The Greener Life

“Earth-Friendly” Attitude Across Campus
ON EXHIBIT

Baby
Dr. Charles H. Breed, Blair Headmaster, 1927–1946
Platinum Print, Vintage
Alumni Show: Breed Photography
May 18–June 8 – The Romano Gallery
International Student’s Compelling Story

This winter, The New York Times featured the story of Shamila Kohestani ’09, a girl from Afghanistan given the opportunity to study at Blair after years of Taliban rule deprived her of a proper education. An excerpt of the Times article and positive response from alumni readers are provided here.

Living the Greener, Finer Life

As Blair’s campus begins to literally turn green at this time of year, so, too, do the less visible aspects of its operation. In fact, an earth-friendly attitude—one that embraces the concept of sustainability—has long prevailed in some corners of campus, while the concept is explored and implemented in other areas today.

Standing Room Only

With panelists running the gamut from A to Z—a research assistant for The Late Show with David Letterman, a doctor, designer, financier and fundraiser—this year’s young alumni program in Blair’s Society of Skeptics series showcased the diverse paths of five graduates from the ’90s and current decade.

Ever Always: The Campaign for Blair Academy Continues

When students returned from Spring Break, they spied a red steel framework giving rise to the new Activity and Athletic Center. The roof over the field house and squash courts has taken shape, while Walker Gym renovations began this month.

Sections

3 From the Headmaster
10 In the News
13 Arts
24 Around the Arch
28 Academics
42 Sports
44 Class Notes
67 In Memoriam
As Blair turns greener with spring’s arrival, so, too, do the less visible aspects of its operation; turn to page 16 for more on the School’s approach to sustainability. (Right): Blair crew, which enjoyed a great season last year, looks forward to more of the same. The team is broken into four groups, including varsity boys/girls and novice boys/girls. Currently, crew boasts over 60 athletes participating at all levels. Both photos by Bruce Cramer.
Whenever I meet with prospective students and parents, I point out the remarkable tenure, experience and maturity of the School’s administrative team. Between me, the assistant headmasters, and the dean and directors of the major administrative areas, we represent a group of men and women who have served Blair for well over 160 years—more years than Blair’s own history. And while I hope the strength of all this experience is reassuring to parents who entrust their children to Blair, I also know that all this “wisdom” must be balanced by the youth, imagination and enthusiasm for boarding school life that is part of the broader faculty culture. Still, for all the strengths of a “mature” administrative team, there is the obvious downside: how long can the group last and how seamlessly can the inevitable transitions occur?

In October of this past year, I started my regularly scheduled mid-week meeting with Dean of Admission Barbara Haase with the usual question, “What’s on your plate?” Barbara took a deep breath, opened her eyes wide, and told me that the time had come for her to leave Blair. While not exactly what I expected to hear that day, I knew the time was certainly coming when Barbara would want to reconcile the various parts of her life that were pulling her in different directions, including a home halfway between her family in New York (where her husband Marty Haase serves as director of development at the Browning School and where sons Brett ’91 and Blake ’97 are both living and starting families) and her work at Blair. Youthful and enthusiastic as ever, Barbara has a 24/7 approach to her work. Increasingly, that work ethic and the endless demands of heading our admission office precluded Barbara from enjoying her new role as a grandmother and being with her family. But what about the transition issue? Could we pull that off without hurting our successful admission effort?

Fortunately, Barbara has built a strong admission team over the past few years. Much of our admission “success” is the result of their efforts. Over the past two years, applications for admission have increased 40%, representing dramatic growth both in terms of numbers and quality of applicants. Barbara’s team has expanded travel outreach, upgraded our presence on the Web site and worked closely with growing numbers of families. Ryan Pagotto ’97 is the senior member of that team, and we are excited that he has accepted the offer to lead Blair’s admissions efforts after Barbara’s departure. After graduating from Blair, Ryan attended Dickinson College and taught at Wyoming Seminary before returning to teach and work in admission at Blair. He is married to Jen Pagotto, our dynamic new instrumental music teacher, and spent this past year at Columbia University’s Klingensteinsl School earning a master’s degree in educational leadership. I have confidence that Ryan, along with Heather Eckert, director of financial aid, Bowen Posner, Andrew Pearce ’02, Alexis Machabanski and Paul Clavel ’83, will continue the strong personal and professional standards that Barbara established during her years here.

We shall honor Barbara at the annual leadership dinner. Next year, she will become the director of admission at the Montclair Kimberley Academy, a day school located just five minutes from her new home. While we will miss her daily presence, her influence will be felt for many years. When Barbara first came to Blair in 1990, she proposed that she and Marty should leave their comfortable home in Sparta and move into Locke Hall as the housemasters of 60 girls. That single act of complete involvement in the School—Barbara’s office is on the first floor of Locke, so she literally never left work—not only transformed our admissions, especially for young women, but set a remarkable example of professional and personal commitment to all of us. During her time at Blair, Barbara has attracted and admitted a generation of outstanding students; she has also worked with them and their families throughout their Blair years, opening her home and her heart to them—as did Marty—in a way that can only be compared to the ideal of school mastering, usually found in Masterpiece Theatre productions.

So, in the end, Barbara made the decision—the right one, it feels—to re-direct her life to the east and to her family. When she told me of her decision, I knew that the inevitable time had arrived when our beloved administration, full of experience and trust, was quietly giving way to the new. But let me assure you: the new looks very good, too.

We say good-bye to Barbara Haase, Blair parent of two sons and hundreds of Blair boys and girls, as well as the superb architect of our remarkably successful admission growth during the past decade and into this new century. Over the past two years, applications for admission have increased 40 percent.

FROM THE HEADMASTER

BLAIR BULLETIN
International Student’s Compelling Story

Blair Provides Hope and Opportunity
The February 11 edition of The New York Times featured Blair Academy on the front page of the sports section, along with Rob Harris’ superb video available to readers of the Times’ on-line edition. That same day, the article by Joe Drape also appeared globally in the International Herald Tribune (owned by The New York Times Co.). As many of you know from having received this news, Headmaster Chan Hardwick notified the community at large via an email that Monday morning:

“I write to alert you that for the second time in the last four years, The New York Times is publishing a featured article about the School and one of our students. The article appears in today’s edition on the front page of the sports section, although the article is not about sports. Nearly four years ago on April 1, the Times published a front-page article exploring the unusual occurrence of two Blair graduates [Luol Deng ’03 and Charlie Villanueva ’03] who had been roommates here and were playing basketball against each other in the NCAA Tournament’s Final Four. The article reflected the School quite favorably, focusing on our sense of community, our rural campus and our academic rigor. Today’s news article is centered on an international student [Shamila Kohestani ’08] with a compelling story and background...The Times’ team included a writer, photographer, videographer and interpreter who were on campus for more than three days to capture the essence of this student’s experience at Blair, including visiting classes, seeing her with friends and even filming a junior varsity girls’ basketball game.” [Shamila played on the team this winter.]

“In general,” Chan added, “exposure to the press/media, particularly on a global level, is not necessarily a favorable experience, particularly for boarding schools, which tend to be inherently criticized for being elite. However, I hope after reading this article you will agree that it is an affirmative portrayal of our School. Indeed, it is remarkable that Blair has been the national subject of two very prominent and quite positive stories about our community.”

Alumni and parents agreed wholeheartedly with Chan, as their positive responses indicate (see page 9). In his alert in the Winter Bulletin of the pending Times article, Chan noted, “How Shamila came to Blair is an interesting story, but her acceptance and her scholarship are very straightforward: the Blair family and a foundation that has long supported the School stepped forward to make her education with us possible.”

The excerpted Times article appears on the following pages.
Soccer as an escape to hope for Afghan Teenager

By Joe Drape

Shamila Kohestani ’08 (far left) with Julie Foudy, former captain of the U.S. women’s soccer team, and Afghan teammate Roia Ahmad; both girls received the Arthur Ashe Courage Award in 2006. Shamila plays for fun on Blair’s new soccer fields during the fifth annual Headmasters’ Societies Competition Week this past winter (see more on page 26).
In world religion class, Shamila Kohestani is neither the adolescent who defied the Taliban in Afghanistan nor the symbol of liberation that shared the stage with stars from Hollywood and sports at the 2006 ESPY [ESPN] Awards. She is a teenager whose lips move as she takes notes and whose list of words to look up grows exponentially each minute, each hour and each day.

Some of her classmates at Blair Academy here know that Kohestani, 19, is the captain of the Afghanistan national women’s soccer team. Some are aware that she is Muslim. Most know her only as the striking young woman who is eager to stock her iPod with any kind of music they recommend.

Until recently, they had no idea of what Kohestani has already endured in her short life. The music that some of them take for granted is a luxury to her; the classwork they grumble about is a privilege.

When you have been deprived of both from age 8 to 13, as Kohestani had, this prep school in the woods of northwest New Jersey is as perfect a place as exists on earth.

“With no soccer, there would be no school, and no hope,” said Kohestani, whose sparkling smile attests to the fact that hope is one thing she has in plenty now.

Kohestani became one of the 440 students at this 160-year-old boarding school in late October, when she arrived with the clothes on her back, a small carry-on bag and her soccer cleats. It was sports that delivered her here, but that has taken a back seat as she tries to expand her English and make up for five years without an education.

When the Taliban ruled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001, Kohestani and her six sisters were virtually confined to their small home in Kabul. They were not allowed to attend school or work, and when they appeared in public, they had to be covered in a burqa...The family sought out underground schools and traded books among friends, violating Taliban laws.

Kohestani said she was beaten for not wearing her burqa properly. “I threw the burqa off and ran,” she said.

It was with the same determined abandon that Kohestani became one of the cornerstones of women’s soccer in Afghanistan. In 2004, she was one of eight girls who came to the United States for a clinic to learn soccer as part of the Afghan Youth Sports Exchange, a fledgling program started by Awista Ayub, an Afghan American.

“These girls had dreams of becoming something and had passion in life, and it was cut short for a while,” said Ayub, 28, who played women’s ice hockey at the University of Rochester. “I think some of them might not have realized that the window of opportunity would open again.”

In the spring of 2006, Kohestani was among 250 girls who took part in a five-day clinic in Kabul sponsored by the Afghan Youth Sports Exchange. She was back in America that summer and met President Bush and accepted the Arthur Ashe Courage Award at the ESPYs on behalf of all Afghan female soccer athletes.

