The Lexington School
Pinpoints



48 in the 49th for the 50th = TLS success!

Row 1 Lauren Stigers, Chloe Talbott, Falon McGinty, Lulu Farish, Sophia Rodriguez, Tricia Kepf, Morgan Markowitz, Amelia Collins, Laine Wald, Carter Brewer. *Row 2* Bridgette Mangold, Haydn White, Ellen Ray, Hailey Trawick, Emma Ferrier, Mary Austin Hacker, Tyler Terrill, Emma Pirmo Lillelund, Rachael Buley, Leah Pederson, Emory Parsons. *Row 3* Ben Alexander, Noah Mitchell, Ryan Draper, Kevin Klein, Gates Corman, Simon Boes, Dylan Farrell, Michael Kamer, Bo Phillips, Patterson Callahan, Steven Klein, Brett Butzer. *Row 4* Leo de Castro, Chris Merchak, Robert Dence, Will Freeman, William Beck, Andrew Polites, Austin Gardner, Luke Stidham, Will Vennes, Adil Siddiqi, Ben Evers, Will Pagan, Griffin Mason, Anthony Molyviatis-deKwiatkowski. *In absentia Harris Qazi*

THE 48 NEWEST ALUMNI who were honored at The Lexington School's 49th commencement exercises have added their particular personality and flavor to the school's closely woven, much celebrated, 50-year history. As Head of School Chuck Baldecchi and Assistant Head Una MacCarthy have both said, "This class was the singingest class we've known." And what grand harmony they made together. Certainly they had their own rhythm and style, from carrying their tunes to the top of the high-est peaks on their Southwest trip to serenading the Head of School with their raucous rendition of "Don't Stop Believin'." *(continued inside)*

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Learning in the Middle ..... *p. 20*



Graduation morning was indeed filled with celebratory lyrics and stanzas from a number of voices. The proud father of **Carter Brewer '10,** Board of Trustees President **Rob Brewer '85**, shared the stage with his daughter and reminisced about a favorite note that she gave him during her first grade year, "Dear Daddy, tomurow it's chicken brummies day. Ples came. Love, Carter" He has kept that treasured message in his day-timer for eight years, reminding him often of the golden days of Carter's childhood and the warm family of The Lexington School.

As class president, Carter, accompanied by fellow class officer, **Kevin Klein '10**, also shared memories of earlier school years. In honor of the 50th anniversary, their stories were made richer for having spoken with several people who were here when the school began. Carter recounted her conversations with founder Ms. Josephine Abercrombie (H'00), inaugural second grade teacher Mrs. Marilyn Turner, and TLS's first valedictorian, Mr. William T. Young Jr. Kevin relayed that he had enjoyed speaking with Mrs. Claire Clay in Santa Fe, NM, inaugural sixth grade, science, physical education, and art teacher, and with Ms. Marian Bean, the school's first salutatorian.

Tributes and a warm round of applause were also given to two faculty members, Mr. Trey Adams and Ms. Jennifer Stith, who are leaving the school after teaching four years and 29 years, respectively.

Turning the focus to academics, Ms. MacCarthy announced that this year's class takes top honors on the Permanent Headmaster List. By maintaining a GPA of 9.5 or above with no grade lower than a B- for every year of middle school, an unprecedented 21 students earned the right to have their names included on the school's engraved plaques that hang immediately inside the front door. Since the inception of the Permanent Headmaster List in 1986, the Class of 2008 had been the previous record-holder, with 17 students included. William Beck, Carter Brewer, Amelia Collins, Leo de Castro, Ryan Draper, Ben Evers, Dylan Farrell, Will Freeman, Mary Austin Hacker, Kevin Klein, Griffin Mason, Emory Parsons, Leah Pederson, Bo Phillips, Andrew Polites, Ellen Ray, Luke Stidham, Lauren Stigers, Hailey Trawick, Will Vennes, and Haydn White earned the honor this year.



As it was a day for breaking records, this year's class also included the most legacy graduates, with ten. Ben Alexander, Carter Brewer, Dylan Farrell, Emma Ferrier, Will Freeman (double legacy!), Mary Austin Hacker, Emory Parsons, Chloe Talbott, Tyler Terrill, and Will Vennes each have a parent who is a former student of The Lexington School.

One of the songs for the graduation of this singingest class could have been "Mama Said There'd Be Days Like This." Mr. Baldecchi explained that he had received a phone call at 10:00 the previous night from scheduled commencement speaker **Joe Aldy '87.** After enthusiastically welcoming Joe back to the Bluegrass, Chuck was stunned to learn that Joe's three

flights from Washington, DC, had each been canceled, leaving the Obama White House guru of environmental issues and climate talks stranded by severe thunderstorms.

Not missing one, single beat, however, and in the very essence of the TLS "Alma Mater," the "sound of loyal voices will echo from the past," it was only natural that Joe's words be delivered by someone as near and dear to him as possible … his mother! Carol Aldy, founding coach in 1986 of The Lexington School's highly successful debate team, stepped right to the podium with about 30 minutes of lead time, and completely charmed her audience with her down-to-earth humor, her off-the-cuff stories, her grand sense of the-show-**WILL**-go-on, and her tremendous grace under just a bit of pressure. With Joe's words and Carol's delivery and the occasional maternal embellishment along the way, the 2010 commencement address by Aldy *mere et fils* went down in everybody's book as one of the very best!

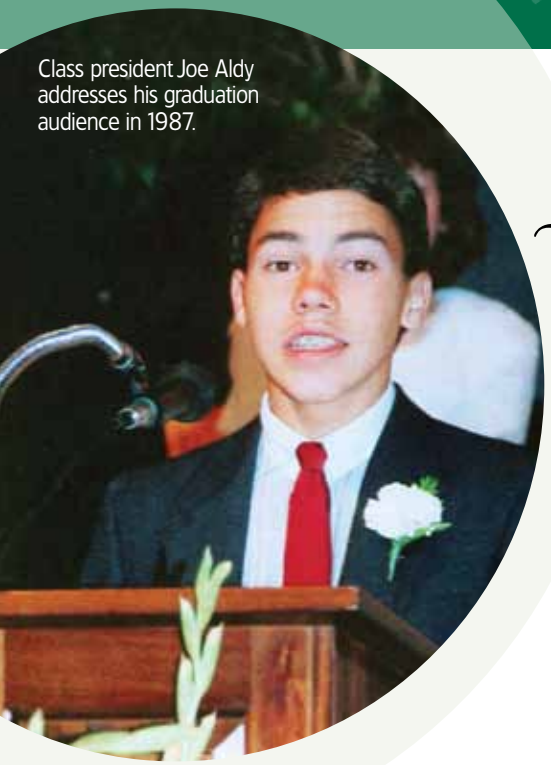
In preparing his remarks for the eighth graders, Joe commented to a colleague that he was to return to his middle school to give the commencement address. The quick and encouraging reply was that nobody ever remembers graduation speeches and "Do you remember who spoke at your middle school graduation?" Wrong question to ask Joe Aldy, who just as quickly replied, "I have a vivid memory of the middle school graduation speaker. It was me." *(see page 4)* Joe remembered that morning 23 years ago, when he, as class president, spoke of the strong TLS foundation, but he said that he had bad news for the graduates of today: "regardless of the quality of the high school or prep school you attend, whether you attend an Ivy League university, or go to the best graduate school in the country — you will not come across a faculty that will have contributed to your growth, as a student and as a person, like the teachers at TLS." Noting that the school is "a launching pad to a vibrant life," Joe gave four pieces of advice. "First: when you come to a door, ***walk through it***. Try new things. Challenge yourself." "Second: ***keep your head up***." Quoting Mark Twain, "there is no sadder sight than a young pessimist," Joe encouraged the students to follow their dreams and to channel their energies where they can set themselves apart. ***Never stop learning*** was Joe's third pearl of wisdom. "Find out what really drives you, what stirs your soul." And last, simply and eloquently, ***go make the world a better place.***

Certainly the world of The Lexington School is a better place because of the Aldy family. Joe's dad, Joe Sr., smiled with surprise when Carol got back home and gave him the answer to "How has your morning been, Dear?" As well, when news spread to Los Angeles, Joe's brother, **Michael '88**, was mightily impressed that Mom stepped in to save the day.

And what a day it was for each of the 48 in the 49th for the 50th.







Class president Joe Aldy addresses his graduation audience in 1987.

WHAT'S PAST IS *Prologue*

Turn back the clock 23 years.

Before June 4, the last time an **Aldy** stood at the commencement podium at The Lexington School, it was **Joe '87** for his own graduation speech.

As president of the ninth grade class, he used skills honed by the school's first debate team, coached, coincidentally, by his mother, Carol Aldy. Known for his public speaking and his numerous debate awards, Joe declaimed, "One word truly describes the Class of 1987 — success. Success has followed us in the past, and I know it will follow us into the future. On this stage before you, you see future teachers, lawyers, doctors, architects…perhaps even a future governor or president."

