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A Note from The Headmaster

By Gerald T. Hansen, Headmaster

Hard as I try, I find it difficult to believe yet another new year is upon us. While 2005 no doubt holds exciting endeavors, our school year thus far has been packed with new beginnings for the Country Day community. We broke ground on a new athletic facility at the Upper School and in its speedy completion, enjoyed our first fall sports season with all the amenities the building offers. We were able to fully fund the building largely due to a generous donation by the school’s Blue and Gold Club, as well as dollars earned from the Ryder Cup facilities rental this fall.

In other campus developments, our youngest students came back to school this fall to new playground equipment at the Lower and Junior Schools. The new structures were a much-needed update and one our students have certainly taken great joy in using. Though not yet fully funded, we decided to place a priority on completing the project and relying on our parent community to contribute through private donations and Annual Giving gifts designated specifically for this purpose. Thank you to those of you who have already helped further this fund raising effort – we still have a way to go, but your generous support is already making a difference. Read more about these great projects on page 4.

This issue of BeeHive also introduces our new faculty and staff at DCDS, who made a new professional start this fall by becoming treasured members of the Country Day family. By now, they are seasoned veterans, but please continue your warm welcome of these folks as they complete their first year in our classrooms and offices.

And, in the coming months, enjoy all that 2005 has to offer. Happy New Year!
Corrections

In a photo on page 14 of the Summer 2004 BeeHive, Jessica Givan ’03 was misidentified as Marion Mahone ’02.

The Lower School Flat Stanley project featured in the Summer 2004 BeeHive involved all second-grade classes, including Mrs. Cynthia Rooney and Mrs. Lynda Ludy’s classes, in addition to those mentioned in the article.

Summer 2004 BeeHive Class Notes corrections:
Pat Cunnington ’88 lives in Bloomfield Hills with his wife Dina and their children Patrick and Amelia. Pat is the owner of a mortgage company, World Mortgage Corporation.

Susan Bihler ’03 recently completed her freshman year at Georgetown University’s McDonough School of Business where she was inducted into the co-ed fraternity Delta Sigma Phi. She has met a close group of business “brothers” and looks forward to spending her next three years in Washington, D.C.

The BeeHive corrects all factual errors. If you know of an error, please contact Mary Ellen Rowe, BeeHive editor at (248) 646-7717 x 1024 or mrowe@dcds.edu.

Footnotes

Following the publishing of the Summer 2004 BeeHive featuring the late Dr. Richard A. Schlegel, many readers expressed an interest in making a contribution in the former headmaster’s memory. The school is currently in the process of launching the Dr. Richard A. Schlegel Memorial Scholarship Fund to honor the life of a man who has touched our lives in a meaningful way. The Fund seeks to connect worthy students with an opportunity to enrich their education with the Country Day experience. To lend your support and pay tribute to “Doc,” please mail your tax-deductible contribution to the Detroit Country Day School Dr. Richard A. Schlegel Memorial Scholarship Fund at 22305 W. Thirteen Mile Rd., Beverly Hills, MI 48025 or contact Jackie Martin in the Development Office at (248) 646-7717.

Save-the-Date for Safari Auction 2005

Update your passport for this year’s auction, Safari Auction 2005. The event provides a once-a-year opportunity for parents, alums and friends of DCDS to re-connect with the school in a number of ways. “How can I play a part,” you ask?

• Expand your Country Day network by volunteering your time in any capacity. Whether it’s helping with our databases, working on decorations or displays, or even just “doing stuff,” we’re anxious to see new faces on our committees.

• Be a donor and/or Auction sponsor: the Country Day community has tremendous talents and access to unique opportunities. Why not consider a professional or personal contribution to Auction? Or, you can underwrite an Auction item with a cash donation or become an Auction sponsor.

• Promote your business to the school community by placing an ad in the Auction ad book!

• Attend the event. Come on and safari with us. Bring the whole gang to Family Night on Friday, May 6, 2005! Go for the “big game” at our Saturday Auction on May 7, 2005!

This year’s chairs, Jeannie Bourget, Carol Desai, and Loree Meneguzzi are already well entrenched in Safari planning and can’t wait to lead the herd to Auction 2005! For more information about how you can become involved in the Auction, contact our Auction office at (248) 646-7717 x 1305.
Lower School Supports National Denim Day

On Friday, October 8, the Lower School faculty joined more than 27,300 companies who participated in the Lee National Denim Day, the largest single-day fundraiser for breast cancer. Teachers donated $5 each to The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation in exchange for the opportunity to don denim at work, while many Lower School parents also supported the cause with generous contributions to the Foundation. Together, the participants from Detroit Country Day School made a donation of more than $1,000 to the Foundation. Lee National Denim Day was founded in 1996 and has raised more than $50 million toward breast cancer research, education, screening and treatment.

Lower, Junior School Students Return to New Playground Equipment

Students at both the Lower and Junior Schools returned this fall to new playground equipment, which was constructed over the summer break. A 17-year-old wood structure at the Lower School was torn down and replaced with two new swing sets, a play fire engine, slides, two sandbox es and more. Lower School Director Ruth Rebold said, “We built two of some things because one area is for more creative play, while the other is more for physical activity. The rubber base is decorated with a sun, stars and rainbows so it is not only really safe and spongy, but also nice to look at.”

Though not yet fully funded, the school has placed a priority on completing the project and relying on our parent community to contribute through private donations and Annual Giving gifts designated specifically for this purpose. To support the new playground equipment on either campus, please contact Scott Bertschy in the Development Office at (248) 646-7717 x 1022.

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Junior School Sizzles in First Annual Family Barbeque

No detail was overlooked as Junior School families came together this fall for the first annual Junior School Family Barbeque. Students and their parents enjoyed a Western-themed evening of music, games, decorations and especially great food at the Village Campus, courtesy of the hard work and planning of the Junior School Parents’ Association.

DCDS Well-Represented at Ryder Cup

More than 150 Country Day students participated in the opening ceremonies of the 35th Ryder Cup Matches on Thursday, Sept. 16. Under sunny skies at Oakland Hills Country Club, the students marched in, welcoming international guests to Bloomfield Hills and representing the school in grand fashion. Over the last 75 years, the Ryder Cup Matches have grown from a small informal gathering of American and British professional golfers to the grandest, most closely followed international competition in the game. Among the 24 participating professional golfers was Tiger Woods, who visited our school during Ryder Cup week to talk with Upper School boys and their fathers at the annual Father/Son Luncheon sponsored by the Upper School Parents’ Association. For the full story on Woods’ visit, please see page 18.
Chase Kojaian ’09

“This is a quilt that I made when a visiting artist, Mrs. Cindy Cillick-Geist, came to my school. To do this project, my art class learned how to use sewing machines. Sewing was more difficult than I thought it would be. I thought it was very funny how my entire art class sat there sewing. To make my quilt, I placed a sheet of material that sticks when it heats up behind the fabric. This would hold the fabric until I could sew it on. Then I would do stitching, and used the sewing machine. I decided to add the silver, gold, and bronze dots by putting glue on my quilt and rubbing it with gold, silver, and bronze colored foil when it dried.”

Josie Teachout ’16

“Right when I got home from school I drew a boy peacock. I was into peacocks at the time I created this. My friend made one at school and I wanted to make one but a lot larger. I glued two pieces of paper together. I used markers to color it in.”
Sarah Carroll ‘15

“I felt like making birds. I used a lot of my favorite colors. When I did the pink and green one, I thought of watermelon. For the blue one, I thought of blueberries. I thought it would be cool to do two colors for the background instead of one.”

Emma Cullis ‘07

“This black and white photograph was hand painted with oil paints. Before we took pictures of Frankie, my photography teacher’s dog, we studied the artist William Wegman. He is a photographer focusing his works on weimaraner dogs. Since Frankie is a weimaraner, Ms. Susan Lucas, my photography teacher, thought it would be a great idea to do our own impressions of William Wegman’s works. I learned a lot about studio photography while doing this project. The most important is that taking pictures of animals can be difficult because of their short attention span. I chose black and white film to depict the timeless aspect of All-American sports. Although I chose black and white I like the timeless image I captured with Frankie. My work is meant to bring joy and smiles to everyone that looks at it.”

Sarah Carroll ‘15

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Welcome New Faculty and Staff

Administration

Claudia Bowers is the new Junior School nurse. She earned an Associate’s degree in nursing at Oakland University.

Joanne Lukasik joined the Detroit Country Day School business office as finance manager in 2004. She is a certified public accountant with a B.B.A. from Baker College.

Carissa McNellen was recently named a media center aide at the Middle School. She was previously employed by the University of Michigan in the Kresge Business School Library. McNellen also served as research assistant for a two-year Child and Parent Relations Study with the University. She holds Bachelor’s degrees in Psychology and Japanese from the University of Michigan and is the wife of Upper School Latin teacher, Brad McNellen.

Dana Newman comes to Detroit Country Day School as an administrative assistant in the Middle School. Previously, she was a substitute teacher in the Royal Oak Neighborhood Schools for eight years. She graduated from Ferris State University with a B.S. in information systems.

Upper School

Technical Director of the Performing Arts Center Jim Davis expands his role at Detroit Country Day School this year as a member of the performing arts faculty. By popular demand, Davis will teach a class in theatre production at the Upper School. His experience in the subject includes ten years of lighting design and stage management at DCDS, the Warren Civic Theatre, the Jewish Ensemble Theatre, The Roeper School, Walled Lake Northern High School and several local theatres. He earned a B.A. in Theatre at Wayne State University in 1999.

Dr. Riccardo Di Pasquo joins the Upper School science department as a chemistry teacher. Previously, he taught chemistry, AP biology and biology at Holy Redeemer High School, where he organized the school’s first Science Olympiad. Di Pasquo also has been a practicing physician of chiropractic medicine for ten years. He earned a B.A. at St. Mary’s College – Ontario, a Master’s degree in teaching at Marygrove College and a Physician of Chiropractic Medicine at the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College.

Robin Murchison-Greene teaches Upper School mathematics. Previously, she was an adjunct faculty member at Macomb Community College where she taught pre-algebra, elementary and intermediate algebra courses for three years. She earned a B.S. in psychology at Wayne State University and a M.A. in the teaching of mathematics at University of Detroit-Mercy.
Melissa Kacel joins the Upper School foreign language department with a wealth of university-level Spanish instruction experience. Previously, she was an adjunct faculty member and tutor in Spanish at Wayne State University. She also has served as a graduate teaching assistant in several Spanish courses at Wayne State. Kacel earned Bachelor’s degrees in English and Spanish, as well as a M.A. in Spanish and literature, both from Wayne State University. She currently is pursuing her Ph.D. in modern languages, majoring in Spanish and minoring in literary criticism.

Allison Parks replaces the former Upper School art teacher, Marilee Suomela. With more than 10 years of art education experience, Parks has served as an instructor of beginning through advanced jewelry classes at the Birmingham Bloomfield Art Center, Oakland Community College and Andover High School in West Bloomfield. She also has served as a visiting artist here at Country Day, where she demonstrated various jewelry-making techniques and discussed careers in art with students. Parks earned a B.S. in advertising at Ferris State University.

