The Lexington School
# Pinpoints
FALL 2007
A Newsletter for Families, Alumni, & Friends of The Lexington School

## TRAVELING FOR TLS:

# UnBelizable!



PRIMATES SCREECHING in the jungle dark, schools on stilts, barracudas near enough to pet, copiloting a small plane into Ambergris Cayes – just a few of the wonders of Belize that TLS faculty members Martha Anderson, Dominique Metze, Kelly Mitchell, and Meredith Carrithers (as seen above) experienced during their Summer Sabbatical. Music teacher Mrs. Martha Anderson described Belize as "the crown of jewels in Central America. With the rich blue Caribbean Sea, majestic Mayan ruins, intense, green rainforests, exotic flora, active jungle animals, and birds, Belize is a gorgeous, lush environment. But," she goes on to say, "my favorite jewels in the Belizian crown are the precious native children, so hungry for education, and so happy to be alive despite a challenging environment."

Teachers were on sensory overload on a variety of levels. They treated their taste buds to jerk chicken with mango salsa, pumpkin rice, and watermelon juice all so delicious that they could

laugh about the morning pancakes that featured ants in the syrup. They heard the cacophony of the night jungle, the gentle lapping of the azure sea, and the joyful singing of smiling children – children whose lives consist of meals of rice and beans and homes with dirt floors minus electricity or running water.

The women's journals are peppered with stories of Ramiro, Vincente, Gloria, Alex, Santiago, and Mateo. Mateo crafts exquisite bowls of rosewood and yearns for a good education for his four daughters. He regularly makes the long trek from Crique Sarco to Punta Gorda to sell his handmade goods and make a living for his family.

The group was invited to the home of a local Mayan family where, after singing hymns and nursery rhymes with the children, they made chocolate from scratch. They helped toast and shell the cocoa beans, and sift and grind them with organic sugar and vanilla. Next, they placed the mixture into a mold and refrigerated the chocolate bar.

Canoeing on the Macaw River on the way to Chacaw Creek Lodge, surviving torrential jungle rainstorms, sinking into a mud hole filled with fire ants, and flashing along the jungle canopy on a zip line were all adventures savored by the teachers.

And what did they return home with? Alex's mother's handcrafted jewelry that the shrewd ten-year-old entrepreneur sold them, incredible photos, and breath-taking stories. But most of all each member of the group felt a new responsibility to be a more aware, more contributing world citizen. Each wondered how she could help bridge culture gaps, how she could help others understand, and how she could give back to a land she'd grown to love. The women felt safe and they felt welcomed in this beautiful land, and each, in her own way, left a piece of her heart in Belize.



***this page:*** The TLS travelers enjoy new friendships with Belizean children.

***opposite page, left:*** The group displayed grit as they zipped through the tops of the jungle.

***opposite page, right:*** Martha and Gary Anderson cruise on the Macaw River.





# The World of Higher Education for the Class of '04

Tyler Adkins ..... Auburn University
Kartik Anjur ..... Washington University
Katherine Bandoroff ..... Rhodes College
Ben Becker ..... Deferred (University of Pittsburg)
Elizabeth Bell ..... Vanderbilt University
Caroline Boone ..... Louisiana State University
Henry Bradley ..... Marymount College at Loyola University
Julie Burchett ..... Millikin University
Brittany Burse ..... University of Kentucky
Davis Cain ..... College of William and Mary
Max Clark ..... University of Kentucky
Hughes Congleton ..... University of Kentucky
Ann Cowden ..... University of Virginia
Steven Davey ..... University of Michigan
Victoria deLeon ..... Case Western Reserve University
Bobby Dobson ..... Saint Mary's Hall
Breandan Draper ..... Nazareth College
Heather Dunham ..... Sewanee: The University of the South
Lindy Elswick ..... Transylvania University
Anton Escobar ..... Savannah College of Art and Design
Chris Floyd ..... Elon University
Terry Foley ..... Temple University
Colleen Gross ..... Deferred (Miami University)
Joseph Guthrie ..... Tulane University
Harrison King ..... Miami University
Alvin Lin ..... University of Kentucky
Alex Lloyd ..... Centre College
Evan Lounsbury ..... Emory University
Michael Lyons ..... North Carolina State University
Garett McInturf ..... Kentucky Community & Technical College System
Kelsey Miller ..... Miami University
Chase Minnifield ..... University of Virginia
Andrew Parlanti ..... University of Kentucky
Jonathan Rogers ..... Mississippi State University
Emma Rummel ..... DePaul University
J.P. Stilz ..... Harvard University
Ben Van Den Broeck ..... Completed education in film making – Los Angeles
Ryley Vaughn ..... Georgetown College
Leah Volk ..... Georgetown University
Matt Waldman ..... University of Georgia
Lindsay West ..... Vanderbilt University
Ann Whitney ..... Purdue University
Betsy Wilson ..... Western Kentucky University
Adam Woomer ..... East Carolina University
Joe Woomer ..... West Virginia University
Sean Zewicke ..... University of Evansville

# Head *Lines*

## *NOTES FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL*



THE WORLD *IS* FLAT! This was declared by Thomas Friedman in his book written in 2005. In it he talks about the ever changing world in which we live, and more importantly he paints a picture of the world he predicts our children will live in. Friedman's work has been all the buzz in the independent school world. Schools have been looking at their curriculum and reviewing, tweaking, and adding in order to have a more global approach to education.

I just walked out of a Lower School assembly, excited and proud of some of what The Lexington School is doing to meet this educational need. The leaders of our assembly were the children themselves. A new group of 5th Graders takes the lead each month, thereby establishing leadership skills and confidence they will need to succeed in the future.