The highlight of the trip, however, was participating in the Julie Foudy Sports Leadership
Academy in Hightstown, N.J. There, she caught the attention of Carolyn Conforti-Browse [Blair Class of ’79], who teaches English and is the softball coach at Blair Academy.

“She wasn’t an amazing soccer player, but the energy and the joy that she brought to the field for every practice—I have to say that stayed with me,” said Conforti-Browse, who is also a counselor at the academy.

Conforti-Browse asked the Blair headmaster, Chan Hardwick, to find scholarship money for Kohestani. Foudy, the former captain of the United States women’s soccer team, pledged to pay for Kohestani to return to America for a year of what is essentially postgraduate study.

As an athlete in Afghanistan, Kohestani is a big deal. Last August, she scored six of the national team’s 11 goals as the Afghans won four of five games at a tournament in Pakistan, their first international event. The team is a long way from qualifying for an Olympics or a Women’s World Cup, but it is followed closely. Kohestani said President Hamid Karzai even had a member of parliament call to wish the team luck before the finals.

Kohestani said she wanted to attend college in the United States. To do so, she must overcome a steep learning curve. A half-dozen Blair instructors have been tutoring her privately.

“This was a young woman who had never used a calculator before, did know how to use a computer, but didn’t have one,” said Hardwick, the headmaster. “She had a lot of holes in her educational background, because she had been out of school for about five or six years of her early learning. If there is any great leveler in the world, it’s got to be education, and this is what she wants, she wants to be educated…”

“She asks about everything and wants to absorb it all,” said Frances Salaveria, one of her basketball teammates. “She makes me think about all the things we take for granted.”

“IN THE FIRST TWO OR THREE DAYS, SHE TRAVELED ALMOST EVERY TIME SHE CAUGHT THE BALL, AND I’D HAVE TO STOP, AND SHE’D GET VERY FRUSTRATED AND ANGRY BECAUSE SHE IS SO COMPETITIVE,” said Ryan Spring, the basketball coach and a history teacher. “NOW SHE CAN SCORE, AND SHE LEADS WITH HER ENERGY.”

Kohestani is a daily visitor to the weight room because there is no such facility for women in her home country. Her desire to fill her iPod with all kinds of melodies, too, comes from the fact that the Taliban banned most music.

Kohestani is an observant Muslim, saying her prayers at the appointed times in her dormitory room.

One morning last month, the Blair student body gathered for its weekly chapel, and Kohestani shared her story, her culture.

She showed a documentary that outlined the degradations of the Taliban rule and showed how women’s soccer has taken hold in Afghanistan and changed girls’ lives. There were images of women being executed at the Olympic Stadium in Kabul under the Taliban reign. Now, Kohestani and her teammates play matches on that very same field...Now, her classmates knew Shamila Kohestani’s story. They gave her a long, heartfelt standing ovation.
“We Couldn’t Agree More…”
Alumni and parents wrote to the Headmaster and other community members in response to *The New York Times* article about Shamila, sharing the sentiments of many.

What a heartwarming story; how privileged both school and student are to know each other. I am so fortunate to have [my son] attend Blair. I know without a helping hand he would not have had the opportunity. He certainly loves it there and tries his hardest every day… I can’t wait to do more for Blair, to give back at least a small fraction for what you are doing for my son.

The exciting article in today’s *New York Times* about Blair makes me proud to be an alumnus. What a grand way to take a stand in world community service. Blair has spoken clearly and sets a standard for others to follow; my belief in fairness and commitment was honed at Blair…Keep up the good work. Congratulations to Carolyn Conforti-Browse for pushing the issue and to Ms. Kohestani for matriculating and bringing her culture to the Blair campus.

What a wonderful tribute to Blair Academy and what it stands for. I am so proud to be a graduate of such a fine school. I am very proud of you, Chan, and everyone else at Blair for all that you’re doing for the students. The education they receive at Blair will give them the chance to *hope* for a bright future. All they need to add to their Blair education is the drive and determination that they see in Shamila Kohestani. Please tell Shamila how very proud I am of her.
Islam Primer Now in Print
An article in the January 31 issue of The Economist, “How Jihad Went Freelance,” includes mention of a new book by Peter Mandaville ’90. The feature states, “Counter-terror specialists are seldom knowledgeable about the intricacies of modern Islam, and vice versa. Those looking for a reliable guide to the currents of political Islam, of which al-Qaeda-style jihadism is but one, could do worse than turn to a young American scholar, Peter Mandaville, an associate professor at George Mason University, near Washington, D.C. Mr. Mandaville’s primer, Global Political Islam, is a well-informed account of the origins of mainstream Islamism, the strategies of Islamisation, the emergence of the radical fringe, the competition for authority among Muslim elites and the impact of globalisation on Muslim politics. This is a study which sets out to transcend the ‘narrow moment’ of al-Qaeda.”

Revving Up Those Search Engines
The January 21 edition of the Miami Herald included an article by Kevin Kraft, “Optimizer Helps Websites Get Hits,” concerning the career of Steve Clark ’92. Kraft began, “Most college students who major in philosophy do some heavy-duty soul searching. But when Steve Clark majored in philosophy at Colgate University in Hamilton, N.Y., he turned his searching toward the Internet. ‘My job was to update websites for the philosophy department. Website construction interested me, and I began reading books on the subject. Pretty soon I was building my own websites to better understand the process.’ After graduating, Clark began building websites professionally. The more websites he built, the more curious he became about how search engines treated his sites. When he took a job in Web development with New York Life Insurance, Clark found himself in charge of drawing attention to the company’s website. There was no budget for advertising, so Clark focused on building the site through search engine optimization.”

Kraft added, “Search engine optimization, or SEO, is the process of improving traffic directed to a website from search engines such as Google or Yahoo...For example, a travel company that specializes in ski vacations would like its website to be the first return for a Google search of the phrase ‘ski vacation.’ SEO interested Clark, who now works for SEO consulting firm Tidal Research, because it combined the technical knowledge of Web development with an ability to understand a client’s target audience and how that audience searched for a product.”

A Knack with Politics & Press
The Politico, an on-line publication launched in January 2007, covers the politics of Capitol Hill, Washington lobbying and advocacy, as well as the presidential campaign. Its recent feature by Josh Kraushaar on 50 “politicos” included Carrie Giddins ’92, communications director, Iowa Democratic Party, who recently founded her own political communications consulting firm in D.C. and was a “return” Society of Skeptics speaker in February.

Kraushaar explains, “Politico’s staff assembled a list of 50 politicos to watch. To be sure, this list was entirely subjective. But these people caught our reporters’ eyes. They aren’t necessarily the most powerful people (although several may be someday). They are of different ages, party affiliations and backgrounds. Their common theme is that they are on interesting career trajectories—and well worth watching.”

In his write-up on Carrie, Kraushaar said, “In a supercharged presidential season, the Iowa caucuses are yesterday’s news. But among the memories that will be slow to fade for many reporters will be the role Carrie Giddins played in helping them do their jobs. After spending the last year as communications director of the Iowa Democratic Party working with nearly 3,000 reporters
covering the caucuses, Giddins, 33, is heading back to Washington to start her own political communications consulting firm.”

He added, “She’ll begin with quite a reservoir of goodwill among the political journalism establishment and leaves behind quite a record from her one-year stint with the state party. Not only did she help manage its communications efforts, but she also played a key role in organizing the first-in-the-nation caucuses... Giddins previously worked as deputy communications director at EMILY’s List, where she helped female Democratic congressional candidates craft their campaign messages. Before that, she worked on John F. Kerry’s campaign in Iowa, lending valuable experience in preparation for the caucuses.”

*[Note: Carrie’s Op-Ed contribution concerning recent Democratic Party issues appeared in The New York Times on March 19.]*

**Influencing Change in Investment World**

*Jack Bogle ’47,* former Board chairman, was chosen as one of Princeton University’s “25 Most Influential Alumni”—those who “changed America, and the world.” *The Princeton Review*’s January 23 issue featured profiles of these illustrious alumni, with Jack’s entry (Princeton Class of ’51) reading as follows: “Founder of the Vanguard Group, one of the largest mutual-fund companies in the world; named by *Time* magazine as one of the 100 most influential people in the world in 2004; his investment strategy focuses on the superiority of index funds over traditionally managed mutual funds.”

**Picturing Childhood in Black & White**

The December *American Art Review* article, “Picturing Childhood: Pictorialist Family Photography,” highlights the recent exhibit by this name at the Carnegie Museum of Art. The show featured the work of several men, including former Blair Headmaster Dr. Charles H. Breed, a native of Pittsburgh. The article explained, “[Their] photographs document bygone eras of middle- and upper-middle-class domestic life. Some of their images present a sheltered society or a carefully composed nostalgic view of childhood and the domestic, while others suggest a more complex mood, theme or subtext.”

The feature continues, “The photographs were conceived as personal projects for the private use of family and friends, yet there are strong aesthetic and thematic links among them. The similarities may be partly explained by the photographers’ place in a continuum of amateurs and professionals that helped to establish the traditions of the more formal family photograph and the more casual family snapshot. The conventions of theme and composition apparent when the images are viewed as a group have the disconcerting effect of undermining their association with personal, private or individual and allow the expressive potential of photography to be explored.”

**Acting Out a Musical Revival**

Actress *Cristina Vivenzio* ’00, whose stage name is Cristina Marie, played the lead female role in the revival of Cy Coleman’s musical, *Seesaw*, which ran at the historic Connelly Theatre in New York City this past March. This revival production of the 1973 Tony Award-winning musical, with a book by Michael Bennett, music by Cy Coleman, and lyrics by Dorothy Fields, is the story of a bittersweet couple who fall in love through fun, music and laughter.

The production was featured in a number of theatre-related publications, including *GGT Press* and Theatre Mania’s newsletter, which noted, “*Seesaw* is a delightful evening of theatre featuring an intimate, engaging love story and a brassy, show-biz musical comedy rolled into one...The plot follows the romance of a handsome and tall WASP lawyer from Omaha, Jerry Ryan, who is running from his wife and domineering father-in-law to New York, where he meets a sassy and fascinating Jewish girl, Gittel Mosca, a not-yet successful dancer from the Bronx. The plot focuses on a brief affair between our mid-western lawyer and a gallant and goofy streetwise dancer who wins at
life but loses at love. This fast-paced show features sparkling musical numbers that capture the ups and downs of Gittel and Jerry’s affair, the street scenes of Manhattan and the toe-tapping escapades of Gittel and her budding choreographer friend David.”

