The 2011-2016 Blair Strategic Plan
Snakes in the Glass
Tim Fite '95
Linocut 9” × 11” 2011
Alumni Show: Contemporary Artists
May 16–June 11 – The Romano Gallery
Building on Strength

The 2011–2016 Blair Strategic Plan—the result of a two-year collaborative process undertaken with the assistance of alumni, parents, faculty and students—is summarized here, including news of a challenge grant to raise $1 million for faculty housing.

Turning Winter White Into Greener Savings

Blair’s participation in this year’s Green Schools Alliance Green Cup Challenge resulted in a substantial savings of electricity. New electrical meters installed in each of the dorms aided the effort by providing weekly, daily and hourly usage reports.

Words From the Young and Wise

In what has become an annual January event, the weekly Society of Skeptics series welcomed a panel of young alumni eager to discuss their careers and impart life’s lessons to current Blair students. Read what they had to say about their challenges and success to date.

Peddie Day 2010

Blair rejoiced in victory on Peddie Day in November, storming the football field to congratulate the Bucs. Assistant Headmaster David Low, who is retiring after a 32-year tenure, was recognized by Peddie, while Headmaster Chan Hardwick praised this peer school for its competitiveness, spirit and success.
The spirit of Peddie Day prevailed as the Bucs won additional athletic titles this past winter. At right, faculty children are a special part of the Blair community; read more about faculty families on page 16. Cover photo by David W. Coulter; photo at right by Bruce Cramer.
Scott Fitzgerald wrote—and I paraphrase—the mark of a great mind is the ability to hold two opposing ideas at the same time and still move forward successfully. Perhaps a collateral notion of that assertion is the capacity to accept the uncertainty and unpredictability of life, yet act with conviction and confidence. This spring presents a good example of both ideas: Will the Middle East turmoil lead to better relations with the Islamic world or not? Will the breathtaking devastation of the earthquake in Japan halt nuclear power as a viable alternative to fossil-fuel energy or not? In these first months of 2011, things that seemed reliable and predictable—the stability of most Middle Eastern nations and the strength of the world’s third largest economy—now seem uncertain and complex. But isn’t the world always like that? And isn’t that the world about which we must educate our children?

The first months of 2011 at Blair—the middle period of our calendar-straddling school year—have been positive and eventful. After some good news in early college admissions, early decision round two also went well, and we now await the final April word on the Class of 2011. Our athletic teams enjoyed unusual success, with both girls’ and boys’ basketball teams winning state championships and our wrestlers winning the National Preps and finishing second in the nation. (A new book on the history and success of Blair wrestling, The Standard of Excellence, was written by past Blair parent David Ritterpusch and has been well received.) The community enjoyed two theatrical productions, including a superb musical, The Drowsy Chaperone (see photo above), which marked veteran faculty member Craig Evans’ 50th play at Blair. The math team was successful in regional competition and individually won for best in age group.

All this activity occurred during an unusually cold, snowy winter in New Jersey that left mounds of snow lining campus walkways even as we departed for spring break. So, despite whatever was going on outside our Blair world, we seemed to be living an ordered, predictable life, each day structured with purposeful involvement in the classroom and in focused activities and outcomes, with the confident expectation that the coming days and weeks ahead would, in most ways, resemble what had gone on before.

This description of Blair life is not the life our graduates will find as they leave us for the world beyond. College life is increasingly wide open, both socially and educationally. A recent study by an Ivy League university indicated that independent school students are better prepared to manage the maze of choices and challenges they face today in college, a world of academic bureaucracy poised against seemingly complete social freedom. In four critical areas of student preparation—writing, self advocacy, living in a diverse, global community, and time management—Independent school students (and I would argue especially boarding school students) display greater capability than other students. The critical skill of effective time management is most predictive of successful students, and at Blair we work constantly to instill that discipline in our graduates. In the end, however, all those abilities must be subordinate to the intellectual force of moving forward in a complex and contradictory world.

Finally, Blair must move forward, too. This issue of the Bulletin outlines the new strategic plan, Building on Strength, that was approved in January by the Board of Trustees. While ambitious in scope, the plan also addresses the important task of supporting the values and culture integral to providing a superior education within a student-focused school community. Most importantly, Blair needs to underscore the reality of our academic strength, confirmed again and again by our successful college outcomes. As you can imagine, there will be more on these subjects in the months and years ahead. For now I want you to know that Blair, too, has a clear path ahead to hold our own in this challenging world.—T. Chandler Hardwick
Dear Members of the Blair Community,

On behalf of the entire Board of Trustees, we thank the many alumni, parents, faculty members and students who have taken part in the two-year, collaborative process that has resulted in the 2011–2016 Blair Strategic Plan: Building on Strength.

One needs only to look at the unified sense of community achieved in Blair’s new pedestrian campus to understand the power of institutional strategic planning. Our new campus was the vision of Blair’s master planner, Lo-Yi Chan, in 1993. Its completion in 2010 marks the final step in bringing that ambitious plan to fruition.

Today we look forward again. We do so recognizing that the culture, community and preparation offered by Blair are rare in today’s world, where there are few boarding schools and even fewer that possess Blair’s historic campus and buildings or its faculty’s extraordinary commitment to young people.

The strategic plan, summarized on the following pages, clearly articulates Blair’s core values. It aims to preserve and build on those values and to identify the specific initiatives and goals that must be fulfilled to propel Blair forward. There is little doubt that, as great as the School’s progress has been in recent years, the momentum and potential exist for Blair to become one of the best-known and most well-respected boarding schools in the nation.

With great appreciation to the large number of you who participated in the planning process and also to those who will help to make this plan a reality,

James P. Jenkins ’66  
Chairman of the Blair Board of Trustees

Stephanie M. Bennett-Smith P ’86  
Donald H. Mc Cree, Jr. ’54  
David D. Wakefield ’48  
Trustee Chairs of the Strategic Planning Committee
THE SEVEN PRINCIPLES: OUR STRATEGIC FOUNDATION

While strategies can change and adapt, it is the immutable core values that define mission and guide the course of an institution. The Seven Principles were created early during the planning process in 2010 to articulate the essential values that define Blair.

The Headmaster, Trustees and faculty are unified in their conviction that it is Blair’s unwavering commitment to being a school where each child is individually known, taught and mentored that distinguishes and defines our community and our academic preparation. Accordingly, the Seven Principles identify and preserve that which is most strategic and important in building for the future.

Seven Principles That Define A Blair Education

We KNOW our students.
Blair faculty members are not only experts in their subject areas, they are also highly knowledgeable about individual students. Knowing our students is a priority at Blair. To that end, the entire faculty meets five times a year to discuss each student’s progress; faculty members are active in the dorm—not in their apartments—every evening; and each student is guided by two faculty members, an assigned academic monitor and an advisor of his or her own choosing. We believe that boarding school is not college and that even the brightest, most independent 14-to-18-year-olds do best when they are among adults who know them well, focus on their development and mentor them.

Community is the hallmark of this School.
Students learn what they live. Blair daily life is rich with challenges and opportunities—both in and out of the classroom. We embrace a talented and diverse student body each year and build a dynamic community to which students remain connected long after graduation. Engaging classrooms, student-led school meetings, leadership opportunities and learning to work together on athletic teams and in the arts all help students become independent, responsible and confident young adults.
Superior academic preparation is the heart of the Blair experience.

We consider a student’s academic commitment his or her most important responsibility. At Blair, students learn to read closely, think clearly, analyze quantitatively, communicate effectively and broaden their understanding of the world. The “open architecture” of the curriculum allows students to find the appropriate level of challenge in their courses. Teachers set high standards but are generous with their time and support. Founded on academic honor, a Blair education fosters intellectual initiative and persistence; its ultimate aim is to create a life-long love of learning.

Beyond self is happiness.

Adolescence is a time of intense self-absorption, but Blair compels students to look beyond themselves through engagement in community life, service to others and the responsibilities of leadership. Blair’s traditions of school meetings, chapel and vespers, along with daily conversations in classrooms and dormitories, embrace the moral issues in the world today and in students’ personal lives. As a community, we focus deliberately on the development of the skills and values that lead away from preoccupation with self to adult lives of purpose. At Blair, integrity, responsibility and respect for others are the three essential values that shape community life.

School size matters. Residential matters.

If our knowledge of students is what distinguishes us as a school, then size of school is critical. Personal knowledge of individual students is possible only in a community small enough for genuine relationships. Yet providing a variety of programs and diversity of student experiences requires a certain breadth and scale. At Blair, we believe that being a mid-size, residential school allows us to achieve both goals. We are committed to being a “boarding school” and offering our day students the same experience as boarding students.

Communicate, communicate, communicate.

At the heart of any successful human enterprise is frequent, open and thoughtful communication. We believe we work best with students when we partner and communicate well with parents. We also seek to communicate effectively with students, alumni and each other as colleagues. Equally important, we expect students to learn to communicate and advocate for themselves. Only through purposeful, effective communication is progress possible.

Outcomes are important.

The Blair experience provides students many opportunities to achieve excellence and learn to become their “best” selves. Yet the Blair experience and a Blair diploma are never ends in themselves. Blair expects worthwhile accomplishment in life. We expect students to prepare for and attend a college or university that will further their intellectual and personal development. And with Blair as a foundation, graduates are ready—when called upon—to serve and lead.

These seven principles are the basis of an exceptional school community. We know that parents and teachers must work together. We understand that a healthy student culture must be passed from older to younger students. We depend upon collegiality within our faculty. And we believe that the learning that takes place between a great teacher and a willing student is one of the most powerful influences in the life of a young person.
PHILOSOPHY AND PROCESS:

Aligning The Plan With Blair’s Seven Principles

It was clear from the beginning that this plan required a different framework and focus than previous plans. The uncertainty of today’s economy called for a shorter time frame; the completion of our major building projects allowed for a sharper focus on Blair’s values and vision; and the desire for clearer goals and greater accountability led to the adoption of a more dynamic planning model.

This process has called upon the entire Blair community to engage in planning for Blair’s future. The Trustees and faculty evaluated Blair’s current programs, strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats even before the formal process began. Three subcommittees, made up of over 30 individuals, then addressed specific areas identified as essential during the planning process. It was the early and unanimous opinion of the committee that this strategic plan should seek to enhance Blair’s national and international visibility and competitive posture.

Formally adopted by the Board of Trustees in October 2010, the Seven Principles became the foundation for strategic decision making during the planning process. The following summary provides an overview of the 2011–2016 recommended initiatives and goals. An expanded plan, with specific implementation goals and timetables for internal use, will be regularly reviewed and monitored by the Board of Trustees.

The 2011–2016 Strategic Plan: Five Essential Initiatives

The Trustees and planning committee worked to identify the strategic priorities that are critical to achieving our goals for the future. These initiatives, together with the Seven Principles, will guide the School’s work in the years to come:

1. Advance Blair’s Name and Reputation
2. Ensure Superior Educational Preparation
3. Support and Strengthen Blair’s Faculty
4. Secure Blair’s Financial Sustainability
5. Develop Leadership Now and for the Future

We recognize that all five initiatives are interdependent; that is, the successful achievement of one requires the successful achievement of the others.
COMMUNICATE. COMMUNICATE. COMMUNICATE.

INITIATIVE ONE:
Advance Blair’s Name and Reputation

The Trustees identified raising Blair’s profile as an essential and unifying strategic initiative necessary to move Blair forward over the next five years. We must deliberately work to promote Blair’s name so that our reputation as a powerful community, providing superior academic preparation, is more broadly understood in the educational world. The Seven Principles articulate the values and educational philosophy that define Blair, and we must effectively communicate that identity in seeking to enhance Blair’s name and academic reputation.

This initiative calls for an effort that is both comprehensive and linked—from admission to advancement—and that extends to all communities: prospective families, current students and their parents, faculty, alumni and the world at large.

WE WILL ADVANCE OUR NAME AND REPUTATION BY:

- Expanding and enhancing the effectiveness of our communication and outreach to prospective families, alumni and the general public.
- Annually increasing the pool and yield of qualified and compelling candidates seeking admission.
- Developing a plan to upgrade the school’s entrances and landscaping in order to create a positive first impression for all who visit Blair.
SUPERIOR ACADEMIC PREPARATION IS THE HEART OF THE BLAIR EXPERIENCE.

INITIATIVE TWO: Ensure Superior Educational Preparation

As a school distinguished by its faculty’s commitment to knowing each and every student well, Blair infuses this knowledge into all aspects of the academic program. The critical student-faculty relationship, together with intellectual energy, professional values and effective communication, remain the core of Blair’s ability to deliver an academic experience of the highest quality.

The goals of this strategic plan focus on enhancing our ability to prepare students academically for the 21st century by defining standards, improving practices and programs, and strengthening academic leadership. Additionally, the plan calls for increased efforts to make the best strategic and educational use of the School’s 450-acre campus.

WE WILL ENSURE SUPERIOR EDUCATIONAL PREPARATION BY:

- More clearly defining “Superior and Effective Academic Preparation” among the faculty and identifying the corresponding student outcomes we wish to achieve.
- Identifying, attracting and retaining the most qualified faculty possible.
- Enhancing Blair’s College Counseling process to improve students’ college choices.
- Ensuring that Blair’s athletic and extracurricular offerings align with the seven principles.
- Providing competitive and up-to-date lab and classroom space to support Blair’s science program.
- Effectively utilizing various forms of technology to support Blair’s academic and residential programs and its administrative management.
- Planning for and stewarding Blair’s land and campus.
WE KNOW OUR STUDENTS.