Martha Anderson, Meredith Carrithers, Kelly Mitchell, and Dominique Metze, all faculty members of TLS, were the presenters at the morning assembly, and they talked about their Summer Sabbatical to Belize. The children were enthralled by their stories of tarantulas, howler monkeys, sharks, stingrays, and other critters. The children immediately connected with the stories these teachers shared of school children met along the way – stories of only one soccer ball to share among the town, when many of our students have multiple balls under their bed; stories of children walking miles into town to sell trinkets or fruit at their parents' stands, while our students enjoy the convenience of driving everywhere; stories of the lower

> The leaders of the assembly were children themselves — thereby establishing the leadership skills and confidence they will need to succeed in the future.

school meeting in the morning and the upper school meeting in the afternoon since there is only one school building in the entire village, while our students learn in their new state-of-the-art classrooms. The goal of this faculty Summer Sabbatical was to give children an idea of what life is like for a Kindergartner, for a 3rd Grader, and for a 7th Grader in Belize. We wanted it to have immediate and practical consequences. Next year teachers will explore those same questions in Vietnam and the year after that in Egypt.

I hope you enjoy reading of these four women's adventures, as well as the adventures of our accomplished alumni as they meet the world head on.

Sincerely yours,



Charles D. Baldecchi
Head of School

### MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of THE LEXINGTON SCHOOL is to provide an education of the highest quality to students in preschool through middle school. In a structured, nurturing environment, THE LEXINGTON SCHOOL seeks to instill integrity, a lifelong enthusiasm for learning, and a strong work ethic.

# NEW TEACHERS *By Mandy Helton*

## CAROL BERTRAM

Our new 1st Grade teacher Carol Bertram returns home to Kentucky after 13 years in North Carolina. Thrilled by the welcome she has received from the "fabulous, fun, supportive and caring" 1st Grade team, she believes, "sometimes right back where you started is right where you belong."

Carol started out in the business world, but after six years she felt unfulfilled and decided to try an education class. The moment she stepped into a classroom, she says she knew teaching was what she was meant to do and went back to the University of Kentucky to earn another Bachelor of Arts, in education. After finishing her Master of Arts in education at Georgetown College, she moved to North Carolina to be closer to her brother's triplets and teach 1st Grade at their school, Cannon School. For the next 13 years, Carol supported every aspect of school life at Cannon, teaching a generation of students to read, keeping statistics for the cross country and track teams, and even serving as admissions director for a while.



Carol Bertram (left), new 1st Grade teacher, with her mentor Laurie Vennes

Still, Carol always maintained connections in Lexington and possessed a heartfelt desire to return home someday. Last year when she visited The Lexington School web site, she was amazed to find that the faculty directory listed many names familiar to her from her formative years in Lexington. In fact, she and 1st Grade teacher Lisa Gumm-Gray taught together years ago at Breckinridge Elementary. "I took it as a sign," she recalls. "It validated my feeling that I was supposed to come teach here."

Carol delights in teaching 1st Grade, though it might be one of the hardest years to teach. "I love seeing the children gaining independence and developing the confidence to take risks," she says. "And seeing a child learn to read? Nothing is more magical."

## LAURIE NAWOR

Our new librarian Laurie Nawor fell in love with the idea of becoming a librarian when she was appointed library helper in 5th Grade. After earning her Bachelor of Arts from Bowling Green State University and her Master of Arts at the University of New York, Buffalo, she took her first librarian post at Panama Central School. After ten years managing libraries for Jamestown Public Schools in western New York, she moved to Grosse Pointe, Michigan, and devoted 12 years to the Middle School library at University Liggett School. While at Liggett, Laurie met her husband Tom Novitsky, who also joins The Lexington School faculty this year to teach 5th Grade science.



Rachel Medley (left) with her mentee, new librarian Laurie Nawor

Since arriving at TLS, both Laurie and Tom have quickly been impressed by the dedication and positive attitude they observe in the faculty. "Everyone is happy," Laurie laughs.

In collaboration with co-librarian Lori Hancock, Laurie works with children of all ages and teaches them how to navigate the library and use research materials. Above all, Laurie tries to connect with each student and inspire a life-long love affair with reading.

In fact Laurie's favorite part of her job is her role as a reading advisor, when she assists students in finding reading material on the topics of their choice. Laurie finds it particularly rewarding to reach the non-readers, even if they start with comic books instead of classic literature. She says that her particular philosophy of librarianship is that if you can get the kids "hooked on reading anything, even if it's a Lemony Snickett book they're reading for the fifth time, they'll move onto something more substantial later." And Laurie is not willing to accept no for an answer. "I don't believe there are people who 'don't read,'" Laurie declares, her eyes lighting up. "I just think they haven't found the right book yet."



Tom Novitsky, 5th Grade science teacher, with his mentor Sharon Sadler

## TOM NOVITSKY

Tom Novitsky admits that when he was a student, he was most excited about classes that offered a multitude of field trips. He recollects that he liked anything hands-on, experiential, and expansive for the mind and imagination. In fact, as a boy Tom liked to venture behind his school in Akron, Ohio, and use his imagination to transform the woods into a rainforest. These memories inform his teaching daily as our new 5th Grade science teacher, as he teaches for "the moments the lights come on."

After achieving his Bachelor of Arts at the University of Akron, Tom taught Upper School science at his high school *alma mater* Archbishop Hoban, and later moved to Grosse Pointe, Michigan, to teach Middle School science at University Liggett School, where he met his wife, our new librarian Laurie Nawor. During his 14 years at Liggett, Tom spent his summers leading the "North Woods Wilderness Canoe-Camping Adventure" in the boundary waters area in northwestern Minnesota. Tom designed the intensive outdoor education program with the goal that students would return with the inclination to be good stewards of the environment and each other. Over the course of the ten-day trek, Tom encouraged journaling and group-bonding, and students learned to listen, use their survival skills, forge connections with one another, and appreciate nature and their place in it.

