The Lexington School
Pinpoints
SUMMER 2003

A Whole New World

Photo by David Coyle



Back Row, L to R: Miles Hopgood, Chris Paulick, Sunny Mok, Cy Alexander, Daniel Archer. Third row, L to R: Mariam Hanna, Caleigh Waldman, Will Parrell. Second row, L to R: Heidi Zimmerman, Samantha Howley, Meg Grossman, Sarah Fishback. Front row, L to R: Kellen Polley, Martha Prewitt, Sarah Mikell, Brooke Baker, Erica Ashley.

The following address, slightly abridged for space, was presented by Freshman Class President **Heidi Zimmerman '03** and Co-Vice Presidents **Miles Hopgood '03** and **Caleigh Waldman '03** at the 2003 Commencement Ceremony. The Class of 2003 graduated from The Lexington School on Saturday, May 31.

The Class of 2003 is happy to share this day with Mr. Fixx, Ms. MacCarthy, our teachers, parents, families, special friends, and the Board of Trustees. One of our favorite memories of the year is our treasured yearbook themed "Once Upon a Time." In modern times, who told "once upon a time" stories better than Walt Disney? Today, we honor his memory as Miles, Caleigh, and I share our thoughts based around three of his songs, "You Can Fly" from Peter Pan; *"You've Got a Friend in Me" from* Toy Story; *and "A Whole New World" from* Aladdin. *We'll use these songs to reflect on our years here at The Lexington School, so keep them in mind! And it was Disney who said, "The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing," so I'll quit talking, and Miles, would you begin doing?*

Heidi Zimmerman '03

Disney said, "Crowded classrooms and half-day sessions are a tragic waste of our greatest national resource – the minds of our children," a truth that many have neglected in this nation. Over the past few decades, we have seen a decline in the performance of our country's students, many who cannot read or write by high school. Compared to other countries, the United States of America is failing. We can safely say there is at least one exception to this shocking realization: TLS.

At our school, as any child begins, they soon learn about discovery. As young children in Preschool and Montessori, we learned the value of experimenting with all the bright books and toys around us – who could ever forget the excitement in every kid's eyes when they first saw Mrs. Beers's giant red car? "When there's a smile in your heart, there's no better time to start. All it takes is faith and trust, but the thing that's a must is a little bit of pixie dust." We provided the smiles,

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. . . and much more!

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and our wonderful teachers gave us that sprinkle of pixie dust, a great zeal for learning. This enthusiasm did not decrease, but amplified, as we grew up. We developed a thirst for knowledge as we saw the eye-opening wonders of Lower School, and gained courage to brave the essays and projects that awaited us in Upper School. As we entered the Sixth Grade, we learned (the hard way) how to work and study like never before, accepting each new project with, and I have to be honest, a little less cheeriness than our teachers would have liked. But, as Disney put it, "wasn't it kind of fun to do the impossible?"

As we moved onto Ninth Grade, all we could do was "think of the present you brought us" through the gift of a solid foundation. You teachers told us, "You can fly, you can fly, you can fly!" And with vigor we believed you and flew on wings of faith to the doors of our Freshman Year, the next frontier.

Miles Hopgood '03

This was a tremendous year of growth for the Ninth Grade. Besides our out-of-the-ordinary lounge and Holiday Hula performance, we differed from previous classes in the way we bonded. It was incredible how, at the start of the year, we hardly knew each other. We knew names and faces but had no idea of the special personalities and talents beneath the surface. Just as Disney songwriters don't begin with a musical masterpiece, we began the year with just ideas. But during our time together, we saw an empty sheet of music evolve into an eloquent composition. At first, we were unsure how things would go; if we'd be friends or constantly feud. This apprehension was assuaged as we painted the lounge and embarked on our freshman year.

As the year went on, we saw our classmates in many situations, both good and bad. One of the ever-present frustrations this year was having trips and activities cancelled or rescheduled for reasons beyond our control. The first time this happened, we were disappointed and overreacted. But as time went on, we learned acceptance and how to make the most of situations. As a bonus, it gave us material for our Freshman Show. As Art Linkletter put it, "Things turn out best for people who make the best out of the way things turn out." As a class, we accomplished this and had much practice doing so!

We saw many of our classmates face personal challenges this year, particularly on the Southwest Trip. It was very different from our usual classroom atmosphere, and many of us were "non-campers." I know I speak for many when I say that the trip turned out to be one of the best experiences. There were difficulties, but we came to know that, as Woody from Toy Story *told us, "When the road looks rough ahead, and you're miles and miles from your nice warm bed, just remember what your old pals said: 'you've got a friend in me.'" Watching how we approached challenges made us truly appreciate each other. It showed us that everyone has their own "stage," whether it is in a theater, on a rock face, on a basketball court, or in the classroom. It helped us realize our limits and the heights to which we could soar.*

I know everyone faced frustration at some point this year, but whenever that occurred, our class was there to encourage that person because, "If you've got troubles, I've got 'em, too. There isn't anything I wouldn't do for you. We stick together and can see it through, 'cause you've got a friend in me." Many of us went into assignments and activities thinking, "This is impossible. I can never do this!" But when push came to shove, we surprised ourselves and each other.