Twice On Top Media’s Top 20 List

The Chicago Tribune’s December 14 Web edition featured Greg Kot’s Best of 2007: 20 Thrilling Albums, which included “Over the Counter Culture” by Tim Fite, known to his classmates as Tim Sullivan ’95. (Tim is pictured above, top row, left, with brother Greg Sullivan ’92, bottom right.) Kot appears on-line to play 10 of the Top 20 winners and discuss his picks at http://leisureblogs.chicagotribune.com/turn_it_up/2007/12/best-of-2007-20.html

Kot says, “One of the toughest parts of any music critic’s job each year is narrowing down a list of favorite albums to a manageable two-digit number. This year, my best-of list could’ve easily been three times as long. But I’ll settle for listing the 20 albums that brought me the greatest pleasure in 2007.” Tim’s album is #7, with Kot’s review noting, “Tim Fite, ‘Over the Counter Culture’ (timfite.com): A critique and celebration of hip-hop packed with crackling beats, outrageous humor and rage. Best of all, it’s free (from timfite.com). Download: ‘I’ve Been Shot.’ ”

The Los Angeles Times’ Todd Martens also named Tim’s album to his Top 20 List, putting it at the top with this description: 1. Tim Fite, “Over the Counter Culture.” Fite comes off as a folksy activist masquerading as a hip-hop artist, and delivered the working man’s reaction to an increasingly confusing political and cultural climate.

According to Tim’s proud mother, Blair art teacher Rita Baragona, he will be on tour soon, along with brother Greg Sullivan ’92. Rita notes, “The two perform together, with Greg singing back-up, working the computer system and writing the interlude music.”

Leading the Pack at the Garden

Villanova’s men’s track team was featured in a nationally televised (ESPN) event at Madison Square Garden in New York City in February. Mike Kerrigan ’03 led the team in the 4x800 race, as reported by Corey Marine in The Villanovian, who wrote, “The Wildcats placed second out of seven teams at the 101st Annual Millrose Games. The group posted a time of 7:35.45, surpassing its season-best time by four seconds and falling to the first-place team, Arkansas, by under a second. The ‘Cats’ time is now the second-best time in the Big East behind Georgetown by less than two seconds.”

Marine added, “Senior Michael Kerrigan led the team and was followed by fellow senior Mark Korich…The race came down to the wire, as Arkansas and ‘Nova traded places within the final lap of the race. Tulley passed his Arkansas opponent with just over two laps to go. However, the Razorbacks took back the lead in the final lap. ‘I am happy with the result because it was a great effort,’ Head Coach Marcus O’Sullivan said after the race. ‘It was a very entertaining race, and everyone ran exceptionally well.’ ”


Blair teacher and coach Marty Miller, who follows Mike’s collegiate career, noted that, at press time, Mike led off his record-breaking team in February at the Big East Indoor Track and Field Meet at the 168th Street Armory in Manhattan. Marty said, “In the distance medley relay (1200m, 400m, 800m, 1600m), Mike ran the first leg in 2:55.5. The Villanova men’s distance medley relay team set a meet and Armory record and posted an NCAA automatic qualifying time of 9:32.89. The meet record had stood since 1984 when the anchor was current Villanova head coach Marcus O’Sullivan.”

12 Spring 2008
The Blair Academy Players presented three shows of *Guys and Dolls* in February, opening (appropriately enough) on Valentine’s Day evening to rave reviews for their masterful singing and dancing.

Craig Evans, director, described the plot and cast:

This beloved musical, with its book by Abe Burrows and Jo Swerling and music and lyrics by Frank Loesser, is set in Damon Runyon’s mythical New York City where some of Broadway’s most legendary characters are assembled: Sarah Brown (played by Tina Tozzi ’08), the upright but uptight mission reformer who is trying to bring sinners to her local mission house; Sky Masterson (played by Dylan Evans ’08), the slick, high-rolling gambler who woos her on a bet and ends up falling in love; Adelaide (played by Taylor McKay ’08), the chronically ill nightclub performer whose condition is brought on by her 14-year engagement; Nathan Detroit (played by Andrew Hutcheson ’08), her devoted fiancé, gambling his love to keep alive his floating crap game; gambler Nicely Nicely Johnson (played by Todd Lewis ’08), a gambler whose heart is as big as his voice; Benny Southwest (played by Michael Breslin ’09), trying to bring Detroit’s crap game to fruition; and Arvide (played by Tyler Browse ’08), Sarah’s uncle who tries to convince her to worry more about her heart than her soul.

The production, which included a live orchestra, featured some of Broadway’s best songs, including “Luck Be a Lady,” “Fugue for Tinhorns,” “Sit Down, You’re Rocking the Boat,” “Bushel and a Peck,” “Take Back the Mink” and “Adelaide’s Lament.”

Faculty members Wayne Rasmussen and Kate Sykes were technical director and assistant technical director, respectively; Bill Hammer was vocal director; Jennifer Pagotto served as musical director; Clarissa Newby-Phillips was choreographer and Kaye Evans was costume director.

The show was student-directed by Ashley Thompson ’08.
A Luminous Collaboration

At press time, the Blair Singers, under the direction of William Hammer, were preparing to travel to the City of Brotherly Love where they will perform “Luminosity: Music of Light and Enlightenment,” at the Philadelphia Cathedral on April 11. The concert brings together two of Rider University’s Westminster choral ensembles, as well as the Blair Singers and the ArcheDream Dance Theater, in the world premiere of a work by renowned British composer James Whitbourn.

Dancers Prepare for “The Art Gallery: Of Picture and Prose”

As this issue of the Bulletin goes to press, the Blair Academy Dance Department, under the direction of Clarissa Newby Phillips (pictured), prepares for a dance concert on Thursday, May 15, at 7:30 p.m. in Armstrong-Hipkins Center for the Arts. “The Art Gallery: Of Picture and Prose” is choreographed by Clarissa Newby Phillips and Lian Wang and is based on the works of various artists, including Thierry Ona, Annie Lee and others, with music by artists such as Nina Simone, Lena Horne and Jose Miquel Wisnik.

To Sleep, Perchance to Dream

The fall after-school video project was shown during a February assembly in Armstrong-Hipkins Center for the Arts. Entitled, “Everything You Always Wanted to Know About Sleep (But Were Too Tired to Ask),” the video focused on dreams and sleep and featured interviews with Richard O’Such, a Blair parent and international pilot for American Airlines; Steven Kampmann (teacher of the dreams course, a senior English elective); and many others.

Judith Kampmann, director of video studies, notes that the video featured clips from movies, many random facts, and two very clever montages edited by Jillian Black ’10 and Raj Viroja ’08. She adds that this 45-minute program was produced by 11 students, including Jillian Black, Alex Motiuk ’08, Adam Ziff ’08, Jen Shields ’10, Kenny Shin ’08, Michael Breslin ’09, Kevin Flemming ’08, Tori Rulle ’10, Morgan Gardiner ’11, Christopher St. John ’10 and Airi Kobayashi ’08. The entire production was overseen and edited by Judith.

Art by Airi Kobayashi ’08 was on display in Blair’s Campus Center (a.k.a. “The Can”) in February. The School community looks forward to the “revolving” talent on exhibit in this popular venue featuring a different student artist each month.
A second group of Blair thespians took to the stage in February, this time in the smaller Wean Theatre of Armstrong-Hipkins Center for the Arts. 

Fortinbras was a clever comedy based on the characters in Shakespeare’s timeless tragedy. Written by Lee Blessing, Fortinbras explores what happens to Hamlet’s kingdom after he dies and his recommended successor, Fortinbras, takes over.

Cast member Becca Litvin ’10 wrote the following for the February edition of the student newspaper, The Blair Breeze: “The play was centered on the return of the characters in Hamlet, who after being killed by Shakespeare, are resurrected as ghosts by Blessing.

Ironically, all the ghosts featured in Fortinbras were the opposite of what they were in Hamlet. Or at least they tried to be…”

Becca added, “Fortinbras was directed by English teacher Micki Kaplan McMillan and student-directed by Sasha Patane ’08. The play featured familiar characters Osric (Brendan Brence ’10), Ophelia (Becca Dewey ’11), Horatio (Matt Ziff ’09), Hamlet (Eric Hedden ’09), Claudius (Andrew Singh ’09), Gertrude (Asia Bryant ’10), Marcellus (Kelsey Hanzlik ’10), Barnardo (Taylor Starkman ’10), Polonius (Mikal Davis-West ’11) and Laertes (Becca Litvin) from Hamlet. The play also introduced an ambitious Fortinbras (Tim Peacock ’08), two confused Polish maidens (Zenia Simpson ’09, Catherine Marcus ’10) and one unfortunate English Captain (Caitlin Campbell ’10). Props mistress for the play was Jen Shields ’10. While Fortinbras kept the audience laughing, it was also a play that asked the audience to consider poignant questions concerning life and death and everything in between.”

Fortinbras Also Fares Well in February
As Blair’s campus begins to literally turn green at this time of year, so, too, do the less visible aspects of its operation. In fact, an earth-friendly attitude—one that embraces the concept of sustainability—has long prevailed in some corners of campus, considering that the School’s recycling program and its student environmental club—dubbed Earthshine—have been around since the 1980s and 1990, respectively.

Science teacher Rob Merrifield, faculty advisor to Earthshine, commented on the origins of the group. “The club takes on a variety of environmental projects and was founded in the early ’90s by a core group of interested students,” he said. “Earthshine has continued to this day, though each year the focus of the group changes based on the personal interests and commitment of its members. This fall, Earthshine sold T-shirts, with the proceeds going toward the purchase of compact fluorescent light [CFL] bulbs for the dining room, thus conserving a significant amount of electricity. A few years back, the members planted a 12-foot-tall Japanese cherry tree in front of Freeman House to commemorate the 35th Earth Day. Another project begun last year by club member Sawyer Sutton ’07 was pursuing the School’s purchase of a diesel Volkswagen Jetta, which has been converted to run on filtered vegetable oil from Blair’s kitchen and student canteen. The security staff will use this car as they patrol campus.”

Rob explains that the current recycling program was started in the late ’80s as a result of a New Jersey law mandating recycling. “A system was devised to collect materials from various buildings on campus. Dormitory residents were responsible for transporting their recyclables to the large containers on campus, while day students were responsible for removing recyclables from classrooms and offices. This effort was coordinated by a few faculty members assigned to the task.”

