ON EXHIBIT

Penguin
Flavia Bacarella
Woodcut on paper 6” × 4” image
Making the Cut: Woodcuts & Collage
Flavia Bacarella and Paula Stark
September 8 – October 24 — The Romano Gallery
Commencement 2008

A bizarre weather mix not seen in many a May kept umbrellas popping up intermittently during Commencement. Skies finally cleared in time for graduates to enjoy an outdoor luncheon with friends, family and returning alumni.

Alumni Weekend 2008

Despite August-like heat and humidity, Alumni Weekend will no doubt conjure fond memories for all those who came back to campus—especially those brave enough and fit enough to take to the new tennis courts for a mini tournament, new track for the 5K Run, and new Hampshire Field for an alumni lacrosse game.

Ever Always: The Campaign for Blair Academy Continues

The campaign crossed the $40 million mark toward its $50 million goal, with the Blair Fund setting yet another record by reaching $2 million for the first time in school history.
Tom Hoff ’53 celebrated his 55th reunion with classmates in June. His natty dress and cool demeanor belie the “3 H” weather of Alumni Weekend ’08. Despite degrees near 100, attendees had a blast. Photo by David W. Coulter. At right, the familiar tile floor in Locke Hall corridor—a busy crossroads during the school year—shimmers with a summer shine of fresh wax. Photo by Vickers & Beechler.
Blair Academy has recently completed its 160th school year with the celebration of the graduating Class of 2008, followed by a rather hot and humid Alumni Weekend that celebrated and dedicated many things, including the new Howard House in honor of Jim and Selena Howard. The close of the fiscal year also saw the school full of great students for next year and brought Blair to a new and wonderful milestone: the two-million-dollar mark was achieved by the Blair Fund, a goal for our Ever Always Campaign, and a year earlier than we had anticipated. It would seem a bit too easy—even if understandable—for all of us to feel rather self-congratulatory as a School, given the undeniable success both visible and inherent that we have been and are enjoying.

That feeling would be a mistake. As I reported to the Investment and Executive Committees of the Board of Trustees at our late June gathering in New York, there is a clear headwind poised to challenge not only Blair’s but also independent education’s national progress.

In a recent e-mail bulletin from the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS), President Pat Bassett pointed out that independent education may be facing a “perfect storm”:

- We face a declining demographic that will inevitably threaten our applications and any expansion plans schools may have.
- There is the possibility that independent schools have reached a price point break for tuitions, requiring either a great deal more financial aid to be made available or a re-consideration of progressive tuition increases.
- It appears that we are in an economic recession, a bear market and a very challenging investment climate, a reality that threatens not only tuition sources but also philanthropy to independent education. Further, regardless of who wins in November, a new government will likely increase taxes, affecting the primary independent education market.

As President Bassett said—quoting someone with whom he had conferred—independent schools may soon be appealing only to “the richest of the rich and the brightest of the poor.” This description is not exactly as we would hope to envision our mission.

Some of the issues are broader than independent education and are as much about American culture as about our schools. I have always been amazed and impressed by the stories and anecdotes that I have read and heard involving parents and even students willing to sacrifice to have a Blair education. In the ’30s, a boy drove his car up the hill and asked Dr. Breed to take his car as his tuition payment so he could continue at Blair; in the ’60s, a student gave all his bar mitzvah money to the school to afford his senior year. In short, independent education has to be so worthwhile, so important, so valuable that even in the face of a challenging economic and demographic time, some people will have to consider foregoing things they have come to expect as their normal life—extra cars, vacations, “lifestyle choices”—to put their children’s education first. Of course, some would argue that they do not need to make any sacrifices because taxes pay for public education and the public education offered in the United States is just fine. Certainly there are public schools that are superior, but comparative statistics hardly support that sweeping generalization.

To be sure, Blair and independent schools have to look hard and find new ways to be sustainable without being so expensive. Whether public or private, education is expensive, and really good education—especially boarding education—presents challenges in attempting to become more efficient and cost-effective. As well as the usual cutting of programs, tweaking of class sizes, and asking faculty to do more with less, independent education must be in the forefront of conserving, utilizing and caring for those precious assets that we have been given. So, while we have to embrace a healthy, thoughtful austerity, we must do so without failing to continue our investment in our infrastructure, in our prize assets—the people of Blair—or in our community strengths. To let those qualities depreciate would threaten and frustrate the positive connection between a faculty member and a young person, a bond that is at the heart of the educational model we have successfully carried forward for 160 years. That connection has been sustained through lean times and fruitful times, and it will continue to be the underlying reason that the sacrifices ahead will be well worth it.
Albright College
American University (3)
Barnard College
Boston College (3)
Boston University (3)
Brown University (2)
Bucknell University (2)
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
Clark University
Colby College
Colgate University (3)
Emerson College
College of Charleston
Columbia University
Cornell University (4)
Dartmouth College
Dickinson College
Duke University
Elon University (3)
Emerson College (2)
Eugene Lang College The New School for Liberal Arts
Fairfield University
Florida State University
Furman University
Haverford College
High Point University (3)
Hobart and William Smith Colleges (2)
Iowa State University
Ithaca College (3)
Loyola Marymount University (2)
Marist College
Miami University, Oxford
Middlebury College
Monmouth University
New York University (2)
Northeastern University
Ohio Wesleyan University
Pace University, New York City
Pennsylvania State University, University Park
Pitzer College
Princeton University (2)
Purdue University
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey (2)
Santa Clara University
Sarah Lawrence College
Southern Methodist University
St. Lawrence University (2)
Stanford University (2)
Stonehill College
Suffolk University
Susquehanna University (2)
Syracuse University (3)
The George Washington University (3)
The University of Arizona
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Tufts University
United States Military Academy (3)
United States Naval Academy (3)
University of Chicago (3)
University of Colorado at Boulder
University of Maryland, College Park (2)
University of Miami (3)
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
University of New Hampshire
University of New Haven
University of North Carolina at Wilmington
University of Notre Dame
University of Puget Sound
University of San Francisco
University of St. Andrews (Scotland)
University of Toronto
Ursinus College
Vassar College
Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Washington University in St. Louis
Wentworth Institute of Technology

Photographs by Candy Low and Michele Szoka
Paul Clavel ’88—an alumnus who serves Blair as mathematics teacher, wrestling coach, housemaster and admission associate—was chosen baccalaureate speaker by the Class of 2008. Throughout the course of his address, Paul alluded to his “keepsake box”—filled with treasures representing good times and lessons learned.

As his speech concluded, Paul pulled out his leather letterman’s jacket, saving the best for last. He remarked on all his garment represents, recounting his love and devotion for the School he returned to in 2004. We share a bit of Paul’s wit and wisdom below, excerpted from his remarks.

Tonight, I want to share with you my feelings about my Blair experience and what it did for me. Remember, I walked the same sidewalks, ate in the same dining hall, played on the same fields, lived in the same dorms and learned from a handful of the same teachers. While I am a person who doesn’t use lofty words, what I say tonight comes straight from the heart. In this box I have a few items that are 20-plus years old, that I have kept since my days at Blair... They all have a special meaning and have affected my life in some way or another. Some represent a life lesson or trait that has helped define who I am today. The Blair experience has had a major impact on the way I act, the way I make friends, the way I socialize and the way I make decisions.

I know that this might come as a surprise, but the first item out of the box is a warning slip. I was given this warning slip by Mr. Charlie Underwood, my English teacher. To my knowledge, it is one of only two warning slips that I received in my four years at Blair. It states the following: “Paul’s preparation for class is very inconsistent and is compounded by his behavior as the class clown. Instead of trying to benefit from class discussion, he spends his time thinking of wise remarks to make others laugh. This behavior hurts him and the rest of the class as well. He can do good work as his last paper showed, but he must do it consistently. He must also work in class, not play.”

Once I stopped questioning the accuracy of Mr. Underwood’s comments, I came to the realization that this was not how I wanted to be seen in the eyes of those that I respected. A class clown, not me! More humble, I entered the class with a different attitude and work ethic for the remainder of the year. There are two reasons why I saved this warning slip: 1) because I thought it was funny and, 2) more importantly, because it taught me a lesson. Making others laugh has always been part of my personality, but this warning slip made a lasting
impression *that the way you act* is how people will perceive you, *and* that there is a time and a place for everything. So, don’t underestimate the importance of the small lessons you learned in and out of the classroom during your time here at Blair. Hopefully they will be carried with you throughout your life. *They have for me.*

...The last item I am taking out is my Blair wrestling letterman’s jacket. I would put it on, but I only wear it when I go to the mall with my wife. Just a jacket? *Absolutely not.* It has the name “Blair” on it, which makes it mean so much more to me; it means teamwork... From athletes to thespians, dorms to clubs, we all have our own special Blair apparel. Each and every one of you have participated in a sport, activity, or play and, therefore, learned the importance of teamwork. Being able to work together as a team is such an important skill that will be beneficial to you in the future, and it was at Blair that this foundation was laid....The last importance that this jacket represents is Blair tradition and pride. To me, the name Blair symbolizes *tradition* and not just in athletics. Peddie Day, bonfires, walking under the Arch, Bodinis [bagels], streaking the day of the first snowfall, Skeptics, the B.I.G., Headmaster’s holidays, and one of your favorites—formal dinners.

Some of these traditions are over 100 years old, and when you look back at your Blair days, they will be at the forefront of your memories. You saw a beginning and end to two Blair traditions. Your senior year began a new tradition of playing on the new outdoor athletic facility and, at the same time, saw the end of the 86-year-old tradition of using the indoor track and wrestling room. I know that some of you, in your specific sport or activity, have a tradition that is passed down to the underclassmen...

You can’t talk about the tradition of a school without talking about school pride. When meeting new people, I am not shy to say that I graduated from Blair Academy. One thing that I preach to the guys in my dorm is, “don’t forget where you came from.” I love to wear Blair sweatshirts. I love telling people about my Blair days. I love what Blair has done for me. My pride for Blair is just as strong *now* as it was when I was a student—even stronger.

So tomorrow when you walk under the Arch for the last time as a student and then again for the first time as an alumnus, you will experience the most important Blair tradition of them all—*graduation.* Celebrate your accomplishment and, when you are done, make time to reflect and possibly gather a few items to put in your own Blair box.

—Paul Clavel ‘88, Baccalaureate Address
May 21, 2008
Seniors, I have only some final remarks before sending you on your way.

Let me say first, thank you. Over the years you have been at Blair, we have watched you learn, mature, make mistakes, overcome challenges, and this year come together to lead this school community in a manner that will be remembered for your positive energy and your belief in the power and value of building the sense of community that you achieved. As you have developed habits of academic excellence, learning to read, write, speak new languages, solve problems, discover new ways of thinking, and synthesize ideas at ever higher and more impressive levels, you have also become community-builders. The faculty and I know that the Class of 2008 will take with you both the understanding of community and the leadership skills you learned to create the spirit that Blair enjoyed this year. Just as your academic course of study prepared you for the college classroom and college work ahead, this leadership experience, those skills of living in and building a community, will give you a significant advantage of purpose and understanding during your college years and in your professional lives to come.

The living groups, social groups and working groups in your future will benefit from your positive involvement and leadership as long as you continue to show the willingness to take on the responsibility that you have during your Blair years.

Moreover, while you have all grown during your time at Blair, you have not all grown the same way. Some of you are fully ready for the next step that college offers. Others of you, sitting here today, still face the mastering of your time, your desires and your energies in order to gain the freedom you very much want. Insofar as you have gained self-awareness, then you probably know where you are on that scale of preparedness, and while there is nothing wrong with not being fully mature when you graduate from high school, there is something wrong with believing you are when that is not true.

College may appear to be a paradise of choices and personal freedom, but you will quickly find that only those who have the power of self-discipline, moderation and good judgment at their disposal are truly free to enjoy that paradise. Ironic though it sounds, it is the ability not to choose to do whatever you want that is, in fact, freedom. And conversely, if you head off to college determined to do whatever you feel like, you risk becoming trapped in a superficial world in which the term “wasted” has a variety of meanings, the worst being the waste of your opportunity to continue to learn and grow. All things really worth having are worth having the self-discipline to achieve.