We ended this year with a full composition and made lifelong friends. "As the years go by, our friendship will never die. You're gonna see it's our destiny. You've got a friend in me." This School and this year were a blessing for me and others. It gave us a strong foundation and the tune for our song of accomplishment. Disney said, "If you can dream it, you can do it." This depicts the ideals of our Headmaster, Mr. Fixx. He supported all students not only in academics, but in athletics and extracurriculars. We're grateful for the gifts he gave us, but now it is time for him to share those gifts with another school. We will miss you, Mr. Fixx.

In closing, remember what Margaret Mead said, "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed individuals can change the world; indeed it's the only thing that ever has." Though we've not yet changed the world, we've changed each other, and who knows where that might lead.

Caleigh Waldman '03

Class of 2003, look around you! On either side of you is someone you've known for years. Out in the audience, watching you with proud eyes, are the TLS faculty, your family, and your friends. For many of us, when we started at The Lexington School, it became a "whole new world," and it has meant the world to us. For instance, the room you are in, the TLS Theater, is a place in which you've had some of your greatest performances, and even if they weren't great, they were always a great source of entertainment. This theater has also been home to a magical woman, of whom even Disney would be proud. She saw us through those performances, and she saw something wonderful in our class even when other teachers were still looking. She taught us how to debate and led the speech team to many a victory. That woman is Mrs. Young. Mrs. Young instilled in us a love, or at least an appreciation, for performing that we will never forget. This year, The Lexington School is saying goodbye to a favorite teacher, a second mom, and a good friend. Mrs. Young, thank you. You will be missed.

In a few hours, when we walk out of here, we'll never walk in again as TLS students, only as TLS alumni. We started our journey here, blessed with parents who knew the value of education. I know teenagers aren't so good at showing our appreciation, but to our families and for their support, we say a heartfelt "thank you."

We grew through the years, passing through Lower School and Middle School unaware of the firm friendships we were building. And then this year. This year was unbelievable beyond description, a "whole new world" thanks to you guys, my classmates, and of course our wonderful advisors, Mrs. Bonzo-Sims and Mr. Hardesty, and our other teachers. Disney said, "You can design and create and build the most wonderful place in the world, but it takes people to make the dream a reality." And all of you, our special teachers, made our dream of an unforgettable year a reality.

I know that as we leave, we will enter another "whole new world – shining, shimmering, splendid." A world full of opportunities, filled with bigger things for each and every one of us. Filled with "unbelievable sights, indescribable feelings." In our future, we will hit rocky times, obstacles, and fears, but because of our formal and informal TLS education, we'll know how to handle ourselves, solve problems, and grow from the situation. I have one last piece of advice for you from the Western author and environmentalist, Edward Abbey. "May your trails be crooked, winding, lonesome, dangerous, leading to the most amazing view." Thank you, and congratulations Class of 2003. We finally did it!

Heidi Zimmerman '03

2003 Commencement Awards

The below students were named to The Permanent Headmaster's List and received a Harvard Book Award, presented by Lexington School alum and Harvard student, **John Playforth '99**.

Erica Ashley

Miles Hopgood

Will Parell

Martha Prewitt

Caleigh Waldman

Heidi Zimmerman

The 2003 Commencement Address

by Megan Foster Sullivan '87

Photo by David Coyle



Megan Foster Sullivan '87 was this year's commencement speaker. Meg lives in Chicago with her husband and two sons.

I understand that this Class of 2003 has been nicknamed "The Class That Never Was!" Is it true that your canoe trip was cancelled last fall because of bad weather? Is it true that your Spirit Day Celebration was postponed because of a snowstorm? Is it also true that your Everest Base Camp experience was postponed – TWICE? And that several wonderful TLS traditions such as the Fourth Grade Metric Olympics, the Sixth Grade Greek Festival, the Chinese New Year Celebration, the Fifth Grade Candlelight Ceremony, and probably most devastating of all – the Freshman Skip Day – just didn't happen for you?

I know firsthand that a recent pizza party, planned so that we could get to know each other, had to be cancelled because I unexpectedly spent the day at the emergency room with my two-year-old. (I'm happy to report that the cast is off and he's doing great.)

Well, I am here to tell you, dear Class of 2003, that your graduation speaker has also been postponed. Instead of the tall, brave, very handsome, highly successful, U.S. Air Force helicopter pilot, Captain Marshall Groves from the Class of 1988, you will have the pleasure of hearing from me, a rather undecorated wife and mother from Elmhurst, Illinois.

