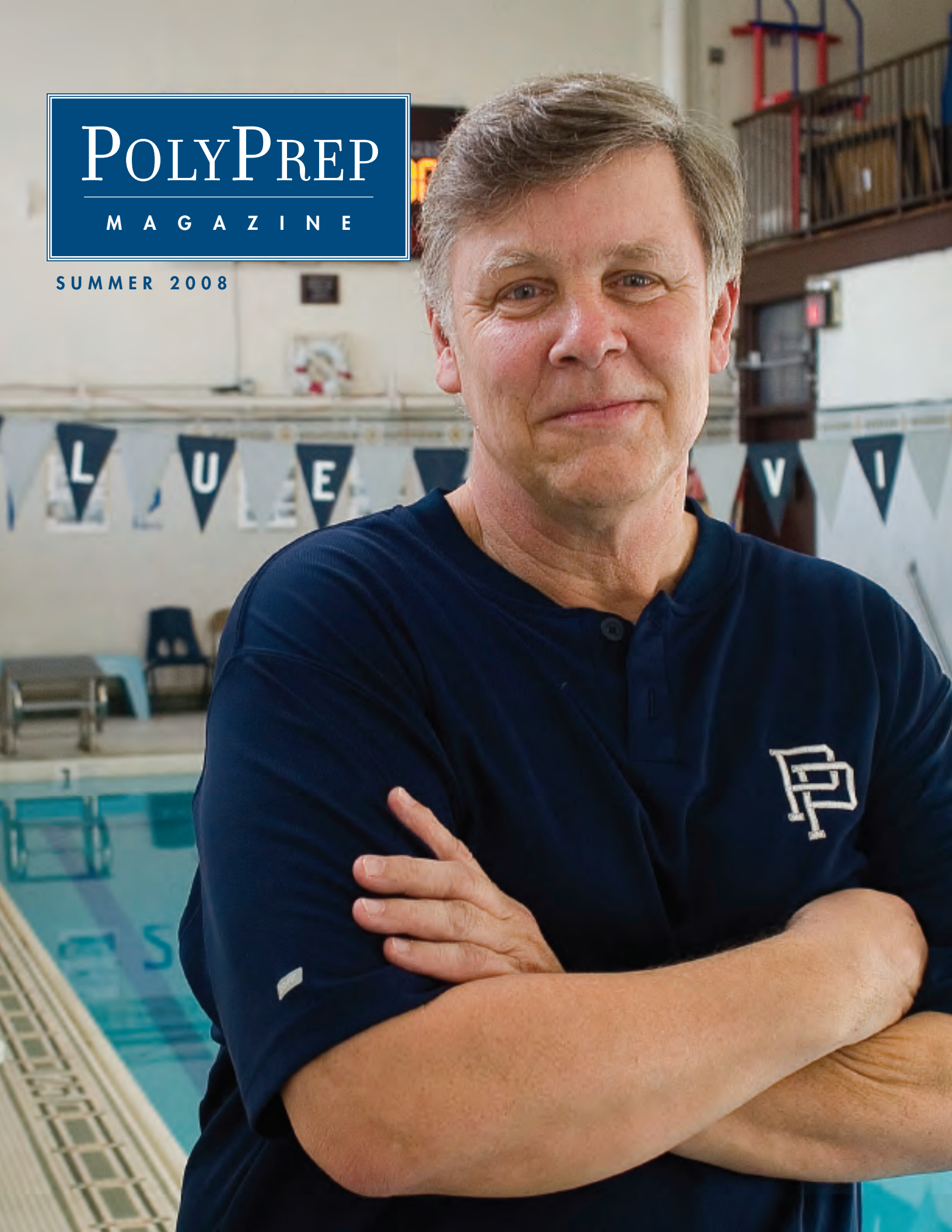


# POLYPREP

M A G A Z I N E

SUMMER 2008



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SUMMER 2008

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The two main stories in this issue, the retirement of Ed Ruck and the journeys of faculty members to Cambodia, highlight the most important aspect of Poly: teaching. Every school—independent or public, primary or secondary, large or small—should be focused above all on education. And the heart of education is the interaction between students and teachers.



While modern technology provides enhanced facilities for learning, nothing supersedes the dedication of a great faculty. This summer, three Poly faculty members are working with Cambodian teachers, who often must educate children without books, not to mention computers and SMART Boards. Coach Ruck has been inspiring students to excel on and off the fields for decades, beginning long before the Poly Prep Athletics Complex. In different ways, both examples reflect a fundamental reality of education. All you really need for a successful school are teachers, students, and a willingness to learn.

Poly has always had these three key elements. Our faculty is an inspiring group of teachers, who work hard to provide the best education possible to our inquisitive and exceptional students. This is clear as Poly's teachers work with students studying science in the natural settings on campus or in Prospect Park, rehearsing dance pieces in every empty space available, or crowding a team into Commons to celebrate a sports championship.

The success of Poly's teachers is clear from our dedicated alumni. Poly is proud of the many alumni who have gone on to change the world through impressive careers in medicine, law, athletics, arts, nonprofit work, education, and other fields. But our teachers' true impact on students is most evident when alumni return to campus or complete reunion questionnaires. Their comments always make it clear that their thoughts are filled with memories of great teachers.

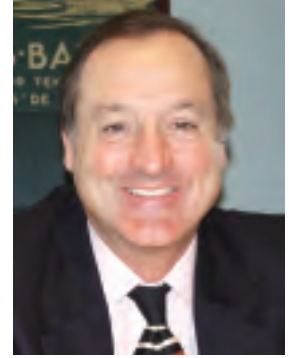
I hope that reading about the work of current teachers reminds you of your own time at Poly, and renews appreciation for the outstanding teachers who shape the school's past, present, and future.

Laura Butchy  
Director of Development Communications

## LETTER FROM THE HEADMASTER

This has been an exciting and productive year in teaching and learning at Poly Prep. I am struck not only by the breadth and reach of our program, but also by our ability to provide an elite and democratic educational experience, focused on the practical needs of everyday learning.

The graduating senior class is among the most talented group the school has seen, with a record six PSAT/NMQT National Merit Semi-finalists, 10 AP scholars of distinction, and unprecedented achievement across a range of testing norms. And lest I be accused of associating standardized testing with student achievement, I frame these remarks around another of the class's many distinctive accomplishments. One of our graduating seniors received the National Cum Laude Society outstanding essay award, demonstrating in his paper the sophisticated thesis-driven, research-based, analytic academic writing that we hope to teach all students.



The Mathematics Department has made strides to support the advanced needs of students, with nearly 75% of Poly graduates completing a full year of calculus. This fall, we will have two tracks in Upper School math, including Advanced Geometry for ninth graders. The department also plans new electives in Statistics, Applied Engineering, and Multivariable Calculus. In the Middle School, we have developed a curriculum that supports a variety of learning styles, including accelerated courses for advanced students and workshops for students who need extra help. In the Science Department, the Special Advanced Program track serves our most able students, and expanded elective offerings support students who need a general education in science. In Middle School Science, foundation skills are nurtured and students come to understand connections to other subjects and the world at large.

The English Department also meets student needs across a range of abilities, adding a new AP English Language and Composition seminar and continuing the successful Senior Seminar. Our Middle School program has been collaborating with a consulting group that specializes in teaching writing, which complements the work of faculty in workshops at Teachers College focused on the teaching of writing. The same consultancy will begin working with Middle School history this fall in an effort to solidify skill-sets in younger students. We have also seen the History Department develop a number of new and interesting projects, including the revised Economics elective.

The Language Department is building on the dual language track in Middle School, where 75% of students complete two years of full-time study in a modern language and Latin. In the Upper School, students continue to study two languages and increasingly graduate with real facility. We have instituted an after-school program in Mandarin Chinese and plan to have an Arabic course sequence ready for 2009.

We have also spent time this year considering the move from Lower School to Middle School, striving to create a seamless transition between academics on both campuses. We have made huge strides with conversations among teachers, implementation efforts in curriculum mapping, and stronger articulation and dedication of expectations, skill-sets, and desired outcomes between the two campuses.

Poly's success rests on the ongoing desire to bring skill-based learning to students, preparing them for college and life beyond. Our young people are entering a world marketplace that is ever changing, more competitive, and increasingly global in scope. At Poly, our goal is to provide students with the requisite academic skills and personal values to assimilate information readily, to work cooperatively and productively with others, and to be active, competent, compassionate, and responsible global citizens.

David B. Harman  
Headmaster



**IN THE CLASSROOM**

Senior project presentations demonstrated outstanding range this year within the broad topic “Popular Culture.” Head of Upper School Bud Cox congratulated students on their success at the Major Awards Chapel, noting that 32 seniors passed with distinction.

Grade 6 students impressed fellow Middle School students, faculty, and families with their knowledge on Ancient Civilizations Day. Murals created by arts students served as a backdrop for a musical performance featuring rhythms embodying Sophocles’ themes in the Oedipus cycle. Actors offered their interpretation of the myth of Perseus slaying Medusa, followed by two dance pieces: a Greek sailor’s dance and a traditional Greek wedding folk dance. Following the performance, students explained their various history and English projects.

Glee Club enjoyed a visit from Poly alumnus and professional singer Doug Jabara ’84 in January. Jabara and his colleagues performed sections of *La Traviata* and Gilbert and Sullivan’s “I Am a Pirate King,” after which Jabara talked to students about the differences between Broadway, operetta, and opera styles.

Middle School students welcomed guest author and *X-Men* creator Chris Claremont P’15, ’15 in April. Claremont spoke in an assembly about his storied career as a novelist and writer of comic books, and later met with smaller groups of students for in-depth discussion. Claremont explained that his creative process begins with reserve, patience, and perception.

**ACTIVITIES AND AWARDS**

The annual Academics Awards Chapel was divided in two this year, allowing time to recognize the accomplishments of more than two dozen Upper School students. An earlier Chapel inducted four seniors into Cum Laude Society and six juniors into Oasis Society.

Upper and Middle School students at all levels earned distinction in the National Latin Exam. Summa Cum Laude honors were awarded to ten Level I students, three Level II students, and one Level III student. In Level V, four students earned Cum Laude honors, and in Level VI, one student garnered Magna Cum Laude recognition.

Middle and Upper School student finalists impressed fellow students and faculty during the annual Bearns Speaking Contest. Students in Grade 5 performed poems, and the prestigious Joseph H. Bearns Medal went to Jair Froome. In Grade 6, first-place honors went to Dylan Wrobel. Christine Croasdaile took top honors for Grade 7, and Hans Bilger was awarded first place for Grade 8.

Grade 9 recited soliloquies, with Matt Safian taking the top spot for his performance of a Shylock speech from *The Merchant of*

*Venice*. Grade 10 memorized excerpts from famous speeches. Sean Ryan won first place for his recitation of “Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death.” Juniors delivered speeches excerpted from novels, and Kyle Wynter-Stoner won with a monologue from Dostoevsky’s *Notes from Underground*. Seniors recited monologues from popular films. Molly Hurwitz won first place for her humorous performance from *Waiting for Guffman*.

In February, Upper School Chapel was a multilingual celebration of love poetry that invited some of the top foreign language students in the school—along with a few teachers—to recite poems in Spanish, French, Polish, Russian, Latin, and Greek. After recitations by finalists in various languages, a winner was chosen for each level of study.



Middle School foreign language student finalists presented their recitations for their peers and faculty in May. Each Grade 8 French and Spanish student was required to memorize and recite a poem, and one student was selected as a winner for each language.

French students recited “Il pleure dans mon coeur,” by Paul Verlaine, and Spanish students recited “Al Espejo,” by Jorge Luis Borges.

For more Poly news, photos, and award winners, visit [www.polyprep.org/news/news](http://www.polyprep.org/news/news).



**IN THE CLASSROOM**

Writing has always been an important part of the Lower School curriculum, and this year there was a new focus as students participated in National Novel Writing Month. The project had Grade 3 participants dedicate the 30 days of November to writing a novel in a month. Grade 3A head teacher Micaela Blei, who has participated in the past, brought the program to Poly this year. At the Lower School, students chose word counts for themselves ranging from 500 words to 5,000. Students finished the month with a Novel Celebration, during which they shared excerpts of their novels and wrote compliments to each other about them. Blei hopes to include more students in the project next year.