INITIATIVE THREE:
Support and Strengthen Blair’s Faculty

Without question, outstanding teachers are Blair’s most valuable asset. A student’s experience at Blair is a direct reflection of the quality of the educators who teach, coach, mentor and live with students each day.

This initiative focuses squarely on efforts to attract, develop and retain the best faculty and to provide them with the resources and professional support they need to do their jobs effectively. Furthermore, this initiative calls for providing teachers with quality dormitory housing, which the faculty identified as a priority in supporting the residential life of the school.

WE WILL SUPPORT AND STRENGTHEN BLAIR’S FACULTY BY:

- CONTINUING TO RAISE BLAIR’S TOTAL COMPENSATION (WHICH INCLUDES BENEFITS), STRATEGICALLY DEPLOYING THOSE RESOURCES AND HELPING FACULTY MEMBERS TO PLAN AND PREPARE FOR RETIREMENT.

- PROVIDING BLAIR TEACHERS WITH QUALITY HOUSING, COMMENSURATE TO THEIR AGE AND FAMILY NEEDS, IN ORDER TO ATTRACT SUPERIOR TEACHING CANDIDATES AND RETAIN THE BEST “BOARDING SCHOOL” TEACHERS IN DORMITORIES.
OUTCOMES ARE IMPORTANT.

INITIATIVE FOUR: Secure Blair’s Financial Sustainability

Historically, Blair came late to the important task of fundraising. Those who are familiar with Blair’s 160-year history know that until the 1970s the School possessed virtually no endowment—largely because it was governed by Presbyterian ministers lacking the resources to provide significant financial support. Now that is changed. While we are still “catching up” financially to our better-endowed peers, Blair is more solidly grounded than ever before.

This initiative calls for targeted efforts to secure Blair’s financial foundation, providing the resources that will sustain Blair now and in the future. Foremost among these efforts is strengthening the School’s advancement program in order to build annual giving in the short term while increasing endowment for the long term. We also aim to minimize campus energy costs by pursuing renewable resources and other energy efficiency measures.

WE WILL SECURE BLAIR’S FINANCIAL STRENGTH AND SUSTAINABILITY BY:

- Increasing new gifts for endowment support. ($12 million by 2016, $25 million by 2025, with higher goals if we embark on a capital campaign.)
- Raising Blair’s annual giving program 6% each year to over $3 million by 2016.
- Securing new gifts—rather than acquiring debt—for any additional building needs over the next five years.
- Minimizing energy costs by utilizing renewable energy resources and pursuing energy efficiency measures.
- Encouraging environmentally sound practices within the community and making greater use of the energy program as an educational tool.
COMMUNITY IS THE HALLMARK OF THIS SCHOOL.

INITIATIVE FIVE:
Develop Leadership Now and For The Future

If this Strategic Plan calls for us to build on our strengths, then it is vital to articulate, fortify and preserve our school culture as defined by the Seven Principles. We must do this in a school of leaders committed to these principles and in an organization that is well-structured and broadly capable.

This plan prescribes a series of ongoing practices to ensure an organizational structure that facilitates, develops and supports strategic leadership at Blair—and that allows for strong and effective leadership transitions in the future.

WE WILL DEVELOP LEADERSHIP NOW AND FOR THE FUTURE BY:

- EXECUTING AN EFFECTIVE TRANSITION IN THE STUDENT AFFAIRS OFFICE.
- PLANNING FOR CHANGE AND TRAINING NEW LEADERS.
- STRENGTHENING THE ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE TO ENSURE THAT IT SUPPORTS BLAIR’S GOAL OF BEING A STUDENT-FOCUSED SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY.
A Few Words FROM THE HEADMASTER

This new strategic plan has drawn upon the expertise and involvement of a wide range of individuals within the larger School community, and because it is designed to be a dynamic, evolving plan for Blair’s future, it will continue to expedite and focus our work. Trustees Don McCree ’54, Dave Wakefield ’48 and Stephanie Bennett-Smith PP ’86 did an outstanding job leading the planning committee. I would like to extend my special thanks to Stephanie Rogen and Ralph Jerome PP ’02 ’04, from whose expertise and guidance we benefitted extensively during the planning process. Similarly, I am happy to acknowledge Monie for her indefatigable effort and superb judgment in coordinating this planning process.

A few words about implementation: even the best-designed strategic plans fail to achieve their desired results unless the same careful planning, allocation of resources and processes for accountability are brought to the implementation process as were employed in creating the plan itself. When I first arrived at Blair in the summer of 1989, a strategic process had just been completed, and while the process itself had merit, frankly the plan did not speak to the realities we were facing. Thus, the 1989 document ended up in my desk drawer. Conversely, the 2001 Ever Always strategic plan was an action plan for the School that led to the successful decade just completed. I assure you this new strategic plan will not see the bottom of my desk drawer either. In January, the Trustees charged Assistant Headmaster Jim Frick and Monie with overseeing implementation in the coming months, a certainty in my opinion that Building on Strength will, indeed, lead to fruitful results.

The Seven Principles conclude with the following affirmation: “We believe that the learning that takes place between a great teacher and a willing student is one of the most powerful influences in the life of a young person.” Therefore, as a community, we must commit ourselves to providing the resources and leadership necessary to sustain and strengthen that vision of a Blair education. I pledge myself to that goal.

T. Chandler Hardwick
Headmaster
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Donald H. McCree, Jr. ’54
David D. Wakefield ’48

COORDINATOR
Monie T. Hardwick

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Dave Schmitt, administrator
W. Rod Gerdsen, faculty
Mary P. Lunger, faculty

R. Latta Browse, faculty
Stacey A. Spring ’95, faculty

Strategic Planning Committee Members
INITIATIVE THREE LAUNCHED:

Blair Receives Challenge Grant to Raise $1 Million for Faculty Housing

The Headmaster’s announcement that a generous Blair family has launched funding for the Strategic Plan’s dormitory housing initiative was met with applause and enthusiasm by the entire faculty at their winter term meeting. The long-awaited improvements to Blair’s dormitory housing will begin this summer as the first group of apartments is renovated to meet contemporary expectations for apartment living.

During the strategic planning process, nearly everyone involved in determining how to strengthen school life voiced the belief that attracting and keeping the best faculty possible was essential to sustaining Blair’s culture. When the Trustees looked more closely at how to accomplish that goal, faculty housing—especially dormitory housing—came to the forefront as one of the most tangible and meaningful ways to enhance the lives of Blair’s teachers and their students.

There is no doubt that the heart of the Blair experience is the close relationship between students and teachers. As alumni and parents recognize, it is often the pat on the shoulder, the checking on a student before bedtime, the “kitchen-table counseling” and, yes, the constant reminders about good manners and cleaning your room that lead to the ever-more-responsible, mature and thoughtful young adult who develops by the end of a Blair career.

Most of Blair’s dormitories were built when schoolmasters were single men and the living was Spartan. Over the years, the School has worked to upgrade faculty housing, but the original dormitory apartments are small, the wiring and plumbing basic (many dorm apartments still lack laundry facilities), and amenities lacking. As families moved into dorms, the need to create attractive, flexible living space became pressing.

The Blair family who initiated this project met with the Headmaster several times during the strategic planning process to determine where their gift might have the biggest impact in fulfilling the strategic initiatives. “We saw what the teachers at Blair do for young people every day, and we wanted to support their work in the most direct way possible. We believe that a transformation in dormitory housing—done now and done well, not piecemeal or over a decade—will do the most to improve faculty and student life at Blair.” Their gift will make it possible for Blair to launch work on Initiative Three of the Strategic Plan: “To provide Blair teachers with quality housing commensurate to their age and family needs and to retain the best boarding school teachers in dormitories.”

The family’s gift is a challenge to the Blair community: Raise $500,000 to enhance faculty dormitory apartments and finish the work within three summers. The family will match, dollar-for-dollar, all gifts received before December 31, 2011, until a total of $1 million is reached. It’s hard to imagine a better challenge or a more positive impact!

Jim Frick, Blair’s assistant headmaster, is already working with a local master craftsman and a respected builder, consulting with faculty members and drawing up plans for the seven dormitory apartments to be renovated this summer. “It’s a complicated process moving people and all they own out of their
The family’s gift is a challenge to the Blair community: Raise $500,000 to enhance faculty dormitory apartments and finish the work within three summers. The family will match, dollar-for-dollar, all gifts received before December 31, 2011, until a total of $1 million is reached. It’s hard to imagine a better challenge or a more positive impact!

If you are interested in improving dormitory housing for Blair’s teachers AND having your gift matched, dollar-for-dollar, please contact Susan Habermann, director of capital giving, habers@blair.edu or 908-362-6121 ext. 5653.

SPOTLIGHT ON DORM PARENTS

ROD GERDSEN
Honors biology and marine science teacher, winter intramurals and boys’ JV tennis coach

- Housemaster of East Hall for seven years with wife, Cassie, and children, Kate and Jack

“We love being surrounded by family, and the boys in the dorm become our family not only for the school year but forever. Our two kids have 56 big brothers to look up to and admire, while the students watch out for them every day. Thursday night BBQs, late night pancakes with the prefects, ice cream sundaes and a movie in the lounge on Saturday night...these are all things we love to do with our boys! We are their home away from home, their parents while here at School, and we are indeed fortunate to be here at Blair running East Hall.”

ROY WILSON
AP and honors physics teacher; football and track coach

- Dorm faculty in Mason Hall for two years

“I love living in the dorm, and I really enjoy the connections I make with the men of Mason. I believe some of the most important aspects of their Blair education happen in the dorm, and I truly respect and appreciate the role I play in the process.”

HEATHER ECKERT
Director of financial aid and associate dean of admission; head coach, girls’ track; assistant coach, girls’ cross country

MIKE ECKERT
History department chairman; AP U.S. history and western civilization teacher; boys’ JV lacrosse coach

- Housemasters of Annie Hall for four years

“Running Annie Hall is one of our most rewarding roles at Blair. We enjoy working with and learning from the girls. We appreciate the opportunity to play a formative role in their personal growth and character development, knowing that the relationships forged with the girls continue beyond their time at Blair. With each new school year, we look forward to opening our home to the junior girls of the Blair community as they make Annie their home away from home.”
London “Bridge” to Cultural Exchange

In January, history teacher and alum Stacey Spring ’95, along with Kelsey Vella ’11, traveled to London, where they spent nearly a week as part of a cultural exchange project in conjunction with the 2012 Olympic Games taking place there. Luol Deng ’03, who plays for the Chicago Bulls, will captain the British Olympic basketball team; hence, Blair was chosen to attend the exchange.

The Express-Times featured news of Stacey and Kelsey’s trip in its January 23 edition. Reporter Steve Novak penned the following:

It was short notice, but Kelsey Vella couldn’t turn the offer down. Vella, an 18-year-old Blair Academy senior, and Stacey Spring, a teacher at the private school in Blairstown Township, were part of a contingent of Americans sent earlier this month for a cultural exchange project in preparation for the London 2012 Olympic Games. Spring applied for the trip to visit Blair’s partner school, the Tomlinscote School and Sixth Form College, in Surrey, England. Once she learned the trip was a go, she had to quickly find a student to go with her.

She picked Vella, a good student who, as the school’s tennis captain, wouldn’t miss any winter sports. “I called her and told her she had 24 hours to get back to me on if she wanted to go to London for five days,” Spring said. “I didn’t know why I was going, but I said it’s London, so why not?” said Vella, of Vernon Township, N.J. Her parents agreed, she said, because “it’s an experience that might never come again.”

Spring and Vella met with students and faculty from schools around the world, part of the BBC and British Council’s World Olympic Dreams project...The project is continuing, with the paired schools following Olympic athletes while comparing cultural ideas and experiences. Each pairing will produce a video to be featured on the BBC’s website, and some potentially during the Olympic broadcasts, according to a news release. Schools in England had to compete for
a spot in the program, but Blair Academy was chosen to participate because one of its alumni is a prominent British athlete whom both Blair and Tomlinscote will be following in the run-up to the summer 2012 games.

Sudan-born Luol Deng, a 2003 Blair graduate, is a small forward for the Chicago Bulls and a member of Great Britain’s national basketball team. Another school Deng attended, St. Mary’s Catholic High School in Croydon, England, is also part of the Olympic Dreams Project. The only other American schools participating are Olympic gymnast Shawn Johnson’s elementary, junior high and high schools in Iowa.

During their five days in London—paid for by the BBC—Spring and Vella got to know students and faculty at their partner school. Tomlinscote is a suburban school southwest of London serving 1,700 students ages 11 to 18, they said. Vella described the scene between classes as “chaotic” due to the number of students there. She also was not used to having 30 students in a class seated in rows. At Blair, class sizes are about a dozen and students sit at a table, she said.