I apologize for the trade-off, but I must say that my friend Marshall and I were both launched from the same stage, the same one that you are seated on today, and I thought it would be fun to talk about the effect that The Lexington School has had on our lives – all of our lives.

I will use the lyrics of our Lexington School Alma Mater, written by former TLS music teacher Dorothy Smith, as the framework for this speech. The words apply to Captain Marshall Groves, they apply to me, and most importantly, they apply to you. You might be surprised to know that, although I was graduated from The Lexington School the very year the most of you were born, our experiences are quite similar.

"Within these halls of learning, a proud tradition grows..."

Proud traditions are born of good people doing worthy things. Traditions such as Miss Cowling's social studies tests, Mrs. Anderson's Lower School music classes, Mr. Brost's approach to middle school history, Mrs. Bell's mathematic wizardry, Mrs. Foster's Organization Club, and Mr. Parlanti – well, not only was he my physical education teacher, but he also baked my wedding cake. Where else but at The Lexington School?

Traditions such as Mrs. Eames. I knew her as a wonderful English teacher. You know her as a librarian. We can all count on her as a friend. And Mrs. Herd. Does she still have wildflower trips to Raven Run? I bet she does; it's part of the "tradition."

When I was in high school, I heard about Mrs. Herd's planned spring break trip to the Okeefenokee Swamp. There was to be camping, canoeing through alligator infested waters, and curriculum development for future fourth grade science classes. (Did you study limnology with Mrs. Zimmerman in the fourth grade? Well, the idea was born in that swamp.)

Now, I know what you are thinking. What high school girl, in her right mind, begs to tag along on a swamp trip with her former teacher? I may not have been the coolest member of the Class of 1987, but that trip surely did change my life. You see, it was there that I met another young science teacher named Mary Brenzel, who was also hungry to learn from Mrs. Herd. She was a graduate of the University of Notre Dame, and she encouraged me to look at that college. I looked all right, and it was love at first sight – Notre Dame, I mean. It took me just a little longer to know that the cute boy in my freshman English class would become my husband!

And then there are traditions like the Holiday Concert, the Middle School Musical, the Spring Carnival, the Spring Dance, and the Ninth Grade Show which are as much a part of my experience as they are of yours.

"Where cherished friendships linger and pleasant memories glow..."

I've heard from several of you via email and in person of how close you are as a class. Your trip to the Southwest further bonded an already tight-knit group. These are truly special friendships. As you go off to high school, you all know that you can depend on your classmates from The Lexington School to stand by you.

Look to your left. Look to your right. These are the people, fifteen years from now, who you will still count in your friendship circle. You will, of course, add new friends to that circle, but who else will know just exactly how important that "first" in the state speech contest was to you? Or just exactly how much fun it was rehearsing it over and over and over? Right Miles? Martha? Or how much of a star you were in Middle School musicals? Right Heidi?

"Her light into the future will on our pathways cast..."

The future of The Lexington School seems very bright to me. With construction beginning on the first phase of an incredible Campus Master Plan, we will soon all return to a different School building. What we will be counting on are the traditions and friendships and good feelings to make it all very comfortable and welcoming, if not familiar. You will find that you want to return to this haven of your youth, this place where you can celebrate your accomplishments with your former teachers almost as freely as with your parents.

You know that the people here will celebrate with you. I have it on good source that these teachers even talk about us behind our backs, and if we turn out as well as they expect us to, there are even some high fives exchanged among them. They are proud of you now, but they are even more excited about your potential. These teachers want to see you use to the fullest the skills and values they have tried to instill.

"And sounds of loyal voices will echo from the past..."

They are the voices of people like the Headmasters I knew: Pritchett, Schwab, Lowry. And of the teachers whose names you might not recognize, but who I remember so well, such as: Mary Lee Nichols, Roberta Owen, Betty Cox, Nicole Charron, Penny Lastinger, Libby Geddes, Todd and Anne McCormack, Don and Eunice Noderer, Sara Meekins, and Linda MacKellar – just to name a few. There are hundreds of loyal voices, whose dedication to The Lexington School has formed the essence of our Alma Mater.

Pretty soon, Mr. Fixx will become one of those voices echoing from the past. I wouldn't presume to define John Fixx's legacy at our School, but I think it's a safe bet to say that he has done more than anyone to honor all the loyal voices from the past and to provide a warm welcome for all to return. I thank him for that and for encouraging our alumni group to provide opportunities for people to gather together with one connecting thread – The Lexington School. Lucy McKinstry and the Alumni Council, hats off to you, too.

"Proud of her heritage, in wisdom and light..."

The School was founded in 1959 by a dedicated group, led by Josephine Abercrombie, who wanted to create a school worthy of national emulation, one that would challenge the best and brightest minds in the Bluegrass. They were wise to do this. The Lexington School has been a beacon of excellence during its 44-year existence. Your accomplishments have augmented that excellence and will soon become a part of the heritage.

"Her loyal sons and daughters will hold her standards high..."