Our scheduled 2010 commencement speaker concluded his commencement address those years ago by saying, "With an education and a dream, we can do anything. The future holds unlimited new dimensions. Join us today as we celebrate our past, and even more important, our future." To hearty applause, Dr. David Lowry (H'00) acknowledged Joe's remarks with this observation, "I think we may have just heard from that future governor or president."

While Joe's career path has not followed elective office, he has held important policy positions in both the Clinton and Obama White Houses.

From 1997 to 2000, he served on the staff of the President's Council of Economic Advisers, where he was responsible for an array of environmental and energy issues, from air pollution to the price of oil. But Joe focused on climate change policy, including conducting economic analysis during the UN climate talks in Kyoto in 1997 and participating in climate change policy talks with Chinese officials during President Clinton's 1998 visit to Beijing.

Although Beijing and Harlan County, KY, seem worlds apart in practically every aspect, Joe easily connects the two and sees the seeds of his fervent interests being planted during his sixth grade trip to the Pine Mountain Settlement School. He remembers clearly, "One afternoon we were led on a nature hike through a bog where we learned about the fragility of this ecosystem perched on top of a seam of coal, which made poignant the juxtaposition of natural beauty and the region's economic livelihood."

Joe has made it his mission to help preserve and protect that delicate ecological balance, and he currently serves as the Special Assistant to the President for Energy and Environment for President Obama. He reports through Larry Summers, Director of the National Economic Council, and Carol Browner, the Climate Czar. In his current role, the one-time 12-year-old boy exploring the out-

door classrooms of Pine Mountain now coordinates the development of domestic and international energy and climate policy and presents options and recommendations for consideration by administration principals and subsequently the President.

During the Presidential transition, Joe helped pull together the clean energy package in the Recovery Act, and, using those debate skills practiced in the classrooms of The Lexington School, he negotiated the bill with Congressional staff. Further, he participated in the Copenhagen climate talks last December, including negotiating a package to protect tropical forests and staffing the President as he negotiated the Copenhagen Accord with Heads of State from developed and developing countries alike. Joe occasionally briefs the President and White House senior advisors on energy and climate policy in the Oval Office.

Another Lexington School class trip made a lifelong impact on Joe, as he thinks back to ninth grade and says with a smile, "I fell in love with Washington, DC, on this trip. It is such a beautiful city, and when one cuts through the politics, what you find is that there is an energy and dynamism in this city to make the country better." In typical Joe Aldy fashion, our stellar alumnus is certainly doing more than his part "to make the country better."

Although Joe has collected more frequent flyers than most and is rarely in the same time zone as his family, he still holds dear his Lexington School foundation. In reminiscing about his years on Lane Allen Road, he states, "My interest in working to advance public policy is clearly borne from learning in social studies and history classes with Mr. Brost and Miss Cowling. It wasn't just learning about history, but learning how to think and critically evaluate the factors that have determined our American history — skills that I have been able to further develop and use today as we evaluate various options for making public policy."

Joe received a bachelor's degree from Duke University, a Master of Environmental Management degree from Duke's Nicholas School of the Environment, and a Ph.D. in economics from Harvard University. Giving credit again to his grand teachers, he says, "A Ph.D. in economics is basically an advanced degree in applied math. There is no doubt that without the drive and the patience of Mrs. Cox to push us in algebra and geometry, I would not have had the foundation for my economic research."

Lest one would think Dr. Aldy a man of all work and no play, he quickly calls up yet another class trip — this time the upper school ski trip, when he was in ninth grade. "Skiing in Colorado for the first time was an incredible experience; I knew I wanted to come back. And since college, I've been lucky to go back almost every year with several of my TLS classmates. Bob Gee secures his uncle's cabin for us, and I always make a batch of my chili."



Sarah and Joe Aldy were married on November 7, 2009 in St. Petersburg, FL.

Famous for his chili, famous for his contributions to our global issues, at home behind the podium at The Lexington School, at home addressing audiences around the world, Joe Aldy embodies the word he used to describe his class in 1987 — success.

Excelsior, Joe!

"What's past is prologue," a Shakespeare quotation from "The Tempest," is engraved on the National Archives Building in Washington, DC, which Joe sees regularly.

Head *Lines*

NOTES FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL







THIS ISSUE of *Pinpoints* marks a transition, a passing of the baton if you will. Ann Eames has been an incredible editor of *Pinpoints*. When she retired from The Lexington School in 2006, I really didn't let her retire. I asked Ann if she would publish *Pinpoints* from the west coast. As a loyal friend to TLS, Ann agreed to stay on and see us through the school's 50th Anniversary, and see us through she did. The commemorative 50th Anniversary issue of *Pinpoints* was a masterpiece and a keepsake. I cannot tell you how many alumni and friends of the school made a point to tell me how much they loved that issue. All of her *Pinpoints* have been marked by wonderful writing and insightful stories that connected the past with the present at TLS. Ann did a remarkable job telling The Lexington School story. Not only is Ann a wonderful editor and writer, she is also a great friend and person. Thank you, Ann, for all your service to this great school.

So the only way to replace a legend is to hire one in her stead. Lucy Johnston McKinstry '66 has been the resident historian of all things on the corner of Lane Allen and Georgian Way. She is always making connections among alumni, faculty, past and current parents. She is also a wonderful writer. She knows The Lexington School's past, present, and future as well as anyone in our ranks. I know you will join me in welcoming Lucy to her new post as editor of *Pinpoints*.

Warmly,

Charles D. Baldecchi
Head of School



Ann Eames passes the *Pinpoints* baton to Lucy McKinstry.

FRIENDS AND COLLEAGUES SAY ANOTHER GOODBYE TO TLS'S CELEBRATED RENAISSANCE WOMAN

It seems like only yesterday when Ann and I began our partnership in the library. Those first days in the fall of 1998 were filled with learning the ropes of librarianship and a lot of laughing. For both of us, it was the first opportunity to do something we loved and to do it as a team. We were fortunate that TLS was able to have two certified librarians. I was so grateful to Ann for her guidance that first year. She knew the school, and I did not. She'd been committed to TLS for years, but I was a brand new librarian. After days of organizing, planning and decorating, we had the beginnings of a great library program. We loved the students and the program reflected that feeling. No two days were alike and there were numerous episodes over the years of crazy antics, library conferences, meeting cool authors and helping so many TLS students love the library and discover the joy of reading.

Melanie Bishop
Associate Librarian, Preschool and Lower School Librarian, 1998–2004



Mrs. Eames taught me ninth grade English. She was one of my first teachers to encourage me to be self-reflective and write about my experiences. I kept a journal which she read and highlighted what was good and what could be better. She also gave an assignment to write a biography of a personal hero in my life. The journaling and writing about a hero in my own family was an invaluable lesson to realize the gift in the ordinary of each day and also to be grateful for my family. Thank you, Mrs. Eames, for your diligence and generosity of spirit to teach me and the hundreds of other TLS students. God's blessings to you in your retirement.

Father Chris Clay '89
Pastor of St. Lawrence Church, Lawrenceburg, KY

When Ann had her last "Big Birthday" here in Lexington, a massive number of "Ann Fans," as we were dubbed, showed up at her door. I'm sure that the fact that Ann has moved away has not diminished the number of Ann Fans by even one. That's the kind of friend Ann is. You can't help but love her forever.

Anne Bjork
Art Teacher, 2000–2007



In 1978, Ann came in for an interview for a Montessori assistant position. I was obviously impressed with her interest and insight into the needs of children and I told the administration that I would like her to be hired. A few days later when she came in to begin work with me, I looked up and up and up, and thought, "my goodness, I did not realize her height! And we have a community of very little people!" That was my last fear. When she began working with the children I realized that because she was very interested in helping them with their individual needs, she had no trouble being at their level talking to them, working on the floor with them, etc. She was eventually so interested in the Method and wanting to contribute as much as she could, that she enrolled in a Montessori Teacher Training Correspondence Course. Ann not only contributed much because of her interest in the children and the program, but she enthusiastically enjoyed it. Later, when she moved on at The Lexington School into the level of her degree — teaching English to older children — she once again worked with her friends from Montessori!

Barbara Brogan
Montessori teacher, 1974–2000

ILLUSTRATION: Commemorating Ann's *first* TLS retirement, lower school art teacher Cissy Hamilton was, of course, inspired by Leonardo da Vinci — *but used some poetic license in the process.*

VITRUVIAN ANN



LEONARDO DA VINCI would have liked Ann Eames. He would have been captivated by her always inquiring mind, her never-ending curiosity, her grand sense of balance in all areas. He would have admired her fascination with educating our youngest students and her gentle devotion to the older souls of the community, her blending the best of the art and the science of life.

A voracious reader — perhaps one of the world's few librarians whose husband sports a Chaucer necktie — an epicure, inveterate traveler, philosopher, humorist, our Renaissance woman, Ann Eames, our friend and mentor, our inspiration — literally, one from whom we drew breath — has retired. Again!