Spring said it became clear, even in talks with those from schools in Kosovo and Kenya, that there are “more similarities than differences.” “It was people with a mindset of sharing and working to be mindful of the world,” Spring said. The video that Blair and Tomlinscote representatives hope to craft will demonstrate a cross-Atlantic partnership. The schools must also come up with continuing projects to foster a connection, such as periodic video conferences, or, if they can arrange it, some of the British students visiting Blairstown Township. The first idea is for each school to send a box of 10 items chosen by students and faculty to represent the institutions. Some items already considered for inclusion include a school necktie and wrestling headgear.
Society of Skeptics: Weekly Series Wields Powerful Punch

Nancy Hendrie, M.D., founder and president of the Sharing Foundation, Cambodia, was a featured Society of Skeptics speaker in October. Dr. Hendrie’s topic for the evening was “Growing Up Poor in Cambodia.” The Sharing Foundation’s mission is to help meet the physical, emotional, educational and medical needs of orphaned and seriously disadvantaged children in Cambodia. The organization’s goal is to help prevent some of the problems associated with poverty by developing, in consultation with Cambodian community leaders, programs to improve the health and welfare of these children and their families.

Alex Gallo ’96, an instructor for the U.S. Military Academy and West Point graduate, returned to campus again as a Skeptics speaker in November. His topic for the evening was “A Survey of Domestic Terrorism Plots in the United States.”

Marjorie Valbrun, an award-winning journalist, was the featured Society of Skeptics speaker in conjunction with the School’s observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Her other areas of expertise include Latin America and the Caribbean—especially Haiti, where she was born and has reported from extensively. During her program at Blair, she spoke about race relations in the Obama era from the perspective of young people; she notes that “young voters were among the most energized during the presidential campaign and were influential in getting their hesitant parents to vote for Obama.”

Ms. Valbrun’s opinion articles have appeared in The Washington Post, Newsweek, The Baltimore Sun and Newsday. She has worked as a national correspondent for The Wall Street Journal, an editorial writer for The Baltimore Sun, an urban affairs reporter for The Philadelphia Inquirer and as a general assignment reporter and foreign correspondent for The Miami Herald.

Later in January, Doug Bandow, a senior fellow specializing in foreign policy and civil liberties at the Cato Institute, was a featured Skeptics speaker. His topic for the evening was “The Mosque at Ground Zero Controversy.” Bandow, who holds a J.D. from Stanford University, worked as special assistant to President Reagan and editor of the political
magazine Inquiry. He writes regularly for leading publications such as Fortune magazine, National Interest, The Wall Street Journal and The Washington Times. Author of Foreign Follies: America’s New Global Empire, he speaks frequently at academic conferences, on college campuses and to business groups. He has been a regular commentator on ABC, CBS, NBC, CNN, Fox News Channel and MSNBC.

The Cato Institute is a public policy research organization (a think tank) dedicated to the principles of individual liberty, limited government, free markets and peace. Its scholars and analysts conduct independent, nonpartisan research on a wide range of policy issues. Founded in 1977, the institute owes its name to Cato’s Letters, a series of essays published in 18th-century England that presented a vision of society free from excessive government power. Those essays inspired the architects of the American Revolution.

Dr. Brian Voynick (parent of Cole ’11) was a Skeptics speaker in February. He discussed his career as a veterinarian and, more specifically, adipose derived stem cell therapy. For the past six years, Dr. Voynick has implemented this revolutionary treatment on animals to rebuild tissue and reduce inflammation. He notes that stem cell therapy is one of the largest growing points of interest in the medical community and will have a considerable impact on human medicine in the near future.

A subset of the Skeptics series, the Herman Hollerith Lecture on Innovation and Entrepreneurship took place in January as featured guest Judy McGrath, chairman and CEO of MTV Networks, spoke about “The Creation of MTV.” According to the MTV website, “McGrath has been the chairman and CEO of MTV Networks since July of 2004. In this role, she oversees the management and operation of MTV Networks’ more than 145 channels and more than 300 websites, which reach more than 510 million households worldwide in more than 160 countries and in 32 languages. A member of the MTV family since its first days, McGrath subsequently moved up the ranks.” She is on the board of the New York City Ballet, the McCarton School and Rock the Vote, and serves on the advisory board of LifeBeat. In 2003, she was named Humanitarian of the Year by the T.J. Martell Foundation.

Arthur F. Schlobohm IV ’92, known to his classmates as Ty, presented the 2011 James Youngelson ’53 Lecture on Ethics and Responsibility. A whistleblower who wore a wire for the F.B.I. to help convict a fund manager conducting a Ponzi scheme, Ty was the focus of a New York Times article in October of last year (see In the News section of Fall 2010 Bulletin.) This lecture series, established in April 2009 by Mr. Youngelson’s sister and late brother-in-law, Joan and Jonah Sherman, honors alumnus Jim Youngelson ’53—an attorney and former president of the Morris County (N.J.) Bar Association—for his service to others and seeks to inspire in young people the ideals of justice, responsibility and service.
Math Students Compete at Princeton
Winter Contests Test Math Mettle

Mathematics department chairman Latta Browse reports that eight members of Blair’s math team postponed their Thanksgiving vacations to enter an elite competition sponsored by PUMaC, Princeton University’s undergraduate math club. He explains, “On Saturday morning, November 20, Blair participated in the more competitive A division, with each member taking two separate one-hour tests individually before coming together as a team for a group competition. John Kang, JangWon Lim, Melody Shao, Jason Zhang, San Tripathi, Nuoya Li and Yuan Li acquitted themselves well, while Phil Kamtue showed his mettle by advancing to the afternoon’s final round.”

PUMaC is a mathematics competition for high school level students organized by the students of Princeton University and entirely student-run. More recently, Latta Browse was pleased to report on a number of student achievements during various math contests this winter. In mid-February, 33 students took part in the fifth round of the New Jersey Math League competition. Blair earned 28 out of a possible 30 points. The week after that, 12 students took the American Mathematics Contest (AMC) sponsored by the University of Nebraska. Annie An, Angelina Guan, Melody Shao, Kent Zhang, JangWon Lim, Phil Kamtue, Yeojin Park, Yuan Li, San Tripathi, Joahn Kang, Haeyoon Chung and Nuoya Li tested their skills. Those in the top five percent advanced to the second round, the American Invitational Mathematics Examination (AIME) in March.

Latta was also pleased to note that Phil Kamtue competed in a math contest at Lehigh University on March 5, just as most student were leaving for spring vacation. He finished first in his age group, fifth overall out of 360 competitors.

Sharing Strategies & Philosophies

Tim Devaney, chairman of the foreign language department, reports that he and members of his department traveled to the Dwight-Englewood School in November. While there, they visited French and Spanish classes and met with their counterparts to discuss different language-teaching philosophies and strategies. In addition, they met with Alan Brown ’98, a Fulbright Scholar and participant in last year’s Young Alumni Skeptics program at Blair. Alan is dean of student life at Dwight-Englewood.

“Alan recalled with nostalgia his many roles in language short films while here at Blair,” said Tim. “He feels, in retrospect, that perhaps he should have received French credit for his work!”

Alan Brown ’98
In October, students in Rob Merrifield’s environmental science classes, along with those in Blair Buck’s AP biology classes, traveled on an annual field trip to Island Beach State Park in New Jersey. While there, they divided into three groups to collect animal specimens on the beach with marine science teacher Rod Gerdsen, walked across the barrier island with Rob as he pointed out the changes and adaptations in vegetation from the dunes through the maritime forest, and then seined for specimens in the bay with Blair.

Members of Rod’s marine science class spent the Long Winter Weekend in the Turks and Caicos, a small island nation just south of the Bahamas. Rod has coordinated and led similar trips over the last five years. He reports, “Each year, my students snorkel their way across reefs and paddle through mangroves, discovering new ocean creatures wherever they go. This year was no different, as they were able to assist with an effort to re-populate an area of mangroves—a salt-tolerant plant used as a nursery for young marine life and as an erosion buffer for nearby beaches.” Rod added that the class returned to the Turks this year after going to the Cayman Islands over the last two years. “I like to compare the change in the environment (both marine and terrestrial) due to tourism development and economic expansion,” he said. “In the past, my students have recorded types of fish and the relative numbers of fish, so they are able to make comparisons from year to year. This exercise allows them to draw conclusions on the perilous state of the environment.”

Students Participate in Model UN

A group of Blair students and history teachers participated in the Columbia Model United Nations Conference and Exposition (CMUNCE) at Columbia University in New York City from January 13–16. The conference is an annual four-day international affairs event for high school students. CMUNCE is known for its original committees, intense crisis simulations, and focus on introducing its delegates to both Columbia and New York City. Blair’s contingent enjoyed the sights of New York in addition to participating in a number of activities. Photos are courtesy of Kyung-Min Kim ’13.

Later in January, another group of teachers and students attended the Ivy League Model United Nations Conference (ILMUNC) in Philadelphia. Hosted by the University of Pennsylvania, this event included roughly 2,200 students from around the world who participate in a weekend of debate and hands-on learning in the heart of the City of Brotherly Love.
Imagine 40 “green ninjas” taking on the task of greening up the dorms of Blair and you’ll have a sense of how a serious subject like this year’s Green Schools Alliance Green Cup Challenge—when approached with a bit of levity—resulted in a substantial savings of electricity.

Science teacher Rob Merrifield, advisor to the School’s Earthshine environmental club and co-chair of its Sustainability Committee, reported on the success of the challenge, which ran from January 21 through February 18. Blair was one of 127 schools participating from around the country. “Our team of 40 ‘ninjas’—all Blair students, of course—encouraged boarders to turn off lights and computers and to unplug chargers when not in use,” Rob said. “Additionally, we replaced about 160 light bulbs with CFLs in five dorms, as well as in the Headmaster’s and admission offices. Earthshine members also designed and sold T-shirts emblazoned with a green ninja and light saber to emphasize the saver theme.”

Perhaps of larger import and new this year are electrical meters installed in each of the dorms that provide weekly, daily and hourly usage reports. Rob explained, “These reports can be accessed online and have already proven to be quite informative. What we’ve quickly discovered, however, is that each dorm has its own unique electronic ‘footprint,’ making it a bit difficult to compare dorms fairly. At the midpoint of the challenge, nine of the 10 dorms had reduced their electrical usage by five percent or more. Hopefully, that reduction will continue for the remainder of the year.”

As Rob noted, the dorms do differ and so cannot be totally compared in an “apple-to-apples” fashion. Nevertheless, the new meters, recommended by science teacher Chris Cogswell, still provide plenty of useful data, especially to facility management personnel. Jim Frick, assistant headmaster for finance and operations, is pleased to note the benefits. “The detailed data we have gleaned allows us to measure our electricity use during peak and off-peak hours. In fact, we hope to install more meters throughout campus, starting with Bogle Hall and Hardwick Hall,” said Jim. He also indicated that more “green” projects are in the works, including the installation of solar panels on Hardwick Hall in the coming months. (Details will be reported in a future Bulletin.) —M.M.

For more information on the Green Schools Alliance Green Cup Challenge, log onto www.greenschoolsalliance.org
How Will You Create Your Legacy at Blair?

Retirement planning requires creative thinking, especially when your goals include providing for both the people you love and the institutions you hold dear. Establishing a charitable gift annuity at Blair is one way to accomplish these goals: the annuity provides lifelong fixed income with significant tax advantages, and the gift provides for the future of the School. In addition, you forge a tangible connection to Blair that is renewed with each quarterly check and gain the satisfaction of knowing you have made a contribution that helps Blair fulfill its educational mission.

What is a charitable gift annuity?
A charitable gift annuity (CGA) is a contract between Blair Academy and a donor that guarantees a fixed quarterly income to one or two individuals for their lifetime in exchange for a gift of cash or securities.

What are the advantages of CGAs?
- Security: CGA beneficiaries are guaranteed a fixed quarterly income for life, secured by a reserve fund backed by the assets of Blair Academy and established in accordance with New Jersey law.
- Higher payout rates: CGA interest rates may be higher than those currently available on CDs and other traditional income-producing investments.
- Significant tax benefits: Because part of the gift is treated as a charitable contribution, the donor receives an immediate income tax deduction. If long-term capital-gain property is used to fund the gift annuity, then part of that gain also avoids taxation.

How soon can I start receiving income from a Blair CGA?
You can set up your CGA to begin payments immediately, or you can defer payments to a future date. Deferred charitable annuities are particularly advantageous to younger donors since they can take the tax deduction in the year the gift is given and receive income at the time of their choosing. The longer the payout is deferred, the higher the rate of return.

How can I establish a CGA?
With a gift of at least $10,000, a donor may establish a CGA at Blair with little work on his or her part. The School provides an uncomplicated contract to set up the annuity with rates of return determined by the age of the recipients and recommended by the American Council on Gift Annuities.

For more information, contact Susan K. Habermann, director of capital giving, at (908) 362-6121 ext. 5653 or log onto www.blair.edu/Giving

“Establishing a CGA was very easy to do. This is a great way to give something to Blair and get something back.” —John Hatfield ’56
WORDS FROM THE YOUNG &
“WE’VE BEEN THERE & DONE THAT”

Each January, the winter skies above Blair brighten as the Society of Skeptics series welcomes a panel of young alumni eager and willing to discuss their careers and impart life’s lessons to current Blair students. As history teacher Dr. Marty Miller (moderator and director of the weekly Skeptics series) announced to the crowd of students that evening, “Our young alumni come back to campus each year. They are here for you tonight, but they are also here for us, your teachers. They reinvigorate our lives and keep us going.” —Melanie McMahon
EMMANUEL “E” BELLO ’04
Analyst, Financial Institutions Group,
USB Investment Bank

EDUCATION
University of North Carolina/Chapel Hill,
B.A. in economics

CAREER CHALLENGES AND REWARDS
The most important thing I realized about my
chosen career is that I’m defined by the relationships
I make. I have to show that I am trustworthy if I’m
to successfully help our clients.

