Immersed in Foreign Language & Culture
ON EXHIBIT

Central Park
Robert J. Brodie
Ilford 400 ASA B&W/Nikon FM Series with 24MM Nikkor wide angle lens
Alumni Show: Robert J. Brodie ’77
May 21–June 9 — The Romano Gallery
Soon some Blair students will participate in the Blair Summer School in Ecuador—a language immersion program coupled with a focus on community service. Like so many other language students who have benefited from similar Blair programs abroad, this group anticipates the experience of a lifetime.

From occupational therapists, to business executives, to real estate brokers, Blair’s young alumni are making their mark in the world. The second annual Young Alumni Society of Skeptics program featured a panel of dynamic young alums offering advice to their student audience.

Again this year, Bob Neff ’49, an emeritus Trustee and former aviation industry executive, taught “The American Corporation,” an eight-week, not-for-credit course. Bob reflects on the program, its intentions and the success it has garnered since its 2004 inception.

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Students enrolled in Blair’s Summer School in Ecuador, a language immersion program, will travel to the market town of Otavalo, pictured with the Andes in the background. Similar Spring Break trips—a staple in Blair’s curriculum—to China, France and Germany afford opportunities to practice classroom learning and absorb native culture. See story on page 4. At right, a familiar spring scene on campus. Photo by Bruce Cramer.

Cover photo credit: Digital Vision
One of the most frequent questions that at some point nearly everyone asks me—parents, prospective faculty members, alumni, even friends who are not directly connected with Blair—goes something like this: What is the greatest challenge you face as Headmaster?

The answer is simply this: the greatest challenge I face each year is making certain that Blair is truly an educational community—rather than a collection of individuals—and making sure that the educational community we create is Blair. In other words, I seek to find ways to raise the consciousness of our students to both the real place called Blair and to the ideal place, the Blair community, which is filled with people from different backgrounds, with different talents and different outlooks on life. And to make this place—this Blair—a reality, our students have to reach beyond their natural adolescent self-absorption.

I hasten to add that this is not just a challenge for the students here but is also our challenge as a larger school family: the faculty, staff, students, parents and alumni are all in this community-building together. If any one part—as a group—feels disenfranchised or disconnected, then the whole ideal wobbles. Of course, as individual members of the Blair family, those groups are sometimes strong and vibrant in their connection, or sometimes less focused and less involved. But there it is: the challenge. And it is a challenge each year, each time we gather as a school family to make announcements, to hear a chapel speaker, to come to celebrate Parents’ Weekend, to attend the All-Alumni meeting—every time those who have Blair as part of their life come together.

Meeting that annual challenge actually starts months before the new community comes together. Near the end of each winter, I always look in on the admissions staff in committee meetings as they pore over applications and determine whom to invite to the Blair community. This year Blair again saw record-breaking numbers of applicants, and for perhaps the first time in Blair admissions history, the School offered acceptances to fewer than half of those who had hopefully presented themselves for consideration. Given that, we can expect the new Blair students to be diverse in background and abilities, bright and eager to attend Blair.

The last quality—the “eagerness” to be here—has proven critical to meeting the challenge of building a thriving academic community and a connection to Blair. Young men and women who want to be here inevitably handle the academic demands, the daily stress of time management and the expectation of self-discipline much better than those who are not as committed to Blair. Moreover, because they all want to be here, the present Blair girls and boys much more easily overcome the overall strangeness of their new classmates, understanding that it is only a cheerful word or inclusive conversation that begins the path from stranger to friend.

When in those first few days of September we at Blair gather together, I always ask and remind the old Blair students, now in their second, third or final year, to pass on the culture and traditions of Blair to those newly arrived. The faculty and I know that the willingness of an older, more veteran student to lead a younger, new student is one of the keys to developing a connected community. As faculty members, we are already expected to lead, to exert ourselves for the common good of the group, but when students take on that challenge, the Blairness of Blair truly begins to bind us together.

By the spring, having gone through the dark, cold days of winter in boarding school, days which at times tend to fray the edges of our spirit, the community re-forms again, this time to welcome newly admitted students when they “visit-back,” and later as seniors approach graduation and face the final days of their time as students in the great class of whatever year, or when younger students sweep out their rooms, pack their bags, say good-byes and look forward to summer even as they know they will look forward to coming back to Blair at summer’s end. Such moments hold us close to the community we have created that year.

Yet the challenge is not just with the current student body but also with the larger Blair community—those who have graduated, gone to college and moved on; those for whom Blair did much, but for whom Blair means less now because of time, distance and the normal distractions of life far removed from Blair days. Thus, when Greg Auger ’67 decides to call every one of his former classmates to catch up with them before their 40th Reunion, or when Carter Crewe ’63 starts an e-mail drive to reconnect the Class of 1963, or Jack Bogle ’47 wants to speak to the Old Guard at his 60th Reunion—these moments of alumni involvement and loyalty bring the Blair community to another, even higher definition of the annual forming and re-forming of the community. So the answer to the question, “What is the greatest challenge?” is each year creating a new Blair community and binding together the many Blair communities created in years gone by. Meeting that challenge is also the greatest joy of being a headmaster.
Students “Sink or Swim” When Traveling Abroad
This past fall, Don Morley and his wife Susan joined the faculty at Blair, where Don serves as chairman of the language department and teaches Spanish and where Susan teaches art. Don, who earned his M.A. in Spanish from Middlebury College, previously taught at the Berkshire School since 1976, where he also chaired the foreign language department. As director of the Blair Summer School in Ecuador, which runs from June 18 to July 19, Don is well versed in the opportunities such an experience can provide. While at Berkshire, he directed a similar program for eight summers. He also lived in Ecuador for two years as a Peace Corps volunteer. Recently he discussed the upcoming excursion to Ecuador, as well as the benefits of language immersion programs coupled with a focus on community service.
Like many such programs of its kind, Don notes that Blair Summer School in Ecuador has two major goals. “The first is to improve the students’ proficiency in Spanish,” he says. “The second is to increase their cross-cultural sensitivity regarding daily life in Latin America. It is remarkable how most alumni of such programs gain an increased interest in language and cross-cultural studies once they return from South America. They really understand the value of foreign language acquisition.”

He adds, “For one month, students will study and live high in the Andes in the Republic of Ecuador. We begin the program with three nights in the capital city of Quito, a United Nations World Cultural Heritage site. From Quito, we will travel to the market town of Otavalo, stopping on the equator en route. We will then journey to the Amazon basin, where we will spend three nights in a remote jungle lodge. Following our stay in the rain forest, we will return to the Andes, spending two more days in the northern part of the country before driving to yet another United Nations World Cultural Heritage site, Cuenca. This will be our home for the next three weeks.”

Don indicates that Quesna, a city of 300,000 established by the Spaniards in 1557, is an ideal setting for the program. It lies on the Pan American Highway at an altitude of 8,500 feet. Due to its close proximity to the equator and high elevation, the average temperature is about 75 degrees. The city’s center retains much of its colonial architecture and resulting charm. Students will reside with Ecuadorian families and attend Spanish language classes at the Centro de Estudios Intereamericanos (CEDEI) in Cuenca.

Don emphasizes the fact that students experience life in Ecuador on an intimate basis. “During our time in Cuenca, they attend three hours of Spanish language class and 45 minutes of Latin American studies every morning, returning to their families’ homes for the traditional midday meal. After lunch, they come back to CEDEI for an afternoon cultural program, including service work in local schools and orphanages. In the evenings, the students spend time with their families. We also will spend a weekend in the rural village of Principal, where the students will see another aspect of Ecuadorian life.” Depending on their focus, students who attend the summer school will be awarded 1.5 credits in either Andean Culture or Spanish Language Immersion.

Don notes that advanced Spanish students are not the only ones who can benefit from such an immersion experience. “While we expect that these students in particular will be attracted to this program, they are certainly not the only target group. A basic premise of the foreign language department is that every one of our students can learn to speak a foreign language. Often the students who have difficulties in the traditional language classroom benefit the most from an immersion program such as this. Using Spanish in context on a daily basis with a host family gives a relevancy that the classroom cannot match.”

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Francophiles in the Making

During Spring Break, a group of Blair students, along with faculty chaperone Maria Bowditch, enjoyed a home-stay and community service trip to Normandy and Paris for 12 days. For one week, they lived with families from the French high school, Henri Cornat, a boarding and day school with grades 10–12 in the town of Valognes, located three hours north of Paris in the Normandy peninsula.

In 2005, Maria traveled to Valognes to research the possibility of beginning this program. She visited the local school and met many of the district’s teachers during her stay there. She said, “This trip provided students with a great opportunity to improve their French communication skills in real-life situations. Certainly the important historic ties between the United States and Normandy since the war made for cordial relations and a sincere interest in dialogue that continue today.”

Each morning, Blair students attended classes with their host students. In the afternoon, they ate lunch with the school community and performed community service projects in pairs at the local elementary school, senior citizen center and various shops in town, returning to their host families in time for dinner. The group also traveled to Paris where they visited monuments, museums, and neighborhoods.
“FINAL BOARDING CALL FOR FLIGHT 345 TO PARIS, FRANCE,” echoed over the loudspeakers of Newark International Airport as Emma Small ’07, a senior at Blair Academy, anxiously waited to embark on a three-week study program. A backpack slung over her shoulder bulged with magazines and books to pass the time on the six-hour flight ahead of her, while two large suitcases lay at her feet. “I was nervous. I had no idea what to expect, and this was my first time traveling alone,” said Emma.

Like many students who have done summer programs overseas, Emma was placed with a host family where she stayed while attending classes at a French school. Completely immersed in the French culture and way of life, her language skills immediately improved. “It’s amazing how quickly you can learn a language when you are forced to,” she said.

Engracia Jameson, a Spanish teacher at Blair, fully supports international study programs and says, “They are the best way to truly pick up a new language.” In addition to full immersion language programs, there are many opportunities that allow for teaching or volunteer work while traveling at the same time. “Traveling mixed with volunteer work is the best way to see the world,” said Erica Stine ’07, who participated in a summer program in Costa Rica and a semester at the Island School in the Bahamas.

Every year at Blair Academy, at least one of the departments takes students on a trip during the long March break. Three years ago, Jason Beck and Quint Clarke ’87, both history teachers, took a group of students to Vietnam and Cambodia for a three-week trip traveling from city to countryside and art museum to orphanage. While they mostly focused on traveling and seeing Vietnam War memorials and museums, the students also volunteered at a local orphanage in Cambodia. Raissa Hoffman ’07, a sophomore at the time, was particularly moved. “When you saw their [the children’s] little faces, it broke your heart; you couldn’t help but want to save them all.”

During their trip, the group visited Saigon and Hanoi, as well as the infamous “killing fields” in Cambodia, where it is estimated nearly 3,000,000 people were massacred when the Khmer Rouge communist party ruled. “You can’t describe how you feel when you’re standing atop something like that,” Raissa added, reflecting on the experience.
Alumnus Reveals Intel’s CEO

The December 12 edition of USA Today featured an article by Kevin Maney on a new biography written by Richard Tedlow ’65 about Intel’s CEO Andy Grove. Maney began by noting, “The juiciest bits in [the book] are the memos, never before made public…They are Grove in the moment and uncut, an everyday view of a complex personality that can be affectionate, vulgar, demanding and funny.”

Said Maney, “The management concoction Grove cooked up obviously worked. Tedlow is a Harvard Business School professor who has written papers and books about nearly every great CEO. I ask him where he’d put Grove on the list of U.S. business all-stars, and Tedlow exclaims, ‘No. 1!’ Which is reason enough to try to understand Grove. He co-founded Intel and ran it from 1987 to 1998. During that time, Intel’s stock market value increased more than 4,500%, from $4 billion to $197 billion, briefly the most valuable company on Earth. Time named him Man of the Year in 1997.”