Throughout her editorship, Ann has captured and chronicled our TLS universe as a whole (though none of her stories featured a single instance of *mirror writing*).

She will always have a part of her heart at 1050 Lane Allen Road, just as we who study and work and play here on The Lexington School campus will continue to hold her in our hearts as well.

Many readers remember Marijo Foster's eloquent Summer 2006 *Pinpoints* article on Ann's *first* retirement. As hard as it was to say farewell to Ann the first time around, when she and husband Bill moved to Portland, OR, we knew there would still be frequent communication and a strong connection because of Ann's continuing editorship of *Pinpoints*. In grand collaboration with graphic design maestro Mick Jeffries, from her desk in Portland and with occasional visits back to school and to alumni gatherings sprinkled throughout the country, Ann compiled, wrote, and edited issue after issue after issue of our newsletter.

Throughout these past four years, Ann has kept our Lexington School family connected. She has introduced a new head of school, reported on academic programs from KinderKlasse through eighth grade, recounted all manner of athletic contests, described TLS community service projects all over town, announced weddings and new babies, covered graduations, and saluted retiring teachers. She has celebrated every aspect of our school community through her *Pinpoints* pages.

Her magnum opus, of course, was the magnificent, 78-page, full color, 50th Anniversary issue. From cover to cover, Ann's coffee table edition of *Pinpoints* is The Lexington School's Canon of Proportions, recounting the balance and symmetry of our 50th year and of our 50 years. Throughout her editorship, Ann has captured and chronicled our TLS universe as a whole (though none of her stories featured a single instance of *mirror writing*).

DIGGING UP TIME

"Give me one firm place to stand and I can move the earth."
— Archimedes



With inspiration from Archimedes and former Head of School John Fixx, along with a mighty throng of teachers, parents, and siblings, the Class of '99 buried its time capsule on the bright and sunshine-filled, late afternoon of August 27, 1999. Nourished by plenty of pizza and homemade chocolate cake that day, the newest graduates of The Lexington School took to their shoveling responsibilities then as heartily as they had taken to their academic responsibilities on one of Miss Cowling's test days.

Flash forward a decade — *how can it possibly be?*

When a great contingent of the '99ers gathered after Thanksgiving on an equally bright and cloudless day in front of the school to unearth those long-buried treasures, it seemed only the blink-of-an-eye ago.

Callie Brooks had spread the word via email, text messages, Facebook, and Twitter — a 21st century change from the snail mail time capsule invitations the group had received ten years before. As with most Lexington School alumni gatherings, former students came from all quarters, **Jeff Milward**, recently back from a tour of duty in Afghanistan *(see page 18)*, taking the cake for having traveled the farthest. **Elizabeth Ruch** helped distribute archival photos, which set the stage for much reminiscing and the telling of tall tales for the rest of the afternoon. **Emily Ryan**, now a KinderKlasse teacher on the same hallway where she had been a Montessori student, gave a quick tour of her classroom to **Mary Bruce Gray Alford** and husband Timothy. **Coley McKinstry**, **Will Milward**, and **Ben Ezrine** got a major kick out of reading their questionnaires that **Cy Alexander '75** had designed and distributed at the Alumni Council luncheon, hosted by **Renie Parsons '81** back in that Spring of '99. **Pierce Buster** saw a photo of himself wearing his famous and ever present UGA hat, while **Ryan Baumann** got a smile out of holding a copy of the Ninth Grade Show program for which he had used his great computer skills, even back then, to design the sharp looking cover.

While the '99 time capsule was unearthed to a hearty round of applause, there was a shared understanding and appreciation of the foundation for learning and living laid those years before at The Lexington School. Who can argue with Archimedes?

HIGH SCHOOL MATRICULATIONS FOR THE CLASS OF 2010

Ben Alexander ..... Lexington Catholic High School
William Beck ..... Deerfield Academy
Simon Boes ..... Western Reserve Academy
Carter Brewer ..... Henry Clay Liberal Arts Academy
Rachael Buley ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Brett Butzer ..... Sayre School
Patterson Callahan ..... Tates Creek High School, International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme
Amelia Collins ..... SCAPA at Lafayette High School
Gates Corman ..... Henry Clay Liberal Arts Academy
Leo de Castro ..... Henry Clay Liberal Arts Academy
Robert Dence ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Ryan Draper ..... MSTC at Paul Laurence Dunbar High School
Ben Evers ..... Henry Clay Liberal Arts Academy
Lulu Farish ..... Episcopal High School
Dylan Farrell ..... Phillips Exeter Academy
Emma Ferrier ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Will Freeman ..... Henry Clay Liberal Arts Academy
Austin Gardner ..... Henry Clay Liberal Arts Academy
Mary Austin Hacker ..... Henry Clay Liberal Arts Academy
Michael Kamer ..... Kentucky Country Day School
Tricia Kepf ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Kevin Klein ..... Paul Laurence Dunbar High School
Steven Klein ..... Paul Laurence Dunbar High School
Bridgette Mangold ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Morgan Markowitz ..... Tates Creek High School
Griffin Mason ..... Pre-Engineering Program at Lafayette High School
Falon McGinty ..... Henry Clay Liberal Arts Academy
Chris Merchak ..... Paul Laurence Dunbar High School
Noah Mitchell ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Anthony Molyviatis-deKwiatkowski ..... College du Leman, Switzerland
Will Pagan ..... Sayre School
Emory Parsons ..... Henry Clay Liberal Arts Academy
Leah Pederson ..... Henry Clay Liberal Arts Academy
Bo Phillips ..... Henry Clay Liberal Arts Academy
Emma Pirmo Lillelund ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Andrew Polites ..... Henry Clay Liberal Arts Academy
Harris Qazi ..... Henry Clay Liberal Arts Academy
Ellen Ray ..... Sayre School
Sophia Rodriguez ..... The Ethel Walker School
Adil Siddiqi ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Luke Stidham ..... Phillips Academy
Lauren Stigers ..... Henry Clay Liberal Arts Academy
Chloe Talbott ..... Henry Clay Liberal Arts Academy
Tyler Terrill ..... Lexington Catholic High School
Hailey Trawick ..... Sayre School
Will Vennes ..... Pre-Engineering Program at Lafayette High School
Laine Wald ..... Henry Clay High School
Haydn White ..... Sayre School

Pin Prints



Eighth graders Lulu Farish and Kevin Klein study Greece during Foreign Language Week.



Fifth and sixth grade girls Green team strategizes with Coach Ryan Cash.



Eliot Brooks shows off her Kindergarten art-work to her parents.



Eighth grader Luke Stidham and Kindergartner Ben Belin discuss their pre-race Little Kentucky Derby plan.



Ellen Ray, Leah Pederson, and Emory Parsons work on their eighth grade debates.



Ashley Atwood is one happy seventh grader at the Little Kentucky Derby.



Fifth grader Aaron Ervin takes a quick orange break.



Fifth graders Jack Farrell and Robert Bratton, AKA Marc Antony, take to the stage.



First graders Lexi Roth and Katie Howell sport their Derby finery.



First graders Noah de Castro and Ford Webb see the 100th day clearly.



Fourth grader Isabella Turley enjoys the Reading Train.



Emma Ferrier signs a yearbook at the Time Capsule gathering.

Pin Prints



Jack Phillips is at home on the stage in sixth grade advanced drama.



Pre-K student Buntaro Yoshida gets a hug from dad.



The Class of 2010 puts treasures into one of their two time capsules.



Mary Esther Thomas shows off her Pre-K art work at the Preschool Art Show.



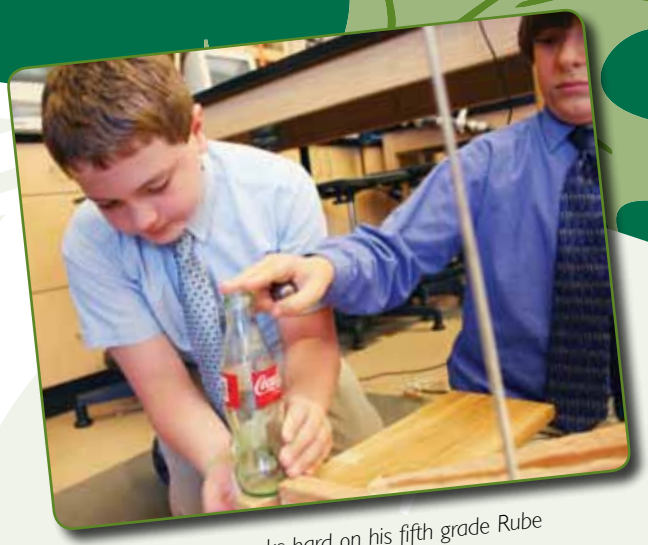
Lucy Oldham, second grade, enjoys Writers Guild with her mom, Dr. Dianna Howard.