Tom would like to consider developing a similar program for TLS, but in the meantime, young scientists find plenty of adventure in his classroom, as he strives to offer his students as many experiential learning opportunities as he can. Though 5th Grade is the youngest age group Tom has worked with, he relates well to this age. He says, "It's easy to get them excited and to see that science is fun. They've already developed the tools they need to learn. It's rewarding to see them build on the knowledge they already have." Plus, his desk features Homer Simpson figurines, and he readily admits, "I am goofy and full of nonsense most of the time!"

## JANET RODEN

It may require boundless energy to work with little ones, but teaching KinderKlasse is full of rewards for new teacher Janet Roden. "Hugs, kisses, little dimpled hands touching your face," she enthuses, "no matter how silly you act or how you sing off-key, they still think you are the greatest!"

Janet has spent her entire career in early childhood education and emphasizes the importance of play for little ones. "Young children learn exceptionally well in a classroom that encourages play and exploration. Play is a powerful tool that benefits children's intellectual, emotional, physical, and language development."

Janet's mother always knew her daughter would become a teacher. When Janet was a child, her father bought used desks and created a "classroom" where Janet loved to play school with her sisters. After earning her Bachelor of Arts at Concordia University, Janet taught at Roselle Methodist in her native Chicago before moving to Kentucky with her husband and sons. For 12 years she taught part-time for the four-year-olds program at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church. She began substitute teaching at The Lexington School last year.

As a permanent faculty member, Janet loves having alumna Emily Ryan '99 as her team teacher for KinderKlasse and relishes the opportunity to work with the Preschool faculty, "an amazing source of supportiveness, ideas, and inspiration."

Janet says her personal philosophy is that "creating a caring, safe, and accepting environment for young children is vital for successful learning." It seems that she has landed in the perfect place at The Lexington School, where her philosophy is echoed in the school's Philosophy Statement.

Dominique Metze (left) with her mentee Janet Roden, KinderKlasse teacher





Sherry Cline (left) with her mentee KinderKlasse teacher Emily Ryan '99.

## EMILY RYAN

Though this is just her first year teaching, Emily Ryan '99 is no newcomer to The Lexington School. The sister of Sarah Ryan Sutherland '98, Allaire Ryan '01, and Sean Paul Ryan '03, Emily always remained closely connected to the school where she says, "I learned everything." During college, she returned to TLS to work with students in the Extended Day program, and it was this experience that determined her career path. She gained classroom experience student teaching at Dixie Magnet Elementary, earned her Bachelor of Arts from the University of Kentucky in May, and was appointed this year to co-teach KinderKlasse with Janet Roden.

Emily will begin her Master of Arts in Early Childhood Education this Spring, but for the moment she is busy learning from the experienced Preschool team. Emily describes TLS as "a community that offers endless support from every angle," and there was no question that she wanted to begin her teaching career here at the school where she gained her own foundation. Still, as an alumna, Emily finds herself star struck in the halls when she passes many of the teachers she looked up to during her years as a TLS student. "I can't believe I'm supposed to call Mrs. Foster 'Marijo' now!" she marvels.

Energetic and effervescent, Emily loves interacting with her three-year-old students as they build friendships and learn through play. "They want to hug you all day!" she exclaims. "It makes my day when they walk in with a smile and leave with an even bigger one! We are so lucky to be teachers!"

## SALLYE STALEY

Sallye Staley's art education began when her parents enrolled her in art classes in hopes that she would stop decorating the walls of their home. After earning her Bachelor of Arts in Studio Art from Transylvania University, Sallye spent years as a working artist, producing graphic art for billboards and pieces for interior designers. When Sallye began substitute teaching at local schools, she discovered that teaching art was just as rewarding as creating it. She taught young artists at Dixie Magnet while working towards her Master of Arts in Middle School Education at the University of Kentucky. She joins The Lexington School faculty as Middle School art teacher after nine years at Beaumont Middle School.

Now that she has made the transition to TLS, Sallye views the smaller class sizes as a blessing and is amazed by the well-behaved students who walk the halls. In her classes students build on the concepts they studied in Lower School and also learn more about art history. Sallye stresses the idea that "art is not what you see but what you make others see." In recognition of the ever-adjusting emotions and hormones Middle School students are dealing with, Sallye strives to develop dialogue with each student and provide a safe space because she believes "human beings will be more productive when they feel comfortable."



Sallye Staley (left) Middle School art teacher, with her mentor Laura Blake

Visitors to Sallye's classroom will quickly note the warm and inviting environment she has created. Each day Sallye invites faculty members to fill their cups from the pot of coffee she brews in the morning, and the room is enveloped in the scent of candles from Embellishments, her home accessories and crafts business. The walls of her classroom are covered with teaching tools, famous art reproductions, and student work. Open a cabinet, and one will find a box overflowing with more discarded student art Sallye has collected throughout her teaching career — pop art, pen and ink, sand art, pointillism exercises. No matter the medium, Sallye will proudly discuss each piece and the child who created it. Now that she is at TLS, she is eager to see what our students can do and add our students' art to her collection.