Maney, noting that other books have been penned about Grove, continued, “So what can Tedlow’s Andy Grove: The Life and Times of an American, out last month, bring to the table? Well, for one, Grove gave Tedlow access to just about everything he saved, and that’s how we get the memos that reveal how Grove thought at various times. I especially like the ones that show how he reacted to daily business problems. ‘I see no real improvements in the discipline of our doing business,’ he wrote to his staff in 1993. ‘Organization redundance is large, external meetings ... proliferate and we go into them unprepared with me doing last-minute temper tantrums.’

Maney added, “Tedlow also brings historical perspective. I've interviewed Grove many times, and Tedlow and I chatted about how Grove has always seemed happy and balanced—unlike many of the driven, tortured souls who run companies. ‘That itself is a triumph,’ Tedlow says. ‘The story of the man’s life is an inspiration.’ Grove lost family at Auschwitz. He had scarlet fever as a child, prostate cancer in middle age and now has Parkinson’s disease. He saw Intel nearly fail in 1986, when the Japanese stormed into memory chips, forcing Intel to switch to microprocessors—the guts of PCs.”

Tedlow told Maney, “Grove doesn’t allow himself to be defeated. He loved his work and was a virtuoso at it and knew it. He was a ham, so giving 100 presentations in 1997 was a pleasure for him. Unlike a lot of CEOs, he traveled less. He liked to be home for dinner. When his daughters were in a school play, he went. He was and is devoted to (his wife) Eva. He was able to compartmentalize. When he worked, he was extremely efficient. His cubicle was tiny and well-organized. And when he decides to stop, he stops.”

Tedlow added that despite the 14 months of research he did on Grove, “There is to me a mystery about the man I can’t decode.” He told Maney that Grove often responded to him in “uncommon ways.” Tedlow traveled to Budapest and found the apartment Grove escaped from during the 1956 rebellion against Soviet occupation. “I sent him an e-mail from the apartment and said, ‘I’m in your apartment that you escaped from.’ He wrote back, ‘Good for you.’ ”

Tedlow told Maney, “Grove was a tough act to follow. He was in the right place at the right time. He had ‘earned luck’—that’s the Intel phrase. [Now] Intel has to spread its wings into thousands of areas it’s not familiar with. In Grove’s time, if you wanted to make it at Intel, you went into microprocessors. So it’s tough for them to get into other areas.”

Maney concluded his article on Tedlow’s book by writing, “For what it’s worth, I e-mailed Grove to ask what he thought of Tedlow’s biography, which Grove did not see until it was published. ‘The descriptions of the Intel years are excellent,’ Grove replied. ‘They ring true and give a better feel of the real Silicon Valley than anything else I’ve read. He [Tedlow] also does a very good job explaining what the process of making complex decisions is.’ Grove added, ‘All of this is said with the expertise of one who has gone through these events and the detachment and objectivity you can expect from the subject of a biography.’

“At the end of that sentence—once again defying his image as a tough, analytical super-achiever—Grove added a smiley face.”
Deng and NBA Make a Difference in Darfur

Fans of Luol Deng ’00 voted him in when casting ballots for which of the five best NBA players should start the annual all-star game in Las Vegas this past February. Coverage in United Kingdom’s The Independent (January 12 edition) featured an interview with Luol by Brian Viner, who wrote, “The [Chicago] Bulls’ No 9 jersey is his, but an even more precious possession is his British passport. ‘I just got it,’ he tells me, with a smile that on a dark winter’s night could light up the south side of Chicago. ‘I played for the English national team while I was growing up, and I was even a spokesman for London’s Olympic bid, but I didn’t get the passport until a few weeks ago.’ ”

Viner continued, “Deng’s background explains why he so cherishes a simple document. He was born into an affluent family in Sudan, where his father, Aldo, was a prominent politician who had served as minister of irrigation (so important in Sudan that it gets its own ministry), of transport, of culture, and as deputy prime minister. But in 1989 the government was overthrown and Sharia law imposed. Aldo Deng, a member of the Christian and mainly southern Sudanese Dinka tribe, was imprisoned for three months, then released and given the unenviable job of conciliating the Christian south and the Muslim north. Fearing for his family’s well-being if he failed, Aldo packed them off to Alexandria in Egypt. Luol, the eighth of nine siblings, was four years old.”

During the course of his article, which includes Luol’s journey to Blair, Viner recounts his rise to stardom on the court. Bringing readers up to the present, Viner noted, “Luol’s points-per-game average is an impressive 17.6, and against Cleveland a fortnight ago he netted a career-best total of 32. He is a hot property and getting hotter. As for his high salary that a year from now will be downright stratospheric, I ask him whether he feels an obligation to subsidise everyone in his huge family. It is an impertinent question and does not altogether deserve the elegant answer it receives. ‘That comes without thinking,’ he says. ‘I don’t feel like it’s a burden on my shoulders to help them, because it’s not my money, it’s our money. The one reason I am who I am is because of them. So the way I see it, they deserve it just as much as I do.’ The other really deserving cause in his life is the blighted Sudan, even though he has not returned since he left so hurriedly 17 years ago. ‘My dad is out there running my foundation and trying to help people. I am really passionate about promoting awareness of the Sudan, and my basketball allows me to shine a light into a place which for a lot of years was in the dark, to, like, bring some attention. I did a commercial here for the World Food Programme, and my mum told me that the house where I was born had actually been sold to the World Food Programme, as, like, a place to store grain and stuff. That just blew me away. I mean, wow, that’s amazing, right there.’ ”
Viner concluded, “With the salvation of one of the most benighted regions of the Third World as his motivation, it is no wonder his work ethic is solid. I ask him, finally, where he feels he comes from. ‘No matter what, I’m always Sudanese,’ he says. ‘You can tell when you look at me. But I feel English. I want to lead the Great Britain team in the 2012 Olympics. I’m not pushing Sudan out of the way. It just so happens that my dad tried to save his family, and we were lucky that Great Britain recognised our situation.’ In an age in which ‘asylum-seeker’ has become a dirty word, it is an uplifting and salutary tale.”

Just a few weeks earlier, news had broken concerning the Chicago Bulls’ donation of $100,000 to the United Nation’s World Food Program in Luol’s name. Sports reporter Christopher Cornell (for All Headline News) wrote, “The money will be used to help feed school children in the war-stricken Darfur region of the Sudan.”

Cornell explained, “Last June, Deng, the NBA and the Bulls produced a public service announcement as a call to help the suffering people in the war-torn country of the Sudan. It ran during the NBA playoffs. Deng also participated in the NBA’s Basketball Without Borders tour to Africa this summer. The Basketball Without Borders program is a roaming basketball camp that features NBA players who teach kids throughout the world the fundamentals of basketball. The program is an effort to try and increase interest in basketball throughout the world. Now the Bulls and Deng are getting involved with the UN World Food Program. The WFP’s food for education program provides school children with a free meal at school, ensuring that they will get at least one good nutritious meal a day. The [WFP] program helps kids concentrate on their studies rather than their hunger. It also helps boost attendance rates. Studies have shown that free school lunch programs increase attendance by 100 percent and also help with performance. WFP fed 21.7 million kids in 2007 in 72 countries. Last month alone, WFP fed 2.6 million children in Darfur.”

Jordan Dey, director of U.S. Relations for WFP, told Cornell, “This timely, generous donation will enable us to reach some 3,000 children in wartorn Darfur by giving them a meal in school for an entire school year. This wonderful gesture, in the holiday spirit, will also bring much-needed attention to the children of Sudan, who have suffered long years of conflict and deprivation.”

On March 11, The Chicago Tribune reported the following: “Luol Deng has been named a finalist for the J. Walter Kennedy Citizenship award, given annually to the NBA player who best combines on-court prowess with off-the-court community involvement. Deng joins the Pistons’ Chauncey Billups, the Lakers’ Kobe Bryant and the Suns’ Steve Nash as a finalist. Members of the Professional Basketball Writers Association vote for the winner, who will be honored by the league. Past winners of the Kennedy award include Dikembe Mutombo, Alonzo Mourning, David Robinson, Reggie Miller, Eric Snow and Kevin Garnett.”
Wall Street Journal Features NFL Films Founder

Allen Barra, in an October 18 article for The Wall Street Journal, profiled Steve Sabol, president of NFL Films, and his father, Ed Sabol ’36, who founded the Mt. Laurel, New Jersey-based business. Barra wrote, “The NFL Films complex in Mount Laurel, N.J., which cost more than $50 million, covers 200,000 square feet, including motion picture and television production and post-production studios. There were six employees at its inception; today there are almost 300. It’s more than a business headquarters: The corridors and seating areas are a virtual history of football in sport and popular culture, replete with such iconography as the program from the first Army-Navy game in 1893; the 22 New Yorker covers devoted to football; posters of football movies both famous (Jim Thorpe, All American with Burt Lancaster) and obscure (Two Minutes to Play with Herman Brix); and Steve Sabol’s own multimedia collages that juxtapose such unlikely images as Vince Lombardi, actress Debra Winger and 16th-century French essayist Montaigne. In addition to recording NFL games, compiling highlight films and creating specials on legendary coaches, players and teams, NFL Films handles projects as diverse as the football sequences from films like Rudy and Jerry Maguire to Bruce Springsteen’s MTV concert. NFL Films is an empire unlike any other in professional sports. Ed Sabol is, in the words of Bob Costas, ‘to sports media what Philip of Macedon was to kings. That would make Steve Alexander the Great.’ “

Barra added, “The dynasty began with a 16 mm hand-held movie camera that Ed, a discontented Philadelphia overcoat salesman, got from his father-in-law as a wedding present. His first subject was a prep-school game in which his son played; the tape became his audition for NFL Commissioner Pete Rozelle. Sabol won the rights to film the 1962 NFL championship game between the Green Bay Packers and New York Giants by offering Rozelle the staggering sum of $3,000—doubling the previous year’s bid. Within two years, Sabol’s company, Blair Productions, officially changed names when the 14 teams each put up $20,000 to finance NFL Films.” (See the Spring 2005 Blair Bulletin for a profile on Ed and NFL Films.)

After college, Steve returned to work with his father, a scenario Barra described as “a potentially explosive situation given two such dynamic personalities, but in this case a perfect marriage of business acumen and creativity.” Barra added, “The Sabols were there for the birth of the golden age of the National Football League and proved to be proficient midwives. They revolutionized the way professional sports were filmed and promoted, not just in the U.S. but internationally. Steve, in particular, was self-conscious about the mythology of football and how film could be used to enhance it. ‘From the beginning, we thought of ourselves as filmmakers, romantics and storytellers. We never used video. Video is too immediate, it’s right now. Film has texture and context.’ The first football film was made by Thomas Edison in 1894 when Rutgers played Princeton. The techniques hadn’t evolved much in the nearly 70 years between Edison’s
kinetoscope and Ed Sabol’s Bell & Howell. The year 1965 was pivotal. Things took a giant leap forward in 1965 when Rozelle, frustrated that pro football ratings lagged behind baseball and college football, determined that the NFL needed, as Steve describes it, ‘a mystique, an image.’ Their first promotional film, *They Call It Pro Football*, went a long way toward creating that mystique. ‘I like to think of it as the Citizen Kane of football films,’ says Steve Sabol, whose father retired in 1974. *Birth of a Nation*, the film credited by many critics with establishing the ‘grammar’ of the cinema, might be a better analogy.”

Barra continued, “All the characteristics of filmed football action that would soon become familiar to fans via highlight films (most notably those shown at halftime on ABC’s Monday Night Football) were first used in this production. Not all the league owners were happy with the innovations—the use of montage, super-slow motion, coaches and players wearing microphones, the full

orchestral background score (which emphasized cellos, tympani and Sabol’s own personal favorite, French horns) and, perhaps most memorably, the voice of John Facenda, a local Philadelphia anchorman whose resonant baritone would soon be referred to by sportswriters and TV critics as ‘The Voice of God.’ ‘For music, they wanted John Philip Sousa,’ Steve recalls. ‘For narration, they wanted a mainstream announcer, someone like Curt Gowdy.’ (Facenda narrated more than 150 NFL films before his death in 1983.) The owners began to change their minds after the documentary premiered at Toots Shor’s restaurant, and Rozelle’s enthusiasm was unbounded.”