But this is not a prediction at all—for I would predict only the best for each of you, based on your coming successfully to this day, a journey as fully demanding as any that a high school senior can face.

Ironic though it sounds, it is the ability not to choose to do whatever you want that is, in fact, freedom.

No, I only want to express a hope. Our hope that you think before you act, and in thinking, consider the consequences, possibilities, benefits and risks in the choices you have.

Finally, it is nearly a cliché to tell you that much is expected of you, yet of course, that is true. Indeed, we do expect much from those who have shown promise, who have shown compassion and caring, who have shown ability and humor, who have shown intelligence and understanding—and all these qualities you, Class of 2008, have shown us throughout your Blair years. Each of you has so much to offer, and yes, so much is expected. And we who stay here look to hear from you and how you have met those great expectations.

So...the faculty and I shall miss you, but it is now time to send you from this hilltop into the challenging but exciting world that needs and waits for you. Congratulations.
A group of 55 U.S. history and U.S. history AP students traveled to the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia in April, where they were greeted by Jack Bogle ’47, former chairman of the Constitution Center’s board, former chairman of Blair’s Board of Trustees, and founder and former chairman of The Vanguard Group, Inc.—one of the largest mutual fund organizations in the world. Jack accompanied students on their tour of the center, which exposes visitors to important events in America’s history and utilizes interactive exhibits to demonstrate how and why the United States Constitution is as important today as it was 218 years ago. In fact, Jack said he has viewed the main presentation, “Freedom Rising,” numerous times and is “deeply moved” by each performance. Before the group headed for home, he spoke to the students in the center’s John C. Bogle Chairman’s Room—with its view of Independence Hall and other city landmarks—about his own experience at Blair and advised them to “pay attention” and make the most of their time here. “Blair Academy gave me the life that I have now; I loved my time there,” he said. “When I arrived at Blair, it was like a door opened. I was in a whole new league and received a first-class education.”

Jack advised Blair students to pursue the notion of “service to the community and others, not just to self.” He also noted that he was a scholarship student at Blair and now, through the Bogle Scholarships he supports at Blair and Princeton University (his two alma maters), he helps others attain the same quality education. “Well-qualified people need to get breaks,” he said. “And when someone gets a break, they need to take advantage of it.”

Students enjoyed viewing the life-size bronze statues of the 39 delegates who signed the Constitution (and the three dissenters) in Signers’ Hall, as well as the portrait of Jack that hangs just outside the Chairman’s Room named for him. Jim Connor, chair of the history department, and history teachers Ryan Spring and Stacey Spring ’95 accompanied students on their trip.

Jim also noted that during the school year, the department attended several lectures that were part of Lafayette College’s year-long celebration of the birth of Marquis de Lafayette. The program began with a lecture on the French-American alliance during the American Revolution presented by noted historian and author David McCullough.

Thereafter, during the course of the year, various members of the department enjoyed lectures from the following: Simon Schama, author of Rough Crossings, who spoke about the relationship between the British and American abolitionist movements during the 1830s; Princeton University professor James McPherson, perhaps America’s most respected Civil War historian; Salman Rushdie, author of the novel Satanic Verses, who offered some interesting insights into how his life has changed after the famous “fatwa” was issued against him; and Nicholas Kristoff, the noted columnist for The New York Times, who focused his lecture on the current humanitarian crisis in Darfur. “Certainly,” said Jim, “history teachers attending these wonderful lectures were able to bring new perspectives and topics back to Blair’s classrooms.”
The Winning Power of Speech

Winners of the annual public speaking contest—held in May in Armstrong-Hipkins Center for the Arts—were announced by English teacher Steven Kampmann. Kevin Flemming ’08 (pictured) was the first-place winner; Airi Kobayashi ’08 took second; and Maddy Hargis ’08 was the third-place winner. The other fine speakers were Ethan Dixon ’08, Chelsea Gallagher ’08, Filip Gzella ’08 and Joseph Stanzione ’08. The judges consisted of members of the faculty and staff, including Monie Hardwick, Linda Klesik, Melanie McMahon, Ryan Pagotto ’97 and Andrew Sykes.

All seniors are required to take the public speaking course offered in the spring. The contest is offered as a competitive but fun way to encourage seniors to address their peers in a formal environment. Each of the seven sections of public speaking presented a student as a representative for that class. All seniors, along with various faculty, staff and underclassmen, attend the contest to cheer on their favorites.

Kick Start on College

The second annual Blair College Fair afforded students and their parents a great opportunity to meet with representatives from a diverse group of schools.
Spring Skeptics Speakers

On Peace, Press, Weather and War

Taki Theodoracopulos ’55 was a featured speaker in April and addressed the topic, “On the Evils of the Press.” He joked that after re-thinking the focus of his presentation, originally billed, “On the Freedom of the Press,” he felt compelled to revise the title. Taki also shared some amusing tales of his student years at Blair. Often controversial, he has been a columnist for the London Spectator for 25 years. He is the author of the memoir, Nothing to Declare. A contributing editor to New York Press, he has also has been a columnist for the Times of London, the New York Post, and The New York Observer and has written frequently for National Review, The America Spectator and many other magazines. Taki is a two-time World Judo Champion and a past member of the Greek Davis Cup tennis team.

Afshen Shamsi, spokeswoman for the Council for American Islamic Relations (CAIR) in New Jersey, was a featured Society of Skeptics speaker in May. She addressed the topic of “The Muslim-American Perspective.”

According to CAIR’s Web site, its vision is “to be a leading advocate for justice and mutual understanding.” The site adds that CAIR’s mission is to enhance understanding of Islam, encourage dialogue, protect civil liberties, empower American Muslims and build coalitions that promote justice and mutual understanding. CAIR is a nonprofit, grassroots civil rights and advocacy group and is America’s largest Islamic civil liberties group, with regional offices nationwide and in Canada. The national headquarters is located on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C.

Dr. David A. Robinson, chairman of the department of geography at Rutgers University and New Jersey’s state climatologist since 1991, was a featured Skeptics speaker in April. He earned a bachelor’s degree from Dickinson College and a doctorate from Columbia University. Before arriving at Rutgers, he was an associate research scientist at Columbia’s Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory and a visiting scientist at the National Climatic Data Center.

Dr. Robinson’s research interests are in applied climate, especially related to New Jersey, and in climate dynamics and change, particularly focused on global snow cover. He is a member of the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize-sharing intergovernmental panel on climate change, having co-authored the snow section of the cryosphere chapter within the science assessment volume.

Jefferson Wiggins, an educator, lecturer, mentor and community leader, was also an April speaker. Born in rural Alabama to sharecropper parents, he enlisted in the U.S. Army as a teenager and received a field commission during World War II. Wiggins, one of the few African-American officers of that era, is the author of a memoir, Another Generation Almost Forgotten.

A special Society of Skeptics program took place during the school day in April, as Hagit Ofran, director of Settlement Watch, a project run by the Israeli group Peace Now, discussed “The Chances for Peace Between Palestinians and Israelis.”
For Love of French

Through the generosity of a scholarship funded by Mike Habermann ’41, Sarah Brandwood ’09 will study this summer at College Saint-Charles-Garnier in Quebec, Canada. French teacher Maria Bowditch explained: “Mike established a program for one lucky Blair French student each year to travel to Quebec for the month of July. The student pledges to speak French and only French in and out of class at College Saint-Charles-Garnier, which welcomes students from around the world who wish to partake in a total immersion experience. Mike made this opportunity available due to his great love of the language and of his late wife and French citizen Marguerite.”

Maria added, “Since its inception in 2002, Neva Anthony ’03, Hector Maquiera ’05, Aurore Dorelien ’06, Jaclyn Steger ’07 and Olivia Trozze ’08 (off to Cornell) have benefitted from this marvelous opportunity. While Olivia always demonstrated an excellent command of written French and reading comprehension as a junior in French 4 Honors, she knew that she needed to push her speaking skills to a higher level. Her time in Quebec provided just that boost to her fluency as evidenced from day one in French 5 Advanced Placement this past fall. Olivia said the program was a ‘great opportunity to experience a different culture, even one seemingly so close to home.’ This year’s recipient, Sarah, is a student in French 3 Honors who alternately delights and annoys her parents by speaking French at home. Merci, Monsieur Habermann, from French students and their parents, past, present and yet to come!”
Hot, Memorable and...

But They All Had a Ball!
While Commencement Day and Prom Night 2008 conjured the lyrics, “raindrops on roses, girls in white dresses,” Alumni Weekend was a real scorcher, with temperatures hovering near the 100-degree mark. Despite August-like heat and humidity, June 6–7, 2008, will no doubt conjure fond memories for all those who came back to campus—especially those brave enough and fit enough to take to the links for the golf scramble (complete with reconfigured 7th fairway given last year by the Class of ’42), new tennis courts for a mini tournament, new track for the 5K Run, and new Hampshire Field for an alumni lacrosse game!

A conference call to former faculty member Henry Cowan by the class of 1953—spearheaded by class rep Jim Youngelson ’53 who is also this year’s recipient of the Outstanding Class Correspondent Award—as well as the dedication of the Howard House by the class of 1958 (with remarks by Sandy Apgar ’58) were among the many highlights this year.

Selena Howard, widow of former Headmaster Jim Howard, and Art Richmond ’38, who returned for his 70th reunion, honored the alumni body with their presence. Read on for photos and text commemorating the awards, achievements, athletic events and activities that made this one of the best Alumni Weekends ever.
Alumni of the Year 2008, The Class of 1963

Remarks by T. Chandler Hardwick, Alumni Weekend 2008

This year the Alumnus of the Year Award represents a departure from tradition, as today we recognize not a single individual but an entire class who have had an incalculable influence on this School and its future. From the moment the Class of 1963 entered Blair Academy, their spirit, personalities, dedication and, yes, occasionally their pranks and stubborn independence changed Blair—perhaps as much as Blair shaped and changed their lives. Selena Howard, better than anyone, can attest to the character—and shenanigans—of the Class of 1963, as she undoubtedly remembers “the boys” who became the men who sit in this audience today. Similarly, Dennis Peachey ’62, who served as a prefect on Flight Deck when they were juniors, remembers them—even then—as an unusually close-knit and loyal group, a characterization which holds as true today as it did then.

Over the years, members of the Class of 1963 have gone on to serve Blair Academy in a manner that far surpasses their numbers. There is no other class at Blair with four such long-serving and influential members of the Board of Trustees: John Alden, Brian Clayton, Mitch Jennings and Jeff Seubel. Mitch Jennings, who cannot be with us today, has served as both vice chair of the Board and head of the Investment Committee. Much of Blair’s current financial strength and stability are due to his extraordinary stewardship of the School’s resources. Jeff was critical to the financial management necessary to make the new Activity and Athletic Center a reality. John and Brian have devoted hours of their time to the Buildings Committee as the plans were drawn, revised and ultimately led to the building you see now under construction.

It is the spirit and dedication of the entire class, though, that makes this class worthy of emulating. When Monie spoke at Chapel this fall about giving, she shared photos and stories of four of her favorite donors, and one was your classmate, Conrad Jones. She talked about his heartfelt loyalty to Blair and the joy he finds in helping others. Your class is full of characters and character. Many have gone on to distinguished careers in business and public service. Fortunately, Carter Crewe’s emails have helped hold you together. You have sent children and now grandchildren back to your alma mater to be educated. You have never forgotten your School or each other.

Finally, five years ago at your 40th reunion, you did what no other Blair class has ever done. You committed yourself to raising one million dollars by your 50th reunion to fund the first-ever Faculty Chair to be given by a Blair class. Now, five years later, you have raised over $500,000 and are well on your way to meeting that goal. As Jay Case told me this winter, the Class of 1963 believes it was the teachers they had at Blair who inspired them; your willingness to commit yourselves to providing the same inspired teaching for the generations which follow you will make Blair a better school forever.