Last fall, Lower School students joined kids around the country in setting a world record for reading. Partnering with the national nonprofit Jumpstart, Poly helped the Read for the Record campaign break the record for the second year in a row. The national event included hundreds of thousands of children and adults reading the official campaign book, *The Story of Ferdinand*, at more than 1,900 events across the country. More than \$1 million was raised through donations and sales of a special-edition book to support Jumpstart's early education programs for at-risk children in communities across the nation. At Poly, every Lower School class joined in the campaign.



Lower School students set another record at Halloween, when Grade 4 sponsored the annual Bread for Bread bake sale. Rather than dress up in costumes, students brought in baked goods from home for Grade 4 students to sell in the cafeteria. Nursery through Grade 3 students bought the treats to enjoy during class parties, helping Grade 4 raise more than \$1,000 for UNICEF with the record-breaking bake sale and special UNICEF trick-or-treat boxes.

Other grades joined in with their own community service projects. Grade 3 collected coats between Thanksgiving and winter break, while Grade 2 collected canned goods. Grade 1 spearheaded the Lower School's participation in the Common Cents Penny Harvest. For the past 12 years, Poly students have joined hundreds of other New York City schools, both independent and public, to "harvest" millions of idle and unused pennies and donate them to a worthy cause.

**SPECIAL GUESTS**

In February, Lower School students enjoyed a visit from James Otis Thach, author of *A Child's Guide to Common Household Monsters*. Thach met with Grades 1-4, reading from his book and discussing the process of writing, from getting the idea to getting published. Students also had the chance to show off their drawings of monsters created for his visit.

In April, Lower School students welcomed a special group of human and puppet guests, the Striking Viking Story Pirates. The Story Pirates visited Poly twice to work with students to dramatize their writing. Early in the month, students were introduced to the writing process at an assembly. Students then returned to their classrooms to write stories, fragments of stories, or plays based on the Lower School book *How to Have the Best School on the Planet*. The Story Pirates took the stories and used improvisational techniques to bring the book to life in a play that they performed at the Lower School later that month.

In science class, guest speaker Carolyn Hall joined students this spring for an interactive investigation of watery ecosystems, focusing on salt marshes. Students were able to smell the sulfur in clumps of grass and mud, touch a horseshoe crab and various plants, and observe mussels, clams, mud snails, worms, and other specimens Hall brought. Hall, a master's student at the School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences at SUNY Stonybrook, discussed different types of coastal habitats, including rocky coasts, sandy shores, and salt marshes. The third graders were also able to observe a core section of marsh, which showed layers of roots, sand, and mud.





**DANCE**

Poly's 12th Annual Dance Concert impressed crowds in April, with more than 180 Grade 5–12 students performing. The Richard Perry Theatre was packed for three nights as students from Upper and Middle School dance classes, Upper and Middle School After-School Dance, and Dance Team lit up the stage with their talent in numbers choreographed by students and teachers.

Lower School students showed off their dancing at a pair of May performances. Grades 1 and 2 offered a performance for families at the Lower School, while Grades 3 and 4 traveled to big Poly to perform the Lower School Spring Concert in the Richard Perry Theatre. Grades 3 and 4 performed their own choreography, which combined moves of their own invention with established dance styles.



**MUSIC**

Students of all ages filled Poly with music this spring, beginning with the Upper School Spring Arts Festival Concert on May 1. Faculty and families enjoyed performances by Concert Band, Glee Club, Blues Devils, A Cappella, and Concert Choir, as well as soloists. Later that month, Middle School musicians demonstrated their talent at the Middle School Spring Concert. Students impressed a packed Chapel with performances from the Middle School Band, Middle School Jazz Band, Young Singers, and Tower Singers.

Lower School singers brought their Spring Concert to the Richard Perry Theatre on May 20. Grade 3 opened the event playing recorders, then sang a wide variety of musical numbers, accompanying themselves on xylophone and percussion. Grade 4 followed by demonstrating their dexterity on percussion, xylophone, violin, and flute, in addition to their singing skills.

**THEATRE**

In January, Grades 7 and 8 presented the comedy *Little Red Riding Hood (and the Power Mutants)*, by Ed Monk, offering 16 talented students the chance to shine. Middle School students also impressed audiences with their inspiring May production of *Fiddler on the Roof*. Grades 5 and 6

students took to the stage with the new Middle School Drama Club, presenting the comedy *Homework Eats Dog (and Other Woeful Tales)*, by Alan Haehnel. Many of the students were graduates of the Lower School Musical, which performed the same evening in the Richard Perry Theatre. More than 30 Grade 1–4 students sang, danced, and acted in a variety of musical numbers.

Upper School actors put on a grand-scale production in the spring musical, *Urinetown*. The contemporary satire by Greg Kotis and Mark Hollman featured a talented cast of 36 singers and dancers. Before the February 29 opening, cast members enjoyed a visit from Kotis, who spoke about the show, took questions, and watched a scene from Poly's production.

**VISUAL ARTS**

Poly's visual artists decorated the halls of both campuses this spring. At the Lower School, projects included Grade 1's colorful puppets inspired by the puppets of Paul Klee, and Grade 2's drawings based on a surrealist game, *The Exquisite Corpse*. Grade 3 collaborated on a major mixed-media project based on their study of sculptor Alexander Calder, and Grade 4 enjoyed the annual painting of stools to recreate a work studied in art history.



Middle and Upper School students presented their creations at the Spring Arts Festival on May 1. Every inch of hall was hung with art: still lifes, abstract paintings, aerial city views, detailed drawings, Russian constructivist collages, and more. Sculpture and ceramics recreated

everything from classical vases to sneakers to a dessert tray. The Tower Gallery included a Grade 8 voodoo doll project, and the library offered screenings of student films.

For more arts news, photos, and award winners, visit [www.polyprep.org/news/news](http://www.polyprep.org/news/news).



**WINTER SPORTS**

A highlight of the winter sports season was the triumph of the varsity girls' swim team, which claimed the Ivy League Championship title. Poly girls finished with 389 points, beating out Hackley, Horace Mann, Riverdale, Trinity, Fieldston, and Dalton. The win was particularly poignant for the team, as it was teacher Ed Ruck's last year coaching. (See page 10.) The varsity boys' swim team finished fourth in the Ivy League.

The varsity boys' basketball team finished a tremendous year 24-0 in regular season play, a first for Poly. They ranked fifteenth in the Madison Square Garden Tri-State Poll and tenth in the New York Hoops Poll. Losing only to Collegiate in a double-overtime play-off game, the Blue Devils were among only three other teams in New York State to be undefeated in regular season play. Varsity girls' basketball finished their season at fourth place in the Ivy League with a 13-9 record, and qualified for the NYSAIS state tournament.

Varsity boys' and girls' track matched accomplishments this season, with both teams taking second place in the Ivy Championships. The varsity wrestling team had an equally exciting season, placing second in their Ivy League Championship meet. The team finished the season with two



fifth-place, two second-place, and two first-place finishes.

Both varsity squash teams played hard this winter, leading the girls to complete the season 10-3. The boys' team finished 7-5 and was runner-up in the New York State Boys' Squash Championship. They earned sixth place in nationals among Division C teams.

**SPRING SPORTS**

The spring sports season brought Blue Devils championships to campus in softball and baseball. The varsity softball team finished 12-0 in the Ivy League to win their third consecutive championship. The team also won its third consecutive NYSAIS Championship, allowing only .9 runs per game on average. Blue Devils varsity baseball finished the Ivy League season as undefeated champions 13-0

and won the NYSAIS Championship. Poly baseball has taken both championship titles two years in a row, winning their last 33 consecutive games.

Varsity boys' track and field came in second at the Ivy Championship meet, and the team took second place at the NYSAIS meet. Varsity girls' track and field team completed its season in third place and finished the NYSAIS meet fourth out of 21 schools.

Though varsity boys' tennis completed the season with a record of 2-12, the team expanded to include more players than ever before. The varsity golf team also faced a tough season, finishing 1-12-1.



Varsity boys' lacrosse finished the season with an overall record of 8-9, losing five of its matches by only one goal, with three of those in sudden-death overtime. The team made it to the first round of Metro playoffs. The varsity girls' lacrosse team's 9-6 record made them a number-five seed in the NYSAIS Tournament. The girls' team welcomed a special new member in April—four-year-old Lily Langbein, a young New Yorker fighting a brain tumor. The Blue Devils became the first high school team to work with the Friends of Jaclyn Foundation to "adopt" a pediatric cancer patient. Lily and her family visited Poly, where team members presented her with gifts, including a pink lacrosse stick.



*To read more, view photo galleries, and see complete lists of MVP and MIP award winners, visit [www.polyprep.org/program/athletics](http://www.polyprep.org/program/athletics).*



Students joined Lynda Blackmon Lowery for discussion in the library after she spoke at Chapel for Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

### SEVERAL SPECIAL GUESTS

visited the Middle and Upper Schools to speak at Chapel this spring.

On January 18, Poly welcomed Lynda Blackmon Lowery as the speaker for both divisions honoring Martin Luther King Jr. Day. Lowery turned 15 in 1965 while marching from Selma to Montgomery to protest for African-American freedoms and voting rights. Authors Susan Buckley and Elspeth Leacock, whose book *Journeys for Freedom: A New Look at America's Story* explores Lowery's



Evan Vogel '78, P'13, '16 spoke about the future of solar energy.

experience, joined her for the presentations.

Lowery talked about feeling moved by King's words and message, as well as her experience on March 7, 1965, when 600 civil rights activists marched east out of Selma on U.S. Route 80. They made it six blocks before state and local lawmen attacked them with billy clubs and tear gas.

"Up to that point, we had not been confronted. I felt myself being pulled back after we heard the tear gas pops," she said. "I bit the hand that was pulling me—that was a big mistake. I heard him call me 'nigger,' and then he hit me twice. I ran into the gas, and when I woke up, they had put me in a hearse. I saw people, got up, and started running."

Lowery told students that she learned a lot from her experiences and that she has been glad to see progress over her lifetime, even though King's dream is not yet fully realized. "The dream has not come full circle. It is our responsibility to keep things moving," she said. "Change starts with one step."

On January 31 and February 1, Middle and Upper School students took part in Focus the Nation, a nationwide event to spread awareness about global warming issues. Evan Vogel '78, P'13, '16 spoke to students

about the past, present, and future of solar energy. He gave a brief history of how Albert Einstein's Nobel Prize-winning work on the photoelectric effect paved the way for the development of the solar cell, a necessary component for harnessing light energy and converting it into electric energy.

"Right now, Germany offers its citizens the most aggressive incentives for switching to solar power," he said, "but in about three years, California will catch up." He closed his presentation by showing students several locations on Poly rooftops that would provide ample space for solar cells, if Poly decided to use solar power.

Former teacher Shari Fogler P'91, '94 returned to Poly on March 7 to host Community and Diversity Day at the Upper School. In addition to a performance by theatre company Stage 13, the day involved workshops in advisory periods with activities to encourage open dialogue about identity issues and diversity. The Upper School then reconvened in the Chapel for an open-mic session, in which students commented on the day and recommended ways that Poly could move forward with changes explored in the advisories.

"You—as a community—know what works," Fogler said. "Moving ahead with what works, that is your charge."



The annual Major Awards Chapel recognized Middle School (above) and Upper School (below) award winners.

## POLY ANNOUNCES 2007–2008 MAJOR AWARD WINNERS

On May 27, Upper and Middle School students gathered in the gym for Poly Prep’s annual Major Awards Chapel. The ceremony began with the Middle School awards, which were presented by Upper School students who had previously received them.

The Maryanna Sheller Award, given to a Grade 6 student deemed outstanding in scholarship and character, was presented to Edward Spinelli.

The Ralph Dupee Award is given to the Form I students who have made outstanding contributions in academics, extracurricular activity, and personal character. The award was shared this year by Jacqueline Chirido and Christine Croasdaile, who will serve as co-presidents of the Middle School next year.

The Myron Ruckstull Award for outstanding sportsmanship in daily life at Poly was presented to eighth graders Katharine Friel and Nicholas Caso. The Marjorie Bull Award for outstanding academic achievement in Grade 8 went to Jennifer Shyue and Hans Bilger, who won last year’s Dupee Award.

Math chair Anita DeRuiter presented the first Upper School award, the Emmett Gold Rott Cup, awarded annually to the student who has shown the greatest academic improvement during senior year. She gave the

trophy to Matthew Mirman, whom she praised for his grit, determination, and intellectual ability.