Barra concluded, “NFL founder George Halas, one of the Sabols’ early critics, finally realized that, as he wrote to them, ‘The history of pro football will forever be preserved on film and not by the written word à la baseball.’ ” Barra said that Ed proudly told him, “Football had a history; we made it into mythology.”
Trustee Writes for Harvard Business Review
Blair Trustee Carolyn Buck Luce (pictured), global pharmaceutical sector leader for Ernst & Young and mother of Nathan Luce ’04, again co-authored an article for Harvard Business Review, this time for the December 2006 issue. Entitled, “Extreme Jobs: The Dangerous Allure of the 70-Hour Workweek,” the teaser reads, “Today’s overachieving professionals labor longer, take on more responsibility, and earn more than the workaholics of yore—and their numbers are growing.”

She previously co-authored an article for HBR in its March 2005 edition, entitled, “Off-Ramps and On-Ramps: Keeping Talented Women on the Road to Success.”

Men of Iron Ahead of Their Time
“Pumped Up,” an article in the January/February 2007 issue of Dartmouth Alumni Magazine, profiles three Dartmouth alumni, including Dan Anzel ’51, a member of Dartmouth’s Class of ’55, who collaborated on the feature with two other Dartmouth alums. It seems that Dan, his friends and three other students at the school, with permission, set up a weightlifting area in a corner of the gymnasium’s upper floor. Dan notes, “We were sort of ‘pioneers.’ No school [at the time] even allowed strength-training with weights. Now, all do! Thus, this article.” Excerpts follow:

“What do you guys think you’re doing?” Those words came bellowing from the far end of the upper reaches of Alumni Gym. The voice was that of swim coach Sid Hazelton, a highly respected member of what was then known as Dartmouth’s physical education department. The year was 1952, and we “guys” were friends with a common interest in weightlifting. Back then anyone pumping iron was considered by the coaches to be narcissistic, deviant or, as Hazelton warned us, “Going down the road to mental illness.”

...We lifted almost daily, suffering looks of disdain from the coaches and gym instructors who occasionally wandered by...In our lonely corner we experimented with various lifting movements and exercises. We followed routines published in weightlifting magazines, and we learned from each other, because the manual on proper technique had not yet been written. Back then Dartmouth’s official policy excluding weight training from its conditioning programs for athletes was no different from that of any other school in America. Coaches and trainers everywhere were of a single mind: They labored under the mistaken belief that weightlifting would make athletes “muscle bound,” a condition that would seriously inhibit their movement when competing...

Anzel came to Dartmouth from Blair Academy in New Jersey, where he had captained the swim and tennis teams. Slight of build and younger than most of his classmates, Anzel knew he needed to get stronger to compete at the college level, and so he joined us in our corner of Alumni Gym, disappearing any time one of his coaches appeared. His surreptitious weightlifting enhanced his performance and, in addition to captaining the tennis team, he lettered in swimming and squash.

While earning master’s and doctorate degrees in California, Anzel trained with several weightlifting teams and competed successfully in weightlifting and power-lifting meets at the national level. For a number of years the Amateur Athletic Union ranked him in its 165-pound division. Through it all he was motivated by more than a desire to compete. Soon after graduating from Dartmouth, he was diagnosed with diabetes. Faced with a lifetime of insulin injections, he set out to prove that this chronic disease would never get the better of him. He did it, fueled by the challenge of weightlifting...

Half a century ago, we three weightlifters, along with our three workout partners, did not set out to pioneer organized weight training at Dartmouth. We were just doing what we thought would improve our strength, health and well-being—and enjoying it together. Unwittingly, we were setting the pattern for like-minded students and athletes as well as for the College for generations to come.
An Accidental Life?

Kramer: Were you entrepreneurial as a child?
Bogle: I was. I did things like lemonade stands. I was always a worker to pay my share and earn my spending money. I was doing this when I was 9 or 10. I worked behind the counter at soda fountains and sold newspapers. I always took responsibility, and I was always a bit of a loner.

Kramer: Why did you become an entrepreneur?
Bogle: It was by accident.

Kramer: Who were your business role models?
Bogle: My mentor Walter Morgan, who founded the Wellington Fund, was very much an entrepreneur with a well-balanced life. He was an outdoors and indoors man.

Kramer: What books did you read that inspired you?
Bogle: I don't know that any particular thing did that. I read mostly biographies...I like to read Woodrow Wilson’s biography, Alexander Hamilton, Harry Truman, Teddy Roosevelt and Winston Churchill. I tend to run to the phrase makers. I don’t know if the books influenced my leadership.

Kramer: What kind of people did you look for when you first began to build Vanguard (skill sets, experience, etc.)?
Bogle: I wanted people that I liked. People who could bring some sort of commitment to the table. We weren’t hiring money managers in those days. They were all outside. The people had to have character first and then experience, but not too much. Chemistry is considered very flawed, but I consider it very important.

Kramer: What was the hardest part of building Vanguard?
Bogle: I am not sure there was much that was hard at all. The single hardest job was creating the firm and getting the independent director to see the vision. Then creating the record keeping, and then creating the index fund and getting brokers interested in. It was called Bogle’s Folly. Going no-load, and no one has done it since. It required courage or stupidity or brazenness. We had a blunderbuss marketing strategy. Build a better mouse trap and the world would beat a path to our door, and then having parties to celebrate each billion that we brought in. I loved getting together with the crew. I liked the interaction and letting people know that someone was interested in their best interest.

Kramer: What was your biggest surprise?
Bogle: I didn’t think the industry would grow so big. It was created by the greatest bull market and everyone poured money into the market. There have been great tax breaks for investors like the IRA.

Kramer: What is the biggest waste of time that a leader often gets trapped in and how do they avoid the trap?
Bogle: We live in a society with so much bureaucracy and so much legal detail, if you can get out of the morass, you are well served. I would be very careful of any generalizations. What is good for entrepreneur A might be bad for entrepreneur B. I think I am an uncommon prototype. I did what I wanted, and if you aren’t doing what you want, you aren’t being as effective as you can be.

Kramer: Are entrepreneurs born or can one develop into an entrepreneur?
Bogle: I would say develop. Fate made me into an entrepreneur. I was just an executive, and I was thrown by chance and self-preservation, and I love a good fight and a certain type of competition. I don’t like how marketing has taken over from good results.

Kramer: Looking back, what advice would you give anyone who wants to build a successful business?
Bogle: Don’t look back. Be yourself. People can spot a phony 1,000 yards away. Realize you have to play the hand you were dealt. How you deal with things depends on your attitude. Try to be honorable. Quoting Churchill, “Never give up, never, never, never, never.”
Sports Illustrated Speaks with Coach Buxton

In January, Sport Illustrated’s Web site, SIcom, featured a profile of head wrestling coach and mathematics teacher Jeff Buxton. The article read, in part, “Without wearing a navy-blue singlet or making a single tactical move, Jeff Buxton is an intimidator both on the wrestling mat and in the classrooms at Blair Academy…Having guided the Buccaneers to the last six national championships and eight overall since 1994, his dual-meet record is 229-6. With so much success as head wrestling coach the last 27 years, Buxton has carved out a larger-than-life status on campus.” One of his students, Jared Platt ’07, commented on Jeff as a math teacher: “You’re just a sponge and it’s tremendous how much he helps you.”

The article added, “It’s more than luck and health that have brought Buxton to expect greatness from his teams, while deftly pushing buttons and maintaining a legacy of intimidation. ‘I do carry a heavy stick, though,’ [he said], ‘If somebody is not doing the right thing, I go after them. I give everything I have to my kids, and they give it back.’ Buxton’s athletes can’t help but be inspired by his upbringing. His father, a Navy pilot, died when he was just one month old, and his mother died when he was 11. He was raised by an aunt and uncle, Bertram and Lois Buxton. While competing in football, lacrosse and wrestling at Providence Country Day, he was named Rhode Island Athlete of the Year in 1975. He received a full scholarship to the University of Rhode Island and later decided to become a coach. Each day in practice the 50-year-old Buxton adds to his own legend by challenging some of his top wrestlers in practice—despite having titanium rods in each hip.”

Former Faculty Honored for Fifth Time

Bloomsburg University’s Web site noted that head field hockey coach Jan Hutchinson, a former faculty member at Blair, was named the 2006 DITA/National Field Hockey Coaches Association (NFHCA) Division II Coach of the Year at the group’s annual convention in January. The article read, “Hutchinson led the Huskies to the 2006 NCAA Division II national championship with a perfect 24-0 record. The national championship was the 13th for Hutchinson and the Huskies and the eighth in the last 11 years.”

The article continued, “Hutchinson, who also won the 2006 PSAC Coach of the Year honors, has a career record of 525-69-20. She is the all-time leader in field hockey history in career wins (and is the only coach over 500 career wins)…Nine Bloomsburg players have also been named national ‘Player of the Year’ under Hutchinson’s guidance, the most of any coach in Division II. The National Coach of the Year honor is the fifth for Hutchinson. She previously won the award in 1991, 1998, 2002 and 2004.”

The article noted that Jan initiated the women’s physical education and interscholastic sports programs at Blair. She has been honored with induction into both the National Fastpitch Coaches Association and the National Field Hockey Coaches Association Halls of Fame, as well as induction into the Newton High School and Sussex County (N.J.) Halls of Fame. Jan is also coach of the Huskies’ highly successful softball team; the Bloomsburg softball field is named in her honor.
Nothing Short of “Brilliant”

Philip Crawford, a Northern Ireland native and teacher who spent his sabbatical at Blair this fall where he directed a student play, Dancing at Lughnasa, was the subject of a November 5 feature, “Ireland Director and Blair Actors Make Connection,” by Mike Frassinelli, staff writer for The Star-Ledger, New Jersey’s largest daily newspaper. Frassinelli opened by writing, “On the first day of rehearsal, the visiting director from Ireland had the baffled American students lie on the ground and meditate to Celtic music. At the end of the rehearsal, an American student held up her hand to the baffled director. ‘High-five,’ she explained. ‘I’ve seen it on TV, but I didn’t think people actually did it,’ said [Crawford].”

Frassinelli continued, “Crawford’s background alone is the stuff of theater. He’s a 44-year-old Irish dentist/professional actor/biology instructor who teaches in England but whose heart is in drama. He incorporates his drama background into his biology classes at Wellington College, getting students off their feet as he gives them acting roles such as the brain or the heart… The nostalgic play [he is directing] about the changes in the lives of the five single Mundy sisters in 1930s rural Ireland, including a sister who has a child out of wedlock, was made into a movie starring film legend and New Jersey native Meryl Streep.”

“‘It’s been really exciting to come to America,’ Crawford said. ‘I’ve never been to New York before, I’ve never been to Washington, so that’s been fantastic. To direct a play in America is quite special.’”

The article included commentary from students during the rehearsal Frassinelli attended, where he interviewed Crawford. “Cassandra Gardiner, a senior from Allamuchy Township who plays Agnes Mundy, learned right away that Crawford’s directing style was going to be unlike anything she had experienced. ‘He had us sit on the ground,’ she recalled. ‘We had to lay down on our backs and he played this Celtic Irish music and he just had us meditate. We were like, oh, my God, what are we doing?’ Next, he had students imitate the walk of someone else. Cassandra said her first impression was that Crawford was too serious for a high school production, but she has come to appreciate the visiting director and even learned how to knit for her role in the play. ‘You recognize the sincerity and the structure, and I think you have a great appreciation for it,’ she said. Lotte Lijnzaad, a sophomore from Sparta who plays Rose Mundy, recalled Crawford telling students about a play where he saw horrible performances, but the audience clapped, anyway. ‘I don’t want this to be one of those plays where people clap to be polite,’ Lotte remembered the director telling Blair student actors.”