For your great leadership, for showing other classes and other alumni what it means to be committed, loyal, active and engaged alumni, I present the 2008 Alumni of the Year Award today to the Class of 1963. Congratulations, and thank you.
The appointment of David Facciani was serendipitous for Blair Academy. At the time David came to interview at Blair, the School was hoping to hire a new math teacher; however, David revealed that, in fact, he could and wanted to teach Chinese. Married to a Chinese woman whom he had met while working in Beijing, David wanted to leave the business world and move with his wife to the United States for a new career in education. Was Blair the right fit? After a number of conversations, it seemed that David had found a home for his ambitions and his new wife, who would join the performing arts department as a dance teacher in ballet and classical Chinese dance.

Coming from the Cleveland area and attending Western Reserve Academy where he was the president of the student body, David went on to Yale University where he studied Chinese and then to the Thunderbird School of Global Management where he earned his M.B.A. Ready to move into a business career, David lived and worked in Beijing for six years, and there he met Lian Wang, who was a captain in the Red Army and who eventually became his wife. Together they made an interesting, even compelling, boarding school couple, allowing Blair to expand its Chinese program and offer economics, which David also wanted to teach. Further, Lian could carve out a role in teaching dance and yoga as she adjusted to a new country and relatively new language. In short, the School decided that David and Lian had too much potential and offered too many possibilities to let them go, yet there was not much flexibility in the budget for David’s salary. As a result, Chan Hardwick and the Faculty Executive Committee, in conjunction with the Class of 1963, decided that the Class of 1963 Faculty Chair would be offered as a one-year fellowship to David Facciani.

The class of 1963 established this faculty chair in the fall of 2000 in an effort to leave a legacy for their class and to provide a gift that would be original and of unique value to Blair. It was the consensus of the ‘63 alumni to be the first class to endow a faculty chair for the School. By endowing the chair, the Class of 1963 wished to accentuate the importance of attracting and retaining teaching faculty of high academic stature. It was the class’s intent that these faculty members have the skills to foster and stimulate interest in critical and analytical learning in the disciplines of biology, physics, chemistry, computer science, mathematics or physics; last year, the ‘63 faculty chair was awarded to Dr. Rick Clarke, a physics teacher at Blair.

It is because of the Class of 1963’s unique gift to Blair Academy that the School was able to hire David Facciani and Lian Wang. With the retirement of Susan Kramer—the founding Chinese teacher at Blair—next year David and Lian will take over the Chinese program at Blair, fully justifying the opportunity afforded by the fellowship that brought this unique and capable couple to the Blair faculty.

Winners of this year’s Peachey Awards gather for a photo following the Headmaster’s Assembly. (1 to R. top row): Pete Cleary ’58, Steve Losa ’58, Dudley Case ’48, Al Rose ’48, Jim Youngelson ’53; (bottom row): Dean Pappas ’58, Norm Beatty ’58, Thornton Land ’58

Peter Cleary ’58 is recognized as part of the Class of 1958 reunion committee, which received a Peachey Award.
Some members of the Class of 1948, who returned from all parts of the U.S., gathered for a drink at the Saturday reception on Sharpe House Lawn.

Members of the Class of 1958 were inducted into the Old Guard at their 50th reunion dinner on Friday evening.

Glenn Smith ’58, in celebration of his 50th reunion, interviewed Headmaster Chan Hardwick for a live broadcast on his regular weekly afternoon program airing across New Jersey and Pennsylvania on WWFM, the Classical Network; Glenn has been the network’s music director since 1995.
Alumni Weekend

A high-five between winners of the Class Rep Award, **Dud Case ’48** and **Al Rose ’48**, who were honored for a life-time of service to their class. The road trip back to Blair for their 60th reunion took them from California, to South Carolina, to Blairstown.

Alumni Weekend isn’t all play. The Board of Governors, led by Trustee **Hoby Van Deusen ’54**, met Saturday morning, while the class of 1963 held two class meetings.
Headmaster Chan Hardwick and Dean of College Counseling Lew Stival enjoy a warm breeze on the porch of the new tennis house.

Some members of the Class of 1957 and “friends” gathered for the dedication of the new scoreboard in honor of former coach and faculty member Steve Kuk.

Bud Potter ’48 traveled from Arizona for his 60th reunion and competed in the 5K race on Saturday. His classmates gathered at the finish to cheer him on. Bud reports that the new track is great!

Art Richmond ’38, who returned for his 70th reunion, was honored at the Headmaster’s Assembly. He is pictured at right with brother John ’40.

Some members of the Class of 1938 and 1940.
The dictionary defines “dedication” in three ways: first, in physical form, to devote a plot of land or a building for a special use; second, in qualities, to describe the purpose and values that characterize individuals and organizations; and third, in words, to address an artistic work as a mark of honor and gratitude.

For the Class of 1958, Howard House expresses all three meanings, inextricably interlinked. We rallied to this idea for our 50th Reunion Gift because we wished to honor Jim Howard and to thank him, posthumously, for his gifts of genuine friendship, wise guidance and steadfast support. We recognize that Blair’s future, like our past, rests on values of community, reflected through the faculty who live here as well as work here. And we are delighted that, in its serenity and majesty, this premier site, located on one of the most beautiful and historic school campuses anywhere, will house a succession of teachers, and their families, who embody Jim’s love of learning, his intellectual as well as institutional leadership, his roles as mentor and coach, and his quiet, graceful demeanor.

We remember Jim as the quintessential Head Master. In his day, and ours, teachers not only mastered their disciplines but also were masters of this realm and of us, their subjects. As Head Master, tweed-wrapped, clenching his ever-present pipe, Jim was scholarly and serious, at times stern, even slightly scary. When he looked down over those half-glasses—years before they became Wall Street fashion—he imposed his presence, though he did not threaten. His lean, erect bearing, the poster Marine, signaled a man in control but not controlling. Thus, when he spoke, we—and everyone else—listened.

Faculty housing had special meaning to Jim and Selena because they believed in its central importance to boarding school life. Throughout his career, first at Lawrenceville and then at Blair, Jim championed the provision of quality housing as a key factor in recruiting and retaining the best faculty and, in consequence, enlivening the “24/7” school community. When I launched the Army’s Residential Communities Initiative and was looking for models, Jim reminded me that Blair’s campus, though designed for a different mission, incorporated all of the elements that our soldiers would want in their Army neighborhoods—even women!

And Selena, in her role as Blair’s First Lady, helped to synthesize the concept of community by identifying the unique role that each faculty apartment played in forging the whole and in converting austere faculty houses, painted in Victorian brown, to warm, welcoming homes filled with color and light.

So, as we gather today, with fond memories of a man we will never forget and immense pride in the School he led through some of our—and its—most vulnerable, challenging years, we in the Class of 1958 offer our love, respect and good wishes to Selena and to the entire Howard family, and our hope that this singular addition to the Blair campus will forever be a living memorial to Blair’s “Howard Era.”
Blair Academy Citation of Merit 2008
David D. Wakefield ’48

Remarks by T. Chandler Hardwick, Alumni Weekend 2008

Perhaps the most significant new member of the Blair Board of Trustees in this new century, David Wakefield immediately provided a range of experience and insight into many of the major issues facing the School. Displaying a clarity of purpose and an enthusiastic understanding of Blair’s leadership needs, Dave has served as the chairman of Ever Always: The Campaign for Blair, working both at the Board level as chairman of the Development Committee and as an indispensable volunteer in partnership with the Headmaster and others, meeting with major donors to the School. His optimism, experience, wisdom and faith in Blair—qualities begun and molded during his six years at Blair as a student in the 1940s—make Dave Wakefield a superb choice to be this year’s recipient of the 2008 Citation of Merit.

Dave came to Blair in the fall of 1942, following his older brother Bob, and stayed for six years, not unusual during a decade that was shaped by the Second World War. Active and involved in school life from the beginning—he sang in the choir all six years—Dave made the honor roll by 1944, participated in numerous clubs and societies, and became the leading tour guide. In sports, Dave played football and baseball, ran track and cross country, and was a cheerleader. One of Dave’s favorite memories is of him and his classmates painting “BEAT PEDDIE” on the Blair water tower late one November night. Dave claims that was the only football game the team won in 1947. After Blair, Dave attended the College of William and Mary, where he majored in economics and joined the ROTC, graduating as an officer in the U.S. Army, where he served until 1954, leaving as a First Lieutenant.

Although Dave and his bride Carolyn “Lee” Bradley were both 1952 graduates of William and Mary, they did not begin dating until after graduation. They went on to raise two children, Ellen and David Jr., and Lee has been an enthusiastic supporter of Dave in all his endeavors, graciously sharing him with Blair these past few years. After the Army, Dave’s first job was with Proctor and Gamble; later he earned his MBA at New York University and began a career in banking with J.P. Morgan in New York that would last 38 years. In 1981, J.P. Morgan asked Dave to form a subsidiary of the bank in Wilmington, Delaware, and during his time there, his staff grew from 40 to 2,000.

Throughout his busy career, Dave has been an outstanding community citizen. He has been active at William and Mary, chairing his 50th reunion committee and serving on the college’s alumni endowment committee. After retiring from the bank, Dave served as the executive director of the Longwood Foundation in Wilmington and as a trustee of the Winterthur Museum. When he joined the Blair Board of Trustees in 2003, he brought this depth of non-profit and board experience with him to Blair. However, it is more than simply his experience that makes him such a gifted leader. He has a way of being professional and honest in everything he does, yet at the same time, so gracious, warm and good humored that he is liked and respected by everyone. When Dave asks people to help Blair, it is almost impossible for them to say no.

Dave has devoted countless hours to Blair during this campaign, and while we considered waiting until its conclusion next year, it seemed more appropriate to recognize him this year at his 60th reunion when so many of his classmates are here with him. Therefore, it is altogether fitting that we honor today this wonderful son of Blair, whose life reflects well the School’s values and whose loyal and tireless work as a Trustee and alumnus advances our mission. The 2008 Citation of Merit most deservedly goes to David Dean Wakefield, Blair Class of 1948.
Members of the Class of 1973 gather in the shade of West Hall porch to escape the afternoon heat.

The Class of 1968, gathering for their 40th reunion, not only won the Alumni Attendance Award for the largest percentage of attendance, but also won the alumni golf tournament. The foursome (L to R) of Richard Rubin ’68, Mark Wadmond ’68, Craig Scott ’68 and Jono Peters ’68 celebrate their victory. Richard and Eric Goberman ’68 did a phenomenal job of reconnecting their class and reuniting for this special reunion.

Polly Joline, whose husband Larry—a long-time Blair science teacher who died in April—is recognized at the Headmaster’s Assembly.

Trustee Hyun Seok Hwang ’93 introduces his son, Alexander, to Blair for the first time.

Selena Howard, widow of former Headmaster James Howard, was welcomed back to campus by Monie Hardwick.

Class reunion photos may be viewed on-line within the alumni section of Blair’s Web site at www.blair.edu
Deng Receives UNHCR Humanitarian Award

Various sports-related Web sites and blogs carried the news that Chicago Bull’s forward Luol Deng ’03 received the 2008 UN Refugee Agency’s Humanitarian of the Year Award on June 20 at a ceremony commemorating the agency’s annual World Refugee Day held in the Grosvenor Auditorium of the National Geographic Museum in Washington, D.C. The award is in recognition of Deng’s support of UNHCR’s ninemillion.org campaign to bring education and sports to millions of displaced children.

The UNHCR noted, “Earlier this year, Deng (himself a former refugee from south Sudan) pledged to donate $50 to ninemillion.org for every basket he scored. In a public service announcement he recorded in support of the campaign, he urged his fans to support his efforts to improve the lives of young refugees.”

Luol said, “I am honored to receive the UNHCR’s ‘Humanitarian of the Year’ Award. Giving back is important to me. The ninemillion.org campaign is a cause that is very close to my heart, and I am committed to helping refugees make a new life for themselves.”

