Back to Blair:
Young Alumni Share Their Stories
ON EXHIBIT

Twin Peak in the Chinese Style

Martin Schmalenberg
Limestone
The Art of the Viewing Stone
May 18 – June 7 – The Romano Gallery
Three new books authored by Blair faculty and alumni hit the shelves in recent months. With subject matter ranging from student-athletes to music to the risks of “excess,” these new releases reveal much about the Blair community’s global expertise.

The annual Society of Skeptics “young alumni” panel program is a much-anticipated event each January. Current students again had the chance to meet five alumni whose career paths resemble a roadmap, with divergent routes and pit stops along the way.

Over the course of the fall and winter months, Blair’s new Athletic Center opened for use. Learn what faculty and students have to say about the spectacular new facilities that have transformed daily life at the School.
This stained glass window in Armstrong-Hipkins Center for the Arts bears the motto, “Venite, Studete, Discite”—“To come, to study, to learn.” Soon Blair’s Class of 2009, diplomas in hand and imbued with the import of these words, will bid the School farewell. At right: Beautiful in all seasons (especially spring), the Blair campus blooms and boasts its share of bike riders, as this Bulletin heads to press. Photos by Vickers & Beechler.
Most of you have heard by now from a variety of institutions, colleges, schools and other non-profits, spelling out the impact of the global economic deterioration and their response to the decline. I have sent letters and e-mails to a variety of Blair constituents, and I now am writing this Spring Bulletin note to continue the flow of information to those who support, care about or are interested in Blair. The governance of the School is currently operating on parallel tracks: financial and budgetary responsiveness on one track and strategic planning on the other. This note will clarify the School's ongoing response to the current economy and report on the Board of Trustees’ January strategic planning session.

I would like to begin with Blair’s endowment story. Our endowment was just above $61.5 million last June before succumbing to the wave of loss that washed over us all. We are currently managing an endowment that was down 30% at the end of January. For Blair, the decline in our endowment is unsettling, yet it has a less direct impact on our operations than it might were we more dependent on it for our annual budget. Ironically, the higher the endowment, the more likely a school or college is to use the income as a reliable budgetary source. Here, the endowment contributes roughly 15% of our operating income, while at other schools and colleges, the endowment may account for as much as 50% of the operating budget. At Blair, our smaller endowment means that we are still primarily dependent on tuition income, annual giving and other sources for our operating budget. Thus, the endowment decline, while painful and challenging to us all, actually creates less budgetary upheaval—in the short run—at Blair than at institutions with larger endowments.

The nearly universal decline in endowments led those schools and colleges with the largest endowments to react first to the economic upheaval. By last fall, they realized that their budgetary model was under stress and immediate action was required. Terms like “slash,” “freeze,” “retrench” and “monitor closely” were predominant in communications coming from the presidents and headmasters of those institutions. Meanwhile, for Blair and other schools like us, the critical issue is the maintenance of enrollment levels and standards during this time. This issue will not be resolved until the re-enrollment and admissions processes conclude for next year. While Blair will still experience a budgetary impact from our endowment losses, the ongoing strength of our admissions and re-enrollment of current students, combined with a steady Blair Fund flow, is the key to our financial health.

We are hopeful about 2009-2010 but cautious as well. The budget committee of the Board of Trustees met regularly this fall and winter; we are seeking to cut $700,000 from our present budget and planning further reductions next year. In addition, we will reduce our draw on the endowment next year to 5% of its actual value. For perhaps the first time in my 20 years at Blair, we shall see faculty size shrink, though through attrition. I do not expect that School life will feel different, certainly not diminished. Yet, I do hope that all of us are developing a positive attitude about living more thoughtfully, frugally and with a greater consciousness and appreciation for the usefulness of what we have—and at Blair, we have a great deal.

On January 23, the Blair Board of Trustees embarked on a weekend of “strategic thinking,” which will ultimately lead to a more formal strategic planning process. Led by Trustees Don McCree ’54 and past parent and former college president Stephanie Bennett-Smith, the Board spent the weekend discussing the future of Blair—our strengths, weaknesses, threats and opportunities. We reviewed the School’s finances and identified strategic issues that we can address in the immediate three-to-four-year period ahead, including among other things, allocation of resources, use of the newly acquired Siegel property, and sustainability issues. Rather than “resting on our laurels” after the completion of the Campaign, the Trustees are determined to continue to move forward—with thoughtful planning, prudence, as well as a larger vision for the future. That is what great schools do; in doing so, they remain great schools.
Going for the Green Cup!

Blair made good on its intent to enter the Green Schools Alliance Green Cup Challenge for the first time, thanks to all those Sustainability Committee members who worked diligently to implement the four-week, electricity saving program this winter. Of the 10 schools in its level (Boarding School Division B II), Blair placed third, with an 18.64% reduction.

On kick-off day, the Blair community found itself dining on a smorgasbord of green food during lunch, with more on the Monday dinner menu. And at School Meeting, details of the Cup challenge were announced after the String Ensemble played “Greensleeves.” As it happened, the contest kick-off coincided with the fact that, on the same day, President Obama directed the Environmental Protection Agency to reconsider a waiver requested by California and 13 other states allowing them to set stricter standards on emissions than federal requirements.

Faculty member Rob Merrifield, co-chair of the committee, explained the premise of the competition: “Approximately 40 independent schools on the east coast were involved this year in the challenge, including other MAPL schools such as Hill, Peddie, Mercersberg and Lawrenceville. During the competition period, each school attempted to reduce its use of electricity as much as possible. By reading their electric meters during January and February, then comparing that usage to the same time period three years previous, each school could calculate its percentage reduction. While, of course, there was some element of competition between schools to see which could lower its electrical use the most and win the Green Cup, the real purpose of the contest was to encourage members of all schools to improve their energy-saving lifestyles. The real winner was the environment as we reduced pollution from power plants.” (See www.greenschoolsalliance.org for details.)

Committee members viewed this contest as an opportunity to educate hundreds of people about how important and easy it is to reduce their use of electricity. Everyone got into the act, as they say, from dorm residents, to faculty living on campus, to the staff working in various buildings at Blair. Students from each dorm—otherwise known as “green ninjas”—took charge of that building’s effort to reduce its electrical use. The Timken Library staff created displays promoting sustainability, while day students helped ensure that classroom lights and computers were turned off when not in use. Many faculty members replaced the incandescent light bulbs in their residences with CFLs, which save 78% more electricity and are known to last seven to eight years.
Embracing the Concept
Gillian Sciaretta '03, Kevin Kennedy '00
and Dave Low '89 are each involved in sustainability-related careers. Read more about Gillian, a sustainable building consultant at CodeGreen Solutions, on page 32. Kevin is the director for government affairs at the Institute for Energy Research, a not-for-profit organization that conducts intensive research and analysis on the functions, operations and government regulation of global energy markets. Dave is a project manager for Seattle-based Bluegreen Consulting; his firm conducted meetings in 2007 with various community members at Blair to outline ways in which the School might further embrace the concept of sustainability.
Olé and Soufflé!

In January, Blair held its annual International Weekend, a two-day event celebrating Blair’s international students and traditions, for the 14th year in a row. Blair International Awareness Club (BIAC), Multi-cultural Student Union (MSU) and the foreign language department hosted the program. With nearly two dozen countries represented by the student body, this event is an opportunity for international students to showcase their traditional cuisine, customs and costumes.

Newly Admitted to Admission Office

Nancy Klein joined the admission office as administrative assistant and database manager in January. Tammy Findlay, who formerly held this post for many years, accepted a newly created position in Blair’s athletic office. They are pictured left to right, below.

Director of Admission Ryan Pagotto ’97 said, “While we are very sorry to see Tammy’s productive and spirited tenure in admissions come to a close, we know she will bring her customary energy and initiative to her work in athletics. We are pleased for her and for Blair.” Tammy and her husband, Scott, are the parents of four Blair graduates, including Heidi ’01, Meghan ’03, Scott ’05 and Morgan ’08.

Nancy is a resident of nearby Columbia, N.J., where she lives with her husband, Bob. They are also the parents of four children (Courtney, Hannah, Morgan and Billy ’11). Nancy leaves behind a successful career in office management, customer service and database management for the insurance industry. She knows the Blair community well through her work as a parent volunteer.

Dining Hall Staffer Celebrates Two Decades of Service

Blair prides itself on the longevity of service shown by so many individuals who comprise the School community. Earlier in the school year, Odessa Kise, a member of the dining hall staff, celebrated her 20th year at Blair. Seldom seen without a smile, Odessa is a devoted member of the team that helps serve breakfast, lunch and dinner to students, faculty and staff. She was recognized for her loyalty with a bouquet of flowers from the Senior Class Council and a standing ovation at School Meeting.

A few years ago, Odessa was honored by the Blue and White Key Society with its Service Award as an employee of the Blair community who embodies the three core values of the society—leadership, honor, service. Throughout her career, she has been described as “hardworking, responsible and sweet”—a truly dedicated employee.

Local Charities Benefit from Campus Outreach & CD Sales

During Blair’s last Chapel before Thanksgiving break, Catherine (“Cat”) Miller ’12 announced the start-up of an annual holiday toy drive in the nearby Sussex County area. As part of this program, new toys and gift items were collected on the Blair campus in December. In typical fashion, the Blair community was pleased to participate in this charitable cause.

Also in December, Jimmy Nieh ’12 sold a CD of songs that he composed, with proceeds benefiting the local food pantry in Blairstown. The residents of Locke Hall, a girls’ dorm, sponsored a holiday food drive to benefit this same organization. The pantry provides for needy residents every Saturday, with four area churches taking a turn on a rotating basis each month. Blair students often work at the pantry as well, even taking the items to homes if necessary.

Blair Academy Parents’ Car Raffle

Help Support Blair and Win a 2009 Mercedes-Benz SLK 300

• Valued at $48,275
• $100 per ticket – only 999 tickets printed
• Drawing will be held during Alumni Weekend, June 6, 2009, 6:30 pm.
• Tickets may be purchased by phone, fax, or online: 888-542-5247 (option four); 908-362-6121 ext. 5705 fax: 908-362-2029

www.blair.edu (parents page) All major credit cards accepted
Health-a-Palooza Heightens Awareness
Under the direction of Jess Matzkin, school counselor, Blair partook in its first-ever Health-a-Palooza in November, kicked off by a presentation from Jean Kilbourne, Ed.D., (right) on the topic, “Deadly Persuasion: Advertising and Addiction.” Kilbourne is internationally recognized for her pioneering work on alcohol and tobacco advertising and the image of women in advertising. Her films, slide lectures and television appearances have been seen by millions of people throughout the world. She was named by The New York Times Magazine as one of the three most popular speakers on college campuses today. Her book, Can’t Buy My Love: How Advertising Changes the Way We Think and Feel, won the Distinguished Publication Award from the Association for Women in Psychology in 2000. She is also known for her award-winning documentaries Killing Us Softly, Slim Hopes and Calling the Shots.

The following morning, students chose two seminars to attend from a list of nearly 50 taught by Blair faculty across the board; topics included “Building Mental Toughness” and “Your Financial Health.” A health fair took place in the dining room, followed by yoga in the new aerobics room and the annual Fall Run—an event that the entire Blair community, including parents, were welcome to attend.

Students Take in Tony-Winning Play
A group of Blair students enjoyed the Tony award-winning Broadway production of Avenue Q earlier this month, thanks to The Mazza Student Life Fund. This fund was established in 2006 by the Liebowitz family to recognize and honor the work of Dean of Students Carm Mazza. The money generated each year is used at Mr. Mazza’s discretion to support projects or activities related to improving student life at Blair or to help individual students who require assistance.

A Festive, Franchophilian Event
As a backdrop for the annual winter dinner dance, the Blair dining hall was transformed into a Parisian potpourri—nearly as beautiful as the real city itself—thanks to the generosity of a dedicated group of parent volunteers under the direction of committee chairperson Susan Mayes, Susan Long, the “Ladies of South Hall” and their faculty advisor, Jen Pagotto. Students enjoyed an evening of mocktails at Sharpe House, followed by dinner and dancing in the Romano Dining Hall—complete with an entrance emulating the Arc de Triomphe and bottles of sparkling cider touting Blair’s vintage label!
Students Witness Inauguration

As the Blair community watched history in the making on TVs around campus, five Blair students—Jenna Catalano ’10, Kate Coffey ’10, Raleigh Dierlam ’09, Patrick Maillet ’10 and Roileigh Ollson ’09—watched President Barack Obama take his oath “live” in Washington, D.C. Among the millions who journeyed there on January 20, each would tell you they will never forget the moment. Three of those present, Jenna, Raleigh and Patrick, wrote of what it was like to be there that day. [Raleigh and Jenna (pictured at left) attended as participants in the Presidential Youth Inaugural Conference.]
Five Unforgettable Days
In the summer of seventh grade, I was nominated by my history teacher to attend a program called Junior National Young Leaders Conference (JrNYLC) in Washington, D.C. Basically we visited all the sites around Washington in groups, then participated in simulations designed to promote leadership and community building.

Upon entering high school, the Congressional Youth Leadership Council (CYLC), which is the organization that oversees all of these programs, invited me to attend the National Youth Leadership Conference (NYLC)—again in Washington, D.C.—as a participant in the high school program. Geared toward older students, the program revolved around Model Congress simulations and visiting the House and Senate in the Capitol, as well as the Department of the Interior where we held our Model Congress meeting. I really threw myself full force into these programs and enjoyed every moment.