Frassinelli interviewed the rest of the cast as well. “He’s got so much energy and wit for this type of thing,” said Carter Ford, a sophomore from Trappe, Md., who plays Christina Mundy. “You can see that he’s made to be a director. He wants us to be a really professional show.”

The article noted that the most difficult part was learning the Irish accent. “Ryan Class, a senior from Blairstown who handles the narrator voice of Michael Evans, said Crawford went over a chart with vowels on it to get the sound just right. ‘Mr. Crawford, he’s a really cool guy. He’s really fun, energetic,’ Ryan said. ‘And it’s just a different experience, having somebody who has come from a different background and different upbringing.’”

Frassinelli concluded, “Students have gotten a charge out of the director’s expressions, like ‘Have a bash at it,’ meaning ‘try.’ Or ‘half of three,’ which equals 3:30.

“Or his frequent use of the word ‘brilliant.’ ‘We want to push them to the level where they feel they’ve achieved more than they could realistically have expected,’ Crawford said.”

From occupational therapists to real estate brokers, Blair’s young alumni are making their mark in the world. The second annual Young Alumni Society of Skeptics program in January, moderated by Dr. Martin Miller, featured panelists Maria Lieberman ’01, Ned Marcalus ’98, Shari Markoff ’90, Jonathan Smolian ’00 and Andrew Solar ’95. Learn more about these dynamic young alums and their advice to Blair students in the audience.

CONQUERING

Maria Lieberman ’01

Maria obtained a B.S. in health science with a concentration in forensic health, a concentration in human development, a minor in health administration, and a minor in counseling and human services from the University of Scranton where she also completed her master’s in occupational therapy.

At Blair, I improved as a person; the School helped me to be a leader, to be proactive and to focus on my passions with support from the faculty. I was able to do an independent study with Mr. Hay, for example. Now I work with children—from birth or early childhood—helping them to be independent and have the best quality of life. I help families; I help their children be successful so they can all function as normally as possible. I am so fortunate to have a one-on-one rapport with them. There is never a dull moment!

Maria currently is employed as an occupational therapist at Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, the number one children’s hospital in the country. She works with children with varying diagnoses including cancer, brain tumors, blood disorders, genetic disorders and traumas.
Ned Marcalus ’98

Ned graduated from Hamilton College in 2002 with a double major in economics and world politics. Shortly before joining Marcal Paper Mills in the fall of 2002, he worked for an upstate New York congressional campaign in and around Utica. Once joining Marcal he served as a sales representative for Marcal’s consumer division, calling on supermarket chains in upstate New York and New York City (D’Agastinos, P&C Supermarkets, Duane Reade, Western Beef, etc.) and small wholesalers in the New York-Philadelphia metro areas. While serving as a sales representative, he also managed the export sales division for Marcal.

In 2005 Ned was promoted to national account manager in Marcal’s Away-from-Home division, where he currently manages business with office product wholesalers, buying groups and office product dealers (like W.B. Mason and others). He also manages business at Costco and OfficeMax and assists with his division’s largest and most profitable account, Staples, by calling on the regional sales offices. Currently Ned is building a national network of broker organizations that will call on independent office dealers, regional distributor offices and large scale consumers (corporations, non-profits, college and universities). “Most important,” Ned says, “in my job, I am always tasked with searching new distribution and expanding product assortment with each of my respective accounts.”

At Blair I gained an appreciation for learning, both in the classroom and in my extracurricular activities. I also gained the confidence to speak in front of people. I have fond memories of Blair and am back here tonight because I love the School; it provided discipline and a quiet time to study—to be focused and follow through. Sometimes I find that what I do now is like writing a final paper every day. My advice is to be passionate about whatever you do. I’m marketing one of the most unglamorous products out there—paper—but I love my job and what I’m doing.
Shari Markoff ’90

Shari is an experienced broker who excels in the real estate industry. She deals with many of Manhattan’s top real estate power players as clients and has found all of them exactly the luxury apartment homes they were looking for. Shari began her education of the high-end, luxury market working as a media planner for Tiffany & Co for two years. She went on to excel as vice president of New York Security Systems where she soon realized her real talents were in finance and, more specifically, brokering high-end real estate deals. Shari joined Michael Shvo in 2001, where she earned instant accolades by landing major deals. After graduating from Blair, she went on to the University of Rochester where she majored in political science. After graduation, she continued her studies at Rochester where she earned certificates in marketing, finance and accounting at the Simon School of Business.

When I was at Blair, I didn’t really like being told what to do and when to do it, but now I’m glad I went there. Blair helped me grow up and gave me a “one up” in college. Afterward, I worked very hard to be #1 [in this business]. An article in The New York Post a few years ago told about the “flipped contract” I was involved with; it actually was the first time in history that a developer allowed such a transaction to happen in New York.

Jonathan Smolian ’00

Jonathan Smolian is manager of business development and strategic planning for New Line Cinema. In this role, Jonathan analyzes the economics of the studio’s film and television projects and provides senior management with the analytical tools necessary to make green light decisions. He is also responsible for helping to develop and implement New Line’s long-term business plan, including the annual budgeting process. Jonathan acts as one of New Line’s liaisons to the corporate parent’s strategic planning group and provides financial/business analysis support to all of the studio’s divisions, including Picturehouse (a new, jointly owned theatrical distribution company with HBO), the home video and television operations, record label and theatrical business.

Prior to joining New Line, Jonathan was a consultant on New York City’s Olympic bid organization, NYC 2012. He holds a B.A. from Dartmouth College, where he majored in government, theatre and economics. During his undergraduate years, Jonathan interned at City Hall in the Office of the Mayor of New York City and CNN in Washington, DC.
Andrew Solar ’95

Andrew (Drew) graduated from Kenyon College with a B.A. in political science with a concentration in public policy. He is currently assistant vice president at Brown Brothers Harriman & Co. in N.Y.C. Andrew also worked at FleetBoston in their large and middle market corporate commercial banking groups.

Though he initially considered English as his college major, his experience at FleetBoston prompted Drew to pursue political science instead. He joined BBH about three years ago in the commodity finance group and in November of 2006 began working as an analyst for the 1818 SBIC Fund, L.P. Drew’s work with this mezzanine fund involves analyzing companies undergoing re-capitalization.

I loved Blair, especially the reading and writing I did in my English classes with Mr. Underwood and Mr. Brandwood. Blair did great things for me; I learned public speaking, something I do a lot of in my work now. At Blair you can reinvent yourself to some degree; you are forced to do so but also, you are allowed to do so.

At Blair I learned discipline, structure and organization. [Blair allows you to] believe in you; you have that skill set that will win the day for you. I had four years of great mentoring. My education at Dartmouth resulted in a network of contacts and, consequently, valuable internships during breaks and the summer months. The work I do now for New Line ties in with my education and the work ethic I developed earlier.
TRANSITION VS. TRANSFORMATION:
Former College President Addresses Faculty

Dr. Richard Hersh spoke with Blair’s department heads and Faculty Executive Committee at a luncheon in January, covering a range of topics related to assessments at the post-secondary level and what they reveal about “value added” by a college education. Dr. Hersh served as president of Hobart and William Smith Colleges and Trinity College (Hartford) and as provost and vice president for academic affairs at The University of New Hampshire and Drake University. He also served as vice president for research and dean of the Graduate School at the University of Oregon and was director of the Center for Moral Education at Harvard University. In his early career he was a high school teacher. Dean of Academics Selden Bacon reports on the session:

During his presentation at Blair, Dr. Hersh remarked that there is a “difference between transition—where the student changes place or grade—and transformation, where the student him or herself changes,” and that this “transformation” is the area most in need of assessment. In his following talk to the full faculty, he dwelt at greater length on the focus of day-to-day assessments and their place in the educational process. In doing so, he reflected on Bloom’s Taxonomy and the generally accepted criteria for effective schools/classrooms.

As Dr. Hersh noted, both students and faculty at Blair are “privileged in the best sense of the word” in that they live and work in what is a “true community of scholars,” one that is dedicated to student learning on a day-by-day basis in the classroom and out and has sufficient financial resources to support their best efforts.

Dr. Hersh was a member of the Association of American Colleges & Universities GREATER EXPECTATIONS panel and for the past five years has served as co-director of the Collegiate Learning Assessment Project (CLA) that has developed an innovative “value-added” approach to assessing student learning. The Peer Review journal devoted its Winter 2002 issue to this project including commentary from leading researchers from around the nation, and the November 2005 issue of The Atlantic Monthly features an article by Dr. Hersh, “What Do Colleges Teach?” about measuring student learning.

He has written much about the importance of a liberal arts education in the 21st century with his 1999 Daedalus article, “Generating Ideals and Transforming Lives” and his book, Promoting Moral Growth, in use on many campuses. Dr. Hersh appeared in the recent two-hour PBS documentary “Declining by Degrees: Higher Education at Risk.”

He is an avid rowing fan and was the coxswain of the U.S. eight-oared boat at the 1966 World Championships, Bled, Yugoslavia, and coach of two boats that represented the U.S. in the 1968 Mexico City Olympics.
Civil War, Reconstruction and China

Acting department chair Ryan Spring reports members of Blair’s history department traveled to Princeton in December for an annual conference hosted by The New Jersey Council for History Education. The morning’s lecturers focused on “New Perspectives on the Civil War and Reconstruction,” while the afternoon featured talks on “New Views of China.”

In the morning, former Princeton professor and Pulitzer Prize-winning author James McPherson spoke on the failure of peace negotiations during the Civil War. In particular, he argued that the key issues of the Civil War—union and slavery—were non-negotiable to President Lincoln and Jefferson Davis, and therefore, the peace negotiations were largely superficial and hopeless.

Journalist and author Nicholas Lemann concluded the morning session with some comments about his recent book, Redemption: The Last Battle of the Civil War.

In the afternoon sessions, Princeton professors Benjamin Elman and Susan Naquin spoke about the evolving interpretations of China and Japan at the turn of the 20th century and the history of Chinese religion, respectively.

**ASPIRING SCIENTIST MEETS NOBEL PRIZE WINNER**

Through the efforts of science teacher Don Lawshe, Travis Perlee ’09 traveled to the Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory (PPPL) this winter, where he met with Russell Hulse, winner of the 1993 Nobel Prize for his work with binary pulsars. PPPL is a collaborative national center for plasma and fusion science, managed by Princeton University and funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Science.

What did you and Dr. Hulse discuss during your meeting?

TP: I asked him certain questions directly related to his radio astronomy work, along with other questions about SATs, getting into college and education in general, particularly the path from undergraduate school to graduate school, when you start to refine the field in which you want to work.

Dr. Hulse was originally a radio astronomer but now works with computers to make calculations at the Princeton Plasma Physics Lab. The tests at PPPL usually last for a second and occur once every year. It takes the scientists and engineers a year to examine all the data from that one-second experiment and learn how to make the operation a bit more efficient. Through his computer programming work, he attempts to get the computers to do this long, tedious task.

Overall, how would you describe the encounter? Are you further inspired to become a physicist?

TP: This was, indeed, a great experience; it is truly amazing that someone as prestigious and respected as Dr. Hulse actually cared about what I had to say and was interested in what I was doing now as a sophomore in high school. Though the PPPL is a technological building, the main equipment in it doesn’t look impressive. The metal pipes and thick steel and copper formations look like a standard machine. By itself, it wouldn’t attract my attention. However, I do know what it is and what it is doing. It is probably going to be the future of energy! The metal pipes and thick steel and copper formations come together in a way that will aid in a future energy crisis. I don’t know if I’m any more inspired to become a physicist, but speaking to Dr. Hulse and touring PPPL seem to make the dream of attaining a career in science and mathematics—something a physicist could do—become more of a reality.
Blair Helps Out the “Big Easy”
Five Blair faculty spent their Thanksgiving break building houses with Habitat for Humanity in hurricane-devastated regions of New Orleans. Jason Beck, Quint Clarke ’87, Josh Markey, and Andrew and Kate Sykes used their construction “expertise” to frame and side a new house in New Orleans’ musicians’ village. Each faculty member spent four full days on the construction site. Other highlights of the trip included nights out in the French Quarter and a delicious, home-cooked, New Orleans-style meal hosted by the family of Catherine Marcus ’10.