U.S. Senator Barack Obama said, “I want to congratulate Luol Deng on being honored with this award. In a world rife with conflict, one of our most important obligations is to look after the innocent victims of war, including those who are forced to flee their homes as refugees—and few understand this better than Luol. His dedication to bringing hope to millions of children living as refugees in Sudan and around the world is an inspiration, as is Luol’s own life itself. Both on and off the court, Luol sets a standard of excellence and service that all Americans can look to for inspiration.”

A few days after he received the UNHCR award, Luol learned he would be the cover athlete and spokesman for NBA LIVE 09 in the United Kingdom. Electronic Arts Inc. issued the announcement: “Deng, raised in the UK from 1993, has played in the NBA for three years and is a vital part of the Great Britain national team. This is the first time the UK has worked with a local athlete. ‘I’m proud to be the first British athlete chosen to appear on the NBA LIVE 09 cover in the UK,’ said Luol Deng. ‘It’s an honour to be recognized by EA SPORTS as a UK ambassador for NBA LIVE 09, and I’m looking forward to playing for the Great Britain National team.’ Deng is joined by some of the NBA’s biggest international stars on packaging around the world, including Los Angeles Lakers Pau Gasol (Spain) and Toronto Raptors Andrea Bargnani (Italy).”
Blair “Barrier Breaker” Honored by NCAS

The National Consortium for Academics and Sports (NCAS)—an ever-growing organization of colleges, universities and individuals—will honor Shamila Kohestani ’08 at its annual Giant Steps Awards Banquet in November. The NCAS evolved in response to the need to “keep the student in the student-athlete.” In conjunction with National STUDENT-Athlete Day, Giant Steps Awards are presented in the categories of courageous student-athletes, coaches, civic leaders, athletic administrators, parents and teachers. Chosen by a diverse selection committee from hundreds of nominations received nationwide, these individuals exemplify the meaning of National STUDENT-Athlete Day.

Giant Steps Awards honor individuals who use sports as a vehicle for positive social change, bring awareness to social issues, and help student-athletes have a balance between academics and sports. Nominees are made in the categories of Civic Leaders, Parents, Teachers, Courageous Student-Athletes, Coaches and more. Each year award winners are announced on April 6.

The 2008 Giant Steps Award honors Shamila as a “Barrier Breaker” and wrote the following about her:

“Shamila Kohestani was part a group of Afghan girls who came to the U.S. in 2006 for a soccer clinic as part of the Afghan Sports Exchange. The thought of participating in sports just seven years ago seemed out of reach. Women were not only kept from speaking their minds, but speaking in public at all.

As a young woman living in Afghanistan under Taliban rule, Shamila was unable to go to school, play sports, leave her home with a male other than a family member; music and television were forbidden. Confined to their home, she and her six sisters made money embroidering burqas. They also sought out underground schools and traded books with friends (violating the laws). Shamila was beaten publicly for not wearing her burqa properly.

With the defeat of the Taliban, this all began to change. After attending the soccer clinic in 2006, the Julie Foudy Sports Leadership Academy offered to pay one year of Shamila’s tuition to Blair Academy. Shamila arrived with the clothes on her back, a small carry-on bag and her soccer cleats. But she had to play catch up before anything else. She had to catch up from missing five years of school and learn more English.

Shamila is a pioneer in her country as a soccer player. When she came to the U.S. originally, she was with seven other girls who made up the entire group of Afghan women who played the sport. When back in Afghanistan, she is the captain on the Afghanistan Women’s Soccer team. In August 2007, the team played in its first international event in Pakistan. They won four out of five games, and Shamila scored six of the team’s 11 goals.

At Blair Academy Shamila practices her Muslim religion and prays daily in her dorm. She presented her story in front of her fellow classmates who now have an incredible respect and understanding for her.”

[Note: Shamila was featured in the last issue of the Bulletin regarding the February 11 New York Times article about her journey to Blair.]
The Enjoy section of The Express-Times, a daily newspaper based in Easton, Pa., ran an April article touting Blair’s Earthshine members and their efforts to light up Blair’s dining Hall...for less.

The article read in part, “Students in Blair Academy’s Earthshine environmental issues club had a bright idea for today’s Arbor Day. They designed a T-shirt fundraising project to reflect their message of preserving the Earth’s natural resources. The students created the T-shirts with an image of a compact fluorescent lamp (CFL), accompanied by the admonition to “Flick off” the lights, to raise money to buy 225 CFLs to replace all the incandescent bulbs in their campus dining room for a significant reduction in electrical use.”

[Note: The last Bulletin featured news of Earthshine’s endeavor, along with other ways in which the Blair campus is gradually “going green.”]

Restaurant Merits More Raves

The April 27 edition of The Star-Ledger, New Jersey’s largest daily newspaper, included a restaurant review of Moghul, located in Edison, N.J., and owned by the Mehtani family, including Shaun ’02.

Reviewer Cody Kendall, wrote, “…A pioneer of elegant Indian dining in New Jersey, Moghul has refined its edge, offering top-notch food and service for a stimulating evening. As always, the focal point of the restaurant is the bustling expertise of chefs working at spice-infused tandoor (clay) ovens behind glass, in a booth highlighted by cobalt blue mosaic tiles. Banquettes at the upper level of the dining room and booths below offer an alternative to the tables, with chairs whose seats are soft enough for comfort during a multi-course meal beneath dramatic wrought-iron light fixtures.”

Kendall added, “On my last visit to Moghul, nearly 17 years ago, Indian restaurants were still somewhat of a novelty in the Garden State. High style in those establishments was rare, though it is much more common these days. Moghul remains a standout, however, as part of the Mehtani family’s steadily burgeoning restaurant empire that also extends to Morris County. This flagship establishment adjoins Ming, a pan-Asian restaurant, while a few doors down is Mithaas, an informal snack and dessert spot. A theater down the strip offers Bollywood films along with the latest releases… Moghul and its environs involve a cultural experience, as well as a dining occasion.”
**Student Art Wins Mention in New York Times**

The New York Times recently reported on the success of some talented Blair students whose work was selected for the Morris Museum’s “Fresh Perspectives” exhibit. The young artists include Elayna Bartolacci ’08 (photography), pictured, Melissa Collins ’09 (clay vessel) and Da In Lee ’09 (drawing). The art exhibit in Morristown, N.J., opened in April and ran through early June.

The students’ work was selected from over 500 pieces submitted, with approximately 50 chosen for this museum exhibit. The juried show, created to showcase the diverse work of high school students from central and northern New Jersey, exemplifies the fact that “hard work can be rewarding.”

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**Rockrose Prez is the “Real Deal”**

The March 2008 Real Deal magazine (New York edition) featured a Q & A by Lauren Elkies entitled, “The Closing,” spotlighting K. Thomas Elghanayan ’62, president of Rockrose Development Corp., which he founded in 1970 with older brother Henry ’58, the chairman. Elkies noted, “Rockrose’s operating portfolio includes 19 residential properties with 5,500 rental apartments; five office buildings in New York City with 1.43 million rentable square feet; and six office buildings in Washington, D.C., with 1.03 million rentable square feet. Rockrose’s current projects include seven residential buildings with around 3,000 units in Long Island City. Another brother, Frederick ’66, is president of Rockrose Construction Corp. Brother Jeffrey ’72 worked at the company before retiring.”

An excerpt of the interview follows:

**What is your full name?**

Kamran (pronounced Kum-run) Elghanayan. Kamran is Iranian. I was born in Iran…

**Why don’t you go by your first name?**

It’s just too big a handful—Kamran Elghanayan—you know, spelling it 30 times a day. Actually, I really got the name Tommy in grade school.

My name was Kamran, and the short name for Kamran was Kammy (pronounced Commee) in Persian. And so there I was, I was going to school in Forest Hills in the early ’50s with the name Kammy, and all the kids used to make fun of me. That was when the whole Red Scare, Communist thing was going on. So my teacher said, ‘We’re not going to call you Kammy anymore, we’re going to call you Tommy,’ because it sounded like Kammy, and her husband’s name was Tommy.

**How old were you when you came to this country?**

I was four years old. I have no memories of Iran at all.

**Where did you grow up?**

I’d have to say I grew up in Forest Hills, though I never felt part of Forest Hills. I went to grade school there at P.S. 101 until fifth or sixth grade. By the way, [we] lived on Rockrose Place in Forest Hills, Queens. That’s where the name Rockrose came from. Then I went to [the now-shuttered] Nyack Boys School, a boarding school; and then to Blair Academy, a boarding school in [Blairstown] New Jersey. So I was always sort of a transient.

**What was the first job you ever had?**

I was a camp counselor at a sleep-away camp.

**How do you measure success?**

Whether you’ve lived according to your own ethical standard you’ve set yourself and also according to the absolute standard of the whole community.
Small Deeds, Big Hearts

Blair faculty members Rob Merrifield and Rev. Cynthia Crowner—Blair’s chaplain—conducted a mission trip with students to Camden, N.J., over Spring Break. This spring, the group presented a chapel presentation about their experience, with New Jersey Herald reporter Rev. Sherry Karasik covering the event for her weekly column, Faith Matters, in the Herald, a daily newspaper based in Newton, N.J.

Rob, a biology teacher, told Karasik that “reaching out to the residents of Camden is to reach into the pockets of poverty unknown to most state residents.”

Karasik wrote, “Called by some higher power,” is how Nikki Weiner, a junior, describes her journey from Blair to the Romero Center to the Inglis House, a home for those with severe disabilities. The Inglis House is one of several missions the Romero Center is involved in, along with a food bank and a center for those with AIDS.”

Karasik added, “As Junior Kevin Liu says, someone might question exactly what they could accomplish in five days in Camden. “My response will be—the essence of this trip is beyond secular deeds...Like Mother Teresa said, ‘We may not do great things, but we can do small things with great love.’ ”

The article also excerpted one of the letters students were asked to send to someone they love describing their Camden trip. Nathalie Tilley ’10, wrote, “Dear Mom and Dad...First and foremost, thank you...I have met a group of inspiring people on this trip who have such a positive energy that I wouldn’t have known existed in such a sea of darkness.”
Players Nominated Seven Times with Lewis a Winner

Todd Lewis ’08, a Morehead Scholar from Oxford, N.J., took home a Freddy Award on May 22, the same day he received his diploma and was the featured speaker at Blair’s commencement exercises. The Freddy Awards, sponsored by The State Theatre in Easton, Pa., recognize high school musical theatre in Lehigh Valley, Pa. and Warren County, N.J. The awards program is designed to reward exceptional accomplishments in the production and performance of musical theatre in local high schools.

Craig Evans, chair of the performing arts department, said, “Todd is our first male recipient, so this is great news!”

The Express-Times’ Susan Kalan and Jessica Hoogendorn covered the awards ceremonies in the paper’s May 23 edition, “For Todd Lewis, a senior at Blair Academy, this year’s nomination for outstanding performance by a male ensemble member was the third time he was in the running. It was the first time he left with a trophy. ‘It’s a really great way to end,’ said Lewis. ‘It’s nice to finish with a win…’ ”

The Express-Times article added, “The awards show, televised live on Channel 69, included an extra dimension this year. A documentary film crew from Los Angeles had cameras rolling throughout the three-hour program. Canyonback Films wants to finish a documentary on the [awards] by year’s end and shoot for a full-length theatrical release, to be premiered at the State Theatre.”

The Blair Academy Players’ winter musical production of Guys & Dolls garnered seven Freddy Awards nominations, as announced on May 8 by the State Theatre in Easton, Pa. WFMZ, Channel 69, televised the awards ceremony on May 22, with a rebroadcast on May 23 at 7 p.m.