Last January, I received an invitation to attend the Presidential Youth Inaugural Conference (PYIC) for the Inauguration of the President. I jumped at the chance to attend and signed up immediately.

We arrived at our hotel assignment on Saturday, January 17, 2009; the energy felt by everyone was already very apparent. All 8,000 of us (PYIC attendees) were taken to the University of Maryland that first night; together with the middle school and university program participants, there were 15,000 of us seated in the basketball stadium to listen to two keynote speakers. The first was Doris Kearns, political historian and former intern to President Johnson. She was extremely knowledgeable about Abraham Lincoln and had many funny anecdotes, which connected her to the crowd. Then we listened to esteemed journalist Lisa Ling, who spread the message that traveling is the best education anyone can get and that you will have so many opportunities if you are an informed citizen...

“The wave of American flags by over two million people 
and the patriotism felt that day were unlike anything I’ve ever experienced or probably will again.”

PHOTOS COURTESY OF JENNA CATALANO AND KATE COFFEY
Affectionately known and referred to throughout the Conference as “Game Day,” Inauguration Day finally arrived! We were dropped off a mile outside the Mall due to the magnitude of people and managed to make our way through the crowds to the Museum of Natural History on the National Mall. There we enjoyed some hot chocolate and prepared ourselves for the event we were about to witness. At 9:30, a group of students and I went out into the masses and slowly but surely secured a spot in the closest section to the Capitol where we did not need tickets. Although probably at least a half mile away, we could watch everything happening from the jumbotrons as we stood in a sea of people, waiting and listening. The energy was indescribable… People watched in awe and amazement, many including me in tears, as Barack Hussein Obama took the oath of office and became the 44th President of the United States.

The wave of American flags by over two million people and the patriotism felt that day were unlike anything I’ve ever experienced or probably will again. It was definitely something that showed all Americans there is hope, and there is something that can bring blacks and whites and Muslims and Christians together in harmony and complete and utter joy. —Jenna Catalano ’10

—Jenna Catalano ’10

A Five-Mile Walk, 18 Emotional Minutes
This past week, my fellow classmate Jenna Catalano and I broke our daily routine of classes and swim practices to take time to witness history first-hand…

On the day of the Inauguration, I awoke around 4:45 in the morning. It took us nearly three hours to travel 10 city blocks into Washington, D.C. that morning… We had to press our way through nearly 2,000,000 people. When one woman dropped her wallet, a man immediately picked it up and gave it to her. An hour before the invocation, the crowds grew restless. People were pushing their way through the barricades to get closer to the Capitol building. My friends and I immediately noticed the rush of people and climbed over fences toward the reflecting pool in front of the Capitol. We settled ourselves only three football fields away from President Obama himself.

When the actual swearing in ceremony started, I climbed onto my friends’ shoulders and looked back at the National Mall. I had never seen so many people in my entire life. It seemed as though every person was in a chaotic unison of flag-waving. As President Obama raised his hand to be sworn in, the sun clearly shown down on Washington, D.C. that day. After the Inauguration, we walked 45 minutes to National’s Park to relax, eat and watch the motorcade parade. Later that evening, we attended the Inaugural Gala at the Air and Space Museum…

By the time the evening concluded—around 2:00 a.m.—I had walked nearly five miles just to hear an 18-minute speech. Yet they were the most emotional words I had ever heard. —Raleigh Dierlam ’09

“Regardless of what political views you hold, it is impossible to not be astounded at the progress of our nation.”
A New Era of American Politics

Have you ever been anywhere with 100,000 people? How about 500,000? Well, what about 2,000,000 people all sharing the same excitement and passion as you? This is the feeling that Jenna Catalano, Raleigh Dierlam, Kate Coffey and I all shared on January 20, 2009. We all had the unbelievable and once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to witness history in the making: the Inauguration of President Barack Obama. Regardless of what political views you hold, it is impossible to not be astounded at the progress of our nation. …

I had the pleasure of sitting next to a man named Mitch during the Inauguration. He was a white Christian from Ohio who was extremely friendly and talkative. After we sat down, Mitch immediately told my mother and me that he was an avid McCain supporter. He told us that although he did not vote for Barack Obama, he completely supported him as President. While Obama was being sworn in, I looked over at Mitch and realized that he was crying. I did not fully understand why he was so affected by this, considering he did not even vote for the man he was crying over. Mitch looked towards the Lincoln Memorial and then looked at me and said, “Can you imagine what today means to the people who stood in front of that memorial in 1963?” He then gathered himself and said, “I hope he’s the best President we’ve ever had!”

I then realized that this was no longer about politics. Whether conservative or liberal or black or white, we can all agree that American prosperity is our ultimate goal. This is what fed the overwhelming energy in Washington D.C.: the ideology that, although we may be different in a variety of ways, and whether or not we supported Barack Obama during the election, it does not matter at this point.

My expectation for attending the Inauguration was to experience both pride and happiness for the man I supported as he was sworn in as our 44th president. I expected that everyone there would be like me and that the celebration would be like a giant “I told you so” to those who did not support Obama. I could not have been more wrong! The Presidential Inauguration was a shared American demonstration in our country’s hope and prosperity for our future. Political or ethnic affiliation did not divide us. Instead, we—all two million of us—were united by optimism and pure joy. On January 20, 2009, I was not a liberal or a democrat; I was an American. —Patrick Maillet ’10

Alum/Journalist Covers Inaugural Events for U of Chicago

Sara Jerome ’05 was one of the undergraduate journalists from the University of Chicago who spread out through Washington, D.C. and Chicago to capture the historic events surrounding the inauguration of President Barack Obama and Martin Luther King Day. Sara, a fourth-year student, won a writing contest sponsored by the Chicago Careers in Journalism program and the College, which funded her reporting trip to D.C.

She wrote, “University of Chicago students, faculty, staff and alumni pushed into the heart of Washington, D.C. on Tuesday for the inauguration of Barack Obama, shivering and cheering and exulting in pockets amid the throngs on the National Mall, as the former senior lecturer in the Law School was sworn in as President.”

At the time of this writing, Sara’s work could be found online at the following link:
http://chicagostudies.uchicago.edu/inauguration.html
A group of Blair students and history teachers attended the Columbia Model United Nations Conference and Exposition (CMUNCE) from January 15–18 in New York City. This annual four-day international affairs conference for high school students is one of the most successful Model UN experiences in the United States. According to the organization’s Web site, CMUNCE is known for its original committees, intense crisis simulations and focus on introducing its delegates to both Columbia and New York City.

According to history teacher Dr. Marty Miller, who has accompanied the Blair delegation to Model UN for many years, “This is the best showing of any Blair group in many a moon! Lotte Lijnzaad ’09 and Zack Flaugher ’09 won outstanding/best delegate awards for their respective committees, while Stephen Patane ’09 received an honorable mention and Roileigh Ollson ’09 received a verbal commendation at the closing ceremony.”

Lotte, who has participated in Model UN for the past four years, reported on the program. “What’s special about Columbia University’s Model United Nations is that it’s comprised mostly of special committees, mixed with committees that are ever-present in the real United Nations (such as the Security Council). These special committees may take the shape of a historical committee, which re-enacts past committees and makes decisions based on historical events, or committees that are formed by specific leaders to accomplish something that may not be on the United Nations agenda, such as OPEC. I was on one of these special committees, the Baloch National Jirga, which took place in 2009. A jirga is a group of regional clan leaders; instead of representing a different national, each person represented a local power. Balochistan is a region in the Middle East that knows land in Iran and Afghanistan, but mostly Pakistan. The Baloch people feel that they have been mistreated by the Pakistani government, which is why the main issue at hand for the jirga was the liberation of Balochistan. After a natural disaster, riots and assassinations of jirga members, the committee finally decided to declare independence from Pakistan through the aid of the EU, India and America and support from international celebrities like Angelina Jolie (who adopted six Balochi children during one of her aid missions in the region). Our most victorious moment was when our Declaration of Independence was read during the closing ceremony, and all the jirga members stood up to shout its last three lines, ‘Death to tyranny, all power to the people, long live Balochistan.’”
“The point is not only to try to pass resolutions and achieve goals set by each committee, but also to interact with others to promote leadership skills.”

Lotte added, “This was my fourth and final Model UN with Blair Academy, and it has been a rewarding experience every time. Each conference is a phenomenon of its own, bringing together hundreds of high school students from different places and backgrounds, with different religious beliefs, political preferences and worldviews. The point is not only to try to pass resolutions and achieve goals set by each committee, but also to interact with others to promote leadership skills. Also, the location (New York City) was extremely stimulating, as the city hosts the official United Nations building, where important decisions concerning world politics are made every day. Overall, this year’s trip was as successful as in previous years, if not more. I encourage underclassmen to display interest in Blair’s Model UN chapter next year and for many years to come.”

January Jump Start for Junior Parents
Junior Parents’ Day was held in January in the DuBois Theater of Armstrong-Hipkins Center for the Arts. This year’s guest speaker was Ted O’Neill, dean of admission at the University of Chicago. The annual program is an informational session directed by the College Counseling Office for the parents of students currently in their junior year of study at Blair. Informal panels comprised of parents and seniors who have completed the college search process added to the wealth of advice provided.
Society of Skeptics:

Politics, Poetry, Poverty and More

Blair’s renowned Society of Skeptics series evolved from the International Society begun in the 1950s. Today, under the direction of history teacher and former department chair Dr. Marty Miller, the Tuesday evening program thrives and is considered one of the finest of its kind in the country.

Author Walter Ford Carter returned to Blair as a featured Skeptics speaker in February. The topic of his presentation centered on his book, No Greater Sacrifice, No Greater Love: A Son’s Journey to Normandy. Publisher’s Weekly wrote of the book, “Teaming up with author Golway (So Others Might Live), former corporate economist Carter presents his reflections on the 150 letters that his father wrote home to his mother, his brother and himself before he was killed in combat, along with generous excerpts from the letters themselves. Along the way, he uncovers military, family and emotional history in equal measures and presents all with penetration.”

The second semester of programs began in the New Year when U.S. Navy Seal Lt. Chris Fussell ’92 returned as a Skeptics speaker in early January. He noted that his competitive drive, academic interests and desire to lead were supported during his time at Blair. Turn to page 16 for an excerpt of a newspaper article about Fussell’s program.

Prof. Janbaz Almas, former Afghan consul to the United States, was also a featured speaker in January. His topic for the evening was centered on “U.S. Policy in Afghanistan.” With President Obama intending to take a closer look at the situation of U.S. troops stationed there—some 30,000—the program was a timely one. Prof. Almas began his lecture with a number of basic facts, history and information on the situation as it stands today, then opened the floor to a question and answer session.

In December, Alexis Romay—a Cuban writer and editor—was a featured speaker; his topic for the evening was “Cuba in Transition.” Romay is a contributor to Encuentro en la red and Letralia, Tierra de Letras, as well as to the quarterlies Encuentro de la Cultura Cubana and Letras Libres. He received a master of arts in Spanish language and literature from the City University of New York. His novel Salidas de emergencia was published in Spain and Italy. Along with Enrique Del Risco, he has written lyrics for Paquito D’Rivera’s operetta Cecilio Valdés, Rey de La Habana.

Also in December, Andrew Crane, project manager for the United Nations Development Program (UNDP)/Community Based Adaptation Project, spoke on the topic, “The Impact of Climate Change on Poverty in the Developing World.” Crane managed the Community-Based Adaptation (CBA) project, a $10M project supporting community-level adaptation projects in 10 countries. He coordinated a team of 10 CBA national coordinators in Bangladesh, Bolivia, Guatemala, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Samoa and Viet Nam. Crane provided scientific and technical support on the development of risk assessments, country program
strategies, and project concepts and proposals. Initially, he developed the CBA project document, including frameworks for monitoring and evaluating these community projects.

Sean Coffey, BLG&B law partner and parent of Kate ’10, was a featured Skeptics speaker in November. His topic of the evening was “The Market Meltdown: A Painful Reminder of Why Capitalism Needs Guardrails & Gatekeepers.” Mr. Coffey has been profiled in The Wall Street Journal, The American Lawyer and BusinessWeek and was featured on “The Wall Street Fix” on PBS’ Frontline. Mr. Coffey and senior BLB&G partner Max Berger were named two of the 2005 “Winning Attorneys of the Year” by the National Law Journal, and the September 2005 issue of Bloomberg Markets profiled Mr. Coffey as “Wall Street’s New Nemesis.”

He discussed, in his words, “a few of the more notorious corporate frauds (WorldCom, which I handled, and Enron) and how the gatekeepers dropped the ball.” He also addressed the sub-prime crisis—how classic mortgage-lending worked (“originate-to-hold”) and mutated to the current situation.

Marine Science
Students Make Waves

Marine science teacher Rod Gerdsen reports on the trip he and his class took to the Cayman Islands over a long winter weekend: “Activities on Grand Cayman included a snorkeling tour of Stingray City, a world-renowned location for hundreds of stingrays who gather to be fed by tourist boats; the largest of these monsters measured four feet across! The group also received a tour of a turtle farm where green sea turtles are raised for local island food; we were lucky enough to hold not only the young hatchlings but also the older ones weighing 100 pounds or more. A late-night trip to the bay near Rum Point revealed glowing waters caused by microscopic dinoflagellates (single celled protists). The group paddled their kayaks through masses of these unearthly creatures. Students stayed at a hotel on the famous Seven-Mile Beach, allowing them direct access to some of the world’s best coral reefs and unlimited snorkeling. They were able to examine the reefs and learn about the island’s marine conservation efforts and how the government planned to conserve these dwindling resources. This was one of the best marine science trips to date. I look forward to continued work in the future with the Cayman Islands Environmental Department.”
**Bursting the Military Bubble to Speak at Blair**

_The Express-Times’_ Stephen Novak focused on Blair’s Society of Skeptics lecture series as it kicked off its winter semester in January with the return of Navy SEAL _Chris Fussell ’92_.

