that leads to the product, not the product first."

- **John Hebler**
Potomac School Art Teacher, 1954 -1956,
1958-1996



POTOMAC TEACHERS EXPLORE NATURE AND ART

BY IDA COOK

Determined to practice what we teach — to draw, paint, observe and reflect — the Potomac art department ventured to Tilghman Island, Maryland, for a few days in June 2008. The setting for our retreat, an inn on a remote spit of land, offered expansive views of water and sky. We drew and painted, strolled along the shore to see the ever-changing bay, and paddled out to explore the wooded shoreline. Herons, egrets and bald eagles watched us from their perches and nests, swooping overhead if we came too close. We sketched and painted at the nearby marina, busy with crabbers and fishermen coming and going in their workboats.

One evening at sunset, a violent thunderstorm roared across the choppy Chesapeake. It was marvelous to stand together, in the face of racing winds and ragged, dark clouds, to watch the approaching storm. Dark and light, color, texture, changing form — all elements we teach — were humbling on such a scale. We wondered out loud, "How do we express our own experience in charcoal, paint or stone? How can we best teach children to describe their

worlds, their responses and fanciful thoughts, through art?"

Later, teachers from four divisions sat around the dinner table, in this setting so inspiring and conducive to reflection. The surroundings made us look with fresh eyes at our roles as teachers. Over home-cooked soft-shell crabs and rockfish, we shared our past journeys as art students and our present goals as artists. After dinner, we looked at the day's work; in the same setting, we had responded in such different ways. Sketches of boats bobbing in the lively marina; chalk studies of a sun-baked shed; patterns painted from the palette of water and sky; imagery evoked, but not visible. In light of these fresh discoveries, we discussed our work with children. Why is art fundamental? What do we want our students to learn? What should a child's experience in art be from kindergarten through senior year?

This was a wonderful opportunity to support each other in our work as teachers and artists. In fact, we do teach what we practice, acting as mentors to our students. We believe — and were reminded — that each artist, at any age, is on a personal voyage.

PROFILE

ALYSON CAMBRIDGE '97



"The arts — musical, visual, theatrical or otherwise — enrich everyone's lives. I believe that there is a creative spirit that exists within everyone and, especially at a young age, development of that should be encouraged and nurtured just as much as the development of other skills in school."

Alyson Cambridge should know. The 28-year-old full lyric soprano is rapidly establishing herself as an opera and concert star who has performed on the world's grandest stages.

"I have always been a musically inclined person. I've also always been a total ham, a natural comedienne and an actress amongst family and friends. The marriage between music and theater has always appealed to me, and in that way, opera has become the perfect fit for me and my voice," she says.

Alyson won Grand Prize at the Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions in New York in 2003 when she was just 23, launching a career that has included her Metropolitan Opera debut as Frasquita in *Carmen* in 2004 as well as many other roles at the Met and leading opera houses and concert halls around the country and the world.

Alyson attended Potomac from first through eighth grade, finishing in 1992. "During my time

at Potomac, I was always extremely involved in music. I began taking piano lessons at age 4 and studied with a teacher at Potomac.... I also loved to sing... I was the "singing Mary" in the Middle School Christmas pageant and I sang in the chorus in Intermediate School." She also played violin, piano and flute in Middle School. Though she started classical voice training at age 12, she "always maintained interests in other things. I was an athlete in high school and involved in lots of extracurricular activities."

"All my teachers at Potomac were wonderful. But, I will never forget Ms. Swope, my Lower School art teacher, or Mrs. O'Neill, my second grade teacher. They were both so kind, generous, and had such warm hearts and spirits."

As for advice to those who may want to pursue a career in music? "The most important thing is to love it — love the music, love the process, love the learning and study of music, love performing, love sharing with your audience," Alyson says. "Also, perseverance is key. No matter how talented or skilled a person is at their craft, you will face rejection.... Wanting it, loving it and, of course, practicing are the only things that you can have control of in your preparation and pursuit."



PLEASE TOUCH

In all of our arts classes we emphasize daily contact with materials. In every medium, our students are making actual, not virtual, art, using the eyes and hands, muscles and minds that nature gave them.

The sweeping saturated brush, the cold percussion of the stone chisel, the stem of charcoal that crumbles and scrapes, each of these teaches unforgettable lessons to hand and heart. A well-calloused finger holds down a resonating string. Hands, remembering their practiced steps, dance over ivory keys. An actor's uplifted arm, in silence, speaks. Smallest gestures convey deepest emotions. We are embodied; do we imagine that our minds do not extend out to our very fingertips?

It is often said, "What we touch, touches us." The clay we shape for an hour today will go on shaping us.

"We shape our buildings, and afterwards our buildings shape us."

- Winston Churchill

British Prime Minister 1940-1945, 1951-1955
Speech to Parliament, 1943

"Minds, unlike brains, are not entirely given at birth; minds are also forms of cultural achievement. The kinds of minds we develop are profoundly influenced by the opportunities that the school provides."

- Elliot Eisner

Stanford University Emeritus Professor
of Art and Education
2002 John Dewey Lecture

NO PASSENGERS

Some schools offer their students exposure to the arts. Potomac never has. We offer experience. Would you like to read about a peach, or eat the peach? Hear about a mountain, or climb it for yourself?

Potomac students are not just learning about the work of painters, sculptors, actors and musicians, or even emulating them. Our students are doing these things for themselves, in their own way, at the edge of their own abilities, every day.

Nobody just rides along on this train. Everyone is working, stoking the fires, driving the engine, looking out ahead, sounding that high and lonesome whistle.

"Art is a birth, and you can't go to a teacher and find out how to be born. You have to struggle until that image, the one that comes out of yourself to create, emerges."

- Malcah Zeldis

American Folk artist and teacher, 1978

TO UNDERSTAND IS TO INVENT

The theater is quiet, and dark, and full of expectation. A fourth-grade boy strides forward into a pool of light. With solemnity, he raises his eyes to his audience, waits, and then begins, "A story, a story! Let it come, let it go!"

He moves with composure and speaks with confidence. He is, for the moment, not himself, but larger than life, older than time, a majestic bard, a voice creating a world for others out of darkness. In forty minutes he will be his younger self again, racing for a ball across a leafy playground, shouting, tumbling, laughing, tearing his shirt.

How does all of this happen? What are these magic metamorphoses? Observation, imitation and play are natural for children, and the foundations of their understanding of others. Young children endow their surroundings with mythic drama. Their minds search instinctively for feeling, character and personality in everything they encounter. A child alone will sing to himself, recall conversations, develop

dramas, create families of toys, care for the feelings of stones.

So, creating characters, a fundamental element of drama, is both natural and enjoyable for children. In so doing, they search their own rich treasuries of observed and imagined behavior, studying human nature in the process. The deeper the understandings, the more inventive the characterizations. To collaborate in a communal adventure of imagination and presentation, appropriately called a "play," is simply to reinforce and to reward a deeply human kind of learning.

"To understand is to invent."

- Jean Piaget

Swiss philosopher and psychologist, 1957

"Theater is a natural extension of play."

- Michael Bergman

Potomac School Theatre Director,
1994-present

"Your own identity and self-knowledge are the main sources for any character you play... We have to be truly curious about ourselves and others!"

- Uta Hagen

Actress and teacher
Respect for Acting, 1973





PROFILE

ELLEN MCLAUGHLIN '73

Ellen McLaughlin was literally living a dream when she starred as Claire in Edward Albee's *A Delicate Balance* earlier this year at the Arena Stage in Washington, DC. In Mrs. Louisa Newlin's English class at Potomac, McLaughlin was asked to "picture yourself as an adult and write about it." So McLaughlin wrote an essay about being an actor at Arena Stage. "I imagined myself as Sabina in *Skin of our Teeth* and actually saw myself walking out the door of the theater and driving my yellow VW bug home to my husband." Although it was a different play and occurred long after Ms. McLaughlin had established herself as an accomplished actor and playwright, performing in Albee's play was the first time she'd appeared in the theater she had attended as a child.

McLaughlin credits her passion for acting and playwriting to a number of her Potomac School teachers. They inspired a passion and provided a warm welcome to this intelligent and beautiful woman who remembers feeling shy and awkward when she arrived at Potomac in third grade. Mrs. Diana King introduced her to the Greek classics that McLaughlin ultimately drew from to adapt and reinvent her own Greek plays for the theater. In third grade Mrs. Jessie O'Neill cast her in *Mr. Popper's Penguins*—"the beginning of my career!" She also remembers the librarian, Mrs. Sherman,

who gave her a copy of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Wolf*. "I couldn't believe how brilliant it was, and I knew I wanted to be part of this thing."

"This thing" has turned out to be a long, successful career as a stage and screen actor and playwright. Credits include *Pirate Jenny* in *Three Penny Opera* (for which she received the Trinity Rep. Elliot Norton award), *Donny in Cryptogram*, Mrs. Alving in *Ghosts* and the Homebody in *Homebody/Kabul*. Her plays include *Days and Nights Within, A Narrow Bed, Infinity's House, Iphigenia and Other Daughters, Tongue of a Bird, The Trojan Women, Helen, The Persians and Oedipus*. McLaughlin also teaches playwriting at Barnard College. She is perhaps best known for originating the part of the angel in Tony Kushner's *Angels in America*. Kushner writes, "Ellen McLaughlin is a dramatist of courage, intelligence, wit and lyricism."

McLaughlin was touched to have retired teachers Mrs. Imogen Rose and Mrs. Diana "Mike" King, "both of whom were very important to me," attend a performance of *A Delicate Balance*. She would advise aspiring young actors to work in the medium if you can't get work as an actor. "Paint scenery, sell tickets, do something that gets you in the door." Her advice to all students: "You don't have to be the smartest person in the room. Put yourself in the way of talented people that you can learn from and keep on challenging yourself."



[top left] US Theater Instructor Michael Bergman directs a dress rehearsal of "Oliver!"

[top right] The class of 1960 in art class.

[middle] Performing in each year's Class Play is a fond memory for Potomac alums.

[bottom] Intermediate School boys play bells at the IS Winter Concert.