BLAIR’S IMPACT ON HIS LIFE
While I was at Blair, I worked hard to get good
grades—I was a Bogle Scholar—and be a valuable
member of the community. During my first semester
at college, I had a bit of a swagger and took a lot
of classes because I felt so prepared after being
at Blair. I ran track, too. But it turned out to be a
disaster because it was all so much tougher than
I expected. So I stopped and asked myself what
lessons I had learned at Blair and then applied them
in the next semester. I advise you to think of your
new environment when you first get to college and
figure out how to apply the Blair lessons you learned
to your new life there. Eventually, I made friends
with members of various administrative offices,
participated in activities that added value to the
college community, and furthered my intellectual
pursuits—all things I had learned to do at Blair.

WORDS OF ADVICE
I was boring, yes, a “script” guy, but I worked hard
and could demonstrate a record of success on my
resumé. I also showed that I could be passionate.
Passionate people are charismatic, so people want
to be around them. Seek out opportunities based on
your passion. Seek out those who can mentor you
in regard to that passion. And network. You never
know when those relationships will help you.

“STRESS-BUSTER”
I work with New York City youth; it’s my cure for
beating stress—to share others’ aspirations, hopes
and dreams.
EDUCATION
Boston University, B.S. in psychology

CAREER CHALLENGES AND REWARDS
I work with 20–30 mentally ill women. As a 20-year-old, I wondered how they would take to me. I had to be an authority figure but also show my human side. Early on, one of the women I worked with cried when I asked her how her day was; later I found that I was the only person she would talk to. That made me realize that this was the work I wanted to do; I wanted to be that person who cared. The most rewarding part of my job is seeing someone move on with her life. One woman wanted to become a U.S. citizen and did; I attended her citizenship ceremony. Now she calls me every day to tell me she is paying her rent, making dinner for herself, and so on. My work is challenging on an emotional level but also very rewarding.

BLAIR’S IMPACT ON HER LIFE
As a day student, I was a bit of an “outsider” compared to those students who boarded at Blair, so I had to find my passion here. In my junior year, I found my niche in photography and play productions. That’s where I found my happiness.

WORDS OF ADVICE
I think you need to accept the fact that you don’t always have control over what happens in life. When I was in Mr. Amerman’s psychology class at Blair, I planned that I would be a psychology major and get my doctorate in the subject. But then at Boston University, I volunteered at a homeless shelter sponsored by Father Bill’s and MainSpring, and my plans changed. My other advice is to learn patience.

“STRESS-BUSTER”
You have to learn to step back. It’s important to know where to emotionally invest yourself. I take advantage of the team that I work with; it helps to vent with my co-workers. And video games are a great way to beat stress!
EDUCATION
Kenyon College, B.A. with a major in economics and minor in studio art

CAREER CHALLENGES AND REWARDS
I majored in economics, but in light of the job market, I decided to pursue sports, something else I always enjoyed (field hockey and softball). It is like a dream come true to work at ESPN! I’m really lucky to be where I am; I’m still blown away by ESPN’s resources. I’m always analyzing what our audience likes and doesn’t like. I work hard to make our sports programming better.

BLAIR’S IMPACT ON HER LIFE
I tried never to take my classes and academics resources for granted. I have a deep appreciation for all my coaches, as we were part of a team and a cause. Blair offered a great support system that was not there in college.

WORDS OF ADVICE
I applied to a lot of good colleges, and I feel that each would have been fine for me. I decided to embrace where I was and take advantage of the opportunities there. You should take advantage of all your opportunities at Blair right now. In terms of a career, I always worked hard and did a lot of things to build up my resumé. So set yourself apart from the rest of the job-seekers. Join a club, read the newspaper, start a blog, travel. I worked at Dairy Queen and lots of other unglamorous jobs that meant I had to get up early on weekends. And as others here have said, networking and building relationships can definitely lead to jobs. Then, don’t be afraid to make yourself heard; bring up new ideas to your boss and your co-workers.

“STRESS-BUSTER”
I try to remember that I have to take everything in stride. It helps to be thankful, to realize that I don’t have it as bad as some less fortunate people.
EDUCATION
Whitman College, B.A. in rhetoric and film studies

CAREER CHALLENGES AND REWARDS
You have to quickly adapt and become an expert on subjects you never knew anything about before. For instance, working on *Mr. Popper’s Penguins*, we had to ask many questions and then educate ourselves to get the job done. Shall we use real or mechanical penguins? If we use real, what do they eat? What temperature do they like?

BLAIR’S IMPACT ON HIS LIFE
Enrolling at Blair was one of the best decisions I’ve ever made. It was a huge privilege to be here. When I was a student, I made a film called “Gus Grigsby’s Day at Blair” (log on to www.blair.edu, then “Blair Videos On-line” to view), and that sparked my interest in my current career. I attended a liberal arts college where I also did filmmaking. I would probably not have had the opportunities I had if I had not come to Blair.

WORDS OF ADVICE
Take leaps of faith and make the best of a given situation. You will discover that there are moments when you can prove yourself and advance your reputation. Work hard. Take the work ethic you learned at Blair into the rest of your life.

“STRESS-BUSTER”
Working in this industry, we appreciate the moments of absurdity that are causing our stress; that’s the kick of a job in the film world. We don’t take things personally; we move on. After all, they call it show business, not show friends. My other advice for beating stress is to exercise; go to the gym or take a run.
In the News

Ed Sabol ’36 Elected to Pro Football Hall of Fame

Ed Sabol ’36 was the only non-player elected to the Pro Football Hall of Fame over Super Bowl weekend this past February, thus becoming only the 19th elected in the “contributor” category. USA Today and other major media carried news of Ed’s election. He will be inducted on August 6, 2011, with his own bronze bust residing alongside others recognized for accomplishments as players, coaches or contributors at the hall located in Canton, Ohio. Ed convinced the NFL that it needed its own motion picture company, leading to the establishment of NFL Films in 1964.

The USA Today article by Gary Mihoces, entitled, “NFL Films’ Ed Sabol Chronicled the Game as Hall of Fame Peers Played,” began, “When six players are inducted next summer into the Pro Football Hall of Fame, highlights of their deeds will be delivered with dramatic Hollywood flair by NFL Films. Ed Sabol, 94-year-old founder of the film enterprise that changed the way people looked at the NFL, will be inducted, too. In the early 1960s, Sabol was a former overcoat salesman with a passion for football and making home movies when he partnered with the NFL to record its sights and sounds. Now living in Scottsdale, Ariz., he was among those voted Saturday into the Hall of Fame’s Class of 2011.”

Princeton Poet Performs With “The Boss”

A January 23 New York Times article, “Aspiring Singer Finds Mentors Behind Ivy League Walls,” featured Anthony D’Amato ’06, a 2010 Princeton graduate who shared the stage with Bruce Springsteen at a Light of Day benefit concert in January. Writer Tammy La Gorce wrote, “Some aspiring singer/songwriters trying to jump-start their careers send demos to record label executives. Anthony D’Amato followed a more original script: As a student at Princeton University, he slipped a hand-burned CD of his music under the office door of the poet Paul Muldoon, who teaches at the university. “I wanted to get better, and I knew he was somebody who could help me get better,” said Anthony.

The article added, “Professor Muldoon, 55, won the Pulitzer Prize for poetry in 2003, and he is chairman of the Peter B. Lewis Center for the Arts at Princeton. Starting in 2009, Mr. D’Amato, then a Princeton junior, met with Professor Muldoon every few weeks to pore over drafts of Mr. D’Amato’s songs, which he started writing as a high school student at Blair Academy in Blairstown.”

Anthony received a musical performance certificate from Princeton, where he graduated with a major in English and American studies. “Down Wires,” his third CD, was recorded last spring in his dorm room; it made its debut in October 2010 at No. 29 on iTunes’ Top 200 Singer/Songwriter chart. In late November 2010, he was named American Songwriter magazine’s Songwriter of the Week, and his song “My Father’s Son,” from “Down Wires,” was featured as National Public Radio’s Song of the Day [in January 2011].
**Investment Sense & Sensibility**

The October 20, 2010, edition of *Investment News* included an article by Jeff Benjamin based on an interview with Chuck Akre ’62, founder of Akre Capital Management LLC. “With 17% of the population unemployed or under-employed, we know that there is very little opportunity for this decade to look like the last decade, in terms of personal consumption,” he told the reporter. “There is a strongly held view that U.S. consumer spending is going to continue to be constrained by employment issues, a lack of credit, higher taxes, and the need to save more and pay down debt,” he said. “I don’t know anyone who hasn’t altered their spending patterns over the last two years. The appeal of certain discount retailers is that they are characterized by being strong companies, with high levels of growth and low debt...Right now, volatility is down and trading volume is down, but the valuations are modest and these are businesses that are leveraged to higher interest rates.”

**Fashion Sense & Sensibility**

Fashion designer Roberto Felipe ’03 was the subject of a full-page feature in the December 2010 issue of *Time Out New York* magazine. He noted. “As an entrepreneur, I am constantly running around the city—the road to self-employment often finds you doing the most mundane tasks, but you have to love it.” As for his personal style, he added, “I’d say that I am comfortable—with myself, with trying new things. I like to keep people guessing. I think that although you aspire to build a certain cachet with respect to your personal brand or style of dressing, it’s important to surprise people.”

You may read more about this fashionable alum on his website, alfonsofelipe.com.
A November 6, 2010, article in The Express-Times featured a story on the many campus improvements at Blair over the course of the last 20 years. Stephen Novak wrote, “The lawn at the center of Blair Academy used to look like ‘an Edward Hopper painting’ with electric wires hanging above and cars driving through, the school’s headmaster described. When students arrived for the start of this semester, the wires were underground and the road had been replaced with brick walkways closed off to vehicles. The lawn is now a popular hangout spot on nice days. The work took only the summer break to complete, but it marked the culmination of about $50 million in improvements and new buildings that took nearly two decades to complete. ‘We’re not the little, old Blair Academy that existed 40 or 50 years ago,’ said T. Chandler Hardwick III, the headmaster.

‘We’re a bright, shining school.’ Hardwick started as headmaster in 1989 and was among the faculty and administrators at the academy long enough to witness both the master plan’s inception in 1993 and completion this year.

The work was completed in stages, with a library and performing arts center constructed in 1998, followed by a new dorm and other building work in 2000. A $17.5 million student activity center was built in 2008, using old athletic facilities and building new ones.”

The article continued, “Money was raised through donation campaigns. ‘Every time we finish a project, it would seem ... that this is it. But it turns out there are always projects that make it an even better campus,’ said Marty Miller, who has taught and coached cross country at Blair for 31 years. Miller said the improvements provide ‘balance’ to the school. Having larger athletic facilities allows more sports teams to practice at once, freeing up more time for students to attend events like recitals or Miller’s own weekly guest lecture series.”

Robert Schuldenfrei ’61 and his pro bono work for software startups and organizations was the focus of a November 5 article in the Palm Beach Post. Writer Mary Thurwachter began her feature with Robert’s favorite quote, attributed to his father, William: “At the end of days, you are not sorry for the things you tried that did not work out well, but sorriest most for the things you could have done, but did not do.”

The article continued, “[Robert] is a fellow who works because he wants to. Technically, Schuldenfrei retired from his Boston-based business, S.I. Inc., in 2005. His company, which he founded in 1981, built and sold manufacturing software.” He told Thurwachter, “I continue to do pro bono work for software startups. I run social programs, do database management, and write e-newsletters for my condo, the Civil War Round Table of Palm Beach County, and the Syracuse University Alumni Club of South Florida….My tag line in retirement is: I now do for fun what I once did for money.”

Robert, who holds an economics degree from Syracuse University and a master’s in business administration from the Amos Tuck School of Business Administration at Dartmouth College, also told the reporter that he was “always interested in scientific things and built a radio from scratch.”

In college, he began studying engineering but discovered that wasn’t the field for him. In his junior year, he took a class in computer programming. “I got bit by the programming bug,” he said. He taught computer science to career Army officers and business students at the University of Rhode Island. His career highlight came with the realization early on in 1979 that when personal computers could network together, small companies could do what only Fortune 500 companies could do previously; S.I. Inc. was launched in 1981 as a result.
Finding the Freedom to Study

The December 14 edition of USA Today featured an article by Laura Bruno, “In U.S., Afghan Women Find Freedom to Study,” focused on Shamila Kohestani ’08 and Nahid Paiman ’11, with comments by Blair Headmaster Chan Hardwick. Both Shamila and Nahid are from Afghanistan and are among the beneficiaries of the New Jersey-based Afghan Girls Financial Assistance Fund that has raised $400,000 in donations and over $1.8 million of scholarships the past two years. The fund seeks to jump-start the education of Afghan women whose studies stalled under the Taliban regime, according to David Bugen ’66, one of the fund’s founders and a Blair parent (Sarah ’10). The goal is for these young women to obtain a college education to prepare them to return home and assist in the rebuilding of Afghanistan.