You, the Class of 2003, have adhered to the standards set by those who preceded you. It will now be your job to hold those standards to which you have been accountable as high as you can throughout your lives. It's not as hard as you think it will be. You have been given the tools to do this. I encourage you to cherish all the good that you have experienced while at The Lexington School and which, along with your families, has helped to mold you into the incredible young people that you are.

And the last lines of the Alma Mater just speak for themselves:

"Hail to our Alma Mater, though near or far apart,
through the years The Lexington School will live in our hearts."

Thank you for inviting me to join you today. I am truly honored. Good luck and best wishes in all your future endeavors.

"I have it on good source that these teachers even talk about us behind our backs, and if we turn out as well as they expect us to, there are even some high fives exchanged among them. They are proud of you now, but they are even more excited about your potential."

Something to Talk About

by Whitney M. Collins '88

The Lexington School's Speech Team has always given folks something to talk about. Year after year, coached by Gretchen Young, Team members have brought home awards and honors, and made a name for themselves across the Bluegrass. This year was certainly no exception.

"From the start, this Team was phenomenal," says Gretchen. "They placed high in every tournament, showing remarkable consistency." In all, the Speech Team attended six tournaments throughout the year and wowed judges at every one.

"The first tournament was a 'swing tournament,' which counted as two competitions," Gretchen explains. "At that, we placed second in the Ockerman Boone County division and second again at the Asbury Tournament hosted by the Kentucky Educational Speech and Drama Association, also known as KESDA."

Soon after, the Team nailed down another second place at the Marquis Invitational hosted by Lafayette High School. At the Danville Anchor Invitational, the Team came in fourth, and at the Harrison County Winter of Winners they took home fifth place. In the Team's Regional Tournament, they took home another fourth.

Perhaps most remarkable, however, were the Team's performances at the two state tournaments – the most difficult matches of all. At the first state match, KESDA – which is much anticipated all year long – **Mimi Purdy '06** and **Jennifer Stutland '06** finaled in duo acting, **John Tender '06** placed second in Poetry, and **Carrie Shirley '06** placed fourth in Declamation. **Miles Hopgood '03** and **Martha Prewitt '03** won first prize in duo acting. The Lexington School finished in third place overall.

At the Kentucky Junior High State Speech Tournament (KHSSL), held at Western Kentucky University, The Lexington School came through with flying colors once again. They competed against 47 teams from across the state, and took home an impressive third place.

TLS Photo



The Lexington School Speech Team, coached by Gretchen Young, had a tremendous year, finishing third overall in both of the state tournaments attended.

"**Heidi Zimmerman '03** had a double win at KHSSL in both Prose and Storytelling," says Gretchen. "And **Carolyn Boes '05** came in second in both Public Speaking and Declamation, and **Teddy Yan '05** took home third in Declamation. I was so proud of all of them, as well as the entire team."

And for good reason. At KHSSL, only 33 entries are allowed per school, and The Lexington School brought only 23. "Out of those 23 students, 16 of ours made the semifinals and eight of them made the finals," explains Gretchen. "And out of those eight, The Lexington School had two first places, two second places, one third, one fourth, one fifth, and one sixth. It was an incredible showing, especially considering we didn't have as many students as other schools."

Overall, the year was a huge success. Gretchen's excellent coaching and the students' high caliber of talent was a winning combination. The year was made even more special, considering that after twelve years of devotion and hard work, Gretchen Young retired at the end of the 2002/2003 school year.

"This Team was truly wonderful. They worked hard, were not intimidated, and rose to the challenge and level of competition. They were polite and gracious and had a lot of heart. I will always remember this year. It was the best."

SPEECH, *n.* [Middle English speche, from Old English sprc, spc.] 1a. The faculty or act of speaking. 1b. The faculty or act of expressing or describing thoughts, feelings, or perceptions by the articulation of words. 2. Something spoken; an utterance. 3. Vocal communication; conversation. 4a. A talk or public address: "The best impromptu speeches are the ones written well in advance" (Ruth Gordon). 4b. A printed copy of such an address. 5. One's habitual manner or style of speaking. 6. The language or dialect of a nation or region: American speech. 7. The sounding of a musical instrument. 8. The study of oral communication, speech sounds, and vocal physiology. Archaic. Rumor.