ALWAYS THERE

Potomac's approach to art education is, of course, rooted in the School's original mission and its approach to teaching children. Simply stated, children have a life, an individuality and an integrity of their own, at each stage of their development. They are born, and come to school, already real and complete in themselves. Children are not empty vessels waiting to be filled with wisdom or adult expectations; they are already brimming over with their own vitality, hope and urge to learn. They are hungry to make, explore, invent. And they are always changing.

In art classes we coax out, rather than pouring in. We help children find their own visions and voices, which are always there but sometimes hidden even from themselves.

In 1904, this view was anything but self-evident and anything but common, so several Washington parents boldly created a new learning community for their children. We are the heirs to their efforts and to the progressive vision of teachers and philosophers like John Dewey.

So how do we teach art? We do instruct in skills, we guide, advise, observe and wait. We encourage, and we offer honest appraisals when asked. We believe that the inner visions and voices will never be well-expressed unless the child develops fluency in those ancient, wordless languages of the arts. So we and the children

work, and keep on working. And the work is always play.

"When we watch a child in an environment that is his and that evokes response in him, we see that he works by himself toward his own self-perfection. The right way is not only indicated by the objects he picks up, but by the possibility of his recognizing his own errors by means of these objects.

And what should we do?

Nothing.

We have exerted the effort to get him the things that he needs. Now we must learn to take ourselves in hand and watch from the sidelines, following him at a distance, neither tiring him with our intervention nor abandoning him. He is always tranquil and self-sufficient while he is occupied with something that is very important to him."

- **Maria Montessori**
Italian educator
The Child in the Family, 1923

*"...But yield who will to their separation,
My object in living is to unite
My avocation and my vocation
As my two eyes make one in sight.
Only where love and need are one,
And the work is play for mortal stakes,
Is the deed ever really done
For Heaven and the future's sakes."*

- **Robert Frost**
American poet
from "Two Tramps in Mud Time," 1936



PROFILE

ERNIE MITCHELL '02

I did not learn everything I need to know in kindergarten, but I did publish my first book in second grade. Under the watchful eye of Sarah Corson (a.k.a. Edna Editor), my classmates and I dreamed up narratives, penned rough copies, and edited countless drafts. We neatly pasted text and illustrations onto black sheets of construction paper, and as we stitched the pages into handmade cloth covers, our manuscripts transformed into books. Giddy with delight, we spent a long afternoon passing around our masterpieces. Later, Mrs. Corson invited our parents to attend a book release party, complete with music and “champagne” (sparkling cider). In that celebration of creativity, pride in my personal success mingled with a deepened sense of community. I still cherish that first book and the lesson of Mrs. Corson, who showed us that nothing was beyond our seven-year-old grasp, so long as we could balance boundless imagination with focused effort. In exemplary Potomac fashion, she taught us that creativity lies at the center of human flourishing.

The arts are no mere diversion. They embody the Potomac experience, valued both in themselves and as powerful spurs for cognitive development. When Darcy Swope plunged us into the rich colors and fanciful designs of Matisse, we learned to see. When John Hebler’s eyes twinkled with joy at our Middle School art creations, we learned to trust ourselves. Ida Cook

taught us persistence through the potter’s patient art, and we developed empathy and poise on the stage with Michael Bergman. Indeed, creativity reaches far beyond the art department: teaching itself is pursued as an art. Teachers approach the study of science, math, history and languages with a deeply creative mindset, and inspire creative engagement from their students.

Art also reveals the artist in a new light. At Potomac, I came to see creation as communication: a vehicle for self-expression, but also a means to understand others in ways that exceed conversation. One of my great joys was watching my peers transform and come alive through singing and acting, or reveal new sides of themselves in their drawings and paintings. I learned much about the art of friendship by making friendships through art. I came to know my closest friends more deeply through Madrigals tours, band practices, dress rehearsals and poetry readings, shared experiences that enriched our understandings of art and each other. When I reminisce about my childhood, from the rituals of May Day to lazy afternoons in the student lounge, my favorite memories of laughter and friendship are always blended with song, dance and art.

Potomac’s gift of creativity has continued to sustain me. As an undergraduate, the arts were not supplements to my curriculum; they were central to how I understood myself and my academic work. After singing with Jerry Rich and the

Magnificent 7 at Potomac, I joined the Princeton Tigertones, an all-male *a cappella* group. Over the course of four years, the ‘Tones recorded two albums and toured a dozen or so countries from Japan to Germany. I also performed in a couple of small productions and took courses in painting, animation and poetry composition. After graduation, I briefly indulged my passion for computer graphics (first explored in Upper School when I created an online magazine) as a freelance graphics designer; soon afterwards, I was accepted to a masters program at Harvard University, where I’ve spent the last two years exploring links between the arts and religion in America after World War I.

In the poem “One Morning,” John Ciardi described his exultant son, “wild / and windy and spilling over the brim,” a line that recalls for me the fierce intensity with which I first embraced the arts. That passion should serve me well: in the future, I plan to pursue a Ph.D. and become a professor of literature. Excellent scholarship demands more than passion, of course. Burning enthusiasm must be matched with quiet reflection and mature thought. The road ahead of me is long but I feel well-prepared, facing it with the creative excitement and love for the arts that I gained at Potomac. I’m already on my way: my first academic article will be published later this year. I can scarcely believe the day has come, but perhaps it should come as no great surprise. Edna Editor always knew that I could do it.



...YET!

The child says, "I've succeeded."

The clay says, "CRACK! You've failed."

There is nothing more common, for artists of all ages, than failure. These frequent stern assessments do not come from other people, but from the materials at hand and from one's own inner judgment. What good is it to pout over broken pottery? Will a trumpet soften and make itself simpler, just to soothe a trumpeter? The lessons from tools, materials and instruments are so much more direct than well-meaning advice from other people. Why? Because experience itself is teaching. Students of the arts must, ultimately, learn most deeply from their

own experiments. They find their way forward by doing and undoing. Failure is a friend, a partner in the studio, showing students limits and possibilities.

Failure teaches resilience, renewal, and revision. Think it through and start again. It's never over, never done.

A toddler sways; we know that he will one day stride and run. And when he topples, laughing, to the floor, do we pronounce, "He'll never walk?" Aptitude appears in differing degrees, at different times in life.

Perseverance. Let's try again...
"I cannot play that melody, yet!"

"I cannot represent that character, yet!"

"I cannot make that shape in clay... yet!"

The student of arts is always growing toward new ideals and new achievements. Real growth is indirect and uncomfortable.

"The most significant kind of learning in virtually any field creates a desire to pursue learning in that field when one doesn't have to."

- Elliot Eisner

Stanford University Emeritus Professor of Art and Education
The Arts and the Creation of Mind, 2002

PROFILE

ALEX ROSS '83



© David Michalek

"I always had a passion for music, and I always had a passion for writing. I can't remember when I wasn't excited by either. The wonderful thing that happened to me was that I found a career where I could pursue both of those passions at once." So says Alex Ross, music critic for *The New Yorker*, bestselling author, recipient of the MacArthur "genius grant" Fellowship, and K-7 Potomac School grad.

Alex reveals that among his many accomplishments he is most proud of his 2007 book, *The Rest Is Noise*, a history of classical music in the 20th century, which he said "took six long years to write." Though he says he feared the book would not find an audience, it in fact became a

bestseller, won several important awards and appeared on *The New York Times'* list of the ten best books of 2007.

"Potomac played a big role in my early musical experiences," Alex says. "I started playing oboe and piano while there, and also writing music.... My greatest Potomac memory is of John Langstaff.... He had a glorious baritone voice that would ring through the gym. His singing of 'The Lord of the Dance' was perhaps my earliest experience of music striking to the soul. Three teachers who influenced me greatly were Alan Lentz, who energetically guided my musicmaking; John Hebler, who gently cultivated my interest in painting; and Imogen Rose, our fabulously strict Latin teacher."

Alex says that the arts are severely neglected today. "We need major reinvestment in the arts. It's impossible to quantify what they do for young people, but all evidence suggests that they sharpen the mind and expand our sense of the possibilities of life."

Alex is working on a second book, a collection of classical and pop music essays entitled *Listen to This*, due out in the fall of 2010.

"My mission as a writer is to get more people interested in classical music and to help them realize how relevant it is to contemporary lives. If a few people became 'converts' after reading my work, I can die happy."

See Alex's blog at www.therestisnoise.com.



Music, visual arts and performing arts have long been an integral part of a Potomac education. [below] A production of "Robin Hood" in 1915.



LANGUAGES WITHOUT WORDS

It is all very well to talk about the arts, but so much cannot be translated at all. Nor should we try.

Words are coded substitutes for ideas and for things. Words have their own logic, cadence, melody and color, but they are not stone or paint or music. Some beauties are unspeakable.

When children express themselves through the arts, they are learning and practicing dialects new to themselves, but old as humanity.

"What is jazz? Man, if you have to ask what it is, then you'll never know."

- **Louis Armstrong**
American jazz musician

"If you could say it in words, there would be no reason to paint."

- **Edward Hopper**
20th century American painter



PROFILE

MARY THOMAS '03

"It's the coolest project I know of in Washington, DC," says Mary Thomas in describing the renovation and expansion of Arena Stage, a major theater that specializes in American plays. Mary works as an engineer on the project, coordinating the work of subcontractors doing millwork, drywall and interior glass.

We found her intently focused on some blueprints in the project's construction trailer. As she described her job and pointed out the prominent design features of the building, it was evident that this Potomac grad is living out her passion.

After Potomac Mary majored in visual and environmental studies at Harvard University, taking courses in sociology, engineering, and environmental diversity. "I painted a lot of vacant buildings, because I'm drawn to them for their history and their potential. I think studying buildings that are not in use gives you a chance to understand how they were used and why and how they can be used again in the future," she said.

"One of the things I like about the Arena Stage is that we are not just tearing down the existing buildings and throwing up a generic modern

building without any sense of history. The architects managed to find a way to incorporate the old into the new."

As a Potomac lifer, Mary was an avid participant in the arts program. But it was in the Upper School that she discovered she had a talent she could nurture. Taking drawing, painting, and sculpture classes, she produced remarkable works that can still be found in the Upper School and in the Engelhard Performing Arts Center.

"Potomac is remarkable for its teachers, so caring and invested in their students and so interested in their work. They give you a lot of freedom, yet provide guidance when you need it.