The USA Today article read in part as follows: “Shamila Kohestani lost five years of formal education, from ages 8 to 13, while living in Afghanistan under Taliban rule. Instead, she secretly defied the fundamentalist regime as her older sisters tutored her at home in math, biology and chemistry...Kohestani [is] now 22, a dean’s list student in her third year at Drew University in Madison, N.J., majoring in political science and women’s studies with a minor in Arabic and sociology.” Shamila told the reporter, “Each one of us can go home and have a positive impact.”

Headmaster Hardwick added, “It is so important for our kids here to have someone in their class say: ‘You don’t understand how important it is to be free, to have the opportunity to study, to walk around campus, to be free from fear, to speak freely, to disagree, to say what you want.’ ”

Mr. Bugen is aided in his efforts on behalf of Afghan women by three friends, including Leo Motiuk, parent of Alex ’08. Mr. Bugen generously supports scholarship aid not only for Afghan women but for deserving students at Blair as well. He and his wife, Barbara, established the Bugen Family Scholarship in 2009, which is awarded each year to a student who otherwise would not have the opportunity of a Blair education.

Blair faculty member Kaye Evans, a graduate of Dickinson College, notes that her alma mater’s Winter 2011 alumni magazine also referred to Shamila and her time at Blair.

Dion Declares NFL Draft Intent

National newspapers and other media outlets carried the news this past December that University of Pittsburgh sophomore tailback Dion Lewis ’09 would forgo his last two seasons and head to the NFL draft. “After significant discussion and contemplation with my family and coaches, it is with great excitement and anticipation that I announce I am declaring myself eligible for this spring’s NFL draft,” Dion said in a media release through Pitt’s sports information department. “I want to thank the University of Pittsburgh, particularly coach (Dave) Wannstedt and his staff, for the opportunities afforded me during the past two years. I look forward to the challenges facing me as an NFL rookie, and I believe my time here at the University of Pittsburgh under Coach Wannstedt’s tutelage has prepared me extremely well for the demands awaiting me at the next level.”

Dion was named as the Big East Offensive Player and Rookie of the Year and the National Freshman of the Year after the 2009 season.
Giving of Themselves
Community Members Serve Blair and Beyond

Audrey Snyder ’13, Melanie Andrea ’13 and Quinn Cordaro ’13 spent some of their holiday break collecting donations and ringing the bells for the Hunterdon County (N.J.) chapter of the Salvation Army. The funds were used to pay utility bills for about 150 families and provide toys for about 500 children who live in Hunterdon County.

The girls’ volunteer work was the topic of an article by Teresa Fasanello in the Hunterdon Democrat. An excerpt read as follows: “Audrey...said many people walk past without donating. ‘We’ll stare at them ringing a million bells, and they look at us like they don’t see us,’ she said. Quinn said dealing with cold temperatures and with cold passersby is the hard part.” Happily, as the days went by, the girls received about $500 in donations for their efforts.

The Blair community—faculty, staff and students—again collected toys in December for families in need. Donated items were given to “Season of Hope” Toy Shop, run by Project Self-Sufficiency and Pass-It-Along.

A group of Locke & Ivy dorm residents “brown-bagged” it in November, lending a hand to Blair’s dining staff.

Paige Cordero ’14 spearheaded an effort to assist the busy staff when Blair hosted the entire Peddie School for lunch prior to the Peddie Day competitions. Peddie students and coaches were joined by numerous Blair parents and younger siblings of current students—not to mention the scores of alumni who returned to campus for that important day.

San Tripathi ’13 shared the following about her experience: “I think we sometimes overlook the little things and begin to take them for granted. I’m glad for an activity like this one, because it gives me a heightened sense of appreciation for all of the hard work our lunch staff puts into what they do!” Lizzy McNeill ’14 added, “Bagging made me appreciate the dining hall people a lot more because those brown bag contents are delicious.”

In October, 16 Blair students, along with faculty members Penn Graves and Cynthia Crowner, traveled to Longmeadow Farm, a few miles from campus, to pick apples for area food banks. The weather and camaraderie inspired a healthy harvest. Chip Paillex, president and founder of America’s Grow-a-Row, sent the following note to Cynthia:

“I just wanted to take a moment and once again thank you and the Blair students for such a great job apple picking today. Imagine, about 3,000 pounds of apples rescued and now going into the hands of those folks suffering from hunger across New Jersey. Your students surpassed my expectation level, as I thought we would only pick one or maybe two bins worth of apples, but you actually picked three. This is huge, and I was thrilled that we had such a great day. I was also very happy to hear the students on the hayride saying what fun they had too...This was a great day, and we appreciate your support.”
Putting Blair on the Map—Literally!

In January, Blair introduced a new interactive 3-D map, as well as a new 2-D printable version, produced by CampusBird™ using custom Google Earth 3D and Google Maps, new 3D spherical photography and other dynamic media. By referring to the campus map section on Blair’s website, viewers can click on a birds-eye view picture of the campus, which opens a screen that allows them to virtually tour the School.

Then, by using the compass and slide controls on the right side of the screen, viewers move closer to particular buildings and landmarks. Clicking on the small orange icons or the Blair “B”s opens up small information balloons that tell more about those locations. Short video tours are also available, showcasing different aspects of Blair. Perhaps some of the most impressive features of the new map, however, are the 360-degree views of various venues.

“With so many recent additions to our beautiful campus, it was time we thought about a new map,” said Melanie McMahon, director of communications. “The product is ideal and will prove immensely helpful in our student recruitment and fund-raising efforts. The online map is easily updated internally—at no additional cost—and, since it can be printed in-house in PDF format in 2D, will be more affordable for events and other map uses. Campus planners, architects, engineers and safety personnel will benefit as well.”

Junior Parents’ Day Features College Admission Director

Junior Parents’ Day was held in January in the DuBois Theater of Armstrong-Hipkins Center for the Arts. This year’s guest speaker was Greg MacDonald, dean of admissions and financial aid at Lafayette College. The balance of the program was an informational session by members of Blair’s College Counseling Office.
Sadie Hawkins Dance 2011
The theme of “Circus-Circus” set the stage for the midwinter semi-formal in January—a “girls ask boys”/Sadie Hawkins dance. Thanks to the generosity of a dedicated and talented group of parent volunteers, students enjoyed an evening of masquerading, complete with mocktails at Sharpe House, followed by dinner and dancing in the decked-out dining hall.

International Bazaar at Blair
In January, the Blair community enjoyed the multi-cultural excitement of International Weekend, an annual event. Dining on foreign cuisine, a Korean café, activities (tai chi, bachata, tinikling, pinatas), an international fashion show and discoteca with student DJs were among the activities that took place in the Romano Dining Hall’s “international bazaar.” Boys and girls from 20 countries attend Blair; this event allows them to feel a bit less homesick and to showcase their traditional cuisine and costumes.

Chinese students studying at Blair treated the rest of the student body to a variety of performances in January, including a presentation at School Meeting, which set the stage for International Weekend.
Earthshine Members “Dig” the Earth
In early December, seven members of Earthshine, Blair’s environmental club, worked on the School’s community garden—located behind Bogle Hall—by digging four 8’ × 4’ raised beds, then adding a mixture of leaf compost and top soil. According to advisor and science teacher Rob Merrifield, the beds sat over the winter and were planted in the spring with herbs and vegetables to be used in food preparation by Blair’s dining hall staff.

Students Enjoy Musical
A group of Blair students, accompanied by faculty members Kaye Evans, Carm Mazza and Micki McMillan, enjoyed the Broadway musical production of Billy Elliot in January, thanks to a fund established in 2006 by the Liebowitz family to recognize and honor the work of Dean of Students Carm Mazza. The money generated each year by this fund 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.

Headmasters’ Societies Competition Week, now in its eighth year, gives students and faculty a chance to have fun on an intramural level before heading into exam week in February. Sports and other activities, such as a bake-off and board games, are played by teams named after Blair Headmasters Breed, Howard, Kelley and Sharpe, with the winner announced after a talent show at week’s end. Team Breed took the 2011 trophy.
The entire School community rejoiced in victory on Peddie Day in November, storming the football field to congratulate the Bucs and get a closer look at a special “Blair moment.” Under the lights of Hampshire Field, Peddie Headmaster John Green took advantage of the Kelley-Potter Cup ceremony to honor Blair Assistant Headmaster David Low, who is retiring after a 32-year tenure. When the Cup was handed to Blair Headmaster Chan Hardwick, he, in turn, praised Peddie for their great competitiveness, spirit and success, calling the rivalry the best in the boarding school world.

Immediately after the end of the first half of the Blair-Peddie football game, and before the start of the boys’ cross country meet, the top seven runners of Blair’s 1960 varsity cross country team lined up at the end of the track in recognition of their athletic achievements on the 50th anniversary of that meet. While Coach Jim Pender, a Blair teacher for 39 years, has long since passed, the team asked that he be recognized for his dedication to Blair and his commitment to excellence. See photos, top right.
BLAIRE RECLAIMS THE CUP!
January 29 was a memorable day for Blair wrestling as hundreds of alumni, parents and wrestling fans gathered to celebrate the great tradition of the School’s wrestling program and honor 29-year coach Jeff Buxton. Headmaster Chan Hardwick noted that Blair’s wrestling program is a unique national success story that has evolved into legend. “Wherever Blair wrestling goes, the School’s reputation of community, academic preparation and excellence goes, too,” he said.

Over 200 people attended the afternoon dedication of the Jeffrey P. Buxton Wrestling Room, named in recognition of Jeff Buxton’s unparalleled coaching record, outstanding teaching ability and mentorship of three decades of Blair students. **Max Meltzer ’02**, former captain of Blair and Harvard University wrestling teams and now a finance-industry professional, noted Coach Buxton’s “fierce loyalty” to his family, students and team. **Tony Buxton ’09**, another Blair wrestling captain and current Harvard student, speaking on behalf of his mother, Carol, and sister, **Siena ’11**, praised Coach Buxton as a father, teacher and coach. “My dad puts so much of himself into everything he does,” he said.

The dedication concluded as chairman of the Board of Trustees **James P. Jenkins ’66** invited this year’s team to unveil the Blair Wrestling “wall of fame.” A cherry wood and plexiglass panel stretching the length of the wrestling room, the wall enshrines the names of 341 Blair National Prep Champions, NCAA Division I All-Americans, and Olympians and stands as a testament to the winning tradition of Blair’s wrestling program.

Fans packed the performance gym in the evening for a much-anticipated match against nationally ranked Graham High School of St. Paris, Ohio, preceded by a “Celebration of Blair Wrestling.” Highlights of the event included an original video produced by former faculty member Judith Kampmann and a presentation from USA Wrestling to Coach Buxton marking the organization’s appreciation for his contributions to the sport. Four-time NCAA All-American and
Lehigh University’s head wrestling coach, Pat Santoro ’85, extolled Coach Buxton’s legacy in the coaching community, noting, “Jeff is widely regarded as the best coach in the United States at any level—elementary, high school and college—bar none.” Fourteen Blair wrestling alumni now coach at the college level.

Chan announced that $40,000 had been contributed to the Ray Mendoza ’87 Scholarship as a result of gifts recently made in honor of Coach Buxton. Ray, a standout wrestler at Blair and Ohio State, was serving as a major in the United States Marine Corps when he was killed in action in Iraq on November 14, 2005. The scholarship in his name is the only scholarship designated for a scholar-wrestler at Blair.

Finally, Coach Buxton expressed his appreciation to the many supporters of Blair wrestling. “This program has been built and sustained by the alumni, parents and friends who have given so much to it over the years,” he said. “Thank you for giving me the opportunity to do what I love to do every day—help students improve and be their best, both in the classroom and the wrestling room.” —Joanne Miceli

The Mendoza family would like to thank everyone who donated to the Ray Mendoza ’87 Scholarship. Ray’s wife, Karen, noted: “Ray was very grateful for his PG year at Blair and would be honored that others have donated to the one scholarship he personally approved in our ‘what if’ discussions before he deployed to Iraq.” At press time, gifts to the scholarship in honor of Coach Buxton totaled nearly $50,000. If you are interested in making a contribution, please contact Susan K. Habermann, director of capital giving, at (908) 362-6121 ext. 5653 or log on to www.blair.edu/Giving.

On the Web:
View the dedication video by former faculty member Judith Kahan Kampmann in the “Blair Videos On-Line” section; you may purchase The Standard of Excellence: Blair Academy’s Legendary Wrestling Program by past Blair parent Dave Ritterpusch (Kurt ’87) from Blair’s online bookstore. Dave signed copies of his book on dedication day; see page 52 for details.
One of the hallmarks of the Blair experience is becoming a member of the strong and supportive School community formed by faculty, students and their families. While parents have long been an essential component of the Blair community, a growing number of grandparents have become actively involved as well. Grandparents are frequently seen on campus enjoying their grandchildren’s athletic contests and arts events, and many have become generous supporters of the School.

Norbert and Elizabeth Wirsching, grandparents of TJ Welch ’10, have become whole-hearted advocates of the School as a result of TJ’s “tremendous” experience here. “The academic foundation our grandson received at Blair has allowed him to make the most of his first year at the University of Chicago,” Mr. Wirsching said. “In addition, he made wonderful friends at Blair who will be his friends for life.” During visits to the School, the Wirschings especially appreciated Blair’s warm and friendly environment. “We have always been treated like family at Blair,” said Mrs. Wirsching. “We were delighted to see how happy TJ was, especially as a member of the crew, wrestling and cross country teams.” Mr. and Mrs. Wirsching generously supported Blair’s crew program, and their gift to the Ever Always Campaign named the restored second-story track in Blair Commons. “Our giving to Blair is a testimonial to the happiness we felt every time we visited TJ on campus,” said Mr. Wirsching. “We will always recommend Blair,” added Mrs. Wirsching. “It is a wonderful school!”