The 2008 School Service Award went to Katie Giovinazzo, praised by peers and teachers for her extraordinary initiative and hard work in leading the Cambodia Project. (See page 13.) The Service Award honors a senior student for character, loyalty, service, and decorum.

Performing arts teacher Sonya Baehr presented Ian Holden with the Creativity Prize, awarded to the senior who has shown outstanding originality and imagination in a particular discipline. Baehr described Holden as the embodiment of artistry in theatre, dance, music, and film.

The 2008 Williams Prize for Intellectual Curiosity was awarded to two students, Margot Elmaleh and Amedeo Turturro. Elmaleh was

described as a student who is always thinking about thinking, and Turturro was called patient and exacting. The Williams Prize is given to the senior or seniors who most clearly demonstrate a genuine pursuit of learning and enthusiasm for knowledge.

Kevin Heller won the Scull Plaque, awarded annually to a senior who has excelled in both scholarship and athletics. Heller’s talent and

ability have prompted a New York Mets scout to say that he could easily play major league baseball after college.

The celebrated Joseph Dana Allen Award went to Elizabeth Balsam. Named for the headmaster who served Poly from 1917 to 1949, the honor is awarded for the highest scholarship, combined with commensurate character. Balsam received an A or A+ in every class but two, in which she earned A-.

The Poly Cup, given annually to the senior who has stood for the most at Poly, went to Jennifer Buchholz. Head of Upper School Bud Cox called her “a model of intellectual and moral integrity.” Buchholz’s character, he said, simply epitomizes the qualities of empathy, humility, and courage.

When the awards had all been presented, Grade 5 closed the Chapel by singing “Far Down on the Heights Called Dyker” to the outgoing Class of 2008.



# Celebrating 40 Years of Ed Ruck

**A**t the end of the 2007–2008 school year, after forty years at Poly Prep, beloved coach Ed Ruck retired from his position as a physical education teacher.

Ed is Poly history. In 2008, it's easy to lose perspective on what it means to have done any one thing for 40 years. One might hear of sweethearts recognizing one-month anniversaries, or of retirees adopting second careers. At Poly, teachers receive milestone gifts beginning with five years' service. So here are a few things to put Ed's career in perspective.

Ed came to Poly Prep in 1968. He has worked at Poly for more than one-quarter of its 154-year existence and four years longer than former headmaster Joseph Dana Allen. When Ed came to Poly, the Verrazano Bridge was new, and Poly was a boys' school. None of Ed's students had ever heard of Neil Armstrong, *Saturday Night Fever*, *Space Invaders*, *The White Album*, AIDS, the Internet, cell phones, or al Qaeda. When Ed had already worked here ten years, several of Poly's current teachers were still unborn. And when he had already worked here twenty years, East Germany was still a country.

As headmaster David Harman P'04, '06 put it, "headmasters come and go, but Ed has been one of the indispensable people that holds the school together."

A neighborhood kid, Ed grew up in Bay Ridge during the fifties. "Never got too far out of Brooklyn," he says. "I went to PS 104, right up on the corner, and Fort Hamilton High School on Shore Road and 83rd Street." After high school, Ed attended Brooklyn College, where he meant to become an architect.

"I received awards for mechanical drawing in high school, so I thought that's what I wanted to do," he says. "I was doing well, but sitting behind a desk all day just wasn't me."

He had always gravitated toward sports, and at Brooklyn College Ed got to know several people on the physical education staff. These friendships were instrumental in convincing Ed to switch career paths. His first job as a PE teacher was at John Jay, where he worked for one year.

But Ed wanted to teach soccer. John Jay is a public school and, as Ed says, "I was the low man on the totem pole. I realized I wasn't going to get to coach soccer for years. My wife's uncle taught at Poly, so I came here."

In his years at Poly, Ed has taught Middle School and freshman physical education. He served as athletics director for nine years and as head of his department for 16 years. He has coached Middle School soccer and freshman soccer, and he was



Ed Ruck (back, with wife, Diane) has spent many years at Poly, as have most of his family members, including (left to right) his son Christopher '97, daughter-in-law and Poly teacher Vanessa, daughter Lisa Taliercio '95, and son-in-law Michael Taliercio.



Hundreds of friends, family, and colleagues gathered for Ed's retirement dinner, including (left to right) his daughter Lisa Taliercio '95, his son Christopher Ruck '97, Alex Donnenfeld '07, Ed, and Peter Sessa '68.

the boys' varsity soccer coach for 20 years. He has also served as Middle School, freshman, and varsity baseball coach and as head varsity swim coach.

Mike Junsch '71, P'94, '95 was the first soccer captain Ed coached at Poly, and has been his fellow athletics teacher at Poly for 33 years. Junsch credits Ed for his decision to become a physical education teacher. "Thank you for teaching the boys and girls of Poly 'how to play the game!'"

Ed may be best known for his charismatic leadership as coach of the swim team, which he worked with throughout his 40-year tenure. Christine Capone '02, now a student at New York Medical College, still recalls Ed's signature whistling from the side of the pool, which she said he could sustain for an entire 6-minute race.

Health coordinator Patti Tycenski Mastro, Ruck's assistant swim coach for 13 years, adds that the whistle is piercing enough that swimmers can hear it underwater. She speaks fondly of their years working together, calling Ruck a "colleague, mentor, and dear friend."

As an astonishing finale to Ruck's tenure as a coach, the 2007–2008 girls' swim team ended their season by winning the Ivy League title. It was the first time a Poly swim team had won the championship since 1980.

"They sent me out a winner!" Ed says with a smile. Ed's philosophy of teaching is simple.

"Involvement of everyone," he says. "Everyone has a role. I try to make it as enjoyable as possible, and also educational." Ed wants all his students to learn cooperation and to gain an appreciation of whatever activity they're practicing in class. Sometimes, he says, students have found skill development boring. "They would rather play!" he says. "They have to learn first. After that, they love playing against each other and playing against other schools."

The coach received several standing ovations this spring, when chants of "Ed-die! Ed-die!" from alumni and faculty, or "Ruck! Ruck! Ruck!" from students, would erupt at the mention of his name in Chapel and elsewhere. April 18 was officially declared Ed Ruck Day at Poly. That morning, when Ed walked into Chapel, he was greeted by 450 cheering students and faculty decked out in 'I Love Ed Ruck' T-shirts.

That night, alumni, parents, faculty, and staff gathered at Brooklyn's El Caribe Country Club for an unforgettable celebration of Ed's extraordinary career. The event included a reception, live band, and dinner for more than 640 guests. In El Caribe's enormous dining hall, elegantly decorated with strings of lights and Poly Prep iconography, guests cheered as speakers testified to Ed's dedication, easygoing attitude, and savoir-faire in athletics.

The incredible outpouring of love and appreciation for the teacher and coach began with master of ceremonies and associate head of school Steve Andersen, who told the audience that by the end of the evening, they would “understand, even more, the full impact this kind and committed man has made on our lives.” Thanks and congratulations to Ed were given by many, including Harman, Junsch, Capone, and Tycenski Mastro.

Headmaster emeritus Bill Williams P’89 portrayed Ed as a teacher whose example will be followed for years to come. Peter Sessa ’68, Ruck’s first swim captain, gave credit to Ed for helping the 1969 team win their first season, 6-3. Thomas Fritsch ’87, captain of Ruck’s final Poly soccer team, described himself as one of two kids on his team who really couldn’t swim. “But Mr. Ruck took me under his wing,” Fritsch said.

Harold Theurer ’75, P’13, past president of the Alumni Board of Governors, has been a close friend of Ed’s since meeting him as a student. “Thank you to my teacher,” he said. “Thank you to my coach, and thank you to the best man at my wedding.”

The dining room erupted with laughter when the moment came to unwrap a mystery present on the tables: a bobblehead doll of Ed Ruck, complete with whistle and coach’s outfit. Guests also received a DVD copy of *Ruck—And Know They Love You*, a film produced by assistant head of school for finance, Robert Aberlin ’62, P’00, ’03.

Further and fitting testimony to Ed’s status as a



**The crowd laughed as Ed unwrapped his bobblehead at his retirement dinner on April 18. Earlier in the day, Poly celebrated Ed Ruck Day with “I Love Ed Ruck” shirts and a serenade of the school song by the Middle School.**

Poly Prep superstar is that Poly has received substantial donations in his honor. “To honor Ed in perpetuity,” headmaster Harman said, “we have received two lead challenge gifts. First, we have received a gift to renovate the pool completely, so we will have a much-improved pool in which to defend Poly’s Ivy League title. Second, we have received a lead gift to establish an endowed athletics chair in Eddie’s name.”

Ed greets these displays of gratitude in his typically self-effacing manner: “So much for quietly slipping out the back door into retirement,” he joked when he took the stage at his retirement dinner.

One thing that shouldn’t be lost in all the hubbub surrounding Ed’s retirement is the fact that Poly’s love of Ed is hugely requited. In his 5,500 days at Poly (give or take a few), Ed has made lifelong friends, mentored generations of athletes, and worked with hundreds of students and colleagues, including two of his own children and a daughter-in-law. He attributes his longevity as a teacher, and his devotion to Poly, to them.

“You out there are the reason

for my 40 years at Poly,” he said.

“It’s been an unbelievable 40 years.”

*To read more and see additional photos of Ed’s dinner, visit [www.polyprep.org/news/news/detail.asp?from=archives&newsid=437482](http://www.polyprep.org/news/news/detail.asp?from=archives&newsid=437482). For more information about supporting the pool renovation and athletics chair honoring Ed, contact Gabrielle Gilliam at (718) 836-9800, 3240, or [ggilliam@polyprep.org](mailto:ggilliam@polyprep.org).*

# Poly Faculty and Students Connect to CAMBODIA

Poly Prep's Student Government embarked on an ambitious community service endeavor last year: a school-wide initiative to build a school in Cambodia. A host of Upper and Middle School initiatives supported the Cambodia Project, including T-shirt sales, holiday gift cards, and a semi-formal fundraiser. Poly raised the necessary \$13,000 to build the school by spring and then continued raising funds for an English teacher, computers, books, and solar panels.

The Poly community is not only reaching out to Cambodia from afar but also sponsoring faculty volunteers. This summer, teachers Michael Bass, Liz Rapacchietta, and Louise Forsyth are in Cambodia giving workshops for Teachers Across Borders, an organization of American and Australian teachers who offer two-week workshops in pedagogy and school leadership for Cambodian teachers, who typically have 50 to 70 students in a class.

This will be the third trip for Forsyth, whom Poly sponsored as a TAB workshop leader in 2006 and 2007. Here are excerpts from the journal she kept during her previous trips.

## The Cambodian People

They are the loveliest people, I think, that I've ever met. They are amazingly polite, patient, friendly, and warm, with ready smiles and warm eyes. I didn't see one example of rudeness or anger, even on the roads. Here we have bicycles, motos, tuk-tuks, and cars, all sharing one lane, and virtually no traffic lights. Yet everyone cheerfully makes way for the larger vehicle



Forsyth leads a Teachers Across Borders training session for Cambodian teachers.

when they beep gently—almost no real honking except for the arrogant cars. In Siem Reap (but less commonly in the capital), the Cambodians greet each other with hands together at the chest or face and do this when they say “thank you” too. Where you place your hands shows your degree of deference to the other person—at the top of your forehead for god, at your nose for parents, etc. It's a lovely form of greeting. Everyone says hello—in Siem Reap at least, which is a relatively small city of about 1,000,000. Everyone politely lets you pass or make your way through the mud. They are earnest, and go out of their way to help.

The Cambodians are a cheerful people, they like to laugh, they like jokes, they offer that radiant smile at the drop of a hat, they seem happy to be alive. The Siem Reap airport is tiny, just two gates, with only a few flights out each day, but you walk to the plane and climb up the stairs, and it just feels right. I hope I'm not romanticizing people just beginning to catch up—but I

don't think so. Never once in Siem Reap did I feel unsafe, even though many of the streets are not lit at night and you can walk in near pitch darkness. It makes it hard to see how they killed each other so brutally—there's just no threat of violence around. That's not true, if I remember correctly, for Phnom Penh. In Siem Reap, I never felt the need to grip my purse, as people used to do in Italy because of the motor-

cycle thieves who'd grab your bag right off your shoulder. There are a zillion motorcyclists in Siem Reap, and I never worried about this at all, even when I was carrying money back to the hotel—which, of course, didn't accept credit cards.