Dr. Matthew Watson comes to Detroit Country Day School as a member of the Upper School English department. Prior to his appointment at DCDS, he was a lecturer in English and Writing at the University of Michigan-Dearborn for three years. He also has taught eighth grade English at Weston Middle School in Weston, Mass. Watson earned a B.A. in English at John Carroll University and a M.Ed. and Ph.D. in English, both at Boston College.

Wayne Wheatley was named a Middle School science teacher. His past experience includes three years as a fifth through eighth grade science teacher at Herlong Cathedral School in Detroit where he also organized the school science fair and coached LEGO League and Future City Competition teams. Wheatley earned a B.S. in education at Wayne State University.

Cecilia Hernandez-Winchell joins Detroit Country Day Middle School as a Latin and Spanish teacher. She previously taught Spanish at Benedictine High School in Detroit and Greenhills School in Ann Arbor, where she also taught Latin. She earned Bachelor’s degrees in Greek and Latin at the University of California and a M.A. in Latin at the University of Michigan.

Kimberly Hardin brings a strong musical background to her new role as Lower and Junior School strings instructor. She has served as a studio violin instructor for more than ten years. Most recently, she was Interim Orchestra Director at Oakview Middle School in Lake Orion, where she taught violin, viola, cello and bass at the beginning and intermediate levels. She also began a strings program in the Pontiac School District through the VH1 “Save the Music” program in 2000. Hardin earned a B.A. in political science at Oakland University.
Welcome New Faculty and Staff

**Lower School**

**Jennifer Bullock** comes to Detroit Country Day Lower School as a pre-k 4 teacher. She previously taught junior kindergarten at Kirk in the Hills Preschool in Bloomfield Hills and preschool at the FCC Playgroup in Royal Oak. She is a graduate of Bowling Green State University with a B.A. in elementary education and is presently pursuing a Master’s degree in curriculum and teaching from Michigan State University.

**Sharon Deighton** joins the Lower School faculty as a first grade teacher after working as a guest teacher here since 2003. She recently completed her student teaching at Beverly Elementary in Beverly Hills, where she taught fifth grade. Deighton earned a B.A. from Michigan State University in interior design and a post-baccalaureate elementary teaching certificate from Oakland University.

**Cyndi Peltonen** teaches Lower School music. Her past music instruction experience includes working most recently as ECC Music Specialist for Cranbrook Schools, as well as a music teacher in the Troy School District and at Rochester Community Schools. She also currently serves as music director for Troy’s First United Methodist Church, where she coordinates the music program for the church and directs the choirs. Peltonen earned an Associate’s degree in liberal arts at Oakland Community College and a Bachelor’s degree of music with a vocal music education concentration at Wayne State University.

**Leah Spanopoulos** was hired as a junior kindergarten teacher at the Lower School this fall after serving as a permanent substitute position with the school since 2003. She also has taught at Troy Union Elementary and the Academy of Americas in Detroit. Spanopoulos, who is fluent in Greek, earned an Associate’s degree in liberal arts at Oakland Community College and a B.S. in education at Wayne State University.
Carol Balgenorth

JOINED DCDS IN DECEMBER, 1984

December marked the retirement of longtime Middle School physical education teacher and coach, Carol Balgenorth.

“It is hard to believe it has been 20 years! Working here has been wonderful, tiring, challenging and loads of fun. It has truly been “Country Day and night” for me. Dr. Schlegel hired me and helped mentor me for many years. We eventually became mixed double tennis partners a couple weekends each summer. I have coached tennis, softball, volleyball, lacrosse and field hockey. My coaching memories are numerous, but the one that sticks out immediately in my mind, is taking the field hockey team to the state finals in 2000. It was an awesome team! There have been so many great moments and young women on those teams. I cherish every moment.

I will miss my colleagues, peers and friends — Paul Bartoshuk, Frank Orlando and I have developed into a great teaching team. We have all mellowed with age, but still care greatly about the children we influence. The other people that I have worked with, coached with and those who touched my life will be remembered fondly. I couldn’t have asked for a better teaching experience.

As for retirement, I can’t wait! After teaching since 1970 and working with more than 10,000 children, I am ready for some time for myself. I will be moving to Arizona to be closer to my family. My own children, Scott and Sara, look forward to visiting Mom in a hot climate – much preferred over Midwestern winters. I plan to play golf, softball and tennis again and whatever else becomes available. I am not one to sit around, but ‘down time’ will be at my choosing.

I’ve valued my time at DCDS. Thank you for 20 wonderful years and memories to last a lifetime.”

The Country Day community wishes Carol well in her future endeavors!
The Seligman Performing Arts Center on the campus of Detroit Country Day School is on the move. The building, more accurately a wing, isn’t going any place but, artistically speaking, it’s laying claim to more territory. The five-year-old, 672-seat hall, which enjoys a reputation as a center for chamber music, is adding professional theater to its public offerings.

“The school always intended the venue to attract major professional shows,” says Jeffrey Nahan, director of the Seligman Center and head of Country Day’s theater and dance department, “but the school uses the facility so much it’s difficult to find windows to bring these shows in.”

The window is about to open, at least a little. In November, the touring company of “A Stoop on Orchard Street,” a current off-Broadway musical about immigrants on New York’s Lower East Side, will spend a week at the Seligman Center. In April, playwrights, actors and spouses Renee Taylor and Joseph Bologna will perform a four-day run of their autobiographical comedy, “If You Ever Leave Me, I’m Going With You,” which the couple did on Broadway in 2001.

“Theatrically, now we’re on the map,” says Nahan. “Musically, we’ve been on the map for a long time.” Almost since the day it opened on Nov. 13, 1999, the Seligman Center on 13 Mile at Lahser in Beverly Hills has been home to the Chamber Music Society of Detroit’s concerts by nationally renowned artists; this season the society is also one of the venues for the unrelated Great Lakes Chamber Music Festival, which takes place each June.

Nahan isn’t just looking to fill the space. “I say no to more people than I say yes to,” Aunt Sally’s tap school won’t find a home at the center, he says, but Nahan does hope to increase the presence of professional theater. His own theater background is extensive, with acting and directing credits at local professional theaters and five years (1982-1987) as artistic director of the former Actors Alliance Theatre.

Conveniently, Jay Kholos was seeking a Detroit-area playhouse for his show. Kholos is author, composer and producer of “A Stoop on Orchard Street.” “I’m kind of that old style impresario,” Kholos says. “I used to think it was a dirty word.”

“Orchard Street” opened in August 2003 at a 199-seat theater in the very neighborhood it depicts. The show has had a very successful run, but that wasn’t enough for Kholos. “In New York we run Wednesday through Sunday, eight shows a week, which meant we were dark on Monday and Tuesday. Being a kind of Type A personality I said, ‘Why are we dark? Let’s do something.’”

What Kholos did was order up a traveling version of the set and book a few Monday and Tuesday
Clifton Taulbert, an internationally acclaimed speaker, spoke at a Character Education assembly and parent presentation this August at the Upper School. Mr. Taulbert is the author of *Eight Habits of the Heart: Embracing the Values that Build Strong Families and Communities*, this year’s Character Ed text for DCDS families and students, and the book that won the 1997 USA Today’s Book choice to Enrich Our Minds. *Eight Habits* provides a framework on which to model and to support an effective and caring community. It stresses eight virtues: nurturing attitude, responsibility, dependability, friendship, brotherhood, high expectations, courage and hope.

Beyond author, Mr. Taulbert is also president of the Oklahoma-based Building Community Institute, a company that attempts to assist people that meet personal and professional challenges through workshops, books and films. Mr. Taulbert has expressed his views on community and brotherhood, two subjects he feels strongly about, to many different audiences around the world; these audiences include the Library of Congress and Congresses of Central America.

2004-2005 is the third school year of Character Education at DCDS. In the first year, quotations regarding inspiration and character were posted by faculty members in all classes. There were different quotes for all of the different courses and subjects. The quotes changed with each new goal.

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**Clifton Taulbert Speaks at Assembly**

*A Day Times special to BeeHive by Adam Bowman ’07*

Clifton Taulbert has written several books in addition to his *Eight Habits of the Heart*. These stories, according to Clifton Taulbert’s website, “give the cultural lives of African Americans in the deep south during and after the era of legal segregation.” These books include *The Last Train North* and *Once Upon a Time When We Were Colored.*

In the second year, Hal Urban’s *Life’s Greatest Lessons: 20 Things That Matter* was sent home for summer reading. In addition, the Character Ed board set up assemblies with students answering questions about movie clips, and there was also an assembly with guest speaker “Mykee” who spoke through unique characters on different topics ranging from the social lives of teenage girls to being homosexual. Taulbert’s book also brought many interested students to the Performing Arts Center.

He spoke to families, faculty and staff about various topics including community. “The character Education Committee is excited to offer several different discussion and activity opportunities for our school community to explore the theme of courage during the 2004-05 school year.” Upper School Media Specialist Carol Keeler said. He spoke to families who attended his speech on August 26 in the PAC, all DCDS families were invited and encouraged to come. He spoke to faculty and staff on the following morning in the PAC. His book is available for those who would like a copy in the Business Office for $11.

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A longtime legend on the athletic playing fields of Detroit Country Day School, Frank Orlando has a resume that reads like the script of a feel-good sports movie. It’s the story of an Italian American growing up in Detroit tossing around a ball – and as one of just 20 boys in his graduating class at St. Anthony’s High School, Orlando was a valued member of every sports team the school offered. His talent led him to the University of Detroit, where he earned a football scholarship and later, when the school dropped its football program, to Drake University, where he continued playing football and earned a degree in education. In the years that followed, he became a husband and a father, a grandfather, teacher and friend – but just one title earned him a place in the hearts and memories of Country Day students a thousand times over – coach. And to them, he’s simply known as Coach O.
Act One – Breaking in a New Coach

“Do you like coaching basketball?” she asked. It was an easy enough question. The new Detroit Country Day women’s basketball coach looked around the track for the rest of the team, then answered, “sure, I like coaching.”

“Do you like coaching girls?” she asked.

“Well, I have a couple daughters, yeah, I like coaching girls,” he responded, wondering where this was going.

“Do you like losing?” she asked.

He paused a moment, then shrugged, “I do better than I used to,” he said.

“Do you like coaching girls?” she asked.

“Well, I have a couple daughters, yeah, I like coaching girls,” he responded, wondering where this was going.

“Do you like losing?” she asked.

It was an easy enough question. The new Detroit Country Day women’s basketball coach didn’t waste any time. “How about a couple laps?”

True to the young Susan Morrow’s words, losing became commonplace for the basketball team as they endured the short end of scores like 90-1, 82-2. It was no surprise when the DCDS Athletic Director at the time, Sue Qualls, called Orlando into her office and told him the team had little interest in the game, who studied their French books during his pre-game pep talks? How did he build a legacy not only of state championship victories, but also a long list of students who went on to play their sport in college and come back to visit the coach they almost unanimously call a father figure? To Orlando, it wasn’t a path paved in stardust and glitter. It was a path laid brick by brick, in which every win was a gift, and every loss was a lesson learned.

