The Lexington School

WINTER 2001

IMPARTING THE EXCELLENCE

To be worthy of emulation nationally . . . what a lofty founding goal our school has! How, then, do we communicate our excellent programs, special projects, innovative curriculum revision process and sense of community to the nation? "What if," asked our Headmaster last winter, "some of our teachers were to present at the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS) conference in November 2000?" When 14 teachers showed an interest, we were buoyed by the enthusiasm but aware of the competitive nature of the selection process. Over the next few months, all seven abstracts were accepted for presentation at the conference—a most impressive record! A thumbnail sketch of each talk presented at the recent ISACS conference in Chicago follows.



Photo By Lanna Bell

Science teacher Jawanna Herd presented curriculum ideas at the recent Chicago ISACS conference.

If you have ever attended a fifth grade *Star Show*, you can imagine how well received Samantha Kemmish and Lynn Pickles were with their presentation *Stellar Connections*. Their slide presentation on the integration of astronomy, mythology, storytelling, creative writing, research, proportion and scale was one of the stars of the conference.

The ABC's of Education, the conference theme, was right on target for the team of Sharon Deller and Vickie Russo whose PowerPoint presentation focused on *Real Ideas for Real Teachers: Practical Ways to Implement the Whole Language Curriculum*. This dynamic duo provided ideas for thematic units and hands-on activities, the essence of the excellence of our second grade program.

And speaking of excellence, Ann Eames and Marijo Foster's PowerPoint on the school's celebration of *Forty Years of 'XL'ence* proved to be useful for many ISACS development and alumni people. There was universal respect, appreciation and even envy for the outpouring of support and involvement on the part of The Lexington School's faculty, administration, alumni and parents during the anniversary year.

In another particularly "cool" presentation, *Into Thin Air* was the base camp from which all sorts of creative ideas for math, science and English teachers sprang. The trio of Lanna Bell, Jawanna Herd and Laura Bonzo-Sims has created an interdisciplinary curriculum driven by this incredible book. Each addressed projects from her own discipline that created enjoyable cross-curricular experience for students.

Leah Maxson's *Bringing the Arts into the Everyday Curriculum* provided guidance in integrating the fine arts into core subject areas. Leah also joined with Debbie Wilson for a second presentation, *Linking Curriculum: Interweaving of Social Studies and Language Arts*. These two professionals provided ideas for team teaching these subjects at the middle school level.

John Fixx, Una MacCarthy and Susan Touchstone teamed up to share information about *Faculty Ownership in Curriculum Development*. All schools know the challenges of curriculum revision, one of which is initiating faculty involvement and ownership of the process. A PowerPoint presentation on this subject was very well received by those who attended.

Just as we challenge our students to understand that with privilege comes responsibility, as a fortunate school we have the responsibility to help strengthen learning experiences at other schools. The Lexington School's commitment to our origins as a model program was in full flight at the conference, as our colleagues at other schools took bits of The Lexington School back to their campuses.

—Marijo Foster, Director of Student and Professional Services

THE COLORFUL WORLD OF FRENCH

The Lexington School's two French teachers, Shannon Arnold and Charlotte Gossett, are quite an unbeatable pair. Between the two of them, they educate, inspire and bring the wonderful world of the French language to students from Kinderklasse to ninth grade. Out of all of their accomplishments, perhaps one of the most interesting things they have done is to create a program for the younger students that is certainly impressive.

Students in first grade and below enjoy a colorful and creative approach to French. I spoke with Shannon and Charlotte recently to find out more about how they teach these young members of the Lexington School community.

"At the beginning levels, we like to place the greatest emphasis on developing listening and speaking skills," Charlotte says. "And to make it understandable for the children, we fill the French world with colorful songs, fantastic stories, exciting games and lovable puppets."

The many props and games employed by Charlotte and Shannon help the children to feel comfortable with a foreign language. Both teachers like to use what the children are already comfortable with in their American world to introduce them to another culture.

"We also begin by explaining to the children that not everybody in the world uses the same words for things. Just like cats meow and dogs bark, people, too, have different ways of saying the same thing," says Shannon.

So, at the beginning of each class, the children begin by saying common English phrases in French. Such as, "hello" or "my name is . . ." or by sharing how their day is going, "good" or "bad."