Newspapers, cardboard, cans and plastic containers are definitely in abundance at Blair, especially when it comes to food and beverage
consumption, since there are still times when disposable goods must be used. Sue Schneider, general manager for dining services, is pleased to be part of a greener operation. “Besides recycling the obvious, as Rob Merrifield said, our kitchen supplies fuel in the form of vegetable oil to the security staff vehicle. And the CFL bulbs that Earthshine helped purchase were on my wish list for a while, so that’s terrific! We also purchase disposable cups made from corn and use unbleached napkins, which are environmentally friendly.” Sue Brown, manager of the campus center (a.k.a. “The Can”)—one of the most popular places on campus—follows suit, using these same paper products. She also notes that some students have purchased special mugs to be used at the Can. “Each time they come in and buy a beverage that would normally require a Styrofoam cup, they receive a discount,” she explained.

Similarly, Blair’s housekeeping staff now use paper and cleaning products that are more environmentally friendly and chemical-free. Plans call for an increase in such efforts in the months to come, according to Marge Harris, director of housekeeping services.

Blair’s Web site has allowed community members to go “paperless” in recent years. Work orders are now filled out and submitted on-line. Even student warnings and recommendations are distributed via the on-line “faculty workroom” accessed from the School’s Intranet.

Communication to parents, alumni and other constituents also uses less paper these days, with email the modus operandi in many cases. When paper is required for printing of publications such as this Blair Bulletin, recycled paper is the choice, hands-down. In fact, this current issue as well as the Winter edition were printed by Payne Printery Inc. In July of 2007, Payne was approved as a certified Forest Stewardship Council (FSC) commercial print supplier. (FSC is the only globally recognized forestry initiative at this
Payne also utilizes soy-based, TOYO inks as its standard. Printer ink cartridges are routinely recycled as well.

And while there is no getting around some of the paper pile-up that still occurs within offices, paper shredders abound across campus. The resultant material is bagged and sent off to the School’s recycling center.

Even consumer goods like cell phones get a second chance, often with an altruistic motive. Ann Williams, director of the Timken Library, explains that community members are welcome to bring in their old phones for a greater cause. “We have a special container in our periodicals area that’s dedicated to helping an organization called Cell Phones for Soldiers,” she said. “Anyone with a phone they no longer want is welcome to come here and add it to our collection site.” According to the group’s Web site, they hope to “turn old cell phones into more than 12 million minutes of prepaid calling cards for U.S. troops stationed overseas through a network of more than 3,000 collection sites across the country. The phones are sent to ReCellular, which pays Cell Phones for Soldiers for each donated phone—enough to provide an hour of talk time to soldiers abroad.”

Several years ago, a similar effort benefited victims of domestic violence when the residents of West Hall collected and donated wireless phones to Verizon Wireless’ HopeLine phone recycling program. According to Verizon’s Web site, “The used phones are either refurbished and recycled or sold. With the funds raised from the sale of the refurbished phones, Verizon Wireless purchases time.) Blair students frequently help beautify the downtown area; each week they perform a campus-wide recycling service.
wireless phones and donates airtime to victims of domestic violence through human services and law enforcement agencies. The program also makes financial grants to regional and national domestic violence organizations and other select community interest groups.”

Blair’s technology department has participated in the local Warren County recycling program that accepts obsolete school computers. Old computers have also been donated to charities through the efforts of various faculty members.

Concern for the environment is also apparent in personal choices made by community members. At least four faculty and staff can be seen driving through campus in their energy-efficient hybrid Prius cars, including Rita Baragona, Cynthia Crowner, Karen Gross and Rob Merrifield.

Students need not be an Earthshine member to make a difference in the local landscape, on or off campus. They are routinely reminded to pick up litter and turn off lights and computers when not in use, particularly over extended holidays like Spring Break. (Room inspections help enforce these points.) And it’s not unusual for Blue and White Key Society members to join forces with local civic groups, beautifying the downtown area with flower plantings, etc.

A few years ago, science teacher Blair Buck and his AP biology students tackled an end-of-the-school-year project to add lush spring foliage to a local park. “The Blairstown Environmental Commission wrote a grant for a riparian buffer along the banks of the Paulins Kill [a stream] in Footbridge Park in downtown Blairstown,” Blair explained. “The grant paid for hundreds of water-tolerant trees to serve as a bank stabilizer and pollution buffer. The commission then asked for volunteers from the community to help plant these trees, so a group of AP biology students and I went down to the park and planted between 30 and 40 trees.”

Science teacher Don Lawshe has long taught his physics students how to design a home with passive solar heat. Their house project, which they work on in the winter semester, consists of understanding how to use passive solar energy for supplying at least 60 percent of the heating requirements for their home.

“Basically, students consider how well their house soaks up the sun,” said Don. “Through math calculations involving square footage—based on four walls, roof, ceiling and floor dimensions—they determine the loss of heat and how much needs to be replaced. Most students really get into it, and they come...
up with a good understanding of what is involved in using passive solar.”

Don has built two passive solar houses of his own—the first in 1983 and the other in 1998, the latter of which is part of a class trip “house tour” that includes other similarly designed homes in the Blairstown area. To this day, many of Don’s former students still thank him for that particular physics lesson on passive solar energy. “I have alums from five, 10, even 15 years ago tell me how important that design project was and how helpful it has been to them as home owners.”

A few years ago, journalism students explored the topics of locally grown food and farmland preservation projects in nearby towns; some of their articles were published in the area’s newspaper. Current parent Rene Mathez (Peiwen St. André ’10) — a township committeeman in nearby Knowlton Township and active proponent/expert on the process involved in farmland preservation—served as both guest speaker and interview subject for student journalists at the time.

The Blair Board of Trustees’ decision to purchase 120 acres adjacent to campus in 2006—thanks in large part to a gift from Herb Siegel ’46—was a visionary move designed to preserve and protect this parcel of land from development.

Blair’s Society of Skeptics program includes speakers whose interests lie in preserving and protecting the environment and, consequently, educating others in that regard. For instance, Robert Chatham, director of environmental health and safety for PSEG Global, spoke to the student body on current environmental issues and events, including worldwide recycling and corresponding cultural differences.

Perhaps no one at Blair is more attuned to the overall subject of sustainability than Jim Frick, assistant headmaster for finance and operations. “We need to reinforce our commitment to change,” he said, “instilling a greater sense in students, especially, of why sustainability is so important.
“This institution is located on an eminence amid the beautiful hills and valleys of Blairstown, commanding a fine and wide extended view of the Blue Ridge and surrounding country. The pure mountain air, the healthfulness of the climate and the convenient remove from corrupting influences of city life, afford peculiar facilities for moral, intellectual and physical culture.”

—from 1861 catalog written by Simmons S. Stevens, Principal of Blair, 1861-1873

In the meantime, we are implementing ‘greener’ lighting and lighting control systems, occupancy sensors and light sensors. We’re even experimenting with waterless urinals in Bogle Hall, aptly the math and science building. With the steady rise in oil prices, our routine inspection of the heating systems in each building, which is ongoing, has taken on greater importance than ever.

While there is no automatic “switch” to change behavior across the board, Jim continues to explore the myriad of energy saving options, carefully considering the initial expense and ultimate savings of each. Earlier in the school year, Dave Low ’89, an alumnus and project manager for Seattle-based Bluegreen Consulting, visited the School, met with various community members and later submitted a report with suggestions on how Blair might further embrace sustainability. A committee has been created to review the report and begin implementing some of the ideas within it.

“We are taking steps in the right direction,” said Jim, “and hope to be able to report additional advances in the near future.”
Blair Holds Annual Blood Drive
Blair’s Health Center, under the direction of Diane Sauvé and in conjunction with the Miller-Keystone Blood Center, sponsored its annual blood drive in February. Points are awarded to teams participating in Headmasters’ Societies Competition Week; Team Kelley again came through in donating the most pints of blood that day. Diane thanks all donors from the Blair community for sharing the gift of life with those in need.

Sadie Hawkins Dance 2008
The Blair dining hall was transformed into a snowy spectacle for this year’s Sadie Hawkins Dance in February, thanks to the “Ladies of South Hall” and a group of dedicated parent volunteers who decorated in their usual high style. Students enjoyed an evening of mocktails at Sharpe House, followed by dinner and dancing in the Romano Dining Hall.
Herman Hollerith Series on Entrepreneurship Continues

In February, Jim Medalia, who started his entrepreneurial career in 1979 with the founding of Digital Exchange—the first computer graphics service bureau in New York City—presented a Herman Hollerith lecture on entrepreneurship. Medalia’s vision to modernize and redefine the graphics and pre-press industry has become a model for doing business today. Digital Exchange was nationally recognized for its bold and innovative use of cutting-edge technology, unconventional marketing and outstanding customer service.

Medalia started his business with a $2,000 loan and one employee and built it into a 24/7 graphic services company of 40 employees generating over $4 million in revenues annually. He sold Digital Exchange in 1998 to found Justballs.com, one of the first e-commerce sites that utilized the Internet for end-to-end retail business. Justballs.com was a catalyst in transporting a mature but stagnant industry—the sporting goods industry—into the 21st Century. Medalia raised $17 million of venture capital in three rounds of financing in a very difficult funding environment, hired key management, including the CEO, and assembled the Board of Directors.

Justballs.com, which sold competition, fitness and recreation balls and equipment to over 250 universities and had 18,000 individual customers, was consistently recognized through awards and the press for its unique vertical approach to the market and again for its best of class customer service.

Currently Medalia is executing his third start-up, Charter Private Safe Deposit Company. Charter Private is the first and only non-bank safe deposit facility licensed by the New Jersey Department of Banking and Insurance.

International Weekend 2008

Earlier this year, community members enjoyed the multicultural excitement of International Weekend, an annual event on campus. Dining on foreign dishes, playing games and watching a student fashion show were among the activities—many of which were arranged by Blair’s foreign language teachers. Boys and girls from nearly two dozen countries attend Blair; this event allows them to showcase their traditional cuisine and costumes and feel a bit closer to home.

All School Vespers Welcomes Guest

Chaplain Cynthia Crowner notes that at the All School Vespers in April, Blair was honored to host guest preacher Rev. Charles Rice, an Episcopalian priest who taught preaching and homiletics at Drew Seminary for 30 years. The Blair Singers and Strings Ensemble also performed at the service held in the First Presbyterian Church, downtown Blairstown.
TEAM KELLEY TRIUMPHS!
Fifth Annual Headmasters’ Week a Success
Now in its fifth year, Headmasters’ Societies Competition Week—billed by the Admission Office as one of the “15 reasons to come to Blair”—gives students and faculty a chance to have fun on an intramural level before heading into Exam Week in February. Sports and other activities, such as an egg toss in the snow, tug of war, bake-off and board games, are played by four teams named after four former Blair Headmasters (Breed, Kelley, Howard, Sharpe), with the winner announced and trophy awarded at week’s end—immediately after the talent show finale.