They seem to have no rancor about the Khmer Rouge. One of the young translators told me that people were glad that the trial of a few leaders had just begun (Pol Pot died in 1998 and his military chief just died a few years ago). He wanted the trial not so much to punish the leaders but to make the younger generation know that this type of behavior would not be tolerated. But he told me that the Khmer Rouge had been invited into the government to avoid civil war, although no one had voted for them. The issue of governmental corruption is fierce and profound; few people seem to expect much from the government. There are two main political parties—the Cambodian People's Party and Funcinpac. Our translator said that in order to get a good job you needed to belong to one of these parties. The better was the CPP.

They are amazingly neat, the Cambodians, and virtually everyone looks clean and pressed every day. Don't quite know how they do it, in view of all the rain and the mud and the lack of washing machines in most homes.



Forsyth presents her Cambodian interpreter with a laptop donated by Teachers Across Borders.

Almost all the women in Siem Reap wear traditional Khmer dress, which is a shirt with sleeves worn with a long skirt, plain with a decorative panel, often gold, at the curved bottom, either a wraparound or with a clasp on the side and doubled over in front. I finally got myself a couple, and they are pretty comfortable. I'm wearing one right now as I write—although, as I'm big in comparison with Cambodians, it hangs differently on me.

They seem to bear whatever happens with great equanimity. At the teacher-training institute where we worked, there was a huge, huge class of about 100 teacher-training students who had to sit on a hard concrete floor for hours; only the lecturers had chairs. You can't imagine American students willing to do this for three hours every morning. The pedagogical institutes have pleasant classrooms but they have only one or two electric outlets—no TVs or VCRs and no computers—just chalk and chalkboards.

## Schools in Cambodia

Some 90 percent of Cambodians are peasants in one way or another or live in what they call remote areas, with high rates of illiteracy, high infant mortality rates, and terrible poverty, so children are taken out of school by their parents to work. Supposedly some of the schools built in these remote areas had no toilets, and that means girls are even more unlikely to stay in school. It's a real problem here, keeping kids in school, even through the age of ten or eleven.

And the schools are so poorly outfitted! A few of us visited a primary school outside of Battambang quite spontaneously on the way back from Wat Ek. It has 900



students, in two shifts of four hours each, 600 in the morning and 300 in the afternoon, and only forty teachers. In the afternoon session, there were two kids to a desk, but obviously in the morning it must be three. One classroom block is made of concrete, meager but tolerable. The older section of the school is wooden, with rickety wooden desks, and a lone blackboard. The students get a paperback textbook/workbook of about 100

pages for the whole year's work in any subject. I looked at the history text for the high school, and it's pretty paltry. They have history only one hour a week in any case, geography another hour, so it's hard to imagine how much they can actually cover. And it explains why the teachers keep saying, "Well, what you present is interesting, but we can't do it."

### Teaching in Battambang

I had a nice class of 20, almost all of whom were there every day. Only one absence! Fourteen men, six women, about two-thirds history teachers and one-third Khmer literature (by which they mean, I think, any writing in Khmer), and a few miscellaneous others. I was presenting the five-paragraph persuasive essay that just about every American kid learns to do. They were quite resistant at first, saying that students could then argue for anything, but I think they understood that it wouldn't necessarily lead to a defense of corruption or murder. I had them identify the chief issues facing Cambodia and then work in groups to prepare speeches on those



Forsyth (right) speaks with author, lecturer, and human-rights activist Loung Ung, who spoke at Poly in September to kick off the Cambodia Project.

issues. That was reasonably good. Then we discussed education issues, and they worked in five groups to prepare the persuasive essay on that topic. After they had done a first draft, they did peer editing, which I think was a very successful technique that they hadn't been familiar with yet, and then we went to the teacher training institute library to do research, with two students going off by moto to an Internet café.

The library has meager resources and is quite disorganized—obviously it's not used much for research. Hong, my excellent interpreter, told me that they don't do research in any case—it's a foreign idea, and of course I can see why, as their resources are so few. But the teachers seemed engaged with what they did in the library for an hour or so. When each group had finished their final essays, they read them before the class, which then voted for which ones had the best arguments. I have no idea if they were any good at all, as time was short so I didn't have Hong translate. I was pleased that the teams managed to finish their essays, which were then translated and put into the teachers' notebook that is prepared at every TAB program for dissemination. Quite a few of my group told me they would use what they learned in my workshop in their classes, but who knows? If one or two people really got something out of it, then it was worthwhile. Next year, however, I'll do real history stuff—a trial, a simulation, a debate. They were very sweet on the last day. Several gave me gifts, and one woman was nominated to make a farewell address. I actually got rather emotional and teary.

# 2008 Auction Celebrates the Arts at Poly

More than 300 parents, alumni, faculty, and friends of Poly gathered at the 2008 Arts Auction on April 5 for an exciting evening that raised more than \$130,000 for the visual and performing arts.

Guests browsed the silent auction offerings while enjoying hors d'oeuvres and the sounds of the Blues Devils playing on the Malkin Terrace. More than 100 works of art, including paintings, sculptures, and drawings, were on display for bidding throughout Commons, the Trophy Room, and Poly's halls. Other items up for grabs included vacation homes and tickets to Broadway shows and television shows. There were also enticing raffle prizes on view, including everything from jewelry to books to dinner with college counselor Mike Muska.

As the silent auction began to close, the enthusiastic crowd gathered in Commons for the live auction. Host Stephen Massey, a professional auctioneer and appraiser seen on *Antiques Road Show*, led the bidding for items such as a guitar autographed by Jon Bon Jovi and tickets to the premiere of the film *Mamma Mia!*

Proceeds from the auction will support the visual arts in the Lower, Middle, and Upper Schools. In addi-



tion, a portion of the proceeds will support the Richard Perry Theatre renovation project. Sponsored by the Poly Prep Parents' Association, the auction was made possible by the efforts of a large Auction Committee, led by co-chairs Stephanie Ingrassia P'11, '13 and Mel Kendrick and Mary Salter P'05, '09.

For more photos, visit [www.polyprep.org/news/gallery](http://www.polyprep.org/news/gallery).





## Summer Renovations Prepare Richard Perry Theatre for 20th Anniversary

**R**enovations are underway in the Richard Perry Theatre this summer, preparing the space for its 20th anniversary. Plans to upgrade and refurbish the Theatre include replacing carpeting, curtains, and seats, as well as updating lighting, sound, and video equipment.

Headmaster David B. Harman announced the plans at a December 9 concert at Poly by the Brooklyn Symphony Orchestra, led by artistic director and Poly Performing Arts Department head Nicholas Armstrong. Harman introduced the event to more than 150 students, parents, alumni, faculty, and friends by emphasizing the need to begin upgrading arts spaces at the Dyker Heights campus.

“This is a beautiful space,” Harman said, “and for its 20th anniversary, we need to bring it up to the quality of the performances that happen here all year long.” A lead gift of \$100,000 kicked off the project, which will cost more than \$600,000 to complete. A portion of the proceeds from the Arts Auction in April will also support the renovation.

Seats in the renovated theater may be purchased for \$500 each, which includes a plaque on the seat recognizing the gift. Additional naming opportunities are available for lighting equipment, sound equipment, video equipment, and curtains. For more information, contact director of capital giving Gabrielle Gilliam P’21 at (718) 836-9800, ext. 3240.





# CLASS OF 2008 GRADUATES

## Join Ranks of Alumni

**O**n May 30, a sun-soaked ceremony inducted the Class of 2008 as Poly's newest alumni. Headmaster David B. Harman began the proceedings by bidding farewell to the class of students that began at Poly's main campus the same year he did, wishing them well and reminding them that they are the ones who will determine our future. He quoted Mary Oliver's poem "The Summer Day," which concludes with the question: "Tell me, what is it you plan to do / with your one wild and precious life?"

Next, head of Upper School Bud Cox took the stage and spoke of the class's knowledge, understanding, and empathy, which he said he had witnessed over and over in the halls and classrooms of Poly. He then introduced senior speaker Ed McCole '08, who thanked his inspiring teachers and classmates.

"There were days I didn't think I'd ever get out," McCole said. "And there were days I didn't want to go home because I was having so much fun. Nothing comes close to expressing the love I have for you students out there."

Retiring Poly Prep teacher, coach, and senior master Ed Ruck served as the featured

speaker. The much-revered Ruck, who retired after 40 years at Poly, said he felt that he was graduating with the class. "Be yourself" he advised. "I know you'll be successes in whatever you decide to do." When Ruck finished, A Cappella came forward to sing the senior song. Led by senior soloists, the group performed their rendition of "I'm Yours" by Jason Mraz.

The first diploma of the day was awarded to Michael Kay '58, a former Poly student who left school without graduating fifty years ago. He thanked headmaster Harman for the long-deferred honor. Then

Board of Trustees chairman Vincent Vigorita '68 introduced science teacher—and new senior master—Paul Raso to do the honors of handing out diplomas.

After each student had processed forward to receive his or her diploma, Fernando Bolles '08 led everyone assembled in singing the school song, "Far Down on the

Heights Called Dyker." When the song was finished, Harman congratulated the newest class of Poly Prep alumni, the Class of 2008.

*For more photos of Commencement, visit [www.polyprep.org/news/gallery](http://www.polyprep.org/news/gallery).*



# Grade 4 Steps Up to Middle School

Grade 4 students marked their departure from the Lower School with a memorable Stepping-Up ceremony on June 12. A crowd of faculty, family, and friends filled the Big Room, and head of Lower School Launa Schweizer welcomed everyone in attendance and thanked all those who helped the students succeed at Little Poly.

“Tonight, your last night as Lower Schoolers, we look on you with wonder, amazed by what you have accomplished,” she said. “My wish for you as you leave is that you remember the lessons you have learned here. . . . A Poly child knows how much fun it is to go to school, and therefore how much fun it is to learn, to work, and to build a happy life.”

“This is a momentous occasion,” added headmaster David B. Harman. “This class of fourth graders, the Class of 2016 at Poly Prep, you are the first class to step up from this building.” After his remarks, the audience enjoyed a slideshow of the graduates, showing the students throughout their years before and at the Lower School. Then the class sang “Ac-Cent-Tchu-Ate the Positive.”



Four students offered their thoughts about their time at the Lower School, including favorite memories such as second grade sumo wrestling, unique lessons taught by Grade 4 teachers, music and physical education classes, classroom pets, and the great friends made at Poly. Grade 4 teachers also offered a list of great moments from the

students' time with them.

Every Grade 4 student then had a chance to speak, as the class passed a microphone around for their group poem, “Things Inside of Me.” Finally, the moment arrived for students to officially step up. One by one, each graduate stepped from the stage to shake hands with Schweizer and receive his or her certificate.

The ceremony concluded with the class performing “School, Glorious School,” an alternative version of “Food, Glorious Food” from *Oliver*. The new lyrics were written by students to reflect their feelings toward the Lower School. The evening ended with a reception in the side yard.



# Alumni Celebrate at Special Reunion 2008

**M**ore than 200 alumni reunited at Poly on April 26 for Special Reunion 2008. The fun-filled day began with breakfast in Commons Hall at 10:00 AM. Alumni, families, students, and friends then gathered in the Chapel to remember David Winder and recognize alumni award winners.

After an opening song from A Cappella, headmaster David Harman thanked alumni for attending. He spoke about how much has changed at Poly over the years—from going co-educational to purchasing the Lower School—but noted that the school’s bedrock principles have stayed the same.

“Today we recognize a few individuals who have distinguished themselves,” he added. “We begin with David Winder, who taught at Poly for 38 years and clearly loved and was devoted to the school.”

Robert Gallagher ’78 and Henry Gluckstern ’66 provided tributes to the beloved English, Latin, and drama teacher, remembering his influence as a teacher and director.

After A Cappella returned to the stage to perform “Ain’t No Mountain High Enough,” Harman introduced the School Service Award, which is presented annually to alumni who have demonstrated exemplary commitment to advancing Poly and its mission. This year the award went to Arthur Rasi ’38 for his

years of dedication to the school and his role in creating the successful Class of ’38 Scholarship. Though Rasi was unable to attend Special Reunion, the award was presented to his classmate Will Jabara ’38 in his absence.

Harman then introduced Hal Rose ’74, P’04, ’09, president of the Board of Governors, who welcomed alumni to Special Reunion. Board of Governors Awards Committee chair Matt Walsh ’92 presented the Distinguished Achievement Awards.