"Another key to helping children remember words is by using repetition," says Charlotte. "But instead of saying 'repeat after me,' the children and I pretend we are in the French Alps and they "echo" my words. We try to give everything not only a context, but an element of make-believe, also."

Of course, the props Shannon and Charlotte use truly entertain the children. "The more things you have the better," says Shannon. "We use clocks, dice and billiard balls to teach numbers. When we talk about "hot" and "cold" we bring in warm potatoes and ice. Whenever we tell a story, we bring an object for each new word."

Charlotte and Shannon show me the various puppets they use. "Henri" is a gargoyle who "lives" atop Notre Dame. He helps teach different verbs to the children like regardez (look), ecoutez (listen), chantez (sing), lisez (read), and the children's favorite, dansez (dance).

Muppets Kermit the Frog and Grover are employed periodically to teach the children about colors. "The Hungry Caterpillar" and "The Old Lady Who Swallowed a Fly" are in puppet form as well and teach the children the French versions of the American story and song, respectively. But perhaps the two most loved puppets are Guy and Gustav, two frogs that keep the children thoroughly entertained.



Photo By Whitney Martin '88

French teachers Shannon Arnold and Charlotte Gossett.

The young students have French class once per weekly cycle. And the children retain much of what they learn. "Occasionally, out of the blue, a child will approach me in the hallway and share French words or a part of a song," says Shannon. Both she and Charlotte agree that young children have a great capacity to learn a foreign language quickly and accurately.

Charlotte has Master's in French and Secondary Education from the University of Kentucky. She taught in France in 1996. Shannon studied French at Indiana University and did her graduate work at the Univeristy of Kentucky. She has had much experience in the past with a summer exchange program. With such credentials, talent and creativity leading them, Lexington School kids are destined to go far in the world of French!

—Whitney Martin '88, Newsletter Editor

A FIELD TRIP OF THEIR OWN

This past October, four former Lexington School teachers traveled to Italy for a fabulous vacation. Former third grade teacher Libby Geddes, former English teacher and Upper School Head Mary Lee Nichols, former science teacher Sue Orme and former physical education teacher Roberta Owen sent in these great photographs and the following clip describing their trip.

Having taken many Lexington School students to Europe in years past, Mary Lee Nichols was the experienced Italian traveler and was able to share her shopping expertise with her companions. After this trip, she said if she had a chance to return to Italy again, she would like to spend more time in Sorrento. Libby Geddes and Roberta Owen, trip organizers, worked hard to make sure that they were able to see Michelangelo's Sistine Chapel and the statue of David. Although the travel dates were changed twice, everyone agreed it was worth the wait. For Sue Orme, walking the streets of Pompeii was "just unbelievable." However, all agreed that the following things were the most memorable: magnificent art treasures, beautiful countryside, terraced gardens, THE FOOD, thousands of motor scooters darting in and out of traffic and THE FOOD. They also agreed that the wine wasn't too bad either!



Photo By Roberta Owen

Roberta Owen, Libby Geddes, Mary Lee Nichols and Sue Orme at the Leaning Tower of Pisa in Pisa, Italy.



Photo By Roberta Owen

Roberta Owen, Libby Geddes, Sue Orme and Mary Lee Nichols enjoy a gondola ride in Venice, Italy.

ONE THOUSAND CRANES FOR PEACE



Photo By Whitney Martin '88

Fifth graders Nancy McKinstry and Alexis Shaffer fold paper cranes to be sent to the Peace Park in Hiroshima, Japan.

Every year, fifth grade students at TLS learn about the bombing of Hiroshima through a unique interdisciplinary unit. Utilizing the book *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes*, fifth grade teachers Samantha Kemmish, Pam Maley, Jenny O'Neill and Lynn Pickles weave science, math, language arts and social studies into one cohesive unit.

The book tells the true story of a Japanese girl who contracts leukemia as a result of the atomic bombing. She believes a folktale that says if a person can fold 1,000 paper cranes they will survive. She begins to fold cranes while in the hospital, and 644 cranes hang in her room the day she dies. Today, a statue of Sadako stands in the Peace Park in Hiroshima.