# Pin Prints



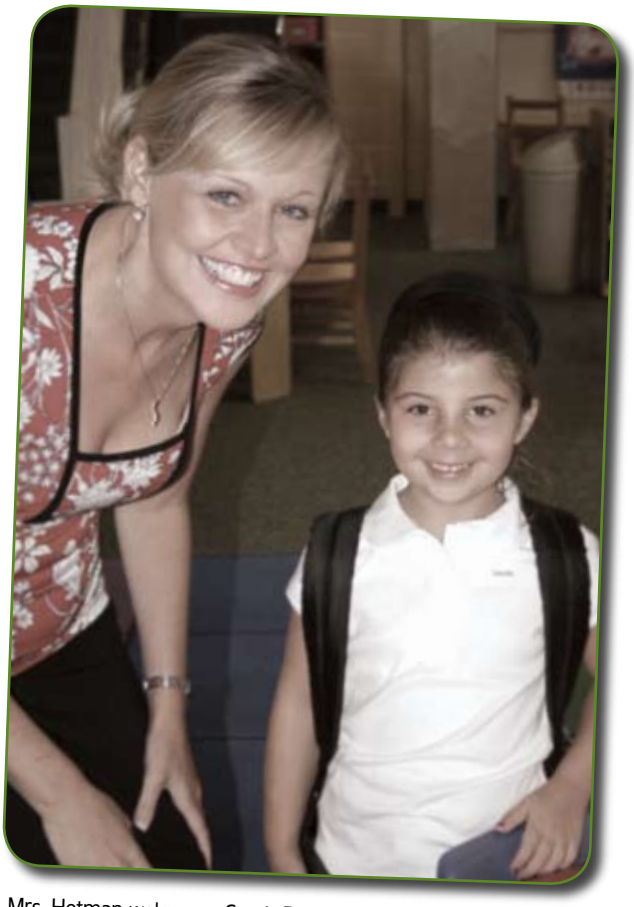
KinderKlasse teacher Mrs. Janet Roden enjoys sharing a story with Anna Clay whose dad Case '89 and Aunt Heather '86 attended TLS.



Mrs. Marti Thompson has fun on the playground with her students on this 100th anniversary of Montessori teaching.



Prekindergarten students Nathalie de Sousa and Caitie Hinds find the Preschool playground a fun place to be.



Mrs. Hetman welcomes Sarah Belin on first day of Kindergarten. Sarah's dad, Bruce '82 and Aunt Ruth '85 attended school in this very hall.



Mr. Darrin Wald helps new 6th Grader Haddon Alford on his first day of classes.



8th Graders Lee Kiefer, Jamie Love, and Amy Beard link arms at the Founders Day assembly on September 14.



6th graders Bo Phillips and Luke Stidham chill after braving the frigid waters at Green River Preserve.

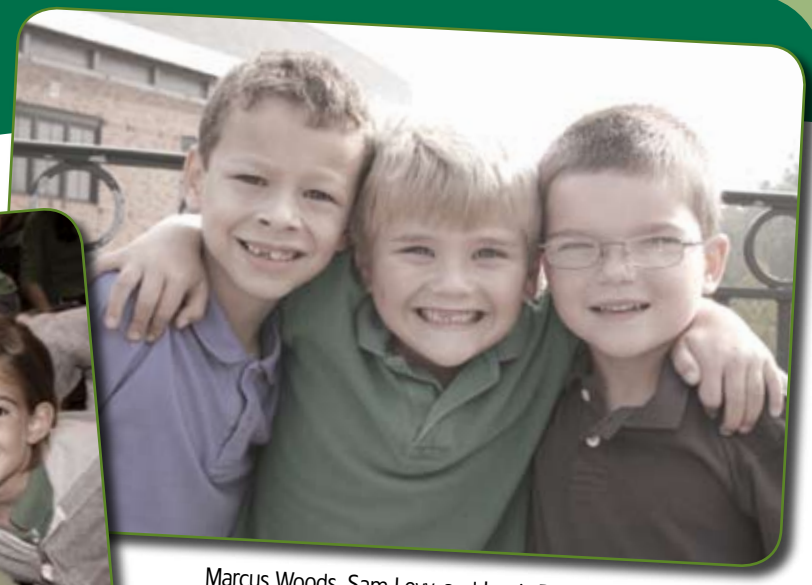


Emma Pirmo works on her cell drawing in 6th Grade science class.



Sam Lyons concentrates in 8th Grade chemistry class.

# Pin Prints



Marcus Woods, Sam Levy, and Lewis Pride are glad to be in 1st Grade.



The 3rd Grade girls: from left – Catherine Van Tatenhove, Katie Kostelic, Emilie Dhir, Mackenzie Rogers, Delia Kessinger, Ellie Alford, Mia Pulliam, Elise Merchak, Elana Ehl.



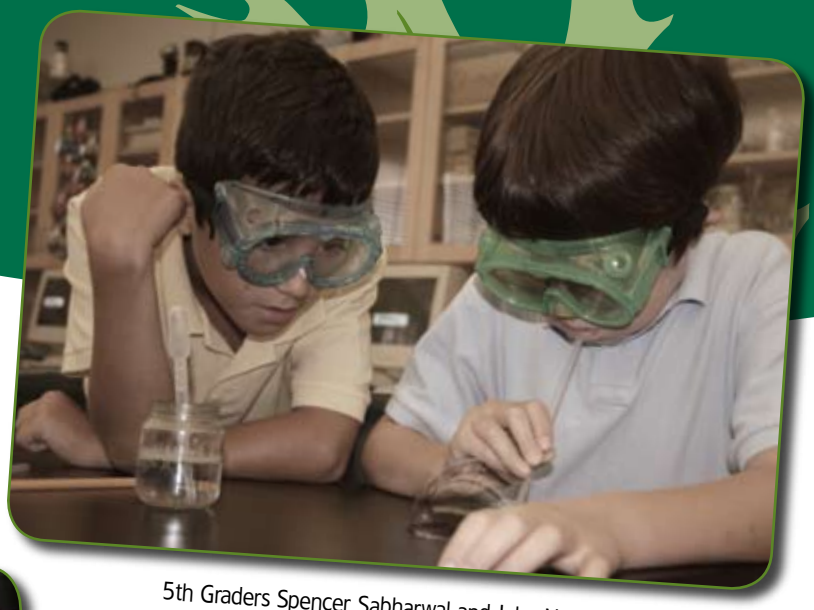
The 2nd Grade boys enjoying reading: from left – Spencer Harris, Allen Westerfield, Colton Warner, Spencer Kriss, and Zsombor Gal.