“Losses are meaningful because you learn from them,” says Orlando. “You look at what you did wrong; you take them apart piece by piece and you move on. In a close game you won, you say ‘wow, we were lucky to pull that one out.’ But in a close game you lost, you say ‘what did we do?’”

Still, Coach Orlando never takes a loss personally, and as expressive as he is, never gets upset or dwells on the negative. “If we lost and gave it all we had, I’ll feel the same way,” he says. “It’s not about me, it’s about the kids. How will this experience affect their lives, help their character?”

It was a last-second shot at the buzzer by Mary (Bridges) Radford ’87 that marked the turnaround in the Lady Yellowjackets’ morale and, truth be told, in DCDS history. It was the moment the young athletes began to believe. “Mary had the ball,” said Orlando. “But she didn’t want to shoot it. She did not want to,” he says with a chuckle. “She looked at her sister Marie and from the bench, I heard Marie say ‘do it!’ and Mary took the shot!” The coach, the girls, and everyone in the stands knew they had done it. It was that year the now-popular phrase “Believe it” was first uttered. Coach Orlando, his players and their legions of fans have been believing it ever since.

But how did he do it? How did Coach Orlando turn around a team of five who had little interest in the game, who studied their French books during his pre-game pep talks? How did he build a legacy not only of state championship victories, but also a long list of students who would go on to play their sport in college and come back to visit the coach they almost unanimously call a father figure? To Orlando, it wasn’t a path paved in stardust and glitter. It was a path laid brick by brick, in which every win was a gift, and every loss was a lesson learned.

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Act Two – The Turnaround

Amazingly, Coach O and his players from that era can pinpoint the turnaround moment to a single shot in a single game. It was 1986 and the team was coming off a decent season, better than the last, but no one could forget the bitterness of their regional loss by 60 points to St. Martin DePorres the year before. Tonight they would face the same team who stole away their chance at post-season glory last year. Only tonight would be different.

It was a last-second shot at the buzzer by Mary (Bridges) Radford ’87 that marked the turnaround in the Lady Yellowjackets’ morale and, truth be told, in DCDS history. It was the moment the young athletes began to believe. “Mary had the ball,” said Orlando. “But she didn’t want to shoot it. She did not want to,” he says with a chuckle. “She looked at her sister Marie and from the bench, I heard Marie say ‘do it!’ and Mary took the shot!” The coach, the girls, and everyone in the stands knew they had done it. It was that year the now-popular phrase “Believe it” was first uttered. Coach Orlando, his players and their legions of fans have been believing it ever since.

But how did he do it? How did Coach Orlando turn around a team of five who had little interest in the game, who studied their French books during his pre-game pep talks? How did he build a legacy not only of state championship victories, but also a long list of students who would go on to play their sport in college and come back to visit the coach they almost unanimously call a father figure? To Orlando, it wasn’t a path paved in stardust and glitter. It was a path laid brick by brick, in which every win was a gift, and every loss was a lesson learned.

“Losses are meaningful because you learn from them,” says Orlando. “You look at what you did wrong; you take them apart piece by piece and you move on. In a close game you won, you say ‘wow, we were lucky to pull that one out.’ But in a close game you lost, you say ‘what did we do?’”

Still, Coach Orlando never takes a loss personally, and as expressive as he is, never gets upset or dwells on the negative. “If we lost and gave it all we had, I’ll feel the same way,” he says. “It’s not about me, it’s about the kids. How will this experience affect their lives, help their character?”

It does hurt, but only because you know the effort the kids put into it. I think losing helps a player learn to handle adversity. Winning is an unexpected blessing. Same as in life.”

Said Kira Mann ’89, “Worse than losing a game was disappointing Coach. He’d never yell, he’d just look down, put one hand in his pocket and run his fingers over his hair with the other.” She demonstrates, complete with a long, deep sigh. Orlando nods and laughs at her imitation. “I better stop doing that if I want to have any hair left!”

With such an impressive record of success, you’d think the pressure to win would be a heavy weight for both Coach O and his players.

“It’s not pressure,” he explains. “It’s a responsibility. We have a responsibility to carry on the Country Day tradition because it gives us pride. And with all God-given ability comes responsibility.”

No one takes responsibility more seriously than Orlando who, when diagnosed with lymphoma in 1998 never missed a practice or game. His wife, Yvette Orlando says “When Frank found out he had cancer, the first thing he said to me was ‘I know how to fight.’ Then he said he was going to use this as a teaching tool to show kids that when things go wrong you don’t give up. Life is going to be difficult sometimes and you just have to do your best.”
“When the team found out, we were worried about his health – but seeing him in practice every day was an inspiration. He’s a fighter,” Jennifer Thomas ’99 told the BeeHive in 1999.

Today, his eyes well up with tears when asked about getting through his illness. “If you face adversity, you can make it,” he says. “I went to school in the morning to go to practice in the afternoon. You just get through it. And believe it. That philosophy has driven everything I do in my life.”

“It was a tough time, but it was a great time,” he remarks, and I nod as if I understand, though this is the first time I’ve heard cancer described as a great time.

**Cut to Present Day**

On one game night this fall, Orlando fell victim to a happy ambush of former players, family and friends who surprised him with a reception in honor of his recent National High School Athletic Coaches Association Girls Basketball Coach of the Year award. It’s the highest honor possible for a high school coach to win, but one Orlando is modest about as well. The outpouring of love for one person who came out to celebrate with him.

He accepts the congratulations of those in attendance, the ever-emotional Orlando tears up again.

“Winning the room of familiar faces, the ever-emotional Orlando tears up again. The outpouring of love for one person who came out to celebrate with him.”

Twins Mary (Bridges) Radford ’87 and Marie (Bridges) Rusher ’87 echo Kostecke’s sentiments when they say he touched their lives as a coach, mentor and friend. “He always kept it light,” said Mary. “He has a way of always making you feel welcome. He lifts you up. We keep coming back to the school because of him.”

Player after player will come back to the school because of Frank Orlando, and his impact will resonate long after the last whistle is blown on his game.

Coach O’s run is far from over, and several sequels are planned for this feel-good sports movie – but the collection of memorable moments Orlando has enjoyed thus far speak for themselves. It’s the last-second shot at the buzzer to win the championship game. It’s the gritty dive into home plate as the call resonates throughout the stands…”Safe!” It’s the home-town crowd going wild. It’s the sweaty players hoisting a Gatorade cooler full of ice water over the unwitting coach’s head. It’s the laughter, tears, wins and losses and it’s the game of life for this coach.

**Roll the credits.**

**Post-script**

“But what about baseball?” I ask.

He looks at me as if I am insane, as if it should be understood that we only talk about the sport whose season we are in (though he has coached 37 seasons of baseball.) “It’s just that when I am in one season, it’s all I think about,” he says. “I give 100 percent to the sport I’m in.”

“So, if we were meeting in May, we wouldn’t be talking about basketball at all,” I say.

“Exactly.”

Good thing, because the story to tell today is about basketball. After defeating Lansing Catholic Central in a nail-biter of a semifinal, the Lady Yellowjackets went on to beat the Saint Clair Saints 49-24 this past December 4 at MSU’s Breslin Center to become Class B State Champions for the third straight year. The win marks Coach Orlando’s eighth career state championship and the second time in recent memory that he has lead a team to three titles in three years (1997-99). In true Country Day team fashion, each team member did their part to contribute to the Yellowjackets’ win and do their coach proud. This year’s seniors came out each game with something to prove to themselves and to each other. In a December 2 Detroit Free Press story, journalist Mark Snyder wrote, “It was ugly at first. Four years ago, four freshmen attended their first Detroit Country Day girls’ basketball practice. The guards, Latisha Luckett ’05 and Tiera DeLaHoussaye ’05, stumbled through drills and booted balls off their feet. The forwards, Kristen Morris ’05 and Keri Laimbeer ’05, left with bruised bodies and egos after the upperclassmen bounced them like rag dolls.

‘It was a comedy of errors when they first hit the floor,’ recalled Orlando, who had won five state titles before the girls arrived. ‘They weren’t sure they could carry on the tradition - there were some doubts.’ Four years later, it’s clear those girls have held their own.”

The BeeHive wishes to congratulate this year’s state champion Yellowjackets and Coach Frank Orlando on a great finish to a great season.
When Tiger Woods visited the Upper School campus on September 13 as keynote speaker at the Father/Son Luncheon, the topic wasn’t the Ryder Cup Matches, for which Woods would begin practice rounds the very next day, or even the game of golf itself for that matter. It was plain and simple and at many times, straight from the heart. Upper School students and more than 300 DCDS dads were offered a personal look at Woods’ relationship with his father, Earl Woods. Though much has been publicized about the pair, few reports reveal the depth and warmth that Woods conveyed in his remarks on this day.
Tiger Woods Brings His ‘Pop’ to DCDS

“And Dad was there…”

Woods’ presentation at the annual Father/Son event began with a video introduction, courtesy of Buick, which depicted the special bond of the two Woods men over the years. It was a celebration of the father-son relationship and a highlight of Woods’ esteemed career as a talented child-athlete turned pro golfer. As images of Woods’ various victories mixed with broad smiles and fatherly embraces, the words “And Dad was there” flashed across the screen. In the PAC, (where the female students caught the show on closed-circuit TV) echoes of “awwww” filled the room.

When the golfer took the podium (trademark toothy grin fixed firmly in place), it was clear he was happy to address a subject near and dear to his heart – his “Pop,” Earl Woods.

While his father is widely credited with introducing Tiger to the game of golf, Woods said it was less intentional than some might think – and that an unseasonably cool California summer may actually be to credit. “We were having an ‘el Nino’ sort of year with terribly bad weather, so my dad put a net over the garage and hit balls into that.” His mother, Kultida Woods, was feeding young Tiger (all of nine months) in a high chair nearby, where the infant could take it all in. Each time his father hit the ball, Tiger would squeal with delight. The Woods’ finally gave in, and handed their son a club at 11 months. He says, “I dropped the ball in front of that garage, just as I had seen my Dad do, and in a mirror-image of his swing, hit the ball left-handed. And then for some reason, the next time I took the club, I used my right hand and have been playing right-handed ever since. My mom and dad said, “What do we have on our hands here?”

Mr. and Mrs. Woods, meet the future world champion of golf

Before Earl Woods knew what hit him, little Tiger had out-played his dear old dad…at the tender age of eleven.

“If it seems idyllic, it’s because it is. This isn’t a 28-year-old kid burned out on a sport he was made to play. There’s no resentment, no weariness in his voice. Every misconception ever written about Earl Woods being over-bearing and pushy disintegrates when you hear the soft-spoken golfer revere his father as a hero, mentor and friend.

“He always had a rule, for as long as I can remember,” says Woods. I was always curious as a kid, asked a lot of questions. My dad’s rule was that whenever I wanted to talk, he would stop what he was doing and listen. And he didn’t stand over me, he always came down to my level and we talked eye-to-eye.”

It’s a relationship he says is the result of many, many hours of togetherness over the years and one that’s built on a foundation of love, trust and respect.