The Players’ nominations were as follows: Best Solo – Taylor McKay ’08; Best Featured Dancer – Michael Breslin ’09; Best Ensemble Member (Male) – Todd Lewis; Best Ensemble – J.P. Bowditch ’08/Michael Breslin/Todd Lewis; Best Production Number – “Sit Down, You’re Rockin’ The Boat;” Best Featured Actor – Andrew Hutcheson ’08; Best Production by a Smaller School.
Alum Speaks Out on Cancer Funding

The San Diego Union-Tribune and its affiliated radio station featured an op-ed entitled, “Too Few Funds to Fight Cancer in U.S.,” by Robert Weiner ’65 and wife Patricia Berg on April 18. Bob is a former Clinton White House National Drug Policy Office public affairs director, chief of staff of the U.S. House Aging Committee, and staff director of the House Subcommittee on Health and Long Term Care. Berg is director of the breast cancer laboratory at George Washington University Medical Center’s Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology and is an American Association for Cancer Research member.

The op-ed read, in part, as follows:

“With more than 500,000 cancer deaths in the United States each year, the underlying buzz all around the just-concluded San Diego meeting of the American Association for Cancer Research [AACR], with 17,000 scientists from throughout the nation and the world, was, ‘Where is the federal government?’

AACR is comprised of 27,000 scientists dedicated to the conquest of cancer, and they are saving lives every day. The physicians and researchers are making discoveries shattering the old death sentence of cancer—the death rate has declined 2 percent a year since 2002. Still, 1,500 Americans a day die from cancer, points out cancer survivor Cindy Geoghegan of Komen for the Cure, the world’s largest private breast cancer research funding provider.

Despite fear of the torturous physical slide of cancer—people’s No. 1 health fear—federal funds for research into early diagnosis, treatment and cures are plummeting…

The private sector is a pale substitute for the real power of the federal government. Mark Hurlbert, the Avon Foundation’s senior adviser for grants and partnerships, gave the numbers that tell the story. For breast cancer alone, $600 million annually comes from NCI [National Cancer Institute], and the Department of Defense has provided $2.2 billion total since 1992, versus Komen $900 million since 1988, Avon $520 million since 1992, Revlon $110 million since 1992. Komen’s current round will be able to fund only about $100 million of $600 million in requests, and Komen officials say the scored quality difference between approved and many unapproved projects is minuscule. Jonathan Simons of the Prostate Cancer Foundation described exciting developments but similar dollar shortages.

Another aspect of the funding shortage is that we may be losing an entire generation of scientists who opt to do other things. With no money for their research, scientists have no choice but to select fields that can pay.

One in two men and one in three women will develop some form of cancer during their lives, according to the Centers for Disease Control. It is tragic that private volunteer organizations have to scramble to pick up the pieces of the federal government, who with all its power, could be driving scientists closer to curing this dread disease.”

[Note: Each year, numerous members of the Blair community are involved in events such as those mentioned above, organized to help fight cancer.]
Alumni, parents and friends gathered for the 2008 Leadership Dinner in April. Donors of named scholarships spent the evening with the students who benefit from their support. Dean of Admission Barbara Haase, who bid farewell to Blair at the end of the school year, was recognized and honored for her many years of service to Blair. (See page 38 for more.) All captions read from left to right.

Headmaster Chan Hardwick, Jack Turpin ’62, Anthony Daddino and Susan Bevan (parents of Adam ’09 and Colin ’07), Mike Habermann ’41, Maureen Sheehan (parent of Jordan ’06 and Kara ’07), Mickey and Lucy Gilbert (parents of Robbie ’05 and Lindsay ’10), Michael and Cela Rulle (parents of Mike ’06 and Victoria ’10), Kevin and Lisa Clayton (parents of Jessica Shupp ’03 and Patrick ’09), Rob Sigety ’72, Chrysa and Richard Graber (parents of Alex ’06 and Nick ’09), Liz Sigety.

Michael Galesi ’54 and Matthew Gallira ’08, who addressed attendees that evening.

Dean of Admission Barbara Haase thanks attendees who honored her as she bids goodbye to the School (right). She is pictured in group photo with son Brett ’91, husband Marty, mother, son Blake ’97 and his wife, Nina, who recently gave birth to son Jasper.

Shamila Kohestani ’08 from Afghanistan, who also addressed attendees.
Campaign Update

AT ALUMNI WEEKEND 2008, TRUSTEE BILL TIMKEN ANNOUNCED THAT EVER ALWAYS: THE CAMPAIGN FOR BLAIR HAD CROSSED THE $40 MILLION MARK TOWARD ITS $50 MILLION GOAL. BLAIR RECEIVED OVER $10 MILLION IN CASH GIFTS THIS YEAR—AN HISTORIC RECORD.

Significantly, the Campaign also achieved one of its three major goals a year ahead of time as the Blair Fund reached $2 million for the first time in school history, growing from a $1 million annual program five years ago. Headmaster Chan Hardwick noted, “Given the relatively small size of Blair’s endowment, gifts to the Blair Fund are vital in order for Blair to provide a superior academic and extracurricular program. A $2 million Blair Fund is the equivalent to an additional $40 million in our endowment in terms of the support it provides each year. We sincerely thank the many alumni, parents and friends who supported the Blair Fund this year—many with new or increased gifts.”

The Peachey Plaza in full bloom—a gift from the Class of 1962 at their 40th reunion in honor of classmate and former Assistant Headmaster Dennis Peachey ’62
Alumni Weekend was highlighted by the dedication of a new faculty home, named in honor of James M. and Selena T. Howard and given by the Class of 1958 on the occasion of their 50th reunion. Selena Howard returned to campus, and it was a wonderful moment as she addressed “her boys” and the crowd admired the spectacular site and beginning construction that will be complete by January. The new Howard House is located on the hill behind Annie Hall, between the Jenkins and Dayton houses, with a view looking back to campus on one side and to the ninth green on the other. Sandy Apgar ’58 spoke on behalf of the Class of 1958; his well-received remarks are reprinted in the Alumni Weekend coverage in this Bulletin, page 23.

Bill Timken also announced several generous gifts that helped bring the Campaign to the
$40 million milestone. Current parent and Trustee Manuel Grullon and his wife Rosa gave a gift that will make possible the building of a second faculty home next to the Howard House, to be completed by Fall 2009. Former Trustee and parent Peggy Ruzika and her husband Steve announced at the Leadership Dinner that they will support the infrastructure and road work necessary for the new homes and wished to name the new road in honor of Dean of Admission Barbara Haase as she leaves Blair. Finally, two new named scholarships have been established, one also in honor of Barbara, and the other a $250,000 gift from former Blair parents to support day student scholarships.

THIS SPRING TWO NEW NAMED SCHOLARSHIPS HAVE BEEN ESTABLISHED, ONE IN HONOR OF BARBARA HAASE, AND THE OTHER A $250,000 GIFT FROM FORMER BLAIR PARENTS TO SUPPORT DAY STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS.

Former Trustee Peggy Ruzika and husband Steve, parents of Kyle ’07, with Archer Martin ’42 at the 2008 Leadership Dinner

Construction on the new Activity and Athletic Center, as well as the Howard House above, continues
At 42, Mark Moon ’84 might seem young to be a planned giver, but more and more people between the ages of 40 and 60 are making estate plans. Some, like Mark, have chosen to signal their special commitment to Blair by including the School in their will and becoming a member of Blair’s John C. Sharpe Society.

Mark has been a loyal supporter of Blair since he graduated. In 2004, he and his wife, Alison, documented a bequest intention, awarding Blair a percentage of their estate. “Often people don’t realize how simple it is to add a codicil to their will in order to include a charitable institution in their bequests,” Mark noted. While such bequests can always be changed, they generally remain in place, and donors discover they are able to demonstrate their willingness to help build Blair’s future—even when they are not able to make a significant cash gift now.

“My two years at Blair were the most formative of my life,” Mark likes to tell people. “I learned to think critically and communicate effectively and, as importantly, benefitted from living and learning in a warm and nurturing community.”

After Blair, Mark went on to Kenyon College and medical school. He now practices medicine at the Mayo Clinic in Florida and is on the faculty at the Mayo Clinic Medical School. He and Alison, who is also a doctor, live in Jacksonville with their five-year-old daughter, Caroline, whom Mark hopes will join the Blair class of 2020. Mark has contributed to Blair in many ways, including serving on the Board of Trustees and establishing a named scholarship at the School, but he believes his commitment now to build Blair’s endowment in the future is one of his most important gifts.

“My two years at Blair were the most formative of my life,” Mark likes to tell people. “I learned to think critically and communicate effectively and, as importantly, benefitted from living and learning in a warm and nurturing community.”
Blair Bids Barbara Haase Good-bye
Alumnus Named New Dean of Admission

Ryan Pagotto ‘97 has been named dean of admission, succeeding Barbara Haase, a faculty member for 18 years, housemaster of Locke Hall along with her husband, Marty, and dean from 1994–2008.

In his Note on page 3 of the last Bulletin, Headmaster Chan Hardwick said, “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. Over the past three years, applications for admission have increased nearly 40%, representing dramatic growth both in terms of numbers and quality of applicants…” Barbara was feted at the May Leadership Dinner, with family and friends among her well-wishers (see page 33).

Headmaster Chan Hardwick announced Ryan’s appointment in May and said, “Ryan’s Klingenstein Institute experience and summer school leadership skills complement his deep and genuine affection for Blair. I have confidence that Ryan, along with Heather Eckert, associate dean and director of financial aid, Bowen Posner, Andrew Pearce ‘02, Alexis Machabanski and Paul Clavel ‘88, will continue the strong personal and professional standards that have become the hallmark of the Blair admission office.”

After graduating from Blair, Ryan attended Dickinson College and taught at Wyoming Seminary before returning to teach in the history department, coach tennis and serve as associate dean of admission at Blair. In addition to his tenure at Blair, Ryan has also served as director of The Cambridge Prep Experience, a division of Oxbridge Academic Programs, which is a selective summer program for high school students located in Cambridge, England. He spent this past year at Columbia University’s Klingenstein School earning a master’s degree in educational leadership.

Ryan remarked, “We have a highly committed and capable admission team, and I am eager to continue the forward momentum that Barbara has sustained in her tenure at Blair. I am thrilled to continue serving the school I feel so strongly about and look forward to the professional challenges and reward that come with that service.”
Spring Events Serve Community at Large

The spring months presented a plethora of opportunities for the Blair community to reach out beyond “the hill” and engage in any number of events benefiting the world at large.

Community service advisor Kaye Evans organized over 100 students and chaperones for Blair Academy’s participation in this year’s Relay For Life® of Blairstown Township, May 16–17. Kaye reports on this highly successful event that helps fight against cancer: “The event raised $53,987.73 all together. Of that, I am sure that Blair’s contributions were significant, and we definitely helped Blairstown make its goal. Our own Feet on Fire team collected the most money of all the teams—a whopping $3,660!”

Kaye thanked those who chaperoned and said, “At this busy time of year, I am especially grateful to you for being so generous with your time and energy in helping us participate. I feel very fortunate to have such dedicated colleagues. Thank you for helping our kids enjoy a fun and meaningful experience at the Relay For Life.”

According to the information provided on the Relay for Life Web site, “Each year, across the nation, [this] event brings together entire communities to take part in the fight against cancer. It’s a time and place where people come to celebrate those who have survived cancer, remember those we’ve lost and fight back against a disease that touches too many lives…”

In April and May, Blair ceramics students, under the direction of art teacher Kate Sykes, were involved for the second year with the Empty Bowls program—a nationwide initiative with grassroots participation—producing 50 bowls in the School’s ceramics studio. These bowls were made as part of a local fundraiser sponsored by NORWESCAP (Northwest New Jersey Community Action Program), a not-for-profit community action program. NORWESCAP provides

Gèzi Means Good-bye!

Chinese teacher Susan Kramer, appointed in 1994, retired at the end of the school year, along with her husband Jerry, who taught Chinese and religion for the past two years after retiring from the ministry. In addition to their classroom teaching, the Kramers—parents of Chris ’01—have led trips to China with Blair students over the years and participated enthusiastically in numerous campus and community service events. We will miss their presence and wish them all the best!
cost-effective, coordinated services to low-income people in Hunterdon, Morris, Somerset, Sussex, Passaic and Warren Counties in New Jersey.