Dara Talbott learns how to use matches in 4th Grade science class



2nd Grader Molly Hall attacks a math problem with gusto.



5th Graders Spencer Sabharwal and John Newton conduct an experiment with pipettes.



Mrs. Foster celebrates Founders Day with her Lower School friends: Zachary Langdon, Max Young, Eden Fry, McEwen Baker, and Lillian Weissmueller.



Jackson Cunningham writes in his 1st Grade daily journal.



Fall Festival – good fun, good food for 3rd Grader Alex Willcutt.



5th Grader Trey Duncan gets acquainted with his 1st Grade buddy Luke de Castro.

# 2007: ALUMNI ABROAD



KISWAHILI LANGUAGE and tree planting were foremost on the mind of **Jen Boone '01** during the winter term of her junior year abroad in Kenya. Daily she studied Kiswahili, a Bantu language, and, along with fellow students, planted over 2,000 trees to forestall erosion and a shortage of forest products. The American students taught and held discussions in both girls' and boys' secondary schools and learned that teenagers are alike around the world. The girls wanted to know about rapper and hip-hopper Tupac, and the boys wanted advice on meeting girls!

For ten days Jen lived with families in Kaloleni Giriama. She experienced the frustrations and joys of assimilating into a new culture and became closely acquainted with Mama Maria, Mama Kadzo, and Mama Lucy of whom she says, "I can't think of anyone who wouldn't like her!"

In late March Jen went to Tsavo for a game drive. She was amazed by the zebras and giraffes, but took pause when she was escorted from the evening campfire to her tent by a guard with a very large spear…a precaution to ward off lions in the area.

Jen is now a senior at the University of Colorado at Boulder studying integrative physiology.



**Lucy McKinstry '02** spent her summer crisscrossing Muhura Bay, Kenya, by bicycle with a translator in tow. Together with two other Duke University classmates, Lucy spent 10 to 12 hour days gathering data from over 200 households in this beautiful yet impoverished part of Africa. Although the land has abundant natural resources, in addition to being one of the poorest regions in Kenya, it also is plagued with high rates of malaria and HIV. In addition, while boys attend university, in the past 19 years not a single girl has passed college entry exams. Not only are women second class citizens, but also young girls are violently exploited physically and mentally on a daily basis.

Part of Lucy's work was "to give new hope to women's education and empowerment" through the Duke affiliated organization WISER – Women's Institute for Secondary Education and Research, to establish the first all-women's boarding school in the region.

The Duke students' hard-earned survey data helped set goals for next summer. They include offering classes on "financial planning and social entrepreneurship" for school-aged boys and girls; designing a model for short-term financial services; finding possible long-term investment opportunities to support sustainable job creation; and increasing the profile of WISER in local and international microfinance communities.

Lucy is a sophomore at Duke majoring in political science.

**Eleanor Chung '95** took an additional year between her third and fourth years in medical school to work in Uganda and Nicaragua. She has returned to Albert Einstein College of Medicine in the Bronx, NY, to complete her course of study, but the abject poverty and rampant health problems she witnessed still resonate with her. Eleanor worked as a volunteer intern in the Hospitalito de Ciudad Sandino with the US based non-profit organization Foundation for Sustainable Development. Eleanor reports that "the hospital has been deeply committed to addressing the social and health issues" of teenage pregnancies, domestic violence, infectious diarrhea, and advanced chronic disease. The hospital was constructed with help from the Mexican government and Doctors without Borders in the late 1990s. But that was a long time ago, and "most of the hospital equipment and furniture are now dysfunctional relics" since they were donated items to begin with. Eleanor says, "Members of the clinical staff do not even own diagnostic instruments as basic as non-plastic stethoscopes, oto/ophthalmoscopes, or blood pressure cuffs."

Eleanor helped the hospital staff conduct a survey of their current needs and presented an application to MedShare International, a US based organization that specializes in sending 40-cubic-foot containers filled with medical equipment to developing countries. Then Eleanor drafted a grant proposal to help cover the shipping of the container.

Anyone who would like to learn more about Eleanor's concerns and projects may reach her at echung@aecom.yu.edu.



*Come Home for College...*

# TLS College Planning Services

*TLS has helped you along the educational road this far...*

**TLS College Planning Services** can help guide our students and families on their road to college in a productive, effective, and caring way.

We can give direction in a process that can be overwhelming by helping to answer questions like: *What factors should be considered when selecting a college? How do you know if a college will be a good fit? What's the best way to prepare for entrance exams?*

**For more information on TLS College Planning Services, please contact Laura Bonzo-Sims by phone at 278-0501 or by email at bonzo@thelexingtonschool.org**

# Pin *Notes*

## *NEWS OF ALUMNI*

**Andrew Diamond '85** attended Stanford University. **Rob Brewer '85** reports that Andrew then became a professional student, attaining both an MD and PhD in Internal Medicine from the University of Colorado at Boulder. He is now practicing internal medicine in San Francisco.