"I spent months on a giant self-portrait and was really engaged in the work. Mrs. Cook and Mr. Morgan would set it up in the hallway and we would all focus on it. They helped me figure out when to stop, that my piece was finally finished."

Mary says that art will always play a major role in her life. She continues with drawing and painting classes, spurred on by the enthusiasm and encouragement of her roommates "who love having my art on the walls."



To A Child At The Piano

*Play the tune again; but this time
with more regard for the movement at the source of it,
and less attention to time. Time falls
curiously in the course of it.*

*Play the tune again; not watching
your fingering, but forgetting, letting flow
the sound till it surrounds you. Do not count
or even think. Let go.*

*Play the tune again; but try to be
nobody, nothing, as though the pace
of the sound were your heart beating, as though
the music were your face.*

*Play the tune again. It should be easier
to think less every time of the notes, of the measure.
It is all an arrangement of silence. Be silent, and then
play it for your pleasure.*

*Play the tune again; and this time, when it ends,
do not ask me what I think. Feel what is happening
strangely in the room as the sound glooms over
you, me, everything.*

*Now,
play the tune again.*

**- Alastair Reid
Scottish poet
1963**



POTOMAC ALUMS LEAD CAMPUS STEWARDSHIP INITIATIVES



[facing page] As part of its campus-wide stewardship programs, Potomac reclaims downed trees from its wooded 90-acre campus.

[top] Potomac converted its entire bus fleet to more environmentally friendly biodiesel fuel.

[bottom] Students read during a class held outside at the fire circle.

Our students, alumni, faculty and parents all share a close and treasured connection with our beautiful 90-acre campus. The school's mission, curriculum and the very design of its buildings, old and new, reflect Potomac's reverence for nature and our belief in its important contribution to our children's education. We recognize our campus as a gift as well as a responsibility shared by all of us who enjoy this land.

Through a generous grant from a Potomac family, Bern Hoffmann '86 and Albert Pingree '00 are carrying on this great tradition, instilling a respect among our students for our woodlands, creeks, streams and open spaces. Hoffmann and Pingree form a stewardship team that is working with faculty and parents to integrate the many ongoing environmental initiatives at school, from reducing our environmental footprint to respon-

sible stewardship of our campus to enriching the outdoor education program.

"The most important step in becoming a good steward is for each child to learn to love the land," says Hoffmann. "One of our first big goals has been to support teachers in engaging students in the natural environment and to nurture a desire to care for it."

The new program includes an environmental science curriculum and focuses on creating sound environmental practices, building on Potomac's tradition of hands-on interaction with nature. After completing a survey of how the environment is already integrated in our K-12 curriculum and surveying university offerings in environmental sciences, Hoffmann and Pingree will work with faculty and Division Heads to design and expand curricular offerings.

"I, like numerous Potomac graduates, can trace part of my passion for the environment to Potomac teachers who often took us outside. For some it was Dur Morton, who not only laid the foundation for the hands-on study of sciences at Potomac but also created many of the trails that are still used by students today. For others, Peter Munroe, through his work as a teacher and naturalist, exemplified dynamic learning at its best. Today, Cort Morgan, Mary Cahill, Greg Mueller and Cathie Kaplan, among others, carry on this legacy."

– Bern Hoffmann '86
Environmental Sustainability Coordinator

Senior Adam Gerchick (left) and Junior Yar Batmanghelidj practice their skills.



POTOMAC DEBATE TEAM

DEFENDS STATE TITLE

To win the Virginia State Debate Championship in their first year of competition was an amazing feat for The Potomac School team. But to win it two years in a row was nothing short of extraordinary.

Junior Esfandiyar "Yar" Batmanghelidj, who was state champion last year, and Senior Adam Gerchick, third last year, closed out the final round in February's tournament at the University of Virginia, choosing to share the title rather than compete against each other. Varsity team members James McElwain (12th grade) and Madhu Ramankutty (10th grade) also won rounds at the tournament for Potomac.

Volunteer coach Tom Rollins, Potomac parent of Lower Schoolers Kay and Tommy, challenges his team to excel in Lincoln-Douglas debate, which pits students one-on-one with changing topics. Some of the issues the team has debated this year included: under what circumstances it is permissible to kill an innocent person in order to save the lives of more innocent people; whether felons ought to retain the right to vote; and whether or not the U.S. should join the International Criminal Court.

Next year the team will engage in policy debate, which requires two-person teams to debate the same issue for an entire year. The policy issue will be whether or not the Federal government should substantially increase social services for the poor. "Policy debate requires so much research and study that these kids will remain fluent in this subject for the rest of their lives," says Rollins.



The team has competed in Connecticut, North Carolina, Illinois, Massachusetts and New York over the last year, pitting their skills against some very sharp opponents. Potomac easily captured the "Jefferson Award for Excellence" as the best Lincoln-Douglas debate school at the National Forensic League's Virginia Tournament. Potomac also won the "Dogwood Cup" for outstanding mid-sized school. By virtue of their victories at the Virginia tournament, Batmanghelidj and Gerchick will compete at the National Forensic League's national championship tournament in Birmingham, Alabama, in June.

Volunteer coach Tom Rollins works with debaters McKenzie Klein (9th grade) and Madhu Ramankutty (10th grade).

POTOMAC WELCOMES MARTHA HOLLAND AS NEW UPPER SCHOOL HEAD

Almost a year ago, Bill Cook, one of the co-chairs of the Upper School Head Search Committee, found a line of faculty waiting to see him. Each wanted to personally share his or her endorsement of the candidate they had just met. Bill had asked faculty to e-mail him their impressions of each of the four finalists. But this group couldn't wait. The immediacy and scope of that endorsement exemplified a search process at its best, as it succeeded in producing a candidate whose experience, vision and philosophy so ideally complement Potomac's mission.

Martha Holland, new Head of our Upper School, engaged right away with the broad spectrum

of individuals in the Potomac community — from students, to teachers, to administrators, to parents. She possesses a gift of personal warmth and an exceptional ability to listen and respond, demonstrating an ability to build partnerships and support excellent teaching. Her emphasis on the values of integrity, responsibility and generosity — hallmarks of a Potomac experience — has resonated with all.

She came to us from Greenhills School in Ann Arbor, Michigan, where she was head of the Upper School. Before that she served as English teacher, coach of basketball, cross country, tennis, soccer and softball, Upper School Dean and Grade

Head at schools in Florida and Massachusetts. She holds a Master's from the Technology in Education program from Harvard University, another in teaching English from the University of Virginia, and a bachelor's in studio art from Mount Holyoke College. Her interests and passions are many and varied. She has written a mystery novel and she plays the trumpet. A sports enthusiast, she runs, plays golf, hikes and sails. She is an amateur biologist and has volunteered on the Sea Turtle Patrol and Manatee Team in Sarasota, Florida. If you are visiting campus she would welcome an opportunity to meet you, so stop by her office and introduce yourself.



“At the heart of it all, a school ought to be a fundamentally moral place.... We must stand firm about what we believe are worthy habits of mind and character.... A principled community ensures that all students have equity and access to the highest level of intellectual engagement, and understands that if you create high-level opportunities for kids, they will rise to them.”

– Martha Holland

STUDENTS EXPLORE THE VAST BUT TINY WORLD OF NANOTECHNOLOGY

BY DOUG COBB

Atomic force microscopy, carbon nanotubes, and quantum mechanical tunneling effects are not topics that are traditionally studied in high school science classes. However, students in the Upper School are using state-of-the-art technology to investigate one of the most exciting areas of cutting-edge research in science: nanotechnology. This field involves the imaging and manipulation of matter at dimensions from one to 100 nanometers (a nanometer is one-billionth of a meter).

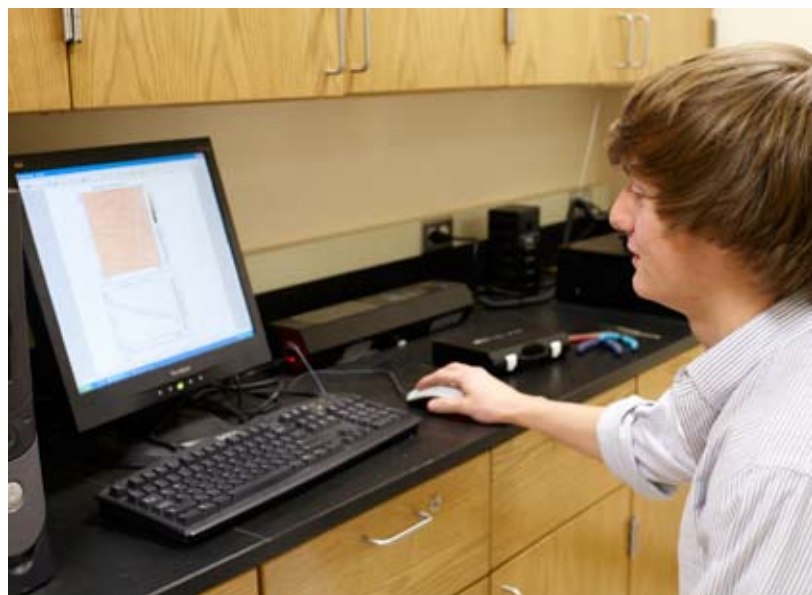
At this tiny scale, substances have unique properties that enable new applications of science and engineering. Researchers from all disciplines and branches of science are studying nanoscale science because it promises exciting breakthroughs in medicine, computers, energy development, diagnostics, transportation, cancer research and many other areas. For example, a recent Stanford University study demonstrated a way to use nanotechnology to deliver chemotherapy drugs that target only cancerous cells

while keeping healthy tissues protected from the drug's toxic effects.

The greatest obstacle to the study of nanotechnology at the high school and undergraduate levels is a lack of access to the field's specialized equipment. Thanks to generous donations from Potomac parents Teri and Frank Bennett and Ann and Mark Kington, Potomac recently purchased a scanning tunneling microscope (STM) and an atomic force probe microscope (AFM), which enable students to see and analyze atomic-resolution images of materials.

Our students spent the fall learning how the microscopes work and how to use them to observe samples on the atomic level. They are currently looking into current research studies on topics such as carbon nanotubes, nanomaterials and nanoelectronics in order to understand the possibilities of nanotechnology and to formulate ideas for their own independent research projects. They will share their findings at a spring assembly.