Lauren White, as Cleopatra, awaits Marc Antony's arrival in the fifth grade musical.



Second graders Isabel Brunker, Cate Cunningham, and Meredith Gilbert enjoy the snowy winter.



Hunter Hayes works hard on his fifth grade Rube Goldberg roller coaster.



Lulu Farish and Rachael Buley share a hug as new TLS alumni.



Steven Klein and Ryan Draper enjoy the reception after graduation.



Sixth grader Camille Mangold and her grandfather share a hug.

The seventh and eighth grade boys White team wins the tournament championship.





Witt Wood, Pre-K, shows off his winning ticket to seventh graders Jordan Turley and Trey Duncan.

Pin *Notes*

For the last ten years, **Van Meter Pettit '82** has been a licensed architect focused on neighborhood and residential design with particular interest in historic infill. Also, for a decade he has been working on the nonprofit Town Branch Trail, Inc., which advocates for an eight-mile pedestrian and bicycle trail linking Masterson Station Park, McConnell Springs, the Distillery District, and Downtown. This reconnects Lexington to its equine landscape, its storied past, and a future where walking and biking are emphasized above commuter traffic. Two miles have already been built, one additional mile is funded, and the additional five miles are in the midst of feasibility design. Recently, Van Meter began a new job as the manager of the Kentucky Clean Energy Corps, coordinating multiple statewide energy conservation initiatives at the Kentucky Housing Corporation in Frankfort. His organization is building a home energy retrofit program that will promote new business while helping Kentucky families across the state to realize substantial savings in their utility bills.

It was fun for **Lindsey Ingram '85** to see his nephew **Spencer Parsons '13** perform in the fifth grade musical, and it brought back more than a few memories. Running into classmate **Jeff Jefferson '85**, there to applaud daughter **Lucy '13**, he found it hard to believe it has been 25 years since graduation. He remembers learning about history from Miss Cowling and how to study, just as if it were yesterday, emphasizing, "I *still* have to study for my job." After completing his undergraduate work at Vanderbilt University, Lindsey went on to the University of Kentucky Law School, and has practiced since then with Stoll Keenon Ogden. One of nine Lexington SKO attorneys recently selected as "Leaders in Their Field" in the *Chambers USA Awards for Excellence 2010*, published in June, he was lauded for his expertise in the areas of the environment, natural resources, and utilities. Lindsey and wife Sheila have two daughters, Jordan, five, and Addison, three.

Dr. John Falace '88 has a private practice in general dentistry here in Lexington, where he lives with wife Mary and their two daughters, Abby, who will soon be four, and one-year-old Sarah. After his graduation from the University of Kentucky, John began a career as a mutual fund accountant in Columbus, OH. Feeling the pull of the dental field, he then enrolled in, and graduated from, the University of Kentucky College of Dentistry.



Bindy Fleischman '88 and her husband, Kerry Tubbs, were married in a private ceremony in August 2009, but invited friends and family to celebrate with them in New Orleans in March 2010. In lieu of a traditional reception, the main event revolved around a service project in which they asked their guests to partake for an organization called Rebuilding Together New Orleans (RTNO), part of the New Orleans Preservation Resource Center. RTNO works in seven of the neighborhoods hardest hit by Hurricane Katrina to rebuild, renovate, and restore storm-damaged homes for returning New Orleanians. As good luck would have it, Bindy and Kerry's celebration was the same weekend that the Wildcats were also in the Big Easy for some early round tournament action, adding the hometown touch to the overall festivities! Bindy and Kerry make their home in Boston.



A proud tradition grows

Jawanna Herd teaches a second TLS generation, as she is surrounded by **McMillan Fister '14,** his mom **Taylor Keller Fister '88, Melanie Smith Leach '88,** and son **Jackson Leach '14.** Taylor and Melanie both had Mrs. Herd as a teacher in eighth and ninth grades, and the boys and their fourth grade classmates have had her as their naturalist several times throughout the year.

As Director of Finance for wine importer Vine Connections, **Steve Falace '91** lives in Napa, CA, with wife Trina, whom he met while they were both students at DePauw University, and son Stuart, born March 3, 2010. After college, Steve worked in the world of finance in Chicago, before moving to California, where he earned his MBA at the University of California, Berkeley. His company is the leading US importer of fine Argentinean wines retailing above $10, while also representing 13 of Japan's finest ginjo sake breweries. With his business responsibilities, Steve regularly travels to both Argentina and Japan.

Living in Portland, OR, **Julie Falk '91** stays busy at home and at work. With four-year-old Susanna and one-year-old Marlow, Julie and husband, Zach Kramer, who begins his residency in radiology at Oregon Health and Sciences University, enjoy all of the happiness of parenthood. Explaining what a tremendous influence Madame Charron's vibrant French classes had on her, Julie enrolled Susanna in the French American International School, an immersion school where Susanna is learning many of the same nursery rhymes that Julie learned from Madame. "Not a day goes by," Julie states emphatically, that she does not think back to her favorite French teacher with warmth and gratitude. She knows it won't be long until Susanna organizes a puppet show in the grand Madame Charron fashion. Julie's mother, former TLS Montessori teacher, **Jenny Falk**, also lives in Portland and delights in her role as grandmother, babysitting for Susanna and Marlow every chance she gets. Balancing work with motherhood, since June 2009, Julie has been executive director of Bitch Media, publisher of *Bitch Magazine*, a feminist response to popular culture. A great lover of books and magazines since her days as a library aide for Mrs. Ireland, Julie is enjoying using her background in nonprofit management in this creative, literary environment.

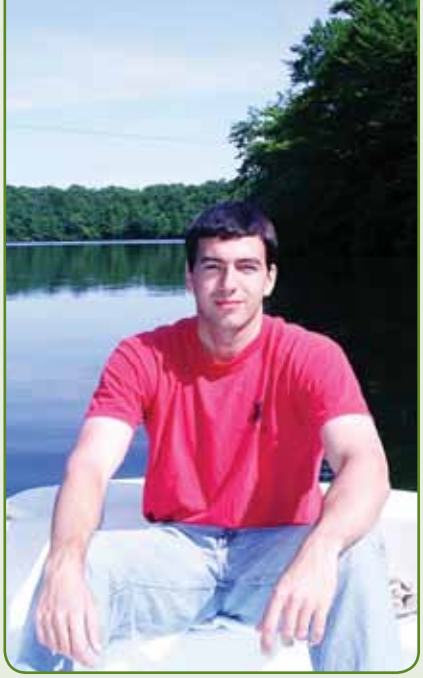




To add to the fourth graders' knowledge of Appalachia, the students were fortunate to hear **Keturah Gray '94**, introduced to the class by her cousin **Ruby Kate Gray '14**. As reported in the Spring 2009 issue of *Pinpoints*, Keturah was one of the producers of the ABC documentary, *A Hidden America: Children of the Mountains*. Working closely with Diane Sawyer throughout the two years of researching and filming for *20/20*, Keturah was excited to learn that the documentary has now received the prestigious Peabody Award, which recognizes the most outstanding achievements in electronic media. According to the mission of the Peabody, "the award is determined by one criterion — 'Excellence.'" In addition, the story has also won one of the 42nd annual Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Awards, capturing top honors in the category of domestic television.

For the past nine years **Shelton May Murry '91** has lived in Chicago, home also to her brother, **Andrew May '88** and his family. Actually they live only about a mile away from each other. In October 2007 Shelton and Steven Murry were married in Lexington, and they are now the proud parents of Levi Jackson Murry, born January 5, 2010, and weighing 6 pounds, 13 ounces. Shelton, a graduate of Miami University in Ohio, has worked in the exciting world of hospitality for ten years. She is the senior sales manager for Doubletree Chicago, a Hilton property located on the Gold Coast in downtown Chicago. Steven, a graduate of Centre College and DePaul University College of Law, is employed with the United States Soccer Federation, also located in downtown Chicago. They are active Bears and Cubs fans and are patiently awaiting the next championship of each!





Justin Kearns '97 is doing what many middle schoolers wish they could do.

He is designing robots to be more autonomous. The robots, however, won't be able to take Ms. Lounsbury's science tests and they won't be able to write an English paper for Mrs. Bonzo-Sims's class. The robots, instead, are used by police forces around the country and by the United States Army around the world.

After graduating from The Lexington School, Justin matriculated to St. George's School in Newport, RI, and went on to Johns Hopkins University, where he graduated with a degree in computer engineering. From there, he completed his graduate studies at Stanford University, earning a master's in computer science with a focus on artificial intelligence. While at Stanford, he published two papers with three other scholars on the topic of autonomous manipulation.

For the past three years, Justin has been working with iRobot in Bedford, MA, where he has been promoted to senior software engineer. Most of his work has been creating intelligent behaviors for military and first responder robots used for a variety of dangerous missions to keep people out of harm's way. He has upgraded the PackBot to a more autonomous robot, lengthening the distance between the soldier and the robot, saving more soldiers' lives.