The first honoree, ophthalmologist Dr. Jules Baum ’48, thanked Joseph Dana Allen for accepting him to Poly in the third form. “Poly gave me tools for life, not just for a career,” he said. “That I am truly thankful for.” While Ed Fein ’53 was unable to attend, he was recognized for his successful career as a financial analyst and stockbroker on Wall Street, as well as founder of the Edward Fein Foundation.

The final award winner was Richard Saltzman ’73, president of Colony Capital, LLC. “I give great credit to the diverse and well-rounded background I received here that prepared me for my work,” Saltzman said.

“It is always fun to come back to Poly—the memories, the stories—and this one will be even more special and I will cherish it even more. Thank you.”



Harman closed the ceremony by inviting A Cappella back up to lead the crowd in “Far Down on the Heights Called Dyker.” With Gallagher accompanying on the organ, the enthusiastic crowd all stood and joined in the school song.

Outside at the Poly Prep Athletics Complex, Blue Devils fans congregated for varsity softball, baseball, and girls’ lacrosse competitions against Hackley. Poly sluggers provided big wins, with Blue Devils softball shutting out Hackley 2-0 and baseball winning 11-2. Girls’ lacrosse lost a tough match 15-13. Other spectators spent the morning at the tennis courts cheering on the boys’ tennis team, which lost to Hackley 4-1.

# REUNION 2008



In the afternoon, student members of Blue Key offered campus tours, highlighting new additions to campus. Alumni with an interest in the arts were able to catch a sneak preview of *Fiddler on the Roof* rehearsing in the theatre. In the Chapel, alumni could view the film *Ruck—And Know They Love You* (produced by assistant head of school for finance Robert Aberlin '62, P'00, '03), which honors teacher and coach Ed Ruck, who retired this year after four decades at Poly. Meanwhile, future Blue Devils enjoyed Kidz Camp, where children ages three and older enjoyed crafts, games, and videos.



The class of 1958 gathered in the Faculty Room for a 50th reunion luncheon, while the class of 1953 and the Old Guard luncheon took place in Commons. On the Oval, younger alumni enjoyed a casual barbecue. At 1:00 PM, boys' lacrosse faced Hackley for an exciting game, narrowly losing 6-5 in overtime.



The day came to a close with a festive Alumni Reception in the Joseph Dana Allen Library. Headmaster David Harman thanked all the alumni for attending before several classes adjourned for individual dinners in Brooklyn and Manhattan.

To see more photos of Special Reunion, visit [www.polyprep.org/alumni/gallery](http://www.polyprep.org/alumni/gallery).



## 1929

**William T. Strauss** died August 6, 2007, in Damariscotta, ME. Strauss earned BA and MD degrees from Columbia University and completed a residency in internal medicine at what is now Nassau County Medical Center. After two years in private practice, Strauss became assistant medical director for Hoffman LaRoche and, later, other major pharmaceutical companies. While at CIBA Pharmaceuticals, he coined the term “tranquilizer” for its new drug, Serpasil. Strauss developed ABC’s *Medical Horizons*, the first national medical program, from 1955 to 1957. In later years, he taught post-graduate medicine and edited medical textbooks. Strauss is survived by his wife of 66 years; daughter Sylvia Nona; son W. Theodore III; and three nieces.

## 1930

**Harold L. Warner Jr.** has moved to South Carolina to be closer to his daughter, Mary Ann Warner Putnam.

## 1932

**Alan F. Rath** died April 6. His son Bill writes that his father “always talked fondly of his days at Poly and truly loved his school.”

## 1933

**John W. Wort**, of Basking Ridge, NJ, died July 28, 2007. Wort earned a BS in chemical engineering from the Engineering School and went on to serve as Merck’s research administration director for 32 years. He retired in 1973. Wort was an active member of the Liberty Corner Presbyterian Church, the Executive

Ministries Men’s Bible Study, and the Ham Radio Sunrise Bible Study Net. As a restorer and driver of horse carriages, Wort also helped found the American Driving Society. He was predeceased by his wife, Jean, and is survived by son Jonathan; daughters Pamela W. Jones, Joan W. Lindquist, and Grace; sister Mavis W. Lupton; 10 grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren.

## 1934

Rear Admiral **Maurice “Mike” Rindskopf** (retired) has been president of his cooperative retirement community in Annapolis, MD, for more than a year. With his wife, Sylvia, he recently traveled to Atlantic Shores Retirement Community in Virginia Beach, where he spoke about submarines. Dean Hatheway ’38, a longtime resident at Atlantic Shores, attended the event. Afterwards the two had a “delightful session” reminiscing about Poly.

## 1938

**David Boyd Arentzen** died February 19, 2007, in Brooklyn. He was educated at Cornell and NYU, where he earned two master’s degrees. Arentzen was a navigator in the Army Air Force during World War II and in the Air Force during the Korean War. In later years, he was a social worker for the New York City Department of Welfare. Arentzen is survived by daughter Elizabeth and son-in-law Chris Rost. Elizabeth writes: “He always spoke fondly of his time at Poly.”

**Dean M. Hatheway** enjoys music, especially singing. A member of the Barbershop Harmony Society for 35 years, he also sang for a decade with The Blenders. Hatheway teaches voice, sings solos at church, and enjoys

## Poly in the 1930s

*In celebration of his 70th class reunion, School Service Award–winner Dr. Arthur Rasi ’38 offers some reminiscences about his time on the heights called Dyker.*

There were 24 of us who started in the fifth grade in 1930, and we graduated in 1938, 92 boys strong. The school census was 450–490 students, and tuition was \$450. Those were the Great Depression years; they were hard years for our families, and we appreciated the sacrifices they made to send us to Poly. We saved our allowance to spend at the candy store when we came out of Commons Hall after lunch. The candy store was operated by a few honors students, who set up two tables in the trophy room. They carried a variety of our favorite nickel candy bars, such as Baby Ruth and Oh Henry! The most popular was the Plantation Pie, which was the biggest and best value.



We held enormous respect for the “masters” who taught us, beginning with the headmaster and the assistant headmaster. They were men and women to be revered, and each had a memorable personality. They were passionate about their subjects and made them come alive before our eyes.

Chapel was a great learning experience that we looked forward to on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. It brought us all together as a unified student body, one family. We learned hymns, scriptures, college songs, old chestnuts, and popular music of the day, all of which have been a part of us through life. The school orchestra played as we came into Chapel, then the whole student body fell silent as the headmaster rose from his armchair and approached the podium. He would announce the opening hymn and Chapel would begin.

Sports were an important part of school life. There were teams for every level of skill, assistants and managers for the teams, and extra activities for those who were not athletically inclined. The fencing team was very popular, as was the rifle team with its well-equipped range. Hockey was a popular winter sport. The lakes froze over in early December, and the ice lasted into mid-February. The hockey rink boards were placed in the lake during Thanksgiving vacation to be ready for hockey practice.

In those years, Poly was not surrounded by homes and tall buildings. The VA hospital hadn’t been built, and there was open space between the white tower and New York Bay. We had an unobstructed view of the ships that plied their way!

brisk walks, biking, and canoeing.

Dr. **Arthur S. Rasi** writes: “After returning from the service in ’47 as a lieutenant commander in the dental corps, I settled down with Emily in Brooklyn Heights, where I practiced dentistry for 49 years.” Rasi has been a fellow and president of numerous academies, societies, and colleges of dentistry, including the New York Academy of Dentistry, American College of Dentists, and International College of Dentists. His son Spencer attended Poly, and his daughter Emily attended Packer. Rasi and his wife moved to Arizona in 1993 but keep a summer home in Huntington, NY, where they golf, swim, and sail. At Special Reunion on April 26, **Will Jabara** accepted the School

Service Award on Rasi’s behalf. (See page 20.)

**Donald F. Rice** died January 23 in Ridge, NY. He is survived by his wife, Mary.

**Rockwell S. Staniford** writes: “Hello, Poly! Well, hello, Poly!”—the beginning of the parody I wrote for our 50th.”

## 1939

**Jerrold S. Lieberman, MD**, died April 3 in Manhattan. A physician and cardiovascular researcher, Lieberman was an associate professor of clinical medicine at Weill Medical College of Cornell University until 2000. He earned his undergraduate and MD degrees from Cornell University. He served in the U.S. Army as a surgeon in the 31st Infantry Regiment in Korea, then went on to establish a private prac-

tice in internal medicine while holding academic appointments at Cornell for more than 50 years. An avid photographer, jazz aficionado, world traveler, and chef, Lieberman is survived by his wife, Janet; stepson, Randolph Hugh Chase; two daughters-in-law; two grandsons; a granddaughter; and a step-granddaughter.

## 1941

**Joseph P. Clavin** died November 9, 2007. After serving as a marine in World War II, he attended the American Academy McAllister Institute of Funeral Service. His faith temporarily led him to the monastic life as a Trappist. Clavin then served as a funeral director until the early 1980s. Upon retirement, he traveled extensively and settled in Gulfport, MS, until illness brought him back

to Bay Ridge. Clavin was predeceased by three brothers, Michael E. Clavin; James R. Clavin; and Thomas A. Clavin, all veterans of the armed forces. He is survived by two sisters, Mary Shanahan and Peggy Brown, and by many nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews.

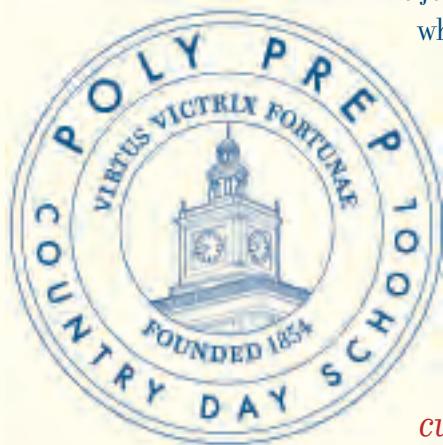
## 1943

From 1943 to 1946, **Walter A. Bobrow** fought in World War II. He writes that he went overseas in 1944 to cross “Ruin River,” and that “Remhagan Bridge was still up when we got there.” His brother Henry ’41 was a POW during the war. In 1948, Walter graduated from NYU’s School of Commerce and went on to receive his JD from Harvard. In 1951, he joined Levine & Singer, where Stewart Steinbrick ’23 was a

## Lasting Gifts that Everyone Can Afford

The Joseph Dana Allen Society recognizes alumni, parents, and friends who have made provisions in their estate plans for Poly Prep.

Planned gifts—ranging from bequests to life insurance to gift annuities and charitable trusts—enable you to support Poly’s legacy of educational excellence in ways that can provide immediate tax benefits and won’t affect your family’s security.



*“My testamentary gift to the Endowment Fund will have influence and meaning for Poly for many years. I was able to make a substantial contribution without substantial impact upon my current needs, and I have flexibility to amend the gift as circumstances change.”*  
—PAUL ZOLA ’53

If you have already made provisions for Poly in your estate plans, please let us know so that we may recognize you as part of the Joseph Dana Allen Society. To learn more about planned giving opportunities, please contact director of development Gabriele Gossner at (718) 836-9800, ext. 3091.

partner. Walter's two nephews graduated from Poly, James Bobrow '62 and Donald Bobrow '65. He has three children and four grandchildren. **Jerome Gans's** daughter recently recognized him in Florida when she noticed his Poly reunion hat.

Brigadier General **George D. Eggers** retired in 1978 from the Army and in 1989 from Princeton University, where he was director of development. In 1980, he graduated from Princeton, where his education had been interrupted by the draft 36 years earlier. Eggers volunteers as a board member for the Alumni and Friends of Princeton ROTC and Trinity Counseling Service, and as a member of the Stewardship Advisory Committee and Alumni Council of Princeton. Among his awards are the U.S. Army Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit Medal, the Bronze Star, and the Combat Infantry Badge. He enjoys reading and traveling.

After graduation, **Stuart T. Hodes** entered the Army and served in the Western Pacific, New Guinea, Leyte, and Luzon. He graduated from Yale in 1950 with a bachelor's in chemical engineering and worked for several companies before moving to the Caribbean to run a transportation service. Hodes later rejoined the chemical industry with Mobil Chemical and worked as a general manager and vice president in Colombia, Mexico, the Hague, and Chicago. He retired to Chicago, where he married Helen Leach in 1984. As tandem bike riders, he and his wife have toured the Netherlands, Belgium, and France. They now live in Florida and summer in Castelsagrat, France. Hodes



Class of 1948 Special Reunion attendees included (left to right, front row) George Smyth, Chuck Kaufman, Ellis Mottur, Alan Roland, Hugo Freudenthal, (back row) Ed Barz, Dan Dorff, Nick Trynin, Dave Marrus, and Steve Carb. Jules Baum, Steve Seligmen, and Dick Glass also attended (not pictured).

writes "The French and Spanish I first learned at Poly with Messrs. Coan and Routt served me well . . . Dr. Tuttle, along with Dr. Allen and Dr. Kastendieck, played a large part in the formation of my character." Hodes has two sons, Edward Steichen and Bruce Ira.