The Rev. Cynthia Crowner, assistant chaplain, was among 15 members of the Blair community who traveled to Gulfport, Miss., over Spring Break in March to lend a hand to the Hurricane Katrina recovery effort. She was accompanied by the Rev. Peter Amerman, chaplain; science teacher Blair Buck; and the Rev. David G. Harvey, a Blair Trustee. Cynthia reported as follows: “We stayed at the Westminster Presbyterian Church, which is also hosting several other mission trip groups from other parts of the U.S. We worked on rehabbing and rebuilding homes and met the survivors who told us how they are coping. We also heard from a pastor from New Orleans who spoke to us about the spiritual and political dimensions of the difficult recovery process there.” Photos and video footage from the trip were shared with the School community during a weekly Chapel.

Yale’s Whim ’n Rhythm Features Blair Alumna
A January performance by Whim ’n Rhythm—Yale University’s premier, senior all-women’s a cappella group—took place in front of a cozy fire in Annie Hall’s common room in January, thanks to the fact that Liz Brandwood ’03 (pictured during a solo) is among its talented members.

Yale’s Web site explains, “Delighting audiences from Maine to Hong Kong and from California to the White House, Whim ’n Rhythm brings professional musicianship, a sophisticated spirit and an elegant presence to every memorable performance. Whim ’n Rhythm’s repertoire ranges from upbeat jazz standards to classic show tunes, contemporary pop favorites to traditional ballads and occasionally a Whim ’n Rhythm original. Bill Allen of the Chicago Tribune wrote of the group, ‘They’re singing all the songs I asked for…for older people, it’s nostalgia, for young people, it’s just good music!’ ”
The Web site adds, “Founded in 1981, Whim ‘n Rhythm was created by seven Yale women who came together to form a senior women’s group. The original members combined their musical talent with an abiding interest in the equal role of women. In the past 25 years, the group has quickly achieved international renown. Every new concert season, 14 Yale senior women, hand-picked at the end of their junior year for outstanding vocal ability, continue the Whim ‘n Rhythm tradition. All women carry a full course load, perfecting their music and performance skills in their spare time. Because they receive no financial backing from the University, Whim ‘n Rhythm is a non-profit organization and uses the money they make in concert fees to cover the cost of bringing their music to audiences throughout the United States and the world. Whim ‘n Rhythm performs throughout the academic year across the United States. The concert season culminates in a world tour following the group members’ May graduation. This year, Whim ‘n Rhythm will celebrate its 25th anniversary with a six-week world tour of Asia, Europe, South America and Hawaii.”
Blood Drive & Book Drive Nurture Body & Soul

Blair students coordinated a school-wide book drive to benefit Kurdistan Save the Children Centers and the University of Sulaimaniya in Iraq. A total of 16 boxes of books were donated by parents, students, alumni, faculty and staff. This peacemaking project was led by Blair alumna Z. Melinda Perkins-Witter ’77, along with Blair’s community service group and the alumni office.

Kurdistan schools encourage English language studies beginning at the primary level but have few English books to support this educational endeavor.

Senior Class Members Attain Eagle Scout Ranking

Boy Scouts Eric Habermann, Henry Kozinski, Kevin Leal, Jameson Liegner, Nick Meliti, Sawyer Sutton, and David Tannenhaus—all members of the Class of 2007—have all earned the Eagle Scout rank. According to the official Boy Scouts Web site, “The fact that a boy is an Eagle Scout has always carried with it a special significance, not only in Scouting but also as he enters higher education, business or industry, and community service. The award is a performance-based achievement whose standards have been well-maintained over the years. Not every boy who joins a Boy Scout troop earns the Eagle Scout rank; only about 5 percent of all Boy Scouts do so. This represents more than 1.7 million Boy Scouts who have earned the rank since 1912.”

The traditional Sadie Hawkins Dance—attended by all grades—was held in January, with “mocktails” at Sharpe House, followed by dinner, dancing and a DJ. The dining hall was decorated by a dedicated group of parents who carried out the theme of “Midnight in Morocco.”
Crew Joins the Fun on Peddie Day

Buccaneer fans turned out in record number for Peddie Day 2006 at Blair in November. Though Peddie took home the Kelley-Potter Cup, the pep rally and bonfire on Peddie Eve were moments to remember, especially for Blair seniors who led the torch parade. While crew is a spring sport, the Bucs also raced against Peddie at Swartswood Lake on Peddie Day, though the home team lost.

Swim Team Makes School History

Head swim coach Rick Clarke reports that the December 13 swim meet was quite amazing: “At the home dual swim meet against Lenape Valley High School [that day], there were four records broken by Blair swimmers. This was the first time in school history that the swim team has broken so many records in one day, so it was a special day for Blair swimming!” The records set are as follows:

- Boys’ 200-yard freestyle relay: new time 1:35.8 (old time 1:36.2 on February 11, 1991)
- This established a new pool and school record for the boys.
- Alex Rice ’07
- Craig McConnell ’07
- Lamar Duffy ’08
- Chris Skoda ’08

(Coach Clarke reports that Chris, pictured, later broke his own school record in the 100-yard backstroke with a time of 54.91 seconds at the Boys’ States at Lawrenceville on February 7.)

- Girls’ 100-yard backstroke: new time 1:03.5 (old time 1:03.6 on January 10, 1995)
- Hayley Anderson ’10

- Girls’ 100-yard breaststroke: new time 1:12.2 (old time 1:12.3 on December 15, 1988)
- Samantha Tilney ’08

Wrestlers Victorious in Major Tournaments

Raise Money for Juvenile Diabetes

Blair wrestlers raised money for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation as they won their 27th consecutive National Prep Championship title in February. The athletes collected “per pin pledges” from the Blair community; the money raised will be given to the foundation. At the time of this writing, approximately $13,000 had been pledged.

Wayne Catan reports on some of the other major winter wrestling events: While most students were relaxing and celebrating their holiday seasons, the Blair Buccaneer wrestlers were hard at work in the wrestling room and in gymnasiums in Newark, Delaware and Bethlehem, Pa., competing for important team and individual titles. These titles are even more important this year than previous years because Blair is coming off a second-place finish at the Ironman Tournament. Blair came away with first place victories in both the “Beast of the East” Tournament and the “Bethlehem Holiday Classic,” two of the nation’s premier high school events. “Advancing six to the finals like the Ironman and Beast is a great feat; our team is progressing nicely due to the high-caliber competition we have faced. Some of the younger guys are showing great improvement and that shows the hard work is paying off,” said Jeff Buxton, Blair’s head coach.

Catan provides updates on Blair alumni wrestlers now in college and their runs for individual NCAA crowns; read all about it by logging on to the wrestling section of Blair’s Web site.
Senior Basketball Players Receive Top Honors

Madison Square Garden Network televised the halftime presentation of the New York City Boys’ Club Mentorship Award to Julius Coles ‘07 during the December Holiday Classic game (Hofstra vs. St. Joseph’s) at the Garden. Julius was given a $5,000 check in the name of his late friend, Alonzo Milligan, who was shot and killed last year in Harlem. MSG conducted a live interview with Julius, according to head coach Joe Mantegna, who said, “I attended the game and was very proud of the evening and how Julius handled himself throughout. His whole family was there, as was Alonzo’s mother and many of the top leaders of the NYC Boys’ Club.”

Julius and Alexis Wangmene ‘07 were among 94 New York, New Jersey and Connecticut girls’ and boys’ high school basketball players recognized as nominees for the annual McDonald’s All-American High School Basketball Teams. The final teams were announced in mid- to late February on ESPN’s SportsCenter. This year marks the 30th anniversary of the boys’ McDonald’s All-American Game and the fifth annual girls’ Game. An official press release noted, “These local players are among 1,000 female and 1,500 male prep basketball standouts in the nation, nominated by the McDonald’s All-American Basketball Team selection committee, a group of nationally prominent basketball experts. The nominees will be considered for one of 24 slots on each of the final McDonald’s All-American Girls’ and Boys’ High School Basketball Teams. The most famous former McDonald’s All-Americans are NBA legends Michael Jordan and Magic Johnson. Current NBA All-American alumni include LeBron James, Carmelo Anthony, Mike Bibby and Kevin Garnett.”

Luol Deng ‘03 and Charlie Villanueva ‘03 were named McDonald’s High School All-Americans in 2003.

Blair Wins MAPL Championship

Coach Marty Miller reports on the Bucs’ November 7 victory on a rainy, water-soaked Peddie golf course: “The heavens opened, and the rains came down… and Blair prevailed at the MAPL championship for the sixth time in the last seven years. It wasn’t easy. Compliments are in order to a focused, well-paced Hill team that challenged Blair right down to the last mile. Rick DeFino in third place led Blair; Dylan Evans ran a fine race, surging at 2.5 miles; Anthony Stival gutted through an injury for eighth place; Sawyer Sutton ran with abandon; Josh Case, our fifth man, placed ahead of Hill’s number 5; and Bobby Boyle, injured for weeks, raced like a trooper. He also finished in front of Hill’s fifth man. Those displacement points add up! Andrew Clark was a solid seventh man. And so it went for the Blair boys of 2006. We are proud of them.”

(L to R): Anthony Stival ‘07, Rick DeFino ‘07, Dylan Evans ‘08.
Alumna and Coach Honored for Service

Rita Bucarey ’78, who served in the student affairs office for the past seven years and as assistant hockey coach for the past five years, was recognized for her contributions to Blair athletics by Athletic Director Jim Stone during School Meeting in January. Such recognition is presented to coaches who have served the school for at least five years and are moving on; Rita bid farewell to Blair at the end of January.

Rita, who received a standing ovation from the entire Blair community, is the mother of Ethan ’03 and Lara ’06. Head field hockey coach Melissa (Paul) Erne ’96 lauded Rita for her work as a coach and mentor.

Fall 2006 Athletic Awards

Brooks Football Prize: Eddie Vachon ’07
Frere Football Award: Brendan Schaffer ’07
Pierce Cross Country Award: Anthony Stival ’07
Pierce Cross Country Award: Rick DeFino ’07
Pierce Cross Country Award: Gina Giuricich ’07
Marcial Tennis Award: Alexandra Polhill ’07
Blair Field Hockey Prize: Sarah Marcincin ’07
Blair Soccer Award: Kaitlin Surdoval ’07
Blair Soccer Award: Matt Balaguer ’07
Blair Soccer Award: David Brandwood ’08

Team Howard Reigns Victorious

In February, Blair students and faculty are divided into four teams named after four former Headmasters, and the entire Blair community competes in a week of after-school intramural games ranging from inner tube water polo to an egg toss, to a talent show finale. Teams compete for the famous Hardwick Trophy and bragging rights for a year. This year the trophy went to Team Howard.

Success on the Slopes

Head ski coach Rob Merrifield reports on the ski team’s standings at the March State Ski Championships, noting that Kait Surdoval ’08 is a state champ for the second year.

Jeff Ernsting ’07 – 7th in slalom
Louis Cirillo ’08 – 11th in slalom
Louis Cirillo – 10th in the combined (SL & GS)
Boys’ team – 4th overall
Kait Surdoval ’08 – 1st in giant slalom, 2nd in slalom, 1st in combined; she took State Championship for the second year!
Jeff & Louis – both All Prep League and 3rd Team All State
Kait Surdoval – All Prep League and 1st Team All State
Senior Named State’s Female Youth Ref of the Year
Bosnian Native Excels in Academics and Athletics

Journalism student Christopher Eu ’07 recently profiled athlete and scholar Lejla Agic ’07, winner of the 2006 New Jersey Youth Soccer Female Referee of the Year Award:

Not many people can say that they celebrated their third birthday to the sound of gunfire and military uprisings….A two-year member of the Cum Laude Society, four-year varsity athlete, prefect and a pretty serious bookworm, this Bosnian native looks forward to an exciting and successful future. What most do not know about Lejla, however, is her tumultuous past, something that she tries to keep quiet. She left her native country, Bosnia, on April 14, 1992, in the middle of armed conflict. She was three years old.