Along with two other iRobot engineers, Justin participated in the Robot Rodeo last summer in Fort Hood, TX. They designed software to enable a pick-up truck to drive manlessly through an obstacle course. Possibilities for this software in the near future include outfitting the first truck on convoy, again saving lives.

While Justin stays busy working on future ideas for iRobot, he has a patent pending involving intelligent robot software.

Sally Brown Hinkle '95 and Ted Thilman were married July 11, 2009, in Aspen, CO, where they met after college when she lived with **Elise Groves '95.** Sally Brown had graduated with honors from the University of Alabama's five-year design program, having been inspired by art classes from Judy Apple and Isabel Kasperbauer. The couple now lives in Chicago, where Sally Brown works at a large residential design firm, having been previously employed by a large commercial design firm as well.

Ashleigh Long '96 is at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, completing her M.D. and Ph.D. degrees, as part of a seven-year curriculum for students interested in doing clinical work and health research. She was awarded a fellowship to support her work from the National Institutes of Health, and she has been fortunate enough to have her work published in *Cell, Journal of Neuroscience, Synapse, and Nature Neuroscience.*

Jill Tallal '96 has been living in Winter Park, CO, for the past six years and has worked in real estate there for the last two years. When she is not at a closing, she enjoys spending her free time snowboarding, mountain biking, rafting, and camping.

Living in Portland, OR, **Marianne Falk '97** has taken a job in development with Oregon Public Broadcasting, the local NPR affiliate. Before and after work hours, Marianne can be found training for this summer's Seattle Marathon, continuing her love of running that began when she was a Lexington School student. She is training and fundraising as a mentor to new runners with the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society's Team in Training Campaign, which raises funds for the Society's mission, to cure leukemia, lymphoma, Hodgkin's disease, and myeloma, and to improve the quality of life of patients and their families.

Lucy Hinkle Lloyd '97 and husband Jonathan are both in their medical residencies at Oregon Health and Sciences University in Portland, OR. A graduate of Washington and Lee University with a degree in Neuroscience (a natural step after her Lexington School science classes) and the University of Kentucky College of Medicine, Lucy's focus now is on psychiatry. When not hitting the books or healing the sick, Lucy and Jonathan enjoy the great outdoors of Portland, hiking, biking and skiing on nearby Mt. Hood.

One of Gretchen Young's standout members of the Speech Team, especially when he was performing "Pizza Man, Pizza Man," **Thomas Falace '00** is in a three-year program taking improv classes at Second City, "the leading brand in improv-based sketch comedy" in Chicago. Enjoying life in the entertainment business, he is fortunate enough to have received some good pointers and sound advice from **Case Clay '89**, who knows the ropes from his career at Second City. [Readers may refer to the TLS Summer, 2000, newsletter, featuring Case's commencement address, which focuses on the art of the improv.] Thomas, when not behind the microphone, can also be found at the piano, as he continues to improve his already stellar musical talents. Watching his two older brothers practicing piano, six-year-old Thomas was the only one of the three Falace fellows who *asked* to take lessons. His repertoire ranges from Elton John to the classics to show tunes to modern jazz.

A 2009 graduate of Sewanee: The University of the South, **Mary Grace Hinkle '02** has joined the hale and hearty TLS alumni group of Portland, OR, employed there by Springboard Innovation, an innovative think tank whose mission is "to enable youth and adults to solve challenges with sustainable, innovative solutions." Mary Grace became interested in social entrepreneurship during college when she had the opportunity to work in microlending in India and Bangladesh with the Grameen Bank, founded by Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammad Yunus. In addition, using her French expertise begun at The Lexington School, Mary Grace has been a substitute teacher at the Portland French School.



Continuing his lifelong enthusiasm for running, but with a different twist this time, former Head of School **John Fixx** had a strong finish in February's not-for-the-faint-of-heart Empire State Building Run Up. Along with over 300 other competitors from around the world, he raced up 1,576 steps to the Observatory Deck on the 86th floor. Dubbed one of the "Human Elevators," at left, John is shown with his fellow Chase Collegiate School teammates whose herculean efforts supported Haitian relief funds.



Beloved former science teacher Mrs. Sue Orme (H'82) was feted royally by her children, grandchildren, friends, and admirers at her 90th birthday party.



October 17, 2009 was cause for TLS celebration all over Lexington. While 50th Anniversary Main Event festivities were in full swing at the Horse Park, across town at Christ Church Cathedral, **Emily Milward '97** and William Magevney were saying *"I do."* After the ceremony, John and Luanne Milward, the bride and groom, and Cathy and **Kav Milward '95** are all smiles. Emily and William live in Jacksonville, FL, where she works for the Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens.

Alumni *Profile*

OUR HERO RETURNS

Naval Intelligence Officer Lieutenant J. G. Jeff Milward '99 came back to his alma mater on a beautiful mid-October's day, after the gala celebrations of The Lexington School's 50th anniversary, to share stories of his deployment to Afghanistan. Before Jeff even set foot over the threshold, his welcoming committee was lined up at the door. His former classmate, **Emily Ryan '99,** and her students from last year's KinderKlasse who had painted cards for his care packages gave him the first Lexington School hellos. As they escorted "Mr. Jeff," attired in his Navy camo fatigues, to the classroom, it was a bit of an out-of-body experience for our soldier, who remembered with total recall that same hallway, where he and his twin brother, **Will '99,** began their Lexington School careers in Mrs. Mary Beers's Pre-K room. Older brother, **Webb '96,** too, had his TLS start there in Mrs. Beers's class.

Feeling at home with the large gathering of the youngest Lexington School students, Mr. Jeff immediately connected with his audience, as he got his 6'4" frame down on the floor with them and thanked everyone for the drawings, notes, and mementos that had touched his heart deeply when he unwrapped his care packages half way around the world. He was serenaded with welcome home songs and flooded with questions — *Were you scared? Did you miss us? Was your bed comfortable? Was the food good?* — and he had the perfect reply for each of them.



Joyce Baker remembers that crispitos were Jeff's favorite lunch.

Waving goodbye to the roomful of his young admirers, Jeff and his parents, Mimi and Greg, headed down other hallways that held a host of memories for the entire Milward family. Frank Hardesty, Jeff's science teacher for three years, advisor for two, mentor for many years, and occasional tormentor when Jeff forgot to remove his baseball cap in class, came back to salute his former student and to share in the pride that each of Jeff's TLS teachers felt when they hugged him, high-fived him, and saw him as the fine adult he has become. For his part, Jeff said, "As I think back to all of the wonderful people in The Lexington School family that helped me become the person I am today, I could attribute portions of my persona to many of them, but the one that stands out the most in my mind would be Mr. Hardesty. He taught me about selflessness, respect, and discipline: traits that very few young people are able to grasp at that age. While there are any number of stories that could support my previous statement, it was his ability to exude those traits day-in and day-out, that made him a person you wanted to model yourself after."



"As I stepped off the back of the C-130 at Kandahar Airfield, wearing my Kevlar and protective vest, carrying my M-4 and M-9, I couldn't help but think to myself, 'How did I end up here? At what point did my life take a turn that landed me in the middle of southern Afghanistan?' The last few years had gone by so fast, and as I thought back, I couldn't help but trace my path all the way back to The Lexington School. Coming to that conclusion was not surprising considering that TLS was the place that not only laid the cornerstone for my education, but gave me the tools to become a leader. In the Navy, we call those tools our core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment, all of which I was able to develop while spending 11 years at TLS."

To make sure the sentimental feelings didn't flow completely overboard, Mimi Milward shared with Chuck Baldecchi the now famous statement that Ms. Jennifer Stith made during one of Jeff's fourth grade parent-teacher conferences, "He may be a leader, but he's leading the pack in the wrong direction." Those words still resonate with Lieutenant J. G. Milward today, "From that point on, I never wanted to be known as the man, or soldier, that would lead anyone in the wrong direction."

And, following in that direction, Jeff remembered, "It wasn't until our Southwest trip in the ninth grade that I truly realized how much joy can come from being a leader. As one of the female members of our class became dehydrated on our hike out of the Grand Canyon, I was left with no choice but to put her on my back and carry her out the last mile. When we reached the top, the physical exhaustion that I felt was outweighed by the gratitude that she showed for my actions." Jeff continued to say, "In the Navy, leaders are judged by their ability to assess a situation, determine a course of action that is in the best interest of those around him or her, and then execute the mission."