After observing and scanning objects at a tiny scale [left], students can work with the resulting images on the computer.



NEW LOWER SCHOOL TAKING SHAPE



The new Lower School, under construction for most of this school year, will be completed in time for classes to begin in September.

Glimpses through windows, through cracks in construction fences and above the roofs offer a hint of what's to come as construction crews labor steadily to build our new Lower School. What started with a groundbreaking ceremony last spring has evolved into a sprawling construction site filled with busy workers.

You can see windows and roofs on all wings, and framing of all classrooms is complete. Each classroom will feature big windows and access to the outside. The new building is slated to be ready for classes to begin in the fall. "This is a dramatic time, because we go from essentially a hole in the ground to a functional structure," says Facilities Administrator Perry Swope. "The weather has been cooperating, which helps keep everything on track."

Workers will begin the landscaping, playgrounds and parking lots this spring. Swope is pleased to report that the large trees he worked to save next to the site are still thriving. Another 18 mature trees from the Lower School playground were moved to new locations campuswide.

Though there will still be some inconveniences for the community through the end of the school year, it is exciting to see the buildings and grounds take shape over the course of the spring. Swope reports that the bus square will be reconfigured this summer to relieve the current traffic bottleneck in the middle of campus.

The old Lower School will be torn down after the school year ends (see article on our farewell event on the inside back cover).

TEACHER PROFILE: CINDY CHEADLE

POTOMAC SPONSORS EXCHANGE TO KENYA

When Potomac offered second-grade teacher Cindy Cheadle the opportunity to travel to Kenya last summer on a teacher exchange program, she jumped at the chance. Sponsored jointly by Potomac and the Children of Kibera Foundation, a nonprofit group founded by Upper School history teacher Ken Okoth, the exchange program sent Cheadle to Kibera, one of the world's largest slums, to share her knowledge and teaching methods at the Red Rose School.

Cheadle spent time in a second-grade classroom at the elementary school, helped with computer lessons, attended field trips to the National Museum of Kenya in Nairobi, and helped with other school events. She also visited the families of four high school girls whose continuing education the foundation is sponsoring. It was "tremendously uplifting," says Cindy, though also mentally hard at times to see so many people living in such poverty. She was moved by the resourcefulness and basic survival instincts of the kids she got to know.

Potomac welcomed Emmily Minayo, Red Rose kindergarten teacher and head teacher in charge of academics, for two weeks in April to complete the teacher exchange. While here Minayo observed classes, met with learning and resource specialists, and gave presentations at assemblies and in classrooms. In addition, the Lower School Community Service Committee worked on a project to benefit Red Rose.

Ken Okoth, along with Potomac alums Merrell Redway Cherouny '82 and Michelle O'Hara Levin '93, founded the Children of Kibera Foundation after leading a Potomac Upper School trip to Kibera, where Okoth grew up. The group took

much-needed books to the pre-K through fifth grade Red Rose School, beginning a relationship that developed into a partnership with Potomac. The foundation has since built a new fifth grade classroom and supplied books, computers, uniforms, and other materials to this and other schools in the area and has started a high-school scholarship program.

Visit www.childrenofkibera.org for more information on the foundation.



[above] Second-grade teacher Cindy Cheadle works with a student at the Red Rose School during her visit to Kenya last summer.

[top] Red Rose teacher Emmily Minayo completed the exchange in April.

FIELD HOCKEY

TURNS SEASON AROUND

Potomac's varsity field hockey team concluded the 2008 season with its best record in five years. The Panthers dropped their first four Independent School League (ISL) games, then roared back, winning six straight. What changed? According to players, the turning point was an inspiring talk by Coach Weezie Parry one day after practice.

Highlights of the 2008 season included a 3-2 Homecoming victory over Holy Cross, a team that went on to capture the Washington Catholic Athletic Conference title; playing Georgetown Visitation to a 0-0 tie in overtime; and holding perennial powerhouse St. Stephen's and St. Agnes to a single goal in a 0-1 defeat.

In some conferences, a regular season record of 8-7-1 and a 4-5-1 record in league play might not be impressive. The ISL, however, is not just any league—it boasts some of the best field hockey teams in the country. Nationally-ranked St. Stephen's and St. Agnes continues to dominate the conference, having captured the title for seven straight years. Runners up Georgetown Visitation and Bullis also field powerful teams. The Panthers go head-to-head against some of the nation's top talent every week.

For the first time in years, Potomac's field hockey team qualified for the Virginia Independent School Athletic Association (VISAA) state championship tournament. Although one of the smallest teams in Division I, Potomac was seeded fifth. After making the four-hour drive to Virginia Beach, the Panthers fell in the quarterfinals 0-5 to fourth seed Norfolk Academy.

In preparing for the 2008 season, Co-Head Coaches Parry and Meredith Murphy '02 stressed teamwork. They credit much of the team's success to an outstanding senior class. Captains Izzie Conner, Catherine Kahl, Ryan O'Shea and Caroline Schmidt provided excellent leadership, says Coach Parry. The team also benefited from having many returning players, including a large group of juniors, who will anchor next year's team. Junior goalie Grier Barnes had an excellent year and was an invaluable asset. Junior Gillian Britton, an outstanding field hockey player from Great Britain, was an important new addition, as were freshman Lauren Wackerle and sophomore Rachel Bloom.



Senior Phillips Mitchell outruns her Elizabeth Seton opponent.

[facing page bottom] Gillian Warner, CeCe Conner, and Isabelle Conner chase down the ball.

[facing page right] Co-captain Ryan O'Shea.



Co-captain Catherine Kahl (34) was selected to the All-ISL field hockey team.





Junior Shivani Kochhar competes in the Virginia Independent School Athletic Association championship at Woodberry Forest School. She was named to the Independent School League (ISL) All-Conference team.

CROSS COUNTRY RUNNERS

FIRST, THIRD IN STATE



Potomac can boast another cross country state champion, this year on the girls team. In her second year running cross country, junior Anneka Wilson had a breakout season. Wilson was undefeated in the regular season, winning six out of six invitationals and then capturing her second Independent School League (ISL) crown. She went on to win the Virginia Independent School Athletic Association (VISAA) championship at Woodberry Forest, setting a new record of 18:32.55 on the course's notorious hilly terrain. *The Washington Post* named Wilson Female Runner of the Year in its fall All-Met selections.

Wilson broke the 18-minute barrier at the Georgetown Prep Classic, her sixth invitational of the season. Her winning time of 17:45 set a new course record. At the Footlocker South Regional meet, the qualifier for Footlocker Cross Country Nationals, Wilson finished 20th with a time of 17:58 in her second regional appearance.

Co-captain Shivani Kochhar, also a junior, placed fourth in the ISL and 12th in the state this season. Both Wilson and Kochhar were named to the ISL All-Conference team.

On the boys team, sophomore Campbell Ross, who placed fifth in the state his freshman

year, moved up to third in the 2008 competition despite running a slightly slower race. In the Mid-Atlantic Conference (MAC) championship, Ross improved this year from third to second place. At the conclusion of the season, Ross received All-MAC honors and Honorable Mention by *The Washington Post*. Potomac's boys team, which had been MAC champions for the past two years, graduated several seniors last year. This year's much younger team placed fourth in the MAC.

First-year Head Coach Jennifer Bodine took over both the boys and girls cross country teams this year. Bodine had big shoes to fill in replacing a much-loved coach, but students report that the transition was seamless. Bodine ran cross country and track at Walter Johnson High School, where she was an All-Met first team selection her senior year. After running for a year at Columbia University, injuries and other factors caused her to switch from running to cycling. She is currently teaching and coaching track and field at Holy Cross Academy in Kensington, Maryland. Beginning next fall, Bodine will join the faculty at Potomac.

[above] The boys cross country team placed fourth in the Mid-Atlantic Conference championship.

[top] Junior Anneka Wilson had an outstanding year, winning the state championship with a new course record.



Junior Matias Rodlauer heads the ball. The boys team won second place in the Mid-Atlantic Conference (MAC) tournament.

SOCCER TEAMS HAVE STELLAR SEASONS



Potomac's varsity soccer teams exceeded all expectations this autumn. Excellent post-season performances earned both the boys and girls teams second place in their respective conference tournaments. The girls also captured a share of the Independent School League (ISL) title.

The boys varsity team started the season with some inconsistent play, and they were plagued by early injuries. However, Potomac benefited from its large group of experienced seniors as well as a number of talented players capable of filling multiple positions. The team really came together as the season wore on. On the way to a 10-8-3 record, the Panthers lost five games by just one goal.

In the Mid Atlantic Conference (MAC) tournament quarterfinals, Potomac defeated Maret. They were matched up with St. Andrews in the semifinals, a defensive battle that was decided in the game's waning minutes with a score by AJ Jones. In the finals, the Panthers held off defending MAC champion Sidwell Friends, ranked in *The Washington Post* Top 20, until the final 15 minutes, when a late scoring blitz gave the Quakers a 4-1 win.

The boys team qualified for the Virginia state tournament for the fourth year in a row but fell to Collegiate School 0-1 in the first round.

Potomac's varsity girls team, defending ISL tournament champions, were not expected to be contenders again this year, having lost two stand-out players. Yet early in the season the Panthers stunned Georgetown Visitation 1-0, handing the Cubs their only loss of the season.

Potomac's final record was an impressive 11-2-3. Their only regular-season loss was a 1-2 defeat by National Cathedral School, and their record assured them a share of the ISL AA championship.

In ISL tournament play, the Panthers advanced to the semifinals by defeating Holy Child 2-0. Their semifinal contest against Maret went into overtime, where the Panthers scored twice to win 3-1. This victory set up a rematch with Georgetown Visitation for the tournament title. But this time it was Potomac that was held scoreless. Visitation won the tournament and the two teams shared the conference title.

The starting goalies from both the boys and girls teams, Daniel Rizk and Churchill O'Connell, received Honorable Mention in *The Washington Post* All-Met selections. All-Conference awards went to Sam Fleuchaus, Andrew Jones, Daniel Rizk, and Connor Tetrault in the MAC, Kerry Aldrich, Campbell Millar and Churchill O'Connell in the ISL.

Starting goalies Junior Churchill O'Connell (11th grade) and Daniel Rizk (12th grade) both received All-Conference awards in their respective leagues and Honorable Mentions in *The Washington Post* All-Met selections.