In conjunction with NORWESCAP’s recognition of National Hunger Awareness Day, art students crafted these bowls, which were sold to the public for a benefit luncheon at the NORWESCAP Food Bank Annex in June. Last year’s event raised $2,500; at press time, organizers hoped to double that figure this year. Other local potters around the county also participate in the Empty Bowls program, with area restaurants and food suppliers providing soup and bread for the luncheon.

Blair students and English teacher Micki McMillan—a 1997 graduate of Lafayette College—recently participated in Lafayette’s community service day. The event involved numerous college alumni chapters, with members simultaneously participating in community service projects. Micki’s Lehigh Valley chapter chose to volunteer at an animal shelter near the college, where they performed various tasks such as walking dogs, organizing storage, etc. Her advisees Taylor McKay ’08, Jen Shields ’10 and Chris St. John ’10, along with classmate Lauren Schneider ’10, helped Micki lend a hand at the shelter.

The Blair Academy day boys promoted the 2008 Walk for NF (Neurofibromatosis) at Walnut Valley Field in Blairstown in May—NF Awareness Month. All proceeds from the walk and bake sale benefited the Children’s Tumor Foundation, which funds the leading NF research. NF encompasses a set of distinct genetic disorders that cause tumors to grow along various types of nerves and, in addition, can affect the development of non-nervous tissues such as bones and skin. This genetically determined disorder affects more than 100,000 Americans; this makes NF more prevalent than Cystic Fibrosis, hereditary Muscular Dystrophy, Huntington’s Disease and Tay Sachs combined. NF is worldwide in distribution, affects both sexes equally and has no particular racial, geographic or ethnic distribution. Therefore, NF can appear in any family.

The Children’s Tumor Foundation is the leading not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving the health and well-being of the one in 3,000 individuals born with neurofibromatosis by funding research to enable effective treatments and ultimately a cure of NF. For more information about the Foundation, please visit www.ctf.org or call 800-323-7938.

Margaret DeOliveira ’09 and Rebecca Merrifield ’10 organized an on-campus spring triathlon, “Tri for Peace,” as a fundraiser for the Invisible Children Organization aiding orphans in Uganda. Their project—which raised over $1,100—is an offshoot of the all-girls Julie Foudy Soccer Camp they attended last summer. In addition to soccer training skills, the camp emphasizes leadership skills for women, with each attendee challenged to perform some type of community service project after the camp.
We Have a Winner!

The winners of the 2008 Porsche Boxster valued at $47,300 are Herbert and Ann Glaser of Old Tappan, N.J., past parents of Herb ’84 and Brian ’88; Herbert’s brother is Walter Glaser ’58. The winning ticket number was #817. Gail Tannenhaus chaired the car raffle committee for the Parent Volunteer Group, which sold 971 tickets and raised over $50,000 to benefit Blair Academy.

This year’s senior class set two records. They are the first senior class to achieve 100% participation in the Blair Fund, raising $16,000—another record for Blair Academy. The Senior Class Council (right) presents Headmaster Chan Hardwick with the 2008 senior class gift including matching funds from an alumnus.
Locke Residents Serve Blair Community

By Brittany Small ’10

What does community service mean to you? Well, for Locke Hall, it means having the opportunity to do things for other people. Throughout this year, freshmen Maggie Hoffman and Quinn McKay, along with sophomores Caitlin Campbell, Becca Litvin and yours truly (Brittany Small) have worked on various projects ranging from information about global warming to candy delivery to the girls’ mailboxes. Even something as simple as a note and a piece of candy can go a long way in students’ minds. Becca Dewey ’11, newest member of the Ladies of Locke (LOL) steering committee, commented: “I think that people really appreciated being recognized for all that they do. Even if it is as simple as getting a card for Halloween or Valentine’s Day or as complex as organizing a relay team for an upcoming cancer walk, it’s nice to know that we are helping our community become a better place.”

Another one of our projects was sending cards to last year’s prefects. Even though they had already graduated, we still felt the need to do something for them, and making cards with little messages seemed like the perfect idea. However, our projects are not just limited to helping out Locke Hall. As we all know, Mrs. Low works extremely hard taking photographs of us playing our sports or reciting our lines in the season’s play. Although she hears about a million ‘thank-yous,’ after a while they seem to become mundane. One of the girls thought of the idea to make a ‘yearbook’ for her and have every girl in the dorm write a message stating how much she really appreciates Mrs. Low’s efforts to accommodate us all. Global warming, the rising issue at hand, was of additional interest to the steering committee. By posting signs in the dorm, we gave the girls insight into how to take action. We explained that if every girl turned off her lights when she left her room, it would all add up, save the school money and help out the environment. Becca Litvin ’10 also suggested that by adding an application to Facebook, we could reduce our computers’ carbon outtake. Another recent project was to make corsages for the lunch ladies. During the school day, these women work very hard to take care of hungry students and pick up after us. We felt that it was about time someone showed appreciation for their efforts, and Maggie Hoffman came up with the idea of making corsages. Certainly an original idea, we all agreed...
Yearbook Dedicated to Paul Clavel ’88
“His Teachings Have Shaped Us”

Along with Peddie Day, the arrival of ACTA yearbooks is a much-anticipated event in the lives of Blair students, especially seniors. This year’s edition was dedicated to Paul Clavel ’88—teacher, coach, dorm master, husband and father of two daughters—with a special presentation at School Meeting. Paul was also chosen baccalaureate speaker by the Class of 2008; see page 6 for an excerpt.

The dedication includes well wishes from faculty members and students. Head wrestling coach and math teacher Jeff Buxton said of Paul, “He is a mentor for all those he comes in contact with,” while faculty member Latta Browse said, “I remember Mr. Clavel from his days in honors geometry when he was a freshman at Blair—one of my best classes of all time.”

Anthony Valles ’08 said, “Paul Clavel is like a father figure to me, and to him, I am the son he hasn’t had yet.” Finally, the dedication from the Class of 2008 read, “…Mr. Clavel is constantly teaching. His teachings have shaped some of us as math students, some of us as wrestlers, and the rest of us as people.”

Prom-goers Promenade

Raindrops and cool temperatures spread over campus on “prom night,” May 21. Nevertheless, spirited Blair students and guests—dressed in their finest and sporting bright smiles—were admired and photographed by parents, friends and other members of the Blair community. Flowers were exchanged and cameras clicked in Armstrong-Hipkins Center for the Arts, a fine forum and shelter from the weather. Revelers enjoyed an evening of food and dancing at Macaluso’s in Hawthorne, N.J., then continued the camaraderie at a post-prom gathering back on campus, with a sleep-in the next morning.

New Member of Blair Community

Faculty members Micki and Chris McMillan welcomed their first child, Piper Jane, on June 17.
Head boys’ coach Bowen Posner issued this report in June from the USRowing Youth Nationals in which Blair placed second behind a strong Cincinnati Junior Rowing Club team. In doing so, he noted, Blair earned the title of top scholastic crew in the nation, truly a historic result for the boys in the boat.

Following graduation and exams, members of Blair’s top boys’ four (JP Bowditch ’08, Stephen Patane ’09, Elliott Anderson ’08, John Redos ’09 and Matt Gallira ’08) remained on campus in order to prepare for Blair crew’s first-ever appearance at the USRowing Youth National Championships. The USRowing-sponsored event featured the top club and scholastic rowing programs from each region of the country. Given its status as an invitational regatta, Youth Nationals required crews to qualify in various regional races. Following a decisive victory at Stotesbury, the Blair boys decided to petition for a bid to Youth Nationals and ultimately gained one of the final slots despite failing to race in a designated qualification regatta. After enjoying a week of rest, the boys’ training commenced in the midst of a hectic graduation and exam week. Nonetheless, the crew remained focused on the goal of bringing their best speed to Youth Nationals by training twice a day on the waters of Swartswood Lake.

On June 12, the oarsmen and coaches traveled to Cincinnati for the regatta, and they enjoyed a brief, pre-race row on Harsha Lake’s race course that evening. With steamy weather (90+ degrees and thunderstorms) in the forecast, as well as a brutal 17-year hatch of cicadas, the racing conditions alone appeared difficult, not to mention the strength of the competition! The following morning the crew arrived at the race course ready to race the defending national champion, Belmont Hill (Boston), in the first heat of the Men’s Youth Four event. After a rather slow start, Blair found itself nearly a length behind the strong Belmont crew who, only two weeks before, continued a two-year winning streak by claiming the New England Interscholastic Rowing Championship while nearly setting a course record. With a powerful shift in rhythm and speed, Blair gradually ate into Belmont’s lead, and by the 1,500 meter-mark, Blair had broken clear of Belmont’s bow. Blair completed the race with a seven-second advantage over Belmont, a result that boded well for the upcoming semi-final and grand final races.

Saturday’s semi-final provided some of the most intense and dramatic racing of the weekend. Blair faced strong competition from Episcopal Academy (Philadelphia), Noble & Greenough School (Dedham, Mass.), and Community Rowing, Inc., a large club program based in Boston. Off the line, Blair once again found itself in a precarious position following a very slow start. They mounted a furious charge in the middle of the race while countering the attacks made by their opponents. At the finish line, Blair placed third in a three-way photo finish between Episcopal, Nobles and Blair, a .5 second margin separating these top three crews.

The following morning, pristine racing conditions and somewhat cooler temperatures welcomed the boys’ crew upon their arrival at Harsha Lake. Nonetheless, the crew anticipated a fiery grand final race since five of the six crews in the event rowed within .7 seconds of one another during the previous day’s semi-final. With eager parents and family members cheering from shore, the boys’ crew left the dock with focus, determined to put together a complete race from start to finish. Immediately after the opening strokes, Blair found itself slightly behind three crews, Belmont Hill, Episcopal, and Cincinnati Junior Rowing Club, a large program that draws from the entire Cincinnati-area. By 500 meters into the race, however, Belmont and Episcopal fell off the pace, and Blair started to move. It gradually attacked Cincinnati’s lead, and as a result, the two crews pushed themselves past the entire field. With 500 meters to race, the Blair boat, a bright blue boat shell named the Apollo, surged for the finish line along with the yellow-colored hull raced by Cincinnati. Cincinnati maintained the slightest of margins as the two boats crossed the finish line. The Blair oarsmen collapsed over their oars, completely depleted after one of their best races of the season. By crossing the line in second position to a powerful club program, the boys secured the title as the best scholastic team in the nation. A short video of this race is available on-line at www.blair.edu.
Stotesbury Cup Regatta Recap
The Blair rowing team traveled to Philadelphia for the annual Stotesbury Cup Regatta on May 16–17, an event that boasts nearly 6,000 high school competitors from around the country. On behalf of head girls’ coach Stephanie Guilmet, head boys’ coach Bowen provided the following report on both the girls’ and boys’ medals:

In the midst of Friday’s torrential downpour, Blair qualified each boys’ and girls’ crew for its respective semi-final events. The sun finally appeared on Saturday morning, but the Blair crews faced challenging racing conditions given a raging tail current and a stiff, gusty headwind. Nonetheless, the girls’ junior four aggressively attacked Blair’s first final of the day, and despite falling to 6th place early in the race, the Lady Bucs (Hayley Anderson ’10, Sarah Clark ’09, Kara Stessl ’09, Becca Merrifield ’10 and Lindsay Weil ’09) rowed a gutsy race en route to a silver medal finish. Later that afternoon, the boys’ senior four entered its afternoon final as the top seeded crew as a result of decisive wins in its time trial and semi-final. The crew (Matt Gallira ’08, John Redos ’09, Elliott Anderson ’08, Stephen Patane ’09 and JP Bowditch ’08) jumped to an early lead and remained calm despite being battered by choppy water and high winds. As the crew crossed the final 500 meter mark, it began a decisive sprint and won Blair’s first-ever Stotesbury gold by clear water.