**Ward Headley '85** is president of Direct Sportslink in Lexington, KY. Direct Sportslink is a leading sports celebrity provider with access to more than 10,000 sports celebrities. Their worldwide resources allow direct access to sports speakers and talent for personal appearances.

**Ethan Diamond '86** graduated from Stanford, went to live in the jungle near Maui, HI, taught himself html, started a web-based company, sold it to Yahoo! and promptly retired. He is married, has one child, and lives a block or so from Andrew in San Francisco.

**Major Marshall Groves '88** married Stephanie Mathews on May 27. Marshall's sister **Elise '95** was a bridesmaid, and his best man was his brother **Captain Matthew Groves '90**. **John Falace '88** was an usher. Marshall is a pilot in the US Air Force, and he is stationed at Quantico, VA. Marshall's mother **Barbara Groves H'02** is a former teacher at The Lexington School.

**Bleik Pickett '88** married Megan Geissler on May 27, 2006. Bleik's brother **Harck '86** was one of his groomsmen.

**Chad Massie '89** lives in Arlington, VA and works for a higher education software company. His most recent work has been managing the latest version of the Common Application, an online system used by high school students to apply to over 300 schools around the country. Though a Duke and UVA grad, Chad still loves cheering on the Cats from our nation's capitol with his fellow Kentuckians. You may email Chad at cmassie@applyyourself.com

**Virginia Lacefield '93** checked in with Mr. Scarr at TLS in late August. She is currently working on her third degree at UK – this one in classics. She is employed by UK and runs one of the school's computer labs.

**Mark Willis '93** married Bree Parker on June 3 in Maui, HI. Attendants included Mark's sister **Katy '96**, **Trip Sweeney '94**, and **Jason Hills '93**. Both Mark and Bree graduated from the University of Colorado Medical School in May and are doing their residency programs at the University of Utah.

**Clay Chapman '94** married Martin Underwood, Jr. on July 28. **Molly Nicol '97** was her maid of honor, and **Meredith Lyster Jones '94** was the matron of honor. Bridesmaids included **Katherine Alford '94**, and **Ellen Stilz Plummer '94**. Groomsmen included Clay's brothers **Will Chapman III '96** and **Bowen Chapman '01**. The Underwoods live in New York City.

**Matthew Hartley '95** is president of Winestore Holdings in Charlotte, NC. Winestore was featured in the August issue of *Charlotte Magazine*.

**Diana Mendiondo '96** married Nicholas Bozzuto on August 25. Diana's sister **Cecilia Mendiondo '95** was the maid of honor, and her brother **Adrian '93** was one of the groomsmen. The couple will live in Greenville, SC.

**Katy Willis '96** is working on a master's degree in acupuncture at the Oregon College of Oriental Medicine in Portland, OR.

**Chase Urschel '04** also checked in with Mrs. Foster before school started. He is attending Hargrave Military Academy in Virginia, and he still likes math.

**Jennifer Stutland '05**, a sophomore at Dunbar, is one of the best jumpers and triple jumpers in the state.



Mrs. Anna Merritt goes back stage after *Legally Blonde* to meet **Laura Bell Bundy '96**.

**Mary Bruce Gray '99** married Timothy Alford in All Saints' Chapel at The University of the South: Sewanee in Sewanee, TN. Mary Bruce's sisters **Keturah '94** and **Rebekah '96** were maids of honor. Her brother **Carl '02** was a groomsman. **Rodes Fisher '99** and **Calhoun Clifton '99** were also in the wedding party. Mary Bruce is a Senior Research Associate at the Trust for Public Land in Boston, MA. Timothy recently completed his Master of Theological Studies Degree from Harvard University, and he is teaching at the McAuliffe School in Framingham, MA. They live in Natick, MA. Many TLS alumni, faculty, and friends attended.







Payton Keller '02 began her cheerleading career in 2nd Grade at TLS. Last March she cheered at Rupp Arena for the Xavier University Musketeers at the "big dance." Payton is a junior at Xavier. She has retired her pom-poms to focus more on her studies.

IN MEMORY

# Master of All She Touched

*Mrs. Beers, my first science teacher, made me believe that girls could be scientists; now I'm studying to be a doctor.*

*Mrs. Beers told me to believe in myself and trust that I could be a gymnast.*

*She was my mentor.*

*She talked me into dressing like a chicken…one of the seven dwarfs…a rejected backup singer for John Michael Montgomery.*

*She was my friend, my boss, my role model, my life coach, my inspiration, my rock, my mom.*

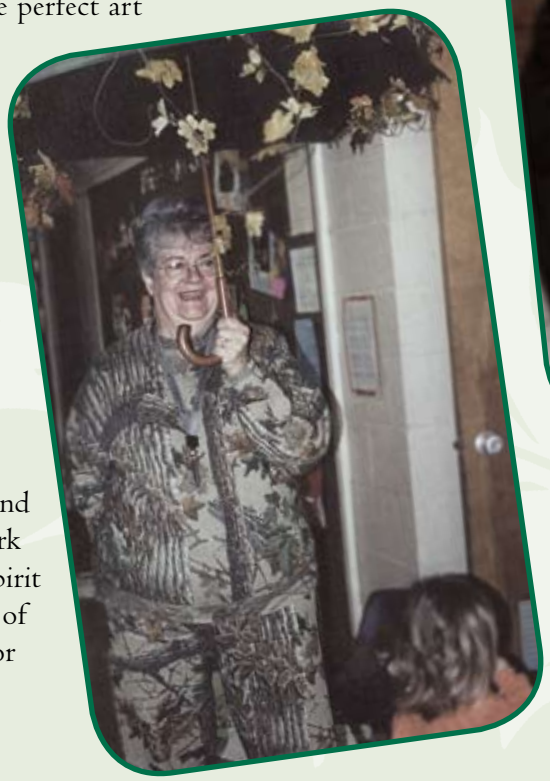


Mary Beers's death just a year after her retirement following 25 years at The Lexington School stirred these memories and more from former students, past and present families, faculty members, and her family.