Jeff's main mission on this autumn day was to speak to the sixth, seventh, and eighth graders at a special assembly in the theater. Introduced by **Dylan Farrell '10** and **Luke Stidham '10,** Jeff took to the podium just as he had so many times before when he was a member of Mrs. Young's speech team a decade ago. He immediately thanked the school for its encouragement, emails, care packages, warm thoughts — grand support — while he was serving our country in Afghanistan. He told his audience how much the tight-knit family of The Lexington School means to him. Continuing, he said he had been inspired by Miss Cowling's history class and as a senior at Henry Clay High School, the events of 9/11 had a huge impact on him, as well. With degrees in history and political science from Sewanee: The University of the South, Jeff enrolled in Officer Candidate School and continued into Naval Intelligence, pointing toward serving in Iraq. Plans were changed, however, and he was lifted and shifted to Afghanistan because of threats in the southern part of that country. As an intelligence officer, he was among the first wave of US soldiers into that area of Afghanistan, but because of his thorough training, he felt well prepared.

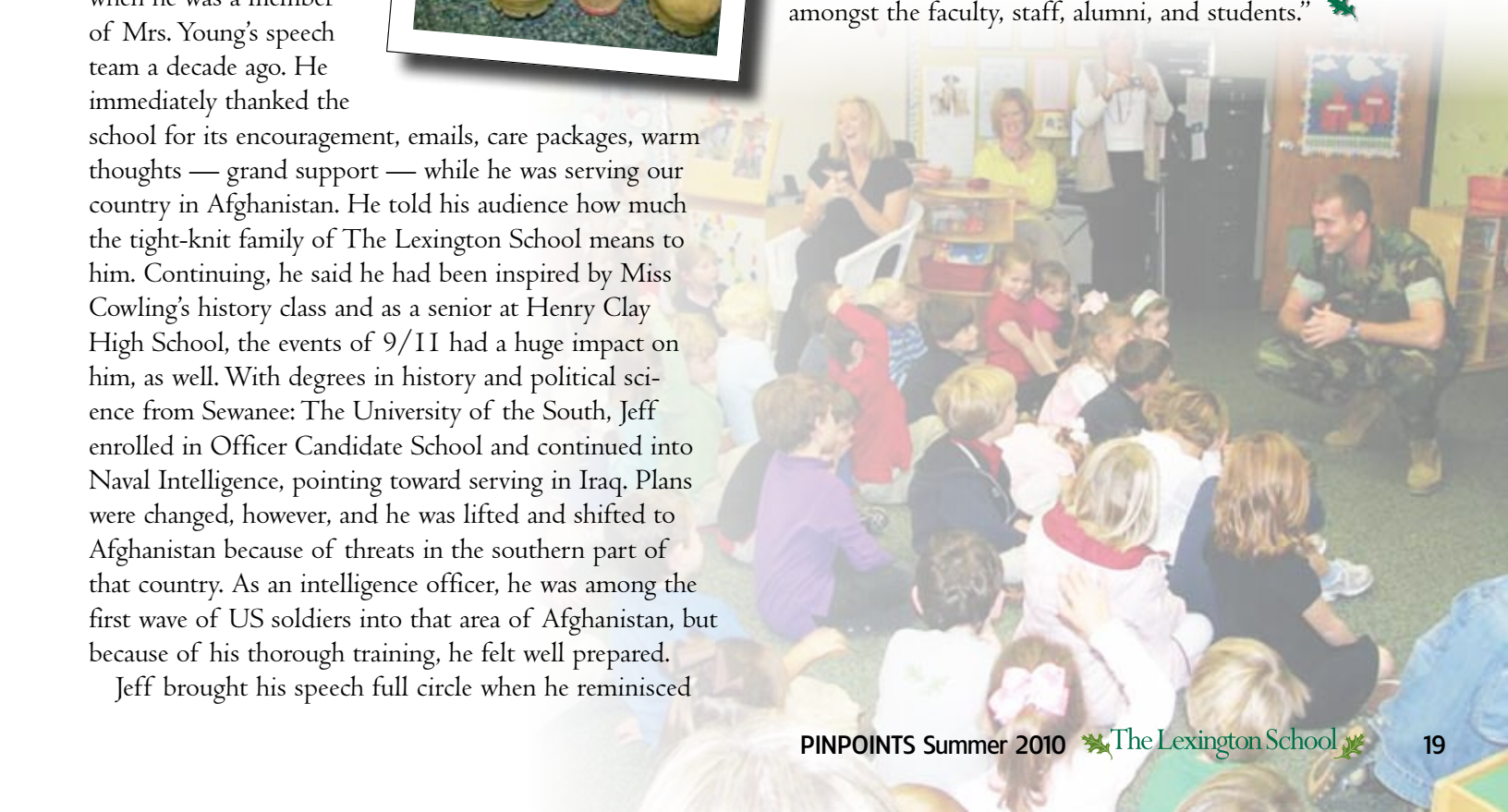


Jeff brought his speech full circle when he reminisced that his thoughts on leadership began to form during his ninth grade Southwest trip, where he especially relished the team building of the canyoneering experience. There he began to think that, "Maybe I can be a good leader." Telling the students that one's "greatest asset is yourself," he also emphasized the importance of physical fitness. Running the mile once a week for Mr. Tom Parlanti was only the beginning, and Jeff stressed the importance of setting obtainable goals, achieving them, and continuing until the mission is accomplished.

Again and again, Jeff emphasized his profound appreciation to the entire Lexington School family for its support during his deployment. "All of the letters, packages, and prayers that came from there, are truly indicative of both the character of TLS, and the unique bond that is forged amongst the faculty, staff, alumni, and students."



Jeff and his parents, Mimi and Greg, enjoy looking at an old yearbook with Greg Gunn.



Learning in

Paying tribute to Aristotle, Socrates, and Plato, James A. Garfield, 20th President of the United States, said all that was necessary for learning was a teacher and a student at opposite ends of a log. The Lexington School Middle School with its brightly lit halls, resource-packed classrooms, outstanding grounds, and excellent teachers offers its students much more than an oak log to provide dialog and intellectual development; nonetheless, Middle Schoolers through essays and group discussions have disseminated their education into three stripped-down categories: challenging work, abiding friendships, and integrity. Each category offers life-skills that provide as solid a foundation as that log.

A general consensus from students in The Lexington School Middle School is that "the work is tough but worth it." They are well aware, though, of the finely tuned network that the school has constructed to help them circumnavigate the demands of the curriculum. Sixth and seventh graders in particular are grateful for teachers who are "always willing to give up their time to sit down one-on-one to go over anything until you understand." They acknowledge that they've been pushed past their limits by PE teachers, and because of that, they are now in shape. They appreciate small class sizes and realize how hard their teachers work to teach personal organization, note taking, test-taking skills, good listening habits, and the importance of setting goals alongside core science, English, Spanish, math, and history classes. One student, rather new to the school, put it this way: "At TLS I learned that work is not a laughing matter but that you can still have fun while working. In science we do cool labs that help us understand why things work. Also, in English we work with partners who will help us understand something if we don't get it. Plus, all the teachers are nice and eager to help. Every teacher shows us effective and fun ways to learn new things." Another said, "In classes we learn everything from the imperfect tense of –er verbs in Spanish to the formula for velocity in science. Most of all we learn the skills that we can use in classes here and when we're older, in the workplace. We learn how to use our time wisely and how to prevent procrastination. These are skills we won't forget." Several students quoted *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*: "Study hard and you will be rewarded; fail to do so and the consequences will be severe." It appears that the severe consequence at TLS, though, is the disappointment that students feel in themselves for failing to study ahead for a test, for forgetting to stay focused and attentive in class, and for having to face a messy, disorganized locker. Students talk about long and short-term goals, and are proud when they can say as one student did, "I have learned to excel in almost all classes this year."





Alongside the class work, Middle School can be all about the agony and ecstasy of friends, friends, friends. From student discussions about friends, the role of advisors, the dean, and the division head pops up with frequency. Advice such as "Walk away from the drama," and the quotation, "If you fight fire with fire, all you get is more fire," are important for adolescents to hear as they learn to maneuver the friendship waters. One student admitted, "Getting along with everyone and being nice hasn't always been the easiest thing for me." Another said, "I've learned that in order to









the Middle

By Ann Eames







have a friend, you have to be a friend." Advisor group, life in the hallways, lunch tables, and group interactions in class foster a safe social laboratory for healthy friendship skills to be honed.

Three trips highlight Middle School at TLS and afford the opportunities for friendship building: the sixth grade trip to Green River, a wilderness experience near Brevard, NC; the seventh grade ocean experience on Barrier Island; and the eighth grade camping and hiking throughout the desert southwest. One seventh grader wrote: "This year we went to Barrier Island in South Carolina for a week. On this trip we were in cabins of eight people, two bathrooms, and one shower. We did a lot of hiking and other things with our group. On that trip I learned how to get along better with a lot of my classmates. Another thing that I have learned about is how to be a better person."

One young woman summed up the friendship component of Middle School this way: "Friends are what make Middle School worth it, and therefore it's crucial that you know how to make friends and keep them. Meeting, keeping, and dealing with friendship issues is a major part of the middle school experience, and it is almost as important as academics."