The article began, “It’s not uncommon for civilians to try and draw a political opinion out of Lt. Cmdr. Chris Fussell. But as the Navy SEAL told Blair Academy students this week, the military is simply ‘an extension of the American will. Our position is we work for the president, whoever that may be,’ Fussell told the students. ‘And you tell him what to do, so we go with that.’ ”

Novak added, “A 1992 graduate of Blair Academy, Fussell returned to his alma mater Tuesday night to talk about the war in Afghanistan and field questions from students as part of a weekly lecture series. Fussell served three tours of duty in Iraq, two in Afghanistan and two with the United States European Command that covers all of Europe and parts of the Middle East. He also took philosophy classes at the University of Richmond in Virginia and is studying defense analysis at Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, Calif.”

The article continued, “Blair Academy history teacher Martin Miller, who has organized the Society of Skeptics lecture series since 1980, called Fussell’s talk timely with President-elect Barack Obama’s inauguration in less than two weeks. Obama has pledged to shift the nation’s military focus to Afghanistan. The series began as a forum for student debate, but Miller said he changed the format to avoid a thought process he feared was too narrow. ‘I felt students needed to hear from people from the outside,’ he said.”

Novak concluded, “Fussell’s appearance Tuesday allowed students to connect with an alumnus, someone they could relate to and who had actually experienced the conflicts firsthand. The SEAL, who also spoke [at Skeptics] in fall 2001 following the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, said he is often impressed by the students’ questions. Tuesday they ranged from the war’s handling, private contracting, the troop surge, media coverage and even humanitarian efforts in other parts of the world. ‘It’s great for me to get out, listen to younger thinkers and see what’s on their minds,’ he said. ‘I can go back to my military bubble knowing what people on the outside think.’ ”

[Read more about Blair’s Society of Skeptics speakers in the Academics section of this issue.]
Afghan Alum Still Making News
On October 28, 2008, The New York Daily News profiled Shamila Kohestani ’08—the young woman from Afghanistan (now a freshman at Drew University) who fled Taliban rule and was profiled during her year at Blair by The New York Times. Writer Wayne Coffey explained, “While she was in the states, Kohestani attended the Julie Foudy Sports Leadership Academy in Hightstown, N.J., where she learned more about being a leader in soccer, and in life, the gospel preached by Foudy, the two-time Olympic gold medalist and former captain of the U.S. women’s soccer team. While she was at Foudy’s academy she met a counselor who was on the faculty of Blair Academy in Blairstown, N.J., winding up with a scholarship to a prestigious prep school and with Foudy agreeing to pay for her expenses to get to the U.S. again.”

The article continued, “After a successful year at Blair, Kohestani’s cause was picked up once more, this time by Bill Knox, a member of Drew’s board of trustees….Following three frenzied weeks of bureaucratic maneuverings, Kohestani, who was back in Afghanistan, had a student visa that would allow her to return to the U.S. as a college student [at Drew]. Kohestani’s course load includes Freshman Seminar (“How Democracy Works”), History of Islam and Mediterranean Thought, and English. She is constantly working with Katherine Brown, improving English both spoken and written, and everything else. ‘She works incredibly hard,’ Brown says. ‘She’s the kind of student a professor wants to work with, because of how diligent she is.’ ”

Horse of the Year
The January 17 edition of The Star-Ledger (New Jersey’s largest daily) included news of the Farnam/Platform U.S. Equestrian Federation Horse of the Year—Jamaica, an 18-year-old Dutchbred who, as Jaffer writes, “struggled to find a career before hooking up with national champion four-in-hand driver Chester Weber [Blair Class of 1993].”

Jaffer wrote, “Winning the top award is unusual for a horse from a relatively small discipline, as Weber pointed out, and it’s also special recognition for an animal [that] is never in the spotlight alone, but instead shares the stage with the others horses in the team. Jamaica, who has hackney and Dutch harness horse roots, originally was owned by a man in the meat business who had to get the bay gelding off his premises because the animal had a skin problem. The horse’s subsequent occupation, pulling a livery carriage for tourists in Belgium, was cut short because he wouldn’t stand still without someone holding his reins, a restlessness that persists today, according to Weber, who knew an equine athlete with potential when he saw one.”

Jaffer added, “This year, the horse helped Weber make history as the first American individual medalist at the World Four-in-Hand Championships, where he won a silver medal. Although he’s a veteran of six national championships and two World Equestrian Games, Jamaica isn’t through yet. Weber is pointing him toward next year’s Alltech/FEI World Equestrian Games in Kentucky. Weber, who attended Blair Academy in Blairstown, N.J., went on to major in hotel management at Cornell University before devoting himself to show management and a variety of other equestrian-connected pursuits at his Ocala, Fla., base.”

Collegiate Equine Champ
Speaking of equestrians, the National Collegiate Equestrian Champion for 2008, James Fairclough ’04, a senior at Drew University, was featured in the university’s fall 2008 alumni magazine. James, whose expertise is the Grand Prix style of jumping, said, “The Cacchione Cup will be mine for a year before it goes on to the next champion. It’s like the Stanley Cup of equitation.”
**Talent on the Court, in the Saddle**

Finally, a basketball player’s equestrian past is revealed. *The Daily Pennsylvanian’s* November 12 edition included an article about Kelly Scott ’05, entitled, “Reining Horses to Raining Threes.” The piece began, “Kelly Scott’s teammates have no problem with her horsing around—off the court, that is. Scott, a senior on the women’s basketball team, picked up horseback riding as a youngster on a weekend excursion with her mom and continued competitively into high school. Riding might seem impractical in the urban sprawl of New York where Scott grew up, but she found a way to rein in her passion. ‘[My family] has a house in Jersey, so I used to ride every weekend and then all summer,’ says Scott.”

The article continued, “During sophomore year of high school, Scott made the decision to trade in her jodhpurs and helmet for a full-time sleeveless jersey and basketball shoes. After a post-graduate year at Blair Academy in New Jersey, Scott took her basketball skills to Penn, where she has earned two Most Improved Player awards and became the team’s third-leading scorer (8.9 points per game) as a junior. But Scott was still quiet about her previous experience in the saddle. Her teammates had to find out for themselves by spotting old ribbons and memorabilia on the walls of her house.”

The article concluded, “Scott has followed in the footsteps of several family members—not with horses, but hoops. Her older brother, Will, was a guard for Cornell in the 2004-2005 season. He has since transferred to Louisville and even saw two minutes of playing time in the Cardinals’ Sweet Sixteen win over Tennessee. Both of Scott’s parents are surgeons but couldn’t stay away from the court, either. Her father used to be team doctor for the New York Knicks, and her mother held the same position with the Big Apple’s WNBA squad, the Liberty. Scott is headed for medical school, too, after graduation and a year of post-bac courses.” [See update on Will at right.]

**Basketball Player Oxford Bound**

Just as his sister Kelly’s equestrian prowess was somewhat of a secret (see previous story), Will Scott ’04 is perhaps better known for his basketball skills than his penchant for Chinese.

In the January 30 edition of *The Courier-Journal* (Louisville, Kentucky), Eric Crawford wrote, “When Will Scott left Cornell for the University of Louisville, most people thought it was great for basketball, bad for business…But his greatest U of L legacy can now be written. It’s this: You can get there from here. You wouldn’t necessarily expect a basketball program to be the source of such an overall academic message, but Rick Pitino’s program has done it twice in just the past year. You can get to the Wharton School’s prestigious MBA program. Former basketball player Muhammed Lasege showed that. And you can get to Oxford.”

Crawford added, “Most schools list famous politicians, artists or scientists among their famous alumni, and Oxford is no different, including 25 British prime ministers, C. S. Lewis and Sir Walter Raleigh. But Oxford also lists a dozen saints among its alumni.”

Apparently, Will intends to pursue his love of Chinese while in England, an academic interest he first honed at Blair and later at U of L. Crawford’s article notes that Will spent some time in Shanghai and other parts of China last summer during his internship with furniture manufacturer Brown Jordan International. However, he told Crawford his future plans are not focused on the business world. “Where I want to go is toward the diplomatic or political relations with China,” he said. “And I think being a diplomat or ambassador to China would provide the biggest avenue for me to make positive change.”
College Honors Former Blair Trustee

The October 22, 2008, Warren Reporter noted that Dominick V. Romano ’51, former Blair Trustee, has received the Van Winkle Achievement Award of Centenary College, Hackettstown. The award honors a distinguished person or professional whose accomplishments include outstanding service to Centenary College and the community at large while bringing honor to the institution. Alumni and all others closely associated with the college are eligible.

Helping Out in Honduran Clinic

School counselor Jessica Matzkin Shactman and her family were profiled in the October 8, 2008, issue of The Warren Reporter in regard to their humanitarian aid trip to Honduras. The article read, “Volunteering is a way of life for Dr. Michael Matzkin, an oral surgeon, and his wife, Sara. For many years now, the Connecticut couple has dedicated their time to traveling overseas on short-term medical trips to developing countries. They most recently went to Honduras with other members of a medical team on a one-week trip sponsored by CURE International, a non-profit medical organization that operates a medical center in the country. Volunteering is not just limited to Dr. Matzkin, 72, and Sara, 67. All three of their daughters have also accompanied them on various trips throughout the years. On this trip to Honduras, the couple was joined by their daughter Jessica Matzkin Shactman, who is a school counselor at Blair Academy in Blairstown.”

The article continued, “Husband, wife and daughter worked at a temporary clinic set up at a school in the village of San Marcos. Jessica said she was inspired to start going on these trips after hearing about her parents’ experiences. She and her sister first went with their mother and father to Honduras in 2003. ‘I wanted to share this experience with my parents,’ she said. ‘Every time we go on a trip together, it brings us closer. I feel connected to them.’ … Jessica said working at the clinic allowed her to interact closely with the people of San Marcos and gave her new perspectives to take back with her. ‘For the people there, material needs are not as important. What is important is family, friends and community. To be reminded of this is very powerful. I learned more about myself and the world around me.’ ”

Jessica, pictured above with son Max, also organized the School’s first Health-a-Palooza, which received coverage in the New Jersey Herald, a local daily in Newton, N.J. See Around the Arch (page 7) for more.
Lovestruck by Moonstruck House

An article by J. Courtney Sullivan in *The New York Times*’ August 31, 2008, edition noted that a four-story Federal-style brownstone (circa 1929) at Cranberry and Willow Streets in Brooklyn Heights, known as the “Moonstruck” House because it was the setting for the 1987 movie starring Cher and Nicholas Cage, was sold by owner Edwards Rullman ’40.

The article notes that Edwards was “instrumental in persuading the city to declare Brooklyn Heights the first historic district in New York more than four decades ago…When the Rullmans bought their Brooklyn Heights home, the neighborhood was a grittier version of the now-pristine and upscale enclave filled with impeccably preserved brownstones.”

Sullivan continued, “‘By the close of the war, Brooklyn Heights didn’t have a very good reputation,’ Mr. Rullman said. ‘A lot of us were told that it might not be a safe place to bring our children. But plenty of young families moved in anyway because there was a huge amount of beautiful housing to be had for not much money.’ As early as 1958, some families began meeting to discuss ways to preserve their neighborhood. Led by a lawyer named Otis Pratt Pearsall, they called themselves the Historic Preservation Committee of the Brooklyn Heights Association… The Historic Preservation Committee’s goal was to win legal preservation status for the neighborhood while trying to defend the area from redevelopment.’”

“Mr. Rullman became chairman of the committee’s Design Advisory Council, which offered free advice to homeowners on proper preservation methods, ranging from historically accurate shades of house paint to the number of panes to put in a window to where to find authentic banisters,” wrote Sullivan. “‘Restoration was not a big field of endeavor among contractors then the way it is today,’ Mr. Rullman said. ‘Some of us were architects, some were city planners, and this was a way to keep our finger in the dike before preservation became law.’”

Sullivan concluded, “In 1962, the committee drafted a preservation proposal that aimed to protect 1,284 buildings, including 1,078 houses built in the 19th century, with at least 684 of those constructed before the Civil War. The petition was signed by 2,376 Brooklyn Heights residents.”
Soul Union Takes Art to Heart

“Let me not to the marriage of true minds/ Admit impediments,” the poem begins, before going on to describe the constancy of love over a lifetime of change and trouble. Adam Grybowski included this detail in his article in the Packet Papers (weekly sister papers in New Jersey) on November 25, 2008. Art teacher Rita Baragona has received this Shakespearean sonnet from her spouse, St. Clair Sullivan, each year on their wedding anniversary. The two artists held a joint exhibit called A Marriage of Two Minds at Rider University Art Gallery this past December.

Grybowski added that the couple fell in love as two young art students. For nearly four decades they have been living together in Columbia, N.J., in Warren County and making art. “’One thing this show has done for me, it has made me appreciate the fairy tale story of my life,’ Ms. Baragona says. ‘I’ve gotten to do what I love to do while raising my children and earning a living. I can tell my husband to look at that beautiful thing out the window, and I know he will appreciate it as much as I do.’”