Senior Athletic Committee members light the traditional Homecoming bonfire.



Middle Schoolers perform an other-worldly rendition of "Hall of the Mountain King" on boomwackers at their Halloween Assembly.

A SLICE OF LIFE

Upper School faculty and administrators are on the lookout for the Yellow Brick Road.

A washer and dryer join Barack Obama at the Halloween parade.



At the Homecoming Rally, Lower School students sport this year's winning tee-shirt design [left] while Intermediate School students give an enthusiastic cheer.

US actors in the fall play *The Laramie Project* perform in Potomac's Black Box theater.



Lower School students dance as Head of School Geoff Jones sings the traditional song "Children Go Where I Send Thee" during Lower School Carols.



The minnow goes out to winnow during the Lower School Carols song "The Pig Dig."



Fifth-grade narrators introduce the next song during the Middle School Festival of Carols.



The Sixth Grade Chorus sings "A Pirate's Life for Me" at the Middle School Halloween Assembly.

The Senior Powder Puff flag football team (in blue) prevailed after a rocky start at this year's pre-Bonfire game.



Each Upper School class dressed in the style of a different decade during Spirit Days.



Lifers lead incoming kindergartners to the Opening Day assembly.



Kindergartners do the Turkey Tango at the Thanksgiving Assembly.



The Upper School all-male a cappella singing group Magnificent 7 performs at the US Winter Lights Assembly.

ALUMNI ACTIVITIES



ALUMNI ENJOY NATIONAL GALLERY EXHIBIT CURATED BY CAROL MATTUSCH '62

Local alumni gathered at the National Gallery of Art October 22 for a special viewing of the exhibit "Pompeii and the Roman Villa: Art and Culture Around the Bay of Naples." Carol C. Mattusch '62, curator of this major exhibition, teaches at George Mason University in Fairfax. Her recent book, *The Villa dei Papi at Herculaneum: Life and Afterlife of a Sculpture Collection*, which was her starting-point for this exhibition, won the Charles Rufus Morey Book Award from the College Art Association in 2006.

YOUNG ALUMNI GATHER AT THANKSGIVING

For more than a decade, young Potomac alumni have gathered the day after Thanksgiving. This year's event at Garrett's Pub in Georgetown on November 28 drew a large crowd from the classes of 1999-2007. The group was as lively as ever, sharing stories with old classmates and teammates. This reunion of mixed class years was a wonderful way to kick off the holiday season. Be sure to join us next year!



[top] From left, Meredith Anderson, Maya Jaafar and Elizabeth Cook.

[left] From left, Ryan Yonkman, Riker Vermilye and Andrew Warin.

[right] Skip Calvert and Julie Grass.



[top] Steve Shashy '04 gets a pass from Sam Gulland '06.

[middle] Former head basketball coach Matt Carlin ('93-'05) counsels the alumni team.

[bottom] Alums Dominic Dickerson '04 (left) and Chris McNerney '04 try to wrestle the ball from Senior PJ Miller.



[above] Alumni basketball players (left to right) Len Pfeiffer '06, Marty McNerney '03, Michael Fischer '04, Brian Fairbank '03, Kyle Condon '08, Robert O'Connell '05, George Barsness, Jr. '06, Matt Linden '07, Chris McNerney '04, Robert dePicciotto '04, Kit Neuman '07.



[above] Alumni squash players back row (left-right) Gustaf Lonaeus '05, Justin Stilwell '05, Tyler Stilwell '07, Jamie Beddow '07, Bradley Allen '01, Taylor Kettler '02, Aaron Kur '07, Edwin Merrigan '01. Front row (left-right): Charlie Lonaeus '07, Russell Powden '07, Tim Shaver '00.

ALUMNI ATHLETES RETURN TO TAKE ON STUDENTS

The annual traditions of a Thanksgiving weekend basketball game and squash tournament between alumni and students were enhanced this year by a group of alumni football players, who took on the JV squad on Saturday, November 1. Though turnout was lower than planned, the group was enthusiastic, and plans are already in the works for next year.

In basketball, the varsity team beat the alumni in front of an enthusiastic group of spectators that

included current and past parents. The alumni squash players challenged our varsity boys squash team in the popular annual round-robin tournament.

Be sure to save the Friday after Thanksgiving to return to Potomac and join fellow alumni as a player or spectator. All three events will be held the same day next year.

ALUMNI CONNECTIONS

THE CHILDREN OF POTOMAC ALUMNI

Lower School: Front (left-right): **Emily Dunn** (Annabelle Redway Dunn '85), **Isabel Tierney** (Christopher Tierney '79), **Caroline Dunn** (Annabelle Redway Dunn '85). Middle: **Holly Crowley** (Ayse Uzer Crowley '85), **Anna Lerner** (Renee Lettow Lerner '83), **Jackson Schermerhorn** (Sarah Kilberg Schermerhorn '95), **Malena Cecchi** (Enrico Cecchi '85), **Elizabeth McKean** (David McKean, Jr. '82), **Anabel Kadri** (Sarah McClure '82), **Marisa Kadri** (Sarah McClure '82), **Elizabeth Oskoui** (Ramin Oskoui '78), **Will Fearey** (Paul Fearey '78), **Eliza Winsor** (Curtin Winsor III '78), **Caroline Burnham**. Back: **Kate Newton** (Virginia Young-Newton '83), **Carla Cecchi** (Antonio Cecchi '84), **John Klingler**, **William Simonds** (Anne Martin Simonds '90), **Megan Sharkey** (Christine Rosenhauer Sharkey '83), **David McKean** (David McKean, Jr. '82), **Mikaela Catto** (William Catto '78), **Ellen Oskoui** (Ramin Oskoui '78), **TJ Sharkey** (Christine Rosenhauer Sharkey '83), **Alex Crowley** (Anne Sprunt Crowley '69), **Hayden Cherouny** (Merrell Redway Cherouny '82), **Courtlyne Caskin** (Christopher Caskin '77), **Emelie Manegold** (Elizabeth Jarquin Manegold '82).

Not pictured: **Mary K. Ausbrook** (J. Keith Ausbrook '73), **Sebastian Cox** (Alison Vest '81), **Rebecca W. Crowley** (Anne Sprunt Crowley '69), **Caroline K. Lay** (Prentiss Vallender Lay '85 and Mark Lay '76), **Lily E. Longwell** (Natalie Washburn Longwell '86), **Mary-Shea V. McDowell** (Robert M. McDowell '78), **Jacqueline C. McElroy** (Charisse Mortenson McElroy '91), **Isabella N. Sagarese** (Sarah Ewing Sagarese '85), **John W. Sagarese** (Sarah Ewing Sagarese '85), **John W. Stody** (Anne L. Metcalf '79), **Megan M. Tierney** (Andrew Tierney '80), **Miles W. Wilson** (Speke Wilson '79).



Fourth Grade: James Pitzer (Lavinia Lemon Pitzer '82), Claire Pitzer (Lavinia Lemon Pitzer '82), Ted Tierney (Christopher R. Tierney '79). Not pictured: Gwyneth C. Catto (William H. Catto '78) (see sixth grade photo for more fourth graders).



Fifth Grade: Back (left-right): Ellie Frank (Randolph A. Frank, Jr. '72), Gabrielle Cecchi (Enrico Cecchi '85), Holly Frank (Randolph A. Frank '72), Bram Wilson (Speke Wilson '70). Front: Toby Robinson (Farida Moreau Robinson '80), Tyler Crowley (Ayse Uzer Crowley '85), Sydney Frazier (David B. Frazier '77), Charlie Ausbrook (J. Keith Ausbrook '73). Not pictured: Catherine F. Mathias (Robert M. Mathias '77), Grace W. Moses (David L. Moses '77), Tobias M. Robinson (Farida Moreau Robinson '80).



Sixth Grade: Back (left-right): **Kyle Paul** (Isabella Chester '77), **Brooks Arundel** (Peter W. Arundel '75), **Grace Cherouny** (Merrell Redway Cherouny '82), **Emma Resor** (James P. Resor '75). Front: **Maggie Ewing** (4th Grade) (John C. Ewing '78), **Chris Caskin** (Christopher S. Caskin '77), **Max Speil** (Jane McAllister '70), **Greta Schaaf** (Lise Metzger '72), **Kelly O'Gorman** (4th Grade) (Scott E. O'Gorman, Jr. '76).



Seventh Grade: Back (left-right): **Sydney Robinson** (Farida Moreau Robinson '80), **Adam Moses** (David L. Moses '76), **Nicholas Arundel** (Peter W. Arundel '75), **Liam Catto** (William H. Catto '78), **Rosmary Ewing** (John C. Ewing '78). Front: **Jessica Howard** (Victoria Howard '77), **Anna E. Regan** (Nina Howard Regan '78), **Clare Mathias** (Robert M. Mathias '77).

Eighth Grade: Back (left-right): **Jack O' Gorman** (Scott E. O'Gorman '76), **Max Ausbrook** (J. Keith Ausbrook '73), **Philip Bennet** (Frank C. Bennet III '73), **Ellie Pitzer** (Lavinia Lemon Pitzer '82). Front: **Caroline Resor** (James P. Resor '75), **Allegra Wilson** (Speke Wilson '79), **Cyrus Nassikas** (John N. Nassikas '74 and Georgia Chafee Nassikas '74). Not pictured: **Randolph A. Frank** (Randolph A. Frank '72).



Upper School: Back (left-right): **Zach Meza** (Scott Meza '71 and Anny Lowery Meza '71), **Rebekah Ausbrook** (J. Keith Ausbrook '73), **John Henry Strong** (Henry L. Strong '72), **Zander Nassikas** (John N. Nassikas '74 and Georgia Chafee Nassikas '74). Front: **Broadway Jackson** (Broadway Jackson, Jr. '76), **Kip Strong** (Henry L. Strong '72), **Emma Regan** (Nina Howard Regan '78), **Jessica Catto** (William H. Catto '77), **Jenna Meza** (Scott Meza '71 and Anny Lowery Meza '71), **Alex Day** (Roxana Oppenheimer Day '71). Not Pictured: **Ann Bellinger** (Dawn Renzy Bellinger '77), **John E. Bennett** (Frank C. Bennett '73), **Cameron Kahl** (Caroline B. Kahl '72), **Catherine Kahl** (Caroline B. Kahl '72), **James McElwain** (William G. McElwain '70), **DeLacy G. Rosse** (Gary D. Rosse '74), **Carrita M. Thomas** (Paul D. Thomas '76), **Sherwood Thomas** (Paul D. Thomas '76).