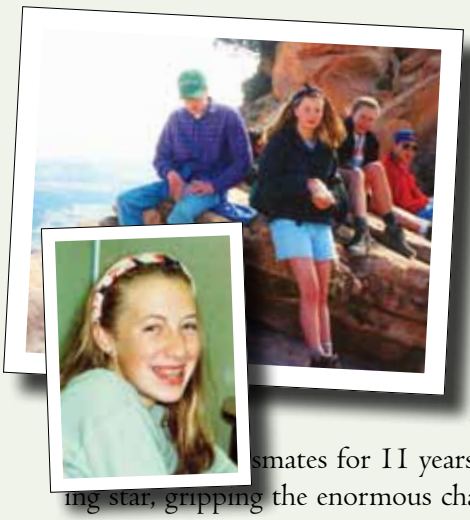
A third component of education that is pivotal at TLS is integrity, which TLS students are taught and expected to practice. Every fall sixth, seventh, and eighth grade students gather with their teachers in the theater in a solemn ceremony where sixth graders and new students sign the Student Honor Code. The code states that students won't lie, cheat, or steal. From one student's point of view, "Because we signed the honor code, we are promising that we will be mentors to the younger children, and we will have upstanding character." Another said, "By following this it seems like you can trust more of your classmates." And a third said, "Honor means much more to me now that I have acted on it, read about it, and signed my name in a promise." The bottom line is, "Keeping my honor or not keeping it may influence others."

The school's Guidelines for Success also help to instill qualities that lead to upstanding character. The Guidelines urge students to "practice responsibility" and to "treat everyone with courtesy and respect." Teachers hold students and themselves to these standards, and students have the right to expect them of one another. One student said, "The teachers are like role models. The way they respond and decide sets an example for Middle Schoolers. They help build character in the students and show them how to set goals and how to reach them. They help the students succeed, and when students fail, they help them get back on their feet." Students say, "I think before I do something," "being respectful is a big deal," and "being polite is one of the main morals I think is important." Another said, "My character has been tested when I am having a bad day, but I know I have to think of the positives." Yet another said, "Being popular or pretty doesn't mean you have upstanding character. Actually it's those who are just flat-out nice who have the best character. In my opinion somebody with character is somebody that is friends with everyone, caring, sympathetic, reliable, honest, and nice. Every day I try to meet these standards. As you can see, being a successful middle school student is something you choose yourself."

Aristotle said, "Moral excellence comes about as a result of habit. We become just by doing just acts, temperate by doing temperate acts, brave by doing brave acts." In addition to moral excellence, it is apparent that middle school students become accomplished by practicing effective study habits and good friends through applying the guidance of respected adults and being tuned in to others. Together these qualities form an oak solid foundation - all part of learning in Middle School at The Lexington School.

PAYING THE DEBT OF GRATITUDE FORWARD

By Beth Medina Ewen '94



Any one of my friends can attest to the fact I have always loved the American West. Mr. Hardesty's geology field trip only reaffirmed and strengthened my appreciation for its rugged landscape and intriguing history. Even though I had known smates for 11 years, seeing my first shooting star, gripping the enormous chain as we ascended Angel's Rock, and water sliding down the smooth boulders into a beautiful and frigid stream, enabled us to bond even more closely. Although I graduated in 1994, TLS remains an important influence in my life. My closest friendships remain the ones I formed as a lower school student.

I remember the exact moment it clicked with me while we examined rocks from various geologic times through the Grand Canyon. Perhaps it is my vivid memory of that "A-ha!" moment with Mr. Hardesty that inspires me each day as a fourth grade teacher at Louisville Collegiate School. His challenging assignments were always supported with guidance and a sense of humor that made me more willing to take academic risks. Miss Cowling dazzled me daily with fantastic history lectures and her inspiration undoubtedly led to my history major at Washington and Lee University. The poetry and book club discussions I lead with my students are rooted in English class with Mrs. Eames. When I help a child after school, I am reminded and grateful to Mrs. Walker, who spent extra time with me until I mastered long division. As a teacher, I have a new appreciation for all of the special activities a TLS education provides. From the historical walking tour of downtown Lexington to the environmental lessons of Bradford Woods, the faculty consistently engaged and stretched me to approach learning from a global perspective and encouraged me to become an active participant in my community.

The compassion and patience of Mrs. Walker, wit and wisdom of Miss Cowling, the lively discussions facilitated by Mrs. Eames, and Mr. Hardesty's ability to make everything perfectly relevant serve as the cornerstones for what I try to create in my classroom. It is impossible to fully show the deep gratitude I feel to my former teachers, but I am hopeful I will pay it forward to the next generation.

How to Spot a TLS



A LIFE'S CALLING

By John F. Fox

When I reflect on my years at TLS, the most vivid images that emerge are the vitality, inquisitiveness, empathy, and earnestness of middle schoolers. Seen through the lens of a teacher who began his career not sure about whether teaching middle school students was of interest, I can only say that Mr. Pritchett was right: the middle years find you, and if it is a good match, it will be a life's calling. Probably the most intriguing aspect of teaching this age group is the recognition that students are in a constant state of change. Middle school teachers, at least in my case, have the faces of students indelibly etched in their memories in the students' early adolescent phase. I am always shocked to see photos of former students as adults, because in my mind they are frozen in time.



Middle Schooler



Some exuded confidence; others seemed shy and somewhat awkward. Some were gangly, while others were more physically mature. Time, however, erases or morphs these mental snapshots.

What I have enjoyed most about teaching this age group is to have had the privilege of working with students who experience school and life's successes and failures each in their own way. Dances, sports, classes, and field and class trips are but a few of the ways that we get to know our students. I have special memories of the joys and vicissitudes of spending a week every year at Pine Mountain Settlement School. From birds in the boys' dorm to late night trips to the Appalachian Regional Medical Center for stitches, Pine Mountain inevitably became the source of many tales for years to come. Classroom pranks (often so funny and yet endearing) also rank high on my list of never-to-be-forgotten moments. From Mr. Brost's classroom being relocated outside to the field behind school to "voices" in Mrs. Cox's math class, the joyful and respectful bond between TLS students and faculty was evident in the smiles of all involved. An equally memorable TLS tradition was the year-end Ninth Grade Show, which inevitably led to a showcase of talent as well as some good-natured ribbing of faculty and classmates alike. I remember vividly a skit that involved a student who had Mr. Parlanti's mannerisms down to a tee!



TLS is a place that nurtures and challenges its students. Middle schoolers, without fail, have the knack for testing limits, feigning disinterest, and pulling away from adults. Despite these age-appropriate behaviors, I have many, many more memories of students who loved their school and their classmates, who wanted to learn and be challenged, and who cared deeply about others. It never ceases to amaze me how much fun it was to teach at TLS. Talented students, caring families, and highly professional colleagues made for an exciting log from which to learn while teaching. It is with fondness and an abiding love for the school and its students that I offer these heartfelt words of reflection.



Author John F. Fox with his wife Cathy. Dr. Fox is currently Director of Middle School at Worcester Academy, Worcester, MA. He taught Spanish and history at The Lexington School from 1976 until 1996, served as Chairman of the Foreign Language Department and acted as interim Head of Upper School.

Collection of Recollections

Recalling the 50th Anniversary Celebration

I can't tell you what a joy it was to be at The Lexington School for its 50th Anniversary. It brought back so many wonderful memories of the beginning. Seeing all the former headmasters and chatting with them about their time at the school. Lots of good feelings and laughs. I can hardly believe … what has occurred in the fifty years when the seed was planted. My father told me to choose an idea to do something to give back to the community, and when I chose to build a school, I never in my wildest dreams thought it would turn into the success that has evolved there on Lane Allen Road. I am so impressed with the teaching staff and also with the outstanding job Chuck Baldecchi has done in putting it all together.

Ms. Josephine Abercrombie (H'00)
Founder, 1959

Please give everybody a hug, especially Todd and Jessica.They are perfect examples of what teachers' highest hopes are — that their students are happy inside and successful on the outside.

Mrs. Claire Clay
Fifth Grade, Science, Art Teacher, 1959 – 1962

The celebration of 50 years for The Lexington School------words fail me! It was marvelous, heart-warming, exciting, and joyful. My special delight began with seeing Bud Pritchett again. In thanking him for making all this possible for me, I asked if it was blind faith in a teacher who had no previous experience at this level or if it was a desperate need to fill a mathematics position that led to my hiring. I saw that gentle smile, that mischievous twinkle in his eye, as he diplomatically responded, "A little bit of both!" All I can say is that, for whatever reason, I am grateful. My years at TLS and the relationships formed with students, parents, and other faculty members have enhanced my life. After the celebration weekend was over, the most lingering emotions I felt were pride and affection. I am so proud of each student I saw, those whom I recognized instantly and those for whom it took a few moments of conversation. The girls have all become beautiful young women, and the boys have grown into tall and handsome gentlemen. What happened to those little squirrelly seventh, eighth, and ninth graders with the big bright eyes, avid curiosities, and inquiring minds? The Lexington School has earned every right to celebrate!