After reading the story, fifth grade students learn about atomic bombs in science class. Then they compose a story, written from the perspective of a Japanese child, the President of the United States, or a bomber pilot during the time of Hiroshima. In math class, the children fold 1,000 coloful origami cranes. The cranes were sent to the Peace Park in Hiroshima just before Christmas with a letter expressing their hopes for world peace.

—Whitney Martin '88, Newsletter Editor

TLS HONORS MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

The Lexington School celebrated Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day with a very special assembly on Friday, January 12. At 9:00 a.m. the entire school community gathered in the gymnasium where the preschool and lower school music students, directed by Martha Anderson, began the ceremony by singing "My Country 'Tis of Thee."



Photo By Whitney Martin '88

Headmaster John Fixx delivered a brief history on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and spoke of how King had helped to spread awareness and compassion in America. Fixx encouraged students to spend time thinking about how they could increase kindness and acceptance in the community and at school.

Next, students Brandon Leatherwood, Stephanie Bachas-Daunert, Claire Tri, Shakaree Carter, Teddy Yan and Chase Minnfield, pictured at right gave a moving interpretation of King's "I Have a Dream." The students took turns reading aloud from King's speech and periodically paused for recorded excerpts of King's voice. The event was organized by speech and drama teacher Gretchen Young and teaching intern Joy Gonsalves.

Gonsalves treated the audience to her essay "A Dream Deferred?" that won an award at Case Western University. She spoke of how involvement with and awareness of diversity and equality should be actively pursued rather than just merely intellectually observed.

The assembly was brought to a close with music from the middle school students, directed by David Cooper and Nancy Ward. Songs included African American gospels and the African American national anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing." The assembly was a wonderful way to honor to Dr. King, and it inspired many students and faculty members to join Lexington's Martin Luther King Jr. March that Saturday.

—Whitney Martin '88, Newsletter Editor

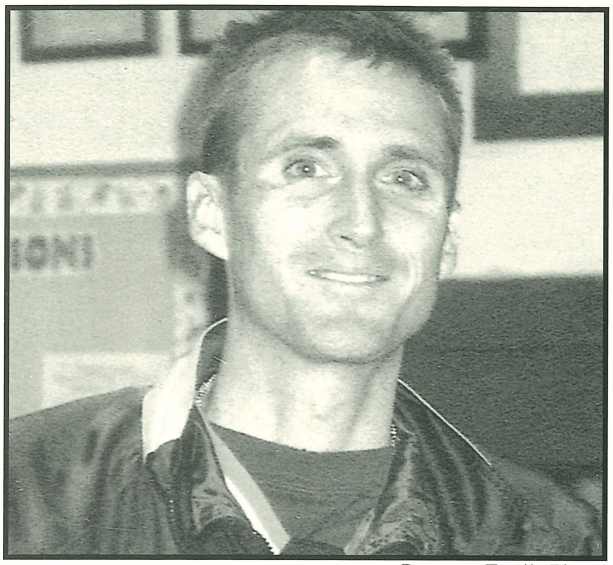
SNAPSHOT OF AN ALUM

If you're looking for something inspiring to do in Lexington, look no further than The Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning. There, you'll find a fabulous photography exhibit by Bill Patterson '81 titled "Lexington: People, Places, and Hidden Wonders."

Bill has successfully captured the beauty of Lexington and the Bluegrass Region through both color and black and white photographs. His subject matter ranges from pictures of children and wildlife to impressive vistas of rolling fields and farmland. His photos are truly breathtaking, and viewers will be amazed at what he has been both skilled enough and fortunate enough to capture on film—a Canada goose close-up, a vivid Monarch butterfly, a cow that seems to pose for the camera.

Take the time to see the exhibit—hours and dates are listed below.

—Whitney Martin '88, Newsletter Editor



Patterson Family Photo

Bill Patterson '81 enjoys photographing scenes in Lexington and the Bluegrass.



Photo By Bill Patterson '81

ARTIST'S STATEMENT

I took up photography in 1994 to help pass the time after being critically injured in a bicycle accident.

While recovering, I found myself looking at life from an entirely new perspective. I began to notice, and more importantly appreciate, all the wonder and beauty that surrounds us everyday. I began to notice many things that would remain hidden and go unrecognized if one didn't take the time to look at them. I have found that everything, from people and animals to insects and flowers, has its own unique personality and beauty.

