ON EXHIBIT

Seminary Overlook 2011
Oil on Mylar (3 sheets), 43” × 80”
Artist: Marcia Clark
November 2012 in The Romano Gallery
Commencement 2012

The School’s 164th Commencement took place on the lawn of Sharpe House under cloudy Blairstown skies. After receiving their diplomas, the graduates carried the Class of 2012 flag up the stairs and through the Arch.

Skeptics at 35

To commemorate the Society of Skeptics’ 35th anniversary, Dr. Martin Miller offers his personal recollections about some of the most memorable lecturers who have visited Blair and addressed students.

Selena Howard’s Reflections

When Selena Howard, wife of the late former Headmaster Jim Howard, arrived in Blairstown in 1954, she found the role of Headmaster’s wife came with many new responsibilities and not much guidance.

Alumni Weekend 2012

In June, more than 500 Blair alumni returned to campus to meet old and new friends. Festivities included the annual Golf Cup Scramble, “classes without quizzes,” a 5K run, a special panel discussion and alumni softball and lacrosse games.
Dear readers:

As Blair’s new director of communications, I will also serve as editor of the Blair Bulletin, so I wanted to introduce myself to readers at the start of my first full issue. I joined Blair’s staff in mid-February 2012 after spending eight years working in healthcare communications and marketing at the American Thoracic Society in New York City. I graduated from Blair in 1999 and attended Tulane University for two years before transferring to Dickinson College, from which I graduated with honors in English in 2003. At the start of my career, I worked as a journalist in Pennsylvania and as a public relations specialist in Washington, D.C., before relocating to New York. My husband, Zach, and I now live in nearby Fredon, N.J., so I am thrilled to be back on campus learning about the many ways in which Blair has changed since I graduated. By the time this issue is printed, I will have received my MA in communications from Johns Hopkins University, a proud accomplishment after spending two years as a part-time student.

It is truly inspiring to see how much the campus has grown in my time away, and I feel very lucky to be in the position to share information about the School’s many programs and activities with parents and fellow alumni. Please feel free to contact me with story ideas and suggestions at logans@blair.edu. I look forward to hearing from you!

— Suzy (Martin) Logan ’99
My very first note in the Blair Bulletin was published in the summer of 1989, just as the Hardwick family was settling into our new home and adjusting to the Blair campus. During this first July, the community was, of course, largely devoid of young people, and there were few faculty around to meet or to chat with when getting the mail. It was very quiet—the clichéd “calm before…”

One part of that “Headmaster’s Note” involved a conversation I had with my then-five-year-old daughter, Thayer, who asked if we were the “owners” of our house, and I took it by extension to be a question about who owned the School itself. Yes, it was a sort of poetical conceit, but it was then, and is now, a legitimate question, and not just for us at Blair, but for any non-profit school or college. Ownership in the for-profit world is straightforward enough, as an enterprise is owned by those to whom the profits are due or the losses endured. It may be more complicated than that, but certainly the owners know who they are. In the non-profit model, though, ownership is tied up in the ideal, the mission, the philanthropic purpose.

When Monie and I were in China during the last spring break, we visited The Forbidden City in Beijing. The “city,” as it were, was essentially a vast palace of interconnected grounds and buildings where the emperors lived, surrounded by their government, guards, extended family and servants. In some cases, the emperors came to the throne quite young and thus depended upon guardians to teach and raise them until they could come of age and become rightful owners of their power. I remember peering into the ancient buildings, now protected from the modern common folk like us by short fences or even glass, and thinking that the Forbidden City was really a huge boarding school but for only one student. How that student learned, advanced and eventually ruled would reveal the success of the education. And in that particular “not-for-profit” world of thousands of people, all with assorted responsibilities, everyone knew who the owner was: that single student.

Next year will be Monie’s and my last at Blair, and that first summer seems a long time ago now, though I remember it well. Our children are grown up and on their own, and much has changed, but as I write this, the campus is again at rest, quiet and empty, just as it was in 1989. The last 23 years now seem to have passed quickly, yet we would like to slow everything down and have a great 24th year. And when we leave Sharpe House next June, we shall not be departing “owners,” but taking our leave as faithful caretakers of the Blair mission and spirit. During our tenure, we worked with other dedicated, capable men and women—some who have been here longer than we and will be here yet—to make sure the “owners” of the Blair experience, our students, grew up to be good stewards of the School and all that it provides. We wanted them to be responsible and aware of their ownership, if not of the School proper, then of the education they received. Of course, that is an ideal, but what would a non-profit enterprise be without an abstract goal worthy of respect? Perhaps that is why The Forbidden City has no more emperors.

But back in that summer of 1989, I do remember asserting ownership to an extent. Having received a far too abstract answer to her original question, Thayer eventually asked if we owned anything at Blair. “Like what?” I asked. “Like the pool,” said she, “because I am hot.” “Well,” I believe I said, “if we don’t own it, we can borrow it whenever we like, which is nearly the same thing.” And we went swimming. We have been so fortunate to have borrowed Blair for the last 23 years.
A New Structure for Blair’s Administration

In May, Headmaster Chan Hardwick announced administrative changes designed to give the Blair community a well-defined and organized administration. On July 1, dean of admission Ryan Pagotto ‘97 moved over to the student life office and became assistant headmaster for student life; dean of faculty Rachel Stone assumed the title assistant headmaster for faculty; James Frick became the School’s chief operating officer in charge of finance, operations and external management; and dean of student affairs Peter Curran became the new dean of admission.

“The overarching goal of these changes is to streamline decision-making and ensure that Blair has a more effective organizational structure going forward,” said Mr. Hardwick. “In addition, those offered and accepting the positions have indicated that they intend to stay at Blair for the foreseeable future, thus securing the experience in our administrative team already represented by Sam Bacon, Carolyn Conforti-Browse ’79, Carm Mazza, Lew Stival and Jim Stone, all of whom have served at Blair for more than 20 years.”

While the changes will affect faculty and staff in all departments, the restructuring will most immediately impact the student life and admission offices, which will work closely over the next year to ensure that the transition is a smooth one.

“I am excited for my new role as dean of admission and look forward to building upon Ryan’s many successes,” said Mr. Curran, who came to Blair in 2011 from Fountain Valley School in Colorado, where he served as dean of students. “I am thrilled to introduce the unique qualities of the Blair experience to prospective families and to share with them the culture and values of this learning community.”
Graduates, faculty, parents, relatives, Trustees and everyone else, good morning and welcome to the graduation for the Class of 2012. What is graduation? Robert Orben defined a graduation ceremony as “an event where the commencement speaker tells thousands of students dressed in identical caps and gowns that ‘individuality’ is the key to success.” Unlike Robert Orben, I myself have yet to define a commencement ceremony, and I still do not know what my speech is supposed to be about because I have never actually paid attention during graduation. Let’s face it, none of you do and most of you care more about being first in line at lunch than listening to what I have to say.

...Well, here we are. We made it. As freshmen, graduation seemed so far away, and I know I speak for many of us when I say, I can’t believe it is finally here. Graduation, however, is not the end. It is only the beginning. This is a wonderful time because we are finally graduating and heading off to college. This is what we have been waiting for. We have worked tirelessly for four years just to get to the point where we can go off to college and work even harder for at least another four years.

...But in all seriousness, look around you today. We have all achieved success, and our successes can be measured in a variety of different ways. One benchmark should be how many of us will still be close friends 10 or 20 years from now, and I, for one, have no doubt that the friendships we have made here will last forever. In fact, I consider you all such good friends that if we were on a plane that was about to crash, and there was only one parachute...I would miss you all a ton and think of you all the time.

...We have all changed throughout our time at Blair. Some of us are happy with who we have become, others, still searching for their identity. Whoever you decide to be, make sure that you like that person. Mark Lewis said that “The person who you’re with most in life is yourself, and if you don’t like yourself, you’re always with somebody you don’t like.” He also said that in order to like yourself “you should only do things that make you proud.” Do things that make Blair proud. Be proud of the person you have become and be proud of the person you are trying to be. Take pride in everything you do. Coming from a school like Blair, there will be high expectations for us. Don’t live down to these expectations, do something extraordinary.

An excerpt of remarks by Arianna Mojdebbakhsh ’12

Over the years, we have seen tents go up, chairs unfolded and programs printed. We were indifferent, for the most part, to these vaguely grand and important symbols of the end of a school year. We sat in the bleachers, or stood to the side, looking onto the speckled field of navy and white, listening to the line-up of speeches that discussed distant concepts like nostalgia, achievement, the future.
Arianna Mojdehbash ’12

There were not yet enough memories for us to look back on...we were making them as we stood there. We had not yet grasped even a handful of achievement, just beginning to taste success. And the future of which those speeches spoke was not our future yet. Our future was exams.

Well, here we are, ladies and gentlemen. The tents have come up, the chairs have been unfolded, the programs have been printed…and the tissues have been bought. It’s graduation again. But this time, seniors, it’s our graduation.

And we understand. We have the memories and the achievement, and we are thinking about a different kind of future. One apart from Blair. So, here we are, all confident individuals sitting together as we look onto the podium at graduation and all of the great things beyond…but we are also looking back with appreciation at the home we are leaving behind.

It is important to recognize the people in our lives who have guided us to sitting here today. First, our teachers…they have given us gifts that are truly extraordinary and everlasting. Without their instruction, we would not be able to face the new challenges ahead with as much grace and skill as we can now. Second, our parents. Without them, we would be lost, and none of this would be possible. Please join me in applauding these people for everything they do for us.

Today is a happy day, one that is irreplaceable...just like every other day we have shared at Blair together. Thank you, guys. For everything.
May 23, 2012

An excerpt of remarks by Robert Brandwood, English Department Chair

For you, your Blair experiences provide ample opportunity for what William Wordsworth identifies in the first book of the 1799 *Prelude* in the following manner:

‘There are, in our existence, spots of time
Which with distinct pre-eminence retain
A fructifying virtue.’

Wordsworth sees these ‘spots of time’ as valuable moments in our experience that shape us and that will pay dividends as we move through our lives, providing ‘food for future years’ is the phrase he uses in *Tintern Abbey*. For you, the ‘spots of time’ might revolve around the Peddie bonfire or the scoring of a goal, a point, a run that secured a vital victory or a performance or a late-night conversation in the dorm or a Eureka moment in class, and those “spots of time” will have helped make you who you are today and will constitute one of the stories that you’ll be telling, ‘somewhere ages and ages hence,’ according to Frost. What’s more, it will be a feature of whoever you become in the future.

Of course, our stories are bound up and dependent, to a large extent, on memory, and our memories tend to be more or less reliable depending upon what it is, exactly, that’s being recalled. For example, I distinctly remember being 6’2” and 215 lbs. when I was in college, but as a result of a bad night in a soaking rainstorm, I am what you see before you today—a short, skinny weakling. The Charles Atlas bully could easily kick sand in my eyes! As a matter of fact, memory is pretty unreliable because it is susceptible to time. How many of you remember with any clarity what you were doing this time last week, last month, last year? For those of us over 50, it’s tough remembering what we were doing this morning!

…If we are products of our experiences and our memories of those experiences, but our memories are fundamentally flawed and unreliable, then what does it mean for someone to claim they know who they are? Oh, I suppose you could argue that your memory is, in fact, reliable and that your recall is 20/20—a rather odd and problematic analogy to sight because we don’t always see what we think we see. I’m sure we’ve all had arguments over the accuracy of a particular memory, but how do we verify the accuracy of a memory? I, for instance, have a specific memory of a trip with my grandfather to one of my favorite places in Wales, but the problem is that no one else remembers him ever visiting this location. So what I really have is a false memory. Does that mean that the part of me that is shaped by this shared experience is somehow false? That I’m not really who I say I am or who I think I am? As you can see, this way leads to madness. We can and do rely on external evidence to validate our memories—official forms, historical documents, photographs.

But these kinds of sources are subject to loss, distortion and destruction in much the same way our memories are. I remember my grandmother kept her birth certificate in her handbag behind her front door (go figure), but it was stolen in a burglary. From that point on, the date of her birth was called into question: she couldn’t remember and there was no external evidence. From my perspective as a little boy, she might well have been as old as, well, the creation of the world. For a while, if I’d been told the *Book of Genesis* read, ‘And on the fifth day, God created the living creatures after his kind, cattle, and creeping things, beasts of the earth and Bob Brandwood’s granny,’ I would have believed it. Orwell and Hitchcock have both demonstrated the danger of relying on external evidence for verification of one’s memories. All it takes is a conspiracy to deceive and we lose our history and our sense of personal identity.
What’s more, it seems to me that asserting a sense of personal identity can only ever be temporary because our sense of self is in an almost continual state of flux, certainly when we are young and going through the kinds of rites of passage that high school graduation represents. As you approach the end of your senior year, you may be able to say, ‘I know who I am,’ but once high school is over, you’re going to have experiences that will force a re-evaluation of that statement, and I think this is the prevailing state of affairs throughout our lives. We’re constantly re-evaluating/reinventing ourselves in the light of experiences: college, early career, relationships, parenthood, aging, loss. All of these elements force us to reassess, so that, at best, we can only claim to know ourselves for short periods of time before our sense of self is disrupted by the patterns of our lives. Our identity might gel for a time, but then it becomes fluid again, gelling for a period, then becoming fluid, and so we move through our lives in this fashion. I don’t think this is a cause for concern because what becomes important is the journey itself and what we learn on that journey. To quote a character in a Brink novel I read with my juniors: ‘Keep your eyes open…for God’s sake don’t miss the view.’

…Partially through memory, we tell our stories, unconsciously adding and eliding details along the way, so that we ‘read’ ourselves and each other through our remembered experiences. As you graduate tomorrow, shake hands, hug one another and rest assured in the knowledge that at least a part of who you have been, who you are, who you will become is intimately bound up with your classmates. You are and will always be the Class of 2012, and that fact alone makes you special and unique, in the history of Blair and in your own individual and collective identities. Imagine returning in 50 years’ time for your Blair class reunion: what stories will you be telling about yourselves, about each other, about the Class of 2012? What’s important is that they’ll be your stories and you’ll be the only ones who can tell those stories. You will be what you remember, and importantly, the language you use will be familiar because it will be the product of a shared vocabulary, a shared meaning that you’ve forged over the course of your Blair experience and that you’ll carry with you for the rest of your lives. Oh, and those stories—they will be the notations of your hearts.

Thank you and congratulations Class of 2012.

Download the full text of Bob’s address from www.blair.edu/Baccalaureate2012.
“Although one of our primary goals is ensuring that students are accepted by their first-choice schools, we also keep in mind that the overarching objective is to see these students develop intellectually and personally at those institutions.”
—Lewis Stival, Dean of College Counseling

Headmaster Chan Hardwick has characterized this year as the most successful in the modern Blair era of college admission. The Class of 2012 set their sights on some of the most impressive universities in the United States—and their success is evidenced by the colleges on this year’s matriculation list (please see page 15).

Clearly, the Blair college counseling office has not lost sight of its ultimate goal: to help students find a college that is right for them.

Dean of College Counseling Lewis Stival attributes this year’s success to the Class of 2012’s impressive academic and extracurricular accomplishments. He also cites meaningful faculty letters of recommendation, thoughtful academic advising by an experienced group of monitors at every grade level and better standardized test preparation as contributing to the seniors’ effective college applications. Mr. Stival also mentioned that increased communication with the Blair parent body and larger Blair community has certainly helped pave the way to more successful outcomes.

“The college counseling office has tried to give parents a better understanding of what we do,” said Mr. Stival, who joined Blair’s faculty in 1987. “By providing timely and sensible communication in the form of newsletters and our easily accessible, web-based Naviance college counseling program, we have made the process more navigable both for students and their families.” In addition, Blair’s late-April annual college fair continues to be hugely successful. In 2012, it drew nearly 100 colleges and universities from all over the world. “This, combined with more frequent underclass parent meetings, has helped make the college counseling office a more public presence on campus,” added Mr. Stival.