Lejla was born on April 5, 1989, a date that three years later would be the start of the Bosnian War. Lejla and her family found themselves caught up in this conflict, and with bullets flying overhead, they fled Sarajevo in 1992. Lejla certainly had her share of near-death experiences; the war has had a great impact on her outlook on life and her views of genocide and ethnic wars. When asked what she would “fix” about the world, she quickly responds: “There are many things wrong with our world, but the most prominent and despicable matter is that of genocide. If I could get rid of one thing in this world, that would be it.” She also expresses horror at the thought of shooting somebody with no ramifications and states that she is a pacifist and wouldn’t hurt a fly.

As a result of fleeing her native country, she currently resides in Sparta, New Jersey, with both her parents and attended the local Sparta Middle School before coming to Blair Academy. Her aspirations include traveling the world and working for a multi-national corporation, hopefully one that specializes in finance. “I have an international background, have always been motivated, and love to travel,” she says. “My mom was also a prominent marketing manager who worked for a multi-national corporation in Sarajevo.” A hopeful Ivy-Leagueer, her prospective colleges include Columbia, Yale, the University of Pennsylvania, Princeton and Georgetown/Davidson. When asked why she works so hard, she replies: “I had a tough upbringing, and I’ve always gotten my motivation from my parents. I want to make my life the best it can be.”

Lejla is a four-year varsity soccer player, three-year basketball player (and captain of the team her senior year) and two-year crew veteran. When she is not on the field or in the gym, she can be found in the library or common rooms, either studying for her various AP courses or tutoring others. Lejla is popular among many as a dependable study guide and partner. Charlie Proctor ’07, a long-time friend of hers, says: “Lejla is cool, and she works really hard.”

In addition to her devotion to athletics and academics, Lejla is a member of the venerable Rules and Discipline Committee. As such, she makes tough decisions weekly regarding disciplinary action doled out to Blair students who are sometimes her peers and close friends. She also enjoyed participating in Blair’s Model UN program and traveled to Normandy and Paris as part of a summer program sponsored in part by Archer Martin ’42.

Another lesser-known fact about Lejla is that she “refs” soccer games, ranging from the light-hearted elementary school shootouts to intense and exciting high school level national competitions. She explains: “I started reffing in seventh grade, every weekend, every Sunday, and have been to many competitive tournaments, including State Cup and Olympic Development Program (ODP) events.”

– Christopher Eu ’07

The Blair Web site (www.blair.edu) contains athletics information for the benefit of our readership. Log on to learn more about Blair’s athletic competitions and sports seasons.
In the short time since I was asked to describe my contribution to Blair from my IRA, the school has received six additional gifts from individuals. It is good to see people taking advantage of this opportunity. Thank you to all of those who contributed, and thank you to those of you who are considering a gift for this year.

We are fortunate that this new law allows us to consider this option again for the 2007 tax year. If you have been considering this type of contribution, know that it is advantageous for both you and the School. Blair benefits from your generosity, and you are able to make a gift directly from your IRA without having to count the gift as income for tax purposes. This gift truly benefits both you and Blair.

Please take a minute to read the following from several of the donors who have contributed from their IRAs.

Thank you again,
Bill Timken ’53
Former Board Chairman

Older alumni have the unique problem of mandatory withdrawals from their IRA accounts. The threat of Draconian penalties if they don’t retrieve enough, coupled with the necessity of paying taxes at the rate applied to ordinary income on the full amount of their withdrawals, leads to something that looks like a “lose/lose” proposition. If those same mandatory withdrawals are directed, however, to qualified recipients (like Blair) they are not taxed at all. That’s a “win/win” situation! So, it’s not a tough choice. The only bad wrinkle is that, at present, the provision allowing this great gift opportunity is scheduled to expire after 2007. Every Old Guard member should be making Uncle Sam his partner in helping Blair this way in 2007.

MIKE HABERMANN ’41

Giving directly from my IRA allowed me to make a more substantial contribution than otherwise possible, enabling me to see the impact of my gift more clearly and immediately. I hope that after other alumni and friends see the potential of this type of contribution, they too will be inspired to do the same. It isn’t often we find a truly optimal situation in which both Blair and the donor receive such positive benefits.

AL WARD ’45

When I found that giving directly through my IRA was an option, I couldn’t help but be pleased. This new law gave me the opportunity to help both Blair and myself. It allowed me to decrease my adjusted gross income and still benefit Blair. What a great opportunity!

For more information on this new legislation or other areas of planned giving, please contact Cara Mohlmann, director of planned giving and stewardship, at (908) 362-6121 x 5628 or mohlmc@blair.edu.
Multiple conversations with Princeton students a few years ago convinced me that only those in business and pre-law curricula had a working understanding of the purposes, functions, operations and pitfalls of modern corporations. Because of the ubiquitous presence of corporations in our capitalist society, this appeared to constitute a significant gap in the scope of the educational process. When I attempted to identify the reason for this omission, the response was frequently, “We don’t learn it because it’s not covered on the SATs.”

Armed with that enigma, I asked Blair’s Headmaster whether he would entertain the idea of my offering an experimental eight-week “Challenge Course” to upperclassmen that would be designed to provide the historical background and current situation of our U.S. business corporations. Dean of Academics Selden Bacon and Dr. Marty Miller, a history teacher and former chair of the department, helped me to formulate the first syllabus. Late in 2004 we began presenting the material to a group of junior and senior volunteers who were apparently intrigued by the course description.

In the course, we focus first upon the historical path, including early church law and mercantile rules; the authorization (by monarchs) of stock companies to conduct exploration and exploitation of “new” geographic areas; the early formation of private companies in the colonies; and the evolution into public corporations with great numbers of shareholders. Then we explore the attempts at regulation of corporations and the shifting focus toward protection of the shareholders’ and the public’s interests. We cover the U.S. anomaly resulting from the early regulation of corporations by individual states and the gradual insinuation of federal government power through application
Captains of Industry

Blair Students Gain Insight on Corporate World

and liberal judicial interpretation of the “commerce clause” of the Constitution as well as the delegated powers to collect taxes, regulate bankruptcies, create banks, declare war and carry the mail.

With that framework in place, each year we select a particular corporation and utilize its annual report to demonstrate how it has been formed; how it compensates its executives and employees; what management sees as its progress and problems; and how the business has prospered. We then look at corporate finance and the ways in which corporations can (and do) obtain the equity and loan capital to fuel their formation and growth. This tangent takes us to the investment bankers, hedge funds and other professionals who impact corporations. That, in turn, involves us in at least a superficial study of the many esoteric “derivative” financial products that the financial community has conjured up to attract investors.

Finally, we visit the area of corporate malfeasance, and our text becomes the current litany of corporations and executives “gone wrong.” Despite multiple layers of regulation and oversight, the temptations of huge clots of wealth frequently result in criminal behavior, which can hurt everyone in the capitalist society. My attempt is to encourage the future leaders who make up my classes to avoid compromising their principles in the decision-making process.

Our concluding classes are structured around guest speakers who can illuminate the class’ theoretical understanding with some concrete examples drawn from their own experience. Past guests have included Gay Ebers, managing director of Morgan Stanley, speaking about the role of investment bankers; Richard Hinson, senior vice president of Roche Pharmaceuticals, discussing the management of a world-wide sales force; and Christopher N. Cox, attorney, explaining the intricacies of international business. John Skvarla, a multi-talented executive (and past parent) who also spoke, covered the topic of entrepreneurial innovation in building corporations.

Throughout the existence of this course, emphasis has been on creating dialogue and taking side roads that can provoke curiosity and discussion. At the commencement of each year, we construct a “target vocabulary” of terms germane to the corporate culture, and if these are translated into bytes of recognition and understanding by the end of the course, I believe that its objectives have been accomplished.

None of this would be possible without the sincere interest and courteous attention I get from Blair students. Each of them sacrifices valuable evening hours in order to attend, and many remain for private chats after our scheduled time. I still receive frequent emails from past students—usually when something in a college course “connects” back to our classroom at Blair. It is gratifying to know that some future corporate leaders may have gotten their first “taste” in this little class at Blair.
On their initial visit to Blair Academy, Nate Hayward ’03 and his parents, Marilyn and Nathan, noticed something that distinguished it from the other schools they were considering. “At the end of our visit, Nate commented on the openness of the students and faculty at Blair,” says Nathan. “We agreed; we were struck by what we can only describe as an international feeling about the school and the ease with which people from all over the world lived with each other.”

Once at Blair, Nate embraced the global aspects of Blair’s community. “His best friends at school were from countries and communities different from the one he came from in Wilmington, Delaware.” Intrigued and inspired by the diverse nature of his friends and classmates, Nate began to forge an academic path that fed his new interest; starting with four years of Chinese with faculty member Susan Kramer, he has become a student of Asian culture and its impact on the world. A senior Asian Studies major at George Washington University in Washington, D.C., Nate has been to China five times and is one of the very few Caucasian students to join Pi Delta Psi, a national fraternity founded to promote understanding between Asian cultures.

When Nathan and Marilyn were considering a gift to Blair, they sought Nate’s advice. “After all,” Nathan explains, “Nate had an enormously positive experience at Blair, both intellectually and emotionally. We wanted to know where he thought a gift could make the most difference.” Not surprisingly, Nate asked his parents to help Blair maintain and enhance the school’s ability to attract interesting students from all over the world. Accordingly, the Haywards’ gift provides scholarship support so that students who may not have been able to attend Blair might have the opportunity that their son did. “Our gift reflects our great confidence in the school’s ability to foster the kind of open, international community that served Nate so well. Understanding how the world works is his passion and desire, and that started at Blair.”
When Roland McKinney ’51 and his brother Peter ’52 were at Blair in the late 1940s, their family suffered a temporary, though sudden, reversal of fortune. “We just assumed we wouldn’t be able to return to school,” Roland notes, “but Mr. Rea, the business manager, told my father that Peter and I could earn partial scholarships as waiters and that he could pay the remainder of the tuition over a number of months.”

Last spring, at Roland’s 55th reunion, he began to consider making a gift. He spoke with Peter, a former Trustee, and his nephew Cameron McKinney ’94, who encouraged him not only to make the gift, but to designate it for the endowment, where it could be used to support financial aid. Roland, a pilot and mechanic who worked in the airline industry until he retired in 2000, understands the sacrifices some of his former colleagues made to offer their children the best education available in their Northern California neighborhood. “I don’t have children myself,” he explains, “So I always wondered how the people I worked with and lived near were able to send their kids to the local day and parochial schools. The answer was their own sacrifice and some help from the school.”

“Somebody—Mr. Rea, in my case—gave me and my brother a break. I want to return that favor by making sure Blair can work out for another boy or girl who will appreciate it as much as I do.”
Dancing at Lughnasa, by Brian Friel, was staged in November in the Wean Theatre of Armstrong-Hipkins Center for the Arts and was directed by visiting Irishman Philip Crawford. Please see “In the News” on page 17 for additional coverage of this student production.

Repeat Performance by Ahn Trio

Maria, Lucia and Angella Ahn, otherwise known as The Ahn Trio, performed for the third time at Blair in January. Presenting almost a hundred concerts annually, the Ahn Trio has appeared at such venues as Lincoln Center’s Alice Tully Hall, Carnegie’s Weill Hall, Chicago’s Ravinia, Singapore’s Victoria Concert Hall and Moscow’s Tchaikovsky Hall.