Sixth Grade:

Yohanna Hanna
Chloe Irwin
Ashley Lockridge
Mimi Purdy
Jennifer Stutland
John Tender
Alec Gilbert
Julia Hunter
Cameron Lindsey
Rachel Moore
Ellen Sanders
Carrie Shirley
Ravi Shukla
Sam Beach
Jennifer Grasch
Jennifer O'Brien

Seventh Grade:

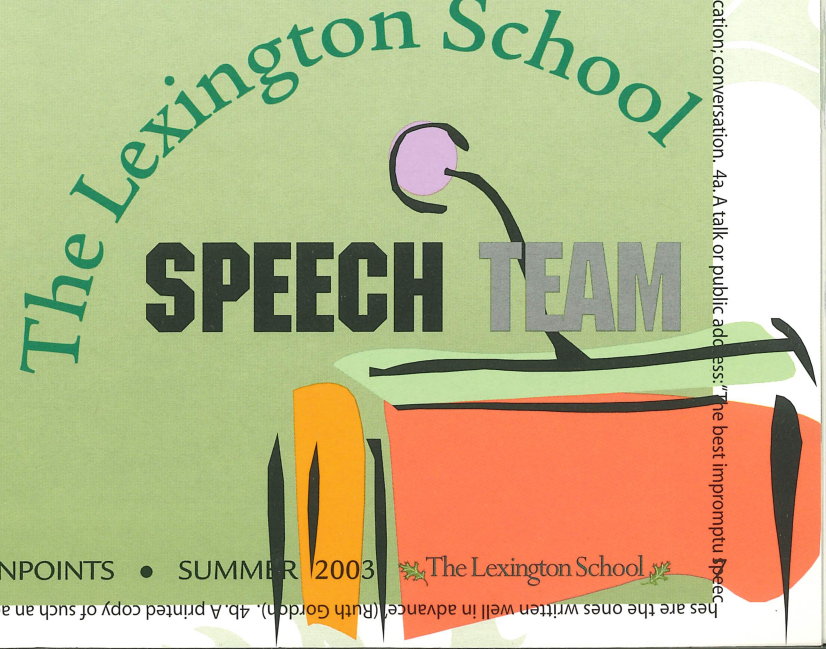
Russ Purdy
John Stewart
Caroline Boes
Elizabeth Fryman
Katie Gardner
Tim Gilbert
Annie Grossman
Leslie Ladd
Teddy Yan
Welles Bradley
Nancy McKinstry
David Parell
Mary Van Meter

Eighth Grade:

Kartik Anjur
Ben Becker
Victoria de Leon
Breandon Draper
Lindy Elswick
Emma Rummel
J.P. Stilz
Leah Volk
Lindsay West
Heather Dunham
Betsy Wilson
Julie Burchett
Ann Whitney

Ninth Grade:

Cy Alexander
Daniel Archer
Erica Ashley
Mariam Hanna
Miles Hopgood
Sarah Mikell
Will Parell
Chris Paulick
Kellen Polley
Martha Prewitt
Heidi Zimmerman



Creativity Day 2003

by Whitney M. Collins '88

The past spring, seventh grade students enjoyed one of The Lexington School's fun academic traditions – Creativity Day. Started several years ago as a way for parents to view a variety of in-class projects, Creativity Day is a favorite among students, parents, and teachers, and fills the Fine Arts Wing with a colorful display of interdisciplinary projects.

"The day begins with a parent-student breakfast," says mathematics teacher Lanna Bell. "And then the adults and kids are able to tour the displays." The Fine Arts Wing hallway becomes a gallery for the across-the-curriculum exhibits, where every seventh grade subject is represented by a creative project.

Photo by Whitney M. Collins '88



Creativity Day filled the Fine Arts Wing with a variety of seventh grade projects.

"Not only is it an artistic day, it's truly interdisciplinary," says Lanna. "For example, in English classes, the seventh grade students compiled poetry notebooks using mathematic terms." And in math classes, the students honed their analytical and graphic design skills, creating a bright geometric grouping of tessellations.

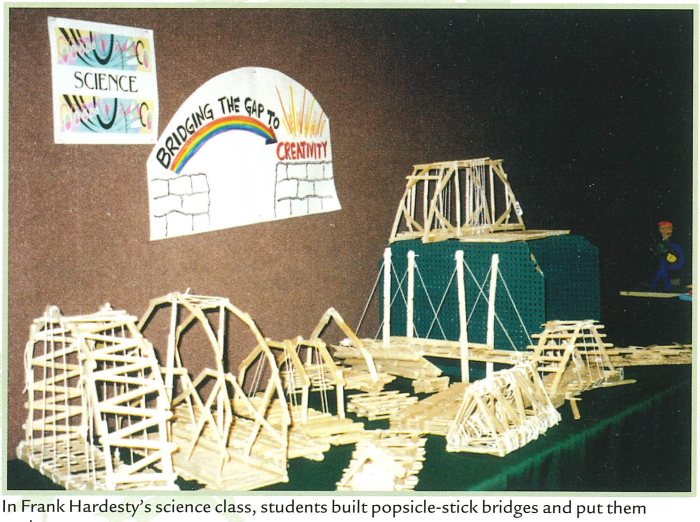
In Frank Hardesty's physical science class, seventh graders combined architectural skills with physics to build popsicle-stick bridges. All bridges were tested for breaking strength and **David Fogg '05** and **Dennis Van Den**

Photo by Whitney M. Collins '88



Lanna Bell's math class created a tessellation wall that combined mathematic and artistic skills.