Marie and Russel Duryea have also enjoyed their experience as Blair grandparents. They feel their grandchildren, Dillon ’10 and Maggie Hoffman ’11, have benefited greatly from the potent mix of “inspiring and motivated faculty, progressive curriculum and time-honored values enjoyed a steak dinner at Sparks Steak House in New York City this past December were (L to R): Elizabeth V. Wirsching, Norbert R. Wirsching and members of the Class of 2010, including Saul Sparber, Nate Reichel, TJ Welch (grandson of the Wirschings), Cole Agin, Neil Zimmerman, Dillon Hoffman, Brandon Hardman and Drew Romano.
and traditions” a Blair education provides. “Blair faculty members have inspired enthusiasm, confidence and leadership ability in both of our grandchildren,” said Mrs. Duryea. “Russ and I wish we could claim those traits as genetic, but we know they can, at least in part, be greatly attributed to their Blair experience.” The Duryeas have especially supported Dillon and Maggie’s athletic endeavors at Blair through their generous gifts to the wrestling and crew programs, and they are familiar and welcome faces at their grandchildren’s competitions.

To encourage grandparents to become active members of the Blair community and celebrate the important role that grandparents play in students’ lives, Blair will hold Grandparents’ Day on Saturday, April 16, as this issue of the Bulletin goes to press. Grandparents will be treated to a classroom visit, an assembly with the Headmaster, a concert by the Blair Singers and orchestra, and numerous athletic contests. Susan Long, director of parent relations, notes that plans are in the works to make this an annual event.

**Board of Governors**

Members of the Alumni Association 2010–2011 Board of Governors met on Peddie Day in November and convened in Bogle Plaza for this photograph.

Back row, seated (L to R): Bob Van Stone ’69, Vice President; Jim Naisby ’57, Alumni Trustee; Hoby Van Deusen ’54, Jim Redfern ’85 and Derek Peachey ’93. Front row: Jack Plunkett ’70, Richard Rubin ’68, Marivelle Clavel-Davis ’82, President; Kirsten Bushick ’82, Janet Harrington ’76, Don Parsons ’57, Maria Lieberman ’01, Bridget Hodakowski ’99, Bernadette Clifford ’93 and Brian Lam ’96. Not pictured: Roberto Felipe ’03, Bill Foster ’65 and Kristen Tegenborg ’98.
**Thespians Warm Up Winter**

The Blair Academy Players, under the direction of Craig Evans, eased the winter blues by presenting not just one but two different productions in February, including *The Drowsy Chaperone* and *For Better or For Worse*. The first, a musical comedy, begins in the apartment of a die-hard musical-theater fan who puts his favorite soundtrack album on his turntable. The musical literally bursts to life in his living room, telling the rambunctious tale of a brazen Broadway starlet.

The latter was comprised of a series of work by American playwrights and presented a myriad of relationship situations. The actors looked at the humorous side of dating and marriage.

**Concert Heralds Thanksgiving Break**

Blair’s instrumental and vocal ensembles presented a fall concert in Armstrong-Hipkins Center for the Arts. These talented musicians and singers, under the direction of Jen Pagotto and Katy Hylton, respectively, practiced for weeks in preparation for their special evening of music and song.

**Sculptress Exhibits Work in Museum**

Fine arts department chair Kate Sykes reports on the success of a Blair student whose work was selected for the Morris Museum’s “Fresh Perspectives” exhibit. *Natalie Bacon ’14* worked diligently to finish her “Garden of June” abstract sculpture for jurying. She created a variety of non-specific organic forms and textures, glazing them in a mixture of greens, browns, gold, red and white. The art exhibit in Morristown, N.J., opens May 12 and runs through June 12. A reception will be held on May 17 from 6-8 p.m. Natalie’s work was selected from over 430 pieces submitted with 50 chosen for this museum exhibit. Kate notes, “The juried show, created to showcase the diverse work of high school students from central and northern New Jersey, exemplifies the fact that a dutiful work ethic and a strong personal voice are the true marks of a successful artist.”

**Artist With a Golden Touch**

*Winston Chang ’12* won a Gold Key as a participant in the 2011 National Scholastic Art & Writing Awards. This honor is the highest level of achievement on the regional level. Gold Key works are forwarded to New York City for national adjudication. Art teacher Rita Baragona notes that Winston’s drawing was on display at the Montclair Museum in Montclair, N.J. this winter. Students and teachers involved in this awards program will be celebrated at regional ceremonies, public events and the National Ceremony at Carnegie Hall.
Visits to Met and MOMA

In the spirit of International Weekend at Blair (see Around the Arch for photos), a group of teachers and students took a trip in January to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Art history teacher Alexis Machabanski reports: “We enjoyed wandering through the magnificent Greek and Roman galleries, walking into the Egyptian Temple of Dendur, and strolling past the hundreds of Impressionist and Renaissance paintings. Students were able to study, observe and enjoy this impressive collection.”

Earlier in the school year, a group of art students and teachers traveled to The Museum of Modern Art (MOMA), thanks to an anonymous gift from two Blair parents. One of the highlights of the day was the opportunity to view a special exhibit, “Matisse: Radical Invention, 1913–1917.”

Work by Video Studies Teacher on Exhibit in Germany

The work of Nina Yuen, director of video studies, was on exhibit in Wiesbaden, Germany, in January through March. White Blindness was Nina’s first institutional solo exhibition in Germany. The website for the show notes, “Nina Yuen’s installations, environments and films are romantically designed and unite performance, monologue, soundtrack and montage. In her overall composition, they release associations of feelings and pictures in the onlooker which often appear humorous. The exhibition White Blindness consists of five videos, partly in installation-like context, in which she herself acts, where trivial incidents are absurdly exaggerated and with her soft voice-over.”

The Film & Digital Media Visiting Artist Series at the University of California-Santa Cruz opened its 2010-11 programs with Nina as its first guest in November. Selections of Nina’s work were shown, including White Blindness. The Visiting Artist Series is sponsored by Porter College, founded in 1969 as UCSC’s “fifth college.”

Nina completed her B.A. at Harvard University and a residency at the Rijksakademie in Amsterdam. Her recent exhibitions include An Imaginary Relationship with Ourselves, Portland Institute of Contemporary Art, Oregon; Performance, Manifestacao Internacional, Belo Horizonte, Brazil; The Sky Within My House, Contemporary Art Patios, Cordoba, Spain; White Blindness, Lombard-Freid Projects, New York, New York. She is represented by the galleries Juliëtte Jongma in Amsterdam and Lombard Freid Projects in New York.
Veteran art teacher Rita Baragona was a featured artist at The Painting Center in New York City this winter. The benefit show, “Artists Invite Artists; Small Works Invitational,” was a salon-style exhibition reflecting the stimulating visual discourse of an extended community of painters in the Big Apple and beyond.
Join Us for Another Sensational Arts Season at Blair!

Music

FRIDAY NIGHT ARTS
(student art, vocal and instrumental musicians)
Friday, May 6
6:30 p.m. Art Opening / 7:00 p.m. Concert
DuBois Theatre

Theatre

THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF AMERICA
(ABRIDGED)
by Adam Long, Reed Martin and Austin Tichenor
May 19, 20 & 21, 7:30 p.m.
Robert J. Evans Open Air Theatre
From the writers of The Complete Works of William Shakespeare (Abridged), this romp covers dozens of historical events in the history of America. Irreverent, zany and manic, the play is sure to make one wonder how one ever grew bored in U.S. History class!

The Romano Gallery

The Romano Gallery is located in the Armstrong-Hipkins Center for the Arts. Normal gallery hours are 10 a.m.–6 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Please check the Blair website (www.blair.edu) for the dates and times of each artist’s reception and for gallery hours affected by school vacations.

ANNUAL STUDENT ART EXHIBITION
April 27–May 14

ALUMNI SHOW: CONTEMPORARY ARTISTS
May 16–June 11
This group exhibition features the art of Blair alumni from their formative years to their present work. Moving from their common Blair experience, each has pursued a professional career in the contemporary art world. In so doing, each expresses a different personal vision through a variety of medium, from traditional to experimental. Each contemporary artist contributes uniquely to the genre—some work abstractly, others figuratively; some create provocative art, others art for aesthetic enjoyment; and, some provoke dialog about social issues. All are committed to exploring their individuality and connection to the world around them.

BLAIR VIDEO

Offered since 2000 as both a fine arts elective and an after-school activities option, Blair video students continue to produce a variety of videos including documentaries, experimental works and fiction films. Screening times will be posted on the Blair website as they are scheduled.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE
Because this calendar is subject to change, please check Blair’s website for the most up-to-date information available at www.blair.edu, or call (908) 362-6121. The DuBois Theatre, Wean Theatre and Romano Gallery are housed within Armstrong-Hipkins Center for the Arts on the Blair Academy campus, 2 Park St., Blairstown, N.J.
Bucs Capture Cup!
The Bucs reclaimed the Kelley-Potter Trophy on Peddie Day 2010, posting victories in girls' tennis (varsity and junior varsity) and boys' cross country and football (14-7) and a tie in junior varsity boys’ soccer. The surprise was in girls’ soccer. The junior varsity team beat Peddie 1-0, followed an hour later by the varsity team winning 1-0; this was the first time in Blair history a girls’ soccer team at any level has beaten Peddie. Those victories, combined with the junior varsity football team winning on November 8 in the opening contest, gave Blair the Cup. A celebration of joy and Blair pride ensued. (See photos on pages 40–41 of this issue.)

Boys and Girls Win Prep A State Titles!

Girls Take MAPL Title, Make History

On one thrilling February day, Blair’s girls’ and boys’ varsity basketball teams won Prep A State Titles in tandem! The Lady Bucs played Peddie at home (58-32), while the boys simultaneously hit the court at Lawrenceville (58-52); the girls may have received more applause, but the community was there for the boys in spirit.

The girls’ team made history earlier in February with a 66-42 win over Hill in the MAPL championship. Coach Sue Altman reports as follows: Blair’s tournament win broke Peddie’s 12-season championship streak as the Lady Bucs concluded an undefeated MAPL season. Senior captains Temi Fagbenle and Nicole Lem led Blair’s scoring with 19 and 17 points, respectively. Temi also added 14 boards and six blocked shots. Amnette Snow added nine points, and Shaina Earle hit two threes and a layup for eight. Ana Greik hit five of six from the free throw line. Femi Hamilton scored seven.

Temi, who hails from London, England, is a three-year senior who chose Harvard over full-scholarship offers from more traditional basketball powerhouses, including Rutgers, Duke and UNC. Temi is the first female Ivy League-bound player in the history of the Ivy League selected for the All-American team. This talented girl also played a singing role in the School’s winter musical, The Drowsy Chaperone. A video series by Sports Illustrated magazine on SI.com featured Temi during the week of March 21; “High School Player of the Week” profiles the country’s top high school athletes.

Coach Joe Mantegna reports that his boys got off to a slow offensive start for the state title, scoring only 11 points in the first quarter. But then the Blair shooters came alive. At the half, Blair trailed Lawrenceville 29-25. The Bucs then cut the deficit to two points at the end of the third quarter. The defense set the tone in the fourth quarter and limited their opponents to only 10 points for the final period. Marques Jones (17 points) led the charge offensively along with Joe Hart (15), Ross Danzig (12), Lionel Gomis (8) and Ryan Dinicola (6).
Girls’ Tennis Makes Blair History Books

Varsity Team Takes State Prep “A” Title

The Blair girls’ varsity tennis team took the State Prep “A” Title in October. The Bucs competed in the NJISAA State Tournament at Pingry, where they landed the first girls’ Prep “A” tennis title in Blair’s history. Head coach Laura Brantley congratulated the team and individual champions Kelsey Vella and Isabel Peil, along with doubles champions Sam Beck and Deanna Inez. Laura added, “Sam Light and the tandem of Steph Gorman and Torera Fagbenle placed second in the tournament in close, competitive matches. The wind made for two tough matches on the doubles courts. Steph and Torera put up a good fight against a strong Lawrenceville team. Sam and Deanna started out pretty well despite the conditions. After dropping the second set, they came out incredibly strong in the third set and secured the title for the Bucs.”

Boys’ Cross Country Wins MAPLs

State Prep Champs Kept on Running

Head coach Dr. Marty Miller reports on his team’s victories in both the MAPLs and State competitions this fall: “It doesn’t get much better than this. The varsity boys raced to a MAPL championship averaging an all-time Blair team record of 16:39...Our runners were focused and confident. Scott Chamberlin crossed the finish first in an outstanding 15:54, despite running off the course for a number of seconds on the first of two loops! Mark Scully posted another PR (5th place in 16:31), Chris Miller was right on his heels (and “cooling his heels” due to a recurrent injury, taking 6th place in 16:39), and Evan Redos broke the 17:00 minute barrier for the first time on this course, and Chris Miller, usually our second runner, caught a stitch but soldiered on for a critical 11th place finish. Evan Redos ran a PR, as did fifth man Sam Nashed. The margin for error was razor thin. Ted Peacock bested St. Benedict’s fifth man, and Greg Park was a solid seventh runner for the Bucs. The 17:07 team average was excellent...It was a grand day on so many levels.”