With graduation now behind them, the Class of 2012 will take what they have learned at Blair and apply those skills at some of the country’s best colleges and universities. “Although one of our primary goals is ensuring students are accepted by their first-choice schools, we also keep in mind that the overarching objective is to see these students develop intellectually and personally at those institutions,” said Mr. Stival. “At the end of the day, we want students to be ready to use their Blair training to take advantage of the opportunities presented to them in college and beyond.”
The Class of 2012 set their sights on some of the most impressive universities in the United States—and their success is evidenced by the prestigious colleges on this matriculation list.

American University
Barnard College (1)
Boston College (5)
Boston University (2)
Bowdoin College
Brandeis University
Brown University
Bucknell University (4)
Chapman University
Claremont McKenna College
Clemson University
Colby College
College of Charleston
College of William and Mary (2)
Colorado College
Columbia University (3)
Cornell University (5)
Dartmouth College
Denison University
Dickinson College
Drew University
Duke University (2)
Elon University (3)
Emory University
Fordham University (2)
Franklin and Marshall College
Gettysburg College (3)

Hamilton College
Hartwick College
Harvard University (3)
Ithaca College (2)
Lafayette College (7)
Lakehead University
Lehigh University (5)
Michigan State University
New Jersey Institute of Technology
New York University (7)
Northwestern University
Occidental College (2)
Oxford College of Emory University
Pennsylvania State University, University Park
Princeton University
Rhode Island School of Design
Rice University
Rollins College (2)
Rowan University
Rutgers University
Saint Francis University
Saint Joseph’s University
Southern Methodist University (2)
St. Lawrence University
Stanford University
Temple University

The George Washington University (2)
The University of Iowa
United States Military Academy (2)
United States Naval Academy
University of California/San Diego
University of Chicago
University of Colorado at Boulder
University of Denver
University of Massachusetts/Lowell
University of Miami (4)
University of Michigan (3)
University of Notre Dame
University of Pennsylvania (2)
University of Pittsburgh
University of Redlands
University of Rochester (2)
University of Virginia
Vanderbilt University
Wake Forest University (2)
Washington University
Wellesley College (2)
Wesleyan University (3)
West Chester University of Pennsylvania
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
As the Society of Skeptics celebrates its 35th anniversary, Dr. Martin Miller looks back on its long and storied history. Established as an informal forum for students and faculty members to discuss and debate important national and international issues, the Skeptics lecture series has grown in size and scope to become one of the premier high school lecture series in the United States.

Whereas presentations were once given in classrooms and faculty members’ living rooms, lectures are now regularly held in state-of-the-art facilities in Bogle Hall’s Cowan Auditorium and Armstrong-Hipkins Center for the Arts. At one time designated for students and faculty only, the program is now open to the public and is frequently attended by members of the community and sometimes by students from other high schools. Content is increasingly audience-driven, thanks to regular student, parent and alumni recommendations. And while in the beginning, Skeptics fought for space on Blair’s activities calendar, it has since become institutionalized—without exception, Skeptics now takes place every Tuesday night at 7 p.m.

When asked how the program has evolved during his 27-year leadership, Dr. Miller says the lectures have become more interconnected to other campus activities and publications. Many speakers have published excerpts of their talks in the annual Blair Review, and teachers often require their students to attend presentations as part of their homework assignments. Over the years, Dr. Miller has increasingly invited alumni back to campus to speak as part of the Skeptics series, giving Blair graduates the chance to share their experiences with current students and faculty.

In addition, the Skeptics Series now features two special, topic-driven lectures each year that are supported by gifts to the School. The Herman Hollerith Lecture on Innovation and
Entrepreneurship was established in 2001 by Richard Hollerith Jr., father of Susan S. Cashin ’85, in memory of his grandfather, who developed an electrically driven census system that read punch cards and whose office machine business merged in 1911 with the company that would eventually become IBM. This series has featured talks by innovators in fields ranging from finance to alternative energy. The James Youngelson ’53 Lecture on Ethics and Responsibility was established in 2009 by Mr. Youngelson’s sister and late brother-in-law, Joan and Jonah Sherman. This series honors Jim Youngelson, an attorney and long-time Blair Trustee, for his lifelong commitment to justice, personal responsibility and service, and features speakers whose lives embody those ideals.

“My goal throughout all of these years has been to expose students to as many ideas as possible by inviting an eclectic group of speakers to campus,” said Dr. Miller, who joined Blair’s history department in 1980 after earning his PhD from the City University of New York. “Although Skeptics has changed in many ways, the program’s foundation remains the same: each week, speakers from the political, social, scientific, economic and literary arenas share their unique perspectives with students. More than that, the series encourages kids to be skeptical and ask questions, rather than accept what is said at face value.”

To commemorate Skeptics’ latest milestone—35 continuous years of weekly presentations during the school year—Dr. Miller offers his personal recollections of some of the most memorable lecturers who have visited Blair, addressed students and, as tradition often dictated, enjoyed coffee with faculty members and stayed overnight at Dr. Miller’s home.
1 **JOHN C. BOGLE**

Chairman Emeritus of the Blair Board of Trustees Jack Bogle, known as “Saint Jack” to his many admirers, began one Skeptics talk by focusing on failure. Yes, he performed poorly in his first outing in the business world—and indeed, he noted, this stumble was a blessing in disguise. He went on to found and lead The Vanguard Group, Inc., creating a veritable investment industry along the way. Although developing viable strategies for financial gain was part of his message, he emphasized the importance of honesty, integrity and the notion of “enough”—three novel concepts in a world that often focuses too heavily on the bottom line. A student asked about the college courses necessary to enter Jack Bogle’s rarefied world. He replied: “Why not get a good liberal arts education? We can teach you the rest. When you are 45 and have made some money, you will want to have something to say beyond financial matters.”

2 **ALBIE SACHS**

An African National Congress leader during the anti-apartheid struggle, this eminent jurist (appointed by President Nelson Mandela in 1994 to serve on South Africa’s Constitutional Court) looked gaunt and weary as he approached the podium. The students’ eyes focused on his empty jacket sleeve. A wiry, somewhat forbidding figure, he began with a stunning question: “Should I forgive the government agent who attempted to blow me to pieces?” He led the Blair audience through the revolutionary underground scene, the years in exile, Nelson Mandela’s release from prison in 1990 and the eventual one-man, one-vote democratic election in 1994. A Truth and Reconciliation Commission sought some form of closure and racial harmony by enticing all of those who had tortured and maimed to come forth and simply tell the truth. And, yes, Albie Sachs did shake the hand of the Afrikaner operative who orchestrated the car bombing that grievously injured him in Maputo, Mozambique. After all, he noted, the officer asked for forgiveness. I still remember the absolute silence in Armstrong-Hipkins Center for the Arts.

3 **CHUCK BEDNARIK**

“Concrete Charlie” was a hard-nosed, all-American football player in the 1950s and 1960s. A linebacker and offensive center who played in college and, later, with the Philadelphia Eagles, Chuck kept students laughing. “See my wife in the audience? She can the kick the crap out of Deion Sanders.” (Sanders was then the rare NFL two-way player, a receiver and defensive back.) And, of course, Chuck spoke about his famed tackle of the New York Giants’ Frank Gifford in 1960, which knocked the great running back out of football for many months. “I was celebrating a victory, not taunting him,” he recalled. Beyond recounting his own football heroics and his myriad awards, including his induction into the College Football Hall of Fame and NFL Hall of Fame, Chuck told the quintessential American immigrant story: his Slovak immigrant parents toiled in the Bethlehem steel mills; he served in WWII as a B-24 waist-gunner flying 30 combat missions over Germany; and he enjoyed enormous football success and notoriety in his college years at Penn and then the NFL. He had the highest regard for his hardworking, no-nonsense parents. “My mother told me to avoid fights but not to back down from bullies,” he said. I don’t think anyone can accuse Bednarik of backing down from anything.
4 DITH PRAN
The famed survivor of the Cambodian “Killing Fields” spoke at Skeptics on a number of occasions before he passed away in 2008. Rapt students asked provocative questions during lively question-and-answer periods. One student asked: “When escaping the genocidal Khmer Rouge, what was it like crawling through the mud and encountering poisonous snakes?” His answer: “Those were the good days with plenty of food to eat.” Another student inquired: “How does one live after losing 40 family members?” His practical reply: “What choice do you have?” Dith Pran slept fitfully at my home the night after one of his lectures, still affected by frequent nightmares. When he died a few years ago, he had at least found some peace. Why wasn’t a Nobel Peace Prize awarded to this tireless emissary for open societies and the rule of law? Dith Pran has my vote.

5 MARIO SAVIO
The enfant terrible of the 1960s Berkeley Free Speech Movement was a middle-aged physics teacher raising a child by the time he spoke at Blair in the 1980s. As he told it, “constitutionalism” and reform were his long-term goals, and the self-styled revolutionaries of that period were a different breed of political animal. It was the summer voter-registration drive in the South and the civil rights movement for African-Americans that provided the experience and template for his Berkeley role. “Always demand your constitutional rights,” he advised students. Uncomfortable with the revolutionary tag, Mario dropped out of the political scene and quietly taught science and raised a family as best he could. Students were generally clueless about this 1960s persona, but his repeated line, “I wanna register,” the refrain of disenfranchised Southern blacks, resonated in the old Memorial Hall auditorium, which was rededicated as Timken Library in 1998.

6 ANN SMITH & MARTIN GALVIN
Ann, a representative of the United States’ Ulster Unionist Party, debated Martin Galvin, former leader of the Irish Northern Aid Committee (NORAID) and a staunch supporter of a 32-county Irish Republic, including the six counties of Northern Ireland. Ann was a hard-line Unionist who felt the counties of Ulster must remain constitutionally linked to the United Kingdom. Although they fundamentally disagreed, Ann and Martin discussed the “Irish Troubles” from all angles. One international student in the audience, a young woman with family roots in the Sudan, asked a simple and devastating question: “What chance does my country have to end a bloody civil war if you people who are rich, look alike, speak the same language and are Christian can’t come to an agreement?” The two speakers smiled and simply nodded.

7 CHRISTINE TODD WHITMAN
A political moderate, former EPA director and New Jersey Governor Whitman recently lamented the stunning collapse of the centrist Republican tradition. And as a lover of the outdoors, she expressed regret that she failed to accomplish more during her tenure as head of the Environmental Protection Agency during George W. Bush’s administration. Perhaps most important for Blair students, the Governor talked about her personal history and how hard work, determination, support
and, yes, luck transformed her from a middling student to an important figure in the halls of national political power. The call to public service resounded throughout the auditorium.

8 MARC ELLIOT
Arguably the most beloved Skeptics speaker in recent years, Marc has come to campus several times to talk about living with Tourette’s syndrome and the importance of becoming more tolerant of others. He talks openly about the extraordinarily embarrassing situations he has faced as someone who was diagnosed with the disease at the age of nine and encourages students to accept their own problematic traits and behavior. The call for tolerance and “live-and-let-live” outlook resonates with students, and the message remains fresh and poignant each time he comes to campus.

9 MOHAMED EL-ERIAN
In 2012, this famed business leader and public intellectual did the impossible: garnering the attention of the entire student body by talking about critical economic issues such as the U.S. housing bubble, the problematic growth of the financial sector and the Eurozone in crisis—no small task. After deeming his prepared speech too complicated for the average teen, the PIMCO CEO rewrote his lecture late the night before he visited campus. Students and faculty alike took their hats off to Mr. El-Erian for his ability to explain complex concepts with understandable and accessible metaphors. Perhaps it’s the mark of a dynamic corporate leader and the sensitivity of a proud uncle. Niece Nadia Rose El-Erian ’12, a Blair postgraduate student, will attend Lehigh University in the fall.

10 ISHMAEL BEAH
The former child soldier of Sierra Leone’s civil wars and author of A Long Way Gone spoke at Blair on two memorable occasions. He held forth at lunch to an excited group of world history students and practiced with the soccer teams in the afternoon, all as a warm-up to a rousing, informative lecture in the evening. How does one transform himself from an armed child automaton prepared to murder on command into an educated, deeply moral adult who is a United Nations spokesman? It was a long, tortuous and unlikely path. The ghosts lingering in Armstrong-Hipkins’ DuBois Theater were those of child soldiers and their victims whose lives ended on the battleground of African civil strife.

11 VERONICA DE NEGRÍ
This tireless Chilean human rights advocate lost her son to General Augusto Pinochet’s roundup of those challenging the military coup ousting President Salvador Allende in 1973. She was subject to torture and endless humiliation but survived to live in a vibrant Chilean democracy and see Pinochet arrested and put on trial. Her message: Don’t take your precious civil rights for granted and fight for justice throughout the world. Amen.

12 ARTIE GARFUNKEL
In the 1980s, the famed singer and song-writer came to Blair to listen rather than perform. What was on the minds of young students at that time? As a member of the famed duo Simon and Garfunkel, Artie produced some of the great anthems of the 1960s—such as “Mrs.
“Robinson” and the “Sound of Silence”—but now he was embarking on a walking tour across America to get a better feel for the country. Blair’s Memorial Hall was transformed into a sociological study center. And he meant what he said: no performance, no singing, no strumming on the guitar—just a richly textured Q and A.

13 GEORGINA PARKINSON

A star dancer of the Royal Ballet in the 1960s, Georgina Parkinson was the ballet mistress and coach of American Ballet Theater (ABT) when she landed on the campus in the mid-1980s with troupe members in tow. She purposely chose ABT dancers who were former male gymnasts and football players to make a point: training for the ballet is a tough, athletic assignment! Her intelligence, poise, articulate delivery and obvious passion for the arts enthralled a crowd that included those who had initially questioned a Skeptics lecture focusing on ballet. According to The New York Times, when Georgina passed away in 2009, ABT star Julie Kent noted, “I learned everything from her.” Georgina’s son, Tobias Round ’90, a West End producer in London, remains a friend of mine.

14 ROBERT TEXTOR ’40

Bob was the Blair valedictorian in 1940, then served with distinction in World War II’s Pacific theater and during the American occupation of defeated Japan. He went on to a storied career developing the Peace Corps and teaching and researching as a Stanford professor of anthropology. Gravitas personified, he stood on the Armstrong-Hipkins stage with his valedictory robe straining against his shoulders and mid-section. We were taken through an annotated version of the 1940 speech, with Bob underscoring his isolationist views that generally reflected the sentiment that existed on campus in the 1940s. “Let us not choose sides in the coming conflict,” he said, before gliding adroitly through each ensuing decade, dovetailing his own life experiences with the major events of those times—a bravura performance.

15 CONGRESSMAN JAMES COURTER

Imagine this scene from the mid-1980s: Memorial Hall auditorium is packed with the entire student body awaiting the arrival of Republican Congressman James Courter, who had served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1979 to 1991, and who was New Jersey’s Republican Party gubernatorial nominee in 1989. He had raced straight from a congressional hearing on the “Contras versus Sandinista” issue, which Americans of various political stripes were debating at that time. Essentially, the Reagan administration supported the Nicaraguan right-wing military “Contras,” who were fighting the radical left “Sandinista” government led by Daniel Ortega. As we waited for the tardy Congressman, I desperately attempted to answer questions from the audience, but bridling students weren’t buying it.

Finally, Mr. Courter arrived with an entourage and the place went wild. That was a close call! He made his case for supporting the Contras, and the audience fired heated and challenging questions at him in staccato fashion. Daniel Ortega and the Sandinistas had overthrown the Anastasio Somoza regime and eventually lost an election to the reformist democrat Violeta Chamorro in 1990. Ortega is currently the elected president of Nicaragua, by the way. Interestingly, the family names Somoza and Chamorro can be found on Blair’s alumni rolls.

Find out who will be speaking during the 2012-2013 school year at www.blair.edu/SocietyofSkeptics.
Before Jim Howard became Headmaster of Blair in 1954, he and his wife, Selena, lived at The Lawrenceville School, where Jim was a history teacher. For Mrs. Howard, the role of Headmaster’s wife came with many new responsibilities, not much guidance and the need to work with a much older and seemingly formidable faculty. Yet, despite the challenges she faced, Mrs. Howard quickly began to define her own role at Blair.