Eu at NYU

Washington Square News, a publication of New York University, featured a Q & A on November 20, 2008, between Anthony Eu ’06, a freshman from Singapore, and writer Briann Dimas, who noted that Anthony “attended boarding school in Blairstown, N.J. and is now studying dramatic literature in NYU’s Liberal Studies Program. He is 20 years old and served in the Singaporean army for two years.” Excerpts from the interview are as follows:

What was it like to serve in the army?
In Singapore, every male citizen is required to serve in the army after finishing his secondary education (high school). I was a drill sergeant. Being in the army definitely made me see life a little differently. It made me more responsible and made me grow up a lot in a short amount of time.

Why did you choose to go to college right after the army?
Well, you have to understand, I felt like I had missed out on so much. I went to Blair Academy in New Jersey. After high school, most kids in my graduating class got to anticipate going to college and all that stuff. My anticipation was misplaced by depression … I had two years of the army to look forward to. Coming out of the army was much more exciting than graduating.

How is the transition from the army to college life?
I have yet to transition; it’s just so different. It’s almost like I went backwards. I mean, I grew up so much and got used to real life for two years. Then I came here and forgot what it was like to be right out of high school, because I’m not.

How does being around so many freshmen affect you?
It makes a huge difference. The students in my grade level are in a completely different mentality. Two years makes a big difference. I’ve been in the army, lived life in the real world, and I guess it makes you see things a little differently. It also has a lot to do with the culture. Life in New York City is a lot different than life in Singapore.
**Alum Analyzes Nation’s Retailers**

*Bill Dreher ’84* was quoted in *The New York Times* on December 5, 2008, in an article entitled, “Retail Sales Are Weakest in 35 Years,” by Stephanie Rosenbloom. The article read, in part, “The nation’s retailers turned in the worst sales figures in at least a generation on Thursday, starting the holiday shopping season with double-digit declines across a broad spectrum of stores. For many chains, the precipitous sales drops that took hold in September and October got worse, not better, in November, despite relatively strong sales in the few days after Thanksgiving….Some retailers, though, have begun to figure out how to manage in the bleak environment, selling huge amounts of merchandise at steep discounts to generate cash. ‘That will erode profits, of course. Department store profits will most likely plummet 20 to 60 percent in the final three months of the year,’ said Bill Dreher, senior retailing analyst with Deutsche Bank Securities. But retailers who are unloading merchandise early in the season are at least demonstrating an ability to take control. ‘Even if they’re giving away the product, it reduces inventory levels and keeps the problem from continuing,’ Mr. Dreher said. ‘It shows retailers are being disciplined.’”

**Dymon a Dynamo at West Point**

Various newspapers carried the word from West Point that Army’s women’s soccer team won the Patriot League championship this fall. *Dymon Washington ’08* led the team in scoring and was voted Patriot League “Rookie of the Year.” She was also selected as West Point’s first Army Athletic Association (AAA) “Athlete of the Week” in the 2008-09 academic year back in September; her goal, along with a pair of assists, led the women’s soccer team to a 2-1 mark in its first week of competition.

**Squash Program Raises Scholarship Potential**

CitySquash, the free squash program for at-risk Bronx [N.Y.] youngsters was the focus of an article by Tanyanika Samuels of the *Daily News* (N.Y) on September 29, 2008. *Manuela Perez ’12* was one of the program’s participants last year. Samuels writes, “CitySquash is more than just learning squash, the fast-paced indoor racket sport. A lot of focus is placed on tutoring, mentoring and community service. Students attend three-hour sessions up to four times per week. They spend half the time being tutored and the other half practicing for tournaments, which typically take place on weekends. Already, the academic component of the program has made strides. The feature aired on February 27 and can be viewed by visiting the Blair Web site archives (www.blair.edu).

In January, the NBC *Today Show* sent a producer to campus as part of a segment on CitySquash including Manuela.
Blair Chaplain a Spiritual Force

Sherry Karasik, author of The New Jersey Herald’s regular column “Faith Matters,” and a Blair Trustee, chose to focus on Blair’s chaplain, the Rev. Cynthia Crowner, in December. She wrote, “[Rev. Crowner] strikes me as something like a bolt of lightning. She leaves the air charged, electric, kinetic. This energetic, articulate, petite woman in her fifties attempts to inspire passion about social justice and spiritual development in her students, all 440 of them, as she teaches, preaches and counsels.”

The article continues, “Posted on the door of her office in Clinton Hall is a sticker that reads: ‘Faith is a journey, not a guilt trip.’ But for many high school students at this Presbyterian private high school in Blairstown, it may be the first step ever taken toward a spiritual journey, or in some cases, away from one. Although Blair was founded by local Presbyterians in 1848 for the education of the area’s Christian children, today the Blair community embraces much greater religious diversity. ‘Students identify themselves as Christian—Roman Catholic, Protestant and Evangelical—and Jewish, Buddhist and Hindu, as well as atheist,’ says Rev. Crowner. ‘We draw students from over twenty-four countries. It’s a challenge to preach to a diverse audience of students and faculty such as Blair has. Yet, I have to speak out of my particularity or I can’t speak my truth. There’s a fine line between respect for everyone’s belief system and particularity.’ ”

Karasik continues, “Her background has well equipped her to stir a hunger for spirituality in these young adults. After graduating from Cornell, she worked for campus ministry, organizing and advocating for human rights in U.S. foreign policy. She’s been an advocate for social justice, working in multi-cultural and ecumenical settings ever since. In her mid-thirties, after years of activism, Rev. Crowner says she needed a time of reflection and entered San Francisco Seminary on a trial basis. She thrived at seminary, where her pursuit of desire could be tempered by ‘loving-kindness.’ ”

The article adds, “She says simply that her job is to love the students. A task she admits is easy—Blair students are creative, loveable and smart.”

Country’s Number One Team Makes the Cover

“The Academy: How Blair Built the Country’s No. 1 Wrestling Program” was the cover story in the December edition of ESPN’s Rise! magazine. Speaking of his athletes, head coach Jeff Buxton told writer Mike Grimala, “When these kids go on to college and have success, whether it’s in wrestling or just in their career and life, other kids see it and want to duplicate that. That’s really one of the strongest draws for potential student-athletes.”
Understanding Athletic Recruiting: A Comprehensive Guide for the High School Student-Athlete, co-written by Dean of College Counseling Lew Stival and Lawrenceville School’s Director of College Counseling Jeffrey Durso-Finley, is now available for purchase online at www.urbanministries.com.

Dick Boak ’68 co-wrote two recently released books (in conjunction with Hal Leonard Publishing) about the history of Martin Guitars—Martin Guitars: A History and Martin Guitars: A Technical Reference. Dick is the director of artist and public relations for the guitar maker. Books are available as a collectible boxed-set, housed in a deluxe slipcase featuring the artwork of Robert F. Goetzl that was commissioned for Martin’s 175th anniversary celebration.

Trustee John C. Bogle ’47, founder of The Vanguard Group and one of the most respected leaders in investing, is the author of yet another new book, Enough: The True Measure of Money, Business and Life, published by John Wiley & Sons in November. As is his custom, he will donate all of his book royalties to charity. Enough is inspired by his 2007 Georgetown University commencement address, which examined the attributes of a life well-lived and warned about the risks presented by a financial system that is subtracting value from society. In the book, he reminds readers of what is or should be “enough” in money, in business and in life.
Young Educator Takes Passionate, Proactive Approach

*Linda Fellows ’86* is passionate about Blair. Her fondest memories of her years here include time spent playing field hockey, the close relationships she developed with her classmates, and the great rapport she felt with the faculty. “I had a wonderful time at Blair,” she said. “It is a fantastic community and an important part of my life.” It should come as no surprise, then, that Linda has included a bequest to Blair in her will. What may seem surprising to some, however, is that she made this bequest at the young age of 40.

With a master’s degree in education, Linda’s varied career has included positions in both teaching and fund raising. Through her work, she realized the importance of a proactive approach to estate planning.

“I would like to be in control and direct where my estate goes,” she noted. “The people you leave behind may not direct your funds as you would have wished, and the government certainly won’t.”

Linda currently works one-on-one with students, teaching phonics, reading and spelling using the Orton-Gillingham approach. She is also forming a non-profit organization in an effort to help parents and teachers find the resources they need for dyslexic students. As a teacher who gives of herself every day, Linda said it just “makes sense” to her to give back to Blair.

Linda’s bequest is unrestricted, allowing the School to focus its use on an area of greatest need. As an educator, however, she deeply values scholarship and is well aware that an increased endowment will give more students the opportunity to receive a Blair education. “Blair has a lot to offer students,” she said. Her support of the School leaves a lasting legacy to ensure Blair continues to provide educational opportunity well into the future.
This year’s panelists included (L to R): entrepreneur Marcos Rollan ’93, an inter-dealer broker at GFI Group and founder of Ambiance by Rollan, a New York City-based community portal serving U.S. and international professionals; Gillian Sciaretta ’03, a sustainable building consultant at CodeGreen Solutions; Hyun Seok Hwang ’93, a senior analyst at Millennium Partners and Blair Trustee; Shakirah Miller ’91, principal at Miller Street School Academy in Newark, N.J.; and Taylor Jubanowsky ’02, manager, sponsorship & sales, for IMG Fashion.

Dr. Marty Miller, Skeptics program director, is pictured on facing page.

The annual Society of Skeptics “young alumni” panel program is a much-anticipated event each January. For starters, these Blair graduates are excited to return to campus and see their former teachers in the audience. Their teachers are just as thrilled to see their past pupils, now ensconced in “the real world.” And current students get the chance to meet five alumni whose career paths resemble a roadmap, with divergent routes and pit stops along the way. —M.M.

Photos by David W. Coulter
Hyun Seok Hwang ’93

Education: Hyun graduated Phi Beta Kappa and magna cum laude from Yale University with a B.A. in economics and M.B.A. in finance and earned his J.D. from Harvard Law School.

Career: Prior to his current position as senior analyst for Millennium Partners LP, an investment management firm based in New York City, Hyun was a vice president in the proprietary trading department of Morgan Stanley & Co. and an M&A banker at the firm for several years.

Hyun and his wife, Dr. Katharine Miao, reside in Scarsdale, N.Y., with their children, Alexander and Daniel. Hyun’s younger brother, Dongwook, is a member of Blair’s class of 1995. A current Blair Trustee, Hyun is a member of Blair’s education and school life committee as well as the investment committee.

Words of Wisdom: When I was at Blair I had the opportunity to take all kinds of classes...You just don’t know; you may be bored in algebra class, but it may be useful one day. I did a lot of due diligence and internships to see what I liked and would want to still be doing in 15 years.
You will remember people from Blair all your life.

Taylor Jubanowsky ’02

Education: Taylor is a graduate of The George Washington University, where she majored in communication with a minor in political science.

Career: Taylor is manager, sponsorship & sales, for IMG Fashion. The company represents and produces 25 events worldwide, including Mercedes-Benz Fashion Week in New York, Los Angeles, Miami and Berlin; Milan Fashion Week, Moscow Fashion Week, Fashion Fringe in London, Hong Kong Luxury Week, Toronto Fashion Week and Istanbul Fashion Week. Taylor is employed in the business development division at IMG, selling and managing corporate sponsorship and branding of these events. Among her clients are The New York Times, Time magazine, Continental Airlines, and Smashbox Cosmetics, to name but a few.

Taylor was instrumental in assisting two other Blair alumni with internships at IMG Fashion. Both Courtney Fairclough ’05 and Lauren Stival ’05 interned there, playing a part in Fashion Week in New York.

Words of Wisdom: When you live in the dorm at Blair, you get to know so many people at such a strong level, and that will help you work in any environment. You develop close relationships with teachers and coaches, which means you’ll be a step ahead of the game in college.
Shakirah C. Miller-Harrington ’91

Education: Shakirah is studying toward a doctorate degree at Teachers College-Columbia University, where she also earned an M.A. in applied psychology. She holds an M.A. in administration and supervision from St. Peter’s College and a B.A. in psychology from Rutgers University.

Career: Shakirah is the principal of Miller Street Academy in Newark, N.J., where she administers, coordinates, supervises and evaluates the implementation of the instructional program, among numerous other duties. Prior to her current position, Shakirah served as academic vice principal/testing coordinator at Rafael Hernandez Elementary School and Barringer High School (both in Newark, N.J.), and as a math teacher and basketball coach at Luis Munoz Marin Middle School and Chestnut Hill Academy.

Shakirah is a member of the National Alliance of Black School Educators and Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education.

Words of Wisdom: When I started out as a math teacher; I modeled my teaching on my Blair classes with Mr. Razz and Mr. Buxton. I’ve had many “ah-ha moments” during which I reflected on my time at Blair and applied it as a principal, classroom teacher and tutor. Even though I’m a school principal, I still tutor on Saturdays.

It’s so wonderful to be back, talking to young people at Blair; I even brought along some students from Miller Street Academy so they could see what Blair is like.
Marcos Rollan ’93

**Education:** Marcos received his B.A. from Brown University in 1997 with a double major in business-economics and international relations.