Finally, Coach Miller lauded Scott Chamberlin’s September success, reporting the following: “For the first time, a Blair boy was victorious at the 38th Annual Canterbury Invitational (large school division) cross country race, which attracts many of the most competitive New England prep school runners. Scott ran away from the field and won by more than a 30-second margin, a stunning performance.” This particular competition took place on a 3.1-mile course in New Milford, Conn.

15:22 on Blair’s challenging course. Impressive indeed! But Scott hung in there for a second, running a fine PR for his home course. Mark Scully broke 17 minutes for the first time on this course, and Chris Miller, usually our second runner, caught a stitch but soldiered on for a critical 11th place finish. Evan Redos ran a PR, as did fifth man Sam Nashed. The margin for error was razor thin. Ted Peacock bested St. Benedict’s fifth man, and Greg Park was a solid seventh runner for the Bucs. The 17:07 team average was excellent...It was a grand day on so many levels.”
Comprehensive Book on Blair Wrestling Hits the Shelves

*The Standard of Excellence: Blair Academy's Legendary Wrestling Program* is available in Blair's bookstore and online. An encyclopedic hardcover book by past Blair parent Dave Ritterpusch (Kurt '87), “The Standard of Excellence” is comprised of 29 chapters and 11 appendices that, according to the author, “speak to great Blair teams and the great careers of Blair wrestlers, both at Blair and at NCAAs and beyond.” Dave was in the Blair bookstore on January 29, after the dedication of the Jeffrey P. Buxton Wrestling Room, happily autographing his book for buyers—more than 100 flew off the shelves that day!

This book, available at Blair’s online bookstore, includes 210 photographs and provides readers with a comprehensive look at Blair’s fine wrestling program over the years, its exceptional teams (especially its many USA #1 teams), its NCAA Champions and All Americans, its international successes and, finally, the many Blair wrestlers who are coaching at the NCAA Division I level today.

Jeffrey P. Buxton Wrestling Room Dedicated

**Bucs Enjoy Another Awesome Season**

Over 200 people attended the January 29 dedication of the Jeffrey P. Buxton Wrestling Room, named in recognition of head coach Jeff Buxton’s unparalleled coaching record, outstanding teaching ability and mentorship of three decades of Blair students. See story on page 42.

The wrestling team continued to make Jeff proud, winning major tournaments throughout the winter season.

Blair Academy’s Coaches vs. Cancer Basketball Tournament in December raised around $1,200 and featured some of the nation’s top players from a number of the nation’s best East Coast prep schools. This annual event benefits the American Cancer Society.

Blair wrestlers helped unveil the Blair wrestling “wall of fame” on January 29.
Fall Athletic Awards
Pierce Cross Country Trophy: Scott Chamberlin ’11
Pierce Cross Country Trophy: Chris Miller ’11
Pierce Cross Country Trophy: Quinn McKay ’11
Blair Soccer Award: Allie Reed ’11
Blair Soccer Award: Tom Niemann ’11
Blair Field Hockey Prize: Alex Zuber ’11
Marcial Tennis Award: Kelsey Vella ’11
Brooks Football Prize: Matt Stocker ’11
Frere Football Award: Bobby Garone ’11
Frere Football Award: Drew Sutherland ’11

Winter Athletic Awards
Merit Ski Award: Kris Patane ’13
Captain’s Trophy/Swimming: Jess Tatham ’11, Eric Timken ’11
Blair Squash Prize: Steph Gorman ’11, Franz Utermohlen ’11
Peachey Hockey Award: Cole Voynick ’11, Chris Fowler ’11
Blair Winter Track Award: Scott Chamberlin ’11
Haskins Basketball Prize: Lionel Gomis ’11, Marques Jones ’11, Ross Danzig ’11
Brooks Basketball Prize: Temi Fagbenle ’11, Nicole Lem ’11
Jamieson Wrestling Prize: Evan Silver ’11
Lieberman Wrestling Prize: Addison Knepshield ’13

Squash and Swim Teams Stride Ahead
At the time of this writing, the girls’ varsity squash team had hit the midpoint of their season with a strong 6-2 record. With victories over Hill and Pingry, the team was already ahead of the strong pace set by last year’s squad. The swim team also had a successful season, with a number of swimmers improving their times with each successive meet. Be sure to keep up with the Bucs in every season by logging onto the Athletics section of Blair’s website at www.blair.edu.
A brief note to tell you the Blair Bulletin is a fine report, very interesting and well done. I spent four years at the Academy, one in West Hall, two in Insley and one in East Hall with the seniors. My roommate for two years was Bob Ervey ’42, who passed away from wounds in WWII. Fortunately, I survived and stayed in the Reserves for 20 years until retirement (naval commander, intelligence officer).

I receive three different college reports, and your Blair Bulletin is superior to all of them. The photos are all excellent! Kudos to all your photographers.

Harry Fisler ’42

The current issue was spectacular, not only well-written but beautifully laid out in substance and content. I am confident that many others have already conveyed to all of you [entire staff] the magnificent product you have created. I would simply add my congratulations.

Frederick W. “Bud” Rose ’51

For decades after we graduated, the alumni Bulletin was less-than-beautiful to look at.
In Memory of...

1930

Peter P. Leavitt. During his one year at Blair, Mr. Leavitt was a member of the press club and Academy Players and served on the ACTA and Breeze boards. He attended Amherst College before embarking on a 25-year career in sales with F. Schumacher’s, a home furnishing company. In 1960, Mr. Leavitt founded the Leavitt, Watterston Corporation in partnership with fabric designer Henning Watterston. Based in a restored 18th-century house in Woodstock Valley, Conn., the company designed and sold fine fabrics from mills in both the U.S. and Italy. A highlight of Mr. Leavitt’s career was working with Frank Lloyd Wright to furnish the Guggenheim Museum. In the late 1940s and early ’50s, Mr. Leavitt was elected to the Norwalk (Conn.) City School Board and the Norwalk City Council. Later in life, he was a frequent volunteer at the University of Connecticut library. In retirement, Mr. Leavitt and his wife, June, pursued interests in literature, painting, pottery and sculpting. Mr. Leavitt was predeceased in September 2010 by June, to whom he had been married for over 70 years. His survivors include five children, 11 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

1938

Robert W. Beck Jr. Mr. Beck played varsity basketball at Blair, and the 1938 ACTA lauds his “spectacular shooting,” noting that he was a high scorer in the Eastern Private Schools League. Following graduation from Lehigh University, he served as an officer in the U.S. Navy for two years during World War II in the South Pacific. Mr. Beck enjoyed a long career in engineering, working for Bethlehem Steel, the American Iron & Steel Institute, and finally for a local company in Tucson, Ariz., from which he retired at the age of 77. Mr. Beck’s survivors include his beloved partner of 42 years, Irma Birnbrauer; her daughter and his six children; 14 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

1930

Peter P. Leavitt, December 28, 2010, Woodstock, Connecticut

1932

Jorge Prats, January 8, 2011, Mexico City, Mexico

1938

Robert W. Beck Jr., August 27, 2010, Tucson, Arizona

1939

Donald B. Allen, August 29, 2010, Kailua, Hawaii

1939

William R. Campbell, October 4, 2010, Jupiter, Florida

1940

Paul A. Dicke, May 6, 2010, Perrysburg, Ohio

1942

Howard C. Baron, October 26, 2010, New York, New York

1942

David T. Demarest, September 14, 2010, Sarasota, Florida

1944

E. King Archdeacon, December 9, 2010, Belvidere, New Jersey

1944

J. Ronald Beckett, November 18, 2010, Pompano Beach, Florida

1944

J. Willard Sutlberger Jr., November 1, 2010, Swansea, Massachusetts

1945

Donald F. Farnsworth, January 27, 2011, Upper Saddle River, New Jersey

1947


1948

Robert C. Guccione, October 20, 2010, Sunnyside, New York

1948

James R. Wilson Jr., September 17, 2010, Bridgewater, New Jersey

1949

Gilbert L. MacFadyen Jr., December 4, 2010, Madison, Tennessee

1952

Frank B. Simms, January 6, 2011, Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania

1954

Leonard S. Simon, December 24, 2010, Monterey, Massachusetts

1956

Rolf H. Bessin, October 6, 2010, Madison, New Jersey

1959

Richard F. Craig, June 16, 2010, Shelbyville, Kentucky

1987

Mark R. Waid, January 30, 2011, Columbia, South Carolina

1996


Former Faculty

Mark J. Tychonievich, December 20, 2010, St. Louis, Missouri

Former Faculty

Charles B. Underwood, January 24, 2011, Concord, New Hampshire

Friend

Gerard Thomas, November 19, 2010, Kalamazoo, Michigan

Parent

Linda S. Erlandson, January 26, 2011, Milford, New Jersey

Parent

Dorothy J. Iacocca, December 5, 2010, Allentown, Pennsylvania
1939

Donald B. Allen. A varsity football, basketball and baseball player, the 1939 ACTA heralds Mr. Allen as the “first string center on Blair’s triumphant football squad.” He graduated from Princeton University in 1943 with a bachelor’s degree in economics and served in the U.S. Army during both World War II and the Korean War. Mr. Allen retired from Hawaiian Insurance and Guaranty as president. His survivors include his wife, Joan; two sons and a daughter; eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

William R. Campbell. Lt. Col. Campbell enlisted in the Army Air Corps following his 1943 Colgate University graduation and served with the 379th Bomber Group for over two years during World War II. A B-17 tail gunner, he was shot down over Holland on his 31st mission, but escaped capture and returned to the Allies through the Dutch Underground. He received his law degree from the University of Florida in 1948 and joined the Air Force, where he was a member of the Judge Advocate General Corps for over 20 years. Following his retirement from military service, he worked for Pratt & Whitney and then opened a private law practice before truly retiring in 1988. Lt. Col. Campbell was predeceased by his wife of 43 years, Jacqueline, and is survived by their two children and a grandson.

1942

Howard C. Baron. Dr. Baron came to Blair for his senior year. He was a member of the football, hockey and baseball teams, but is noted in the 1942 ACTA as “hands down, Blair’s number one skiing enthusiast.” A graduate of the New York University School of Medicine, Dr. Baron was a captain in the Army Medical Corps during the Korean War. He was an accomplished cardiovascular surgeon, serving on the faculty of New York University Medical Center, as a staff member of Bellevue Hospital Center and University Hospital, and as director of surgery at Jewish Memorial Hospital in New York City. He is survived by his loving wife, Joan, three children and nine grandchildren.

David T. Demarest. Educated at Rutgers University and The Pennsylvania State University, Mr. Demarest served as a warrant officer with the Office of Strategic Services from 1943-45. He worked as a marine underwriter before moving to Sarasota, Fla., in 1950 to establish Demarest Co., Inc. His company’s signature project was Disney World’s EPCOT Spaceship Earth, which took two years to fabricate and install. He retired in 1984. Mr. Demarest enjoyed a lifelong love of the outdoors. According to the 1942 ACTA, he was one of Blair’s “most prominent fishing addicts,” and he served as a deputy wildlife officer for the Florida Fish & Game Commission and a deputy for the Florida Agricultural Crimes Intelligence Unit. He belonged to numerous civic organizations and was a life member of the Elks B.P.O.E. 1519. Together with Edith, his wife of 55 years, Mr. Demarest traveled extensively and enjoyed hunting and fishing trips all over the world. Edith predeceased Mr. Demarest; he is survived by two children and two grandchildren.

1944

E. King Archdeacon. A loyal Blair man, Mr. Archdeacon was a member of the choir during his years at the School. He enjoyed a long career with Hoffman-La Roche in Belvidere, N.J., where he worked as a machine operator.

J. Ronald Beckett. Mr. Beckett attended the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, then served as a Navy signalman 1/c for two years. He was stationed in Guam and Japan and was in Tokyo Bay on the day of the surrender signing that marked the end of World War II. Mr. Beckett worked for many years in banking, advancing to assistant vice president and branch manager before retiring from Sun Trust Bank in 1990. During his Blair days, he served as a proctor in Locke Hall and roomed freshman year with Bob Metz ‘44, with whom he attended elementary school in Passaic, N.J., and the Merchant Marine Academy. Predeceased by his first wife, Joan, Mr. Beckett is survived by his second wife, Doris.

J. Willard Sulzberger. The son of John W. Sulzberger ‘20, Mr. Sulzberger came to Blair for his senior year and graduated from Rutgers University. He was a 37 year member of the Pompano Beach Elks Club #1989 and was passionate about U.S. history, the New York Giants, dancing and classic movies. He worked for 20 years for Publix and Winn Dixie grocery stores. Mr. Sulzberger is survived by his loving daughter, Gayle.

1945

Donald F. Farnsworth. Loyal to Blair throughout his life, Mr. Farnsworth was a member of the Blue and White Key Cabinet, the choir and glee club, and the football and baseball teams during his student days. He graduated from Dartmouth College, served in the U.S. Navy and enjoyed a long career with the McGraw-Hill Companies, advancing to group vice president. Mr. Farnsworth served as president of the American Association of Publishers and later worked as a consultant with Moseley Associates. Together with his wife, Joan, he enjoyed gardening and tending their greenhouse. Mr. and Mrs. Farnsworth, who died within one day of each other, are survived by their four children and four grandchildren.