The Howards arrived on campus after a tumultuous period for the School: Blair faced significant financial challenges; former Headmaster Ben Roman had served only three years; and it was time of general upheaval and uncertainty on campus. Also, many good faculty members left after a short time because of poor housing accommodations. “Student enrollment was down,” said Mrs. Howard, “and it often seemed that we needed to beat the bushes to fill the beds.”

“I certainly wasn’t given a job description—I had to figure out for myself what position I wanted to play,” continued Mrs. Howard, who now lives in Westport, Mass., in the home she and Jim built as a summer get-away in the 1950s. Some parts came easily, such as interacting with the students, supporting them at games, helping with drama productions and making arrangements for dances, proms and other social events. Other parts were a bit harder, such as the large-scale entertaining of alumni, parents and Trustees. “It was always a caution not to show favoritism, especially with the faculty,” said Mrs. Howard, who was only 24 when she and Jim came to Blair.

As for the students, Mrs. Howard was something of a mother to them, a role she really enjoyed over the years. “I was pretty young, and I worked really hard to get to know them,” she recalled. “The first few years, I memorized all of the kids’ names from photos before they even got to School.”

Selena met Jim in 1949 when, as a college student, she took a summer job caring for Jim’s 5-year-old son, Jerry, whose mother had died of polio several years earlier. Mrs. Howard left Wilson College in Pennsylvania after her sophomore year to marry Jim. “He needed a wife and Jerry needed a mother more than I needed a college degree at the time,” she explained.

A member of the history department at The Lawrenceville School, Jim was finishing his graduate work at Harvard during the summers. Former Trustee John Verdery ’35, a good friend who was then headmaster of the Wooster School in Danbury, Conn., exhorted Jim to consider the position of Headmaster at Blair.

Selena Howard Reflects on 22 Years at Blair
Blair, insisting that it was his “moral obligation” as an educator. After his appointment, Blair Trustees Stanton L. Rowley ’18 and George Dayton ’15 visited Jim at Lawrenceville to meet the man they had selected. “I think they were shocked at how young we were,” Mrs. Howard recalled. “When they were ready to leave, Jim said: ‘Gentlemen, I am quite surprised that you haven’t asked me what my politics are.’ George said, with the resignation of an elder, ‘I suppose you are a Democrat!’”

Compared to Lawrenceville, Blairstown seemed very small to the Howards that first summer of 1954, but they found the townspeople warm and welcoming. Given the difficulties the School was experiencing, Jim immediately began to make changes. “I think it is fair to say that when we first came to Blair, it was in the doldrums,” Mrs. Howard said. “As the years went by, things steadily improved—but we had to just redo the basics and rebuild the School from the bottom up. By 1960, things were really looking up. Our endowment had begun to grow; we had very active, supportive Trustees; and with new young faculty members, academics began to strengthen.”

Blair was founded in 1848 to benefit the boys and girls of Presbyterian clergy and elders, but by 1915, the School found the presence of girls awkward, and it became a boys-only institution. In the mid-1960s, Jim began to toy with the idea of bringing girls back to campus. For the next five years, the merits and demerits of co-education were discussed among Trustees and faculty. In 1969, the Trustees approved Jim’s proposition, and in 1970, the first girls were enrolled. In fact, Jim and Selena’s late daughter, Mollie Howard Conklin ’71, was a member of the first co-educational class since 1915. Their youngest daughter, Eleanor Howard Elmer ’74, attended Blair all four years.

The arrival of girls added a new dimension to the Howards’ life at Blair, especially because the students often became their daughters’ friends. “I can remember joining in a group of Eleanor’s friends reading Hamlet,” Mrs. Howard recalled. “There were great conversations with the kids and it was a stimulating time for me. This prompted me to go back to school and finish my degree. I received my BA in history from Rutgers in 1977, just a year before Eleanor graduated from Vassar.”

Having felt keenly the loss of her own mother at 14, Mrs. Howard committed herself to making the teenage students feel cared for. “Over the years, I tried to maintain a sense of grace and good manners on campus,” she said. “Sometimes students came to Sharpe House for dinner or breakfast or to play ping-pong, pool or charades.”
In the early days, Mrs. Howard hosted a coffee hour several nights a week in the John I. Blair room and taught cooking and breadmaking classes in the Sharpe House kitchen. She also created a number of campus clubs, including the Blue and White Key Society, an organization of student ambassadors who assist at School functions for parents, alumni and prospective students.

By 1976, after 22 years at Blair, the Howards decided to move on. “We felt the School was on its way and thought we should leave then, while people still wanted us to stay,” she explained. The couple made Westport their permanent residence, and Jim became editor of publications for the Council for Basic Education, spending one week a month in Washington, D.C. “Throughout his career, writing was Jim’s passion,” Mrs. Howard continued. “He felt it was terribly important and always said ‘You don’t know what you think until you can put it down on paper.’”

The Howards maintained their ties to Blair throughout the years, and when Jim died in 2002, Selena received a tremendous outpouring of sympathy from former colleagues and students. “Even now, I like to stay

**An Excerpt from Selena’s Memoirs**

“When taking the helm at Blair, Jim was only 32 and I was 24. Blair, like many schools at the time, was having difficulty filling the school. Finances were in bad shape and the school had virtually no endowment. It was going to be a long, hard pull, but we were young. There was a great group of faculty in their 30s who had been at Blair for a number of years before our arrival. Henry Cowan, bachelor teacher of English, was a great help to Jim in promoting academics. He became chairman of the English department and, ultimately, dean of students. Bob Harris and his wife, Lois, were great sparks among the faculty. Bob taught English and drama and was a great favorite among the students. It was a very sad day (I remember the date, May 18, because it was Mollie’s fourth birthday) that we learned that Bob had been sailing with two students and a storm came up and capsized the boat. One of the boys, who was a good swimmer, said he’d swim ashore to get help. Unfortunately, Bob, who was not a great swimmer, decided to follow. He did not make it and both boys were saved.

The Marcials, Fernando and Joan, were to become our closest friends. Eleanor was their godchild. Ferd, a Spaniard by birth whose family had left Spain during the Franco regime, along with his brothers and sister, were all educated here. After [former assistant headmaster] Harry Walker’s death, Jim appointed Ferd as assistant headmaster and the Marcials moved in next door to Sharpe House. Early on, we had a weekly bridge game, a precious outlet for us all.”
involved because I care about Blair,” she explained. “Being back on campus brings back wonderful memories, and I really enjoy seeing the vibrant life of the School today, as well as the kids, now grown, whom I knew way back when. One of the things that delights me is that alumni come back to Blair and show such loyalty to the School.”

This loyalty was manifest in 2008 when the class of 1958 raised over $250,000 to build Howard House in honor of Jim and Selena’s many contributions to the School.

Over the years, Mrs. Howard herself has been a very generous benefactor to Blair. In 2009, her daughter Mollie died at 56 after a long battle with cancer. To honor her memory, Mrs. Howard established the Mollie Howard Conklin ’71 Memorial Scholarship, which promotes diversity within the student body—something that was important to Mollie as a student at Blair and, later, as a science teacher in New York, Virginia and Rhode Island.

At 82 and legally blind, Selena Howard lives independently in the house she shared with Jim and is more active than many people half her age. She practices yoga twice a week and serves on the boards of the Westport Disabilities Commission, the Friends of the Senior Center, the Westport Educational Foundation and the Green Faith Committee of the Westport Point United Methodist Church, of which she is an active member. She remains involved in local community issues and often walks with her Labradoodle, Daisy, in the 100-acre conservation area that borders her property.

In the fall, she will visit Prague and Paris with her daughter, Alida, who recently retired. She also spends as much time as possible with her children and nine grandchildren, one of whom plans to edit her memoirs.

“I’m poking away at the memoirs, not chronologically but anecdotally,” Mrs. Howard said with a smile. “It isn’t the fastest process in the world, but I’m having fun doing it.”

Jim and Selena danced at many Blair proms.

Selena with Miss Ellen, who ran Blair’s bookstore for many years, and Alma Cosentino, former assistant to the dean of admission.

Selena spoke at the dedication of Howard House in 2008.
In June, more than 500 Blair alumni returned to campus to meet old and new friends. The festivities kicked off on Friday afternoon with the Old Guard luncheon, which is held annually for members of classes that have celebrated their 50th reunion, followed by the Blair Cup Golf Scramble. Alums got an insider's view of academic life at Blair by attending "classes without quizzes" and honored classmates and faculty members who are no longer with us at an evening memorial service.

On Saturday morning, following the annual 5K run led by longtime faculty members Dr. Martin Miller and Latta Browse, Blair presented a panel discussion called “Reflections from Sharpe House.” Moderated by veteran English teacher Carolyn Conforti-Browse ’79, the panel looked back at the last 40 years at Blair from the Headmaster’s wife’s perspective. The audience heard from Selena Howard, wife of James Howard, who was Headmaster from 1954 to 1976; Blair Alumni Association Board of Governors president Kirsten Trommald Bushick ’82, who spoke on behalf of Elaine Kelley, wife of the Reverend James R. Kelley, who was Headmaster from 1976 to 1989; and Monie Hardwick, wife of current Headmaster Chan Hardwick, who is entering his twenty-fourth year at the School. A video of the hour-long event is posted on Blair’s website (to watch it, please go to www.blair.edu/BlairPanelDiscussion).

Late Saturday morning, alumni of all ages lined up at the Arch for the annual parade through campus, a procession led by the most senior classes. Mr. Hardwick then recognized the graduates who remain most involved in and dedicated to the School at the Headmaster’s Assembly (see Peachey Award recipients on page 27).

Following a picnic luncheon, Blair hosted an alumnae softball game that celebrated 25 years of coaching by Mrs. Conforti-Browse, as well as an alumni lacrosse game played on Hampshire Field. In the afternoon, a number of the artists whose work was on display in the Romano Gallery mingled with fellow alumni in the Romano Gallery at a reception celebrating the spring exhibition (for more about the young alumni show, please see story on page 64). The evening concluded with the Headmaster’s cocktail reception and the Alumni Dinner.

We hope to see you at next year’s reunion, which will take place on Friday, May 10, and Saturday, May 11, 2013. By hosting the weekend in May instead of June, alumni will have the opportunity to see current students in action in the classroom, on the athletic fields and on the stage.
Alumni Awards & Recognition

At the 2012 Headmaster’s Assembly, Chan Hardwick recognized the following alumni for their commitment to Blair by presenting them the 2012 Peachey Awards.

Pete Fritts ’56 Brings National Wrestling Hall of Fame Award Home to Blair

Following a storied 62-year career as a wrestling competitor and coach, Pete Fritts Sr. ’56 was honored in 2003 by the National Wrestling Hall of Fame with their Lifetime Service to Wrestling Award. On Alumni Weekend, Pete paid tribute to his Blair Academy wrestling roots by presenting this award to the School at a special ceremony in the Jeffrey P. Buxton Wrestling Room.

“Pete and I share a passion for wrestling,” said Blair wrestling coach Jeff Buxton. “He’s been called the ‘dean’ of Georgia wrestling, but he’s not the dean—he’s the father. As a competitor and coach, both in the U.S. and internationally, Pete has done remarkable things for the sport. We’re honored that he’s sharing this award with Blair.”

Pete’s Hall of Fame plaque is now prominently displayed in the Blair wrestling trophy case next to an identical plaque presented posthumously in 2004 to his first wrestling coach, Robert H. Dalling Sr. ’29. “Having people like Bob Dalling and Tony Maltese ’55 as mentors made all the difference in the world to me,” Pete remarked. “This is a great institution and a great wrestling program. I’m always proud to say ‘I wrestled at Blair.’”
A class representative extraordinaire since 1969, Mark has served his class and the School enthusiastically, generously and with an irresistible sense of style and humor. He has cemented his classmates’ bond of friendship and kept them connected to the School through poignant, humorous class letters and personal outreach. Mark has spearheaded several successful class fundraising initiatives, helping to create a meaningful Blair legacy for the Class of 1962. Universally respected, a gifted communicator and a caring, gracious friend, Mark has manifested and fostered the Blair spirit of community for his classmates from their days as students right through to this, their 50th Reunion.

Despite a few freshman-year “mischievous misdemeanors,” Mark was a golden boy on Blair’s campus. A natural leader, he played varsity tennis and served as Dramatics Club president, International Society vice president and co-sports editor of the Breeze. He was 1962’s top academic student all four years, and Henry Cowan praised him as an “excellent student who takes great pleasure in doing work which approaches perfection.” Mark received prizes in math, Spanish, biology and Latin, capping his Blair career as valedictorian. He was named to the dean’s list at Amherst College, where he earned a bachelor’s degree in English in 1966, and he continued his education at MIT, where he earned a master’s degree in city planning.

A successful real estate developer and urban planner, Mark and his wife of 45 years, Janet, a high school counselor, raised their daughter, Amy, and son, Michael, in Newton Centre, Massachusetts. Mark whimsically chronicled life in “Suburbia” in his annual letters to the Class of ’62, regaling classmates with tales of visits to the Volvo dealership, mishaps with the recalcitrant snow blower and the aches and pains of growing older amid news of the School and pleas and exhortations for Blair Fund gifts—that is, as he subtly put it: “MONEY.” These epistles were so inspired, irreverent and downright funny that in 1996, Dennis Peachey, Mark’s classmate and friend, placed a bound copy of The Gottesman Chronicles for the Class of 1962 in Timken Library. Dedicated to “All Blair Academy Class Representatives,” these letters are a testament to Mark’s class communication par excellence.

A generous benefactor of Blair and of non-profit organizations in his community, Mark’s philanthropic vision and leadership has inspired the Class of 1962 to fund several meaningful gifts to the School, including Peachey Plaza in 2008. This year, in honor of their 50th Reunion, Mark led his class in establishing both the Class of 1962 Scholarship and the Class of 1962 Endowed Teaching Fellow, two of the School’s most significant reunion gifts ever. He has generously supported Blair over the years and encouraged his classmates to do the same.

Mark has worked diligently to “rally the troops” for each of 1962’s major reunions, and his efforts have been rewarded in the spirited, memory-filled revelries that he and his classmates enjoy when they return to the hilltop. Their camaraderie extends beyond Blair as well, and Mark’s frequent communication has certainly helped his classmates remain united and in touch with one another wherever they have found themselves throughout their lives.

“Class Representative” merely begins to describe what Mark has been to the Class of 1962—he is a loyal friend, an inspirational leader and a unifying force that has kept his classmates connected to one another and to Blair. His exemplary service to his class and creative leadership have set the bar high for class representation for all Blair alumni. For more than four decades of dedicated work on behalf of the Class of 1962 and Blair Academy, we are proud to recognize Mark Gottesman as the 2012 Alumnus of the Year.
Alumnus of the Year 2012 -
James H. G. Naisby ’57

Jim Naisby is a man of action. When he sees a job that must be done or a need that he can fulfill, he goes to work—assessing the situation, crafting a plan and carrying it out. This “hands-on” approach to life is, no doubt, the secret of Jim’s success as an entrepreneur, as a devoted husband, father and grandfather, and, of course, as one of Blair’s most loyal volunteers and benefactors. Jim works energetically on any project that will benefit the School, from volunteering at an event to marshalling fellow alumni for a fundraising initiative. He is a leader, a doer and an ambassador for Blair wherever he goes, and all of this stems from his heartfelt belief in the importance of education and his abiding love for the School.

In everything Jim does at Blair, Diane, his lovely wife of more than 50 years, is at his side, supporting Jim’s work as well as Blair. In 2004, the Naisbys moved back to New Jersey after living and raising their family in Great River, Long Island. Since then, Jim has served enthusiastically on the Alumni Board of Governors and as 1957’s Class Representative. While managing his thriving business enterprises, Jim finds the time to visit campus frequently and, as a result, has become well versed in the progress the School has made since his own student days and aware of the challenges Blair faces to secure its financial future. In true Jim Naisby-fashion, he has taken what he has learned and gone to work for Blair.