**Career:** Marcos is an inter-dealer broker at GFI Group, where he is the head of the Brazilian Interest Rate Derivatives Group. He also executes trades in foreign exchange and derivatives for other Latin American Markets including Mexico, Chile, Colombia, Peru and Argentina. He began his career at Reuters where he worked in the finance, risk management and sales divisions. Marcos founded Ambiance by Rollan—a community portal serving U.S. and international professionals—in September 1998.

Marcos, who is originally from Madrid, Spain, lives in Manhattan with his wife, Eden, their daughter and a niece. At the time of his Skeptics appearance, he and Eden were expectant parents of a son. Marcos is also the captain of GFI’s soccer team.

**Words of Wisdom:** To me, Blair was in the middle of nowhere—remember, I am originally from Madrid—but going to school here was a remarkable experience. I learned time management and due diligence skills. And among other things, I now realize the value of my pre-season athletic experience and the value of being a scholar-athlete. Life can be very circumstantial. Looking back, everything makes sense—and everything’s going to work out for you, too.
Gillian Sciaretta ’03

Education: Gillian attended Cornell University’s School of Hotel Administration with a concentration in hotel development and special interest in sustainable development. After graduating from Cornell, she studied for the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Accredited Professional (AP) exam administered by the United States Green Building Council. The LEED program is a nationally accepted benchmark for the design, construction and operation of high performance buildings.

Career: Gillian works as a sustainable building consultant, LEED AP, for CodeGreen Solutions in New York City. Her current position at CodeGreen, which employs a staff of 10, involves the creation of unique and sustainable solutions for commercial existing buildings and office spaces. Current CodeGreen clients include building owners and managers such as Fisher Brothers, Jones Lang LaSalle and SL Green Realty Corp; real estate investors including Beacon Capitol Brothers; financial institutions such as Morgan Stanley and KPMG; public agencies like New York City’s Department of Design and Construction; and retail and hotel companies such as Estee Lauder Companies/Origins.

Gillian, who began her career with a top luxury hotel located in Manhattan, is also an active member of the United States Green Building Council’s New York Chapter.

Words of Wisdom: If you had told me I’d be [involved in this career] a few years back, I’d have been really confused. By now, though, LEED certification is a national voluntary benchmark and a really hot topic these days, especially in Manhattan. How buildings are operated, constructed and maintained is an ever-evolving process. The people I work with at CodeGreen have architectural, engineering and business backgrounds. Before I worked for CodeGreen, I was very involved in the corporate recycling program at Park Meridien Hotels in New York City, where I served as sustainability coordinator and project manager.
During the Q & A session that followed the panelists’ presentation, a member of the audience asked each of them, “What’s your favorite Peddie Day memory?” Here’s what they had to say…

**Hyung:** Playing on the soccer team with [fellow panelist] Marcos that day…When the game was finally over, I fell to the ground and started crying!

**Taylor:** Playing JV field hockey. Ours was the last game to finish, with sudden death overtime. I think I scored the goal!

**Shakirah:** Getting back the Cup!

**Marcos:** The bonfire and week-long activities leading up to the rivalry.

**Gillian:** The bonfire—and the photo of me at the bonfire with classmates [and NBA players] Luol Deng ’03 and Charlie Villanueva ’03.
Section by section, Blair’s new athletic center opened for use this past fall and winter. The boys’ and girls’ locker rooms—the first facilities to be completed in September—were soon joined by the wrestling practice gym, squash courts, training room, fitness room, dance studio, field house and, finally, the performance gym. Take a walk through the complex and you will see freshly painted walls, gleaming floors, brightly lit spaces and state-of-the-art equipment—but what is it like to actually use these facilities?

“Transformative,” said Blair squash coach Jim Moore. “That’s the word that sums up what the new squash courts mean to our program.” From a

“The kids love the Pinkard Room. I’ve been able to expand my yoga class to 25 students in that beautiful room, where the natural light and view of nature create the perfect atmosphere for stress relief.”

—Lian Wang, faculty member and yoga instructor

Photos by David W. Coulter and Candy Low
coaching perspective, Jim noted that with four new squash courts, all of his players are on the court throughout practice. “Before, practice ran from 3:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., and half of the team would be sitting around. Now, the entire boys’ and girls’ varsity squads can be on the court at the same time for an hour and a half, and we’re done by 6:45 every night. This changes everything.” There is also a much greater sense of camaraderie among the squash players because, by practicing together, they get to know one another better. In addition, the younger squash players can watch the varsity teams practice, which has a significant impact on coaching perspective, Jim noted that with four new squash courts, all of his players are on the court throughout practice. “Before, practice ran from 3:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., and half of the team would be sitting around. Now, the entire boys’ and girls’ varsity squads can be on the court at the same time for an hour and a half, and we’re done by 6:45 every night. This changes everything.” There is also a much greater sense of camaraderie among the squash players because, by practicing together, they get to know one another better. In addition, the younger squash players can watch the varsity teams practice, which has a significant impact on

“**Our old quarters reeked with tradition and character, but the new facility allows us to practice efficiently, and the team room is a huge upgrade. The fitness center is large enough that we can move the entire team through a workout in 45 minutes.**”
— Jeff Buxton, varsity wrestling coach
the development of players in the pipeline. Jim said he can get on the court as a coach now, too, whereas before he was reluctant to do so because it took court time away from his players.

Varsity girls’ basketball coach Sue Altman echoes Jim’s sentiments. “Our practice schedule has definitely changed for the better with the opening of the performance gym,” she said. “Practices are always over by 7:30 p.m. now. That means the girls are much more in the rhythm of the school—they attend formal dinner, and they get to study hall every night. Our academics have improved, and I would attribute that, at least in part, to our new practice schedule in the performance gym.”

Both Jim and Sue said that the new athletic facilities have had a positive effect on their teams’ competitions with other schools. Jim noted that competitors are very interested in coming to Blair for squash matches now. With seven courts, a match only takes an hour to complete rather than three or more hours. Dual meets

“With both the new tennis and squash courts, Blair is definitely laying a strong foundation. When I give tours to prospective students, they can immediately tell that Blair is serious about both programs.”
— Francesca Nestande ’10, varsity tennis and squash player
are also a possibility, as are
tournaments with as many as
five teams. “We can do these
things in an efficient way,” said
Jim, “which means increased
exposure for our players to
different teams with less time
spent traveling.”

Sue said that the performance
gym has a great playing
atmosphere with outstanding
acoustics, and her players are
keyed into it. “The girls can
hear me call out plays, they can
hear each other, and the noise
generated by the fans really
creates a home court advantage.”

From an admission and
recruiting perspective, both
coaches expect the athletic
center to have a positive impact.
The brand-new facilities will
make it immediately evident to
prospective students and their
parents that Blair is committed
not only to its students’
academic development but
to their athletic and physical
development as well. This
center should attract students
who are serious scholar-athletes,
as well as those seeking a school
with facilities that allow them
to try new sports and activities.

As far as recreation is
concerned, Jim predicted that
the new Student Activity and
Athletic Center will become the
non-academic center of campus.
“I was there on a recent Sunday
afternoon, and the basketball
court and four squash courts
were being used by kids who
were playing just because they
could. It’s a great place for
anyone to run around in and
just let off steam.”

“Playing in a nice gym is just
a lot of fun,” Sue added. “It
makes me want to get out there
and play, too!”

“**The opening of the new athletic facility has had a
significant and positive impact on the School’s daily
structure, as athletes no longer miss evening study hours
due to late practices. It’s been a great boost to morale!”**
— Dave Lou, assistant headmaster, student affairs

“**The performance gym is an exciting place to play. Great
acoustics, a fabulous floor and enthusiastic fans create
a real home court advantage that my team loves!”**
— Sue Altman, varsity girls’ basketball coach
Blair boys’ and girls’ basketball teams played in the new performance gym (facing page, top) and field house (this page, above) over the past winter season.
Blair boys' and girls' basketball teams played in the new performance gym (facing page, top) and field house (this page, above) over the past winter season.
This past winter, Headmasters’ Societies Games were played in the field house, while players enjoyed the new squash center.
As this issue of the Bulletin headed to press in March, Blair’s new student center (see large photo, above) opened for business. A gift of the Romano family, the center will officially be dedicated “Blair Commons” at a May 8 ceremony. The complex encompasses the canteen, post office, study area, lounge, school store and college counseling suite and is at the heart of the campus community. Look for more photos in the Summer Bulletin; in the meantime, log on to Blair’s Web site (www.blair.edu) for more information.
The Ever Always Campaign has inspired many wonderful gifts to Blair Academy, including a remarkable $5.5 million given or pledged to date for much-needed scholarship aid. These gifts have come in every size, ranging from scholarship-designated Blair Fund contributions to gifts of $100,000 or more given to establish named scholarships. Thus far, 32 named, endowed scholarships have been created during the Campaign. The impact of the increased availability of scholarship aid is evident in this year’s financial aid figures. In 2008-09, Blair awarded a record $4 million to deserving students, up from $2.5 million in the 2002-03 school year when the Campaign was just getting under way.

Today, scholarship aid at Blair is more important than ever. Families are well aware of the benefits of a Blair education, yet the cost may simply be beyond what many can afford. Scholarship aid, covering full or partial tuition, can make all the difference, giving promising young people the educational opportunity of a lifetime. At their January meeting, Blair’s Trustees affirmed that providing scholarship aid remains a top priority at Blair Academy. The Board remains committed to students and their families in this challenging economy and is working to provide as much scholarship aid as possible to help them.

In 2008-09, Blair awarded a record $4 million to deserving students, up from $2.5 million in the 2002-03 school year.

Several families who recently contributed named scholarships to Blair made these gifts not only to help today’s students but also to “give back” to the School that has given them so much. Providing the School with the means to grant scholarship aid is a personal way to share what the Blair experience has meant to them. The donors featured here feel that education is a gift, and they hope their scholarship recipients continue the tradition of giving back both to Blair and to society at large.

The Kennedy Family Scholars Program

John and Pat Kennedy and their sons Sean ’90 and Kevin ’98 established the Kennedy Family Scholars Program in 1999 to help fund a Blair education for academically qualified day students from Blairstown and the surrounding area. During the Campaign, they have added significant funds to the program. John and Pat saw the positive impact Blair had on their sons, and when they sold their business, they had the means to give that same opportunity to students from their hometown. “Blair benefits kids in so many ways,” John said. “The School gives them a real love of learning and helps them see the many opportunities that are out there.” The Kennedys host a dinner every year for their past and present scholars, and they enjoy getting to know the “absolutely incredible” students. “Every one of our scholars has appreciated Blair, done well in school and moved on to great things,” John said. “Our hope is one day they’ll contribute to the dynamism of Blair Academy.”
The Meerwarth Family Scholarship

The Meerwarth Family Scholarship was established by Lurenna M. Meerwarth and her daughter Tracy L. Meerwarth in order to give deserving young people the gift of a Blair education. Mrs. Meerwarth’s late husband, Ralph N. Meerwarth ’50, was a man of great personal warmth and outstanding character who was deeply loyal to the School. The Meerwarths were the major benefactors in the 1991 construction of Tracy Hall, and they provided the funds for the creation of Meerwarth Courtyard in 1994, when the Arch was transformed from a vehicular entryway to a pedestrian gathering place. Mrs. Meerwarth has long believed in the importance of education. She and Tracy hope the recipients of this scholarship will give generously of themselves in every aspect of their lives, making a positive impact on their community and the world.

Kristin Dura, mother of Natalie, Paige, Carly ’04 and Sarah ’06 Pearson, established the Pearson Family Scholarship. She so values the passion for learning and commitment to education Blair instilled in Carly and Sarah that she would like the scholarship to be awarded to young people who embody the same values. She hopes a Blair education and the experience of one family helping another will inspire Pearson Family Scholarship recipients to “lead a meaningful and productive life, making positive contributions to Blair Academy, their community and the world.”

Pearson Family Scholarship

ENDOWED SCHOLARSHIPS ESTABLISHED DURING THE Ever Always CAMPAIGN

The Battelle Brothers Scholarship
The Black-Haase Scholarship
The Alexander F.A. Bodini ’01 Scholarship
The Bolton Family Scholarship
The Dr. Charles H. Breed Scholarship
The Cable Family Scholarship
The Class of 1954 New Horizons Scholarship
The Class of 1966 Scholarship
The Anne V. Clayton Memorial Scholarship
The Clayton Family Scholarship
The Clifford L. & Joan B. Cramer Scholarship
The Carlton C. Durling ’47 Scholarship
The George L. Edwards ’35 Scholarship
The Eu-Schelling Scholarship
The Evans Family Scholarship
The Grauer-Besson Memorial Scholarship
The Barbara Haase Scholarship
The Nate Hayward Diversity Scholarship
The Kennedy Family Scholars Program
The Alfred A. LaFountain ’44 Memorial Scholarship
The Ray J. Mendoza ’87 Memorial Scholarship
The Everett McClintock ’45 Memorial Scholarship
The Roland J. McKinney ’51 Scholarship
The Meerwarth Family Scholarship
The Thomas E. Meyer Family Scholarship
The Moon Family Scholarship
The Pearson Family Scholarship
The Col. (ret.) Ronald E. ’50 & Barbara M. Philipp Scholarship
The Ruelle Family Scholarship
The Kurt W. Socha ’06 Memorial Scholarship
The William R. Timken ’53 Scholarship
Anonymous Scholarship
The Gift of Scholarship at Blair Academy

Throughout our history, scholarship aid has made it possible for thousands of deserving boys and girls to receive a Blair education. In 1869, founder John I. Blair himself paid the tuition of local ministers’ sons, and for many years after that, a portion of the School’s modest endowment was dedicated to scholarship aid. The importance of scholarship aid at Blair is underscored by the fact that the School’s first major endowment gift, made in 1988 by John C. Bogle ’47, established the Bogle Brothers Scholars Program and was designated exclusively for scholarships. Since that time, 128 students have attended Blair as Bogle scholars. Despite Blair’s never having been a “rich” school, it has a rich history of scholarship aid, which has afforded students from many backgrounds the priceless gift of education.