“The fist pump started there,” said Woods, who celebrated his win at the club’s bar with a coke and two cherries.

by Mary Ellen Rowe, BeeHive Editor
"I love my dad because he’s my dad, he created me – it’s just a given. But I trust and respect him because he earned those things.” The elder Woods earned those things purely in time spent with his son – time spent getting to know his son and instilling in him deeply rooted family values. And, as Tiger tells it, his father has long been full of plain-spoken good advice.

As many know, Earl Woods has suffered from poor health over the years. In 1997, after a heart attack and open-heart surgery, Woods flew to Augusta, Ga. against doctors orders to watch his son play in the Masters. The day before the last round of play, Tiger confessed to his father, “I’m nervous.”

“You should be,” responded Earl. “All that nervousness you feel is just how much you care. Turn it into concentration.”

Tiger Woods did just that, and there in his ultimate moment on the 18th green, was his father, waiting to congratulate him on the win. “I broke down and sobbed like a baby,” said Woods. “It meant so much for me to have him there.”

“The bond you see on TV is real.”

Champions never arrive

Despite his tremendous talent and contributions to the sport of golf, Woods remains humble and is very convincing when he says he still has a lot to learn.

“I’m not playing as well as I played in 1999 or 2000. But I think – I know – I have another level to attain.” He says that when he changed his swing in 1997, people thought he was crazy. “There’s always room to improve. I worked on some new things this summer and it was so cool to play that way. Trust me, I’m so excited about it.”

It’s this modest work ethic, this silent dedication to doing his best that has propelled Woods to championship-level success in tournament after tournament. He says, “You get out of it what you put into it. If you don’t put in the effort, you don’t deserve it. I know the only way to get there is to work my butt off.”

He laughs when he talks about winning athletes who proudly proclaim they have arrived. “True champions never arrive – you never get there. Whether it is sports, business or life, just enjoy the journey.”

Our visit with the icon was over almost before it started, and in a fitting fairy tale fashion, Tiger Woods was whisked away by a helicopter – on to his next destination in the journey, wherever that might be.

The annual Father/Son event is sponsored by the Upper School Parents’ Association and has attracted highly-successful speakers including Rick Wagoner, Dieter Zetsche, Steve Ballmer and Mitch Albom in past years.
As obvious as it may sound, the American bald eagle is a really big bird.

It’s one thing to hear that in a classroom or on the Discovery Channel. It’s another thing to have one try to take off five feet in front of you. The experience is not unlike being the target of a well-aimed leaf blower.

That’s exactly the experience Country Day seventh graders had this fall as part of their year-long study of wetlands habitat. In a presentation by the Michigan United Conservation Club, “Michigan’s Valuable Wetlands,” students were provided first-hand encounters with the creatures that swim, crawl, slither and fly through this integral part of the state’s ecology. The presentation covered ecological relationships, habitat requirements, species interactions, and Michigan population statistic, as well as species biology.

All the animals used by the Michigan United Conservation Club in their traveling presentations have been rescued. They are disabled, and cannot be returned to the wild. But a permanently damaged wing did not prevent their bald eagle from causing quite a stir as it was brought out of its cage and “stretched” its wings. Students watched as the power of its flapping all but spun the bird’s handler around and tussled hair in the first rows of the audience.

A cornerstone of the seventh grade science curriculum, the study of the indigenous wetlands of Michigan teaches the students the science of ecology. It also helps make them more aware of the environment around them and their responsibility to it. This study also includes sixth and seventh grade Outdoor Field Study days on the Schlegel Nature Trail, a forested area featuring a tributary of the Rouge River that links the Thirteen Mile Road campus to the Middle School Campus. Time is spent in activities that range from measuring water quality to identifying Michigan flora and fauna. No Middle School parent will forget having to remind their Middler to pack “OFS” shoes – or boots – for the Wednesday outings.

The program is capped by a visit to the everglades during the seventh grade Florida trip, complete with sightings of wild alligators. But this fall’s presentation proved that there are plenty of fascinating creatures right here in our own backyard.
Judy Sima squeaks like a door hinge, coos like a baby, wiggles her arms around like a snake and makes skeletons dance. She teaches kids to sing and clap to her favorite campfire song about - you are reading this right - fast food restaurants. She is a professional storyteller, and she was in top form this October when she visited Country Day’s fourth grade.

Originally a librarian for the Warren school district for 37 years, Judy is the now distributing editor for the Voice of Michigan Storytelling. For the past fifteen years, she has been doing her two favorite things – telling stories and teaching others to tell stories. She came to the Junior School to do just that; to share some of her favorite Halloween tales, and to take the students through a storytelling workshop.

Judy does not just tell stories, she performs them. Her face changes like an actor’s; her body is in constant motion like a dancer. She uses props, jumps out at people; she goes for the gross-out and the easy laugh. By the time the storytelling portion of her program ended, the teachers were as enthralled as the students.

Exploring the oral language tradition may seem anachronistic in today’s computer-equipped classrooms. But storytelling remains a valuable experience in language arts development. It requires students to think carefully about plot, character, mood, and all the elements that go into the written language of “storytelling” that is the norm today. Additionally, the experience reinforces the exploration of Native American oral tradition – as well as the “Tall Tale” tradition of early Michigan settlers – taught in the fourth grade social studies curriculum.

During the workshop, the fourth graders were challenged to consider what elements of a story make it frightening or funny, boring or interesting. Within an hour, 80 students had paired off to tell each other their own version of the spooky, funny story they had practiced and learned.

You won’t read that particular story here; it belongs on the voice. But chances are if you are currently the parent or grandparent of a fourth grader, you have heard it for yourself countless times since Judy Sima’s memorable visit.
As part of a lesson on the life cycle of pumpkins, pre-kindergarten 4 students, teachers and parents spent a day at the Bowers School Farm in Bloomfield Hills this fall. The children were wide-eyed as they toured the farm and learned about its animals and crops, finishing off their visit with a snack of donuts and cider.

In preparation for the trip, the children learned about the “pumpkin circle” that keeps this harvest vegetable growing year after year. From seed comes a sprout, then a blossom, finally a pumpkin full of seeds to grow new pumpkins. Students found the process fascinating, and enjoyed the culmination of their lesson with a hands-on opportunity to visit the farm’s pumpkin patch, where they were able to pick a pumpkin of their own. Amelia Smith ’19 said, “My favorite part was going on the hayride and picking pumpkins. There were so many pumpkins that I couldn’t choose, I couldn’t choose ‘til the end!” Said Pre-K 4 teacher Marnie Bailey,

“Visiting the farm was a great way to see how a pumpkin grows in a real pumpkin patch. I liked the way our guide, Farmer Karen, shared information about what each animal on the farm provides for us. She mentioned the obvious things that the children knew – cows provide us with milk, sheep give us wool for sweaters; and she shared new facts – pig hair is used to make paintbrushes, all different types of eggs are edible, you can tell a horse’s age by the length of its teeth, and that horses clean their teeth by eating straw. The children left the farm with a greater appreciation of the things that farms provide.”

There are three Pre-K 4 classes with two teachers each. Patty Morse and Mamie Bailey lead the “Munchkins,” Jennifer Bullock and Patty Weaver head up the “Lovables,” and the “Honey Bears” call Sharon Menton and Lori Anderson their teachers.
Five Things You Missed

by Clayton T. Matthews,
Director of Communications

For alumni, students, family and fans of Country Day in general, there is nothing like Homecoming day. The event — and it is quite an event — has expanded over the years and is everything a homecoming really should be, and more. So for those of you who missed it October 9, here is a snapshot of what you didn’t get to see.

5. The Weather

There is simply no explaining how beautiful the weather for homecoming is every single year in recent memory. It is practically a caricature of what a fall day in Michigan should be. In the morning, the massive clouds are slate gray and dramatic. The icy wind turns all the oversized decorations into impossibly large kites. By noon, there is hardly a cloud, and the sky is so vividly blue it looks artificial. The sun is warm, the breeze is cool. People are re-discovering that it’s okay if your nose is cold as long as your hands are warm. It’s football weather. It’s cider mill weather. It’s “outdoors with the family” weather.
at Homecoming

4. The Ambience

One of the best things to do at Homecoming is to just walk around and take it all in. It is such a spectacle that there is a palatable thrill just being there. The air smells like popcorn and the smoke from the outdoor grills. The foliage, the artificial turf, even the rides and games all seem so brightly colored they look more like cartoons than real life. It even sounds like a good time. There is the drone of the crowd, the squealing of kids, and the popgun crack of football pads crashing together - followed by the inevitable roar of the crowd. It looks like a carnival and sounds like a pep rally and smells like a neighborhood barbeque. With so much fun being had, it’s impossible not to get some of that fun on you.

3. Grown Men on a Little Train

Most days, our alums and parents are doctors or lawyers or industrial engineers. Not today. Mom is on the ground with her four-year-old trying to feed a miniature horse at the petting zoo. Dad is squashed on to the little train that takes kids on tours around the school grounds. Grandparents help children make it through the challenge of the Junior Olympics. Everywhere adults are acting like children, dripping ketchup, waiving big yellow ‘thunder sticks’ or wishing they could go on the giant inflatable slide. Today, people are simply having fun.
If you ever wondered what athletics really teaches kids, come to Homecoming and you will find your answer. In the morning, recent (and not-so-recent) graduates return to face off against the current varsity squads in field hockey and soccer. Some of the older alumni look ready to drop at the end, but they are smiling. No gulf of time can separate them from the love of competition they learned at Country Day. During the football game, a scant 26 young men square off against one of the great powerhouses in prep sports, Brother Rice. Their opposing squad fills half the football field when they spread out to warm up. Touchdowns are called back on the Yellowjackets three times. But those young men never flinch, and never, ever give up. They are teaching the fans what athletics has taught them.

Five Things You Missed at Homecoming

1. Your friends

There is a huge crowd at Homecoming every year. It fans out from the packed stands and bleachers, spills out of the alumni tent, and swarms around every ride and activity. It is young students at the face-painting tent who look like movie stars in make-up chairs. It is worried moms biting their nails as they watch the game and whisper back and forth after each play. It is old men laughing and hugging — old men who, when they graduated from Country Day so long ago, had never conceived of growing old at all. It’s the classmate you just knew was going to strike it rich or go bald or marry the cute guy on the basketball team. It’s your favorite teacher who is still here. It’s the couple you always see each morning at the student drop-off; the one you keep meaning to get together with. It’s your friends in this crowd. They were looking for you. You are what they missed at Homecoming this year.

2. Athletic competition

If you ever wondered what athletics really teaches kids, come to Homecoming and you will find your answer. In the morning, recent (and not-so-recent) graduates return to face off against the current varsity squads in field hockey and soccer. Some of the older alumni look ready to drop at the end, but they are smiling. No gulf of time can separate them from the love of competition they learned at Country Day. During the football game, a scant 26 young men square off against one of the great powerhouses in prep sports, Brother Rice. Their opposing squad fills half the football field when they spread out to warm up. Touchdowns are called back on the Yellowjackets three times. But those young men never flinch, and never, ever give up. They are teaching the fans what athletics has taught them.
By now, those of you in the alumni community should have received the results of our alumni survey. Thanks to those who participated and lent a voice to some important issues affecting the school today. Among the feedback we received was a suggestion to focus Alumni Annual Giving on one or two specific programs each year – a great idea, we think. We’ll direct funds where they’re needed most, providing financial support to well-defined programs with a clearly stated purpose. Each and every gift will be immediately used to directly benefit DCDS students in an impactful way.