With the last day also declared a Headmaster’s Holiday this year, team members gained the extra sleep and stamina required to complete the competition on a high note. Presentation of the Hardwick Trophy went to the triumphant members of Team Kelley. An added element of fun was the fact that former Headmaster Jim Kelley and wife Elaine (pictured above at right) came to campus to cheer Jim’s favorite team!

Additional photos—catalogued by each day of the competition week—may be found on Blair’s Web site (www.blair.edu) within the “News & Events” archive.
English Department Conducts Review

As part of a routine review process required of all the School’s academic departments, Blair’s English faculty—under the direction of department chairman Bob Brandwood—welcomed John Austin, dean of academic studies and English teacher at St. Andrew’s School; Bill Hill, current dean/English teacher at the Collegiate School who previously taught at The Peddie School for 18 years; and Laurie Robertson-Lorant, visiting lecturer in the education department at the University of Massachusetts and author of *Melville: A Biography*. The three guests comprised a panel of sorts, sitting in on English classes, reviewing the curriculum and goals of each grade level, and conversing one on one with department members this past February.

Bob reflected on the experience: “The conversations that occurred as a result of this process were most important and refreshing. My hope was to provide our reviewers with a sense of who we are and how we operate. As I told them in the beginning, the questions that intrigue us most revolve around our identity as a department: How do we perceive ourselves? Are we who we say we are? Do we do what we claim to do? How are we perceived by our students? How are we perceived by the administration? How are we perceived by our colleagues? How are we perceived by you?”

“We want to provide our students with a stimulating experience while inculcating those skills and habits of mind that we consider important for a college-bound student and an informed citizen.”

Robert Brandwood, English Department Chairman
Happily, he reported, “Our meetings were tremendously productive, especially on the last day. In fact, we spent two and a half hours with our reviewers that afternoon, listening to their favorable observations of what they’d seen during the two days they observed our classes. I was pleased, overall, to hear their comments, recommendations and advice on what directions we might pursue concerning specific issues like peer editing and inclusion of the classics or ‘canon,’ for example.”

In preparation for the departmental review, Bob compiled a preliminary packet of information concerning the English curriculum, faculty members and course objectives. Within his introduction he wrote, “As is the case with most high school English departments, we consider ourselves both liberal, that is, open-minded, and student-oriented. We want to provide our students with a stimulating experience while inculcating those skills and habits of mind that we consider important for a college-bound student and an informed citizen. Of course, in trying to fulfill those goals, we encounter the problems and issues that have vexed English teachers for generations of students: skills vs. content, traditional vs. modern (contemporary) content, grammar vs. communication, argument vs. analysis.”

He added, “We like to think that we’ve arrived at an acceptable solution, for the time being at any rate, to a number of these issues; however, we continue to debate them from year-to-year. One of the important things for us was to ensure as smooth a transition as possible between each succeeding grade level, so we have spent a great deal of time identifying the various skills and elements that should occur at each grade level and trying to ensure that we reinforce and build upon those skills and elements each year. As department Chair, I feel we have a strong group of caring teachers who are thoughtful, creative educators and who invest time and energy in the development and success of each one of their students.”

No doubt the debate of issues Bob refers to will continue, as he and the English faculty digest the results of their review. Along with Headmaster Chan Hardwick, who also met with the review team, they look forward to written feedback and further discussion. “Once we have their comments in hand, we will determine what we’d like to implement,” said Bob.
Education Expert Presents Faculty Workshop
Ken Bain, author of *What the Best College Teachers Do* and vice provost for instruction/director of the Research Academy for University Learning at Montclair State University, held an interactive presentation and workshop in January as part of Blair’s annual faculty in-service event.

According to his Web site, Bain has been the founding director of four major teaching and learning centers: the Center for Teaching Excellence at New York University, the Searle Center for Teaching Excellence at Northwestern University, the Center for Teaching at Vanderbilt University, and the Research Academy for University Learning at Montclair State University. In the 1970s and early ’80s, he was professor of history at the University of Texas/Pan American, where he also served as director of that school’s University Honors College and as founding director of the History Teaching Center, a pioneering program sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities to promote greater collaboration between history teachers on the secondary level and university and college research historians. From 1984 to 1986, he served as director of the National History Teaching Center, which had a similar mission on the national level.

Bain’s historical scholarship centers on the history of U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East (principal works include *The March to Zion: United States Policy and the Founding of Israel*, 1980, 2000), but he has long taken an interest in teaching and learning issues and in recent years has contributed to the scholarship in that area. Internationally recognized for his insights into teaching and learning and for a 15-year study of what the best educators do, he has been invited in recent years to present workshops or lectures at over 250 universities and events around the world.

*What the Best College Teachers Do* (Harvard University Press, 2004) won the 2004 Virginia and Warren Stone Prize for an outstanding book on education and society and has been one of the top-selling books on higher education; it has been translated into eight languages. He is currently completing his third book on U.S. relations with the Middle East (*The Last Journey Home: Franklin Roosevelt and the Middle East*).
Students Attend Model UN and Congress Sessions

A group of Blair students and history teachers participated in the Columbia Model United Nations Conference and Exposition at Columbia University in New York City from January 17–20. Students included Zachary Flaugher ’09, Lauren Baumgartner ’10, Yelyzaveta Biletska ’09, Daniel Smith ’09, Roileigh Ollson ’09, Matthew Cable ’09, Eric Panicucci ’09, Lotte Lijnzaad ’09, Stephen Patane ’09, Todd Lewis ’08, Nicole Yuksel ’10, Graham Williams ’09 and Collin S. Bickford ’08.

Dr. Marty Miller reports on the experience: “The delegates (and this teacher) were impressed on a number of levels: small committees, excellent historical simulation choices, efficient staff, fine opening speaker, a valuable UN tour (I fixated on the Security Council table where, say, Adlai Stevenson challenged the Soviet’s missile gambit in Cuba, Colin Powell held forth on the Iraq ‘threat,’ etc.). Columbia University was an excellent venue in a ‘collegiate’ setting, with serious and well-informed delegations. It was a fine Model UN experience—the best I’ve ever attended. Lotte Lijnzaad ’09 was awarded Best Delegate for “her outstanding representation of Shri Fakhurddin Ali Ahmed, Minister of Agriculture in the Historical Indian Cabinet” (1971 simulation), while Todd Lewis ’08 received a Commendation (runner-up to Best Delegate) in the African Union Committee.”

History teacher Jason Beck also attended.

At press time, another group of students and faculty is preparing to participate in the Rutgers Model Congress 2008 in April, during which they will learn about and debate a variety of issues currently facing Congress. According to the program’s Web site, “During the four-day simulation, students will become versed in many of the political, economic, moral and social arguments in society today. In addition to factual education, students leaving RMC 2008 will have improved their communication and leadership skills, learned the importance of compromise and concession, as well as witnessed firsthand how the political process works to solve issues facing the people of the United States.”

The Web site adds, “Within each committee, students will learn how states, businesses and people achieve their varying goals as actors in a federal society. Federalism has played a critical role in American politics throughout our history and continues to be an important factor in how the legislative process works...Furthermore, students will discuss the “Bleeding Kansas” Crisis of 1859, introducing the key issues that led to the eventual secession of the South and the start of the American Civil War. Other students will travel to the debate between the colonies that raged in the Second Continental Congress, wrestling with whether declaring independence from Britain is in the interest of their colony and its people.”
Over the long winter weekend in February, members of the marine science class traveled with teacher Rod Gerdsen down to the Turks and Caicos Islands for the third year in a row where they enjoyed warm weather, snorkeling and kayaking through crystal clear waters.

Rod explained, “The first full day there, the group went kayaking with an eco-friendly company called Big Blue Adventures, exploring the red mangroves on the north shore of Providenciales, the capital of the Turks and Caicos Islands. During the paddle, they discovered a dozen huge Bahamas Star Starfish and walked across Salt Cay, a government-protected island with indigenous island iguanas measuring three feet long.”

Rod added, “The next day, they went snorkeling with Big Blue Adventures once again, spotting spotted eagle rays, grouper, and even the rarely seen JoJo, an Atlantic Bottlenose dolphin. JoJo was released into the near-shore Turks waters from an aquarium a few years ago because he didn’t get along with the other captive dolphins. Since then, tourists hope to catch a glimpse of JoJo; we were able to actually swim with him!”

Senior Wins Morehead-Cain Scholarship
Second Blair Student to Win in Last Six Years

Todd Lewis ’08, a four-year senior from Oxford, N.J., has been awarded the prestigious Morehead-Cain Scholarship. He is the second Blair student to have won this honor since the School joined the competition six years ago. The Morehead-Cain provides a full four-year scholarship to the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, including an annual stipend that covers full tuition and all other normal expenses, laptop computers for all entering freshmen; a fully funded, four-year summer enrichment program beginning the summer before the freshman year; and funding to pursue a gap year before starting college.

Headmaster Chan Hardwick said, “Just as we were leaving for spring break, we got the terrific news about Todd; he is considering whether to accept the scholarship—long considered the most prestigious merit scholarship in the country—or to attend one of the other great colleges to which he has been admitted.” Todd, a talented thespian and gifted singer, recently starred in the Blair Academy Players’ winter musical production, *Guys and Dolls*, his eighth and final production with the Players.

According to their Web site, “Moreheads enjoy close relationships with some of the world’s greatest scholars... Perhaps most important, the Morehead is designed to help every Scholar discover the very best he or she has to offer.” Candidates for this honor are top high school students who are leaders in their schools and communities. Successful candidates rank near the top of their class academically, and their classroom performance is complemented by contributions and achievements in non-academic areas. The following four criteria are used to evaluate nominees: capacities to lead and motivate fellow students; scholastic ability and extracurricular attainments; moral force of character, and physical vigor as shown by participation in sports or in other ways.
With panelists running the gamut from A to Z—a research assistant for the *Late Show with David Letterman*, a doctor, designer, financier and fundraiser—this year’s young alumni program in Blair’s Society of Skeptics series showcased the diverse paths of five graduates from the ‘90s and current decade. Addressing a standing-room-only audience, participants shared their thoughts on Blair and beyond, providing career advice to current students. —M.M.
Mary Burke ’95  Mary graduated from Muhlenberg’s Wescoe School with a degree in art history and an economics minor. Following graduation she worked for the National Kitchen and Bath Association on a project to redesign their Web site and later with art teacher Rita Baragona to coordinate the various exhibits in Blair’s Romano Gallery. In 2004 she moved to Brooklyn and began her career at PBS Thirteen in the education department, where she created educational outreach materials. From there she moved to a newly created department, national partnerships and community events. Today she holds a management position in the station support unit, which includes special events, on-air fundraising, on-line fundraising, member and viewer relations, and volunteer services.