As Class Representative for 1957, Jim keeps his classmates in close touch with each other and with the School through letters, phone calls and faithful Class Notes updates. Whenever Jim and Diane travel, they make it a point to visit classmates and friends from other classes, too. Jim orchestrated the planning for 1957’s 50th and 55th Reunions, re-energizing and re-engaging his classmates for their 50th Reunion when they raised funds to dedicate the scoreboard at Hampshire Field in memory of beloved former football coach Steve Kuk. Jim’s service on the Board of Governors, where he is currently vice president, has also been outstanding. He lends a hand to everything from Peddie Day parking to strategic planning, and he motivates others to join him in his efforts with a smile and a gentle word of encouragement. In all of his work, Jim’s genuine care for his fellow alumni and for Blair shines through.

Together with Diane, Jim has provided for the School’s future by making a generous estate gift to Blair. With the realization that great teachers are at the heart of a great institution and that the special relationship between teachers and students is one of Blair’s most valuable assets, the Naisbys’ gift will establish an endowed teaching chair to help Blair attract and retain the finest faculty members. This legacy will benefit both faculty and students well into the future, and it is as practical and pragmatic as Jim himself.

Jim’s many accomplishments as a Blair alumnus come as no surprise when you know how involved he was as a student. He played varsity football and baseball, sang in every musical group on campus and rose from coffee boy to manager of all student waiters. Assistant Headmaster Harold F. Walker praised him as “a fighter both in and out of the classroom.” It is no wonder, then, that to this day, Jim continues to fight the good fight for Blair in any way he can. Jim’s leadership of his classmates and fellow alumni and steadfast loyalty are deeply appreciated by all of us at Blair, and as he celebrates his 55th Reunion, we are delighted to recognize Jim Naisby as Alumnus of the Year.
They jokingly (or not so jokingly) dubbed their 50th the UNTHINKABLE Reunion, yet members of the Class of 1962 clearly gave considerable thought to their Blair legacy as the momentous occasion approached. And, not satisfied with the thought of a single reunion gift to the School, the reunion committee embarked on an ambitious year-long drive to establish both a scholarship and a teaching fellow. Through outreach of every kind—phone calls, e-mails, letters and get-togethers—the classmates raised $232,364 in gifts and pledges and fully funded both the Class of 1962 Scholarship and the Class of 1962 Endowed Teaching Fellow.

The Class of 1962 Scholarship will be awarded annually to a deserving student, giving him or her the life-changing opportunity of a Blair education. The School’s faculty will be supported through the Class of 1962 Endowed Teaching Fellow, as it provides funds to nurture, recognize and retain the most promising young instructors. Blair’s students and teachers will benefit from the generosity of the Class of 1962 for many years to come.

The Class of 1962 Reunion Committee:

Chuck Akre
Frank Barnako
Jim Fox
Mark Gottesman
Pete Humphrey
Will Johnson
Steve Kreglow

Gerry Manning
Dennis Peachey
Bob Rand
Creed Terry
Bob Walter
Don Weinstein
Blair is one of the few high schools in the United States that offers an architecture course that teaches students about model-making, landscape design, structuralism, tectonics and building systems. “We try to approach the topic of design in a very creative vector—an easy feat at Blair, which has an art department that rivals most colleges,” said instructor Eli King, who expanded the course’s offerings when he became a Blair faculty member in 2003. “In addition to teaching students how to speak the language of technical drawing, one of my primary goals is to produce some discerning consumers of architecture.”

A self-described proto-archaic classicist who runs his own architectural firm, Mr. King emphasizes the importance of idea development, architectural history, research and communication. “I try to get students to develop the ability to express their ideas three dimensionally in freehand, which I feel is the most important communication skill for architects and designers,” he explained. “While there are very sophisticated computer software packages available, you first need to understand the basics before you can get into the very complicated and amazing things that you can accomplish with technology.”

Although some students will end up studying architecture in college and even go on to pursue careers in the field, most of his pupils simply enjoy the design process and are learning an important skill set that will serve them well in other ways, academically and professionally. “If you have the self-motivation to design an architectural project, which can take weeks or months to do, then you’ve developed a certain kind of self-discipline that is crucial to success,” said Mr. King, who earned his MA at Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture Planning and Preservation before teaching at the City College of New York and the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York City. Students in his class also learn the importance of time-management, creativity and presentation skills.

But perhaps the most valuable lesson that Mr. King teaches his students is that materials do not always obey your wishes. “You can design a project and then try to build it, only to find that it simply won’t work,” he said. “I make sure the kids get out of the classroom and build things on campus to prove this point.” In 2012, the class worked with bamboo and quickly learned that the best laid design plan can’t be implemented if the materials at hand resist you.

“Architecture is like an escape from the normal academic routine for me,” said Alex Karasik ’13. “The class has a friendly environment with a great professor who actually works as an architect. In the last year, I have advanced my skills in drafting and hands-on structural work as part of group and individual projects. This class is one of a kind at Blair and has been a great experience.”
Blair Immerses Students in Foreign Languages

Blair’s language classes are different from those offered by many high schools in at least one respect: students pledge to speak only in the language they are studying for the duration of each class. The goal of such immersion is to enhance learning and to make students more comfortable speaking and writing in French, Spanish and Chinese.

The language pledge was something Spanish teacher Sarah O’Neil had encountered while teaching at Middlebury. At first, some Blair teachers thought it wouldn’t work, but the program has continued to be extremely successful and has become a hallmark of the language department’s philosophy.

“The department currently has eight teachers, all of whom have extensive experience living and studying overseas,” said department chair Tim Devaney. “They take their passion for language and culture into the classroom.”

The School offers advanced placement (AP) courses in all three languages, each of which tackled different projects during the spring semester.

“Throughout the year, students constantly practiced their skills in authentic and interesting ways,” said Ms. O’Neil. “They listened to Spanish music and podcasts, watched videos, read literature and current event articles, gave presentations, and wrote essays.”

Likewise, the AP French class regularly used a combination of oral, visual and written materials, while also focusing on the relationship between language and culture. “We asked students to compare and contrast the cultural, historic and linguistic aspects of French-speaking countries and regions to their own homeland or ethnic heritage in order to gain a broader understanding of today’s global community,” explained AP French teacher Maria Bowditch (pictured above).

And the AP Chinese course tackled a number of projects focused on Chinese culture. This year, students did PowerPoint presentations about Chinese cities, historical dynasties, great literature, holidays and festivals. “Some of our most interesting discussions were on the differences between the Chinese and American education systems, the one-child policy, school life, popular movies, Internet culture and the culinary offerings of various Chinese regions,” said Lian Wang, who teaches the Chinese advanced placement course.

“Leah Simon ’13, who took Spanish 4 honors this spring after spending three months in Spain studying the language last summer. “The teachers’ passion makes learning and using a new language truly rewarding for students.”

New AP World History Course Emphasizes Student Engagement

In the fall of 2011, Blair began offering a new course that prepares seniors for the advanced placement world history exam, while also encouraging them to think critically, analyze source materials and engage in group discussions.

“AP world history taps into the work students have done in the ninth-, tenth- and eleventh-grade history curricula at Blair,” said history teacher and college counselor Jason Beck. “Although the course is designed to help seniors do well on the AP world history test, students are also expected to be the primary players in class discussions and in posing questions that need further exploration.”

At its core, the class focuses on ideas, the examination of how those ideas have developed since the dawn of civilization, and the analysis and interpretation of historical evidence. “Our collective humanity is in many ways defined by the decisions humans have made for millennia—yet out of that collection of pragmatic decisions has emerged philosophy, enlightenment, religion, culture, and all things that define us as being much more than simply economic and practical animals,” continued Mr. Beck, who joined Blair’s faculty in 2001.

In the course’s first year, students developed a greater understanding of the evolution of global processes in different types of human societies. The historical timeline covered in class stretched from 8,000 BCE to the present, but with a focus on the nature of changes in global frameworks and their causes and consequences, as well as comparisons among major societies.
Blair’s faculty created an advanced statistics class at the start of the 2011-2012 school year specifically for two students who had surpassed the available math curriculum. The course, which is the equivalent of an upper-level statistics class a math major would take in college, focused on probability theory, probability functions and hypothesis testing. The students—Melody Shao ’12 and John Kang ’12—completed extensive research projects that allowed them to apply this knowledge in a real-world setting.

“This statistics class is great because it requires skills in advanced algebra and calculus but, unlike most courses, is driven more by analysis than computation,” said math teacher Jake Dellorco, who has been a Blair faculty member since 2009. “In this way, the course sometimes presents itself like a science class, in that students not only need to use mathematics to get an answer, but must also analyze the meaning of their results.”

In the past, Blair has offered a linear algebra course, which, like advanced statistics, was designed for students who had already completed the School’s multivariable calculus class. Blair decided to develop the advanced statistics course because it puts students a step ahead in college—especially those who plan to pursue careers in mathematics, economics or the sciences. And for those who haven’t yet considered such career options, it is a great opportunity to be introduced to new things. “For many students, it is the first math course where the explanation of their solution is in many ways more important than the solution itself,” explained Mr. Dellorco.

This shift in perspective is one reason the students say they have learned a lot—while still having a great deal of fun. “The class taught us knowledge that can be applied in a variety of fields, so I feel really fortunate to have had the opportunity to take it,” said Melody, whose end-of-the-year research project focused on basketball’s “hot-hand” theory, which posits that a player who makes a basket has an increased likelihood of scoring again. After collecting data on the Blair girls’ varsity basketball team, she rejected the theory and concluded that whether a player makes a basket is independent from previous scoring results.
Blair Students Excel Nationwide in Academic Competitions

Because superior academic preparation is at the heart of the Blair experience, students are constantly learning, both inside and outside of the classroom. The fact that so many students spend their free time participating in various academic competitions is evidence that the School encourages its students to think critically and to view learning as an ongoing process.

Throughout the school year, math teacher Nathan Molteni leads a weekly Quiz Bowl series, in which 20-plus students compete in intramural and extramural Jeopardy-style events that test their knowledge of literature, science, fine art, religion, mythology and history.

Former History Bowl team captain Robbie Williams '12 (pictured above) called competing “a fun way to take what I have learned in class and use it in a competitive forum.”

Students are also active in more scientifically oriented contests such as the Siemens Competition of Math, Science and Technology, which awards one of the most prestigious science honors a high school student can win. In October 2011, the judges selected Blair student Moo Been Chung '14 as a national semi-finalist in that particular contest after evaluating more than 2,400 entries for creativity, field knowledge, comprehensiveness, interpretation, clarity of expression and presentation.

Likewise, students who are interested in mathematics also have numerous opportunities to learn and solve problems outside the classroom. Each year, Blair’s math team usually competes in six MathLeague contests, as well as Princeton University’s PuMac competition and Lehigh University’s High School Math Contest. In addition, many students take the American Math Competition and American Invitational Math Exam. During the 2012 school year, the team was ranked in the top 10 of the teams involved in the New Jersey MathLeague.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

A leather-covered trunk dating to the middle of the 19th century was recently donated to Blair Academy. The “Jenny Lind” style trunk, so named for a popular Swedish opera singer who toured the U.S. in the early 1850s, was in fashion at the time of the Civil War. Labels inside show that it was manufactured by the Crouch and Fitzgerald Co. of New York, one of the oldest luggage makers in the country. The nameplate on the front identifies it as the property of Mrs. J. I. Blair of Blairstown, New Jersey.

The trunk came to the Blair collection as an anonymous gift from the family of an alumnus who had bought it at an estate sale some years ago.
In late February, the Society of Skeptics welcomed U.S. Army Captain Steve Benedetti ’02, who graduated as an infantry officer from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 2006. From 2008 to 2009, he spent 13 months as a platoon leader, executive officer and company commander in the Pech, Shuriak and Korengal Valleys in the heart of Kunar Province, Afghanistan. In that role, he was responsible for more than 220 soldiers in what was deemed “the most dangerous place on earth” by The New York Times. His unit remains the most decorated in the United States Army during Operation Enduring Freedom.

During his talk, Capt. Benedetti addressed the importance of service:

“There are many ways to serve our great nation, and here comes my shameless attempt to appeal to the young men and women in this room. Serve others in some capacity...If Blair students won’t rise up and tackle the challenges that face our nation, who will? And you will be tempted...tempted by the faster money, tempted by the sure thing, tempted by opportunities that offer high reward with little risk. I would ask you to look at those opportunities with scrutiny and ask; will you be able to look back at a life worth living, worthy of the opportunities you have been given? And what’s more, where will it get this country? Everyone, regardless of their path in life, can serve their country and their countrymen. The question then becomes not how, but whom? Who will serve something greater than themselves? Who will rise to that challenge?”
RETURNING FROM VIETNAM

In the fall 2012 issue of the Blair Review, David Clayton Carrad ’61 writes about his experiences as a soldier in Vietnam in the late 1960s and the harsh reception he received from anti-war protesters when he returned to the United States. Below is an excerpt in which he describes his reaction to angry students who were protesting the war in Harvard Square in September 1969, three months after he had returned home from combat.

“Some students were waving blue flags with white doves carrying olive branches (the symbol adopted by the peace movement). But several angry students were waving red, blue and yellow Viet Cong (also known as the National Liberation Front or “NLF”) flags and chanting, “Ho! Ho! Ho Chi Minh!/The NLF is going to win!”

I was stunned. I had never done anything dishonorable in Vietnam and never seen any of my men do anything that we would not be glad to see published on the front page of The New York Times. I was still writing to friends I had left behind in Phu Tho Hoa who were being shot at by the Viet Cong. How was I supposed to react to a crowd of American students waving a VC flag and cheering for their victory? You would have to imagine large demonstrations on American campuses and streets filled with students cheering for an Al Qaeda victory today to understand how it felt. I was completely outnumbered and had no choice but to quietly walk away, seething with anger but unable to express it in the midst of the demonstration. I have spent the nearly 50 years since then trying to understand the demonstrators’ anger at their own country and those of us who served there. I have read every book I could get my hands on about the war in an effort to understand why it has been so divisive even down to the present day.

Vietnam veterans were—and still are, in some quarters—regarded as suckers who went off to fight a war they could have avoided, or psychotic war criminals, or a combination of both. B.J. Burkett’s wonderful book, Stolen Valor, explores this phenomenon in several hundred pages in more detail than I have room for here. It is a mystery why American veterans of our war should be held in such scorn when we were no different from the American soldiers who fought in World War II or those who fight today in Afghanistan and Iraq. We come from the same families, have the same values, live the same lives as those who are honored for their service in the armies that preceded us and followed us.”

David Clayton Carrad ’61

Download the latest Blair Review on the 1960s at www.blair.edu/BlairReview. If you are interested in receiving a hard copy of the publication, please send an e-mail to Dr. Martin Miller at millem@blair.edu.
The Board of Trustees and many of the School’s most loyal and generous alumni, parents and friends gathered at the May 11 Leadership Dinner to recognize those who have shown exceptional dedication this year to Blair’s educational mission through their philanthropy and service. Headmaster Chan Hardwick noted that the honorees had contributed to several of the School’s most important strategic initiatives—including faculty support, scholarships and capital projects. “As a School community, we are deeply grateful for the investment each of our honorees has made in Blair Academy, knowing that it comes from their heartfelt belief in the Blair experience.”

Mr. Hardwick accorded special recognition to Jin and Elaine Kim, parents of David ‘07 and Daniel ‘12, and to Nora and Madison Grose, parents of Jordan ‘12. The Kims have been gracious hosts and impactful ambassadors for Blair in Korea. As past president of the Korean parents’ group, Elaine raised the prestige and visibility of Blair among Korean families and successfully strengthened the Blair community in Asia. The Groses have chaired the Parent Fund Group for the past two years, devoting tremendous time and energy to fundraising for the School. As Trustees, they have given their professional expertise to the strategic planning process and all Board undertakings. Both the Kims and the Groses have generously supported their sons’ Blair experience; each couple received a custom-engraved chair in appreciation of their dedication to the School.