Mrs. Betty Cox
Math Teacher, 1978 – 1994

The October reunion weekend prompted a myriad of fond remembrances from my years as a TLS librarian. Certainly moving into a new, more spacious library in 1986 was a major event—as was boxing up the contents of the old one as bulldozers launched the excavation for the new classroom wing, grinding ahead of schedule toward the wall directly behind my desk. However, most memorable to me are the people, both students and faculty, with whom I worked for fifteen years. Teachers promoted books and reading as eagerly as I did, and many students were avid readers with minimal encouragement. Enjoyable as those young bibliophiles were, some of my most entertaining experiences involved reluctant readers, particularly those who rushed into the library for a short "page turner" the day before a book report was due.

I recall such a visit one afternoon when a sixth grade boy, definitely not a reading enthusiast, listened politely to my summaries of a few new favorites and then responded, "Those sound good, so be sure to tell me about them the next time I need a book, but today I really want that little green book I read last year." With public relations outweighing guilt for my complicity in his short cut to a book report, I helped him find that book. However, I did extract a promise that he would try some new reading for future assignments. He kept his word, but I still think of him, grinning broadly, clutching a thin book with a green cover as he swung through the library doors—probably the most satisfied "customer" of my TLS years!

Mrs. Sandy Ireland
Librarian, 1978 – 1993

I went to the Friday night 80s party and the Main Event Saturday night. I loved them both, but they are a veritable blur of memories: snatches of conversations, glimpses of slightly familiar faces (with taller bodies) in the distance, embraces, and in some cases a few quite meaningful encounters after absences of many years. Also lots of laughs. It was much too brief....Whoever organized all that is a genius!

Congratulations to EVERYONE who had anything to do with the organization, and planning of the 50th TLS Anniversary! It was a wonderful weekend. What a love fest! Everyone who had ANYTHING to do with TLS and in any capacity seemed to be proud and happy to be there.

Mrs. Roberta Owen (H'00)
Physical Education Teacher, 1965 – 1998

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Alumni *Profile*

GAINING HEATHER

Heather Clay '86 made The Lexington School eighth grade class an important stop on her promo tour less than a month after her first novel, *Losing Charlotte*, was published by Alfred A. Knopf. Choosing on the spur of the moment to pull up a nearby rocking chair instead of addressing the class from the podium, she immediately engaged her middle school audience by asking each of the students to tell her something positive about their fellow classmates. Remembering the warmly nurturing environment of her school years on Lane Allen Road, she encouraged the students to believe in themselves when their TLS teachers tell them they have a particular aptitude for a subject or a sport, and "not be intimidated to take it out in the real world." With her trademark sparkle of a smile, she told her audience, "You're lucky to be here."

Taking questions from the floor, Heather described parts of her journey from the last afternoon she sat in a Lexington School classroom. Recommending the job of an intern as a strong beginning to a career, she explained she had begun in that position at *The New Yorker.* She was part of the group who worked on the slush pile, going through unsolicited short stories and poems for the magazine, deciding "is this good enough to give to my boss?"

"What is your book about?" and "How did you approach the writing of the novel?" were two good questions that allowed Heather's audience to get to know her better, as they listened to her brief synopsis of *Losing Charlotte*. More in depth was her reply regarding the actual writing of the book from opening paragraph to last sentence, which took nine years and included the births of her two daughters, Amelia, six, and May, three.





The teacher and the author. Heather's father, Robert Clay, said, "Heather loves The Lexington School. She has always said that Ann Eames *(pictured, right)* is the best English teacher she has ever had ... and she's had a lot of mighty good English teachers."

When asked if she were considering a sequel, she said she is "working on something new that's not a sequel." In answer to the question, "How much time do you get for reading?", she emphasized, "I do a lot of reading. Don't get me wrong, I do turn on the TV, but I'd rather be reading." She hasn't read the *Twilight Books* yet, though she is reading *Harry Potter* "right now with my six-year-old." Virginia Woolf's *To the Lighthouse* is a favorite, as is James Salter's *Light Years*.

Heather's crowd was impressed to learn that *Losing Charlotte* is already in its second printing. Interesting, as well, to learn was that during her successful book signing at The Corner Bookstore in Manhattan, the store windows facing Madison Avenue were completely filled, top to bottom, with ... *Losing Charlotte.*

Of course Heather's student audience wanted to know about her favorite memories of TLS, and after a moment or two's thoughts, she smiled and said, "Probably when I was your age." Reminiscing about the sometimes wacky wardrobe choices that were made back in the '80s, she remembered, too, how much she loved being with her wonderful advisor group. Laughing out loud at the thought of her funniest memory, she emphasized the exceptional closeness of her class, the warm and abiding friendships that remain as strong today as they were 25 years ago.

Our Yesterdays

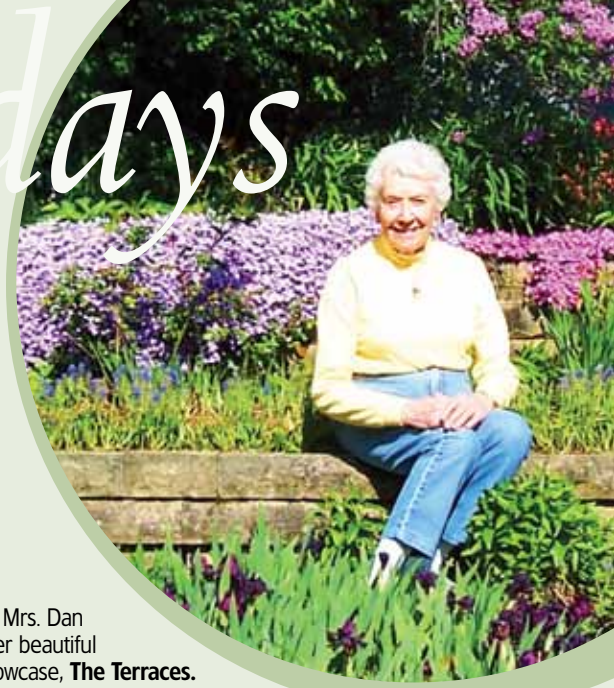
Looking Back with TLS

Fifty Years Ago — 1960

On Monday morning, May 16, as third grade teacher Margaret Imrie walked into her classroom, she found her desk covered from one end to the other by the entire blanket of black-eyed Susans from the winner's circle of the Preakness Stakes at Pimlico Race Course in Maryland, compliments of the family of her student, **Ernie Arnold '66**, whose father led the syndicate that owned the winner, Bally Ache. The Arnolds had carried the blanket of flowers into her room in a big banana box as a surprise to her. "It was one of those unbelievable moments."

Miss Imrie's responsibilities also included teaching physical education to the girls. With her background playing field hockey as a young girl in Scotland at the United Kingdom's oldest co-educational day and boarding school, Dollar Academy, near River Forth, it was automatic that her Lexington School students also be exposed to the sport.

Miss Imrie was the music teacher as well. The second Christmas the school was open, she and fellow teacher Hillyer Rudisill III organized a program, including the entire school, of nine lessons and carols. The older students composed the choir, and Grace Webber's Kindergarteners were the tableaux. A kind parent donated the use of an organ, and Miss Imrie took her shoes off to work the foot pedals.



Miss Imrie — now Mrs. Dan Johnstone — in her beautiful Mansfield, OH, showcase, **The Terraces.**

During that winter, when it snowed and the children couldn't go outside, third graders measured the length of each of the school hallways and the distance from their classroom down to the front office using yardsticks. In the warmth of spring, the children got out their rugs and did their reading and spelling outside, under the trees.

Third graders each had individualized reading assignments, and when Miss Imrie read aloud to the class, she chose particular books that she thought would be important for the children to know. *Winnie the Pooh* was a favorite as was *The Wind in the Willows.*

The Lexington School's phone number was 7-7481.

Pinpoints is a newsletter published by The Lexington School. Administrative Team: Charles Baldecchi, Marijo Foster, Amanda Hale, Donna Hutton, Una MacCarthy, Beth Pride, Bob Thompson. Writer/Editor: Lucy J. McKinstry '66. Photography: Meredith Carrithers, David Coyle, Bill Eames, Lucy J. McKinstry '66, Bill Patterson '81, school files. Copy Editor & Contributor: Ann Eames. Artwork: Cissy Hamilton. Graphic Design: *www.mickjeffries.com*. Please address comments to *lmckinstry@thelexingtonschool.org* Visit our website: *www.thelexingtonschool.org*

This edition of *Pinpoints* was printed on FSC-certified chorus art paper. 55% recycled fibers – 30% post-consumer.

Thank You

Lexington School Community

For 50 unforgettable years, a joyful birthday celebration, and your continued support as we begin our next 50 years!

The Lexington School

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From *The Archives*



Dressed to the nines for a big evening at the TLS Spring Dance are 1987 classmates Patrick Mills, Joe Aldy, Brian Weinberg, and Scott Chamberlin.