This year, we have selected two programs worthy of support; they are the Dr. Richard A. Schlegel Memorial Scholarship Fund and a comprehensive technology initiative to develop a wireless infrastructure at the Upper School. Both of these programs are critical to the quality of student life at DCDS.

A Wireless Technology Infrastructure guarantees the long-term ability to communicate, collaborate and connect with the latest educational opportunities available. Already, we’ve made strides technologically – our laptop program is solid and has strengthened in the five years since its inception; we’ve introduced a “technology across curriculum” committee of faculty dedicated to improving the landscape of our offerings; and, in 2004, DCDS was among only eight schools nationwide to be named a Microsoft Center of Innovation for its use of technology in the classroom. Now, more than ever, it is crucial to stay one step ahead by providing students with enhanced access to an interactive curriculum – a wireless technology infrastructure puts us in the position to offer true anytime, anywhere learning.

The Dr. Richard A. Schlegel Memorial Scholarship Fund honors the life of our Headmaster Emeritus. It is our goal to raise $50,000 to help launch the Dr. Richard A. Schlegel Memorial Scholarship and pay tribute to a man who has touched all of our lives in a meaningful way.

As lifelong members of the school community, the support of our alums means so much and continues to go a long way for our students. Thank you for all you do to preserve our longtime legacy of excellence.
I'm not trying to do the confessional bit, no, the point is, there's something for everyone at Country Day.

I got into the hiking club and found my version of paradise. The New England hills and minor summits became my playground. And ever since, I've climbed (or at least hiked or scrambled up) peaks in Colorado, California, the Andes, the Canadian Rockies, the Alps, even the Himalayas.

No great victories, but I can count Mt. Whitney, Fuji, a lesser summit of Mt. Kenya, and a pass 19,000-plus ft. in Nepal – among a life of experiences I wouldn't trade for all the gold in the U.S. mint. Hiking and climbing represent a virtually perfect sport. It's healthful, allows for companionship with friends while tenting and summiting, involves botany, biology, geology and photography but doesn't involve the need for a team or much special equipment beyond boots, may be a good rope, a pack, cooking utensils, and a sleeping bag. A wonderful sport for physical activity. If you add the arts, literature, painting, architecture, music and philanthropy, then your family life and choice of career are far more likely to offer lifelong satisfaction. I can say they have for me. I've done all fifty states, every province and territory of Canada, most of the countries of the other Americas, virtually all of Europe, big chunks of Asia and Africa, both the North and South Poles.

I really think what started me was the inspiration my DCDS teachers gave me to experience fully this world of ours. Actually, it was a book in the school library called Picturesque America that particularly reeled me in. I checked it out and was so fascinated by the illustrations of the peaks and forests and lakes over the whole land I couldn't bring myself to return it. I told my mother I lost it, and she was forced to repay the library. (Don't tell the librarian, but I still have the book, a precious souvenir for all its not-too-graphic black-and-white photos). It was what got me to drive the family Packard over 13,000 miles to just about every state west of Detroit during the summer of 1930 when I was only fifteen (you could get a drivers' license at fourteen, and I did the day of my fourteenth birthday, though I'd been practicing in city News from an Old Grad
An open letter to the DCDS student body from Dr. Armand E. Singer '31

Editor's note: Dr. Singer has been a professor at West Virginia University since 1940. He was Chair of the Program for the Humanities, WVU, 1963-72. He is the author or editor of some twenty books on literature and philately and several hundred articles on literature, philately, education, and travel.
alleys since just before I was twelve). My elderly grandmother, who didn’t drive, and I had quite an adventure. Tires blew usually one a day, a lot of the roads were dirty and impossibly slippery in wet weather and a bare two lanes wide.

We encountered many a dubious tourist home and car repair shop. I repeated the experience just last summer with my equally elderly wife, and it was almost eerie to relive a seventy-five year old memory. Tijuana hasn’t changed very much in three quarters of a century, or the vastness of the western peaks and forests, but my Mercury Cougar 2000 enjoyed those blacktops and where the older roads were rerouted, the interstates.

Students, alums, parents and friends of Country Day, I’ve managed to have a full life as a professor of the humanities at West Virginia University, and as you can see, rounded it out with travel and climbing. I’ve even had great satisfaction as a philatelist (or, “overly dedicated stamp collector”), writing books about stamp collecting, along with more on cultural subjects, and a slew of articles on teaching and literature. I owe a lot of it to DCDS (and, as you will, to the college it helped get me into). All I can hope for at this far end of my span is that you will take as much or more from your school experiences, get as good a life as I’ve enjoyed—no, even more. I trust you deserve it. And your school is the perfect place to try your wings and soar.”
New friends were made and old ones reacquainted at this year's Detroit Country Day School class reunions. Members of the classes of '79, '84, '89, '94, '99 joined the events, celebrating the past and catching up on the present. Our Alumni Office was on hand to snap these shots.

Far Left:

1994 Maggie (Knight) Barber ’94, Andrea (Bologna) Barringer ’94 and friend are all smiles at the 1994 class reunion this fall.


1999 Brett Kaplan ’99, Katie Veraldi ’99, Milan Parekh ’99, Matt Cowles ’99 and Alex Wagner ’99 drink a toast to the last five years at the 1999 class reunion.

Center:

1979 Keith Mohn ’79 and wife Lisa enjoy their 25th reunion at the Big Rock Chop House on October 9 with Susan Randall ’79, Desiree Mehrabian ’79, Pete Pendray ’79 and Steve Epstein ’79.

1989 Ken Frescoln ’89, Rachele (Szot) Lyngklip ’89 and Paul Wasson ’89 share a laugh at the 1989 class reunion.

1984 The class of 1984 reunited at Buca di Beppo on October 8. Back row: Drew Shell ’84, Thomas Kern ’84, Donna Greenbury ’84, Rich Goldberg ’84, John Matthews ’84, Rick Suckiewicz ’84 and Todd Mollman ’84. Middle: David Jacobson ’84, Peter Lee ’84, Lisa (Zevallos) Grauman ’84, Susan Crawford ’84 and Alan Tong ’84. Front: Betsy Thomas ’84, Maher Ali-Owens ’84, Maureen O’Reilly Baudhuin ’84 and Marie Lundkvist Landfors ’84.

Right:

1979 Brothers Tom Stulberg ’79 and Dan Stulberg ’81 take a break for a snapshot with Paul Van Antwerp ’79 at the 1979 reunion.

1989 Marlo (Boesky) Scott ’89, Kelly (Schaefer) Shetterly ’89 and Simone Granville-Pacely ’89 catch up at the 1989 reunion.

1989 The class of 1989 celebrated 15 years at the Beverly Hills home of Kelly (Schaefer) Shetterly ’89 on October 9. From left: Simone Granville-Pacely ’89, Nester Deocampo ’89, Ken Burk ’89, Scott Shaw ’89, David Hoffa ’89 and Michelle (Carter) Tarkanyi ’89.

1994 Neera (Mehta) Shah ’94 and Reuben Coleman ’94 celebrate their 10-year reunion at the Woodward Avenue Brewery in Ferndale on October 9.

Above:

1984 David Jacobson ’84 gets a squeeze from Maher Ali-Owens ’84 at the 1984 reunion.
POLO

Top Right: The 2004 Homecoming weekend this past October 8-9 set the scene for some friendly athletic competition among Yellowjackets past and present. Here, the alumni polo team celebrates the win.

SOCER

Center Right: It was brother against brother in the alumni soccer game. Ryan Ohlgart ’02 came out to play for the alumni side while younger brother Christopher Ohlgart ’06 held his own on the state championship DCDS men’s varsity squad.

FIELD HOCKEY

Far Right: Desiree Mehrabian ’79 takes a shot in the alumni field hockey game.
1931
Armand Singer still writes, teaches and lectures as a humanities professor. He is extremely active athletically, and has climbed several peaks including Mr. Fuji and Mr. Everest. Most recently, he climbed 7,700 feet in Switzerland and enjoyed a parachute jump this summer. For more information, see his story in this issue of BeeHive on page 28.

1943
As one of two winners of the 1941 Detroit Country Day School Scholarship Cup, Jeremy T. Ball’s name was mistakenly left off the cup for many years. The school is pleased to announce that his name will be added to the cup (which is now known as the White Scholarship Cup) along with the name of his co-winner, Mr. Louis Sissman ’43.

After his junior year at Country Day, Mr. Ball went on to the University of Rochester, then to Cornell University. He also was trained as a Naval officer. Today, he is a proud Country Day grandfather of third-grader Jeremy Rocco Ball ’14.

1947
Frazer MacKenzie retired two years ago. He and his wife, Joan, are building a house in Prescott, Ariz. They will be near the families of their three sons, Robert ’80, Keith ’82 and John ’85. Frazer and Joan are the proud grandparents of eight!

1956
James Hawn is currently serving as Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery Knights Templar of Michigan. The Knights Templar are the Christian branch of the Masonic fraternity. Jim and his wife, Shirley, have been residents of Novi since 1968 and their four children (Lisa, Kelly, Kathy and Eric) are graduates of Novi High School. Jim taught mathematics, computers and driver’s education at Cherry Hill High School for 25 years, and finished his teaching career at Wayne Memorial High School, retiring in June, 1995 after 33 years of teaching. Jim has been a member of the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer in Southfield since 1960, where he has been a Lay Reader since 1962 and Treasurer since 1975. Jim became a Master Mason in 1987 and it has been his full-time vocation since retirement. Jim’s theme for his year as Grand Commander is "be visible" based on Matthew 5:16 "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father, which is in heaven."

1958
Thomas Gamer writes, “A year ago my wife and I moved to Shanty Creek Golf Resort in Bellaire, Mich. I have continued my Financial Services practice from my new world headquarters in Bellaire and still maintain an office in Dearborn.

Jon Kingsepp was recently elected for a second time as the chairperson of the Senior Lawyers Section of the Michigan State Bar for 2004 and 2005.

1967
Edward Hru writes, “As you may have read or seen on TV, Orlando had to contend with four hurricanes this year. I am happy to report that with the exception of the loss of three trees, Patty and I went unscathed.”

1967
Ronald Leach recently left the practice of law and graduated in May from the University of North Carolina with a Master’s in Library and Information Science. He now works as an archivist for the State of North Carolina.

1971
Wayne Slomiany writes, “I have recently enjoyed hearing the advertisements for Detroit Country Day’s open house on the radio. It reminds me of the ‘small school’ that I attended quite some time ago. And we were a small school, the class of 1973 was 37 students! I am continuing my ‘mid-life crisis’ and should be completing my Master’s in Theological Studies in May. It was either going back to school or buying a Harley. I think I made the better choice.