Among the donors honored during the evening were those who made leadership gifts in support of faculty dormitory apartment renovations. “In just over nine months, the Blair community contributed $1,042,343 in gifts and pledges to fund the renovation of faculty dormitory apartments,” Mr. Hardwick said, “truly a testament to our hardworking faculty and the important work they do in the dorms. While gifts of every amount helped us reach that goal, those we recognize tonight led the way with their generous commitments.” Those honored included: Francoise and Robert Burn ’55; Jamie Connor; Nora and Madison Grose P ’12; Kim and David Januszewski P ’13; Susan Kahn and Gregg Berman P ’15; Carol and Doug Kimmelman P ’12, ’13, ’15; Cindy and Coray Kirby ’80, P ’12, ’13, ’15; Sang Ill Lee and Kyong Suk Kim P ’08, ’09, ’14; Tae Kuwn Lim and Hyun Jeong Park P ’14; Joseph Mizrachi P ’12; Alice and David Romano ’76, P ’14; and the Raymond John Wean Foundation.

Mr. Hardwick thanked several donors for their significant gifts that have helped Blair fulfill every aspect of its educational mission. The following honorees received framed prints of the iconic Blair Arch: Jamie Connor; Nora and Madison Grose P’12; Joseph Mizrachi P ’12; Barbara and Ronald Philipp ’50; and Alice and David Romano ’76, P ’14.

The evening concluded with a surprise presentation of the 2012 Citation of Merit to Trustee Don McCree ’54. With his wife, Patsy, and many family members in attendance, Don was lauded for his leadership of the strategic planning process and awarded Blair’s highest honor.
Leadership donors to the dormitory faculty apartment renovation project include (left to right) Coray Kirby ’80 and his wife, Cindy; David Januszewski; Jamie Connor; Nora and Madison Grose; Alice and David Romano ’76; Susan Kahn; and Bob Burn ’55.

Citation of Merit recipient Don McCree ’54 and Dave Wakefield ’48.

Scholarship recipients Jordan Arnold ’12, Bridget Ryan ’12 and Mannie Perez ’12 spoke about their Blair experiences.

Dave and Candy Low with Maiya Gibb ’15, recipient of the David T. and Candida C. Low Scholarship.

Honorees Elaine and Jin Kim with their son, Dan ’12.

Honoree Joseph Mizrachi, his daughter, Tamara ’12, and her advisor Jess Matzkin.

Roland McKinney ’51 came from California to enjoy the evening with his scholarship recipient, John Welch ’13.

Honorees Doug and Carol Kimmelman.

Honoree Hyun Jeong Park.

Honorees Madison and Nora Grose.
Around the time of his 50th Reunion in 2004, Don turned his attention to Blair. He and Patsy were now retired, enjoying frequent visits with their three grown sons and their families, traveling, and contributing in various ways to educational, civic and charitable causes. From that comfortable vantage point, he viewed Blair—a “wonderful, vibrant institution” ready to “meet the challenges of today’s world”—and became re-engaged with the School that started him on his own path to success. To this day, he has never looked back; rather, he has looked forward, and has made all of us look forward, to the future of this great institution.

Over the past few years, Don and Patsy have established Blair as their philanthropic priority, providing educational opportunity to current and subsequent generations of students through gifts to the Blair Fund, the *Ever Always* Campaign and to the Class of 1954 New Horizons Scholarship. Their generosity is deeply appreciated, yet the heart of Don’s many contributions to Blair lies in his extraordinary service as a Trustee. Elected to the Board in 2007, Don, together with fellow Trustees David Wakefield and Stephanie Bennett-Smith, chaired the Strategic Planning Committee. His input was critical in the development of an ambitious plan to chart the School’s course for the future, and he continues to oversee the plan’s implementation. Don had the foresight and conviction to realize that no institution can remain the same—either it is moving forward or falling behind—and, in his thoughtful way, he has been determined that the only way for Blair to go is forward.

There is no ego or fanfare about Don’s leadership—only attentive consideration and intelligent guidance. Don’s service to Blair has been exemplary throughout the strategic planning process, as he has selflessly devoted his expertise and time to guide the School to a secure and strong future that is yet firmly rooted in its core values. For this, we are proud to name Don McCree the recipient of the 2012 Citation of Merit.
New Scholarships Established by Friends of Blair

The Ciancia Family Scholarship: ‘Education is the Key’

Blair benefactors Jeremiah and Yolanda Ciancia are among the School’s most generous Blairstown neighbors. In the past several years, they have gifted the School with the faculty residence and barn at 8 Maple Lane (formerly the site of their family farm, Greenmount Farm) and made provisions in their will for a second residence and additional property to eventually become part of Blair. In April, as they celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary, the Ciancias continued their generous stewardship of educational opportunity by establishing the Ciancia Family Scholarship. The scholarship will help provide a Blair education to promising young people.

“Education is the key to life that lifts the latch, expands our horizons and opens our eyes to the boundless opportunities out there,” Mr. Ciancia said. “It instills in us an understanding and appreciation of the magnificent world in which we live and of which we are a part. Personally, it introduced me to the beauty, the majesty and the mystery of God’s creation; the grandeur of nature; and the eloquence of music which so enriched my life and provided countless blessings. Life is a jewel—a diamond in the rough—and education gives it sparkle!”

Mr. and Mrs. Ciancia hope that the recipients of the Ciancia Family Scholarship will energetically pursue their studies at Blair in great anticipation of making something of their lives and fulfilling their dreams.

The Miles A. McDonald Endowed Scholarship: Opportunity for Deserving Students

Education is a philanthropic priority for Walter and Carol McDonald of Frelinghuysen, N.J. The couple, who generously supports a scholarship for students in the performing arts program at County College of Morris (N.J.), recently established the Miles A. McDonald Endowed Scholarship at Blair to provide a college preparatory education for young people in need of financial assistance.

“Carol and I considered different ways to support Blair, but we especially wanted to help students who might otherwise miss the opportunity of a great education,” Mr. McDonald said. They determined that the best way to do so was to endow a scholarship that will help to fund a Blair education for deserving students for years to come.

It was Carol’s idea to name the scholarship in honor of their 17-year-old grandson, Miles, a gifted math student who enjoys playing the guitar, snowboarding and running cross country and track. Miles and his parents, Roy and Karen McDonald, visited the School during Alumni Weekend for a campus tour.

Roy noted that his parents “put a lot of emphasis on education” and that the scholarship should help students get a head start on their college years. He added, “I’m proud and happy that my parents have given this gift to Blair.”
Advancement Office Announces New Staff Assignments

Several veteran members of Blair’s advancement team took on new responsibilities as of July 1 as the office welcomed one staffer and bid farewell to another. Cara Mohlmann was named director of advancement; Susan Long P ’13, ’16 was named assistant director of advancement for parent relations; and Velma Lubliner P ’05, ’09 was named assistant director of advancement for capital giving. At the same time, Rod Gerdsen moved from Blair’s faculty to the advancement team, becoming assistant director of advancement for annual giving.

The new advancement assignments were precipitated by the departure of longtime staff member Sue Habermann, who announced in mid-March that she would be leaving Blair to enjoy traveling and the pursuit of her many other interests. The mother of Will ’02, Meredith ’04 and Eric ’07, Sue was director of parent relations for many years and helped to establish a strong parent program at Blair. For the past two years, she served as director of capital giving.

Can you identify everyone who is in this photo of Blair’s drama club, taken in the 1960s? E-mail your answers to Suzy Logan at logans@blair.edu. The first person to correctly identify everyone pictured will win a hat from the Blair bookstore.
"I’m not as wealthy as some, but in planning my estate, I wanted to put my money where it would have the greatest benefit." So says Jon Ten Haagen ’62, avid sailor, jazz aficionado and Certified Financial Planner (CFP), reflecting on his bequest to Blair. "The School can use it for scholarships, to increase faculty pay—really, whatever is needed."

Jon’s establishment of a planned gift followed a lifetime of support for the School. He has loyally contributed to the Blair Fund, and he even made a special gift to dedicate the ceiling fans in the dining hall in memory of his parents, Elizabeth and former Trustee Roy Ten Haagen ’35.

What inspired this generous support? “Blair is a special place,” Jon says. Coming to school here gave him the opportunity to meet friends from all over, study with a unique, eclectic faculty, play sports that were more intense than any he’d ever experienced, and take part in some pretty memorable pranks. All of this—especially the camaraderie that is alive and well among his classmates to this day as they celebrate their 50th Reunion—contributed to an overall “fabulous” experience.

“My Blair experience was instrumental in developing my ability to work with all kinds of people and in shaping my feelings about morality and life,” he noted, “and my life has definitely been better because of it.” And by providing for the School’s future, Jon has helped to ensure that students will continue to benefit from the Blair experience that has meant so much to him.
In March, the *Princeton Alumni Weekly* published a story on alumnus *Anthony D’Amato ’06*, a musician who has played onstage with Bruce Springsteen three times at various fundraisers since graduating from Blair. In the article, he calls Springsteen one of his “‘musical heroes’” and describes his own style as “‘folk ‘n roll.’” Originally from Blairstown, Anthony has played the piano since the age of six. While at Blair, he joined a band and began writing his own music, while also freelancing for a regional entertainment publication.

The Express-Times published a story on the University of Michigan’s *Kellen Russell ’07*, who won his second National Collegiate Athletic Association Division 1 wrestling crown at 141 pounds in March. In total, Blair athletes have secured 15 NCAA titles and 53 alumni have been all-American place-winners (for more on the NCAA championship and Blair’s wrestling program, see story on page 56). When asked about his legacy, Kellen admitted that he hasn’t thought much about it and said he doesn’t compare himself to other wrestling greats like Mark Churella Sr. “‘For me, I don’t really look at myself that way,’” he said in the article. “‘I’m really thankful for all of the people who got me to Michigan and the guys who came before me, because without them, I definitely wouldn’t be where I am today.’”

Recognizing that his own teammates and coaches helped him reach this point, Kellen said he tries to mentor younger wrestlers by sharing his own experiences with them. “‘It’s taken a lot of work to get here, but even more, I had to believe in myself,’ he said. ‘When I was younger, I wasn’t even one of the best wrestlers in Hunterdon County, but I never stopped thinking I could succeed.’ And asked about the impact on his development from Blair and coach Jeff Buxton, Russell said, simply: ‘Blair prepared me for this moment. It put me in a position where I could succeed.’”
Knowing the Value of a Backup Plan

Royal Ivey ’00 knows the value of a back-up plan. In March, The New York Times published a story on Royal’s commitment to earning a degree in applied learning and development from the University of Texas last December, as well as his evolving feelings about the NCAA.

Following a postgraduate year at Blair, Royal was drafted by the Atlanta Hawks in 2004. After eight years in the NBA, he used the time afforded him by the lockout this past fall to complete his undergraduate work. According to the article, “the practical application of having a degree was hammered home…when [T.J.] Ford, Ivey’s best friend, announced his retirement from the NBA because of a back injury he first sustained as a rookie. ‘It was tough for him because he’s 28 years old,’ Ivey said. ‘What do you do now?’”

His friend Ford also weighed in on the situation. “Most guys, when it is all said and done, have to get a job,” he said in the story. “We’re not like doctors. Our lifespan, our window, is four to 15 years, tops. Once we max out and we get into the real world where we’re not making the same money, what do you do now?” That’s why Royal tells the kids who he mentors that it is important to have a “plan B.”

“I’m a living example that hard work and perseverance pays off,” Royal told the interviewer. “It was a hard road for me. Everybody is not going to be in my shoes, and you’re going to have to be able to decide what you want to do in life when hit with that harsh reality that you didn’t make it.”

The story also touched on his disillusionment with the NCAA. Although he “remembers the rapture of the NCAA tournament” while in college, at the age of 30, Royal “looks at the NCAA tournament a little differently. At Texas, he was one of a tiny number of aspiring young athletes to play high-level college sports. He became part of an even smaller number to reach the NBA (about three in 10,000 high-school senior basketball players make it). But Ivey sees March Madness as part of a billion-dollar enterprise that runs on the backs of eager, unpaid labor playing for the glory of their universities and showcasing their skills for professional scouts.”

“‘The flip side of it, the business side, is that even when we make it to the NCAAs, the schools get money or the conferences make money,’ he said. ‘Every time we’re on a big network, they’re getting a check. I didn’t understand until down the line that the NCAA is a business. Everything is a business; everything is surrounded by the dollar.’”

So while Royal told the interviewer that he “watches the tournament when he can and enjoys it,” he also “‘understand[s] that the coaches, the universities, they’re cashing in on athletes.’”

From College to Yankee Pinstripes

In May, High Point University published a story on its website about Juliana Furey ’08, who graduated from the college this spring with a degree in sports management. Before receiving her diploma in May, Juliana got a job as an inside sales associate with the New York Yankees, a team of which she has long been a fan. “‘They are a wonderful organization to work for,’” she said in the article. “‘I went through an intense job interview process, and out of all of the jobs I received, I knew this was the right path for me.’”

Looking forward, she hopes to climb the ranks within the Yankees organization to become director of premium seats. “One of my favorite quotes is: In 20 years from now, you will regret more what you did not do than what you did do. Be willing to make mistakes and don’t be scared to fail,’” she told the interviewer.
In March, *Money* magazine published an article on *Jack Bogle ’47*, founder of The Vanguard Group, Inc., hailing him as a heroic champion of the small investor and one of the 40 individuals who have “made extraordinary efforts to improve others’ financial well-being.”

After commending him for his strong criticism of “the financial industry’s habit of putting its own interests ahead of its customers,” the story talks about what “he sees as the newest threat to prudent investing—exchange-traded funds. First lauded for enabling people to hold broad stock indexes inexpensively, ETFs have morphed into vehicles for short-term speculation in narrow market slices. ‘ETFs are a prime example of Wall Street doing the wrong thing with a good idea,’ Bogle says. ‘The simple index fund has become a vehicle for lunatic trading...One of the most powerful rules in finance is reversion to the mean. If a sector of the market is outperforming, you can be sure that at some point it will collapse. The good stuff just can’t continue.’”

A do-it-yourself blog called “Make: Technology on Your Time” published an interview with *Nathaniel Taylor ’88*, one of the lead artists who created the RayGun Gothic Rocketship, a sculpture that is on display in San Francisco on Pier 14.

According to the article, the sculpture is “built upon a future-rustic vision of yesterday’s tomorrow. Aesthetically based on 1930s to early 1950s science fiction, the rocketship is a 41-foot tall immersive environment, designed to carry explorers into the realm of rayguns, strange planets and aliens, friendly or otherwise.” The blog posting included brief bios of Nate and his collaborators, David Shulman and Sean Orlando. Nate is chief operating officer of Radio Robot, a mech-tronics fabrication shop in Oakland, Calif.
Many of Blair’s 13 spring sports teams launched the season with training trips to the southeastern United States. The girls’ lacrosse, softball and track teams spent a week at Disney Sports Complex in Orlando, while the baseball and boys’ lacrosse teams traveled to Vero Beach and St. Petersburg, respectively.

Members of the girls’ golf team practiced in Naples, and the crew team prepared for the spring season in South Carolina. These trips prepared Blair athletes for what turned out to be a very successful season. By May, a number of teams had won state titles, Mid-Atlantic Prep League (MAPL) championships and other regional, state and national competitions.

The girls’ varsity softball team had an extremely successful season, defeating Lawrenceville to win the 2012 MAPL title and beating Peddie to win the 2012 Prep A State championship. (Please see full story on page 53.)

While in Florida over spring break, the girls’ and boys’ track teams trained at the ESPN Wide World of Sports, which allowed athletes to get a head start on the season. Shortly after returning to campus, both teams competed against MAPL-rivals Hun and Peddie and finished in second place. In early May, the girls built on this victory by winning the first-ever evening track meet under the lights at Blair, beating Faith Christian and Pennington. Elyse Pettaway ’13 won the 400-meter dash at the state track meet that Blair hosted in April, breaking the School record with a blazing time of 59.2 seconds. Boys’ track highlights include a second-place finish at the under-the-lights meet, where Zach O’Connor ’13 finished the 100-meter dash in a personal best of 11.5 seconds.