At Blair, all scholarship aid is awarded on the basis of demonstrated financial need. This policy attracts promising young people to the school who might not otherwise be able to attend because of financial limitations. Scholarships are awarded on a competitive basis to qualified students who are truly most deserving of financial assistance. The Blair community is immeasurably enriched by the students of diverse backgrounds who are able to come to the School with the assistance of scholarship aid.

A unique aspect of scholarship aid at Blair is the fact that scholarship recipients are made aware of, and in many cases, come to know, the donors of their scholarships. Rather than a program of anonymous, institutional aid common at many schools, Blair has fostered a tradition of personal relationships between donors and students. Scholarship recipients write to the donor of their scholarship each year, updating them on their studies, activities and plans for the future, and students host their scholarship donor at Blair’s annual Trustee Leadership Dinner. It is considered an honor at Blair to be chosen the recipient of a named scholarship. For many students, it is their first experience of meeting donors and seeing the joy and satisfaction that comes from giving. At Blair, the value of scholarship aid is measured not only in financial terms, but in the importance of the life lessons inherent in the award.

The Clayton Family Scholarship

The Clayton Family Scholarship, established by Blair Trustee Kevin Clayton and his wife, Lisa, will be awarded to promising young people who might not otherwise have the opportunity to attend Blair Academy. “We hope our scholarship recipients take full advantage of all Blair has to offer and that they, in turn, will help others in the Blair community and in society at large,” Kevin remarked. “Scholarships are vital to the present and future success of Blair Academy.” Kevin and Lisa are the parents of Jessica Shupp ’03 and Patrick ’09.

How to Support Scholarship Aid at Blair

➤ Establish a Scholars Program with a gift of $1 million or more.
➤ Establish a Named Scholarship with a gift of $100,000 or more (may be pledged over five years).
➤ Designate your Blair Fund or Capital gift or make a bequest in any amount for scholarship aid.
Temporary Donor Wall Unveiled

*Final Version to be Etched at Campaign’s End*

As construction crews put the finishing touches on Blair’s new Activity and Athletic Center, an important addition was unveiled: the temporary donor recognition wall. Recently installed at the heart of the new facility where the Athletic Center meets the Student Center, the three-foot-by-nine-foot wall already lists the names of nearly 200 donors who have contributed $25,000 or more over the course of the Campaign. These leadership donors have set the pace for *Ever Always*.

The wall currently on display is a temporary piece, representing gifts that were received as of November 1, 2008. At the conclusion of the *Ever Always* Campaign on June 30, 2009, a wall commemorating all Campaign leadership gifts will be etched in glass and permanently installed.

“We are gratified that in spite of the challenging economy, the Blair family continues to respond generously to the needs of the School,” said Director of Development Monie Hardwick. “As of March 1, $47.5 million has been raised toward the Campaign’s $50 million goal. With everyone’s participation, we will reach our final goal by June 30. Please make your Blair Fund gift today, in any amount, and be a part of this historic fundraising effort for the School.”
Making Some Nonsense of It All
The recently formed, student-run Grand Thespian Freedom Organization staged a performance of Eugene Ionesco’s play *The Bald Soprano: Anti Play* in February in Chesnutt Chapel. Written in 1950, this was Eugene Ionesco’s first show in English and was written while he was still in the process of learning the language.

The play—a completely nonsensical comedy about the perception of reality and emotions—describes how nothing in life makes sense and shows that reality and meaning are entirely subjective. The play featured Mr. and Mrs. Smith (played by Dan Kwartler ’11 and Katrina Hefele ’09), Mr. and Mrs. Martin (played by Zach Flaugher ’09 and Ally Cianni ’11), Mary the maid (played by Caitlin Campbell ’10), and the Fire Chief (played by Eric Hedden ’09). The show was organized and co-directed by Matthew Ziff ’09 and Katrina Hefele.

Preppies Play Based on Rags to Riches Premise
The Blair Academy Players performed the musical comedy *Preppies* in February in the DuBois Theatre in Armstrong-Hipkins Center for the Arts. The play’s book is by David Taylor and Carlos Davis; music and lyrics by Gary Portnoy and Judy Hart Angelo. This rarely performed musical’s claim to fame is the fact that its composers wrote the theme to the television show *Cheers*.

The play is based upon a possible rags-to-riches premise: The richest man in the world, Parker Richardson Endicott III (played by Chris St. John ’10) is about to die without an heir for the Endicott Trust (which contains Central Park and Wyoming, among other things), which will pass to his villainous cousins. Endicott draws his lawyer and trusted servants, Joe and Marie Pantry (played by Andrew Singh ’09 and sophomore Grace Weiner ’11) into a plot. He persuades the Pantrys to raise their infant son, Paul, as Parker Richardson Endicott IV, to be known as Cotty (played by Michael Breslin ’09). If he has not been unmasked by his 21st birthday, he may claim the trust. The musical follows Cotty as he makes his way through the schools and social rituals that make a Pantry into a preppy. Standing in Cotty’s way is his nefarious cousin Botsworth Norvil Bogswell III (portrayed by Reed Hillmar ’09). Complicating things is the debutante in the middle, Angelica Livermore Atwater, or Muffy (played by Carter Ford ’09). *Preppies* was student directed by sophomore Abby Salzberg ’11.

Dancers Perform in December
Blair dance students, under the direction of Clarissa Newby Phillips, presented a holiday dance concert in December in the DuBois Theatre of Armstrong-Hipkins Center for the Arts.
Show Biz News

The film *BuzzKill*—directed by Steven Kampmann who co-wrote this independent feature with Matt Smollon—was awarded the People’s Choice Award for Best Feature at the Cape May (N.J.) Film Festival in November. Filmed in New Jersey and California in the summer of 2007, the production stars Daniel Raymont and Darrell Hammond (of *Saturday Night Live* fame) and also features Steven’s wife Judith Kahan Kampmann, director of media studies, as well as Blair librarian Holly Newcomb.

As for Judith, she was invited to attend the Roundabout Theatre Company’s one-night-only gala concert reading of *A Little Night Music* this past January; the 1973 Stephen Sondheim and Hugh Wheeler musical won the Tony Award for Best Musical that year. Judith (then known professionally as Judy Kahan) was in the original Broadway cast of the show in the role of Fredrika Armfeldt.

Music Students Marvel at NYC Venues

Sixty of Blair’s instrumental and vocal music students traveled to New York City in January to visit the New York Philharmonic and tour Lincoln Center. Students heard masterworks by Franz Joseph Haydn and Johannes Brahms, as well as a solo vocal performance by internationally renowned baritone Thomas Quastoff. In addition to seeing this world-class orchestra perform, students toured the facilities at Lincoln Center, including Avery-Fisher Hall, the Metropolitan Opera House, New York State Theatre, the Vivian Beaumont Theatre and Alice Tully Hall.

Steven Agin, a painter and art professor at Kean University, exhibited “New Paintings and Drawings” this winter in the Romano Gallery of Armstrong-Hipkins Center for the Arts. This 24” x 75” oil painting, *Tiger*, was completed in 2008.
**Wrestlers Win 29th Consecutive Prep National Title**

The Bucs left Lehigh’s Stabler Arena with 14 placers, 10 finalists and eight Prep National Champs to capture its 29th Prep National team title. National champions include Adam Hogue ’09, Ed Ruth ’09, Max Huntley ’10, Evan Silver ’11, Austin Ormsbee ’11, Sean Boyle ’09, Mark Grey ’12 and Chris Villalonga ’10. The tournament’s outstanding wrestler was Ed Ruth, who also recorded the most pins in the shortest amount of time.

**Basketball Players & Wrestlers Aid Former Blair Wrestler**

The Buccaneers’ varsity boys’ basketball team, through its Coaches vs. Cancer Showcase, raised over $2,000 to benefit the Adam Frey Fund, set up to aid wrestler Adam Frey ’05 in his battle against cancer. Adam is a wrestler at Cornell University who was diagnosed with germ cell cancer after undergoing a routine CAT scan following a car accident in March 2008. As a college freshman, Frey was the #2 ranked wrestler in America and is a two-time NCAA Division I qualifier for Cornell. While at Blair, he was a junior national champion in 2005.

As in prior years, Blair wrestlers collected “per pin pledges” from the School community during the 2009 National Prep Tournament in February, with proceeds benefitting the American Cancer Society’s Hope Lodge. Adam and his family stayed at New York City’s Hope Lodge during his chemotherapy treatments. The organization has 27 locations across the country providing free housing for cancer patients and their families who often travel far from home.

**Calling Former Players to the Court!**

In January, head basketball coach Joe Mantegna started spreading the word that on Saturday, June 6, of Alumni Weekend, he hopes to gather many of his 81 former letter-winners to play an alumni basketball game in Blair’s new performance gymnasium. He also noted, “It’s my intention to hold a special ceremony that day to raise to the rafters the Blair uniforms of NBA players Luol Deng ’03, Royal Ivey ’00 and Charlie Villanueva ’03 and hang a 1,000 point-scorer banner as well. The day should prove to be a great deal of fun and hopefully bring back a lot of great memories.”

If you happen to be one of Coach Mantegna’s former players, look for more information coming your way. In the meantime, he asks that you let him or Roberto Felipe ’03 know via email or phone if you will attend. Their contact information is as follows:

**Coach**

(908) 362-6121, ext. 5619

(office)

(852) 288-4282 (cell)

mantej@blair.edu

**Roberto Felipe**

(646) 267-4496 (cell)

felipenyc@gmail.com

**Making A Splash**

At press time, head swimming coach Rick Clarke reported that Hayley Anderson ’10 entered two events in the 2009 Eastern Interscholastic Swimming and Diving Championship: “She did her life-time best in both events, breaking the school record in the 100 backstroke with a time of 1:00.0. She missed getting the long-standing 100 freestyle school record by 0.02 seconds. So it was a really good meet for Hayley!” The Easterns event is the largest prep school aquatic competition in the U.S. for men’s and women’s swimming and diving competitions. To view online video of Hayley’s meet, log on to http://www.floswimming.org/videos/coverage/view_video/234664/152177.

**Blair Basketball Beats Hun: Wins First-Ever State Championship Game**

After losing to them earlier in the season, the Blair varsity basketball team defeated the Hun School (53-51) in double overtime, winning the NJ Prep A State Championship Game in February in Blair’s new performance gym. After running the clock down to the last few seconds of the second overtime of the tie championship game, Austin Johnson ’09 missed a shot, which was followed with a rebound and successful basket by Hakeem Harris ’10 with one second remaining.

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**S P O R T S**

Photo by Anna Murphy, New Jersey Herald

For full coverage of the Buccaneers in every sports season, please log on to the Athletics section of the Blair Web site at www.blair.edu

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IN MEMORY OF...

1933

John H. Dempsey. A golfer and scrub wrestler at Blair Academy. Mr. Dempsey graduated from Yale University in 1938. He served as a sergeant in the U.S. Army Signal Corps from 1942-46 in the European theater. Upon his return to civilian life, he earned a master gasfitter’s license and worked for many years for Suburban Gas Propane Corporation in N.J. as a franchise dealer and regional supervisor. He retired in 1976. Mr. Dempsey was a member of American Legion Garvin O’Connell Post 49 in Canaan, Conn., and Veterans of Foreign Wars Adams Budz Post 8183 in Housatonic, Mass. He was predeceased by his wife of 63 years, Ruth Margaret Patterson.

Benjamin Franklin Reinauer II. A force in business, local government, education and civic affairs throughout his life, Mr. Reinauer leaves a legacy of leadership and community involvement. After graduating from Ridgewood High School, Blair Academy and Collegiate School, he earned a bachelor’s degree in economics from the Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, in 1938. He remained involved with Penn throughout his life, representing the university on many occasions. At the time of his death, he was president of the class of 1938 and chairman of the Old Guard (university classes graduated more than 50 years ago). Mr. Reinauer’s educational endeavors included lecturing on global economics and the free market system at universities in China, India, South Africa, Europe and the United States; the 1975 establishment and continued chairmanship of the Foundation for Free Enterprise (Paramus, N.J.), which taught economics to countless high school students and their teachers; the 1985 establishment and continued chairmanship of the Academic Decathlon in New Jersey; and chairmanship of Fairleigh Dickinson University’s board of fellows. He received an honorary doctorate from Kyung Hee University in Korea. Mr. Reinauer served as a U.S. Navy lieutenant (j.g.) in World War II and later became involved in the Naval War College in Newport, R.I., serving as trustee and president of the college’s foundation. He provided a prize each year to the graduating student who wrote the best paper on defense economics. In his long business career, Mr. Reinauer was president of Reinauer Petroleum Company, Reinauer Realty Corporation, Clear Meadow Company, Rainbow Airlines, Codata, Inc., and Ramapo Sand and Gravel Company. He served on the boards of numerous business associations including the Bergen County Chamber of Commerce, the New Jersey Business and Industry Association and the New Jersey Petroleum Council. A Ridgewood, N.J., resident for over 50 years, Mr. Reinauer was predeceased by his wife of 63 years, Ruth Margaret Patterson.