When I look at my photographs, I don't think of myself as the artist. I see God as the artist. It is He that creates all the magnificent beauty and awe-inspiring wonders that exist everywhere we look. I merely try to capture on film some of the brilliant masterpieces He composes, and then I share them with others, hoping they will see, as I do, what an amazing, beautiful world we live in.

—Bill Patterson '81

See the exhibit at The Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning in Lexington, KY, until February 10. Gallery Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9.a.m. to 7 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Photographs are for sale and are sold framed.

The Unity in Education Lecture Series

Co-Sponsored by The Lexington School and Sayre School

MADELYN SWIFT

speaking on

"Discipline for Life"



Tuesday, March 6th, 7:00 p.m.
C.V. Whitney Gymnasium, Sayre School
194 North Limestone Street, Lexington, KY

Author of:
"Discipline for Life—Getting it Right with Children"
"Getting it Right with Teens—The Parent's Manual for Surviving Your Teenage Children"

TICKETS
Send SASE to: Swift Tickets
194 North Limestone Street
Lexington, KY 40507
Or call: 859-254-1361, ext. 500

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Reunion 2001 Weekend

Friday, May 11, 2001, 6:30 p.m.

ALL ALUMNI, PARENTS OF ALUMNI, FORMER FACULTY & STAFF INVITED

REFLECT, REMEMBER, RECONNECT

WHAT'S NEW WITH TLS ALUMNI

Ernest and Betty Barnes sent information on their three children. Roy Bruce Barnes '74 is a dentist in Lexington, KY and lives with his wife Vicki in Versailles, KY. Rebecca Barnes Davis '77 is a registered nurse. She, her husband Charles and their three children live in Jacksonville, FL. William Barnes '83 is a bank examiner. He and his wife Laura live and work in Lexingon, KY.

Lee Brown '88 was married last June to Whitney Hailand Walker. The couple lives in Menlo Park, CA. Lee works for Yahoo! Inc. and is a graduate of The Lawrenceville School and Vanderbilt University.

Jay Munson '88 lives in Seattle and attends the University of Washington. He is working towards a Master's in Romance Linguistics with a focus on Spanish. Currently he is studying Finnish, too, and hopes to travel to Finland. In his spare time, he does woodworking and computer programming. He recently produced an album of his own guitar music and lyrics titled, "Ballads for Rebounders." Jay is a graduate of Denison University and the Peace Corps. He says he still enjoys wearing his Buster Browns.

Matthew Groves '90 is engaged to Jennifer Givens. Matt is a Lieutenant with the Air Force and will complete his flight training this February. He will fly C-130s. Jennifer is finishing the Physician's Assistant program at UK.

Elizabeth Martin '94 attends the University of Georgia. She is working towards her BBA in Finance and Management. She is a member of Delta Delta Delta soroity and plays on the women's lacrosse team and is a Young Life leader.



Gariepy Family Photo

There were fireworks over Acapulco Bay when Alexandra Kay Gariepy '89 married Timothy Wagner Levin on May 20, 2000 at Las Brisas in Acapulco, Mexico. Elaine Keightley '02 was a junior bridesmaid and Ashley Chamberlain '89 was a bridesmaid. Alumni in attendance included Scott Chamberlin '87, Caitlin Chamberlin '92 and Douglas Owens '85. Alex and Tim live in Philadelphia where Alex is pursuing an MBA at The Wharton School of Business and Tim is an attorney with Morgan, Lewis and Bockius.