The girls’ varsity golf team had one of its most successful seasons ever, winning the state championship for the second consecutive year and finishing second in the MAPL tournament (please see story on page 55).

Despite some rough weather, the boys’ varsity tennis team fought hard this season and prevailed over some of the toughest opponents in the area. Throughout the spring, the Bucs held their own and won decisively over a number of teams, including Hun, Rutgers Prep and Phillipsburg. In mid-May, the team competed in the MAPL tournament and finished in third place. At states, the boys finished in second place, ending the season in fine form and creating a momentum that coach Lew Stival hopes will carry over into the next school year.

The boys’ varsity lacrosse team started its season in St. Petersburg, Florida, and returned to campus to face tough MAPL opponents at the end of March. Blair dropped its first game to Hun, but quickly recovered and went on to beat Lenape Valley and Phillipsburg. As the season progressed, the boys showed heart and mental toughness, often making comebacks in the fourth quarter to compete with teams like PDS and Sparta. The team ended the season with a record of 6-10. Graduating eight seniors, including Andrew Iacocca ’12—the School’s all-time leading scorer in goals and points for boys’ lacrosse—the team will look to a solid core of underclassmen to continue its success into next season.

Girls’ varsity lacrosse started the season in Orlando, Florida, also training at ESPN’s Wide
World of Sports. In addition to practicing twice a day, the girls played teams from Massachusetts and Texas in scrimmages. The combined experience allowed the girls to make great strides in both skills and physical conditioning. When the squad returned from spring break in late March, they took the season by storm, gaining great wins over Hun, Hill, Mercersburg and PDS. The team’s eight seniors, including captain and Blair Lacrosse Prize winner Melissa Evans ’12, led the team with hard work and determination throughout the season. Blair also recognized the extraordinary efforts of Council Dawson ’13 for her leadership and dedication to the program by awarding her the Blair Lacrosse Prize. The girls ended their season with a record of 9-5, the team’s best performance in years.

The boys’ and girls’ crew teams also had a season filled with victories, qualifying for the prestigious Stotesbury Regatta, which is held annually in Philadelphia, Pa., as well as the U.S. Rowing Youth Nationals, which took place in early June in Oak Ridge, Tenn. (Please see the full story on pages 54-55.)

The Blair boys’ golf team won its final five matches to finish the season 9-5 (finishing 4-4 in the MAPL tournament). Season highlights include sweeping both matches against Hun and avenging early-season losses to Hill and Lawrenceville with late-season victories over both teams. The victory over Lawrenceville was the Bucs’ first in a decade. In addition, the boys broke the 200 barrier on three occasions, shooting 199 twice. Lucas Ludgate ’13 performed well all season, scoring in nine of 15 matches and compiling the lowest scoring average on the team. In addition, he was the only Blair golfer to break par this year, shooting a 1-under 34 in a victory over Rutgers Prep at Quailbrook.

The varsity baseball team had a long and hard season, battling some of the area’s strongest teams. The Bucs rallied and beat MAPL-rivals Hun and Peddie to capture the state trophy. (Please see full story below.)

Baseball Team Defeats Peddie & Wins State Title for First Time Since 1996

The 2012 baseball season began with a very successful trip to Vero Beach, Florida, where the team practiced daily, scrimmaged teams and bonded. However, upon its return to Blair, the athletes struggled with both execution and consistency for the first six weeks of the season, winning few games.

“Although they had their share of frustrations, the team never quit,” said head coach Jim Stone, who also serves as Blair’s athletic director. “At the end of the season, their hard work paid off, and we defeated Kiski by 22-12 in a real pitchers’ duel and then went into the state tournament as the last seed.”

The team knocked off the number-one seed, Peddie, by a score of 10-0 to secure its first back-to-back victories of the 2012 season. Attributing much of that success to Jake Spezial ’13, who was outstanding on the mound, Coach Stone and his team secured another 5-0 victory at Hun, where Sean Lubreski ’14 pitched. This victory allowed the team to compete in the state finals, which Blair hosted in mid-May.

“During the final game, the team came from behind once again to defeat Peddie 9-6 and win the state title for the first time since 1996,” said Coach Stone. “Winning this championship was a complete team effort, as all of the players contributed offensively and defensively in the field. That said, this great run of high-quality Blair baseball was lead by seniors Mike Galvin, Max Kaplan, George Green, Teddy Richardson, Tim Hettinger, and co-captains Paul Mascarenhas and Ryan Gallagher, all of whom stepped up big time and ended their high school careers on the highest of notes.” In June, the Newark, N.J., Star-Ledger named the team “Prep Baseball Team of the Year.”
Girls’ Softball Finishes Historic Season

The Blair girls’ softball team had one of its most successful seasons ever, winning both the Mid-Atlantic Prep League (MAPL) and State Prep A titles for the first time in School history. The Bucs started with an impressive 9-0 record and won all but two games this season, losing only to Sparta and Mt. St. Dominic in April.

Veteran leadership played a huge role in the Bucs’ string of victories, with Michelle Fox ’12, Lauren Mezzanotte ’12 and Carolyn Wan ’13 emerging as the team’s dominant offensive force. Michelle, who was named “Prep Softball Player of the Year” by the Newark, N.J., Star Ledger, also delivered consistently from the pitcher’s mound throughout the season.

The team secured the MAPL championship on May 3, defeating The Lawrenceville School 14-1, thanks to a hot hitting streak by Deanna Inez ’12 and impressive defensive efforts from Julia Dioguardi ’13. The Buc’s opponent in the state finals, MAPL-rival Peddie, traveled to Blairstown on May 18 and took an early lead. Still trailing 2-1 in the bottom of the sixth inning, Michelle got the momentum rolling in the Buc’s favor by hitting a single. Lightning-quick Carly Newfield ’14 subbed in as a pinch runner and stole second before a double by Ana allowed her to score. With one out, Emily Wan ’15 hit a triple, scoring the game-winning run.

In her 25th season coaching at Blair, head coach Carolyn Conforti-Browse ’79 was visibly emotional when reflecting upon the team’s success. “We managed to meet the vision of perfection I had for them,” she said. “They are truly the best team I’ve ever coached in 25 years.”

Consistent performers all season, Michelle and Lauren were recognized for their excellence on the field as the 2012 recipients of the Stowell Softball Award at the spring athletic awards ceremony in late May. In June, the Star-Ledger named the team “Prep Softball Team of the Year.”
Girls’ Lightweight Four Finishes Fifth in National Championship

After much hard work and thousands of strokes on New Jersey’s Swartswood Lake, Blair’s boys’ and girls’ crew teams can look back on 2012 as one of their most successful seasons yet. In total, the teams brought home three Mid-Atlantic Regional championships, a second-place finish in the Mid-Atlantic Prep League (MAPL) and a Stotesbury Regatta silver medal won by the girls’ lightweight four. By June, all varsity and novices had ended racing for the season, with the exception of the girls’ lightweight four, which traveled to Oak Ridge, Tenn., on the weekend of June 8 to compete in the U.S. Rowing Junior National Championships.

The work for Blair rowers began in the winter months, when many athletes undertook a winter ergometer training regimen to improve cardiovascular fitness and strength for the spring season. On-the-water workouts began in mid-March when the entire team traveled to Camp Robert Cooper in South Carolina. The long week of double practices got the momentum moving in the Bucs’ direction, and it was only a matter of time before the hard work paid off. “The work ethic of this group has been impressive, and it certainly yielded results,” said girls’ head coach Stephanie Guilmet.

In 2012, Blair had arguably one of its most successful dual racing records in recent School history. Both boys’ and girls’ teams opened the season by sweeping Hun on March 31 in every event, winning each by an open-water margin. The following week, rival Peddie traveled to Swartswood with the Bucs again winning six of seven events, all by a considerable margin. On the girls’ side, it marked the first time in School history that the Blair girls’ senior four defeated Peddie, and the second year in a row that Blair won the team trophy.

Following these two successful duals, the Mercer Sprints on April 21 provided a nice tune-up and a look at the field heading into the mid-Atlantic championships on May 12. The girls’ lightweight four, boys’ senior four and girls’ third four (racing in second four category) took home gold medals. The boys’ senior four of Evan Redos ’12, Kristopher Grant ’12, Martin Yu ’13, Mark Scully ’12 and coxswain Robert Kimmelman ’13 defeated a Peddie boat to which they had lost just two weeks prior, and they would not drop another race to them for the remainder of the season. “There was a lot of competition within the squad this year,” said boys’ head coach Hans Doerr. “They were deeper, fitter and more technically proficient than in previous years.”

Both boys’ and girls’ teams finished second to a very deep and fast Lawrenceville squad at the MAPL championships on April 28. The team then traveled to the Founders Regatta in Connecticut to take on top club and scholastic programs from New England and the mid-Atlantic region. The Mid-Atlantic District Championships on May 12 proved to be the most successful regatta of the season for varsity athletes, as well as novices. In the girls’ novice four event, Blair took home a gold medal in a field of 11 boats. The crew of Jessica Lowndes ’15, Jessica Sabin ’14, Elinor Foote ’15, Anya Parauda ’15 and coxswain Grace Ewles ’15 won the grand final in an impressive time of eight minutes and seventeen seconds, eleven seconds ahead of second place. The girls’ novice eight also made an appearance in the grand final event. “The enthusiasm and ability of this young group is exciting and bodes well for the future of our team,” said assistant coach Tom Dougherty.

The Mid-Atlantic Sprints concluded racing for the novice teams, but the top-three varsity boats for
each squad traveled to Philadelphia on May 19 to compete at the Stotesbury Regatta, the largest high school regatta in the world. The girls’ lightweight four of Jane McConnell ’12, Jackie Lung ’12, Ashley Zimmermann ’13, Annika Rollock ’14 and coxswain Ami Saito ’12 were the stars of the weekend, taking home a silver medal and putting themselves among the top lightweight crews in the United States.

The crew qualified for the U.S. Rowing Junior National Championships for the second consecutive season and competed with some of the best teams in the country on June 8 and 9. With Natalie Bacon ’14 filling in for Ami Saito, who was unable to attend the regatta due to previous commitments, the girls’ lightweight four finished fifth overall in a field of 19 boats from all across the United States. They finished the grand final with a time of eight minutes flat, narrowly edging out the rowing club from Dayton, Ohio, by two-hundredths of a second to hold onto fifth place.

Blair would like to reconnect with its alumni rowers. Former crew members interested in learning of team news and events during the 2012-2013 school year should contact boys’ head coach Hans Doerr at doerrh@blair.edu.

Girls’ Golf Team Wins State Prep Championship for Second Time

The Blair girls’ golf team had another successful spring season, winning its second consecutive state prep championship and finishing second in the Mid-Atlantic Prep League (MAPL) tournament. With an overall record of 9-1 this year and 29-1 for the past three years, the Bucs faced many competitive opponents, including Bergen County-champions Immaculate Heart Academy, Peddie, Oak Knoll, Lawrenceville and Hill.

The team, which included co-captains Julia Brackup ’12 and Phoebe O’Rourke ’12 and team members Ann Park ’13, Angelina Guan ’13, Sierra Yit ’13, Lauren Hitchner ’14, Claudia Choi ’14 and Phoebe Dopulos ’15, began in March on a positive note during a spring training trip to Naples, Fla., and was able to carry that momentum throughout April and May.

“Heading into the state championships, the girls knew they had to step up their games since they were playing without one of the team’s top players, Julia Brackup, who suffered a concussion,” said head coach and math teacher Paul Clavel ’88. “I am very proud of them for their performance and focus—they all worked hard this season, especially in the last few weeks, and winning the state title was a great way to finish the year.”

By the end of the season, the nine-hole averages for six of the players were in the 40s and the team match average (best four scores out of six) was 173. Ann Park won all-MAPL honors and placed second in the state prep championships. Losing only two seniors, the team looks forward to a competitive season in 2013.
On March 17, the University of Michigan’s Kellen Russell ’07 and Penn State’s Ed Ruth ’09 won the National Collegiate Athletic Association Division 1 wrestling crowns at 141 and 171 pounds, respectively, culminating a grueling season that had begun last November.

With their 2012 championships, Kellen and Ed brought Blair Academy’s total number of individual NCAA crowns to 15 and its total number of NCAA all-American place-winners to 53.

The NCAA Division 1 wrestling championship is the greatest possible achievement in American folk-style wrestling, and Blair is the only high school in the country to have had two wrestlers crowned as champions. In early April, the United States Wrestling team granted Kellen, Ed and Steve Mocco ’01 wildcards to compete in the men’s freestyle at the 2012 U.S. Olympic Team Trials in Iowa, April 21 to 22—a distinct honor, although none were ultimately named to the team.

“Kellen and Ed are phenomenal athletes who compete well in every second of a match,” said Blair’s wrestling coach Jeff Buxton. “It is amazing just to have a former wrestler place in the NCAA Division 1 national competition, but to have two champions is incredible. We are extremely proud of them both for this outstanding accomplishment.”

This was the third time that two former Blair Academy wrestlers won NCAA Division 1 wrestling titles at the same championship event. The first was in 1979, when Lehigh University’s Mark Lieberman ’74 and Iowa State’s Kelly Ward ’75 became NCAA champions; the second was in 2005, when Zack Esposito ’02 and Steve Mocco, both from Oklahoma State University, won the titles.

When interviewed by the Easton, Pa., Express-Times after winning the 2012 NCAA championship, Kellen attributed his success to what he learned from Coach Buxton during his time at Blair. “Blair prepared me for this moment,” he said. “It put me in a position where I could succeed.”
Blair Recognizes Outstanding Athletic Performances in Winter & Spring Seasons

In early April, Athletic Director Jim Stone, Headmaster Chan Hardwick, and the coaches of the ski, swim, squash, winter track, basketball and wrestling teams recognized student athletes for their many accomplishments during the 2012 winter season. The following individual team members received awards for outstanding efforts.

Blair Squash Prize: **Julia Brackup ’12**
Peachev Hockey Award: **Richie Jiaravanon ’12**
Blair Winter Track Award: **Kelvin Serem ’13**
Haskins Basketball Prize: **Joe Hart ’12**
Haskins Basketball Prize: **Jermaine Myers ’12**
Haskins Basketball Prize: **Mike Tobey ’12**
Brooks Basketball Prize: **Bridget Ryan ’12**
Jamieson Wrestling Prize: **Mark Grey ’12**
Lieberman Wrestling Prize: **Michael Mocco ’12**

As the school year drew to a close, Coach Stone and Mr. Hardwick recognized the outstanding performances of athletes on 2012 spring teams. The coaches of the baseball, softball, tennis, and boys’ and girls’ crew, lacrosse, golf, and track teams gave the following individual team members awards.