John H. Clark III. January 7, 2009, Louisville, Kentucky


John E. Stem. January 23, 2009, Millford, New Jersey

Leonard M. Byan. October 13, 2008, West Yarmouth, Massachusetts

J. Kenneth Looloian. November 22, 2008, Mountainside, New Jersey

Andrew C. Colando Sr. December 26, 2008, Hollywood, Florida

Daniel J. Gayton. July 14, 2008, Pacific Palisades, California

Richard B. Seals. September 25, 2008, Zephyrhills, Florida

Albert Vogt Baumann III. October 29, 2008, Fremont, Ohio


John H. Van Kirk. February 25, 2009, Vero Beach, Florida


Lloyd George Van Syckle. October 19, 2008, Branchville, New Jersey

Frederick Christian Berg Jr. October 13, 2008, Georgetown, Maryland

Joseph A. Manda II. October 29, 2008, Basking Ridge, New Jersey


Fred J. Boekhout. May 7, 2008, Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida


Donald C. Bain Jr. December 7, 2008, South Lake Tahoe, California


Anthony Nervine Jr. December 9, 2008, Chester, New Jersey

W. Trumpnaker. September 12, 2008, Mountville, Pennsylvania

Albert I. Supplee Jr. October 31, 2008, Orlando, Florida


Robert D. Frank. January 28, 2009, Atlanta, Georgia

Douglas S. Robertson. October 6, 2008, Chester, New Jersey

Andrew S. Rockwell. October 24, 2008, Mayo, Maryland

Rebecca L. Lambert. December 30, 2008, Royersford, Pennsylvania

Shawn D. Mulrooney. March 5, 2009, Greensboro, North Carolina (full obituary will appear in the summer issue)

Former Faculty

Michael D. Bois. December 10, 2008, Port Charlotte, Florida

Anthony Jerome Farmer. October 4, 2008, St. Louis, Missouri

Frederic F. Guyott III. June 13, 2008, Wilmington, Delaware

Former Faculty

Chester H. Wagner. December 11, 2008, Southampton, Pennsylvania

Friend

Edith DePuy. October 30, 2008, Bridgewater, New Jersey (former housekeeper of Sharpe House)
elected a commissioner in 1954 and served as mayor from 1960-63. In 1998, he was one of four founders of “Celebration! Benjamin Franklin, Founder!” in Philadelphia. He served as the organization’s chairman from 1998-2007 and received the Franklin Bowl in 2006. Mr. Reinauer’s wife of 58 years, Patricia, predeceased him in 1998. He is survived by a son and two daughters, two grandchildren and a great-grandson.

1937

John H. Clark III. A varsity football, basketball and baseball player, Mr. Clark was “no doubt one of the best-liked boys at Blair,” according to the 1937 ACTA. He continued his football career at both Williams College and Colorado College, where he played, as he put it, “just well enough to be offered an unsolicited contract with the old Brooklyn Dodgers NFL franchise for $140 a game.” Mr. Clark was unable to capitalize on this offer because he was drafted into the Army Corps of Engineers in 1942. He served for three-and-a-half years, attaining the rank of first lieutenant by the end of World War II. In 1947, Mr. Clark earned a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering at the University of Kentucky and began a long career with Hazzelet & Erdal Consulting Engineers. The firm specialized in highway and bridge design, and their projects included the award-winning Sherman Minton and Kennedy Bridges in Louisville and design work for portions of Interstates 64 and 65 and the Kentucky Turnpike. Mr. Clark retired in 1987 as chairman and CEO. Throughout his career, Mr. Clark was affiliated with numerous civic and professional boards, clubs and organizations, including the Louisville Jefferson County Planning and Zoning Commission and the American Consulting Engineers Council. He was predeceased by his wife of almost 65 years, Suzanne; survivors include his children Craig, John IV ’66, and Philip; 10 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

1938

Robert N. Chambers. Mr. Chambers was a loyal Blair alumnus and a graduate of Duke University. While at Blair, he was a mainstay of the track team, and the 1938 ACTA notes that he was “one of the finest pole vaulters in the state.” A regional director of benefit sales, he retired in 1974. Later in life, he deeply enjoyed playing the piano and organ, especially the music of Berlin, Gershwin, Porter and Kern and their contemporaries. Mr. Chambers is survived by his loving wife, Norma, and their daughter, Vickie Sewell.

John E. Stem. Mr. Stem was the president of Stem Brothers, Inc., the oil company that he founded with his brother, Doug, in 1946. Under the Stem family leadership, the company grew from a single Gulf gasoline station in Millford, N.J., to encompass a full-service heating oil and propane distributorship, three gas stations and eight Shammy Shine Car Wash facilities. Mr. Stem served in the U.S. Army Signal Corps in World War II. Among his many affiliations, he was a member of the First United Church of Christ in Millford, Milford Lions Club, N.J. Fuel Merchants Association and Hunterdon Fuel Dealers Association. He enjoyed golf, boating and travel and was a loyal member of Blair’s class of 1938, serving as class representative from 1969-70. Predeceased by his beloved wife, Jewell, and a son, David, he is survived by his children, Judith Dils, H. Craig Stem ’71, and Richard Stem, eleven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

1939

Leonard M. Byan. A top player on Blair’s 1939 championship golf team, Mr. Byan enjoyed sports throughout his life, particularly golf and Giants football. He attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and served as a chief radioman in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Mr. Byan owned and operated a liquor shop for many years in White Plains, N.Y. He and his wife, Phyllis, retired to Centerville, Mass., in 1984. Mr. Byan was predeceased by Phyllis and their son, Michael. He is survived by his daughter Ronnie Byan Polansky, his husband, Laurence, and a grandson, Jay.

J. Kenneth Looloian. In the 1939 ACTA, Mr. Looloian is described as a “true Blair boy who came in the fall of 1935 as a freshman and hopped into extracurricular activities at once.” A member of the press club and band for four years, he also served on the ACTA and Breeze boards and managed the varsity soccer team. Mr. Looloian matriculated at Princeton University, graduating in 1943 with an AB degree in economics. He served two years in the U.S. Navy, then began a long career with American Telephone and Telegraph and New Jersey Bell. According to a June 1990 article in Changing Times, Mr. Looloian had a “career track record of developing innovative services and products.” As AT&T’s head of planning in 1960, he and his team revolutionized the use of toll-free 800 numbers by making them more reliable and lower in cost. He also helped to combine the Western Electric engineering arm, the Bell Labs research division and AT&T’s technological-standards-setting division into Bell Communications Research. Mr. Looloian retired from AT&T in 1986 as a senior executive in finance but continued to work as a financial consultant. He served on the board of directors of Bally Total Fitness Holding Corporation and was executive vice president of DiGiorgio Corporation. Mr. Looloian is survived by his sons, Bruce and John Jr., and four grandchildren.

1940

Andrew C. Colanda Sr. Dr. Colanda graduated from Lodi High School and Blair Academy. His lifelong involvement with the horse racing industry began when he raced trotters at Yankees Raceway as a high school student and continued as he trained horses owned by his father, J.J. Colanda. After graduating from the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine, Dr. Colanda practiced equine veterinary medicine for 30 years. He was a founding board member of the American Association of Equine Practitioners and served on the board of the Horsemens’ Benevolent and Protective Association. Dr. Colanda returned to horse training in 1980, this time as an owner, and he loved going to the track early every morning to be among his lifelong friends. His wife of 58 years, Irene, their three children and their spouses, and four grandchildren survive him.

Daniel J. Gayton. Mr. Gayton received a commission in the U.S. Naval Reserves from Notre Dame’s Midshipman’s School in 1944. He completed Supply Corps training and served two years in the Asiatic-Pacific and American theaters, earning several ribbons in addition to the Victory Medal. Mr. Gayton worked for Merrill Lynch in Princeton, N.J. He remained loyal to Blair Academy throughout his life.

1942

Albert Vogt Baumann III. A native of Fremont, Ohio, Mr. Baumann graduated from Fremont Ross High School in 1941 and Blair Academy in 1942, earning varsity letters in swimming at both schools. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force in 1943 and became a member of the 385th Bombardment Group, completing 30 combat missions over Germany in a B-17. As a result of his meritorious service, he earned the Distinguished Flying Cross, six Air Medals and a Purple Heart. After World War II, Mr. Baumann completed his education at The Ohio State University, where he earned varsity letters in shot put and discus. In 1956, he became a Chevrolet franchise dealer and, together with his son, Buck, eventually acquired six dealerships in the Fremont area. A generous and well-respected member of the business community, Mr. Baumann contributed to numerous civic projects. He served on the boards of Bank One and Memorial Hospital and was affiliated with the First Presbyterian Church, Fremont Country Club, Catawba Island Club and Fremont Elks. Mr. Baumann is survived by his wife of 62 years, Dorothy; his son and daughter-in-law; and two grandchildren.
Richard G. Binder. Following his graduation from Steelton High School, Mr. Binder attended Blair Academy, where he was a member of the varsity football, wrestling and track teams. He served in the U.S. Navy for 33 months during World War II, stationed in the South Pacific. Mr. Binder graduated from Gettysburg College in 1949 and then completed a course of study at Bliss Electrical School before beginning a long career with Bethlehem Steel Company. He was a member of the Steelton American Legion Post 420 and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 710. Mr. Binder stayed connected to Blair throughout his life and loved to follow Blair wrestling. He was preceded in death by his brother, William G. Binder Jr. ’39, and his sister, Marjorie Binder Culp.

James S. Skinner. A standout student at Blair Academy, Dr. Skinner was on the honor roll, played varsity basketball, was the goalie of the varsity soccer team, served on the Blue and White Key cabinet, was vice president of the International Society and was the pianist for both the glee club and choir. He matriculated at Ursinus College and the University of Pennsylvania School of Dental Medicine and served as a lieutenant in the Dental Corps of the U.S. Naval Reserve. In 1951, Dr. Skinner established an oral surgery practice in Ardmore, Pa., serving on the staffs of Presbyterian Hospital and Havertford Community Hospital. During his 35-year career, he was president of the Pennsylvania Dental Society and an officer in the National Dental Society. He was devoted to his community; serving as president of the Havriton High School Home and School Association, trustee and treasurer of the Harriton High School Home and School Association, trustee and treasurer of the Gladwyne Fire Company and president of the Optimist Club of Ardmore. Upon his retirement in 1986, Dr. Skinner became an advocate of KenCrest Centers, which supports the handicapped and disabled. He was recognized with a Community of Leaders award for his invaluable contribution of time and talent to the KenCrest Centers board. Dr. Skinner and his wife, Peg, raised their family in Gladwyne, Pa. Both of Scottish descent, they were members of the Valley Forge Pipe and Drum Band for 20 years—Dr. Skinner was the drum major while Peg was a bagpiper. A lifelong sports enthusiast, Dr. Skinner played volleyball several times a week at the Main Line YMCA and was a former Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association volleyball referee. Dr. Skinner’s daughter, Barbara, said that her father had the “fondest memories of his Blair days,” and he maintained his ties to the school by returning for reunions. A truly loving and devoted husband, father and grandfather, Dr. Skinner is survived by his wife of 59 years, Peg; four children, Barbara, Bruce, Craig and Brian; and four grandchildren.

1943

W. Donald Stewart. A proud member of the class of ’43, Mr. Stewart won a Blair swimming scholarship and later credited the school for his life’s success. Upon graduation, he served in the U.S. Navy landing craft infantry for three years. He was awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for rescuing a shipmate who had fallen overboard and, 33 years after the fact, was awarded a Purple Heart for injuries sustained in the Okinawa invasion. Mr. Stewart graduated from Rutgers University in 1951 and began a distinguished career at the FBI. As an FBI agent, he was assigned to the Los Angeles, Chicago and Washington field offices before advancing to FBI headquarters, where he was an espionage supervisor. He continued at the Pentagon as chief investigator for the Directorate for Inspection Services until his retirement in 1975. Mr. Stewart then established Stewart Security Services in Johnstown, Pa., providing security expertise to various companies until 2001. Mr. Stewart cherished his connection to Blair, returning for reunions and other events, and was a featured Skeptics series speaker in 1999. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Valeria.

Lloyd George Van Syckle. Mr. Van Syckle was a class representative and loyal member of Blair’s class of ’43. He enlisted in the Navy upon graduation from Blair, serving two years in the Asiatic-Pacific theater and earning several service commendations. He continued his education at Princeton University, Stevens Institute of Technology and the Army War College. He had a 37-year career in the federal service as both an electrical engineer specializing in munitions and a military intelligence officer. He retired from Picatinny Arsenal in Rockaway, N.J., having earned the Army R&D Award and two New York state military commendation medals. Throughout his life, Mr. Van Syckle maintained a keen interest in Dutch and Scot heraldry, performing extensive genealogical research and serving as a trustee of the Holland Society of N.Y. He was received in the Hall of Knights by the Dutch government and attended the knighting of two to the Order of the Thistle. His numerous affiliations included the Association of Former Intelligence Officers; the Masonic League; the Army Navy Club of Washington, D.C.; the Nassau Club of Princeton; the First Presbyterian Church of Sussex, where he served as clerk of session for 18 years; the N.J. State Fire Police Association, where he served as president; and the St. Nicholas Society, where he also served as president. In addition, he was a colonel in the Veteran Corps of Artillery, firing the Battery Park cannons for many years. Mr. Van Syckle and his wife, Anna, opened The Blue Vase Antique Shop in Andover, N.J., in 1963, and his love of history and genealogy kept him deeply involved in the business. In 2007, he donated two prized books about Blair from his personal collection to the Blair Academy library. Preceded in death by his wife, Mr. Van Syckle’s survivors include his son, Lloyd G. Van Syckle II ’82, two daughters, Eloïse Margaret and Georgiana; and five grandchildren.