Mary recently received two awards from PBS at the 2007 Annual Gala Salute—the first in recognition of the best special fundraising event of the year and the second for “best of the best” in fundraising throughout the PBS system.

“While I was a student at Blair, Mr. Parauda and Mr. Brandwood showed me how to be a more creative person. It’s wonderful to be back at Blair tonight. It’s amazing to me that being here [as a student] for only four years could be that influential!”

CAREER ADVICE: Meet as many people as you can. Open yourself to opportunities, and be aware of what your options are. Coming back to Blair after college and assisting Mrs. Baragona with the Romano Gallery allowed me to become comfortable with meeting new people. In my job, which is so diverse—I do something different every day—I get to meet really important people who are at the top in their fields. And by the way, before working where I am now at Channel 13, I sent out hundreds of resumés and got no response at all, so never give up!

Roberto Felipe ’03  After graduating from Blair Academy, Roberto (who prefers to be called “Felipe”) attended The Stern School of Business at New York University. His keen eye for fashion led to the founding of his current passion, Alfonso Felipé, a fashion house for men. Blair alumni Luol Deng ’03 and Charlie Villanueva ’03 are among his clientele. Felipe’s brand continues to grow from word of mouth referrals. His goal is to expand his fashion house for the off-the-rack consumer in markets such as Bergdorf Goodman’s and Barney’s.

“When I came to Blair, I really stepped outside my comfort zone. I was like a sponge, soaking up new people and their stories. So now when I meet people who are strangers, I feel comfortable.”

[Note: Please see the Winter 2008 Bulletin (page 20) for a feature article on Roberto Felipe; an on-line pdf is also available.]

CAREER ADVICE: I took a risk, which turned into a business. And I love building relationships; I first establish a relationship with my customers. After that, I can sell to anyone! It’s about the relationship, not just the product.
Benjamin Fertig ’02

Benjamin grew up in Norwich, N.Y. Preceding him at Blair were his uncle Barry Shabus ’65 and cousin Lena Shabus ’93. Immediately after graduating from Blair and with the help of faculty members Judith and Steven Kampmann, Benjamin worked on the set of Analyze That! He matriculated to Hamilton College where he majored in government and minored in economics. He worked as a production intern for the director and several producers of Late Show with David Letterman during his senior fall semester.

After graduating from Hamilton, Benjamin moved to Chicago for the summer with Michael Cinelli ’02 to take a writing class at Second City Training School. He then moved to New York City after Worldwide Pants—the company that produces Late Show with David Letterman and Late Late Show with Craig Ferguson—offered him a job as a corporate staff assistant. Less than two months later, Benjamin began his current job as a research assistant at Late Show with David Letterman. He currently lives in the East Village in New York City.

CAREER ADVICE: Admit to yourself what you want to do. Many people just smiled when I told them I wanted to work on the Letterman Show. Believe in yourself. Be persistent, and keep calling back! Find your own measure and strive for it. There’s enough success out there for everyone. And like Jess said, talk to lots of people.

Jessica Flynn ’94

Jessica grew up in nearby Newton, N.J. and was a day student at Blair. She attended Amherst College, where she majored in English and played lacrosse. In her second year at Amherst, she was accepted early to the Mount Sinai School of Medicine through a special program for students majoring in the arts and humanities. She spent four years at Amherst before moving to Manhattan for medical school, which she completed in 2002. Jessica started her residency in pediatrics at the Floating Hospital for Children in Boston. After three years, she graduated from residency and began a fellowship in Sports Medicine at the Children’s Hospital Boston, Harvard Combined Orthopedic Service.

Jessica is currently an assistant clinical professor in non-operative sports medicine at the Lahey Clinic and lives in Brookline, Mass., with her husband Erik and two-year-old son Evan.

CAREER ADVICE: Talk to your college professors. In fact, talk to lots of people. Something will spark your interest. In my case, I always knew I wanted to be a physician and felt passionately about treating patients, especially children, in the field of sports medicine.

“I thank Mr. Low for correcting my grammar and Mr. Browse for helping me in honors geometry! As for favorite memories, I’d have to say it’s when we won the lacrosse state championship.”
Brett Holleman ’03 Brett Holleman is managing director and global head of foreign exchange at Fortress Investment Group. He previously worked at Tudor Investment Corporation, a hedge fund, and Goldman Sachs, an investment bank, primarily trading currencies and commodities. His start in financial markets was on the floor of the Chicago Board of Trade in the U.S. Treasury bond pit in 1994. Brett graduated from Yale in 1995 with bachelor’s degrees in philosophy and economics. He is the son of Marty and Barbara Haase, dean of admission.

CAREER ADVICE: Choose what you like to do on a day-to-day basis, because you may be working 16-hour days! Figure out what you like to do. You need to like the process as well as the end result. Try to take advantage of opportunities as they arise. You need to make decisions on who you want to work with and who you want to work for. I sold software in a departure from Wall Street, for instance, then went back to Wall Street where I’ve worked for the last five years.

“I like coming back to Blair to see everybody. It’s great to stay in touch through the years, because Blair becomes part of your family. It’s nice to belong to a community.”

A POST-PROGRAM RECEPTION AT SHARPE HOUSE ALLOWED SKEPTICS PANELISTS TO VISIT WITH FORMER TEACHERS, MENTORS AND CLASSMATES.
Could Your Appreciated Assets be *Appreciated* by a Blair Student in the Future?

Your vacation home could add to Blair’s ENDOWMENT. Your art collection could become a SCHOLARSHIP for a deserving Blair student. Your boat could become a new CLASSROOM in Bogle Hall. Your appreciated assets could become a life-changing EXPERIENCE for a Blair Academy student. To learn more, please contact Monie Hardwick, Director of Development, at 908-362-6121 ext. 5640 or hardwm@blair.edu.
Campaign Update

Even before spring break, the baseball, softball and lacrosse teams took advantage of the new turf field. Students enjoyed invigorating practices after almost six inches of snow were plowed off the field and track. Spring athletic practices were spirited regardless of rain, snow or mud, thanks to the new outdoor facilities. The boys’ tennis team enjoyed great play on the new tennis courts, while the golf team remained on a truncated course as they waited for the new seventh fairway to finish growing in.

In March, the erection of the steel framework for the new Activity and Athletic Center fueled anticipation on the part of students and prospective students visiting campus during admissions visit-back days. From the large site behind the current gym, steel beams and girders rose during the students’ spring break. At the same time, work began on the old gym in preparation for the extensive renovation set to begin in May.

The new tennis courts and the Class of 1958 James and Selena Howard House, a new faculty home located on the ridge parallel to Millbrook Road behind the Lows’ house, will be dedicated on Saturday, June 7, of Alumni Weekend. Jim Frick, headmaster of external affairs, remains optimistic that the new portion of the Activity and Athletic Center will be complete in time for the fall sports season.

BLAIR’S FUNDRAISING REMAINS ON TRACK TO MEET ITS $50 MILLION GOAL BY JUNE 30, 2009. SINCE DECEMBER 31, 2007, THE SCHOOL HAS RECEIVED AN ADDITIONAL $2 MILLION IN NEW GIFTS AND PLEDGES, BRINGING THE CAMPAIGN TOTAL TO $38 MILLION.

The majority of alumni, parents and friends are participating in Ever Always: The Campaign for Blair through increased and new gifts to the Blair Fund. By next year, the School should reach its goal of increasing the Blair Fund to $2 million of annual giving each year.
Teacher of Math, Coach of Champions
Coaches’ Locker Rooms Named in Honor of Tom Hutchinson

Tom Hutchinson, a Lehigh graduate, came to Blair as a mathematics teacher and wrestling coach in 1972. He is credited with emphasizing the postgraduate wrestling program, which consequently spawned a new level and era of success in Blair wrestling. Tom’s inaugural team went undefeated and captured the New Jersey State Prep Championship. From there, his teams went on to capture the next nine consecutive state prep titles as well as Blair’s first National Prep Championship in 1974. In 1981 and 1982, Hutchinson-led teams captured the first two National Prep Championships of the current streak of 28. He was also awarded the Coach of the Year by Wrestling USA and the United States Wrestling Federation. During his time at Blair, Tom coached 18 national prep champions, six future NCAA Division 1 All-Americans, one future Olympic champion, and three future NCAA Division 1 National champions.

In 1983, Tom returned to Lehigh University, his alma mater, to become the assistant coach under coaching legend Thad Turner. He now teaches physics and coaches wrestling at The Hill School, where his son is enrolled with the class of 2012. This spring, Blair received an anonymous gift to name the new coaches’ locker rooms in honor of Tom Hutchinson for his contributions to Blair Academy—both as a mathematics and science teacher and as a wrestling coach. By making this gift to Blair, the donor wishes to honor and celebrate the profound impact Tom had in shaping the lives of each of the Blair students he taught, coached and interacted with each day while a member of the Blair faculty.

Gift of Greenery Honors Korean Students

Since the 1980s, the mothers of Blair’s Korean students have come together on a regular basis to talk about their children’s education at Blair and to help support the School and each other. They sometimes gather in a restaurant or organize an outing for the entire group. This past April, for instance, they traveled to a resort to play golf. Typically, a mother of a senior student is assigned to be the leader of the group. This year, the mother of Jae Hyuk Jang ’08 oversees the Korean mothers and has devoted countless hours to her leadership role.