1947

John R. Balzac. Mr. Balzac earned three varsity letters at Blair and was the captain of the 1945 lightweight football team and co-captain of the 1947 track team, where his specialty was pole vault. A lifelong resident of Scarsdale, N.Y., he graduated from Nichols College and partnered with his brother, Richard ’43, at Balzac Bros. & Co., the family coffee-importing business. Mr. Balzac is survived by his beloved wife of 52 years, Marcia; brothers Richard ’43 and Ralph ’49; cousins Lucian Fletcher Jr. ’41 and John J. Fletcher ’45; two daughters and six grandchildren.

1948

Robert C. Guccione. Noted in the 1948 ACTA for his artistic ability as well as his “magnetic personality, hearty wit and colossal egotism,” Mr. Guccione was a varsity wrestler at Blair. He pursued a career in art, traveling throughout Europe and North Africa before launching Penthouse magazine in England in 1965 and in the U.S. in 1969. Mr. Guccione formed General Media, a $300 million publishing empire, which owned Penthouse and 15 other magazines on subjects from bodybuilding to computers, and he amassed a museum-worthy art collection including works by Degas, Renoir, Picasso, El Greco, Dali, Matisse and Chagall. His fortune was jeopardized by a series of bad investments and declining magazine circulation, and in 2003, General Media filed for bankruptcy. Eventually, Mr. Guccione returned to painting. He is survived by his fourth wife, April, and five children.
I N  M E M O R I A M

James R. Wilson Jr. Mr. Wilson spent a postgraduate year at Blair before matriculating at Lehigh University. He served his country as a Marine Corps first lieutenant during the Korean War and worked for American Bank Note Company, retiring as a vice president and senior sales manager. A lifelong member of the Episcopal Church, Mr. Wilson is survived by his wife of 47 years, Ruth, a son and daughter-in-law, and two grandchildren.

1949

Gilbert L. MacFadyen Jr. Mr. MacFadyen earned a bachelor’s degree in political science from Lafayette College and a master’s degree in banking from Rutgers University. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1951–54 and worked for many years in banking, printing services and independent business and sales, retiring in 1995. He and his wife, Harriett, moved to St. Simons Island, Ga., in 1997, where Mr. MacFadyen served as a deacon at St. Simons Presbyterian Church. Together the MacFadyens served meals at Manna House and enjoyed golf and travel. In addition to Harriett, Mr. MacFadyen is survived by their two children and a granddaughter.

1952

Frank B. Simms. A varsity football player in his postgraduate year at Blair, Mr. Simms continued playing football while a student at Dartmouth College, earning All-Ivy recognition. He served in the U.S. Army as a cryptic technician prior to beginning a career in the steel industry, and finally retiring as the owner of Fritz Simms Associates. Mr. Simms was an active volunteer, delivering Meals on Wheels and performing with his trio, Intensive Care, at nursing homes. He particularly enjoyed singing and playing old-time tunes on the piano. Mr. Simms is survived by his wife of 27 years, Rebecca, two sons and a stepdaughter, and several grandchildren.

1954

Leonard S. Simon. Dr. Simon enjoyed a distinguished career in academia and banking and generously shared his expertise in numerous philanthropic pursuits. He earned a bachelor’s degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a master’s degree and doctorate from Columbia University. A professor at the University of Rochester’s William E. Simon Graduate School of Business Administration, Dr. Simon authored over 20 journal articles and two books on business and economics prior to entering the banking industry. From 1984–1997, he served as chief executive officer of Rochester Community Savings Bank and RCSB Financial, Inc. He was vice chairman of Charter One Financial, Inc., for four years prior to his 2001 retirement. Dr. Simon was a trustee of the Teachers Insurance Annuity Association from 1982–2004 and chairman of its investment committee. He served as director of the Federal Home Loan Bank of New York, as well as a director and chairman of the Community Preservation Corporation, a developer of affordable housing. Actively involved in the Rochester community, he served as board chairman of the American Red Cross of Rochester and the Rochester Area Educational Television Association and vice chairman of the United Way of Rochester. Upon his retirement, Dr. Simon and his wife, Marion, moved to the Berkshires and became founding members of the Volunteers in Medicine Berkshire (VIM) clinic, which provides health services to residents lacking medical insurance. He continued to advise and invest in start-up companies and was an active partner in the Berkshire Opportunity Fund. Dr. Simon enjoyed hiking and skiing, theater, classical music and contemporary American art. The 1954 ACTA described Dr. Simon as “a good student and hard worker” who earned honors roll recognition each year and served as an officer in several student organizations. He worked quietly and effectively to advance Blair’s educational mission, particularly in his 50th reunion year and beyond as he led his class in the establishment of the Class of 1954 New Horizons Scholarship. Predeceased by his cousin, Lester D. Simon ’49, Dr. Simon is survived by Marion, his cousin Martin S. Simon ’48, two sons, Andrew and Jonathan, and their spouses, and two grandchildren.

1956

Rolf H. Bessin. An esteemed physician, Dr. Bessin’s career as a general and vascular surgeon spanned nearly 40 years. Following his graduation from Johns Hopkins University in 1960 and The George Washington University School of Medicine in 1964, he interned and worked at Baltimore City Hospitals then served in the U.S. Army Medical Corps for two years. In 1971, Dr. Bessin moved to New Jersey to establish a vascular surgery program at the East Orange Veterans Association Medical Center and a private practice at Morristown Memorial Hospital. His career at Morristown was highlighted by impressive accomplishments: Dr. Bessin was president of the medical staff from 1983 to 1985; he founded and, for 22 years, chaired the medical ethics committee; and he served on the credentials committee for 30 years. Appointed to the faculties of Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons and the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey at various times throughout his career, Dr. Bessin also served on the Madison (N.J.) Board of Health and as a trustee of the Grace Counseling Center in Madison. He retired from active practice in 1998, but continued to consult in care management until 2010. Dr. Bessin served on the Blair Board of Trustees from 1981 to 1989. He spent just one year at Blair as a student, having come to the School from Venezuela knowing very little English. He later wrote that faculty members Charlie Hall and Henry Cowan “were a great contribution to my personal development…as they effectively introduced me to math and English.” Dr. Bessin remained a loyal and active supporter of the School throughout his life. He is survived by his loving wife of 49 years, Mirielle, three children and six grandchildren.

1959

Richard F. Craig. Mr. Craig worked his entire career for The Budd Company, starting at the Red Lion plant in Philadelphia and moving to Shelbyville, Ky., in 1987. A graduate of Ursinus College with a bachelor’s degree in business administration, he enjoyed golf and gardening in his spare time. Mr. Craig was a varsity football and baseball player at Blair, and was a loyal Blair man for life. He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Judy, their son and daughter, and two grandchildren.

1987

Mark R. Waid. Mr. Waid graduated from the University of South Carolina and Le Cordon Bleu culinary school in London, England. He owned two businesses in Columbia, S.C., and supported local charities aiding the homeless by hosting “Soul Giving” events. He enjoyed golf, travel and many friends. Mr. Waid is survived by his parents, John and Lynne Waid, and three brothers and their families.
1996

David S. Stoner. A member of the Cum Laude Society, Mr. Stoner was recognized for his achievements at Blair with several academic prizes including the George P. Jenkins ’32 Prize. He graduated from Dartmouth College in 2000, earned his law degree from Fordham University in 2005 and was a practicing attorney in New York City. Mr. Stoner and his sister, Amy Stoner ’94, organized and hosted the first annual Stoner Open in 2010, a golf outing whose purpose was to raise funds for the HHT Foundation. In addition to Amy, Mr. Stoner is survived by his parents, David and Joanna Stoner.

Former Faculty

Mark J. Tychonievich. A Latin teacher at Blair from 1985 to 1991, Mr. Tychonievich earned his bachelor’s degree at Kent State University and master’s degree at the University of Missouri-Columbia. From Blair, he went on to teach Latin and coach football at St. Louis University High School in St. Louis, Mo. He was voted the 2007 Coach of the Year in the Metro Catholic Conference, 2008 Teacher of the Year at St. Louis University High School and 2008 Assistant Coach of the Year, National Football Foundation, St. Louis Chapter. David J. Laughlin, St. Louis University High School president, noted that Mr. Tychonievich’s “passion for classics and love of working with student athletes made for a rare combination of leadership.” Mr. Tychonievich is survived by his wife, Mary, and two daughters.

Charles B. Underwood. A beloved teacher, dormitory master and coach, Mr. Underwood’s Blair tenure spanned nearly four decades. He was born and raised in Buffalo, N.Y., graduated from Amherst College in 1955 and served in the Air Force prior to coming to Blair in 1960. Active in every facet of School life, Mr. Underwood was the English department chairman from 1973-88, dormitory master of Locke and Mason Halls for 20 years, head of the flight deck in Insley Hall; head varsity soccer and baseball coach; and “dining room czar.” He was an original member of Blair’s Rules and Discipline Committee, yet his students were so appreciative of his devotion to their well-being they dedicated the ACTA to him three times, in 1970, 1980 and 1995. On Alumni Day 2010, the boys’ varsity soccer field was named “Underwood Field,” and hundreds of former students gathered to honor Mr. Underwood’s years of service and commitment to Blair. At the dedication, Headmaster Chan Hardwick characterized Mr. Underwood as a “true schoolmaster,” for whom boarding school life and work was a vocation. Mr. Underwood said that the day was one of the happiest of his life, along with the day he married his wife, Lois, and the day their daughter, Lesley ’89, was born. Both Lois and Lesley survive Mr. Underwood.
Young Alumni Advance on Big Apple

A record turnout of young alumni attended a November reception hosted by Blair Trustee Jim Krugman ’65 and his wife, Connie, in New York City at the Georgian Suite.

Former faculty member Barbara Haase,
Todd Haselton ’03 Christie Adams (guest),
Nick Lieberman ’03

Phil Mauriello ’04 and his guest Michelle Macdonald

Diana Lawrence Mashia ’99 with former faculty member Marty Haase

Ben Fertig ’02, Taylor Jubanowsky ’02 and Sophie Wiss ’02

Alex Adrien ’04 and Dean of College Counseling Lew Stival

Assistant Headmaster, Student Affairs Dave Low and Jamiyl Peters ’98

Event Hosts Trustee Jim Krugman ’65 and his wife Connie

Lauren Stival ’05, Nancy Moore ’03, Sarah Dillon ’03 and Carly Pearson ’04

Emmanuel Bello ’03 and Headmaster Chan Hardwick

Evie Tilney ’05, Sasha Ewan ’05, Lauren Stival ’05, Steffa Collens ’05 and Jon Slawson ’05
**ALUMNI EVENTS**

**Hail to Hockey Alumni**

Captain Derek Peachey ’93 reports on the annual hockey contest of alumni vs. current players: “I am writing to reflect on our historic 7-5 win over the students. Mike McDonald ’97 was our MVP for his performance between the pipes. Chris Bivona ’99 had the hat trick, and Corey Minerva ’06 added a goal or two of his own. Chris Strickland ’98’s training regimen paid off in the form of his second “best looking” award, while Greg Sozek ’77’s machine-like stamina brought home the inaugural “best conditioned” award.

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**Peddie Day 2010 Tailgating Awards**

- **Best Food award**: Blair parents David Kalainoff and Debra Laher with their children, Tatiana ’13 and Paolo

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**The alumni and Blair teams pose for a group photo**

**The alumni team prepares to hit the ice**

**Scott McKee ’77, Dennis Peachey ’62, Greg Sozek ’77**

**Michael McDonald ’97**

**Alex St. John ’13 with his dad, Gordon St. John**

**Mark Neilan ’93, Dennis Peachey ’62 and Derek Peachey ’93**

**Most Creative display**: Blair parents Harry and Susan Esposito

**Most Elegant display**: Blair parents Todd and JoEllen VanVliet and Nancy and Bob Klein

**Most School Spirit display**: The Romano family; pictured are Tony and Nina ’85 Rizzo

**Best Buccaneer Theme display**: Blair parents Jamie and Michael Jasinski, Renee and Bill Kennedy, and Debbie ’73 and Stefan ’71 Kling
But howsoever far we roam and
howsoe’er we fare,
We’ll not forget the days we spent
within the halls of Blair.

WEEKEND HIGHLIGHTS

Friday, June 10
Old Guard Luncheon
Sixth Annual Blair Cup Golf Scramble
“Classes Without Quizzes”
Old Guard & 50th Reunion Dinners
Class Parties

Saturday, June 11
5K Run
“Reflections on Three Decades of Student Life” led by Dave Low, Assistant Headmaster, Student Affairs
Headmaster’s Assembly & Alumni Awards
Round Robin Doubles Tennis Tournament
Alumni Art Show featuring contemporary artists John Ahearn ’69 and John Houskeeper ’69
Alumni Lacrosse Game
A Service of Remembrance and Celebration for former faculty Charlie Underwood
Headmaster’s Cocktail Reception, Dinner and Dancing to “The Good Times Band”

CONTACT
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Look for updated information at www.blair.edu/Alumni

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Cara Mohlmann, Director of Advancement Operations & Annual Giving
(908) 362-6121 x5628, mohlmc@blair.edu

Blair’s Headmasters’ Societies Competition Week, now in its eighth year, challenges students and faculty to have some intramural fun before finals.