Whether it was a song that needed singing, a play that needed performing, or a story that needed telling, Mary was up for it. And if the perfect art form hadn't been composed yet – no problem – she'd write it with aplomb. Odds were it would be pretty funny, too.

Mary's arms reached wide to encompass the children she treasured, the families who trusted her wisdom, and her cohorts who appreciated her good humor and sound advice. She made her mark on each of us, and her spirit will resonate in the halls of The Lexington School for years to come.





*Top to bottom:* Mary urged parents not to believe everything their children told about school. She promised, in turn, not to believe every story their children told about home.

Mary met her young charges at the front door each morning she could. One mom remembered she'd greeted her son his first day of Preschool, and his last day before graduation.

Mary told families to expect their children would go out for recess in all sorts of weather. "It's important," she said, "to blow the stink off!"

In Memory

# The Magic of 1st Grade

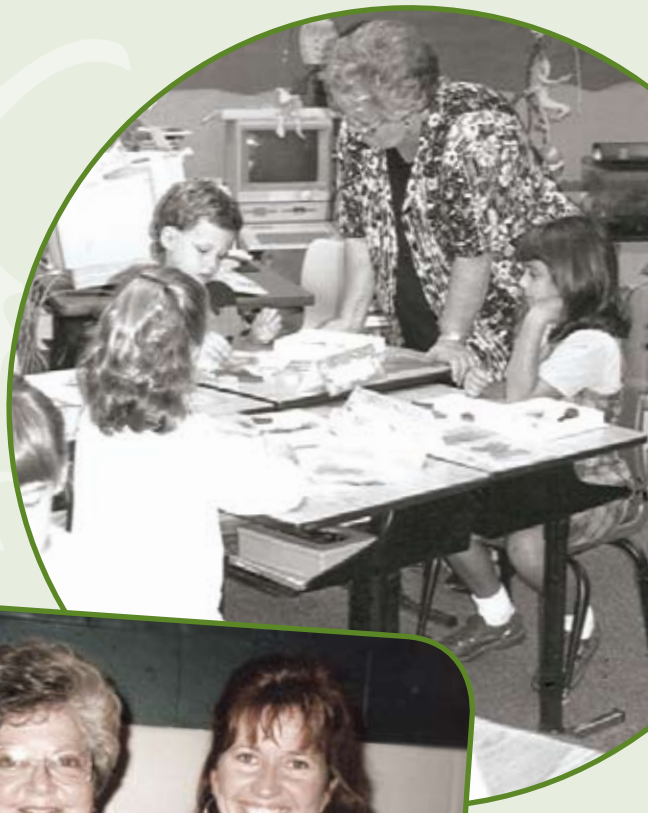
Paddington Bear sent letters from Peru at the beginning of each school year before arriving mysteriously by hot air balloon and appearing outside her classroom. In anticipation of his arrival, one of Miss Bale's students once told her, "Miss Bale, I'm so excited my shoe laces came untied!"

Miss Bale's classroom seemed to be under a spell. Furniture would rearrange itself in the Victorian doll house in her room. Unexplained mischief would occur when students weren't watching. And when she read *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* to her students, she would hold a competition to see who could eat the golden chocolate bar the slowest – just like Charlie. Former student Carl Gray '02 said, "This delighted Miss Bale, knowing that we enjoyed and were engaged in the magic she helped create."

Barbara Bale's charmed 1st Grade produced good readers, observant learners, and lifetime friendships. Corey Cameron '05 remembers that the highlight of her TLS graduation was the appearance of Miss Bale. Corey hadn't spoken with her beloved 1st Grade teacher for over five years, but Barbara's delight in their conversation gave Corey confidence because she could still feel Miss Bale's affection for her.

This fall Barbara wrote an Annual Fund letter to former faculty expressing her gratitude for her long affiliation with The Lexington School. She said, *"Teaching at TLS opened up so many worlds that I never otherwise would have been able to enjoy."* For hundreds of former 1st Graders, Barbara Bale opened worlds of wonder and magic that have lasted a lifetime.

*Written with help from Carl Gray and Corey Cameron. Carl spoke at Miss Bale's funeral on September 22, 2007.*







*Top to bottom:* Miss Bale celebrates receiving her 20 year TLS bowl with former PE teacher Anita Benson; Miss Bale in her magical classroom; Sister Barbara Bale with Queen Elizabeth Margaret Cowling on Halloween.

# THE CLASS OF '75 MOURNS FOR TWO FRIENDS

## KATHLEEN RILEY TOROK

*By Cyrus Radford Alexander '75*

Just five days before she was to turn 46, Kathleen Riley Torok was taken from us in a tragic automobile accident. On the morning of October 12, 2006 Kathleen didn't show up for work, and those she worked with at Keeneland knew something wasn't right. The Lexington School Class of '75 had lost a treasured spirit.



Kathleen joined our class in the 4th grade, and with her ever-engaging spirit and quick sense of humor was a quick fit into our group. Having passed notes with Kathleen on an almost daily basis (many of which I still have), I had the pleasure of knowing her thoughts and expectations along with being kept abreast of the daily gossip. Now that I think about it, the daily notes, important or not, were her version of email, just letting you know she was there and was thinking about you. Her excitement about the annual ski trips, her passion for tennis with the upcoming match against Sayre, and her anticipation of who her next dance partner would be were just some of the thoughts that graced those pages.