During the past four years, these dedicated women have been extremely active. Last fall, they came together to donate the landscaping that will be planted in front of the new Activity and Athletic Center and named for Korean students from the classes of 2008 through 2011. The group’s collective effort reflects a deep commitment to Blair and is a heartfelt response to the challenges of the campaign. Their generous gift ensures that one of the most central locations on the Blair campus will be a beautiful and welcoming place for all members of the Blair community to enjoy.
George L. Edwards Scholarship Established

Sometimes gifts come in unexpected ways. George L. Edwards ’35 entered Blair in 1930. His mother had died eight years earlier. George’s uncle described him to Dr. Breed—Blair Headmaster at the time—in a letter, writing, “He is well-mannered, shy, instinctively courteous and respectful. When he fails in these particulars, it is due to that sort of dreamy absent-mindedness that gets us all at his age. The largest asset he brings to Blair is a wholehearted enthusiasm for the opportunity and for the School.” George loved Blair in spite of the academic challenges. Sadly, his father died during his sophomore year, and there was not enough money for him to return to Blair for his senior year. Even though he never officially graduated from Blair, George always considered Blair his School.

George later attended Rutgers University, where he wrestled, and afterwards served in the U.S. Army. He went on to become the president of Frosted Products Company in Spring Lake, N.J. His first wife, Helen, predeceased him, and he later married Mitzi M. Edwards. George left Blair a large portion of his estate in order for the School to establish a scholarship whose purpose was “to aid those students the School deems worthy.” Knowing what a difference such a scholarship would have made in his own life, he chose to make a difference for future students.

Mrs. Edwards wrote Blair at the time of George’s death. “I thank Blair for its part in educating and developing such a fine gentleman as George,” she noted. His legacy and memory will now live on in the lives of young people able to attend Blair because of his generous gift.
Boys Battle It Out on British Courts
During the holiday break in December, the Blair Academy boys’ basketball team played in the Haris Memorial Basketball tournament in Manchester, England. The tournament featured several international teams, from clubs to junior national teams. Blair was able to cap off the tournament on a high note, going undefeated in five games and putting in place a good building block as the team went into the New Year. Team member Elliot Parauda ’09 reported on the experience; his recap is available on-line at the following link: http://www.blair.edu/News_Events/2007_2008/news_ev_bball_england.shtm

Swim Team Breaks School Records
Blair competed against Lenape Valley in a swim meet on January 26 with the following results, as reported by coach Rick Clarke: Boys won 105-40, and girls won 85-82. Additionally, two school records were broken by the girls: (1) 200 medley relay in 2:03.6 (Hayley Anderson ’10, Samantha Tilney ’08, Dymon Washington ’08, Jenna Catalano ’10); (2) 100 backstroke in 1:02.3 (Hayley Anderson).

Coach Clarke reports on Hayley’s further success at the States on February 6: (1) School record in the 100 fly (1:02.2) to take 4th place at States; (2) School record in the 100 back (1:00.2) to take 1st place at States.

Other swim team records were broken as well this past season; please log on to Blair’s Web site (www.blair.edu) and refer to the athletics section for more information.

Westward Ho for Ski Team
Ski team coach Rob Merrifield reports on the trip taken by the team to Breckenridge, Colo., during the holiday break: “From 12/14 to 12/20, 13 of the 14 members of the team traveled westward. Besides reviewing some technical racing drills in the morning with video, we skied a variety of trails—from moguls to bowls to glades—to broaden our ski technique and get us ready for the upcoming race season. Living in a condo together for six days was also a team bonding experience! On the 16th, Lou and Deb Cirillo, parents of Louis ’08, hosted a dinner for us at their house in Breckenridge. In addition, they provided transportation to and from the Denver airport for us. Without their help, this trip would have been much more difficult and expensive.”

This winter, coach Merrifield reported that Kait Surdoval ’08 (pictured above with trophy) was selected to the All Prep and All State First Teams, was second at the State Giant Slalom Championship, and took first at the State Slalom Championship by seven seconds. He proudly added that Kait is overall State Champion for the third year in a row.

Winter 2008 Athletic Awards
Merit Ski Award
Kait Surdoval ’08
Merit Ski Award
Louis Cirillo ’08
Blair Squash Prize
Amanda Zranchev ’08
Blair Squash Prize
Will Neff ’08
Haskins Basketball Prize
Chris Christmas ’08
Brooks Basketball Prize
Christelle Akon-Akech ’09
Captain’s Trophy – Swimming
Lamar Duffy ’08
Captain’s Trophy – Swimming
Samantha Tilney ’08
Jamieson Wrestling Award
Mario Mason ’08
Jamieson Wrestling Award
Joe Stanzione ’08
Lieberman Wrestling Award
Steve Hanzlik ’08
Wrestlers Win 28th Consecutive National Prep Title
Help Pin Down Autism

Headmaster Chan Hardwick congratulated the Blair wrestlers on yet another triumph as national prep champions. As in previous years, the team conducted a “per pin pledge” campaign at the preps to benefit a charity; this year’s efforts will help combat autism. In 2007, the team collected $14,000 to fight juvenile diabetes.

Following is a report on the preps from assistant wrestling coach Wayne Catan: In the 125-pound finals of the 2008 National Prep Tournament at Lehigh University, Chris Villalonga defeated Brock Livorio of The Kiski School 11-2. Four more Blair athletes were crowned individual champions, and seven made the finals in Bethlehem, including Evan Silver (103 lbs.), Sean Boyle (112 lbs.), Austin Ormsbee (135 lbs.), and Mario Mason (145 lbs.). Runners-up were Garrett Frey, who dropped a 4-3 decision to Josh Fitch of McDonogh at 140 lbs., and Cory Peltier, who lost a 6-4 overtime decision to Bagna Tovuujav of St. Benedict’s Prep (N.J.) at 171 lbs.

Finals highlights for Blair athletes are as follows: Silver defeated Chris Mears of Bishop Lynch (Texas) 5-0, Sean Boyle shut-out Frank Goodwin of Mt. St. Joseph (Md.) 7-0, Austin Ormsbee defeated Cullen Isenberg of Wyoming Seminary (Penn.) 8-3, and Mario Mason defeated Tanner Eitel of Bishop Lynch 7-1.

“Chris Villalonga, in my mind, was the outstanding wrestler in the event, as he dominated a very tough wrestler in Brock Livorio, 11-2. Adam Hogue demonstrated a great deal of mental toughness as he injured his shoulder early then came back all the way to place third for us at 160 lbs. Furthermore, Tony [Buxton] wrestled with more confidence and defeated Nick Schenk of McDonogh, the defending champion, for 5th place in a very deep weight class (119 lbs.),” said Jeff Buxton, Blair head coach.

Jeff added “In all, I was pleased with how our guys competed, especially in the wrestle-back, as it is very difficult to control their emotions; they had high expectations going into the tournament. Mario joins a group of talented wrestlers by becoming a three-time National Prep champion. Finally, the talent level was certainly better as Bishop Lynch, McDonogh, Germantown and the Wyoming Seminary programs continue to grow and develop.”

Kyle Hanson scored a stunning pin over Greg Vaughn of Phillips Exeter (N.H.) for third place at HWT, closing out his fine career at Blair. Anthony Valles pinned Joey Mazzi of LaSalle (Penn.) for third place at 130 lbs., and Steve Hanzlik finished fourth at 215 lbs. Tony Buxton (119 lbs.) and Jesse Shanaman (152 lbs.) both placed 5th, and Ben Krakower (Blair’s 189-pounder) finished the tournament despite nursing a high ankle sprain.

Final team scores: Blair 341 points, Bishop Lynch (Texas) 233 points, Wyoming Seminary (Penn.) 228 points, McDonogh School (Md.) 177.5 points.

Wayne keeps fans up to date with his reports on Blair’s Web site within the wrestling section at http://www.blair.edu.

He also reported news concerning Blair alumni wrestlers: “Steve Mocco ’01 defeated Ivan Ischenko of the Ukraine and Bakhtiyar Akhmedov of Russia on his way to a 2-1 record (at HWT) at the Freestyle World Cup of Wrestling held in Vladikavkaz, Russia, on February 16 and 17. Kurt Backes ’02 defeated his opponent, Abdullah Gungor from Turkey, in the 211.5 lbs. weight class, and Zack Esposito ’02 lost to a tough Russian, Shamil Batirov at 145 lbs. The USA squad finished fifth overall. Keep a close eye on these three ex-Blair athletes as they make a run for the 2008 Olympic Team.”
IN MEMORY OF...

1935

Sanford H. Anzel. Born in New York City in 1917, the Rev. Burgess graduated from Oberlin College in 1939 and received a Master of Divinity degree from Union Theological Seminary in New York. The Rev. Burgess’s life had many “callings”: the ministry, labor organizing, opposition to racial intolerance, development work in Asia and finally housing activism. In the 1940s he and his wife Alice lived and labored with migrant farm workers in Florida and New Jersey, and Mr. Burgess became chaplain to the Southern Tenant Farmers Union. In 1945 he began one of his first housing campaigns, successfully helping to block the demolition of the Delmo Homes in Missouri where 549 families lived. In the late 1940s, the Rev. Burgess became a diplomat and served as a U.S. labor attaché in India. He later served as Peace Corps director in Indonesia and UNICEF director in Southeast Asia. He returned to full-time ministry in 1979, becoming pastor at two churches in inner-city Newark, N.J. In 1990, he and his wife retired to Benicia, Calif., where the Rev. Burgess led the founding of the Affordable Housing Affiliation in 1994 and served as its first president. In 2005, his autobiography, Fighting For Social Justice, was published. He is survived by his wife, Alice; his children, Laurel, John, Genie and Steve; his grandchildren, Sam and Anna Koritz, Rachel Steele, Katharine and Sarah Burgess, and Erica and Wesley Castro; and great-grandchildren, Norman Paquett and Beatrice Koritz.

1946

Sanford H. Anzel. A graduate of Yale University in 1950, Dr. Anzel obtained his medical degree from New York Medical College. After interning at the medical center of the University of California, San Francisco, he was awarded a fellowship at Mayo Clinic where he specialized in orthopedic surgery. He then served in the U.S. Air Force as a flight surgeon in Wiesbaden, Germany, for six years. In 1965, Dr. Anzel and his wife moved to Southern California where Dr. Anzel opened a group orthopedic practice in Orange County and where he was appointed clinical professor of orthopedics at the University of California, Irvine Medical School, as well as chief of orthopedics at the VA Hospital, Long Beach. He also served as team physician for various local high school football teams as well as for the Los Angeles Rams in the 1980s. Dr. Anzel is survived by his wife, Darlene, and his brother, Daniel ’51.