**Gerald F. Phillips** was a subject of the recent article, "Neutral, 82, Is Leader of Evolving ADR Trends," published in the *Los Angeles Daily Journal*.

**Ross Socolof** is recognized as one of the foremost experts on tropical fish.

Dr. **Joseph R. Whelan** received his BS and BNS from Tufts College in 1946 and later graduated from New York Medical College with an MD. He retired from the U.S. Navy Reserve in 1990, after 44 years. Whelan practiced surgery and ER medicine for 40 years and also ran a private practice in Brooklyn. An attending surgeon at Merck and St. Francis Hospitals from 1962 to 1992, he has since retired to Great Neck, NY, where he enjoys photography, reading, and travel. He remembers Dr. Kastendieck, Mr. Scoboria, and Dr. Tuttle as his favorite Poly faculty members. Whelan and his wife, Isabelle, have been married

since 1950 and have two children, Edward and Kathy, and three grandchildren. Whelan writes that **Tom Dinsmore** was the best man at his wedding.

## 1944

**Bill Dunkak** died on January 11 in Scottsville, AZ, where he had lived since 1991. For the preceding 23 years, he lived in Honolulu. Dunkak enlisted in the Navy in 1944 and graduated from Yale in 1947. He retired from Merrill Lynch as a vice president.

**Donald E. Wolf** retired from civil engineering and since the mid-'90s has been indulging himself in the long-deferred career that he says he abandoned "(grudgingly) after a year as managing editor of *The Polygon*." His third book, *Crossing the Hudson*, will be published by Rutgers University Press in 2009. All three of his books are historical non-fiction, partially concerned with civil engineering.

## 1947

**Sheldon Kravitz** was re-elected president of Plus Media Buying Service, Inc., and elected to the board of directors of the Lauri Strauss Leukemia Foundation.

## 1948

**Richard Abouchar** died November 29, 2007, in Summit, NJ. He was retired president of J. Abouchar & Sons of New York. Abouchar served in the Army from 1953 to 1955, spending most of his tour in Korea. He later worked toward an economics PhD at NYU. He was a member of Central Presbyterian Church and enjoyed painting and sculpting. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy; children, Allison and Keith; brother, Edward; and grandchildren, Justin and Ryan Cross.

**Edward I. Barz** graduated from Brown. Initially to escape the draft, he enlisted in the Navy's Officer Candidate School Program, but he remained in the Navy, finally retiring as a lieutenant commander. Barz began an advertising career in 1957, and soon after married his first wife, Dierdre, with whom he had two daughters. Dierdre died just short of the couple's 40th wedding anniversary. Barz is remarried to Janet Marcus and has five grandchildren. He writes: "I remember Mr. Conover throwing erasers at inattentive students." Barz retired from business in 1994 as an executive vice president of sales at Simmons Market Research Bureau.

At Special Reunion, Dr. **Jules Baum** received a Distinguished Achievement Award from the Alumni Board of Governors. (See page 20.)

**Warren B. Cook Sr.** attended Hobart College with **Bob McShane** and served in Korea during 1951 and 1952, attaining the rank of Army sergeant. He and his wife, Joan, have two children, Warren Jr. and Marion. Cook spent 50 years in the insurance business as a

company manager and then as owner of his own agency in Ridgewood, NJ. Since 1985, he has served as president of a nonprofit group striving to gain official recognition of the scientific accomplishments of his uncle, explorer Dr. Frederick A. Cook. The society named for him believes Dr. Cook was the true discoverer of the North Pole.

**Richard A. Debs** is an advisory director at Morgan Stanley and a member of its International Advisory Board. He graduated summa cum laude from Colgate University and received his MA and PhD from Princeton as a Ford Foundation Fellow. Before joining Morgan Stanley, David Rockefeller persuaded him to serve as a pro-bono advisor to Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. Debs joined Morgan Stanley International as its president. He has remained active on the boards of many businesses and organizations, among them the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, and the New York Stock Exchange. Richard has been honored with awards from the Fulbright Association, the Arab-American Bankers Association, the National Academy of Design, and others. His wife is Barbara Knowles Debs.

Dr. **Hugo D. Freudenthal** has been a research fellow at the American Museum of Natural History, working on marine microorganisms; director of Aerospace Medicine at Fairchild Republic; vice president of environmental sciences at several consulting engineering firms; and president of his own environmental consulting firm. Freudenthal has won awards from NASA and the Explorers' Club, and



A watercolor self-portrait by Alan Roland '48.

has been a Poly Distinguished Alumnus. He fondly remembers running the projection booth in Chapel. Freudenthal is active in sailing, aviation, and the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

**Charles D. Kaufman** left public accounting to spend 10 years with IBM and 23 years with ITT as a financial executive. His work has taken him to Paris, London, Mexico City, and Belgium. Kaufmann retired to Scottsdale, AZ, in 1993. He writes: "I am doing volunteer work and enjoying horseback riding and skiing in Colorado."

Throughout his career, **Ellis R. Mottur** shaped public policy for science, technology, and innovation. He has worked as an assistant secretary of com-

merce in the Clinton administration and a principal advisor to Ted Kennedy on high-tech issues, and also helped found the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment. Mottur is retired; his favorite pastimes are politics, ballroom dancing, writing poetry, reading, golf, and playing with his grandchildren. At Poly, he won the John Woodward Professor Memorial Prize for highest scholarship and character commensurate therewith. Later honors include being a scholar at Woodrow Wilson International Center and a commendation letter from President Eisenhower. Mottur has one child, Alfred, and three grandchildren, Tommy, Caroline, and Teddy.

Dr. **Alan Roland** continues to practice and teach psychoanalytic therapy. He has published three books: *In Search of Self in India and Japan*; *Cultural Pluralism and Psychoanalysis*; and *Dreams & Drama*. Roland enjoys skiing, traveling, and theater, and he exhibits paintings and is working on a libretto, *Ahmed's Razor*. One of his watercolors recently received an award from the American Society for Contemporary Artists. He says he is fortunate to see his two children and grandson frequently.

## 1949

Class agent **Donald Conover** writes: "Recent years have been busy, interesting trips to Ireland, the Baltic countries, cruises in the Caribbean, and more exploration of our own country. Last year, we returned to the Southwest for a delightful reunion with John Howes '50 in Santa Fe, and then some fabulous hiking in Sedona. At home in Bucks County, Patti and I enjoy gardening, tennis, hiking, and stretching the old bones at yoga, as well as various community activities. . . . Since our last reunion, I have enjoyed seeing **Malcolm Bell** and **Dana Fearon**, exchanging Christmas notes with **Otis Pearsall**, and reliving Poly days by phone with **Jeffrey Rose**. It is fitting to note that, as a class, we can be proud of a continued record of leadership in alumni giving (highest-percent participation of classes in our decade). What a grand way to support the school that meant so much to each of us! Thank you, and let's try to beat our own record as we approach our sixtieth year since graduation. A final note: I encourage you to write something of your activities to share in these class notes. And, if you should learn

of any classmate's death, let me know at donpatcon@aol.com or (215) 968-0608."

**Paul Kravitz** was re-elected to the presidency of Boca Raton's Med-Gen, Inc.

## 1951

**Neil M. Levenson**, an accomplished pianist and composer, died January 7, 2007. **John Limpert Jr.** called Levenson "a child prodigy, with imposing credentials." Levenson studied with legendary pianist Moriz Rosenthal, well known as the last pupil of composer Franz Liszt. Limpert added that "Neil was the legitimate inheritor of this grand musical tradition," and told of being privileged to hear Neil play Chopin and Schubert in Chapel. **Peter Malkin** writes that Neil "frequently entertained the entire school at Chapel . . . . My recollection is of his fiery rendition of de Falla's *Firedance*. The entire rowdy student body, even the faculty, stayed quiet and alert through Neil's performances of this extraordinarily complicated piece." Levenson was also a songwriter, who wrote pop songs such as "Denise," which was recorded by Randy and the Rainbows and, later, Blondie.

Dr. **Stephen Sigler** died in November 2006. Classmate **Peter Malkin** writes: "Steve was first in our '51 class, first in our Harvard '55 class, and a graduate of Harvard Medical School. After a brilliant internship and residency at Mt. Sinai and St. Vincent's Hospitals in pediatric surgery, he gave up the highly competitive practice and moved to Sagaponack, NY, where he practiced for many years as a family pediatrician and built one of the first environmental sun-powered homes."



Class of 1953 Special Reunion attendees included (left to right, front to back, row 1) William Gershell, Bruce Bernstein, Harlow Parker, Peg Parker, Richard Fearon, (row 2) Alan Schechter, George Siegel, Harlan Stone, Allen Mottur, (row 3) Mark Abramowitz, Jim Crawford, Peter Liebert, Cliff Eriksen, (row 4) Ron Pohls, Henry Salzhauer, John McNeil, Arthur Bellinzoni, Richard Merhige, and Al Mushkin.

## 1953

**Howard I. Cohen's** son Darrel and daughter Sheri are both oncologists. His son Dan is an engineer at Intel.

**James L. Crawford's** primary non-business activity is golf. He works in investment management "20 percent of the time," and travels as often as he can: "a golf trip to Germany and Switzerland last summer. New Mexico to see our granddaughter Isabella and daughter-in-law in Albuquerque and Santa Fe." James feels lucky to have had such great Poly teachers. His favorite traditions were the Oasis Blue and Gray Competition and having fun with a wonderful bunch of guys.

From 1957 until retiring in 2000, **Clifford K. Eriksen** was an English teacher at numerous prep schools. His son Tim, whose work has been recorded for 25 CDs and two movies, is an ethnomusicologist teaching at Amherst, Dartmouth, and Hampshire

Colleges. Tim's Carnegie Hall debut was in February 2008. Eriksen's grandson Luka was Renée Zellweger's baby in *Cold Mountain*, one of the movies for which Tim recorded music. Eriksen's younger son, Ben, plays drums, builds wooden boats on Martha's Vineyard, and works as a graphic designer. Eriksen is active in church work and writing, with translations in nine languages. He enjoys traveling, gardening, his grandchildren, music, and theatre.



Cliff Eriksen '53.

At Special Reunion, **Ed Fein** received a Distinguished Achievement Award from the Alumni Board of Governors. (See page 20.)

Dr. **William J. Gershell** has practiced psychoanalysis, adult and geriatric psychiatry, and psychopharmacology, and has been listed for 17 years as one of the "Best Doctors in NYC." He has lectured internationally, helped found the American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry, and served as president for the New York Group for Geriatric Psychiatry. He is a Life Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association and a Fellow of the American Association of Geriatric Psychiatry and Gerontological Associations. Gershell has traveled to the Alps, North Africa, Europe, and the Antarctic. His pastimes include Shakespeare studies, swimming, and scuba diving. He remembers a Poly classmate whose excuse for chronic lateness was "Sorry,

prof, my donut got stuck in my coffee cup.”

Dr. **Robert A. Harwood** writes: “I retired from general surgery practice in 1995 and spent six and a half years with Ortho Biotech in clinical research. After another year in full retirement, I returned to part-time surgery as an assistant to two vascular surgeons. I recently hiked to the Havasupai Indian Reservation. I’m active in photography groups and becoming proficient in Adobe Photoshop.” Harwood has been married for 45 years and has a son, a daughter, and three grandchildren. He is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and emeritus associate professor of surgery at USC.

Dr. **Howard M. Jaffe** is a retired DDS and lives in Mt. Pleasant, SC, with his wife, Sondra.

After serving in the Army, **Peter M. Kalison** spent 40 years in marketing and advertising, mainly as a manager with Fortune 500 corporations. Now retired, his employers included Monsanto, Apple, and Sun Microsystems, where he received a Top Contributor Award. With his wife, Marsha, he has three daughters and seven grandchildren. Kalison is an active runner and tennis player and attends history classes at William and Mary, where he writes a column for the football program. In 2008, a wing in the new Laycock Football Building at William and Mary was named after him and his wife for service to the athletics department. Kalison fondly remembers singing the Poly song at the end of every Chapel. “We have always held Poly in our hearts and minds,” he writes.