Immediately following the boys’ final, the girls’ senior four (Beth Martens ’08, Tal Thurgood ’08, Olivia Trozze ’08, Sam Tihney ’08 and Michaela McCrink ’08) sped down the Schuylkill River race course while challenging the defending national champion, Peddie School. The girls made a valiant effort and earned a bronze medal as a result, Blair crew’s first medal in the girls’ senior four category. In a very special moment for the team, the senior boys’ and girls’ fours found themselves on the awards dock together in order to receive their well-deserved medals. Congratulations to Blair Crew for its most successful season!

Stroke and sole senior Matt Gallira ’08 said, “It was wild in the middle of the race. The headwind got really strong, and it was pretty tough, so at the end we had to do a 40-stroke sprint to win it. It’s our first gold ever, and it’s great with the girls medaling too.” A short video of this race is also available on-line at Blair’s Web site, www.blair.edu.
Wrestler Steve Mocco ’01 Headed to Olympics
The Star-Ledger issued this report on June 16 announcing Steve Mocco’s win of his bid for the Olympic wrestling team. (Former Gold Medal Olympian Bobby Weaver ’78 was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in May; see story, next page.)

Steve Mocco, the North Bergen native who won national prep wrestling championships at Blair Academy and St. Benedict’s Prep, earned a spot on the U.S. Olympic team. Mocco beat top-seeded Tommy Rowlands in a bruising best-of-three Olympic trial finals Sunday night in Las Vegas. Mocco had lost to Rowlands in the 264.5-pound final at the U.S. Nationals in April.

Steve Mocco is the only New Jerseyan to make the Olympic wrestling team. Damion Hahn of Lakewood, The Star-Ledger’s scholastic wrestler of the 20th century, fell just short, losing in the finals to 2004 Olympian Daniel Cormier at 211.5 pounds.

(Note: Blair’s head wrestling coach, Jeff Buxton, was in Las Vegas to cheer on Steve and fellow alumni wrestlers Zack Esposito ’02 and Kurt Backes ’02, who were also in the bidding. Steve is Jeff’s first Olympian.)
Olympic Gold Medalist *Bobby Weaver* ’78 of Easton, Penn., was inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame in May—the first-ever Blair alumnus to receive this particular honor. He was among four wrestling “greats” to be added as Distinguished Members in 2008.

A press release issued by the Hall of Fame noted, “Weaver was one of the nation’s greatest lightweight freestyle wrestlers ever, capped off with his gold-medal victory at the 1984 Olympic Games in Los Angeles, Calif. He was one of seven U.S. freestyle champions in Los Angeles, competing under Dan Gable. Weaver also qualified for the 1980 U.S. Olympic Team, which did not compete in the Moscow Olympics due to the U.S. government boycott. He was a silver medalist at the 1979 World Championships and fifth at the 1983 World Championships. Weaver won World Cup titles in 1980 and 1984 and was a 1977 Junior World silver medalist. Weaver won four AAU National titles and two USWF national titles. He competed at Lehigh University, where he was third in the 1982 NCAA Championships. [He and Mike Caruso are the only two Lehigh wrestlers to have been inducted in the Hall of Fame.] Weaver won three Pennsylvania state titles for Easton High School (1975–77) and was a Prep School national champion for Blair Academy.”
Coach Buxton Honored by Peers

In other wrestling news, Pete Fritts ’56 writes of a recent event involving Blair wrestlers:

“In April, I had the pleasure—as a 2002 National High School Coaches Association (NHSCA) Hall of Achievement Inductee—of awarding the team trophy to Jeff Buxton, Blair’s head wrestling coach [at left] who represented the state of New Jersey at the 19th Annual NHSCA National High School Wrestling Championships in Virginia Beach. I also was featured with Jeff in the photo honoring Mario Mason ’08 [top row, 6th from left] on the award stand after Mario received his first-place trophy in the 145-pound class.”

Pete added, “It was a great opportunity to reminisce with Jeff about past and present happenings ‘on the hill.’ It also gave me the chance to meet and chat with Mario’s parents and other Blair supporters. As it turned out, New Jersey, Blair and Georgia all had individual champions, in addition to New Jersey—led by the Blair representatives—winning the Team Championship.”
Dancers Travel to New York City Ballet and NJPAC

Blair dance students—under the direction of Clarissa Newby Phillips—attended a May performance by New York City Ballet, which is celebrating the collaboration between choreographer/dancer Jerome Robbins, composer Leonard Bernstein and lyricist Stephen Sondheim. Robbins worked with George Balanchine at NYCB for many years and was a vital part of the company from 1948 until his death in 1998. Blair dancers enjoyed three ballets by Robbins, including Fancy Free, Dybbuk and West Side Story Suite.

In April, Clarissa and her students attended a performance by Philadanco! (The Philadelphia Dance Company) at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC), where Clarissa often performs professionally. The various venues of NJPAC—residence of the Grammy-winning New Jersey Symphony Orchestra—have won critical kudos. In fact, the Victoria Theater where Philadanco performed was dubbed “a gem” by Herbert Muschamp of The New York Times. The troupe entertained Clarissa’s students with “Southern Landscapes,” first choreographed in 1947 to the sounds of Duke Ellington, and “Philadelphia Experiment,” an example of hip-hop at its finest. According to Philadanco’s Web site, “This Philadelphia-based company exudes exuberance, sensuality, athleticism and elegance—all at once. ‘Philadanco’s dancers are a miracle of skill and energy,’ says Dance Magazine. ‘They work in a range of idioms most companies don’t even try to possess. (They) can do more than just anything…they represent the possibilities of the human spirit through dance.’ ”

More than 3.5 million people have visited NJPAC to see the world’s greatest performers or to participate in its nationally recognized Arts Education program. The artistry on view at NJPAC has ranged from Itzhak Perlman to the Vienna Choir Boys, from the Royal Concertgebouw Orchestra Amsterdam to the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater.
A Picture’s Worth

The Blair Academy Dance Department, under the direction of Clarissa Newby Phillips, presented a dance concert in May in Armstrong-Hipkins Center for the Arts. “The Art Gallery: Of Picture and Prose” was choreographed by Clarissa and Lian Facciani and was based on the works of various visual artists, including Thierry Ona, with music by artists such as Nina Simone, Lena Horne and Jose Miquel Wisnik.

Singers and Strings Take to Stage

The Blair Singers and String Ensemble presented their final on-campus joint performance this spring before heading off on an early-June European tour. The two groups performed in Budapest, Prague and Vienna; look for coverage in the Fall Bulletin.

After-School Video

The spring after-school video project, “Untitled Stop Motion,” under the direction of Judith Kahan Kampmann and created by Raj Viroja ’08, Danielle Ungermann ’09, Jillian Black ’10 and Chris St. John ’10, is yet another addition to the repertoire of student-produced videos. Judith reports that while the work was tedious at times, it was all “great fun.” Check out this and other video productions by Blair students on-line at http://www.blair.edu/Performing_Arts/pa_video.shtm.
Wind Symphony and Jazz Ensemble in Concert

The Blair Academy Wind Symphony and Jazz Ensemble, under the direction of Jennifer Pagotto, presented an evening of American and British classics in May in Armstrong-Hipkins Center for the Arts. The Jazz Ensemble opened with several standards including Satin Doll, Caravan, Dealer Takes Five, Sea Journey and Alter Ego. The Wind Symphony then took to the stage, performing “Music from the British Isles,” including historically significant works by Ralph Vaughan Williams, Gustav Holst and Percy Grainger.

The Proof is in the Production

The Blair Academy Players performed David Auburn’s Pulitzer- and Tony Award-winning play Proof—an examination of the complexities of familial and romantic love, as well as the relationship between genius and madness—this spring in Armstrong-Hipkins Center for the Arts. The New York Daily News said Proof “… combines elements of mystery and surprise with old-fashioned storytelling to provide a compelling evening of theatre…[Proof is a] smart and compassionate play of ideas.”

Lighting design and photograph by Cris Dopher
The Blair Academy Players brought Mary Zimmerman’s *Metamorphoses* to life in May in the Wean Theatre of Armstrong-Hipkins Center for the Arts. According to *The New York Times*, Zimmerman’s acclaimed work transforms Ovid’s tales to the stage “with its emphases on love, loss and the transforming powers of memory and the imagination. Writer-director Mary Zimmerman’s lovely, deeply affecting work…recaptures the primal allure of the theater…It shows that theater can provide not just escape but sometimes a glimpse of the divine.” Midas, Orpheus and Eurydice, Narcissus, Ceyx and Alcyone are just some of the mythical characters whose transformations occurred in the waters of the set’s pool.
Student Art Exhibitions On and Off Campus

Art by Blair students was on display this spring in the Romano Gallery of Armstrong-Hipkins Center for the Arts, providing art lovers the opportunity to view the work of the many students enrolled in fine arts classes at Blair.

Turn to “In the News” to read more about the student artists featured in The New York Times regarding their work selected for the Morris Museum’s “Fresh Perspectives” exhibit. The young artists included Elayna Bartolacci ’08 (photography), Melissa Collins ’09 (clay vessel) and Da In Lee ’09 (drawing).

The exhibit in Morristown, N.J., opened in April and ran through early June.

Blair art students also participated in the Warren County Teen Arts Expo 2008 in March, where they had the opportunity to attend workshops and have their paintings critiqued. Finally, an April Warren County art contest for teachers and students garnered awards for faculty member Melissa Erne ’96 (third place and $100) and Airi Kim ’09 (honorable mention and $30).
IN MEMORY OF…

1932

**Charles B. Rogers.** A graduate of Princeton University, Mr. Rogers majored in economics, played on the varsity lacrosse team and was a member of Charter Club. During World War II, he served in the Army’s Office of the Quartermaster General in Chicago and in 1942 married Jane Myers. Mr. Rogers spent most of his career in Madison, Wis., working for Oscar Mayer & Co., retiring in 1973 as manager of marketing research. He was active in the Boy Scouts of America, and after retiring to Green Valley, Ariz., he became president of Country Club North as well as a leader of the Green Valley Hiking Club and a member of Valley Presbyterian Church. Mr. Rogers is survived by his wife, Jane; their daughter, Marcia Hunter; sons, Keith and David; and 10 grandchildren.

1936

**Augustus C. Kellogg, Jr.** Mr. Kellogg was born in Delaware, N.J. After graduating from Lafayette College, he married Mary Jane Shull. He served proudly in WWII as a naval lieutenant and then worked for Travelers Insurance in Hartford, Conn. Mr. Kellogg raised his family in Pittsburgh, where he founded the insurance agency Craft, Kellogg & Patterson, Inc. He is survived by his daughter, Barbara Wise, and her husband, Bud; his son, James Kellogg; his two sisters, Mary Downs and Clara Baldau; his two grandchildren, Sara Haynes and Wesley Wise; and six great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his wife, Rebecca H. Hardy.

1939

**William F. Dawson.** Mr. Dawson attended the University of Michigan and, during WWII, was an Army paratrooper in the 82nd Airborne and a combat platoon leader. He was the recipient of 17 decorations including the Bronze Star and French Medal of Honor, and he participated in the Battle of the Bulge. He was also in charge of press relations for General James Gavin in Berlin. As quoted from the April 5, 2008, online source *Swimming World Magazine*, one of Mr. Dawson’s duties was “to escort Marlene Dietrich and Ingrid Bergman through the city to report the progress of the troops. In the process, he befriended Dietrich, serving as the liaison between her and her mother in occupied Berlin. He tried to impress Bergman by jumping off Hitler’s balcony when asked how Hitler may have escaped the raids.” After the war, Mr. Dawson wrote *The Saga of the All American*, the official history of the 82nd Airborne. He returned to service during the Korean War, and as a result of a jeep accident, lost sight in one eye. He wore an eye patch for the rest of his life. “Author, historian, promoter, fundraiser and good-hearted prankster, Mr. Dawson wore many hats,” writes Sharon Robb in an April 5, 2008, article in the *South Florida Sun-Sentinel*. “But the role he relished the most was helping Fort Lauderdale earn the title of swimming capital of the world.” Ms. Robb continues, “Mr. Dawson was International Swimming Hall of Fame’s first executive director in 1963 after helping Fort Lauderdale win the host city bid at the National AAU Convention in Detroit. He watched ISHOF transform into a million-dollar operation as a showcase and swimming archive. He is credited with helping to attract thousands of aquatic teams and major events to Ft. Lauderdale.” Mr. Dawson also founded the International Association of Sports Museums and Halls of Fame, now a 136-member organization. He was honored as Fort Lauderdale Distinguished Citizen of the Year in 1986 for his many contributions to the city.