YOUR ANNUAL FUND DOLLARS AT WORK

The contribution of the Annual Fund to our yearly budget is critical, making possible the extraordinary learning environment that is Potomac School. We especially appreciate the gifts that so many of our alumni, families and friends have been able to make. Every single gift is important and helps Potomac maintain its solid financial footing.

While these economic times pose genuine challenges for our community, we hope that you will continue to consider your support thoughtfully. Your gift directly impacts the daily lives of Potomac's students and teachers by supporting the people and programs that help

Potomac achieve and sustain excellence. As we look to the future, we are certain that our students will benefit from our innovative curricula, state-of-the-art facilities and fresh opportunities for student life and learning. These initiatives and experiences are only possible with the strong support of our families, alumni and friends.

The Annual Fund closes June 30, 2009. To make your gift, please visit www.potomacschool.org or contact the Development Office at (703) 873-5557. Together we create the dynamic community that inspires our students to explore their unique talents and improve the world beyond Potomac's grounds.

CAMPAIGN FOR POTOMAC'S FUTURE

Thanks to generous donors, the new Lower School building [below] is on schedule for a fall opening and the new Upper School [bottom] feels like home to a new generation of students.



We are pleased to report that, through the generosity of many in the Potomac community in recent years, Potomac has raised \$43 million for *The Campaign for Potomac's Future*, making the new Upper School and Lower School buildings possible as well as adding to the endowment. The new Upper School has proven to be a vibrant (and energy-efficient) addition to our campus, and we are certain that the new Lower School will follow suit. A robust endowment will insure that Potomac is in as sound a financial position in the future as it is today. Also planned is a new Admission/Administration building, but because of the uncertain economy, the Board of Trustees has decided to defer this construction until financial conditions and the economy improve.

Construction of the new Lower School continues on schedule and on budget. Two wings (one for Kindergarten and grade one and the other

for grades two and three) are under roof, and classrooms are taking shape (see Construction Update, page 24). We are looking forward to the spirited voices and captivating play that will fill these halls in September!

Visit our webcam on the Potomac Web site for live shots of the construction. Go to www.onsiteview.com and log in as "admin," with the password "tundra04." Warning: watching the activity can become addictive!

We invite you to come for a tour of the site. It will include many of the design elements that were part of the original Potomac School buildings: high ceilings, plenty of natural light, and doors leading out to the abundant natural surroundings of the outdoors.

To contribute to *The Campaign for Potomac's Future*, to request a tour, or for more information, please contact Dabney Schmitt, Director of Development, at 703-749-6330.



Dear Alumni:

I bring you greetings in 2009 on behalf of your Alumni Governing Council. Spring is finally here, with summer soon "icumin in." Remembering the Middle English lyrics of this whimsical May Day ballad gives me a chance to underscore the continued importance of the Arts in The Potomac School curriculum.

Each of us alumni no doubt has a memory of the Arts at Potomac. It may have been an assembly with a recitation or skit, a play or a musical performance, or hand bells with Mr. Benaglia. Perhaps the rich traditions that blend dance, song and community — Kindergarten Circus, St. George and the Dragon, and May Day come to mind. Or maybe it was an art exhibit that featured your handiwork on canvas or in papier-mâché, or a block print or piece of pottery created under the tutelage of Mr. Hebler. Whatever your remembrances, I am pleased to report that Potomac remains committed to the integration of music, visual and performing arts in the weekly academic experiences of its students in every grade.

In keeping with the ethos of a solid liberal arts foundation and Potomac's mission to "foster each student's intellectual development, love of learning, and strength of character...in an inclusive community distinguished by a spirit of support and challenge," I encourage you to visit the school Web site and *visit the school*. Take a look at what is happening today. If you have questions or comments, feel free to reach out to our new Director of Alumni Relations, Jennifer Edgerly, at jedgerly@potomacschool.org or (703) 749-6356. Jenn joined Potomac's staff last October and hit the ground ready to strengthen bonds with alumni, and she has been a tremendous support for me in my new role on the Council. The Alumni Office and the Council are here for you, and our goal is to keep you connected to this very special place.



Lola J. Singletary '78
President, Alumni Governing Council

CLASS NOTES

We encourage you to visit the Alumni online community at www.potomacschool.org to keep in touch with former classmates and find out how to participate in current Potomac School activities. To submit an item for Class Notes, contact your class correspondent or Director of Alumni Relations Jennifer Edgerly at jedgerly@potomacschool.org. Many classes need a designated correspondent — if you are interested in serving as a representative for your class, please contact Jennifer Edgerly for more information.

We reserve the right to edit submissions to Class Notes for style and length.

GOT FACEBOOK?

If you have a Facebook account, join the official Potomac Panthers Alumni Group!

1943

Janet Trowbridge Bohlen traveled to the Canadian Arctic to see polar bears and other wildlife on the edge of the Hudson Bay. She writes, "With us were Martin and Muggy Hoffmann, parents of Potomackers **Bern '86, Bill '79** and **Heidi '77**, and **Russell '33** and Aileen **Train**, grandparents of **Emily Rowan '04** and parents of **Errol '74** and Bowdie Train. Brilliant starlight long absent from our urban skies served as a backdrop to spectacular aurora borealis."

1952

Ann Walker Gaffney enjoys being on the board of Green-Wood, the historic 400-plus acre cemetery in the middle of Brooklyn. She writes, "Love to take friends there, so call me if you are in the city! Art continues to be my love and occupation. I publish and sell a calendar of black-and-white photographs of Brooklyn Heights and also postcards with drawings of the architectural styles in the Heights."

1954

Olga Skow writes of her stint in the Peace Corps (2003/2004) in the highlands of Sofala Province in Mozambique. She taught about 350 8th graders (90% boys) beginning English in a Mission school in the district of Gorongosa. As a result of this experience, she started raising money in 2005 for a scholarship fund for 20 poor but academically qualified girls from that district to go from 8th through 10th grades at the Mission school.

1955

Alice Louis Davison writes, "I'm still teaching linguistics at the University of Iowa in Iowa City. Fortunately I escaped the effects of the flood in June 2008, which caused a lot of damage to parts of the University and town. I visit Washington several times a year and often see **Virginia Gibb Pascoe**; I was delighted to reconnect with **Marcia McGhee Carter** last spring."

Chalmers "Chip" Wood writes, "I'm in China teaching Western Civilization at Nanjing University, ranked fourth in China. It's a hot subject here with 'the opening' going strong. The students are quite smart. The fastest learners for language are the young kids."

1960

Connie Casey e-mailed that her son Jacob Varmus, composer and trumpet player, presented "Genes and Jazz," a performance at New York's Guggenheim Museum this past November. Her other son Christopher Varmus, who lives in Brooklyn, is doing business writing with a humorous, perhaps consoling, twist. Along with a monthly garden essay, he is writing a series on "unlovable creatures."

1963

Wendy Neel Ellsworth writes, "My husband and I have just designed and built a fully solar-powered second home in the Colorado Rocky Mountains where we'll spend August through October each year. I am writing a book on beading titled *Beading and the Creative Spirit*, to be published in late 2009. We celebrated the wedding of our youngest son Dylan in Palo Alto this year."

Dede Fryer Hacking writes, "Jeremy and I continue to enjoy living in Canada and would welcome visits from classmates and friends. One of our sons is living in NYC and working for Major League Baseball. The other decided to leave NYC for at least a few months and has embarked on a backpacking adventure. He is currently visiting a

number of countries in the Caribbean and South America. Then it will be off to New Zealand, Australia and New Guinea before heading up to Southeast Asia."

1964

Lynne Dominick writes, "I've been the Associate Director of Programs at the Tower Center at SMU in Dallas for three years now, organizing programs and conferences on foreign, domestic and national security for our outreach membership and for the university's faculty and students."

Molly Scoville Fitzmaurice just came back from visiting **Anne FitzGerald Slichter**, who served as a deputy field director for the Obama campaign in Newark, Ohio. She writes, "We both agreed that working on this campaign has been completely gratifying just in terms of the people one meets while canvassing (something **Catherine Satterlee** has certainly been doing too) and the incredible excitement we get from the sharp young people running Obama's ground operations."

Elizabeth Sinclair (Liz Dickerson at Potomac) writes, "I am now a Realtor with Long & Foster in D.C. My hobbies are writing children's poems, a readerless Blog, and politics. I hope all of you are well."

1967

Ben Fitt writes, "For the past 10 years, my family and I have lived near Buffalo, NY. I work as an assistant attorney general for the state of New York at the Roswell Park Cancer Institute, a national cancer research and treatment center. Sherry and I will be celebrating the bar mitzvah of our son, Joshua, in December. Thanks to Josh I have become active in youth baseball and the Boy Scouts. The funny thing is that I always seem to be the oldest Dad. My best wishes go out to the Class of 1967."

1970

John McLaughlin writes, "I am living in San Francisco with my wife Robyn and our daughter Rachel. Rachel was born in June of 2006 and

is now up and running around and beginning the 'why?' phase which is a great deal of fun. I got a doctorate in psychology from the Wright Institute in Berkeley and opened a psychology practice in Hayes Valley San Francisco where I treat both adults and children."

Sarah Bucknell Treco has moved back to the U.S. after 12 years in London. She writes, "I am dividing my time between Summit, NJ, and Boston, MA. All three children — John, Carlin and Alex — chose to return to the States for college (Harvard, Roanoke and Williams), so it seemed sensible to follow them! I look forward to being back in touch with Potomac classmates."

1973



Members of the Class of '73 gathered at reunions last year at Keith and Kate Ausbrook's house (left to right): Tina Adler, Cathie Davis Kaplan, Alexandra zu Pappenheim, Liza Gookin Hodskins, Keith Ausbrook, Diana Morgan, Julie Edgeworth, Frank Bennett, John Chester, Tom May.