It was with a great deal of trepidation that she left the protective halls of The Lexington School to move on to the huge campus at Henry Clay. It didn't take long to make her presence known, though, as she developed a loyal group of new friends, played her way onto the Blue Devil's tennis team, and became President of the Anchor Club.

Kathleen moved on to U.K., joined the Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority, and once again, enlivened all of those around her with her wit and personality.

The Travel House was the next project that Kathleen took on with her mother as they built a clientele arranging flights and travel accommodations which included my own honeymoon. This business also allowed her to branch out, travel and experience the world (it's called networking now) and get involved in several charities in the Lexington area. The Junior League, the Florence Crittenden Home, and the Ronald McDonald House are where she spent her volunteer hours brightening all she came in contact with.

Kathleen married a wonderful guy, Dale, and together they traveled the world. I would run into them at local estate auctions, and she would tell me which piece she was going to buy, as if to say, "Don't bid against me," and I would look at Dale, and he'd just smile. They soon became avid gardeners and Koi pond experts and created an oasis that was featured on several home and garden tours.

As the tour industry changed, Kathleen adapted, going to work for Rogers Beasley, Director of Racing at Keeneland, planning travel and lodging for all of those involved with Keeneland. Once again, her spirit and drive lead her to be an integral part of the operations throughout the track.

Very few people use my proper name, but Kathleen did, and when I used to hear, "Cyrus," I knew the clouds would part, and something different was going to happen. I miss that now. It was one of the little things that she did that I'll never forget.

As I stood in the line at the funeral home with several of our classmates, Dale, and the Riley family, I realized that we all weren't just friends, we're family, and Kathleen will be missed.

## CATHERINE CAREY ADAMS ELLIS

*By Lucy Barrow Calhoun '75*

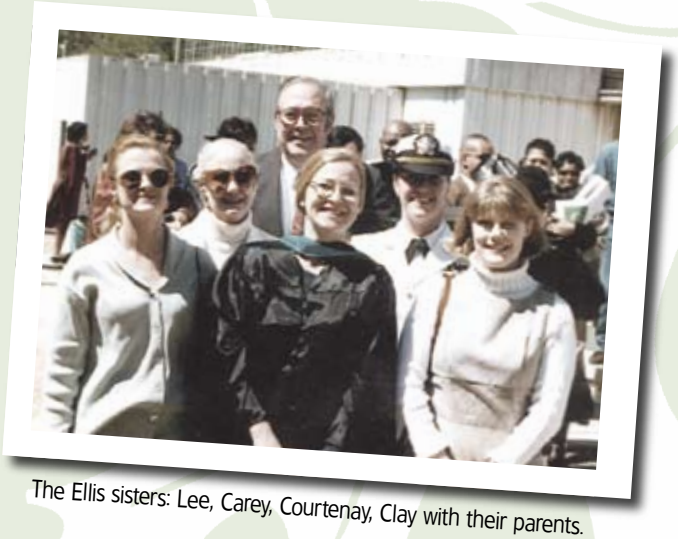
On Thursday, August 9, 2007, the Class of 1975 lost the second alumna within the past year, Catherine Carey Adams Ellis. Although Carey didn't join our class until our 3rd Grade year, she fit in well, particularly since she already knew most of us. Interestingly, Carey was to be in 4th Grade that year, but the only opening was in our class. TLS was, in my opinion, where Carey learned to love the spotlight and acting when she earned the position of a cheerleader for the TLS Colts!

Carey, as did several others, and I left prior to our graduation. She went on to Lafayette and then off to U.K. where she graduated in record time in 1980 with a B.A. in Theatre, all the while holding down several dif-

ferent full-time jobs. Carey could not get to New York City fast enough after that, where through hard work and perseverance, she landed several roles in television and on the stage. After ten years there, Carey returned to Lexington and started working in human resources when she realized that she wanted to return to school. In spite of having been diagnosed with MS several years before, Carey persevered, earning her Master's Degree in Public Administration from Kentucky State University in 1997.

Carey also fought and won the battle with breast cancer even as she struggled with MS. Eventually, however, Carey was diagnosed with congestive heart failure, which she fought valiantly for a year and a half. Throughout it all, Carey always kept her mind very active reading all varieties of books and participating in many, many late night conversations with friends over the phone!

During the last year of her life, Carey's health rapidly deteriorated, and she overcame each setback but not without its taking a heavy toll on her. I last saw Carey in July. We spoke of loved ones we have lost, past vacations taken together, visits to see her while she lived in NYC, and other fond memories including those of friends, of teachers, and lifelong bonds formed all of those years ago at TLS. Carey also adored her three sisters who survive her, Courtenay Ellis Murakowski '77, Catherine Lee Ford Ellis '84, and Clay Ellis Peniston, one niece and three nephews, whose continued love and support were invaluable to Carey.



The Ellis sisters: Lee, Carey, Courtenay, Clay with their parents.

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# *Thank you TLS faculty!*

The Lexington School faculty and staff are celebrating **15 consecutive years** of 100% participation in the Annual Fund!

Please join 100% of our faculty and staff and ***make your gift to the 2007-08 Annual Fund today!*** Every gift, whatever the size, demonstrates that the TLS community supports The Lexington School—its students, its mission, and its goals for the future. Most importantly, each and every gift brings the school closer to its goal to raise faculty salaries to 101% of Fayette County by 2012.

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## From *The Archives*



**First Grade**

*Miss Barbara Bale, Mrs. Sara Meekins, and Mrs. Susan Marshall with their 1992-1993 1st Grade classes.*