1944

Frederick Christian Berg Jr. A 1946 graduate of the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, Mr. Berg continued his studies at Stevens Institute of Technology, earning a degree in marine transportation. He established the Berg Towing Company, a tug and barge business operating on the Delaware River and Chesapeake Bay, and enjoyed a long career as an owner and captain in the tugboat industry. A member of the Heritage Ship Guild, he helped sail a tall ship from Lisbon to Philadelphia. After retiring in 2001, Mr. Berg enjoyed frequent visits from his children and grandchildren. He also spent time boating on the Sassafras River and Chesapeake Bay. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Constance Clevenger Berg.

Joseph A. Manda II. A football player at Blair Academy, Mr. Manda served in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II. He taught horticulture at Bergen County VoTech in N.J. and was a commercial grower of orchids. Mr. Manda was predeceased by his wife, Caroline, and is survived by his son, Dr. Joseph A. Manda III.

1945

Baldwin L. Groser. The 1945 ACTA describes Mr. Groser as “a mainstay on the swimming team,” specializing in the 220-yard freestyle. Nicknamed “Baldy,” he was also a member of the Blue & White Key cabinet. Mr. Groser worked for many years at a General Motors dealership in New York City, where he supervised the leasing, repair and sales of a large fleet of vehicles. He served as president of the National Automotive Fleet Administration. Mr. Groser was the beloved husband of Virginia; father of Courtney, Barbara and Douglas; and grandfather of three.

1947

Sheridan G. Carr. Mr. Carr attended Blair Academy for his senior year and matriculated at The Ohio State University. He served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War, retiring from the Naval Reserve as a commander in 1988. Mr. Carr worked for Standard Brands for 20 years prior to being named executive vice president of E. Hasselman Jr.
Food Brokerage. He represented the Spangler Candy Company in Ohio for many years. Mr. Carr’s survivors include his wife of 54 years, Jeannette; three sons and their spouses; and nine grandchildren.

1948

Henry E. Oram. Mr. Oram proudly served in the Army Air Corps from 1945 to 1947 before coming to Blair. According to the 1948 ACTA, he was a “boy with a mathematical brain” who could often be found “tinkering with his car or anything mechanical.” He parlayed his mathematical skill into a career as a licensed professional engineer, earning a degree in civil engineering from Lafayette College. A lifetime member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, Mr. Oram worked for CNJ and Conrail railroads from 1952 until his retirement in 1988. He enjoyed spending time with his family, gardening, and assembling and fixing things. Predeceased by his wife, Mary, he is survived by their three children and four grandchildren.

1950

Donald C. Bain Jr. A member of the student council, choir and glee club at Blair Academy, Mr. Bain was stationed in the United Kingdom during his 1951-53 U.S. Army service. He enjoyed a long career as an insurance adjustor, working for Selected Risks Insurance Company in New Jersey and State Farm Insurance Company in California. Mr. Bain’s wife, Doris Pearl Bain, predeceased him in 2007. He is survived by their son, Elin John Bain, and his wife, Vickie, and four siblings, including Thomas J. Bain ’49.

Henry A. Hamid. A loyal member of the class of 1950, Mr. Hamid “always, always spoke very fondly” of Blair, according to his daughter, Debra Hamid-Zygmont. Mr. Hamid graduated from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute with a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering. He held several high level management positions during his varied career, including CEO of National Sugar Corporation and general manager of a 24-hotel chain that included the St. Regis, Gotham and McAlpin Hotels in New York City. As general manager of GAC Corporation, a national theatrical management agency which owns the Hamid-Morton Circus, he was instrumental in booking the Beatles at the Atlantic City Convention Hall in the early 1960s. Mr. Hamid served on the board of directors of the NYC Hotel Association and also worked as a real estate investor and management consultant. Beloved husband of Carolyn Hamid, he is survived by his wife, daughters Debra Hamid-Zygmont and Pamela Sotherland, and three grandchildren.

1951

Gregory W. Knowles. As a student at Blair, Mr. Knowles was involved in wrestling, tennis, the camera club and the dramatics club. He graduated from the Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth College and earned a master’s degree in communications from Boston University. Mr. Knowles traveled around the world producing documentaries and worked in biomedical communications for both St. Luke’s-Roosevelt Hospital and Columbia-Presbyterian Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Mercedes B. Ducayen-Knowles.

1952

Anthony Nervine Jr. A U.S. Navy veteran and successful businessman, Mr. Nervine owned a real estate investment company and owned and operated the Barber Shop at Far Hills for many years. Passionate about music, he was a member of Blair’s band and dance band, and he later formed the Tony Nervine Orchestra, a 17-piece jazz band. Upon Mr. Nervine’s death, Finn M.W. Caspersen, co-chairman of the board of trustees of The Peddie School and former CEO of Beneficial Corporation, wrote to Headmaster Chan Hardwick saying, “Tony was a political force in Far Hills and my barber for decades…Many a day we discussed the Peddie-Blair (or Blair-Peddie as he put it) rivalry. He loved his alma mater. I will greatly miss him as will countless others.” Mr. Nervine’s survivors include his wife, Mary Lynn; son and daughter-in-law, Michael and Lisa; and granddaughter, Morgan.

1955

Albert I. Supplee Jr. Mr. Supplee attended Blair for his postgraduate year and continued his education at Lehigh University and Mitchell College in New London, Conn. He served in the U.S. Army, stationed at a base near Frankfurt, Germany, then had a successful career as a sales representative for electrical manufacturers including Westinghouse Electric and Phillips Electric.

1957

Jan E. Ray. Mr. Ray was a member of the JV football and JV wrestling teams at Blair. A graduate of Muhlenberg College, he taught English at Walkill Valley Regional High School in Hamburg, N.J., for many years until his retirement in 1999. Mr. Ray was a member of the Lafayette Federated Church and served on the Lafayette Board of Education. Predeceased by his wife, Mabel, in 2004, he is survived by his children Jon, Kimberly, Kathy and Rene and four grandchildren.

1960

Henry L. Plummer V. Mr. Plummer was a member of the varsity track and cross-country teams at Blair, as well as a member of the choir, glee club and French club. A Navy veteran, he studied optometry at Duke University. Mr. Plummer is survived by several cousins.

1961

Robert D. Frank. Mr. Frank was a leader of his class at Blair, serving as student council president and managing both the varsity tennis and swim teams. After graduating from the honors program at the University of Georgia, he joined IBM as a systems engineer. He spent 23 years with IBM in various positions then worked for Dell for a short time before becoming an independent technology consultant. Mr. Frank is survived by his loving wife, Nancy, children Lindy and Davis, daughter-in-law Christina and two grandchildren.

1967

Andrew S. Rockwell. A Chicago native, Mr. Rockwell will be remembered for his lifelong passion for Chicago sports teams as well as his sense of humor, his generosity and high energy, and his love of animals, gardening and travel. His activities at Blair included French club, choir, glee club and library council chairman. A graduate of Washington and Lee University, he was a successful entrepreneur, founding Rockwell Personnel in New York City. He later pursued a career in the home security industry, working as a sales executive for ADT. Mr. Rockwell’s survivors include three loving brothers as well as a niece and nephew.
In Memoriam: John H. Van Kirk ’42, Former Trustee

A devoted member of the Class of ’42, Mr. Van Kirk maintained close ties to Blair throughout his life. He served as a Trustee from 1989-95 and generously supported the School. Two of Mr. Van Kirk’s children, John R. Van Kirk ’70 and James H. Van Kirk ’73, attended Blair, as did five of his grandchildren, Che de Bruin ’93, Joshua Van Kirk ’95, Rebecca (Van Kirk) Gruber ’97, Samantha (Van Kirk) Sintros ’99 and Carly Gale ’06. While a Blair student, Mr. Van Kirk served as class secretary and was a member of the student council, Breeze, ACTA and other organizations.

He graduated from Yale University in 1947 and served three years in the Marine Corps. After a distinguished career, he retired in 2006 as managing trustee of North European Oil Royalty Trust. He had served as president of the trust’s predecessor corporation, North European Oil Company, since its formation in 1957. Mr. Van Kirk was predeceased by his wife of 64 years, Ruth, in October 2008. His survivors include five children, eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

1984

Rebecca L. Lambert. At Blair Academy, Ms. Lambert excelled at sports and academics. Holly Ennist Stewart ’84 said, “You know she was just about the shyest person I ever met, and she totally blossomed at Blair. She would absolutely have us in stitches sometimes. Her humor was so subtle and dry but it packed a punch.” Ms. Lambert pursued her passion for painting following graduation, attending the Maryland Institute of Art and Pratt Institute of Art. Later, she earned a bachelor’s degree from Kutztown University, an MBA from Allentown College and a post-MBA certificate in management from St. Joseph’s University. She was the director of corporate treasury for SunGard Data Systems in Royersford, Pa.

Ms. Lambert loved spending time outdoors. From 1999 to 2001, she completed three five-person, 32-mile races that included biking, running, swimming, hiking and canoeing. Surviving Ms. Lambert are her parents; her son, Matthew Mc Ardle; and her brother and sister.

Former Faculty

Michael D. Bois. Born in London, England, Mr. Bois immigrated to the United States in 1937. He began his college career at Princeton University in 1944 but interrupted his studies from 1945-48 for service as an intelligence officer in the British and Indian armies. Upon his return to civilian life, he completed his degree at Princeton, worked for the National Cash Register Company for five years, and then embarked on a career in education. Mr. Bois was a member of Blair’s faculty from 1957-64. “One of several true scholars on the faculty,” according to Jim Rowbotham ’61, Mr. Bois served as a housemaster, an English and medieval history teacher, a swimming coach, director of student activities and director of admissions. Mr. Bois continued teaching at The Lawrenceville School and Deerfield Academy, where he was a member of the history department for 30 years. Photography and travel were two of his greatest loves, and he led many trips to India and the Far East for Deerfield students. During his lifetime, he visited every continent except Antarctica. Mr. Bois is survived by a stepsister and many longtime friends.

Frederic F. Guyott III. The Reverend Guyott was a 1971 graduate of the University of Pennsylvania. He worked for several years in the securities industry before attending Episcopal Divinity School in Cambridge, Mass., receiving his MDiv in 1993. Ordained at the Cathedral Church of Saviour in Philadelphia, he was associated with the University of Pennsylvania and Drexel University for several years. He also served as an associate priest at the Episcopal Church of Saints Andrew and Matthew in Wilmington, Del., and as rector of St. John’s Church in Salem, N.J. A Blair faculty member from 1998-99, The Reverend Guyott remained a loyal Blair supporter throughout his life. His survivors include his mother and siblings.

Chester H. Wagner. Mr. Wagner joined the Blair Academy faculty following his graduation from Dickinson College in 1935. He taught French and English and coached wrestling and tennis. According to the Blair wrestling Web page, “…a wrestler said of him when he first came to Blair that, ‘Coach Wagner didn’t know much about wrestling, but he was one swell guy.’ Indeed, it was this endearing aspect of his persona that allowed Coach Wagner to build an impeccable rapport with the athletes and gain their respect as an unpretentious and successful leader. Wagner coached John ‘Benny’ Fodera ’38, the first-ever Blair national prep champion, as well as eight other national champions. Coach Wagner developed an immense appreciation for the sport and quickly became quite knowledgeable.” In the spring of 1942, Mr. Wagner was called to active duty in the U.S. Army. He reported to Aberdeen Proving Ground in Maryland and then served in the Western Pacific Command with the 356th Medium Maintenance Ordnance Company on the island of Tinian for the duration of World War II. He returned to Blair for two years before receiving an appointment to the faculty of The Lawrenceville School, where he remained until his retirement in 1979. Mr. Wagner studied abroad extensively and was a group leader for The Experiment in International Living, an organization that originated the concept of home stays as an educational tool. A truly dedicated teacher, he kept in close contact with many of his former Blair students and avidly followed the wrestling program throughout his life.

1984

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ALUMNI EVENTS

Bucs and Pucks Make Great Companions
Blair’s annual alumni hockey game took place in January at Chillout Sports Arena in Hackettstown, N.J., followed by a postgame reception at Charlie Brown’s Steakhouse.

Award recipients: Toshi Matsuo – Best Looking; Greg Sozek – Most Improved; Dan Kraines – Best Goalie; Corey Minerva – MVP

Lynda and Mike McDonald; Matt Pruznick and girlfriend, Yolanda

Brothers Jon and Jeff Liegner
Toshi Matsuo and Dennis Peachey
Derek Peachey and Scott McKee
This just in...Breaking news from Blair Academy.

There's still time to participate in the Ever Always Campaign!

50% of all Blair alumni have already contributed.

Your participation provides for the Programs, the Places, and the People that make the Blair experience.

Your Blair Fund gift is your Campaign gift. Give before June 30!

Participation is what matters...hmmm...I could give something.
Join us for a Gala Celebration!

SATURDAY

June 6, 2009

Cocktails ~ Dinner ~ Dancing

As Blair celebrates the closing of the Ever Always Campaign