John Chester writes, "I'm resisting AARP by playing ice hockey and indoor soccer, listening to my kids' hip hop, and still watching adolescent movies. We are pushing 20 years in Vermont, where we still have two boys, two dogs, two llamas, and continue to run our art publishing company, Wild Apple, in this lovely economy."

1974

Ann Brown writes, "My fun child Anna, age 5, has started Pre-K at St. Patrick's. **Chris Shorb** and I are both new parents there, he of a daughter in 4th grade. Anna and I are happy, and I'm back in private practice as a psychotherapist to pay her tuition bills. On occasion I see a smattering of Potomac classmates here or in Massachusetts in the summers, including **Sarah Holmes**, **Barbara**

Parrot Katz, Jane Day Rich, Marla Freeman, Blake Gardner Cook, Nina Bohlen, Wendy Israel, Polly Pittman, Grace Guggenheim, the Nassiki's, Sherman Joyce, Lesley '71 and Andy Hyde, and Betsy Harper."

Lee Hass writes, "We are building (straw bale), and will have a guest room post 2010. So any of you who have not yet been to Tasmania, please pop by! Life is good. I am married, have one son, and work as a naturopath. We are talking about moving onto a larger piece of land, so we can grow more of our own food. Lots and lots of artichokes!!"

Siri Hari Kaur Angleton-Khals remembers those Potomac Halloween parties and the fall leaves crunching beneath our feet. Siri Hari reports that a photographer from Architectural Digest recently spent four days taking pictures of her two-acre garden, perhaps for the May 2009 issue. She continues to work on her book about the 10 Sikh Gurus who reigned in India from the 16th-19th Centuries.

Tim Higginson writes, "I really enjoy hearing about everyone in our class notes, even if I don't get to see folks that often. Exceptions are that I see the **Riches**, and the extremely knowledgeable couple, **Allan Thomas** and his wife, Julia, over dinner. Hope all's well with everyone in the class. Please let me know if you're ever in Chicago in need of a place to stay or a bite to eat.

Sarah Holmes married John B. Morris, Jr., on January 1, 2009. He is chief counsel for the Washington, DC-based public interest group, Center for Democracy and Technology. She writes, "We share a love of Maine, and were in the same Yale class, but didn't meet until 2004." Sarah continues to enjoy her consulting/teaching work.

Andy Hyde reports, "After a fascinating year on a fellowship with the House Armed Services Committee looking at the interaction of national security policy and diplomacy, I shipped out to 'hardship' duty in Vienna, Austria. I am the deputy political counselor at the U.S. Mission to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, covering a variety of issues, notably the Georgia-Russia conflict and joint counter-terrorism policies."

Lisa Shipp Logue writes that she and her daughter, Caitlyn, went to Virginia for two weeks last July to see family and friends. "We met up with **Sarah Holmes**, and spent a few hours with **Grace Guggenheim** at Guggenheim Productions. Caitlyn's favorite part was taking a long walk with Grace and her dog around Georgetown. Our third week was spent enjoying the Outer Banks in North Carolina, a family vacation tradition for the past 30 years. Looking forward to our reunion, and hi to everyone!"

Jennifer Moses reports that she "moved our three Southern children and one Southern mutt to Montclair, NJ. My husband, who has been a law professor at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, is now a law professor at Rutgers. We miss Louisiana but are grateful to have been spared the latest, devastating hurricane. Our eldest, Sam, is a sophomore in college; our twins are sophomores in high school. All three of them tower over me. Please read my second book, *Bagels and Grits*. It was published a year ago."

Polly Pittman reports, "After 10 years of Potomac parenthood, my youngest of three girls graduated last spring, marking yet another transition...this time into empty nesthood, and with it time to focus on what's next for us. Not sure what that will be yet, but it may involve a Vineyard at Dodon."

Garrett Randolph revealed that he's currently dating a woman who humiliates him on the cross-country slopes.

Jane Day Rich emailed news on her way to a spa in Arizona to celebrate her 50th birthday with her husband, Kevin. Jane says, "Our daughter, Isabel, is in first grade and loving it. I am still working as recruiting director for Austin-based Public Strategies out of a home office."

Nina Chapin de Rochefort sent a beautiful letter in which she spoke about the years before we all went in our different directions, as well as the comforting similarities evident in her 14-year-old daughter's life and friendships. Nina added that her family has grown with the addition of a German wire-haired dachshund puppy, and she continues to work with the Red Cross.

Jonathan Willens reports, "Son #1 is a freshman at Swarthmore. Son #2 has started his freshman year at the much more difficult Stuyvesant High School. Julia and I are coping with half an empty nest."

1976

Nancy White Lippe reports, "I am currently a Program Officer with the Los Altos Community Foundation, responsible for youth programs and community collaboration initiatives. Of our four kids, only one remains at home! The three oldest (all girls) are in New England schools (Smith, Brown and Wesleyan), all studying very different things. Our son is a junior in high school and more interested in having a job than being in school."

1977

Tim Makepeace reports that he "took a year off to work on a TV show for the Discovery Channel. The show is called *Weapon Masters* and is being aired on the Military Channel. The show is about recreating ancient weapons in a modern way. Ms. Miller, my Ancient History teacher in 9th grade, will be so proud. In all, we made 10 episodes. My web site has production stills as well as some of my artwork: tmakepeace.com."

1978

Brian Homet reports that he "and family are finishing an adventurous year and a half in the Netherlands, where I have served as a minister with the Gemeente van Christus Amsterdam. Our three daughters attend British international schools — complete with neckties (boys and girls alike), Harry Potter-style "house points," classes such as "numeracy" and foreign language (including the rather odd British English), and new friends from all around."

1980

Kassie McIlvaine is still in Africa. “In January I move home [from Burundi] to Kenya where I will start a new job as technical advisor still with CARE, but now living in my own house at home! A nice change to settle back down and reconnect with friends.”

1982

Kate Keith is living in Philadelphia and teaching Upper School English at Germantown Academy in Ft. Washington, PA. “I’m taking a hiatus from coaching cross country and advising Germantown Academy’s Honor Council. The highlight of the past year was seeing His Holiness the Dalai Lama of Tibet teach at Lehigh University this summer.”

David Tierny reports, “I moved two months ago farther out into the country of Napa County, now on nine acres of land in a small house (rented). I have been very busy with a new business as a web designer. You can visit my website at www.DesignsByTierney.com.”

1984

Monica Isabel Larriue writes, “Into our third year, my husband, Faris, and I have been living in Jerusalem with our family. We are scheduled to return to the DC area (our base) in early 2009. We have a sweet little boy, Gabriel Lucas, born in August 2006, and just had our second child, Amalia Isabel, in August 2008.”

1991

Chris Chaplin married Adrienne Fawcett in Indianapolis on July 7, 2007. He writes, “My brother **Jon Chaplin ‘94** was the best man.

Masud Khan and **Bill Barton** were groomsmen, **Alistair Edwards ‘90** was an usher. In attendance were **Rick Frank ‘90**, **Jason Ryan ‘92**, and **Scott Mader ‘92**.”

Masud Khan married Jessica Cortezzo in late July 2007 in McLean, VA. In attendance were

Chris Chaplin and **Alistair Edwards ‘90**.

Christine Holt Merrifield and Jim Merrifield are enjoying life in Rockville, MD, with their son Alex, 6, and daughter, Katherine, 4. Christine recently started working at a Rockville Community Nursery School in Maryland and loves it.

Amy Redstone writes, “I live in beautiful Fort Collins, CO. My husband and I have two children. Nathan is 5 and Caitlin is 2. I work at Agilent Technologies as the Americas and Europe Regional Relocation Manager, which means I oversee employee relocations into these two regions. Thanks to Facebook, I’ve caught up with several Potomac alums! It’s wonderful to know what folks are up to.”

1992

Trip Lilly reports, “I have taken a job with Pacific Investment Management Company (PIMCO) one of the world’s largest investment management firms, and am currently living in Newport Beach, California. I am an institutional account manager working with bank and brokerage financial institutions nationally and will be moving back to Manhattan at the end of the year.”

Angela (AJ) Miller is now in her last year of law school at the George Washington University, and “looking forward to starting a career in criminal law after passing the bar in Fall 2009 (knock on wood!) It would be great to catch up with any friends from Potomac, drop me an email!”

1993

Tom Martin and his wife Erin welcomed their first child, Henry Paul Martin, on Aug. 25, 2008.

1994

Abigail Whitehead Craine and **Clarke Craine ‘92** welcomed a daughter, Caroline Hinton Craine, on September 10, 2008.

Ally Fetch writes, “In recent months I’ve relocated back to the NoVA area with my husband of 10 years and our now 10-month-old son, Cameron.”

William Lamb married Gina Hosler in Jersey City, NJ, on March 8, 2008. “We were joined by my classmates **Ari Charney**, **Sam Grawe** and **K.C.Swope**, and by **Rob Lamb ‘93**.”

1995

Ada-Marie Walsh Aman lives in Richmond with her husband, Matt, and 16 month old daughter, Clare. Ada-Marie practices law part-time, focusing on general corporate and commercial law.

Antonia Blackwood and her husband Ryan Grisard were thrilled to welcome their first child, Austin Oliver Grisard, born October 21. After a six-month maternity leave, Antonia plans to return to work at Hayes & Associates in McLean, where she works as a fundraiser.

Reed Kuhn reports that he married Karin Johnson, whom he met in grad school at Duke, on June 7, 2008, in Northern Virginia. He says “I managed to rally a sizable Potomac crew for a picture (see below), although a few folks, along with the bride, escaped this one. We’re living in Arlington and have been catching up with lots of Potomac alums in the area.”



(left to right): Bill Frisbie, Matt McBay, Slater Harding, Jane (Corsiglia) Bockel, Geoff Burr, Ted Tzirimis, Reed Kuhn, John Shoemaker, Aaron Kuney, Liz (Reid) Miller, and James McCloggott.

Nelse Winder is still living in San Francisco and working as a nurse in the pediatric cardiac ICU.

1996

Yael Feder is still living in NYC, where he is working full-time as marketing communications manager of a consulting firm and getting his

MBA part-time at NYU's Stern School of Business. Despite his hectic schedule, Yael travels every chance he gets! Destinations this year included the Caribbean, England and the Amalfi Coast of Italy. Back in June, his brother **Amir Feder** married Renee Klappmeyer in a beautiful wedding (in NYC, where they live just across town from Yael).