I was very saddened to hear of the passing of Dr. Schlegel. His example of sacrifice for others and dedication to the formation of our youth should continue to call all of us on. Go Yellowjackets!”

1974
Harry Davis is the director of “MVP,” a film featuring Tony Small’s (Wood Harris) rite of passage into the reality of manhood. Set against Detroit’s diverse socio-economic African American community, the film follows Tony as his upwardly mobile dreams are threatened when his only sister, Nia’s (N’Bushe Wright) boyfriend, the notorious Reginald King, a.k.a. “Big Boy” is charged with a heinous murder.
1975
Kevin Butterfield is an attorney and partner at the law firm of Haywood, Denny and Miller, L.L.P. in Durham, North Carolina. He is married to Marion Isbey Butterfield. She is a doctor of psychiatry affiliated with Veteran’s Hospital and Duke University Hospital. They have two children, Corrie (eight) and Jack (five).

1977
Jeffrey Collins was recently appointed partner at Foley & Lardner L.L.P. in Detroit.

Robert Levy sold his company after a four-year employment contract expired. He is now CEO and partner of Hillo Industrial LLC, specializing in valuation and the sale of business assets through auctions and liquidation on a global basis.

1979
John Genga writes, “We were at a party a couple of months ago when someone fired up the karaoke machine. Our three year old son Jacob grabbed the mike and belted out the national anthem. Everyone was blown away, and several suggested that we try to get him to sing at a Laker game. We were kind of hesitant, because we didn’t want to put that much pressure on Jacob, but he said he really wanted to do it. So, we made a video of him singing, sent it in to the Lakers and the Clippers, and the Clippers called us. Jacob sang at the Staples Center in Los Angeles before the Los Angeles Clippers and the New Orleans Hornets NBA game on October 24, 2004. He did a great job, and the crowd loved it, cheering him all the way through the song. Pretty neat, huh?”

1980
David Casper writes, “Since 2001, I’ve been a physics professor at the University of California, Irvine. My field of research is elementary particles, in particular a particle called the neutrino. In 1998, an experiment I worked on in Japan discovered that neutrinos have mass, confirming the results of my PhD thesis. Prior to moving to UC Irvine, I worked for six years at CERN, in Geneva Switzerland, where the Worldwide Web was invented. I now divide my research time between Japan and a particle accelerator outside Chicago.” Dave resides in Laguna Beach, California on the ocean.

1981
Sunita Sarin Przybylo writes that she and her husband and children Emma (two), and Alex (four) moved to Charlotte, N.C. in May. Her husband Phil works for Britax Child Safety there while Sunita is looking for part-time pediatric work. She writes, “Right now I am quite busy being mom.”

1982
Chava (Stacie) Schiff Bahle writes, “Things here continue to be great; Congregation Ahavat Shalom is growing. Our meditation and retreat center is thriving; all is well!”

1983
Howard Jacobson was recently named to the Crain’s Detroit Business “Forty Under Forty” list for the acquisition, redevelopment and remarketing of the former Canton Commons into Meadowood Townhomes. “What I’ve found in the time that I’ve been doing this is that opportunities arise, and you can either grab them or just hold to what you know right now. And we’re always looking to grow our corporate knowledge,” said Howard. He is principal and managing partner of Jacobson Bros. L.L.C., an apartment ownership and management firm in Birmingham which he started with brother David Jacobson ’84 in 1997.

Lisa Mancini Saunders continues to reside in Orlando, Fla. with her husband, Bart, and three daughters Alexis Grace (eight), Haley Elizabeth (six), and Sydney Faith (two). She and her husband are both attorneys practicing law in Orlando. Lisa writes, “Hope to make it to our 25th reunion to see everyone!”

David Albrecht writes, “In high school, I played for Coach Bartoshuk’s first soccer state championship team - I still play on an over-30 team. I am a chemical engineer in Minnesota, where I live with my wife Cheryl and two kids Katrina (12) and Henry (nine). We still visit the Detroit area once or twice a year.”
Anthony Volpe writes, “On July 16, I got married to Karin Marke in Danville, California (just outside of San Francisco). We moved to a new house and are happily living in Oakland, California.

Keith Duncan writes, “My wife Ashlyn and I recently bought a house in Hockessin, Delaware. Ashlyn is a middle school teacher and I am a biologist for DuPont. I am also the goalkeeping coach for the University of Delaware Men’s Division I soccer team. I’m online at Calypso157@comcast.net.


1984

Sirasa Surakomol Schonder has three beautiful children: Sara (six) Tessie (four), and P.J. (two). Her husband is a cardiologist, Dr. John Schonder, and they reside in Kalamazoo.

1985

Verena Buschman Phillips writes, “I am still living outside of Chicago, in Wilmette. My daughter Piper is four, son Robby is two and Conner just turned six months this fall. Life gets a little crazy once in a while, running after these three! They are involved in German, gymnastics, ballet and preschool, etc. (Piper especially is doing great with her German. They now officially understand and speak more German than my husband). When that gets too much for me to handle I escape to my dental office and perform cosmetic dentistry and full-mouth reconstructions. It’s a great balance. I always love hearing from old friends. E-mail me at DrVerena@aol.com.”

1986

Pamela Belyn writes, “My husband, Steve and I live in Chicago with our daughter, Hannah (two). Hannah is quite the busy chatter box, but we love it. I am enjoying the practice of law with a Health Care boutique specializing in physician representation.”

Dr. Shella Farook writes, “My husband, Jim Homsy and I are still living in Dublin, Ohio. We have one child, our two-year-old daughter Alyssa Rose. We work for ProSan Imaging in Cincinnati. Jim is medical director for the several MRI scanners in the Columbus area, and I read musculoskeletal MRI from our home.”

Dr. Robert Roth is a general/trauma surgeon in Tampa, Fla. where he resides with his wife Emily M. Tatum, whom he married on Oct. 1, 2003.

Dawn Vassel writes, “Our family was very excited this fall when our daughter Jolie began pre-k3 at DCDS! After 18 years, I was reunited with Sue Marcotte ’86, whose son Ryan is also in pre-k3. Now, Sue is our family dentist (and the best dentist we’ve ever had!) It has been a wonderful experience coming home again.”

1987

Lara (Fetsco) Phillip writes, “I married Lincoln Phillip on August 4, 2001 and we had a daughter, Lauren, two years later on August 4, 2003. We moved back to Michigan on St. Patrick’s day of this year and I am now working as an attorney at Honigman Miller Schwartz & Cohn LLP.”

Pamela McCree Sampson writes, “As of July 24, 2004, I am now Mrs. Pamela McCree Sampson, married to Rev. Dr. Frederick George Sampson, III.”

Kajsa Ferding Backby has been married to Mikael Backby since 1996. The couple has two children, Casper (seven) and Isac (three). They reside in Sweden, where Kajsa is a presidential assistant at ABB Power Technologies.

Robert Conway and his wife Maribeth Knight announced the birth of their daughter Alexis Knight Conway on August 17, 2004. Alexis weighed in at 6 lbs, 3 oz. and was 20 inches long. Rob is managing the Michigan market for Radian Guaranty, Inc.

Steven Glinski and his wife recently became the parents of a new baby.

1988

James Green is currently an attorney practicing civil litigation in Santa Monica, Calif. His son Joseph started kindergarten in September. James reports that he has scheduled a mid-life crisis for next year and will keep us posted.

Arveen Bhasin Thethi writes, “I finished my fellowship in Allergy/Immunology at the Mayo Clinic and am now in private practice in Washington, D.C. My husband and I are the proud parents of a beautiful baby boy. Sahib is nine months old and the light of our lives.”

Sulee Stinson Clay gave birth to son Preston on September 14. She writes, “Like his sister, he looks just like his dad.”
William Cook lives in Parker, Colorado with his wife Kim, daughter Kiely (two) and son Tiernan (one year old). He is a Master Sergeant in the U.S. Army Special Forces now serving in Iraq.

Kristen O'Reilly is now working for St. Clair County, Mich. helping the county and municipalities meet Environmental Protection Agency regulations that are aimed at protecting and improving the quality of lakes, streams, creeks, rivers and drains along Lake Huron, the St. Clair River, and Lake St. Clair. She lives along the St. Clair River in Port Huron now and enjoys sailing, windsurfing, hiking, and skiing. She enjoyed seeing all the alums at last year's reunion and would love to hear from you if you happen to be in town or want to go for a sail.

Scott Small's son Jacob Henry Small was born on Jan. 31, 2004.

Lara Honos Webb writes, "I have a book "The Gift of ADHD: How to Transform Your Child's Problem's into Strengths" coming out in March of 2005 by New Harbinger Publishers and I have a baby due in February. Also, this isn't for sure yet, but Newsweek has been doing a story on my ADHD book and it may be in the Society section in the next few weeks."

1989

Mridu Gulati writes, "My husband, Vikram Bhaskar, and I had a beautiful baby boy, Armaan Shiv Bhaskar, on March 30, 2004."

Keith Albertie writes, "Things are great with Jackie and I. Our kids, Greta and Emma, are now two years old and doing well. We are working on their tennis stroke for the DCDS tennis scholarship! They have been saying all kinds of words lately...we are trying to teach them the DCDS chant. Jackie and I will be going to L.A. again this year for the Oscars. May be we'll see the group at the DCDS L.A. get together again? My father passed away in June, so things have been busy at work. Business is great, and growing at a steady pace (anyone want to buy some oil?). On the side I just recently completed a screenplay that I am shopping around with my L.A. contacts ('The A-List'). Keep your fingers crossed. Jackie is still working at Mars Advertising in Southfield, and doing well. We still are very close with Derek Rundell '89, who is living in L.A. still."

Annalisa Behling recently became engaged when her boyfriend proposed in London. A fall 2005 wedding is planned, after which she will relocate across the pond from her Ann Arbor home.

Andrew Cook is the Mazda sales team manager at Bill Cook Imports in Beverly Hills, Mich. He lives in Birmingham, Mich. with his wife, Elizabeth and the couple's two children - son, Riley (two) and daughter Ellie, who is almost one year old.

Joseph D'Angelo writes, "We had our third child, Charlie, on August 30. Madeline is now four and Joey is two. I also purchased a company, Acorn Kitchen and Bath, on Telegraph Road in Pontiac. We are a kitchen and bath wholesaler and retailer. We have over 60,000 square feet of showroom, corporate office and warehousing."

Stephanie Lataif writes, "I returned from my honeymoon this fall and within two weeks, I found out that I'm pregnant, expecting in June. So, within seven months, I met and married the man of my dreams, and am now expecting. How's that for making up for lost time?"

Amara Surakomol Prior writes, "I've recently gotten married. My husband's name is Don Prior and we were married on June 12, 2004 in Ypsilanti and honeymooned in Hawaii. We are living in Ann Arbor."