1951

Richard P. Hatfield, Jr. Longtime chairman of the Scotch Plains Republican Club, Mr. Hatfield was also the vice chairman of the Union County GOP from 1974 to 1978. A member of numerous county and state organizations, he was elected registrar of deeds and mortgages for Union County in 1978, was a member of the New Jersey State Republican Committee and was a delegate to the National Republican Convention in 1980 and 1988. Mr. Hatfield was a veteran of the Korean War, serving in the U.S. Army from 1952 to 1954. He moved to Florida in 2001. Mr. Hatfield is survived by his daughter, Elizabeth Ann; his son, James; their mother, Patricia Grady Hatfield; his grandson, James; his three brothers, Roger ’51, John ’56 and David; and his companion, Barbara Foster.

1960

James P. Smith. Mr. Smith was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, and grew up in Westport, Conn., and Dallas, Texas. He attended the University of Virginia. During his college years, he met and married Barbara, his wife of 43 years. Mr. Smith enjoyed a varied retail career and in the 1960s declined a promotion to the Sears corporate offices in Chicago so that he and Barbara could raise their children in Maine, where they enjoyed many happy vacations together. Mr. Smith spent 12 years in Maine with Porteous, Mitchell & Braun. He was initially hired as controller and later became the vice president of operations and finance. Wanting to fulfill a desire to be involved in real estate, he left the retail business in 1986 and joined Allied Construction/Allied Properties of Portland, Me., as vice president of sales and marketing. Mr. Smith rounded out his career in 1995 with LL Bean as a regional planner. He finally retired in 2005 to spend time with his wife and two sons. Their love of the outdoors and of travel had taken them to many places in the U.S., Canada and Mexico. Mr. Smith also loved working with children and was a Cub Scout leader. He was also the assistant leader of the Cumberland County 4H Sheep Club. His family had a sheep farm in Durham, Me., for 10 years and, under the guidance of Mr. Smith, raised and exhibited prize-winning animals in the Maine state fairs. Mr. Smith is survived by his wife, Barbara, of South Freeport, Me.; his sons, James Peter Smith II and Christopher Michael Smith, both...
In Memoriam: Alfred Dally, Sr. ’43

December 26, 1924 – February 15, 2008

Dennis Peachey ’62 remembered Al with these words at his funeral service, “I think I have finally distilled the components of Al into family, friend, outdoorsman and loyal Blair alumnus.” Al served as a Blair Trustee for over 20 years as well as on the buildings committee and the executive committee. He was also a longtime class representative for the class of 1943. Many of the new buildings at Blair are roofed with Dally slate, while the lab tables, entrance stairs and windowills in Bogle Hall are polished slate from Al’s quarry.

Additionally, Al formed a fishing group that included about a dozen Trustees coming together to fish, enjoy the outdoors and reminisce about their time at Blair. He held annual brunch during the holidays to recognize and thank the Blair faculty for their commitment to the school and to introduce them to the fishing group. Al came to Blair in 1942, accepting a scholarship that he has many times repaid so that other students could enjoy the advantage he had. Together with his late wife, Sally Ann, Al raised two children, Jane Dally and Al Dally, Jr. ’81.

He derived some of his greatest pleasure from taking his family to The Big Horn River in Fort Smith, Montana. Blair will always remember Al Dally for his devotion, service and love for his classmates, his fellow Trustees and, most of all, for Blair Academy.

1966

Joseph A. Johnson. Mr. Johnson was born in Bethlehem, Pa., and graduated from North Louisiana University with a degree in biology. He also did graduate work in biology at East Stroudsburg University. After 33 years of service as a ranger, criminal investigator, firearms instructor, SWAT leader, member of the NPS firefighters and firearms manager, Mr. Johnson retired from the National Park Service. His career encompassed time at Delaware Water Gap National Recreational Area, Fire Island National Seashore, Colonial National Historical Park, Lake Mead National Recreational Area, Ozark National Scenic Riverway and the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center at Brunswick, Ga.

During his long career, Mr. Johnson was nationally recognized by the Park Service and other federal agencies for his outstanding work. He is survived by his wife, Terry; his son, Judson Ashley Johnson; his sister, Candace Williams and her husband, Todd; his brother, U. Michael Johnson and his wife, Mary Jo; and several nieces and nephews.

1978

Kurt A. Higgins. Mr. Higgins was born in Sussex County, N.J., and received a Bachelor of Science from Florida Atlantic University. A painter and self-employed home improvement contractor, he enjoyed golf and fishing and spending time on the beaches in Florida. Mr. Higgins is survived by his parents, Nuell and Beverly Woodring Higgins; his brother, Scott Higgins and his wife, Steffanie; his sister, Lara Koenig and her husband, Dave; and two nieces and nephews.

1987

Paul Bernard Ferrigno. Paul was born Feb. 20, 1968, in Teaneck, N.J., to Joseph Ferrigno III of Hong Kong and Stonington, Conn., and Jennifer Slavin Ferrigno of Niantic, Conn. He leaves his loving wife, Kathleen Mancini Ferrigno, and two beautiful sons, Paul Sabin Ferrigno and Alexander Quinn Ferrigno. Paul was managing director and head of sales for Cohen and Company Investment Bank in New York City. He graduated from Muhlenberg College and received an MBA from the Stern School of Business at New York University. Paul’s prominence in the business community developed as a result of his keen intelligence, strong work ethic and innate understanding of people. Although his achievements were great in the world of finance, Paul will be remembered most for his incredible warmth, his sense of humor and infectious laughter, and his love of family and friends. In addition to his wife, children, and parents, Paul is survived by one brother, three sisters, his step-mother, and numerous extended family members and friends around the world who will miss him terribly.

Former Staff

Helen A. Hall. Helen was associated with Blair Academy for many years. She began part-time work in 1954, and from 1967 until 1999 was a full-time member of the library staff. As a tribute to Helen’s loyal and distinguished service, the Helen Hall Reference Desk on the second floor of Timken Library was named on the anniversary of her 32nd year in 1999. Upon her retirement, she served as historical researcher for the local public library. Helen was a lover of ideas and books and an eternally optimistic person. She was also a woman of deep faith. She takes her rightful place among those who have cared greatly for Blair. Helen is survived by her brother, George Hall ’50, and her wife, Harriet, who live in Florida.
## Schedule of Events

### FRIDAY, JUNE 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11:00 am–9:00 pm</td>
<td>Alumni Registration/Campus Lodging Check-In</td>
<td>Meerwarth Courtyard/Locke Hall Conference Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 am–12:30 pm</td>
<td>Blair Cup Golf Scramble Registration</td>
<td>Golf Pro Shop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Noon–2:00 pm</td>
<td>Old Guard Luncheon and Remarks from the Headmaster</td>
<td>Sharpe House Lawn (Classes 1958 and older)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 pm</td>
<td>Blair Cup Golf Scramble at Blair’s Golf Course</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00–3:00 pm</td>
<td>Student Panel Discussion: “The Race for the Presidency” with Dr. Martin Miller</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00–4:00 pm</td>
<td>Campus Tours</td>
<td>Depart from the Blair Room on the half hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00–6:00 pm</td>
<td>Blair Cup Golf Scramble</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30–6:00 pm</td>
<td>Alumni Memorial Service</td>
<td>Chesnutt Chapel, 3rd floor, Clinton Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00–7:00 pm</td>
<td>Old Guard and 50th Reunion Cocktails</td>
<td>Meerwarth Courtyard by Clinton Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00–7:00 pm</td>
<td>Class of 1998 Gathering in the Canteen</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:40 pm</td>
<td>Class of 1958 Reunion Photo</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00 pm</td>
<td>Old Guard and 50th Reunion Dinners</td>
<td>Romano Dining Hall</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### CLASS GATHERINGS

- 1963 – Dennis ’62 & Lynn Peachey Home
- 1968 – The Blairstown Inn
- 1983 – Marty & Michelle Miller Home
- 1988 – Paul Clavel ’88/Mason Dormitory

Non-reunion classes are all welcome to attend!

### SATURDAY, JUNE 7

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00–10:00 am</td>
<td>Coffee and Danish in Timken Library (Classes 1959 and younger)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 am–9:00 pm</td>
<td>Alumni Registration/Campus Lodging Check-In</td>
<td>Meerwarth Courtyard/Locke Hall Conference Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30–10:00 am</td>
<td>Old Guard Breakfast</td>
<td>Sharpe House (Classes 1958 and older)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30 am</td>
<td>Board of Governors Meeting</td>
<td>Timken Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30–10:30 am</td>
<td>Campus Tours</td>
<td>Depart from the Blair Room on the half hour</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00 am</td>
<td>5K Run led by Dr. Martin Miller at the Track</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00–11:00 am</td>
<td>Blair Video – An overview of student-produced videos</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 am</td>
<td>Alumni Parade Round-Up</td>
<td>Meet at the Arch</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 am</td>
<td>Headmaster’s Assembly and Awards Presentation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Noon–3:00 pm</td>
<td>Picnic Lunch, Children’s Activities &amp; Live Entertainment</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:30 pm</td>
<td>The James and Selena Howard House Dedication</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00–3:00 pm</td>
<td>Student Panel Discussion: “The Blair Experience” with David Low</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 pm</td>
<td>Learn About Blair Admission</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00–3:00 pm</td>
<td>Campus Tours</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30 pm</td>
<td>Tennis Court Dedication &amp; Tournament</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30–3:30 pm</td>
<td>Art Reception – A display of photographs by Dr. Charles H. Breed, former Blair Headmaster</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5:30–7:00 pm</td>
<td>Headmaster’s Cocktail Reception &amp; Class Photos</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:00–11:30 pm</td>
<td>Alumni Dinner, Cocktails &amp; Dancing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### SUNDAY, JUNE 8

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00–10:00 am</td>
<td>Lite Bite (Continental Breakfast)</td>
<td>Romano Dining Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00 am</td>
<td>Class of 1958 Brunch</td>
<td>Norm ’58 &amp; Agnes Beatty Home</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Questions regarding the schedule of events?

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

**ATTENTION, GOLFERS!**

Come join us on Friday, June 6, for the Third Annual Blair Cup at Blair’s golf course. The format will be a 9-hole, 4-person scramble with a 1:00 pm shotgun start, limited to 12 foursomes to ensure a reasonable pace of play. Reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. The entry fee is $40.00 per person. You may register online at http://alumni.blair.edu, or contact Jenny Maine at (908) 362-6121 ext. 5655. Your registration will not be processed until your entire foursome has registered.
Six inches of February snow was plowed off the new track and athletic fields to allow for Headmasters’ Societies Competition Week, as well as early spring practices for the baseball, softball and lacrosse teams. See more photos of these intramural games on pages 26 and 27 of this issue.