Stewart T. Pardee. After graduating from Princeton University, Mr. Pardee served in World War II’s Amphibian Command and was inducted into the College Sailing Hall of Fame. He then worked in advertising and public relations and retired aboard his yacht with his wife, Erdice. He is survived by Erdice; their daughters, Lelia and Margaret; and their son, Trevor, Jr.

John E. Servis. Mr. Servis spent a post-grad year at Blair after graduating from Princeton High School. At Blair, Mr. Servis made valuable contributions to swimming, track and field, and basketball and served as starting end on Blair’s 1939 undefeated football team. He then matriculated to Cornell University but shortly thereafter enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard. He was a swimming instructor to hundreds of enlisted men, teaching water survival techniques, and he served aboard the U.S.S. Joyce in both the European and Pacific theaters. Mr. Service returned to Cornell University after the war and graduated in 1950. He married Lucinda, a 1949 graduate of Cornell University, and in 1967 they moved to Princeton, N.J., where Mr. Servis took ownership of Servis Electric, a company.
his father had started in the 1920s. Mr. Servis was an active member of Second Presbyterian Church and the Cornell Club of Princeton, and from 1957 to 2003 he was a volunteer coach of the weight events for Lawrenceville School’s track team, coaching many state champions. Mr. Servis spent his summers as a resident of Ocean Gate, N.J., enjoying boating, fishing, clamming, crabbing, swimming, sailing and waterskiing. He is survived by his wife, Lucinda, and his son, John Servis, of Allentown, Pa.

1943

M. Michael Lobsitz. Mr. Lobsitz enlisted in the Navy and joined the V-12 program at Cornell University, where he completed a degree in mechanical engineering in 1947. During World War II, he served as an assistant training and personnel officer at the U.S. Naval Yard in Charleston, S.C. His genuine love for people and his warm and compassionate manner made him a natural for a career in personnel, and over the years he helped countless others find their way in the world. He was one of the charter members of National Personnel Associates and a president of the New Jersey Association of Personnel Consultants. Mr. Lobsitz was a member of the State Committee of Employment of Minority, and by order of President Lyndon Johnson, he became a member of the National Equal Opportunity Employment Advisory Group. He believed in giving back to the community, and in retirement, he was one of Montclair’s most active volunteers. He gave of his time and served key roles with the Montclair Chapter of the American Red Cross, the Essex Council of the Boy Scouts of America, and Union Congregational Church. He also worked with the Board of Family and Children Services of Montclair and Glen Ridge, and the United Way of North Essex. Above all of his successes, however, he believed his family was his greatest accomplishment, and he instilled a great sense of love and loyalty in them. He loved to laugh and always looked for the humor in a situation. Mr. Lobsitz is survived by his wife, Robin Valentine Lobsitz; daughter Wendy Westock and her husband, Jon; son, William Dolton; daughter, Wendy Westock and her husband, Jon; son Richard Lobsitz; daughter Wendy Westock and her husband, Jon; son Richard and grandson, Theo; and four grandchildren, Samantha, Theo, Jonah, and Isabella.

1949

John A. Davidson. A resident of Ho-Ho-Kus, N.J., for over forty years, Mr. Davidson graduated from Ridgewood High School before his year at Blair. He was known for his involvement in football, basketball and baseball and went on to receive his BA from Wesleyan University. A principal in the firm Davidson and Bigelow, Inc., of New York City, Mr. Davidson was very active in local youth sports, coaching a number of baseball teams over the years. He loved to ski, restore old cars, garden and play golf. He was a longtime member of the Ridgewood Country Club. He was also a longtime member of the Ho-Ho-Kus Board of Health, serving the community for over 30 years. He is survived by his loving wife, of 54 years, Joan Griffiths Davidson; daughter Kim Davidson; daughter Katherine Warden and her husband, Steve; son Jim Davidson ’80 and his wife, Bernadette; and five wonderful grandchildren who were the center of his life: Katherine, Peter, John, Abigail and Caitlin. He is also survived by his brother, James Davidson, and his wife, Jane.

1953

Jerome E. Ball. A graduate of St. Lawrence University, Mr. Ball had an extensive and successful career in the textile industry beginning in 1958 with Harry Ball & Son, a family-owned business. The company was a major weaver and converter of synthetic fabrics, catering to the menswear industry. In 1961, Mr. Ball became president of Thermofab, Inc. and later purchased the Rajo Quilting Company, a division of Thermofab. In 1963, these companies merged with Balsol Industries, the successor of Harry Ball & Son, to form one of the largest suppliers to the menswear and industrial textile markets. In 1974, Mr. Ball was named president of Balson Industries, which was later bought by Consoltex Industries, which was later bought by Consoltex Group, Inc., of Canada. Mr. Ball was director of corporate development for Consoltex as well as a member of the board of directors of its U.S. operation. Mr. Ball left the company in 1996 and by 1998 was CEO of Forward Industries. A devoted husband, father, brother and grandfather, Jerry is survived by his wife, Renee; his children, Steven and Michelle; and four grandchildren, Samantha, Theo, Jonah, and Isabella.

1954

Donald R. Castle. Mr. Castle received his BA from the College of Wooster and worked as an industrial engineer, plant manager, vice president of manufacturing and a management consultant. He was associated with the defense industry for most of his career. He was also a member of the choir at the First Presbyterian Church of Myrtle Beach. Mr. Castle is survived by his wife, Jackie; his daughters, Judith Humbarger and Susan Cramer.

George P. Greene II. Mr. Greene played football at New Mexico State for two years and then transferred to Penn State University. He served in the U.S. Army in Germany and spent most of his career buying and selling heavy construction equipment. He was the beloved husband of Beverly Cera Greene; father of George Patrick Greene III, Mark Anthony Greene, and Kelly Marie Greene; grandfather
of Jessep Patrick Caravella-Greene and Melissa Leigh Greene; brother of Patricia Snowden, Carol Pitman, and Linda Greene Dunn; and uncle of numerous nieces and nephews.

1956

William F. Bigelow. A former U.S. Navy officer, Mr. Bigelow lived in Hawaii for over 40 years and was a well-known local radio and TV journalist. He was a reporter and news anchor on KHON-TV and KGMB-TV, as well as a drive-time radio news anchor on KCCN and KHVH in Honolulu. He was host and producer of the Hawaiian music international radio program Hawaii Calls in the early 1990s and hosted a weekly TV program called Now Hear This sponsored by the Navy League of the U.S. Mr. Bigelow spent a decade as vice president of Sheraton Hotels in charge of all their advertising and public relations activities in Hawaii and the Pacific and managed a media and P.R. agency in Honolulu for several years. An avid reader, lecturer, military historian and expert on China, he wrote the Navy spy novel Red Sky At Night, which has been published and is about to go into its second printing.

He also was a veteran actor, having appeared in speaking roles on such network television programs as Hawaii Five-O, Charlie’s Angels, Magnum P.I. Hawaii and many others. His autobiography, Now Hear This, which has been published and is about to go into its second printing, is about to go into its second printing. As a radio host, he was a veteran actor, having appeared in speaking roles on such network television programs as Hawaii Five-O, Charlie’s Angels, Magnum P.I. Hawaii and many others. His autobiography, Now Hear This, which has been published and is about to go into its second printing, is about to go into its second printing.

Former Faculty

Laurence T. Joline. Mr. Joline attended Princeton University for two years before heading west to Valley Ranch, Wyoming, and then on to Alaska, where he was a longshoreman on the Yukon out of Fairbanks. He was also an aerial surveyor in San Antonio, Texas. Returning to college, he graduated with honors from Washington University at St. Louis with a degree in zoology and a minor in art & archeology. Back East, Mr. Joline worked at Cox Sport Shop and was a SCUBA instructor at Mainline YMCA, which is where he met his future wife, Polly Doe. While at the University Museum of Pennsylvania, he played a vital role in excavations of Byzantine shipwrecks at Yassi Ada, Turkey. Mr. Joline was uniquely important in the development of modern underwater archeology in the Mediterranean throughout the '60s. He married Polly Doe in 1963 and began teaching biology at Blair. He embraced all areas of campus life; he was the assistant coach for the football and lacrosse teams, and he led the Outing Club on trips—canoeing, kayaking and camping. As a ski coach, he ran the Blair Invitational and was the founder and president of the New Jersey Ski Racing Association for both public and private schools. Several senior classes dedicated their yearbooks to him. In the late 1980s, Mr. Joline retired to his family home in Shinnecock Hills, Long Island, where he and his family enjoyed the sea and sand. Mr. Joline is survived by his wife, Polly; daughter, Alice; son, Dayton; stepdaughter, Robin; grandchildren, Jennifer and James; and his brother, John.

Arthur J. Spring. A scholar and educator, Mr. Spring combined storytelling with innovative teaching methods to structure his classes around the guiding principle that learning should be an enduring joy. He graduated from Columbia College in 1959 with degrees in English and history and then taught at Blair while earning his master’s in English, also from Columbia. In 1964, he headed to Tunisia with the Peace Corps and spent the next seven years traveling around West Africa and the United States, teaching and training new Peace Corps volunteers for service in Tunisia, Togo, Niger and Liberia. He earned his PhD in teacher education at the University of North Dakota in 1980 and taught at St. Mary’s College of Minnesota until 1989, when he moved to St. John’s University in Collegeville, Minn. Mr. Spring is survived by his loving wife, Rosamond, their ten children, and three grandchildren.

Former Staff

Rose Washburn. Former Blair employee and mother of four Blair grads, Rose Washburn passed away on December 21, 2007, at the age of 82. Rose was a valued employee of Blair and worked in the business office from 1976–1989. Her children say that she fondly recalled her retirement party, hosted by Chan and Monie Hardwick. Rose was predeceased in 1974 by her husband, Edgar Washburn, a veteran of WWII and the Korean conflict, who later worked as a senior investigator for the State of New Jersey Public Utility Commission. She was also predeceased by son Glen. Rose had seven children in all: Greg ’72, Rita ’78, Eddyte ’79, Warren ’82, Elaine, Gary, and Glen. She was active in the community and served as Blairstown Township Clerk for 10 years prior to her employment at Blair. In addition to her children and one sister, Rose is survived by two grandchildren (two of whom, Ethan ’03 and Lara ’06 Bucarey) and two great-grandchildren. She is pictured above on Thanksgiving Day 2007.
THANK YOU!

**Another Record-Breaking Year as the Blair Fund crosses the $2 million mark**

Your support helped Blair raise just over $2 million for the Blair Fund—a year ahead of our campaign goal. Alumni participation also set a new record of 32%—up from 20% five years ago. Parents raised a record $650,000 with 79% participation—also new records.

Without your support, we would never have achieved these goals. A heartfelt thank-you on behalf of Blair’s students, faculty and staff.

**Your Support Makes All the Difference!**
We have inevitably left pieces of ourselves behind. Where have we left these pieces? That is unique to each of us. We have left them on the playing fields, on stage and in classrooms. We have left them with the Adirondack chairs on the front hill and on the windowsills in the Can. We have left them with prefectees, friends and mentors. Many of us have left them in our wake, never realizing that a little part of our being divorced us and chose to stay behind in memoriam, or perhaps to ensure our eventual return. But we were not fragmented.

We were not decimated by these losses because we received pieces of others in return, pieces we will always carry and that complete us…We have emerged in one complete and contented piece. For this, we are ever grateful.

—Todd Patrick Lewis ’08
Excerpt, Commencement Address
May 22, 2008