WINTER 2001 NEWSLETTER

LAYOUT & EDITING
Whitney Martin '88

PRINTING & DISTRIBUTION
Edge Graphics, Cincinnati

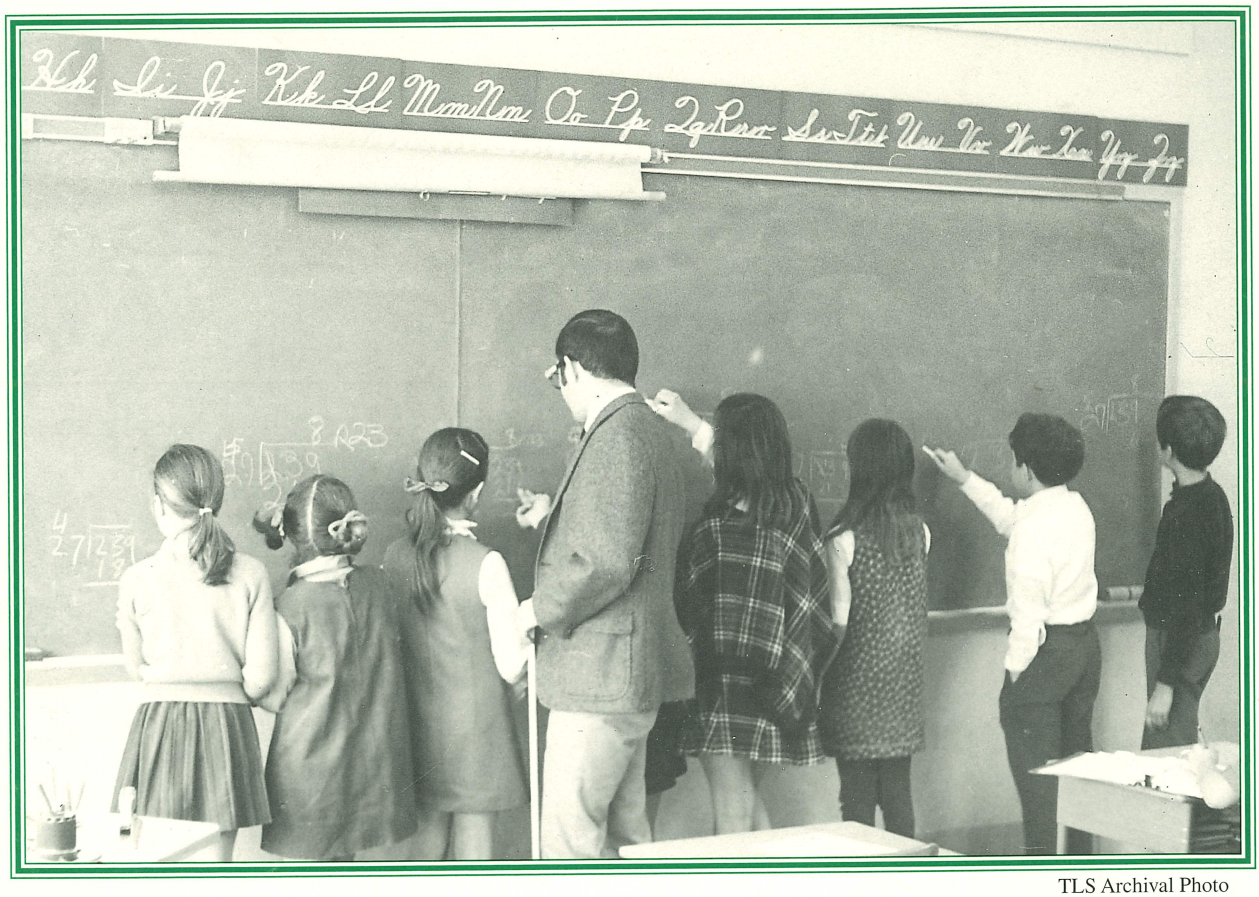
DIRECTOR OF ALUMNI AFFAIRS
Lucy Johnston McKinstry '66

CONTACT INFORMATION
NEWSLETTER EDITOR, 1050 LANE ALLEN ROAD, LEXINGTON, KY 40504
Phone: 859/278-0502, ext. 280 Fax: 859/278-8604 Email: w.e.martin@att.net
Include return address for return of photos after printing

The Lexington School
1050 Lane Allen Road
Lexington, Kentucky 40504
859-278-0501
FAX (859)278-8604

Address Correction Requested

PRSRT STD
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Cincinnati, OH
Permit No. 1294



TLS Archival Photo

The Lexington School never turns its back on you—except maybe to do math in Rod Bussey's 1966-67 fourth grade class. From L to R: Brenda Berryman, Lucy Barrow, Kelly Reissinger, Rod Bussey, Larisa Franzheim, Nethery Wylie, Bobby Simons, Tim Arvin. Come see TLS face to face at Reunion 2001 in May!

The Lexington School admits students of any race, religion, color, sex, national or ethnic origin.