Photo by Whitney M. Collins '88



In Frank Hardesty's science class, students built popsicle-stick bridges and put them to the test.

Broeck '05 beat the all-time School record, standing strong up to 220 pounds!

"It was an amazing accomplishment," says Frank. "And it was also the first year we graded bridges on aesthetics, plan drawings, and team cooperation."

In addition to their parents, the seventh grade also shared their projects and success with their second grade "buddies" who were awestruck. "You could hear the younger students say 'boy, this was a lot of work!'" says Lanna. "It was great watching them explain the processes and projects to the younger students."

The day was a hit, and is yet another Lexington School tradition sure to stand the test of time. "It's great to see the fine arts, math and science, and the humanities all come together for one event," said a proud parent. "The Lexington School is superb at connecting all the dots and helping students understand that nothing they learn is isolated."

"Extra" Special Girls

Three Lexington School students had the amazing opportunity to be extras during the filming of "Seabiscuit" at Keeneland Racetrack. **Annie Grossman '05**, **Kate Campbell '05**, and **Chloe Irwin '06** were more than thrilled to endure the 1930's costuming, waiting around on the set, and chilly weather to have a chance at being in a Hollywood movie. Despite the fact that heartthrob, Tobey MacGuire wasn't on location while the girls were, all had a wonderful time. "I met so many fun people," says Kate Campbell. "And our parts were pretty easy. We ran along the fenceline and cheered while Seabiscuit raced against War Admiral. I can't wait to see it in theaters!"

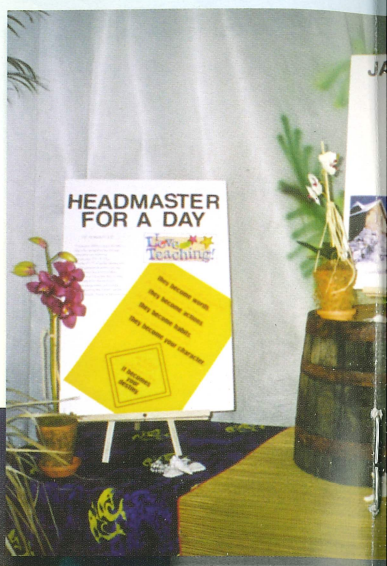
Photo by Whitney M. Collins '88



From L to R: **Annie Grossman '05**, **Kate Campbell '05**, and **Chloe Irwin '06** enjoyed being extras on the set of "Seabiscuit."



Auction items on display in front of the steel drum players





Al and Sally Grasch talk to co-chair Pam Stilz.



CELEBRATION 2003 hosts, Mira and Don Ball.



The Lexington School

CELEBRATION 2003



Exciting silent auction items.



Mr. and Mrs. Jimmy Hamilton's table placed bids and had fun.

This years's CELEBRATION was hosted by Don and Mira Ball at Donamire Farm. The co-chairs were Pam and Robbie Stiltz. The Hawaiian theme was a huge hit and the event raised $215,000 — the largest total in school history!



Lexington School girls sport their lei necklaces.





TLS students danced to the Polynesian Revue.



Polynesian style food was offered by Dupree Catering.



Students lined up to get caricatures.



A flame twirler with the Polynesian Revue.

CELEBRATION 2003



Hula dancers entertained the crowd.



Clara de Castro and Will Farish smiled for the camera.

The Emperor's New Clothes

by Whitney M. Collins '88

This past March, the Lexington School fifth grade put on an outstanding musical production of Hans Christian Anderson's "The Emperor's New Clothes." The event was a huge success and will long be remembered by cast and audience members alike. Below is the cast list from the production.

Narrators:	Austin Akers, Anne Fryman, Hil Boone, Devin Goodnight, Alex Moss, Alex Joefreda, John Dobson, Martin Carroll, Clay Atcher, Elizabeth Pagan, Bryan O'Neill, Patrick Maloney, Madison Smith, Anne MacNeil, Chanel Minnifield
Townspeople:	Evan Stephens, Sarah Atkins, Kamron Cox
Court Herald:	Charles Lambert
Town Crier:	Ben Wermeling
Artist:	Mary Spirito
Guido Farrabutto:	Connor Ferguson
Luigi Farrabutto:	Wood Van Meter