In addition to their evening concert at Blair, the Ahn Trio gave a master class demonstration and lecture to the String Ensemble earlier that morning in Chesnutt Chapel.

Born in Seoul, Korea, the Juilliard-trained sisters breathed new life into the standard piano-trio literature with commissioned works from visionary composers like Kenji Bunch, Maurice Jarre and Michael Nyman. The trio’s latest CD, Groovebox (EMI Classics), is a showcase of this vibrant music.

Art Students Travel to Storm King Art Center

By Elisabeth Mayer ’07

In October, art students took an enrichment trip to the Storm King Art Center of Mountainville, New York. Students in AP art history, photography, ceramics, drawing, and other fine arts classes at Blair toured the beautiful 500-acre site by foot and tram. (See photos taken by art teacher Kate Sykes.)

The Storm King Art Center is an outdoor museum consisting of fields, woodlands and landscaped lawns. The center was founded in

Academy Players Produce Music and Laughs

The Blair Academy Players performed Urinetown—The Musical in February. Performing Arts Chair Craig Evans described the play’s premise: “In a Gotham-like city, a terrible water shortage, caused by a 20-year drought, has led to a government-enforced ban on private toilets. The citizens must use public amenities, regulated by a single malevolent company that profits by charging admission for one of humanity’s most basic needs. Amid the people, a hero decides he’s had enough and plans a revolution to lead them all to freedom.”

How the Other Half Loves, a British farce by playwright Alan Ayckbourn, was performed by Blair students in February. The play juggled time and space to present the lives and loves, passion and panic of three married couples.
1960 and contains American and European post-war sculptures by internationally known artists. The museum concentrates its art on the relationship between nature and sculpture. The land that occupies Storm King had been farmed for over 200 years until agriculture in the Hudson Valley became difficult to preserve.

“The Storm King Art Center was very interesting; every sculpture was unique,” said Emma Small ’07. “We had great weather during our trip. I only wish we had more time to see everything.”

Storm King includes sculptures from modern art masters such as Andy Goldsworthy, Louise Nevelson, Alexander Calder, Henry Moore, David Smith, Mark di Suvero, Robert Grosvenor, Richard Bellamy, Alexander Liberman and many others.

“I really liked all the art we saw at Storm King,” said Emma Small ’07, “especially Andy Goldsworthy’s Storm King Wall.” David Collens, father of Rachel ’09 and Stephanie ’05, is the museum director at Storm King. Fine Arts Department Chair Rita Baragona noted, “David and his wife Vivien hosted us, providing cake and beverages, as well as a video and several books. Our thanks to both of them for their warm welcome and hospitality.”

Blair Media Wins!

Judith Kahan Kampmann reports on success by her Blair media students. Producers of the 30-second public service announcement (PSA) entered in the New Jersey High School Video Contest were selected for special recognition, with a public presentation of the videos this past October during the Purple Violet Film Festival.

In addition, the “Who on Earth is God?” segment from the fall 2005 video garnered a bronze plaque (6 out of 7 rating points) at the 54th Columbus International Film & Video Festival, also known as The Chris Awards. The Chris Statuettes and Bronze Plaque awards were presented during the November ceremony at the Columbus College of Art & Design.

Now in its seventh year and offered as both an art elective (Video Production) and an after-school activities option (fall and spring), Blair Media students continue to produce a variety of videos including documentaries, mockumentaries, interviews, short movies and PSAs. Please check with Judith during the course of the year at (908) 362-6121, ext. 5690 or kampmj@blair.edu for information about screening times of the various Blair Media projects.
Blair’s Fine and Performing Arts Season Continues…

Theatre

THE BRAGGART SOLDIER
by Plautus, translated by Erich Segal

The Open Air Theatre has been home to an American classic, a musical and Shakespeare; it now turns to the roots of the theatre with Roman comedy by the father of comedy, Plautus. In this classic, the braggart soldier kidnaps a beautiful girl and eventually is punished in a manner befitting the vainest lecher of all time. The comedy uses Plautus’ favorite device of allowing the tables to be turned by a wily servant who connives and cons his way so that love and laughter can conquer.
May 9 & 10, 7:30 p.m., and May 12, 8:00 p.m.
Robert J. Evans Open Air Theatre

Romano Gallery

ALUMNI SHOW ROBERT BRODIE ’77

Robert Brodie’s dedication to vision and creativity is apparent in his images. During his childhood, he learned to paint using acrylics and later gave up art until his junior year of college. His father loaned him his Minolta rangefinder camera, and he rediscovered a love of images. (See Robert’s work on the inside front cover of this Bulletin.)
May 21 – June 19
Reception: Saturday, June 9

Campus Center

Enjoy art and a snack! Student exhibits change monthly during the course of the school year. Pictured are Eli West ‘07 with her paintings and drawings, along with David Evans ‘07 and his ceramic work.

Because this schedule is subject to change, please check the Performing & Fine Arts section of the school’s Web site (www.blair.edu) or call (908) 362-6121 for the latest available information as the event draws nearer.
IN MEMORY OF...

1937

Gordon M. Gibbs, Jr. Lt. Col. Gibbs, United States Air Force, lettered in football, wrestling and baseball while at Blair. He attended Colgate University and then completed his bachelor’s degree at the University of Omaha in Nebraska. In 1947, Gibbs joined the Army Air Corps and flew bombing missions in the China-India Theaters during World War II. After the war he continued his career in the Air Force and was a member of the Strategic Air Command. He participated in the Cuban Missile Crisis and the Berlin Airlift. His final assignment prior to his retirement was in the Pentagon and the State Department where he worked for the Joint Chiefs of Staff and the Office of the Secretary of State, reporting daily to President Johnson regarding events taking place in the Vietnam War. Upon his retirement in 1966, Lt. Col. Gibbs worked for Security Pacific Bank in Los Angeles, Calif., until his second retirement in 1980. He was predeceased by his first wife, Florence, and is survived by his wife of 40 years, Betty; sons, Gordon III and Robert; daughter, Susan; four grandchildren; and one great-grandson.

George W. Denison. Mr. Denison graduated from the University of Virginia in 1943 with a bachelor’s degree in economics. During World War II, Mr. Denison served as a midshipman with the Naval Air Transport Service. For 37 years, he worked as director of marketing development with Pan Am World Airways and then moved on to work with Avmark as an aviation consultant for nine years. Mr. Denison was a devoted member of the National Presbyterian Church and is survived by his wife, Margaret “Peggy” Denison; three daughters, Anne, Margaret and Jill; and three grandchildren.

James G. Tarabell. Mr. Tarabell was a resident of Princeton, N.J., for 45 years before moving to Pennington, N.J. He graduated from Princeton University in 1943, served in World War II in the U.S. Marine Corps and then shortly after in the U.S. Army. After WWII, he returned to Princeton University and completed his graduate degree. Mr. Tarabell began his career with Permacel Tape and Acme Rubber companies and then moved on to teach math and science for 20 years at South Brunswick High School. He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Edwina; daughter, Joanne; two grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; and a step-great-grandson.

1939

George W. Denison. Mr. Denison graduated from the University of Virginia in 1943 with a bachelor’s degree in economics. During World War II, Mr. Denison served as a midshipman with the Naval Air Transport Service. For 37 years, he worked as director of marketing development with Pan Am World Airways and then moved on to work with Avmark as an aviation consultant for nine years. Mr. Denison was a devoted member of the National Presbyterian Church and is survived by his wife, Margaret “Peggy” Denison; three daughters, Anne, Margaret and Jill; and three grandchildren.

1946

John T. Subak. Mr. Subak died after a short battle with cancer. He came to the United States on New Year’s Eve of 1941, at the age of 11, from his native Trebic, Czechoslovakia. John came to Blair as perhaps the first true merit scholarship student in Blair history, having entered the United States as he fled the war in Europe. John never forgot the opportunity afforded him and credited Headmaster Breed for the bold—at the time—scholarship initiative. After Blair, John went to New Haven and graduated summa cum laude from Yale, served in the U.S. Navy as a lieutenant J.G. for three years and then pursued his law degree at Yale Law School, where he was the editor of the Yale Law Journal. He then began his legal career with Dechert, Price and Rhoads in Philadelphia, where he became a partner and chair of the corporate department. In 1976, he left Dechert to become general counsel, group vice president and director at Rohm and Haas Company, also in Philadelphia. He retired in 1994. Among his many affiliations, Mr. Subak was a member of the board of trustees of Smith College and chair of the American Cancer Society of Philadelphia. He was an accomplished tennis and squash player and in later years became an avid golfer. While John always showed an interest in Blair’s progress, after retirement he took a more active interest in School affairs, offering support and spending time with the Headmaster when he visited at John’s winter home in Boca Grande, Fla. In 2006 he established the Dr. Charles H. Breed Scholarship to honor this former Headmaster and provide opportunities for future Blair students. Mr. Subak is survived by his wife of 51 years, Mary “Corky” Subak; two daughters, Jane and Kate; two sons, Thomas and Michael; and ten grandchildren.

1952

Lawrence D. Albert. Mr. Albert attended Saint Lawrence University and served in the U.S. Army. He owned and operated R.L. Albert & Son, Inc., a novelty candy company in Greenwich, Conn. Mr. Albert is survived by his son, Marc.
1956

Bruce H. Ogden. Mr. Ogden was a graduate of Purdue University and Roanoke College. He served his country for seven years as an explosive ordnance disposal specialist in the U.S. Army. In 1998, Mr. Ogden retired after 35 years as a drive systems engineer for General Electric. Mr. Ogden enjoyed golf, motorcycling and sailing, but his greatest passion was spending time with family and friends. He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Pamela; two daughters, Kate and Elizabeth; two sons, Robert and John; five grandchildren; and his brother, Richard ’58. Mr. Ogden was predeceased by his nephew, David ’87.

1964

Stephen A. Diamond. Mr. Diamond attended Columbia University, where he worked for Liberation News Service, a news service similar to alternative associated press for underground and college newspapers. He received nationwide exposure for his stories on the Columbia University strike of 1968. Mr. Diamond wrote What the Trees Said and Panama Red, after which he moved into consulting and writing for Green Mountain Post Films and editing for the Valley Advocate, Boston Phoenix, New Times, The Atlantic Monthly, L.A. Weekly, the San Francisco Chronicle, and the Los Angeles Herald Examiner, to name a few. Mr. Diamond actively worked with the United Nations and non-governmental organizations affiliated with the United Nations to establish a One Day in Peace holiday. He also wrote a children’s book, One Day in Peace, which has been translated into 18 languages and distributed to children around the world.

1965

Ledyard “Ted” B. Marsh. Mr. Marsh graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a degree in electrical engineering. In 1976, he received his master’s degree in nuclear engineering from the University of Washington. He served as the director of licensing project management for the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Mr. Marsh is survived by his wife, Linda; son, Scott; and daughter, Susan.

1972

George H. Myers V. Mr. Myers graduated from Lehigh University in 1976 with a degree in political science. He worked as a stockbroker for Lehgh Valley Wealth Management in Fogelsville, Pa., and was a member of the Lehigh Country Club. Mr. Myers is survived by his wife, Katherine; sons, George and Joseph; and daughter, Emily.

1977

Price Baum. Mr. Baum, a nationally recognized disability advocate, expert sailor and former director of Eastern Shore Center for Independent Living, died at his home in Oxford, Md., on October 27, 2006, after a brief illness. He was 48.

Hailed as an expert sailor at age 22, in July 1980 he was to fly to Bermuda to sail a friend’s boat back to Annapolis. On the eve of his departure, he broke his neck in a diving accident resulting in quadriplegia. After rehabilitation, he continued to teach sailing to young people throughout the Mid-Eastern Shore area.

Mr. Baum attended Blair from 1975 until graduation in 1977, during which time he was a star lacrosse player. In 1979, he graduated from the Lundberg School of Seamanship at Piney Point, Md., and served two years with the Merchant Marine before his diving accident.