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RJ Thompson and wife Jill welcomed the birth of their first child, Kiera Louise Thompson, on July 28 in Singapore. Unfortunately, their days in Asia are coming to a close as they will be moving to London in January where RJ will assume the role of Global Head of Alternative Structured Products for ABN-AMRO’s Financial Markets Division.
We are expecting another child in January and I am looking forward to the time I will have with my children now that I am a stay-at-home mother. Leon, Savanna and I traveled to Las Vegas in September to attend Shannon (Curtis) Ferguson’s ’90 wedding. Yva Shenouda ’90 was also there, along with Alice Dickens ’90 who was the maid of honor.

Jennifer Cantwell writes, “I moved from New York City to Austin, Texas in early 2002, and I’m contracting as an IT Project Manager. After designing for myself for many years, I decided to start my own small business. I create jewelry using semi-precious stones and sterling silver wire. You can find out more on my website at: http://jencantwell.com.”

On a weekend in October, Ian Ellison flew down to Los Angeles from his home in Berkeley, Calif. to hang out with fellow alumni Tim Stough ’90 and Kathryn Lucas ’90, both of whom live in the L.A. area. Tim and Kathy introduced Ian to Roscoe’s Chicken ‘n’ Waffles, an L.A. institution. (Yes, the chicken and waffles are on the same plate!) After a weekend that also included dinner in Little Ethiopia, an all-you-can-eat Tibetan lunch buffet, and lots of beer, Ian was shipped back to the Bay Area aboard a cargo jet, as he had become too engorged to fit into the standard seat of a passenger airliner. Thankfully, he has since made a full recovery.

Shannon Curtis Ferguson writes, “I was married to Michael Ferguson on September 5, 2004. Alice Dickens ’90 and Kristen Curtis Swan ’95 were in my wedding party. Kristen came with her husband, Nick Swan. Yvette Shenouda ’90 and Tamara Lindgren Saunders ’90 along with her husband Leon Saunders and daughter, Savanna, also attended the event. We were wed in Las Vegas, Nevada and had a fantastic time!”

1991

Kari (Grosinger) Alterman writes, “My husband Eddie and I are the proud parents of two girls, Noa (three) and Adina, almost one year. I’m a fundraiser for the Jewish Federation, and love what I do. We have another ’baby’ too, a magazine named MPH that is now on newsstands. It’s kind of a Maxim meets Car & Driver piece - go out and buy it! (But beware: it is a little racy, pardon the pun!) MPH magazine hit newsstands throughout the country on October 5th. Check it out online at www.mphmagazineonline.com.

I still talk to Julie Taras ’91, Jessica Thomas ’91 and Wendy Goldberg ’91. Also recently ran into Jason Hillman ’90 this week, and often see Lori Kaftan Barron ’89 and Amy Carson Schlussel ’89.

Kayla Marie Bowles was recently born to Alvin Bowles and his wife, Terri.

Timothy Carvell recently won an Emmy Award for Outstanding Writing for a Variety, Music or Comedy Series on Comedy Central’s “The Daily Show with Jon Stewart.”

Shalini Chandra writes, “I will finish my fourth and final year of residency in internal medicine/pediatrics at the Detroit Medical Center in June 2005. (Finally!) Meanwhile, I have been working on several creative endeavors. I was very proud and honored to have my first play, ‘A Three Three Story’ produced at the Natural History Smithsonian Baird Auditorium as part of the South Asian Literature and Theater Festival on October 5th. (Finally!) Meanwhile, I have been working on several creative endeavors. I was very proud and honored to have my first play, ‘A Three Three Story’ produced at the Natural History Smithsonian Baird Auditorium as part of the South Asian Literature and Theater Festival on November 20, 2004.”

Catherine Donkers writes, “I was married a few years ago and recently moved from Los Angeles to Las Vegas; we much prefer the latter. Our daughter turned two years old this fall. We’ve been teaching her sign language since six months old to ease her ability
to communicate prior to the development of her verbal skills. At 18 months old, she could already make about 40 signs, and she recognizes and understands about three times that many. Now, at two years of age, she has more than doubled the signs she can make, and teaching her a new sign takes very little effort.”

**Wendy Goldberg** recently signed with the William Morris Agency in New York City, who will represent her work as a director. American Theatre Magazine recently featured Wendy and called her “one of the most promising theatre artists working today.” Though based in Washington, D.C., where she recently bought a condo, she continues to travel all over the country directing and developing new projects for the stage. She also has also been invited to speak as a guest lecturer in graduate programs at some of the top theater programs in the U.S., including Brown University, UC-San Diego, Duke, and the Yale School of Drama. She remains the Artistic Associate at Arena Stage in Washington, D.C. where she will direct Edward Albee’s new play in March. And lastly, she recently enjoyed a great meal at fellow class of ’91 alum Julie Taras’ new restaurant Little Giant in New York City.

**David Kuhn** writes, “Our son Andrew turned one year old in November. Su-Yen, Andrew, and I moved to Boston this past summer where the Navy is sending me to MIT to study Naval Architecture. We recently attended the weddings of Laura Alantas ’91 and Bryan Chen ’91.”

**Laura Alantas Pace** writes, “On Saturday, October 9, 2004, I married a wonderful, intelligent, funny man named Chris Pace. Chris and I met two and a half years ago - on a blind date! We both work for Sprint. Chris is a labor and employment attorney. I am in an executive development program that offers me the opportunity to take job rotations across the company. We were married in Mission, Kansas, a suburb of Kansas City, where we live. Our church ceremony was followed by a reception with dinner and dancing and six - yes, six - wedding cakes. There were several DCDers in attendance. My matron of honor was my best friend, Preeti (Garg) Schaden ’91. Celebrating with us were Tim Carvell ’91, David Kuhn ’91 and Susan (Wolf) Ditkoff ’91 - who was nine months pregnant but still was able to travel from Boston to be with us!

Because Neomi Rao ’91 now lives in London, England with her husband Alan and young daughter Isabella, she was not able to join us. However, she, Alan and Isabella happened to be vacationing in Sicily at the same time that we took our honeymoon. So, the five of us had a very pleasant lunch in Taormina, Italy celebrating our wedding and meeting Isabella.”

**1992**

**Sapna Vyas** was married in November to her fiancé, Sundeep, who is from England. The two not only had a wedding in Michigan, but also celebrated their marriage in England and in India.

**1993**

**Rajat Deo** married Arati Desai on May 23, 2004 at a spectacular traditional Indian ceremony in her hometown of Lexington, Ky. **Tony Kanluen ’93, Edy Kim ’93, and Peter Lin ’92** celebrated with Rajat.
Suzan Asbahi writes, “I am the mother of two beautiful girls, Ayah and Sofia. We moved to Dubai, U.A.E. where my husband practices law. I spent nine months there and the summers back in Michigan. We are having a wonderful time in Dubai! Everyone is invited to visit and have some fun cruising around the beautiful desert. It’s absolutely amazing and worth taking a trip out here.”

Tony Kanluen ’93, Edy Kim ’93, and Peter Lin ’92 recently attended the wedding of Rajat Deo to Arati Desai on May 23, 2004 in Lexington, KY.

Steven Lepkowski writes, “On July 9, 2004 I married Lisa Olstyn ’96 at the Chapel of St. Hugo of the Hills in Bloomfield Hills. The wedding party included Michelle Giorgi ’96, Nick Gorga ’95, Lisa (Palko) Spiguel ’96, Joe Cassise ’96, Jim Spadafore ’95, and Mike Macavage ’93. Many other DCDS grads were in attendance making for a reunion of friends. We spent our honeymoon in Europe traveling to Paris, France and Italy, visiting Venice, Rome and Capri.”

Stephen Myers writes, “My wife Holly and I are living in Sausalito, Calif. I enjoy working in Sonoma with Allied Domecq Wines as the Director of Market and Consumer Insights.”

Amy Underdown writes, “My brother, David Underdown ’96 recruited me to join him in running our family business, Douglas Cleaners. It’s now third generation and my brother and I are working very hard. We have many DCDS alumni and families who come in regularly and it’s great to catch up on all the latest DCDS news. I’m at the Oak Avenue and Old Woodward location so feel free to come in and say hello!”

Elizabeth Khalil writes, “I’m still in D.C., keeping busy as usual. I just finished my second year as an attorney for the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, which regulates national banks. I’ve been working a lot on the regulations implementing the new amendments to the Fair Credit Reporting Act. I’ve also been writing articles for a number of different newspapers and magazines, including Washingtonian Magazine and the Washington Post. And I’ve started teaching aerobics.”

Greeshma Rai Shetty writes, “We’re very excited to announce the arrival of our son, Sachin, who was born on July 3, 2004. Sachin’s already a New England Patriots and Red Sox fan. He also loves hanging out with his aunts, Samhitha Rai ’04 and Manisha Shenava ’04 - who are down the street at Boston University!”

John Cieszkowski married Stephanie Cram on August 28, 2004 in Cleveland, Ohio; classmate Tom Lall ’94 was best man.

Anthony Cook graduated from Michigan State University and is now a financial consultant with ABN-AMRO Financial Services. He resides in Royal Oak.


Christopher Nogoy writes, “I recently graduated from the Master of Architecture program at UC Berkeley receiving the UC Alumni Association Award. I’m now living in San Francisco working for Zack de Vito Architecture while designing/building furniture and other objects through my own studio, Speedwobble, at night. This summer, my friend Jeff Jordan (University of Michigan Architecture alum ’99) and I designed and built the new trailhead structure at the base of Mt. Whitney in the Eastern Sierras of California for the National Forest Service. We led a team of friends in the front-country for two weeks building the project while being attacked by black bears only once! Mt. Whitney is the tallest summit in the lower 48 states and is hiked by thousands of mountainers each year. The project may eventually be used by the Forest Service as a prototype for other trailheads along the John Muir Trail. I’m learning how to use a surfboard but will always have my eye out for those powder days this winter! You’re all invited if you want to come and visit.”
Maura Duggan Sanders and her husband Todd celebrated their four-year anniversary this past July and welcomed a baby girl (Morgan Mary Duggan Sanders) on February 19. She will be joined by a baby brother or sister in April. Maura writes, “We couldn’t be more thrilled. Todd and I left Hawaii a little over a year ago and are now in Monterey, Calif. We will be here for another year, then it’s off to Washington D.C. It will be nice to be a little closer to home for a change! I heard about Coach Orlando’s award and couldn’t be more happy for him! I wish that I could have been there to help him celebrate.”

Steven Shapiro writes, “I work for Sony Pictures Imageworks in Culver City, Calif. doing visual effects work. I worked on Spiderman 2 when I first started and I just finished working on The Polar Express (3D Imax version). My next project will be Ghost Rider, a comic book-based film with Nicolas Cage. It’s pretty exciting working in the movies. It’s a very fast paced, interesting environment.”

Graham Thomas is living in Chicago and working as a set designer for the musical Chicago, which is getting ready to launch the Canadian leg of its North American tour. Prior to his foray into the musical theater, Graham interned for Oprah Winfrey’s Harpo productions and worked as an editorial assistant for O Magazine. Before leaving Harpo, he traveled to Seattle with Oprah for a story on the Starbucks phenomenon where he ran into Todd Doonan ’94, who is teaching pilates in the area.