Ministers of Samurai:	Jimmy Betts and Miles Hart
Ministers of Kabuki and Bunraku:	Maggie Wilson and Alex Kiefer
Ministers of Sports and Photography:	D.R. Ball and Hunt Cunningham
Ministers of Kites and Cherry Blossoms:	Maggie MacNeil and Rachel Trontz
Ministers of Lower and Upper School:	Christiana Holsapple and Heidi Marsh
Ministers of Lanterns and Tea:	Kaitlyn Russo and Caroline Haydon
Ministers of Origami and Bonsai:	Nicholas Terry and Holden Pederson
Ministers of Fashion:	Becca Fleischman and Alex Fleischman
Prince:	Oscar Alcaraz-Perez
Princess:	Mary Bishop
Queen:	Cassie Schacht
Emperor:	Lee Cowden
Director and Pianist:	David Cooper
Stage Director:	Gretchen Young
Set Design:	Cissy Hamilton
Set Construction:	Fifth Grade, Cissy Hamilton, David Cooper, Philip High
Dialogue Coaches:	Jane Hudson, Samantha Kemmish, Janette Moloney, Leah Williams
Special Thanks:	Bob Thompson, Frank Mays, Melvin Kirkpatrick

TLS Photo



Music on the Mississippi

by Whitney M. Collins '88

Former Lexington School physical education teacher Roberta Owen and former science teacher Sue Orme have been friends for a long time. Perhaps it's their shared Lexington School history that keeps them close, but more likely it's because both of them love an adventure. These two beloved teachers and good friends have been seeking out fun as a pair for many years, and their most recent joint trip ranks high on their list of "good times had together." Last November, Roberta and Sue embarked on a journey down the mighty Mississippi River for a week of music, food, and camaraderie.

"In a nutshell, the trip was everything we expected and more," says Roberta. "I've been receiving literature about Elderhostel programs ever since I retired and have looked into several programs."

In January of 2002, the "Music on the Mississippi" option caught Roberta's eye and she immediately called Sue. "She was entirely interested and didn't hesitate," says Roberta. "We signed up that day!" Soon after, they received a list of reading materials to peruse in advance of the trip, all of which related to Southern music and history, and particularly the Civil War and the Mississippi River. "We had plenty of notice as to what to expect," explains Roberta.

On November 18, 2002, Roberta and Sue boarded the RiverBarge in Memphis, checked into their rooms, and briefly disembarked with the rest of the group to tour the Peabody Hotel. "There we saw the famous 'Parade of Ducks' in the lobby," Roberta says. "Everyone should see this phenomenon at some point! It was hilarious to watch 250 people lined up along a red carpet to see five ducks waddle past to the music of Sousa and then onto an elevator that takes them up to the roof where they spend every night."

After the Peabody, it was back to the barge. "There we met the hostellers in our group, and at our first evening meal, we quickly realized what a friendly, intelligent, curious, and energetic group of people we were going to be sharing our week with," says Roberta. "There were people from all over the United States and Canada, and most of them had traveled with Elderhostel programs several times, and many in other programs in other parts of the world. It was fascinating."





The RiverBarge that transported Roberta and Sue from Memphis to New Orleans was built on two former oil tanker barges that had been reconfigured to resemble the quarters of a steamboat. "The interior of the RiverBarge was nicely furnished and decorated throughout," Roberta explains. "The cabins were spacious, and ours even had a balcony. The boat was incredibly stable and smooth."

Sue and Roberta were lucky enough to have dinner one night with the owner of the RiverBarge Company, and he told them how the RiverBarge had come to be. "Several years ago, the owner had been in the business of transporting RV's down the Mississippi River for winter vacationers. It wasn't long before people started requesting transportation themselves. Eventually, the owner was able to work out certification with the United States Coast Guard so he could legally transport tourists full time."

The barge itself impressed Roberta and Sue, but not nearly so much as the itinerary and guests. "The main emphasis of the program was music. We had live music in the afternoons and evenings aboard the ship," says Roberta. "There was everything from country and rock 'n' roll, to Cajun, jazz, classical, and gospel."

On top of that, several professors were on board, most of whom were based in Natchez, Miss., and they educated passengers about Vicksburg, the Civil War, Huey Long, and Baton Rouge. The first stop along the River was Vicksburg where Roberta and Sue toured battlefields of both the North and South. "It was a very moving and sobering experience," says Roberta. "And believe it or not, Ulysses S. Grant is still not welcomed in Vicksburg to some residents, even in the form of a fifty-dollar bill!"

Next they traveled to Natchez, Miss., where they awoke to dense fog. "Despite the poor visibility, we could see the Delta Queen docked at our bow. She was heading upstream and we were headed downstream," says Roberta. "That was quite a site!"

While in Natchez, Roberta and Sue had tea at a working antebellum plantation home while a string quartet played in the background. "It was a wonderful touch of Southern hospitality," says Roberta. "And Natchez was remarkable, primarily intact from the Civil War as the townspeople of the time stayed friendly with both Northerners and Southerners to protect their plantations."

Finally, Sue and Roberta arrived in New Orleans where they enjoyed plentiful Cajun cuisine and plenty of activity. "Did you know that New Orleans is the 100-miles inland marker from the Gulf of Mexico?" says Roberta. "I never realized how busy the River was, particularly near New Orleans. We saw johnboats, barges of oil, grain, rock, and coal, as well as ocean-going vessels."