Paul Tennis Award: **Richie Jiaravanon ’12**
Anzel Tennis Trophy: **Chris Sabaitis ’12**
Hurley Crew Prize: **Evan Redos ’12**
Hurley Crew Prize: **Kris Grant ’12**
Kemp Crew Prize: **Ami Saito ’12**
Kemp Crew Prize: **Jane McConnell ’12**
Kemp Crew Prize: **Jacqueline Lung ’12**
Pender Track Award: **Kelvin Serem ’13**
Pender Track Award: **Elyse Pettaway ’13**
Blair Girls’ Golf Award: **Phoebe O’Rourke ’12**
Blair Girls’ Golf Award: **Julia Brackup ’12**
Zimmerman Golf Trophy: **Lucas Ludgate ’13**

**Merit Ski Award:**
- **Collin Browse ’12**
- **Annelies Browse ’13**
- Captain’s Trophy—Swimming: **Joe Park ’12**
- Captain’s Trophy—Swimming: **Lauren Mezzanotte ’12**
- Blair Squash Prize: **Darrius Campbell ’13**

**Brooks Baseball Prize:** **Teddy Richardson ’12**
**Stowell Softball Award:** **Michelle Fox ’12**
**Stowell Softball Award:** **Lauren Mezzanotte ’12**
**Blair Lacrosse Prize:** **Andrew Iacocca ’12** (not pictured)
**Blair Lacrosse Prize:** **Council Dawson ’13**
**Blair Lacrosse Prize:** **Melissa Evans ’12**
**Paul Tennis Award:** **Joe Geller ’12**

**Peachey Hockey Award:** **Richie Jiaravanon ’12**
**Blair Winter Track Award:** **Kelvin Serem ’13**
**Haskins Basketball Prize:** **Joe Hart ’12**
**Haskins Basketball Prize:** **Jermaine Myers ’12**
**Haskins Basketball Prize:** **Mike Tobey ’12**
**Brooks Basketball Prize:** **Bridget Ryan ’12**
**Jamieson Wrestling Prize:** **Mark Grey ’12**
**Lieberman Wrestling Prize:** **Michael Mocco ’12**

**Brooks Baseball Prize:** **Teddy Richardson ’12**
**Stowell Softball Award:** **Michelle Fox ’12**
**Stowell Softball Award:** **Lauren Mezzanotte ’12**
**Blair Lacrosse Prize:** **Andrew Iacocca ’12** (not pictured)
**Blair Lacrosse Prize:** **Council Dawson ’13**
**Blair Lacrosse Prize:** **Melissa Evans ’12**
**Paul Tennis Award:** **Joe Geller ’12**
The Class of 2012 dedicated volume 95 of the *ACTA* to Blair’s chief operating officer, James Frick, who oversees the School’s financial health as well as the maintenance of campus buildings and upkeep of the grounds. In the dedication, students recognized Jim as one of Blair’s most important faculty members.

“All of us are fortunate that Mr. Frick has made Blair Academy his School and his home,” the dedication reads. “The Class of 2012, though, is especially lucky because Mr. Frick is the father of our classmate, and he has been here for many of us as a parent, a friend, a supporter and someone who makes our lives better every day.” When Jim’s son, Joseph Frick ’12, surprised his dad with the dedication at one of the last School Meetings of the spring semester, he thanked him for his loyalty, dedication and hard work. “Thank you for being a great father and for everything you do for Blair,” he said.

Blair Headmaster Chan Hardwick and his wife, Monie, traveled to Asia over spring break to meet with the families of current Blair students, as well as with past parents and alumni. Every other year, they have made this trip—not for admission—but to become better acquainted with the families of current students.

They arrived in Seoul, Korea, where the Headmaster held individual meetings with current students and parents to review each student’s mid-term record and progress. The parents hosted a reception for all Blair families and alumni with more than 75 people in attendance (to view a video of the event created by Kevin Kim ’13, please visit www.blair.edu/HardwicksTrip), and the Hardwicks finished the evening in the company of almost 20 young alumni, spanning two decades at Blair.

From Korea, the Hardwicks made their first official visit to China, traveling to both Shanghai and Beijing, where there was a reception for all families and students. Their trip ended with final stop in Hong Kong, where the Hardwicks again met with current families and alumni and where Trustee Erik Ryd and his wife, Barbara, hosted a strategic planning meeting.

**Headmaster Travels to Asia to Meet with Blair Families**

**Students Dedicate Yearbook to James Frick**
The annual Relay for Life, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, was held at Blair on April 28 and 29. The 24-hour, overnight event, organized by faculty member Kaye Evans, raised more than $40,000 with 239 participants comprising 23 teams. As part of the program, each team camped out around the Blair track and each team member took a turn walking around the Blair track for the duration of the event.

In addition to a lap honoring survivors and ceremonies recognizing the deceased and those still fighting the pernicious disease, Blair sponsored many fun events that took place throughout the night for students, including a dance, theme laps on the track, a midnight swim and movie screenings.

For the second consecutive year, Blair invited the grandparents of current students to tour the campus, attend a musical performance, visit their grandchild’s classes, have lunch and watch a host of athletic contests on April 21.

“In 2011, the inaugural Grandparents’ Day program was enormously popular among students, faculty members, parents and grandparents,” said Susan Long, Blair’s assistant director of advancement for parent relations, who organizes the annual event. “More than 80 grandparents came to campus and got to experience what a ‘day-in-the-life’ is like for their grandchildren, both academically and otherwise. We had an even bigger turn out in 2012—more than 125 grandparents registered for the weekend festivities and everyone on campus really enjoyed welcoming them to Blair.”

Grandparents Visit Campus, Attend Classes & Watch Sports

Blair Students Raise $40,000+ in ‘Relay for Life’

Blair Students Raise $40,000+ in ‘Relay for Life’
Veteran Faculty Members Martin Schmalenberg & Donald Lawshe Retire

At the 164th commencement ceremony, Headmaster Chan Hardwick recognized Donald Lawshe and Martin Schmalenberg, who retired in May. Don (right) joined Blair’s science department in 1989 after a distinguished career in New Jersey’s public schools. For the past 23 years, he taught physics to generations of Blair students who appreciated his knowledge and enthusiasm. Always a presence for breakfast sign-in at the Romano Dining Hall, Don and his wife, Barbara, hosted many students at their Blairstown home over the years. Marty (left) joined the Blair community in 1980 and became a member of the history department in 1994. A widely recognized expert in the field of bonsai, Marty was a passionate teacher of world history and senior electives in Asian history and often took students to his Japanese-inspired home and gardens in Stillwater, N.J. For years, Marty led students in building the Peddie bonfire and frequently performed on the Blair stage, playing his guitar and singing with students and faculty members.

Students Don Their Finest for Prom

The 2012 prom was held at The Architects Golf Club in Lopatcong, N.J. on May 22. A brief break in Blairstown’s rainy weather allowed students to mingle on the lawn of Sharpe House in the early evening before the buses left Blair. The School then hosted a brief reception for the parents who came to campus to take pictures and see students off.

Second Annual Film Festival Screens 14 Students’ Work

On April 20, Blair hosted its second annual student film festival. “This year, there was more original student-written content and more fiction work,” said Nina Yuen, director of Blair’s video studies program. “The films featured in the festival are not made exclusively by students in film classes, but they represent individual endeavors as well. Not only were there fiction, experimental and documentary works in the same festival, but even within a single genre, there were a wide variety of cinematic styles and creative approaches.” Fourteen students presented their work and the total run time of the films was 35 minutes. To watch the trailer for the films, please visit www.blair.edu/BlairFilmFest.
**Cyrano de Bergerac: A Definitive Romance on Blair’s Stage**

The Blair Academy Players performed Edmond Rostand’s *Cyrano* on May 10, 11 and 12 in Blair’s Robert J. Evans Open Air Theatre. The title character (played by veteran actor Matthew Michaud ’12) is a philosopher-swordsman who pines for his beautiful cousin Roxane (played by Corinne DeFrancesco ’15). But Cyrano is too ashamed of his large nose to tell her and is instead recruited by the man she loves, Christian (played by Jordan Grose ’12), to write poetry and love letters to her in his name.

Meanwhile, plotting against Cyrano is rival Comte de Guiche (played by Will Barrett ’12), who has the fate of Cyrano’s and Christian’s guards in his hands. Duels, battles, disguises, plots and poetry swirl through the play, one that has come to be regarded as the definitive romance of the stage. Many years later, the truth is revealed in one of theater’s most heartbreaking finales.

**Ensemble Cast Presents Radium Girls**

An ensemble cast of students presented D.W. Gregory’s *Radium Girls* on May 17, 18 and 19 in Blair’s Wean Theater. In 1926, radium was a miracle cure, Madame Curie an international celebrity and luminous watches were the latest rage—until the girls who painted them began to fall ill with a mysterious disease.

Inspired by a true story and set in Orange, N.J., *Radium Girls* follows the efforts of Grace Fryer (played by Abby Troy ’14), a dial painter, as she fights for her day in court. Her chief adversary is her former employer, Arthur Roeder (played by Tyler Brooks ’15), an idealistic man who cannot bring himself to believe that the same element that shrinks tumors could have anything to do with the terrifying rash of illnesses among his employees. As the case went on, however, Grace found herself battling not just with the U.S. Radium Corporation, but with her own family and friends, who feared that her campaign for justice would backfire.

The ensemble cast included 15 other actors who played more than 30 different roles—friends, co-workers, lovers, relatives, attorneys, scientists, consumer advocates and a myriad of interested bystanders.
Violinist Mikhail Simonyan Performs at Blair

On April 2, violinist Mikhail Simonyan performed for Blair students and teachers in Armstrong-Hipkins Center for the Arts’ Dubois Theater. Sponsored by former Blair Trustee and parent Joel Kobert, Mr. Simonyan asked the School’s string orchestra to concertize with him onstage. Prior to his Monday-night performance, he attended the orchestra’s rehearsals and worked with students in a master-class setting.

“Mikhail has performed as a soloist with some of the most well-known and respected orchestras in the world,” said Jennifer Pagotto, chair of Blair’s performing arts department. “This was a rare opportunity for audience members to see such a world-class musician and amazing talent on the stage at Blair.”

A native of Novosibirsk, Russia, Mr. Simonyan began to study the violin at the age of five and has since blazed a trail for young musicians in Russia during an era of substantially decreased government support. In 1999, at 13, he made his acclaimed New York debut at Lincoln Center with the American Russian Young Artists Orchestra (ARYO) and his debut in St. Petersburg, Russia at the Mariinsky (Kirov) Theatre in ARYO’s joint concert with the Mariinsky Youth Orchestra.

Last year, Mr. Simonyan visited the School as part of the Bartow Series, a program endowed with the mission of expanding the artistic experiences of Blair students by bringing professional performers to campus. Nevett Bartow, who taught at Blair from 1961 until his death in 1973, was a dedicated music teacher and talented composer who helped shape Blair’s arts program.

Crossover Quartet Performs as Part of Bartow Series

On March 30, Quartet San Francisco performed at Blair as part of the Bartow Series, which is designed to expand the artistic experiences of Blair students by bringing professional performers from around the world to the School’s stage.

Since its concert debut in 2001, this non-traditional quartet has redefined the sound of chamber music. Grammy nominated for their last three CDs, the group plays a wide range of music, including jazz, tango, pop, funk, blues, bluegrass, gypsy swing and big band.

The quartet performed for students and faculty and answered questions from the audience. During the afternoon, quartet members presented a master class for Blair’s Orchestra and Jazz Band, which included performances by Tae Hwi An ’14 and Sun Park ’14. Students then had another opportunity to ask questions about the group’s music and experiences.

In some cases, these discussions were immediately applicable to what Blair students were already studying. “This semester, students focused on a piece recorded by the Dave Brubeck Quartet called ‘Take Five,’ and Quartet San Francisco offered some valuable insight into the life of that composer, the quartet’s music and how to capture the essence and style of that piece during performance,” said Jennifer Pagotto, chair of Blair’s performing arts department.
Blair Singers & A Cappella Perform at Spring Choral Fest

On April 13, Blair’s vocal music department hosted “Choral Fest” in Armstrong-Hipkins Center for the Arts. The event included performances by the Blair Academy Singers and the student-run Blair a Cappella, as well as the Hofstra University Chamber Choir, which traveled to Blairstown from Long Island, N.Y.

“This festival was the first of its kind in many years at Blair Academy,” said Katy Hylton, Blair’s director of choral music. “It was a unique opportunity for audience members to hear the wide range of musical possibilities that only vocal ensembles can create. This event also gave our student musicians the opportunity to meet and perform with college-level vocalists and catch a glimpse of what the next stage of their musical experiences may be.”

The concert’s repertoire included a variety of styles from classical to multicultural to jazz and contemporary. The finale was Moses Hogan’s spiritual “I’m Gonna Sing Till the Spirit Moves in My Heart,” performed jointly by Hofstra and Blair students in a chorus of more than 80 singers.

Spring Concert Features Jazz Ensemble, Orchestra & Singers

In early May, Blair’s Jazz Ensemble, Orchestra and Singers performed in Armstrong-Hipkins Center for the Arts. The hour-long spring concert showcased a number of student musicians, including 25 seniors who performed on Blair’s stage for the last time.

“This final concert marked the end of a very big year for Blair musicians,” said Jennifer Pagotto, chair of the performing arts department. “In addition to several on-campus performances in the fall, a holiday concert at the Steel Stacks in December and a performance tour in California over spring break, students had the opportunity to meet Quartet San Francisco, violinist Mikhail Simonyan and Hofstra University’s Chorale this spring. With all of these experiences behind them, the students were excited to present their last performance to the entire School.”

The Jazz Ensemble played “Blue in Green,” a ballad by Miles Davis, and “Take Five,” an exciting, rhythmic piece made famous by the Dave Brubeck Quartet. The Singers performed both new and standard repertoire, including a jazz piece called “Java Jive” and a piece made to sound like a drunken sailor. The Orchestra concluded the program with a set of Russian and English folk songs and dances, finishing with a set of film scores, all of which were recognizable to the audience.

To watch video clips of the singers and orchestra, please visit Blair’s website at www.blair.edu/SpringConcert.
The work of five young Blair alumni was on display in the Romano Gallery from May 14 to June 10, and Blair hosted an artists’ reception during Alumni Weekend, when many Blair graduates were on campus reconnecting with old classmates.

The show included glass by Hannah Kirkpatrick ’07, paintings by Natessa Amin ’06, film by Henry Kozinski ’07, ceramics by Meredith Habermann ’04 and photographs by Justin Lubliner ’05.

“The show really demonstrated the diverse talent of Blair’s young alumni across a variety of media,” said Romano Gallery director Christine Parauda.

Several of the artists showcased first developed an interest in art while at Blair. Hannah, for example, went on to earn her bachelor’s degree in fine arts in glass from the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) after exploring glass-making during her senior year at Blair. Since graduating from RISD in 2011, she has exhibited her work at various galleries in Jersey City, N.J., and Providence, R.I. (for more about Hannah’s art and career, please see sidebar).

Natessa’s paintings, on the other hand, reflect the experiences she had while traveling to 10 different countries around the world. Each piece is the result of onsite sketching or a memory of her time in Turkey, Greece, Croatia, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Malawi, England and Peru.

Henry’s 2010 film, which is called “The Killers,” is based on an Ernest Hemingway short story by the same name.

A Young Alumna Talks about her Addiction to Glass

Hannah Kirkpatrick ’07, whose work was on display in the Romano Gallery this spring, discusses how her art has evolved since she graduated from Blair.

Q. When did you first become interested in glass-making?

A. My grandparents, William and Carol Kirkpatrick, were great admirers of the arts and brought me to a glass studio in Boyerstown, Pa., where a few teams of glassblowers were working together. I was about six years old and enamored by the material. I remember picking up and keeping a glass scrap off the floor—an orange blob almost in the shape of an odd lollipop. When working in the public access studio today, I’ve found that others are interested in these beautiful scraps of process, too.

Q. How did that initial interest evolve while you were at Blair?

A. I decided to try glass blowing as my senior challenge. By pure luck, a glassblower, Wickliffe Mott, lived five minutes away from Blair and had a small glass blowing shop in his backyard. I thought I would be an apprentice and help him with production work, but he was more interested in teaching me than using me as free labor. As a beginner, I learned how to make (wonky) cylinders, bowls, and little pitchers with handles that were either too thin or too
thick. For two weeks, my art teacher, Ms. Baragona, would drop me off at his studio after school, and my advisor, Mr. Brandwood, would pick me up. These two very supportive teachers gave me great advice and invaluable opportunities to hone my skills throughout my student life at Blair.

Q. What led you to major in glass at the Rhode Island School of Design (RISD)?

A. I chose to major in glass initially because the students and teachers in the glass department at RISD were having conversations that I wanted to be a part of, and the material was captivating and challenging—one can never stop learning about glass and its “limits.” It is a material that you have to be in conversation with, instead of in command, and it often leaves you with surprises, happy mistakes or food for further thought. And it taught me a lot about working with or within a team of assistants.