Dr. **Robert Kirschner** writes: “Too long! Too many years! Too much! What I can say is

that, whenever we get together, it’s remarkable.”

**Leslie G. Leonetti** plays golf and collects U.S. Mint coin issues.

**Ron Pohls** has spent time in West Virginia, Texas, and Northern California, where he is retired. Pohls wrote with the sad news that **Al Rasch** died in 2002: “My images of Alan remain of the enthusiastic young man with a wonderful sense of humor and bow tie, who had an answer for everything.” Pohls and **Bruce Bernstein**, another classmate, direct alumni to Rasch’s *Polyglot* entry: “Class politician; staunch supporter of ‘de Kingfish’; even tries to out-talk Malina; ardent POD student; talks his way through courses.” Rasch is survived by his wife, Shelley.

**Henry E. Salzhauer** works at Benjamin Partners in New York City, where he lives with his wife, Susan.

**Harlan F. Stone II** is retired and living in Woodside, NY, with his wife, Helen.

After 36 years in pediatric practice, **Samuel Wilmit** left clinical medicine in 2002 and joined UnitedHealthcare as a full-time medical director. He has two children and three grandchildren, and continues to enjoy life with his wife of 50 years.

## 1955

On May 1, class members **Harry Petchesky, Paul Brown, Larry Lefkowitz, Jack Swift, Bill Gillen, Stu Mackler, Les Larsen, Bob Field, Joe Stella, Tony Junker** and **Peter Stone** gathered for a reunion dinner at Lattanzi in New York City.

## 1956

**Jim Flug** will teach this year as a visiting associate professor

and acting director of the Federal Legislation Clinic at Georgetown Law School.

**Dennis Fox** reports, “I retired from practicing law one year ago and am having no trouble adjusting. Have found quite a bit of volunteer work which, as you can imagine, is a lot easier on both the mind and body.”

**Ted Fuller** writes: “All is well in New Hampshire. Mary and I have moved into a new condo just a mile down the road . . . . Fortunately for us our kids are all doing well and our ten grandchildren are still young enough to visit and play. Fuller Communications, my executive counseling and coaching company, is still open . . . . I am starting a new business catering to school and college bookstores.”

**Peter Gilbert** writes from Washington, DC, that he practices law with the Export-Import Bank of the United States, including recent projects in India, Korea, Nigeria, and Turkey. Gilbert’s wife, Robin, specializes in international trade law. Gilbert reports that sailing in Chesapeake Bay has become a major activity for him and his son, Jeff.

**Mike Heitner** practices television sports and entertainment law and corporate finance transactions as “a gray-haired partner” at Herrick, Feinstein in Manhattan. He spends time skiing and sailing with his wife, Susie, at their home outside Stowe, VT, and enjoying visits with his two grandsons in Buenos Aires. Mike looked forward to celebrating his 70th birthday with **Chuck Kaufman, Bruce Ducker**, and **Neil Koreman** at a Dartmouth Class of 1960 birthday celebration in June. He reports sightings of **Jim Flug** and **Peter Gilbert**, who he says “are working and playing in true Poly style.”

**John Kells** works at NOWIRZ, providing computer solutions for customers and focusing on business development. The company is off to a great start working with various condominium projects, school systems, and hospitals. “In the tradition of **Gordy Bunsick**,” he writes, “the normal discount of 10 percent applies to all Poly referrals.”

**Eric Knutsen** reports: “Gail and I take great pleasure in hosting and visiting our four granddaughters, all of them residents of Brooklyn. After 30 years, I will no longer play Santa Claus at an annual Christmas party for kids, as our oldest granddaughter Olivia saw through my costume.”



Eric Knutsen '56 with two of his grandchildren.

**George Marks** writes: “Hi, '56ers and Poly friends. 2007 has been a traveling year: Spain, Italy, Yosemite, Montreal, and New England. For more details, please click on our Web site at [georgemarks.com](http://georgemarks.com). Hope 2008 is wonderful and healthy for all.”

Colonel **Landy T. Nelson** had the pleasure of seeing his daughter Sandra McNaughton promoted to lieutenant colonel, with his son Tom as emcee. McNaughton is an Army nurse practitioner serving in Kandahar, Afghanistan. His son Tom, who will be promoted to lieutenant colonel later this



Sandra McNaughton, daughter of Colonel Landy T. Nelson '56, has been promoted to lieutenant colonel.

year, is assigned to the Pentagon's Joint Staff. Along with Colonel Nelson's son-in-law Clint Kirk, Tom is a veteran of Iraq. Kirk, who is married to Nelson's daughter Julie, will be deployed to Iraq again in early 2009.

**Gene Sirianni** has sold his Victorian house in Saratoga Springs, NY, and purchased a one-floor townhouse. "I don't feel any guilt watching someone else working our lawns and plowing and shoveling our snow!" he says. "During our 50th Poly reunion, I hooked up with **Marsh Ryon**. We drove to Montreal and flew to Deer Lake, NL, and helicoptered to a remote camp. On our first day, Marsh took a bull moose."

**Harry Yates** writes: "I'll be 70 on May 21, when Sara and I will be in Paris, thanks to my employer, Edward Jones, rated by *Fortune* as the number-four employer in the country. They sent Sara and me to India last October. We saw the Taj Mahal

and lost four pounds each in two weeks. Can't beat that! I tend to forget things. Forgetting is not all bad, though. I now think I won every race I ran at Poly and Penn. Oops, I forgot. I didn't run at Penn."

## 1957

**Harvey Scheff** reports that the Class of 1957 held a mini-51st Reunion on April 4 in a lovely Long Island restaurant. Attendees included Scheff and his wife, Margie; **Michael Hyman** and his wife, Arlene; **George Malin** and his wife, Elaine; **Victor Rich** and his wife, Patty.

## 1958

**Robert S. Brower** says he found his niche on the side of a hill in Central Vermont. In addition to starting college (Woodbury College), Brower enjoys his family, gardening, studying dreams, and teaching yoga. "A big part of who I am," he writes, "is working for peace and

social justice." He has been in contact with **Mark Groothuis**, **John Sands**, **Anthony Valerio**, and **Rich Giustra**, all of whom he esteems greatly.

**Richard D. Coopersmith** went to Brown University and Columbia Law School. He began his career with 12 years at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, then joined his father's law firm. He writes: "It took a while to give up the bachelor life, but I finally got married when I was 39. My wife was worth waiting for—we laugh every day." Their son Hal also graduated from Brown and will join the family business. Richard says his fondest memory is of "watching coach Parker award my son the Ivy League Wrestling Trophy ... for four years wrestling at Horace Mann!"

**Dr. Barry A. Feldman** is a board-certified orthodontist who has practiced for 38 years in Cheshire, CT, where he lives with his wife, Fern. Both of their sons, David and Jonny, have practiced with Feldman for ten years. He enjoys skiing, golf, and computers.

**Edward B. Gradinger** has two children, Gary and Jackie, and two grandchildren, Ashley and Max. He and wife, Daryl, have been married for 44 years. After graduating from Brooklyn Law School in the top ten percent of his class, he worked for several television companies, including ABC, Columbia Pictures, and 20th-Century Fox. Among the many shows he produced were *MASH* and *The Wonder Years*. Gradinger also helped launch Fox Network. He writes: "The actors, actresses, producers and directors I have worked with, golfed with, dined with, and know personally are too numerous to list, but each has added some flavor to my life's experiences."

**Jeffrey Graham** vividly remembers Poly teachers Mr. Lucas, Dr. Kastendieck, Mr. Westfall, as well as the Form rooms, Chapel, and letter sweaters. Graham graduated from William and Mary with a law degree in 1965. After a brief period working for the Department of Justice, Graham accepted a commission in the Air Force as a judge advocate, with his first assignment "in the jungles of Dover, DE." Graham's work took him around the world, to such locations as Germany, Turkey, Greece, France, the South Pacific, and Antarctica. His specialties have included medical malpractice, military construction, space, and intelligence. Graham retired to Colorado Springs in 1992 and has since been in private practice. With Helen, his wife of 30 years, he has two sons, Jeff and Andrew. Graham writes: "I often think of Poly and what a rare opportunity it was for all of us. I read about the modern Poly and know it must be great, but the Poly of '58 is frozen in my mind as the real Poly Prep."

**Ed Khouri** of Palm Springs, CA, died October 21, 2007. Khouri received his BS from Wharton School of Business and served in the U.S. Army Reserves while pursuing a career in the entertainment industry. Starting at the William Morris Agency in the mailroom, Khouri worked his way up to director of human resources before retiring in 1989. Upon leaving, he began a career in kitchen design, and in 1998 was recruited by Lowe's to open a new store in Piscataway, NJ. In 2001, he transferred to Palm Springs and became one of the most sought-after kitchen designers in the Coachella Valley. Khouri is survived by his



Class of 1958 Special Reunion attendees included (left to right, front to back, row 1) Alan Newman, Richard Giustra, Barry Feldman, Roger Wagner, (row 2) Robert Robinson, H.R. Thayer, Edward Reiss, Bill Drucker, Mark Groothuis, (row 3) Marvin Lerman, Christophil Costas, C.D. Elligers, S.A. Manne, John Sands, Ralph Gallo, Joseph Giardina, (row 4) Edward Jeffer, Eugene Spiritus, Howard Siegel, Robert Brower, Fred Levine, and Anthony Valerio.

wife, Stacie, and children, Scott and Christie.

**Marvin S. Lerman** is a founding partner of Rosenbaum Lerman & Katz PC. With his wife, Terry, he has two children, Scott and Stacey. Josh and Jake are his grandchildren. Lerman enjoys playing bridge, reading, and traveling. Among his awards are the Bronze Star for distinguished service in the Vietnam War and a Service Award from the NYU Law School Alumni Association.

During 35 years with Columbia Pictures, **S.A. Manne** lived in Brazil, Italy, France, Portugal, and—“most daunting”—Los Angeles. His son, Simon Henry Manne, was born in 2000. Manne is a member of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences; the British Academy of Film and Television Arts; and the Motion Picture Pioneers/Will Rogers Foundation.

Although **Alan Newman** and his wife, Ali, are planning to

retire, he is active part-time as the president of Crosscurrents Publications, LLC. The couple’s son Matt just returned from Kansai-Gadai University in Japan and recently graduated from Union College. Newman writes: “I play at least 150 rounds of golf each year, including during the winter!” His skill designing board games was recently recognized with a nomination for 2008 Best Family Strategy Game from *Games* magazine. His favorite Poly tradition was eraser hockey.

**Arthur L. Rebell** reports: “After three years of law, I joined Wertheim (later Schroder), where I was for 28 years. At the end, I was on the Executive Committee and was responsible for all investment banking. In 1997, I left and, after teaching mergers and acquisitions at NYU Graduate School of Business, I joined Loew’s. I am on the Board of Diamond Off-shore, chairman of Boardwalk

Pipelines. I have three children and two grandchildren.” Rebell enjoys golf, skiing, and music.

**Edward A. Reiss** graduated from Bucknell University in 1962, served in the Army from 1962 until 1964, and became a member of the American Stock Exchange in 1968. His

son, Joseph, will graduate from Fordham Law in 2010. Erica, his daughter, will graduate from Boston University next year. Reiss is active in several service organizations, including the YMHA and Jewish Home and Hospital.

**Anthony Valerio** attended Columbia University, where “the great Voltarean Jean Sareil took me under his stylish French wing.” While traveling in Italy and Spain, Valerio began to write, and he published his first story, “The Skyjacker,” in *The Paris Review*. Valerio was a staff editor at McGraw-Hill and Softcover Library, and edited writers such as Shel Silverstein and Toni Cade Bambara. His own books include *The Mediterranean Runs Through Brooklyn*, *Valentino and the Great Italians*, and *Lefty and the Button Men*. He has read and taught at writers’ conferences and creative writing programs at NYU, CUNY, and Wesleyan. Valerio has four grandchildren, including new Poly student Stella Tannen ’22. He recently crossed paths with **Ed Jeffer**, **Bob Brower**, **Ed Reiss**, and **John Sands**.



Class of 1963 Special Reunion attendees included (left to right, front row) Larry Denmark, Michael Krinsky, Stewart Rahr, (back row) Jim Steinberg, Arthur Richman, and Warren Appelman.