In all, the trip was both relaxing and invigorating, and Sue and Roberta had a ball. "The biggest thrill was being able to get up every morning and look out onto the powerful Mississippi River. It was amazing."

There's no doubt that these two adventurous former Lexington School teachers will embark on another journey in the near future.

Green with Pride

by Whitney M. Collins '88

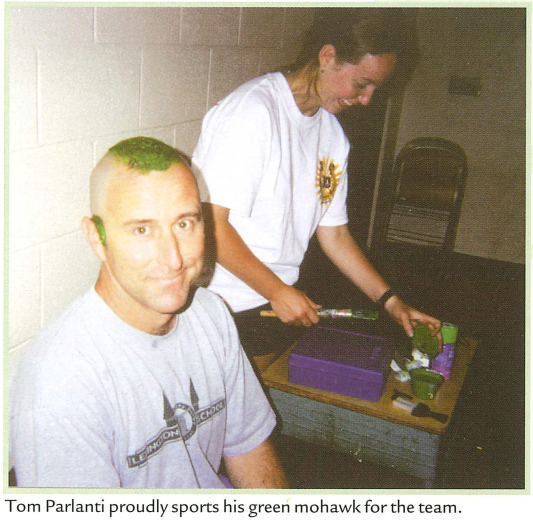
The Lexington School Girls' Soccer Coach Tom Parlanti is a man that keeps a promise. After an amazing three-year run of ***42 wins*** and just three losses for the Girls' Varsity Soccer Team, Tom Parlanti challenged some of his top scoring players, **Caleigh Waldman '03**, **Brooke Baker '03**, and **Samantha Howley '03**, to end the season with a bang.

"I told the girls that even though we were winning, we really needed to be scoring more goals given our ability. I promised that if Caleigh, Sam, and Brooke could score two goals each in our last two games of the season, they could give me a little haircut."



The soccer girls pose with Coach Palanti before the haircut begins.

With that inspiration, the girls came through, winning their last two games of the School's inaugural spring season, and scoring seven goals total in the final game. True to his word, Tom Parlanti offered up his tresses to his players, and was in the end what he hopes all his players will be – a good sport!



Tom Parlanti proudly sports his green mohawk for the team.



Back row, from L to R: Meg Grossman, Caleigh Waldman, Samantha Howley, Martha Prewitt. Front row, from L to R: Heidi Zimmerman, Tom Parlanti, Brooke Baker.

Alumni News

Lucy la Cour '03 recently competed in the USA Gymnastics Junior Olympic Level 9 Eastern Championships in Springfield, Mass. Lucy has close to 12 years of gymnastics experience and trains five days a week, while competing on weekends. Her favorite subject in high school is science.



Cameron Lord

Cameron Lord '98 just completed his sophomore year at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Va. He is active in Kappa Sigma fraternity, and was recently elected secretary of the Student Judicial Council of the undergraduate and law schools. He's already looking forward to the 2004 Mock Convention, when he will serve as treasurer for the Kentucky delegation. **Emily Larish '98** is also involved in the 2004 Mock Convention, which is a 100-year-old tradition.

Ryan Shirar '96, who recently graduated from the University of Kentucky with a double major in math and music, wowed audiences in April with his final piano recital. He performed Frederic Rzewski's "The People United Will Never Be Defeated," one of the hardest pieces of music ever conceived for the piano, according to his professor Alan Hersh. The recital was a multimedia experience, complete with lighting, video, and a stage set. Shirar also received a prestigious Wethington Fellowship from the University for graduate studies, but is weighing that option against possible studies on the East Coast. His professor is confident that whatever choice Ryan makes "he is going to be a renaissance person."

Whitney Lagrew '91 married Andrew Walters on October 5, 2002. The bride is a graduate of Henry Clay High School and the University of Kentucky. The groom is a graduate of Henry Clay High School and Transylvania University. The couple will live in Lexington, Ky.

Nathalie Charron '86 obtained her Ph.D. in French Language and Literature on April 22, 2003 from the University of Virginia. The title of her dissertation was "Embodying the Imagination in Nineteenth Century France." Nathalie lives in Charlottesville with her husband, Brian Marcus, and their two cats.

Ethan Diamond '86 runs his own company, oddpost.com, in San Francisco.

Heather Clay '86 and her husband Nick Frelinghuysen reently had a baby girl, Amelia Clay Frelinghuysen. In addition to that exciting news, Heather's short story "Original Beauty" was featured in the June 16 issue of the *New Yorker* for "debut fiction." Heather also recently sold her first novel to Alfred A. Knopf publishers.

Andrew Diamond '85 is in residency at the Stanford Medical Center.

Phillip Gall '84 and his wife, Allison, welcomed their daughter, Jamie Samantha, into the world on February, 13, 2003.

The Lexington School

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From *The Archives*

TLS Archival Photo



TLS teachers celebrated Derby day years ago in their homemade hats. Wouldn't they look spectacular on the set of *Seabiscuit*?