Q. If you had to pick one of your pieces as your favorite, what would it be and why?

A. Glass lends itself to my interests in light, translucency and optics. One of the pieces that I feel most successfully expresses these interests is “Eye Cavern,” which was exhibited in the recent alumni show. “Eye Cavern” is an object for contemplation about the relationship between the interior and exterior of our body and the thin skin that we think of as the border between these two places.

Q. You just graduated from RISD. What are you doing now?

A. I am working at the Chrysler Museum of Art Glass Studio in Norfolk, Va., as an instructor and staff member, after having served as an intern assistant for four months. The studio is geared toward public education and classes, experimentation and performance work, supporting the collection in the museum, and inviting renowned and emerging artists to come and make new work. I absolutely love working with people and am very lucky to be there.

Q. Do you have any advice for current Blair students studying art?

A. As an artist, I have learned to be self-directed and self-disciplined because there is no right or wrong way to make art, but you need to find your own way and your own opportunities. For me, the purpose of being an artist is to reinterpret the every-day of our surroundings and cultivate new ways of seeing or thinking about a particular subject. Through a studio practice, I have learned to solve problems creatively. It is important to have a playful practice that is open to new or unfamiliar ideas and constructive criticism—while also knowing when to trust your instincts and continue forward with them. Don’t be afraid to try or apply. Whether the results are good or bad, accepted or rejected, each time is a learning experience.

Learn more about Hannah’s work at http://hannahkirkpatrick.com.
IN MEMORY OF...

1940

Frank A. Finnerty Jr. A physician specializing in cardiology, hypertension and toxemia in pregnancy, Dr. Finnerty was a 1943 graduate of Georgetown University. He attended Georgetown on a basketball scholarship after having been co-captain of Blair's varsity basketball team. Dr. Finnerty graduated from Georgetown University School of Medicine in 1947 and joined the staff of D.C. General Hospital in Washington, D.C., in 1952 as chief of cardiovascular research. After serving as an Army physician at Walter Reed Army Medical Center and at the Pentagon from 1953 to 1955, he returned to D.C. General. During his distinguished career, Dr. Finnerty taught at Georgetown Medical School, practiced privately in Washington, D.C., published over 300 articles in medical journals and wrote two books. He is survived by seven children, 19 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

1941

Rollin B. Burton Jr. The 1941 ACTA proclaimed Mr. Burton, a three-sport varsity letterman, “equally at home on the gridiron, track or wrestling mat.” He remembered his years at the School with great fondness in conversations with class representative Mike Habermann ’41 and remained a loyal Blair man for life. Mr. Burton matriculated at Wesleyan University, where he was a Little All-American football player and champion wrestler, but interrupted his education to serve three years in the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II as a physical education and parachute jump instructor. He graduated from Wesleyan in 1949 and was the 69th player picked in the 1948 NFL draft. Mr. Burton enjoyed a career in sales for companies including Archer Daniels Midland and Union Bag and Paper Company. He married Joanne “Fifi” Burton in 1951, and together they raised their five children in Chatham, Mass. Mr. Burton was active in his community, volunteering for Big Brothers Big Sisters, the Fresh Air Fund and the Falmouth Commodores baseball team. He loved tennis, was a devout fan of the New York Giants and was a parishioner of Saint Anthony’s Church in East Falmouth, Mass., for many years. Mr. Burton is survived by Fifi, their five children and six grandchildren.

1942

Stan H. Loomis. Mr. Loomis graduated from Glen Ridge (N.J.) High School before coming to Blair for a postgraduate year. He attended MIT and received a BS from Newark College of Engineering. Mr. Loomis enjoyed a long career as a sales engineer for companies including McGraw Edison and Westinghouse. He was a passionate golfer, a proud World War II veteran, and a devoted husband and father whose favorite phrase was: “How can I help?” Mr. Loomis is survived by his wife of 62 years, Carol, two daughters and sons-in-law, and two grandsons.

F. William Petri. “Bill” enlisted in the U.S. Army following his Blair graduation and served three years in France and Germany during World War II. He graduated from Syracuse University in 1949 and did graduate work in international studies at Johns Hopkins University. Mr. Petri owned Rema Dri-Vac Corporation in Norwalk, Conn., for many years, retiring in the late 1990s. His interests included steam trains, vintage cars, and American and European history. Mr. Petri’s first wife, Helen, to whom he had been married for 54 years, predeceased him. He is survived by his second wife, Barbara, two daughters, eight grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

1946

Gordon J. Gebhardt. Mr. Gebhardt was a varsity swimmer at Blair and served as Blue and White Key secretary/treasurer. He was an executive in the petroleum industry, serving as vice president for several companies during his career, including his family’s business, Erie-United Refining Co. in Warren, Pa. Leader of numerous community organizations, Mr. Gebhardt was past president of the Erie Rotary Club, the Erie City Mission and the American Lung Association among others. He was an antique auto enthusiast and enjoyed reading, studying the Bible and spending time with his family. Preceded in death by his first wife, Barbara, he is survived by his second wife, Meta, three children, six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

1947

Leon Mironoff. A wearer of the varsity “B,” Dr. Mironoff was a mainstay on Blair’s track and cross country teams according to the 1947 ACTA. He graduated from The Pennsylvania State University in 1951 and earned his MD from Thomas Jefferson University in 1961. During his medical career, Dr. Mironoff served as chief of staff at San Clemente General Hospital and was president of the Orange County Chapter of the California Academy of Family Practice. He is survived by his wife, Joy Wooster.

Pierce J. Lonergan. “There’s probably nothing Pete hasn’t tried during his four years at Blair, and he’s been a success at everything,” the 1949 ACTA noted of this multi-talented campus leader. Mr. Lonergan was captain of the varsity wrestling team, vice president of student council, sports editor and editor-in-chief of the Blair Breeze, and president of the Academy Players, International Society and Sylph. He matriculated at Princeton University, graduating in 1953 with a bachelor’s degree in economics, and served two years as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army. Mr. Lonergan spent much of his career in the financial printing industry in New York City, then moved to Cincinnati in 1993 to become president of the West Carrollton Parchment Company; he retired as the company’s CEO. A member of numerous theater, golf, hunting and social clubs, Mr. Lonergan enjoyed the arts and had a spontaneous sense of humor. He returned to Blair for his 50th Reunion in 1999 and served on the Class of 1949’s 60th Reunion committee. His beloved wife of 50 years, Joan, survives Mr. Lonergan, as do four children, 11 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. He was predeceased by his brother, Edward D. Lonergan ’47.

Dwight C. Treganowan. Ever respectful of military service members, Mr. Treganowan himself served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War. In 1955, following his graduation from Whitworth College (Spokane, Wash.) with a bachelor’s degree in advertising, he married Mary Brown, his wife of 56 years. Mr. Treganowan was the advertising manager for the Walla Walla Union-Bulletin until his retirement in 1976, then began a second career as a
hospital purchasing director. When he finally retired for good, he and Mary enjoyed frequent travel. Mr. Treganowan was predeceased by Mary in September 2011; his survivors include two sons and two granddaughters.

**1950**

**Donald W. Rath.** A varsity soccer player at Blair, Dr. Rath enjoyed a long career in education. He earned his BA at the College of Wooster, then continued on to William Paterson University for his MA and to Rutgers University for his Ed.D. He was principal at Deerfield Elementary School in Mountainside, N.J., and superintendent of Brielle (N.J.) Elementary School. Dr. Rath was active in numerous professional associations, including the N.J. Council of Education and the N.J. Association of Elementary Principals (president). He was a member of the Presbyterian Church of Point Pleasant. Dr. Rath’s wife of 58 years, Charlotte, survives him, along with four children and eight grandchildren.

**1953**

**William M. Bush Jr.** "One of Blair’s better golfers," according to the 1953 *ACTA*, Mr. Bush graduated from Lafayette College in 1959. During his corporate career, he worked for several companies, including Scott Paper Co., William Underwood Co., W.R. Grace and Alpha Industries, where he served as vice president of administration. From 1984 to 2006, he owned and operated Four Corners Shopping Center in Columbia, Maine, together with his family. Mr. Bush served his community as a Rotarian and as a trustee and board president of Down East Community Hospital in Machias, Maine. He is survived by his wife of 45 years, Jane, and two children.

**1957**

**Frank R. Coppola Jr.** Wearer of the varsity “B,” Mr. Coppola played football, wrestled and ran winter and spring track. He captained the 1955 varsity football team, and in 2004, he proudly helped coordinate the 100th-anniversary celebration of the Blair-Peddie football rivalry, presenting a halftime review of Blair’s football legacy at the Peddie Day game. Mr. Coppola graduated from Colgate University in 1961 and served in the U.S. Army from 1961-63 during the Cuban Missile Crisis. He worked at Federal Business Centers in Edison, N.J., retiring as the firm’s vice president of operations. During his career, he was active in the Material Handling Society and the Council of Logistics Management, of which he was past president. Mr. Coppola served on Blair’s Alumni Association Board of Governors from 1967-71, and throughout his life, he was a loyal to the School and to his many Blair friends. He is survived by three children and five grandchildren.

**1958**

**Michael L. Lichtig.** Dr. Lichtig enjoyed a long and successful career as an ophthalmologist. A 1962 graduate of Cornell University and 1966 graduate of Weill Cornell Medical College, he served as chief of the department of ophthalmology at the U.S. Air Force Regional Hospital in Minot, N.D.,
from 1970-71, then practiced in New Jersey for nearly 40 years. Dr. Lichtig was dedicated to his family, and he loved animals, enjoyed worldwide travel and appreciated music, art and fine cuisine. He is survived by his wife of 33 years, Delores, four children and their spouses, and four grandchildren.

1960

Nicholas S. Battelle. Mr. Battelle served on the Blair Board of Trustees from 2001 to 2004 and was deeply loyal to the School. Together with his wife, Dorothy, he established the Nicholas S. Battelle ’60 Scholarship in 2007 to give deserving students the opportunity of a Blair education. During his Blair days, Mr. Battelle was a three-sport varsity letterman (football, track and golf) and campus leader, serving as JV football co-captain, editor of the ACTA and secretary of the Dramatics Club and Blue and White Key. He entered the School in September 1954 as a seventh-grader, following in the footsteps of his brothers, Peter Battelle ’56 and Anthony Battelle ’57. Mr. Battelle earned a bachelor’s degree in English literature at Duke University and an MBA in finance at Columbia University Business School and served in the Navy as an officer aboard the USS Kearny. Co-founder of Lee Munder Capital, his career in investment management spanned 35 years, and he was named to Barron’s Best 100 Portfolio Managers in 1998-99 and 2000. Upon retirement in 2005, the Battelles moved from the Boston area, where they had raised their two daughters, Katherine and Holly, to Kilmarnock, Va. Mr. Battelle was a member of the Class of 1960’s 50th Reunion committee and greatly enjoyed return visits to campus to meet the recipients of the Nicholas S. Battelle ’60 Scholarship. Survivors include Mr. Battelle’s wife, daughters, brothers, and many nieces and nephews.

1964

Richard M. Blumenthal. Mr. Blumenthal earned a bachelor’s degree in accounting at Fairleigh Dickinson University and built a thriving practice over 30 years. A man of many interests, he remodeled his home, Copper Rock, near Boulder, Colo., using recycled materials and, together with his wife, Pam Thayer, enjoyed traveling, music and theater. Mr. Blumenthal was a friend and mentor to many and a volunteer with the Autism Society. He is survived by Pam and many devoted friends.

1976

William S. Pitts. Described as "an individualist" and "future center for the New York Rangers" in the 1976 ACTA, Mr. Pitts, a printing production manager for Daret, Inc., was a 1980 graduate of Guilford College. An avid golfer, hunter and lifelong Rangers fan, he was a loyal participant in Blair’s annual alumni hockey game. Mr. Pitts is survived by his parents and three loving sons, Brian, Kevin and Kyle.

1987

Steven S. Fetsch. A freelance video editor and web designer, Mr. Fetsch graduated from Colgate University. He was a founding board member and artistic mentor for the Ohio Valley Museum of Discovery and was involved in numerous theatrical, entertainment and web-based venues in Athens, Ohio, and elsewhere. He directed and/or co-produced award-winning documentaries, including “A Forest Returns” and “Soul of the Woods.” Mr. Fetsch is survived by his loving wife, Kathleen, and two children.

1989

Thomas H. Edelstein. Mr. Edelstein graduated from New Providence High School and played basketball during his postgraduate year at Blair. He earned a bachelor’s degree from Rider University and was working for UPS at the time of his death. An avid sports fan, Mr. Edelstein loved the Philadelphia Eagles and New York Mets, and his family and friends will deeply miss his willingness to help those in need, his fun-loving ways and his sense of humor.

1991

Marco F. Cera. Mr. Cera came to Blair for his senior year of high school and was a member of the lacrosse team. He earned his bachelor’s degree from Providence College and master’s degree from Montclair State (N.J.) University; he was pursuing his doctorate at Seton Hall University when he died, following a valiant struggle with mesothelioma. A highly respected educator, he taught and coached at Pompton Lakes (N.J.) High School, then advanced to administrative positions, eventually being named principal of Briarcliff Middle School in Mountain Lakes, N.J. Mr. Cera enjoyed reading and history, and he was an enthusiastic golfer and sports fan. Devoted to his family, Mr. Cera is survived by his wife of 11 years, Danielle; two daughters, Gabriella and Nina; his brother and family; and his parents, Corinne and Anthony J. Cera ’53.

FORMER STAFF

Virginia Van Stone. Mrs. Van Stone was a steadfast member of Blair’s administrative staff for nearly four decades, serving as the School’s registrar for many years. A friend and mentor to many, she retired in 1986 and moved to Florida, returning to New Jersey in 2006. Mrs. Van Stone is survived by her son, Robert L. Van Stone ’69, and his wife, Marian Darlington.
Blair Hosts Reception at Harvard Faculty Club in Cambridge

On April 12, Blair welcomed more than 50 alumni, parents and friends to a reception at the Harvard Faculty Club in Cambridge, Mass. Hosted by Andrew Yu ’90, the event gave alumni the opportunity to meet old and new friends. Former assistant headmaster Dave Low and his wife, Candy, attended the reception and mingled with alumni. As the event’s featured speaker, Dave then shared with the audience his reflections on “Three Decades of Student Life.”
More Than 70 Alumni Attend Reception in Washington, D.C.

On April 24, more than 70 alumni attended Blair’s reception in Washington, D.C., at the Metropolitan Club of the City of Washington. Among those in attendance were featured speaker Dave Low and his wife, Candy, Stephanie Marcial ’95, Peter Mandaville ’90, Ben Kenyon ’02 and Sandy Apgar ’58. Dave again addressed attendees and talked about his impressions of student life at Blair over the three decades he served as assistant headmaster.
Thank You!

The Blair Fund Again topped $2 million
Class of 2012 Achieves 100% Participation

For the third straight year, alumni, parents and friends contributed over $2 million to the Blair fund, supporting an outstanding educational experience for the Class of 2012 and all our students. 81% of parents and a record 34% of alumni participated this year, including every member of the Class of 2012. The Trustees, students, faculty and staff of Blair Academy say “THANK YOU!” to each and every donor.

Your Support Makes All The Difference!
Every Gift Matters, Every Year.

The Blair Fund • www.blair.edu
“Thank you to the grandparents who’ve been saving up in order to send your beloved grandchildren to Blair, to the donors of scholarship money who have made enrollment possible for those who wanted so badly to attend but couldn’t on their own, to the parents of the wild child, the untamable whom you thought Blair would make a better kid when it was really they who made Blair a better school. For you have all made it possible for our class to come together as it has. Of course, thank you to the hardworking parents who want so badly to give your children the best you possibly can, even when it wasn’t the easiest path to take, and for giving us the time to finally realize that fact.”

Excerpt: Remarks to the Class of 2012 by commencement speaker
Hannah Declercq ’12, May 24, 2012