After his diving accident, a long period of rehabilitation followed in Baltimore and at the Howard Rusk Clinic in New York City. He then entered Towson State University, graduating in 1984 with a degree in mass communications. He joined the human resources department at the then new National Rehabilitation Hospital in Washington, D.C., where he recruited staff and testified before Congress on disability-related issues.

Mr. Baum was an expert on the Americans with Disabilities Act. He was present in the White House Rose Garden when President George H.W. Bush signed that act into law. President Bush and his wife, Barbara, praised Mr. Baum’s efforts in helping to enact the ADA in 1990, calling it “the world’s first comprehensive civil rights law for people with disabilities.” Other tributes came from Rep. Major R. Owens, chairman of the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Select Education, U.S. Rep. Wayne Gilchrest, U.S. Sen. Barbara Mikulski and Maryland state officials.

A serious automobile accident in 1987 hospitalized Mr. Baum again for many weeks and forced his retirement from NRH. Undaunted, he continued to counsel businesses on the ADA and became director of the Eastern Shore Center for Independent Living in Cambridge, Md. There he spearheaded efforts to produce and distribute an accessibility guide to restaurants and hotels for disabled people. He also helped raise funds to build ramps and buy equipment for those who could not afford them.

Mr. Baum worked unceasingly to open employment opportunities for persons with disabilities, often speaking to business groups about adapting ADA rules in their own interests, and in the interests of qualified disabled job candidates.

He left five brothers, Daniel Smith and William Smith of Oxford, Henry Smith and his wife Judann of Paget, Bermuda, Charles Cann and his wife Sally of Marion, Mass., Nick Baum and his wife Anne of Paris, France; many nieces and nephews; and countless friends.

A memorial service held on Friday, November 3, 2006, at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church in Oxford, Md., was attended by hundreds of mourners and nine of his Blair classmates.

–Written by classmates John Neumann ’77 and Richard Luzzi ’77.

Former Faculty

David S. Miller. Described as colorful, eccentric, and loveable by those who knew him, David Miller taught English and history at Blair for 25 years, from 1963 to 1988. Our thoughts are with his family and his friends. [Formal obituary to appear in the summer Bulletin.]

Past Parent

Robert Riether. Dr. Riether received his M.D. from the University of Padova, Italy; his master’s in biology from the University of Mississippi; and his bachelor’s degree from St. Francis College. He was a colon and rectal surgeon for the group of Riether, Lapos, Sinnott & Rakhaminne in Allentown, Pa. Dr. Riether is survived by his wife of 32 years, Letizia; daughter, Lisa ’94; and son, Robert ’97.
Jerre S. Riggs Sr. One of three brothers who graduated from Blair, Jerre joined Blair’s Board of Trustees in 1955 and served actively for over 20 years before joining the emeritus ranks. He and his wife, Sis, faithfully attended the annual Headmaster’s Opening Dinner at the end of each summer. At those traditional dinners, Jerre enjoyed welcoming back old faculty and greeting new faculty to Blair, emphasizing Trustee and alumni care for the School. His warmth and conviviality were frequently the first things new faculty members experienced from a Blair Trustee, and his role was much appreciated. For 43 years, Mr. Riggs was part owner of Salmon Brothers, Inc., a road-building firm in Netcong, N.J., and, together with his brother, Albert Riggs ’39, was also part owner of Bowling Green Golf Club. Mr. Riggs was a member of the Sparta Presbyterian Church, the Netcong-Stanhope Rotary Club and the N.J. Society of the Founders and Patriots of America. He was also an avid bird watcher and hunter. Mr. Riggs was predeceased by his daughter, Marilyn Riggs Meshach, son, Rodney Riggs, and brother, John Riggs ’39. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Herbertha “Sis” Riggs; daughter, Martha “Molly” Riggs; and three sons, Joel, Jetur and Jerre Riggs Jr. ’57. He is also survived by 11 grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren.

In Memoriam: Denise Lynn Alexander Male


The Blair community mourns the death of Denise Alexander Male, former faculty and founder of the dance program at Blair, who passed away after a long battle with cancer. As her obituary noted, Denise was “a dancing diva who enlightened every soul whose path she crossed. She was inspired to follow her passions by loving parents, Norman Alexander and the late Rozell Alexander.”

And follow her passions she did. During her six years at Blair, Denise’s incredible energy and enthusiasm culminated in a diverse dance curriculum that included annual enrichment excursions into New York City, where students spent a full day taking master dance classes in the morning and attending such Broadway productions as “The Lion King” and “Contact” in the evening. The student dance recitals she produced at Blair were a testament to her choreography skills, her knowledge of dance in all its genres and her innate ability to teach.

When Denise and her son Anwar ’02 (inset left) tapped together on stage, the Blair audience experienced true showmanship. Her membership in various dance companies meant the school community would be treated to “outside” dancers as well, including daughter Kenya, who would later honor her mother by performing at her memorial celebration.

With the birth of Anyah and Jon Jon during her tenure at Blair, Denise’s life became fuller than ever. Finally, in 2004, she made the decision to leave Blair and devote herself to her family.

Denise received her bachelor’s degree in dance and liberal arts from Denison University and later studied abroad at the University of Ifé, Ile Ifé, Nigeria. In pursuit of her passions, she enjoyed a career as a dance educator, teaching at theater workshops for 25 years. She launched her own studio, Dance Sensations, in 1994, becoming “Miss Denise” to her youngest pupils. She performed in the New Jersey Tap Ensemble and the Mock Turtles Marionette Company, served on the board of Warren County Community College, served as president of NORWESCAP, collaborated with Arts Genesis, and directed the Northampton Community College Martin Luther King celebrations in Pennsylvania.

Denise was also a dedicated member of Shiloh Baptist Church in Easton, Penn. Within its round theater-like setting, a throng of family, friends and professional colleagues eulogized and remembered the dynamo that was Denise. A special thank-you appeared on the memorial program that day; it read, in part: “She fought the battle and has inspired all of us during her life. Her courage and faith in God remained strong until her last breath.”

Denise is survived by her husband, Jon Male; her father and step-mother; sons Anwar Jones ’02 and Jonathan “Jon Jon” Male; daughters Kenya Jones and Anyah Male; niece Jasmin Alexander; adopted mother Nana Banks and sister Doretta Bryant.
Blair Trustee Stathes Kulukundis ’60 hosted a cocktail reception for area alumni in November at The Royal Automobile Club’s Pall Mall Clubhouse in London.

Also in November, an alumni reception was held at The City Club of Washington at Columbia Square, including a surprise birthday cake for Headmaster Chan Hardwick.
A L U M N I  E V E N T S

In January, the Alumni Hockey “Dream Team” took on Blair’s Hockey Team at Chillout Sports Arena in nearby Hacketstown. Playing for the alumni were Chris Bivona ’99, Scott McKee ’77, Chris Strickland ’98, Mike McDonald ’97, Andrew Pearce ’02, Dennis Peachey ’62, Lucas Scott ’06, Cory Minerva ’06, Kerry Mitchell ’06, Eric Maine ’77 (coach) and announcer Jeff Liegner ’76.

The Dream Team pulled through with a win; final score was 9-8. Scoring for the alumni team were Michael McDonald with a hat trick, Andrew Pearce and Chris Bivona with two goals each, and Dennis Peachey and Captain Scott McKee with one goal each. Goalie Kerry Mitchell had a total of 23 saves.

Following the game, an informal reception and awards ceremony took place at Charlie Brown’s Steakhouse. Coach Eric Maine presented the following awards: Dennis Peachey for Best Play of the Game; Chris Strickland for Best Looking, and Michael McDonald for MVP. Scott McKee received the Peachey Award for Most Devoted Player.

Alumni Networking

You know you already have one thing in common!

The on-line alumni networking community on Blair’s Alumni Section of the Web site can give you a simple and easy opportunity to network with other Blair alums. Whether you are embarking on a job search for the first time or an experienced professional exploring other career opportunities, we encourage you to share your career-related experiences with other alumni.

Become a mentor or post a position or an internship! The success of the career network depends on how many alumni choose to use it. You never know, perhaps a fellow alum could become a future colleague!

Blair’s on-line networking community is password protected.

Over 3,000 registered and still growing!

http://alumni.blair.edu/
Come Join the Crowd!

Alumni Weekend, June 8-10, 2007

Friday, June 8
All Day – Tennis & Squash

11:00 am— Registration/Campus Lodging Check-In
9:00 pm Meerwarth Courtyard/Locke Hall Conference Room
11:30 am Blair Cup Golf Scramble Registration
Noon–2:00 pm Old Guard Luncheon & Remarks from the Headmaster
1:00 pm Blair Cup Golf Scramble
2:00–3:00 pm Featured Speaker: John C. Bogle ‘47
Boyle Hall, Cowan Auditorium
3:00–4:00 pm Campus Tours
4:00–6:00 pm Blair Cup Golf Scramble Cocktail Reception & Awards
5:30–6:00 pm Alumni Memorial Service
Chesnutt Chapel, 3rd floor, Clinton Hall
The Rev. Peter Amerman, Celebrant
6:00–7:00 pm Old Guard and 50th Reunion Cocktails
6:40 pm Class of 1957 Reunion Photo

Saturday, June 9
All Day – Golf, Tennis & Squash

8:30 am— Registration/Campus Lodging Check-In
9:00 pm Meerwarth Courtyard/Locke Hall Conference Room
8:30–10:00 am Old Guard Breakfast
Sharpe House (Classes 1957 and older)
8:30–10:00 am Coffee and Danish in Blair Room
(Classes 1958 and younger)
9:30 am Board of Governors Meeting
10:00 am 5K Run led by Martin Miller
10:00–11:00 am Student Panel Discussion: “The Blair Experience” with David Low
11:00 am Alumni Parade Round-Up
11:30 am Headmaster’s Assembly and Awards Presentation
Please join us as we honor Peter Amerman
Noon–3:00 pm Picnic Lunch, Children Activities and Live Entertainment
“The Booglerizers” – Acoustic Blues and Ragtime Band
2:00 pm Learn About Blair Admissions
Barbara Haase, Dean of Admissions
2:00–3:00 pm Campus Tours

Sunday, June 10
All Day – Golf, Tennis & Squash

2:00–3:00 pm Open Swim
2:30–3:30 pm Art Opening
Works by Robert J. Brodie ’77
2:30 pm Alumni Lacrosse Game
3:00 pm Academic Life at Blair
“Educating the Next Generation”
Selden Bacon, Dean of Academics, Moderator
4:30–5:30 pm 1848 Society Reception
Sharpe House Lawn
5:30–7:00 pm Headmaster’s Cocktail Reception and Class Photos
Sharpe House Lawn
7:00–11:30 pm Alumni Dinner, Cocktails & Dancing
“The Good Times Band”

Questions?
Contact Jenny Maine, Director of Alumni Relations
908-362-6121, ext. 5655
888-JIBLAIR (542-5247) – option 2
mainej@blair.edu
or look for updated information at http://alumni.blair.edu.

7:00 pm — Old Guard and 50th Reunion Dinners
Blair Room & Romano Dining Hall
7:00 pm — Class Gatherings
1962, 1967 — Peachey Home
2002 — Stival Home
Non-reunion classes are all welcome to attend!
“IF YOU ARE LUCKY ENOUGH TO HAVE LIVED IN PARIS AS A YOUNG MAN, THEN WHEREVER YOU GO FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE, IT STAYS WITH YOU, FOR PARIS IS A MOVEABLE FEAST.”

—ERNEST HEMINGWAY, A MOVEABLE FEAST

This view from atop Notre Dame Cathedral captures the essence of foreign travel. A group of Blair’s French students (young men and women, we might add) traveled to Normandy and the City of Light over Spring Break, while others simultaneously set out to see Germany—participants in foreign language immersion, culture and, for some, community service. See story on page 4.

Photo by Chelsea McMahon '10