Kevin Wallace currently is a senior project accountant at Pepper Construction in Chicago. He recently became engaged to Jennifer Schaaf, a senior art director at Ryan Partnership and fellow graduate of the University of Notre Dame. The couple will marry in August 2005 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

1996

Amber Sadiq Hassan writes “My husband and I are expecting a baby girl in February 2005.”

Amit Doshi writes, “After getting married in August, I will begin a JD/MBA joint program at Harvard Business School and Harvard Law School.

Albert Geldres graduated from the University of Michigan in 2000 with a B.S. in mechanical engineering. He worked for two years as design engineer at DaimlerChrysler AG in Auburn Hills and now works as a Midwest engineering sales manager in Chicago. Albert will begin pursuing his MBA full time at Northwestern’s Kellogg School of Management this fall.

Rebecca McLennan is currently pursuing her teaching certificate at Oakland University and recently became engaged to Brian Bares, a senior supervisor at Kelly Services. An April 2005 wedding is planned.

Rakesh Navuluri graduated from Boston University School of Medicine in 2003 and now works as a resident physician in diagnostic radiology.

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Helen Wojciechowski Sernett was married on Oct. 23 to Matthew Sernett. Jill Zimmer ’96 was in the wedding party. Helen writes, “I’ve taken Matt’s last name and we are pleased to announce that we will continue to make our home in the Seattle area.”

Stacy Shapiro writes, “In June I graduated from the University of Denver with my Master’s degree in Education and a 4.0 GPA. My focus strand was aesthetic education, which basically includes the arts into average education. As an elementary school teacher, this proves to be very useful. I have also been doing some side work as a still photographer, taking photographs of bands. I recently enjoyed a three-week trip to China and explored so much of its amazing history and culture. I also remain active on numerous soccer and sand volleyball teams.”

1997

Korbi Ghosh just accepted a position in Los Angeles with E! Online and E! News Live as a researcher and reporter, assisting Kristin Veitch, their television guru. Korbi is thrilled as she gets to cover all her favorite TV shows including The O.C., Gilmore Girls and Desperate Housewives!

Janet Blumenfeld writes, “I graduated from Tufts University with a BSME in 2001 and from the University of Michigan with a MSBME in 2003. I am currently working at General Electric Healthcare in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.”

Emilie Brion is now working at Parsons School of Art and Design in Paris as a student counselor for student services.

Angela Edison writes, “I graduated from Michigan State University with a B.A. in accounting in 2001 and worked as a tax accountant in Chicago for PricewaterhouseCoopers. In 2003, I moved to Los Angeles, where I currently reside and work as a tax accountant for a Fortune 500 company. I am currently studying for the CPA exam and pursuing a Master’s of science in taxation.”
Ten months have passed since Nikoletta (Nicole) Kanakis has enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. She is currently stationed in Tokyo, Japan working as a video producer/editor for the Air Force's Combat Camera team. She writes, "I had originally thought about joining the Air Force as an officer, but the officer jobs just weren't appealing. So, I decided to enlist and got an amazing job as a videographer." Nikoletta has not yet decided if she is going to make a career out of the Air Force, but while she is stationed in Japan she intends to travel East Asia on the cheap. Her first stop is Beijing, China, at the end of November.

Nicole Mechigian writes, "I have recently returned from vacationing in Madrid and Paris with my boyfriend. We spent ten of the most wonderful days in romantic cities celebrating our one-year anniversary. I am also now enrolled full-time at a private university and plan to graduate with my Bachelor's degree in health care services. Being a DCDS graduate, I realize the importance of a private school education. Unfortunately, I was side-tracked for a number of years, but am now doing very well with my challenging courses. I am also currently in my third year of assisting my father, a podiatrist, at his office in Northville. I am leading a busy and wonderful life!"

Katrina Melonakos writes, "After graduating in February of 2002 with my degree in Communication Arts with a concentration in Musical Theater, I am now pursuing a bachelor's of science degree in nursing at University of Michigan. I really enjoying working with families and children and hope to begin my career in pediatric nursing. I will be graduating (again) in April, 2005."

1999

Matthew Lambert is working on the site of a new town with the world renowned architecture and planning firm DPZ & Co., where he has been employed for four years. He is
Currently finishing dual majors of architecture and computer science and is the Vice President of the Students for the New Urbanism, a new proactive student organization which seeks to revitalize the SNU organization as a national entity. He writes that this school year has been dedicated to the investigation of cul-de-sacs as his thesis project for Magna Cum Laude undergraduate honors.

Rebecca Lewis writes, “Since graduating from law school I have started working for LexisNexis legal publishers in London. If anyone is in London I would love to catch up.”

Jennifer Thomas made the Dean’s List for her senior year and graduated in 2004 from the University of North Carolina. In June, she was named to the National Dean’s List, an honor awarded to just one half of one percent of our nation’s college students. She now works as an intern for Fox 2 Sports in Atlanta, focusing on AAC coverage.

Alexander Wagner’s photography was on display at the Oneline Gallery in Ann Arbor, Mich. from Oct. 8 - Nov. 8. His work can be found online at www.lexgraphy.com.

Kevin Zanjani writes, “In December 2002, I completed the BSE Electrical Engineering from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. In 2003, I relocated to Orange County, southern California where I am a fellowship student at the University of California at Irvine. In June 2005, I will have completed the MS in EECS and my thesis work will have looked at how RF energy can be used with microthermal devices to treat cancers, non-invasively. The Southland has treated me very well. My friends and I enjoy both going to the beach and also speed boating in San Diego’s Mission Bay. It’s nearly impossible to get bored out here, the region is busy with activity and many career opportunities abound. I hope to see more Country Day alumni out here soon!”

2000

B.J. Harmon recently joined the MBA/J.D. program at the University of Michigan.

Ellen Hector writes, “Currently, I am living in California doing an internship with the United States Marine Corps in a sports medicine/rehabilitation clinic on Camp Pendleton. This will continue until my graduation in December from Central Michigan University. Afterward, I plan to attend graduate school for physical therapy.”

Alison Jacob graduated from Worcester Polytechnic Institute in May with her Bachelor’s of Science degree in biomedical engineering. She was accepted to graduate school at Tulane University, where she is in her first year as a Ph.D. student. She is excited to begin her dissertation research in cell and tissue engineering.

Shabina Khatri writes, “I graduated from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor in May, with dual Bachelor's degrees in Arts (Spanish) and Business Administration. I now work as an editor in the Wall Street Journal’s Detroit Bureau.”

Upon her graduation from NYU, Stefanie Sasson’s film “As Daylight Breaks” was screened on Capitol Hill at the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. by Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton in a campaign for gene therapy and stem cell research. Stefanie has recently accepted a position with Sotheby’s in New York City.

2001

After a lengthy stint as president of the Stanford Republicans, Laurel Roberts secured a prestigious Investment Banking job at Goldman Sachs of money. She is currently engaged to Charles Perrins IV, heir of the Lea-Perrins Worcestershire sauce fortune, with whom she hopes to have many healthy babies. Her hobbies include polo, francophelia and apres skiing.

Lauren Wolfe is having fun at Smith College where she is the Senior Class President and the President of the College Democrats of Massachusetts.

2002

Erin Kobet is a junior at the University of Michigan majoring in political science. This past summer she interned with Bush-Cheney ’04 and participated on the team which planned and executed President Bush’s visits to Marquette and Traverse City, Mich. The highlight of her summer came in July when she was selected to greet and chat briefly with President Bush when he arrived in Detroit on Air Force One.

Katherine Rhodes writes, “I am a member of Delta Gamma, a national sorority, and am currently a vice president of the Eta Zeta Chapter here at the University of Chicago. I also play Varsity softball, and we ended last year ranked eleventh in the nation. Beyond that, I am a political science major, and I plan to graduate in 2006 and go to law school.”

Steven Wine spent the summer interning in Auburn Hills at a German automotive supplier where he worked primarily on an online database used to track costs and engineering information for tools and parts. He writes, “I’ve been grinding it out these past couple of years down at the University of Texas as well.”
2003

Jessica Givan writes, “I am a 4.0 sophomore at UDM, and a film major. I am currently working on my first film in which I am the director, scriptwriter, cameraperson and editor. The story is a re-enactment of the Heaven’s Gate cult mass suicide with sociological theories dealt with in flashbacks. I am also getting funding for my first documentary about the homeless population in Detroit. I am part of the study abroad program and will be attending Oxford University in Oxford, England for three weeks this summer. I will be studying the English way of communicating in debates, public speaking and advertising.”

Beth Adelson is enjoying her sophomore year at the University of Michigan. She was inducted into the Kappa Phi Lambda Sorority last spring and currently serves as the chair for the Community Service and Sister Events. She stayed awake and on her feet for 30 hours while participating in the Dance Marathon in March 2004 to raise money for pediatric rehabilitation. She works as a research assistant in the English department and may major in English and Political Science.

Nia Batts writes, “I worked for Kevin Liles at Def Jam during the summer and later he became Executive Vice President of the Warner Music Group under Edgar Bronfman and Lyor Cohen, and President of Def Jam Enterprises under Russell Simmons. I continue to work about 20 hours a week for him while majoring in film at school. I’m working on developing the pop and urban labels established and unestablished at Warner and with Def Jam Mobile at Def Jam Enterprises. Not exactly what I thought I would be doing but I like it none the less!”

Eli Green writes, “I have been cast in two plays this semester: ‘Oscar and Felix: a New Look at the Odd Couple’ (in which I played Vinnie) and I am currently playing Arnold Wiggins in ‘The Boys Next Door’.

Garen Wolff was recently featured in the Wellesley College Viewbook for her leadership on and off campus (www.wellesley.edu/admission/pdf/VB41-50.pdf). She continues to play an active role in City-Prep, the non-profit organization she founded while a student at DCDS to promote leadership and scholarship in middle school girls and in 2005, will launch a division for boys. She says, ‘Since my own personal goal is to promote women, I thought Wellesley was an obvious choice for a college. It would enhance my leadership skills and give me an edge, and I didn’t think attending a single-sex school would hinder my social life.’ In October, Wolff participated in the annual Tanner Conference, which represents the experiential work of Wellesley students.

2004

Franchesca Gayadan was recognized this year in Cosmo Girl as “One to Watch in 2024” for her commitment to education. Specifically, she established the “Open a Mind” program to raise money and collect books for the construction of a municipal library in her family’s hometown in the Philippines.

Stacie Smith is enjoying her first year at the University of Pennsylvania, where she auditioned and made the dance team, joined Black Wharton (for African American Business Students), and heard John Kerry speak during a campus visit.

Robert Reznick writes, “I am looking for information or advice about business-related internships for the summer of 2005. I would like to talk with someone about what internships are most beneficial, and I would also like to find some internship opportunities.” E-mail Robert at rhrez@umich.edu.

In Memoriam


David Bratt ’97 died in England on September 22, 2004. David transferred to DCDS as a tenth grader from his English school. He was actively involved in swimming as an All-State diver, president of our ceramics club and an IB Diploma student. Condolences may be sent to the family care of Mr. and Mrs. Allan (Jackie) Bratt, 10 Ladrain Way, Thorpe Bay, Essex SS13PZ, ENGLAND.