1997

Michael Kleeblatt is living and working in Arlington, VA, with his wife Katie. They welcomed their first child, Fordham Michael Kleeblatt, into the world on the October 28. All is well, and he is excited to be a member of the Potomac Graduating class of 2026.

1998

Melissa Deland recently has switched professions from teaching to becoming a sales representative for Penguin Windows.

Melanie Hull reports, "I have been living in the South Bay Area for two years now and I am in my fifth year teaching. I work at an urban high school in San Jose, and enjoy the challenges and joys of my classroom. This fall I started at San Jose State—I am getting my second master's degree in Urban High School Leadership—and as crazy as it sounds, like being both a teacher and student at the same time."

1999

Ari J. Schantz recently received his license to practice law in the State of Maryland. Ari is currently practicing as an associate attorney at a small real estate law-focused firm in McLean. His firm also just started its own title insurance agency as well, where he acts as a title processor, among other duties.

2000

Nick Adams reports, "I'm in my last year of law school and enjoy seeing **Pat Scanlon** and **Meredith Van Tine** around grounds when

not playing a lot of IM sports. I'm planning on moving to New York after taking the bar to work for a firm (Akin Gump)."

Billy Cook has been living and working in Washington, DC, and has a very severe Redskins obsession that he can't quite seem to kick. He enjoys long walks on the Mall and can be spotted every Tuesday evening in Adams Morgan with a bowl of chicken wings in one hand and celery and ranch dressing in the other. Mmm...wings. He has worked for the non-profit Ocean Conservancy for the past two and a half years.

Jendayi Croom finally headed back to the DC area to pursue her creative interests. She will continue writing lyrics for a new, budding artist, attend photography school in the fall, and get back into the dance studio. After working in corporate America for four years, she is beyond ecstatic to make a change and finally do what she was made to do.

Emily Duncan has graduated from Duke Law School and is now working at a law firm in downtown Washington, DC. **Matt Meenan** works at a public relations firm nearby. They are currently doing a lot of wedding planning and house-hunting all at the same time. The "Big Day" for them is next May.

Josh Gregg moved to Sydney, Australia, in July and is working for Nomura. He says he hopes to meet up with Sully in Tokyo in the next few months.

Jonathan Haworth just moved back to Washington, DC, after living in London for 5 years. He writes, "During my time in London I earned two Master's degrees (cultural theory and theater studies, respectively), worked as a professional actor in the West End for a little over a year, and worked at an international public relations and marketing firm for a little over a year as well. I am currently loving being back home after so much time away and am really enjoying reconnecting with everybody again."

Sima Jaafar has been living in Atlanta this year and has recently finished up her Master's program in graphic design at Savannah College of Art and Design. She is now back in Washington, DC, hunting for jobs. She is

also getting married in April so it has been a very crazy year altogether.

Dimitri Karmires has been living in Tokyo for almost a year now after living in Greece for three years before that. He has met up with a friend from Franklin College Switzerland where he went for four years before living in Greece and is now living with that friend in Tokyo while working at Bloomberg. He came back to DC for two weeks to be a best man in a big fat greek wedding of a childhood friend of his. He plans on living in Tokyo for at least the next two to three years.

Victoria Sylos-Labini writes that she is in her second year of graduate school in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. She is getting her doctorate in clinical psychology. She is currently seeing clients at a clinic for children with ADHD. She is also part of an intervention research study seeking to enhance the quality of life for low-income ethnic minority children by developing a program to increase family and school support available to them. She is very busy, but reports that she loves what she is doing.

Kelly McMahon just moved back to the United States from Glasgow, Scotland, with her husband, Dave, and 14 month old daughter, Kenzie. Dave transferred to the veterinary medicine program at the University of Georgia and they are both enjoying Athens. She is enjoying motherhood and having a lot of fun playing with Kenzie, taking a few classes, and doing some marketing work on the side. Kenzie is growing quickly and has just mastered the art of walking.

Elizabeth Morrison has been working in Alexandria as a senior event coordinator for the Washington Speakers Bureau and enjoying every moment of it. She is a member of the American Ireland Fund DC Young Leaders Committee and the Junior League of Washington where she volunteers as a historic Alexandria docent. Liz is currently living in McLean with her sister **Mary Morrison '03**.

Tracy Phillips is currently working in downtown DC at Baach Robinson & Lewis PLLC as a litigation paralegal in their insurance and reinsurance practice group. She is applying to law schools for the fall of 2009. Additionally, Tracy

CLASS NOTES

has become an active member of the University Club of Washington, DC, and serves on the Proctor Dougherty Society Committee, which plans and promotes social events for the younger members of the club. Tracy lives in Georgetown with two friends.

Katherine Pritchett is living in a tree home in the San Francisco Bay area, where she moved to pursue studies in holistic wellness, archetypes, consciousness, somatic psychology and dreams. She recently completed training to become a Feng Shui practitioner, and finished her first FS contract with a local public school. She and **Milly Hejtmanek** enjoyed a recent adventure to Muir Woods National Park, a new favorite travel destination. She is grateful to live with a shaman-mystic and healer, who has transformed her belief in what this is all about. Northern California is a magical land.

Jen Rainey is currently living in Bethesda with her sister **Lisa Rainey '03** while getting her Master of Public Health degree at George Washington University. She is working part time at an outdoor education company called Calleva Outdoor Adventure and writes, "I would love to reconnect with all of those back in the DC area."

Paige Sparkman is getting married in March at the Duke Chapel to Brandon Goodwin (they met their freshman year at Duke). Brandon and Paige are finishing up a program at Wharton and will both graduate from Penn Law in May. After that, they are moving down to Houston. If anyone's living in Texas, Paige would love to meet up!

Emily Morse Sower writes, "**Cleaver Sower** and I were married August 31, 2008, in McLean, just up the road from where we met at Potomac! After the wedding we traveled around Greece for two weeks on our honeymoon. I work as a nurse at NYU, and Cleave is enjoying his job at Goldman Sachs."

Aly Sudow is still working at Google in San Francisco and spent the first four months of last year in Hyderabad, India, working with Google's Checkout team mostly training and building out new processes. She also traveled every chance

she got, visiting Bombay, Kerala, Mysore, Puri, Delhi, Jaipur, Agra, Varanasi, Nepal, Dubai, Thailand and Cambodia.

Louisa Thomas is now living back in New York City after a year in Berlin writing for *Newsweek*, *The New York Times Book Review*, *Vogue*, and others. She has also been happily married for a year.

Laura Warren is still living in Boston and is in the middle of her third year of med school. She wishes she had more time to sleep, but she loves what she is doing.

2001



(Left to Right): Lauren Grass, Elena Knappen, Jenny Brown (holding her son, August), Elizabeth Peterson, Carey Johnson, Anna Gonzalez, and Whitney Petersmeyer.

Jenny Brown organized a holiday lunch (see photo above) for members of the ISL champion 1999 girls varsity soccer team, which was named first in the region by *The Washington Post*.

2002

Crawford Appleby writes, "I am living and working in Los Angeles at Senator U.S. (a film production/acquisitions/distribution company)."

2003

Ian MacLeod writes, "I have finished my work for the Bureau of Land Management in Nevada and now perform habitat restoration on San Clemente Island, located 60 miles offshore from San Diego, for San Diego State University and the U.S. Navy, which owns the island. The work

will be fun but I'm most excited about surfing, spearfishing, hiking, and mingling in SoCal. Come visit!"

2005

Lauren Shuler writes, "After completing 2 1/2 years at Oberlin College and spending one semester abroad in New Zealand, I'm currently working on my second bachelor's degree, a B.S. in structural engineering, at Washington University in St Louis. It's a different place, and I certainly miss Oberlin, but I'm enjoying my new life all the same."

2006

Willie Morrison, a junior at the University of Miami, interned on the Obama campaign in Miami for about 20 hours a week starting last August. He reports that he registered hundreds of voters, knocked on doors, made phone calls, and helped organize campaign events (working the ground game). "It has been quite an experience!" he writes.

FROM THE ARCHIVES



Students from the class of 1967 prepare for their ninth grade play.



PLEASE JOIN US

POTOMAC COMMUNITY TO BID FAREWELL TO LOWER SCHOOL BUILDING MAY 22

Before we move out of the old Lower School and into our extraordinary new space, we invite past faculty and all alumni to join us on May 22 to say goodbye to the classrooms where many of our Potomac memories were made. Look for your invitation in April, but mark your calendar now.

As part of this special celebration, we invite you to share your memories of Lower School. Here are a few teasers to get you started:

Did you have a favorite place to sit or hide? What was your favorite book? What was it like having art with Ms. Swope in her art room? Do you have any memories of music with

Mr. Langstaff or Mrs. Smith? What did you love about the nature trails? Do you remember what you had for snack? Who was your favorite teacher, bus driver, teacher's aid or field trip? What do you remember about the cubbies? What is your favorite memory of the Lower School? What is the funniest thing that ever happened to you in Lower School?

All memories received by May 1 will be shared on May 22 and will reside in the new building once it opens in September. Please send your memories to Jenn Edgerly, Director of Alumni Relations, at jedgerly@potomacschool.org or call her at 703-749-6356.

IN MEMORIAM

PANSY BLOOMER CARROLL '27

MICHAEL DEWBERRY

Father of Michael Dewberry '11, Katie Dewberry '12 and Kelly Dewberry '20

KARL TEN EYCK GEBHARD

Father of Russell D. Gebhard '85

MRS. DAVID B. HOLDSWORTH (RAY)

Mother of Lindesay Aquino '65, Kim Holdsworth '68 and David Holdsworth '70; Grandmother of Belen Aquino '99

JEFFRIE (JERI) WORTHY STEENWERTH '70

MARCIA NEELY WARRANT

Mother of Yale Yng-Wong '05



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MAY 1

- MAY DAY
- CIVILI COURTYARD DEDICATION
2:30 PM

MAY 8

- GRANDPARENTS DAY

MAY 22

- FAREWELL TO THE OLD LOWER SCHOOL BUILDING

MAY 30

- ALUMNI TENNIS TOURNAMENT 10:00 AM
- ALUMNI LACROSSE GAME 11:00 AM

JUNE 10

- GRADUATION