## 1959

**Robert Bero**, artist and printmaker, died at his home in Tuxedo Park, NY, on June 24. Bero received his BFA at the Pratt Institute and later graduated from Yale with an MFA. He taught at SUNY Potsdam, Brown University, and SUNY Purchase. Critic John Canaday wrote in *The New York Times* that “Bero’s enormous woodcuts, years in the making and days in the printing, expand the horizons of printmaking.” Bero’s work has been exhibited at the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Institute, and Yale, among other places.

## 1963

Dr. **Victor M. Zion** has five children and two grandchildren and loves retirement.

## 1965

**Rob Ratzan** recently released a new album, *Mystereality*, which can be heard at [www.cdbaby.com/all/ratzan](http://www.cdbaby.com/all/ratzan).

## 1968

**George Couri** runs a large international rug company.

**Richard B. Eckhaus** is a semi-retired freelance writer living in Alameda, CA, with his wife, Kate. After working as a stage technician, Eckhaus began writing for film and television, regularly contributing to programs such as *The Jeffersons*, *Welcome Back, Kotter*, *Diff’rent Strokes*, and *Angie*, and feature films. He was a Humanitas Prize nominee for his work on *The Jeffersons*. From 1991 to 2005, he taught at Boston University and the University of Maine, and he wrote a media/humor column for *The Boston Phoenix*. He and his wife settled in the San Francisco Bay Area in 2005.



Class of 1968 Special Reunion attendees included (left to right, front to back, row 1) Keith Shafel, Fred Jabara, Ira Turret, John Kaldi, Bob Shelala, (row 2) Vincent Vigorita, Mike Seligman '69, retired faculty guest Ralph Herreros, Jay Innes, Jay Brandt, (row 3) Mike Jacobs, Mitch Bedell, Bruce Johannessen, Harry Ottaway, and Ron Haddad.

**Ronald Haddad** worked at NYU for ten years as a research scientist in the field of human tumor immunology. Since 1982, he has taught high school science in Blairstown, NJ, and Boulder, CO. He and his wife, Eileen Faughey, were married in 1985. Haddad writes: “Since college, I have had an intense interest in the outdoors: cycling, backpacking, fishing, and backcountry skiing. We have been involved in environmental issues since the 1970s. I have been the recipient of two Outstanding Science Teacher Awards from Sigma Xi, the national research society. I am most grateful to chemistry teacher Mr. Weinroth for encouraging me in science and for getting me to behave like a human being in class.”

**Paul Homsy** is an accomplished international lawyer specializing in the Middle East.

**Peter Sessa**, the first Poly swim captain under coach Ed Ruck, spoke at an April dinner held in honor of Ruck’s 40th and final year at Poly. (See page 10.) Sessa said that his former coach helped earn his team their first winning season, 6-3.

**Robert M. Shelala** has two daughters, both out of college and married, and a son who graduated from college with honors. Shelala enjoys skiing and sailing and recently sailed to Alaska with Scott Miller '67.

Dr. **Vincent J. Vigorita**, chairman of the Poly Prep Board of Trustees, writes: “Our greatest joys are the personal and professional growth of our children: Vincent, 15, in his first year at the Hotchkiss School; Tommy, 12, who plays guitar and piano; stepson J.W., 29, who works for the Indianapolis Colts and is engaged to be married; and stepdaughter Jenni, 26, who is a sports documentary producer



Vincent Vigorita '68 and his wife, Patty.

based in Chicago. Four healthy and accomplished children—we are blessed!” Vigorita fondly remembers eloquent lectures from Miles Kastendieck, the Bears speaking contest, and productions by David Winder.

## 1970

**Lennox E. Montrose** composed, arranged, and produced the songs that make up the album *Euphoria*, by artist Monty Guy. The CD was included in the 50th Grammy Awards Entry List Process, and garnered 12 credits, included Album of the Year, Record of the Year, and Producer of the Year. At Poly, Montrose participated in track, for which he won a Scoboria Trophy; in soccer (as captain); in the Art Club; and in the cheerleading squad during boosting assemblies. He has also served as a member of the Alumni Board of Governors. He attended the University Of Pennsylvania and graduated from the Wharton School.

## 1973

**Steven Barenfeld** spent nine years at the *New York Post* and five years at ESPN. He has



Class of 1973 Special Reunion attendees included (left to right, front to back, row 1) Jeff Rifkin, David Smith, Donald Leibner, James Oussani, Bob Plotz, (row 2) Joe Murphy, retired faculty guest Ralph Herreros, Rich Shapiro, Richard Saltzman, (row 3) Ed Ruck, George Brown, Marty Gottlieb, and Stuart Weiss.

worked in advertising sales for the past 10 years. Steven and his family celebrate every New Year's Eve with his best friend, Louis Harrison '74.

**Byron L. Moger** and his wife, Amy, live in Florida and have three children: Ariel, 17, who is applying to college in New York; Andrew, 11, who likes to sail; and Aidan, 8, who likes to ride horses. Moger is executive director of Cushman & Wakefield's Multifamily Brokerage Service. His interests include sailing and flying.

After graduating from Yale Law School, **Robert L. Plotz** was briefly a law clerk for U.S. District Judge Edward Weinfeld in Manhattan. After working for two years at a large New York law firm, he became an Assistant United States Attorney in Manhattan, where he served for more than five years investigating and prosecuting narcotics and securities violations. For the last 19 years, he has been a litigator in private practice at Orans, Elsen, Lupert & Brown LLP. He lives in Park Slope with his wife, Sue, and three sons. His son Ben '07 is pre-med at University of Chicago. His son

John '09 is a talented pianist. His son Mike is in ninth grade at St. Ann's, where he is active in photography and filmmaking.

At Special Reunion, **Richard Saltzman** received a Distinguished Achievement Award from the Alumni Board of Governors. (See page 20.)

## 1974

**Tim Hollister** published an article, "My 9/11 Lesson," in the *Hartford Courant*. The article was inspired by his Poly classmate **Andrew Rosenblum**, who died in the September 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center. Rosenblum, he writes, taught him "the power of optimism and humor."

## 1975

**Ira Feldman** had an article in the fall 2007 *Sustainable Development Law & Policy*: "Preparing for The Day After Tomorrow: Frameworks for Climate Change."

Dino Veronese P'82 reports that his nephew, lieutenant colonel **Sherman R. McGrew**, was married on October 26,

2007, before beginning his present tour of duty with the Army Reserves in Iraq. McGrew and his wife, Tove, were married in Brooklyn and now live in the Netherlands. This is Sherman's second time in Iraq, where he is a lawyer in civil affairs in Baghdad. Poly attendees at the wedding included Frank Jenks '69 and William Veronese '82, the groom's cousin.

**Kenneth Simurro** writes: "In May 2008, I will receive my DMin degree from the



Lieutenant Colonel Sherman R. McGrew '75 was married on October 26, 2007, before returning to duty in Iraq.

Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia. It's only taken ten years, but who's counting? This is also 25 years since I received my MDiv from the same institution. In October, I will have been ordained for 25 years. It was a huge pleasure to share Mr. Ruck's retirement celebration. Godspeed, Mr. Ruck!"

**Harold Theurer**, past president of the Alumni Board of Governors, spoke at an April dinner in honor of coach Ed Ruck's 40th and final year at Poly Prep. (See page 10.) Theurer offered amusing reminiscences and expressed tremendous gratitude to Ruck, who has served as his teacher, coach, and best man.

## 1978

Dr. **Egils K. Bogdanovics** lives in Litchfield, CT, where he has a private endocrinology practice and runs a diabetes center. He fondly remembers moving closer and closer to the front and center of Chapel as his eight years at Poly went by.

**Robert P. Gallagher** is associate director of music at St. David's Episcopal Church in Wayne, PA, where he lives with his wife, Phyllis.



Class of 1978 Special Reunion attendees included (left to right, front to back, row 1) Joseph Aievoli, Robert Sicurelli, Albert Dauro, David Scholar, Robert Gallagher, (row 2) Michael Mazzola, Gregg Caserta, Adam Roberts, Frank Galtieri, (row 3) Lawrence Brandman, Egils K. Bogdanovics, Daniel Parnassa, Tod Greenfield, and Evan Vogel.

**David A. Scholar** lives in Scotch Plains, NJ, with his wife, Debi. Scholar works as a senior IT specialist for IBM.

### 1979

**George Pearlman** reports that his mother, Lucy Pearlman, has died: "I know that many in the

Poly community have fond memories of her, and she so enjoyed the years she worked at Poly Prep." Pearlman runs a contemporary ceramics gallery

and studio, St. George Pottery, in St. George, ME. His work has appeared in shows at the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Decordova Museum of Art, and the Montclair Art Museum. He recently visited with **Warren Gunther** in Seattle, where he spent a day at the zoo with him and his seven-year-old son, Jack. Pearlman also visited **David Bezahler** and his wife, Amber, at their home in Vancouver, BC. Pearlman writes: "I treasure these lifelong friendships that first started in fifth grade at Poly in 1971."

### 1980

**David S. Schuman** is an attorney-advisor with NASA Goddard Space Flight Center. He and his wife Miriam (Kleinerman) '82 attended Ed Ruck's April retirement

# Calling All Alumni

Have you moved recently? Have you changed your name or your e-mail address? Let Poly know!

In addition to the **Poly Prep Magazine**, Poly sends out numerous important mailings each year, including invitations to Homecoming, Special Reunion, regional receptions, and special events. Poly also sends alumni the monthly e-newsletter **The Polycam**, which is filled with news stories about happenings on campus, updates about classmates, and features about faculty members. If you have changed your mailing or e-mail address, let us know so we can stay in touch!



Send Poly your current contact information by e-mailing associate director of alumni relations Maria DiNaso at [mdinaso@polyprep.org](mailto:mdinaso@polyprep.org) or calling (718) 836-9800, ext. 3090.



Class of 1983 Special Reunion attendees included (left to right, front row) E.J. Antonio, Karen (Govertsen) Schaepe, Andrew Klapper, Harris Gertz, (back row) Rich Merhige, John Bonina, Bill Mott, and Claudio Caballero.

dinner. Schuman writes that he missed this spring's DC Alumni Reception because he was busy cheering on Miriam, who ran the Boston Marathon. "One of the great benefits of Poly's athletics program is that it fosters lifelong habits. Thanks to Paul Raso and Ed Ruck, our family continues to stay very active."

## 1981

On May 24, **Edwin Antonucci** and his wife became the proud parents of Ryan Edwin Antonucci, 7 pounds, 14 ounces.

## 1982

**Dino Veronese** reports that his nephew, Lieutenant Colonel Sherman R. McGrew '75 was married on October 26, 2007, before beginning his present tour of duty with the Army Reserves in Iraq. Poly attendees at the wedding included Frank Jenks '69 and **William Veronese**, the groom's cousin.

## 1983

**John Bonina** lives with his wife, Patricia, in Brooklyn Heights, and works as a partner at Bonina & Bonina PC. He is president of the New York State Academy of Trial Lawyers. American Lawyer Media and

*New York Magazine* have named him one of the best lawyers in New York, and Martindale Hubbell rated him as an AV-level attorney, for professional excellence. John coaches the teams of his sons, John William and Nicholas, at the 78th Precinct Youth Council.

**Gail Henderson-Belsito** writes *my life's journey*, an inspirational blog, at silvermine.blogspot.com.

In 2007, after 15 years on Wall Street, **Edward F. Monahan** retired to Kiawah Island, SC.

Major **William Mott** spent four years at IBM as a technical writer. For 16 years, he has served as an Army personnel officer. He has two daughters, Morgan, 8, and Lauren, 5.

## 1984

In October 2007, **Rob Carvalho** and family dedicated a new Poly classroom in honor of Carvalho's mother, Anita, a longtime math teacher at the school.

In January, **Doug Jabara** visited Poly's Glee Club and sang several songs, among them bits from *La Traviata* and Gilbert and Sullivan's "I Am a Pirate King." After his performance, the singer talked to students about the differences between

Broadway, operetta, and opera styles. (See page 4.) Jabara sang at the Mineola Choral Society's 60th Anniversary Celebration in January at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Garden City, NY. The Mineola Choral Society is directed by Tom Jones, long-time head of Poly's Performing and Visual Arts Department and husband of performing arts teacher Sonya Baehr.

## 1985

**Steven Kessler** and Sarah Sarina Gordon welcomed Tobias Glen Kessler (7 lbs. 11 oz.) to the family on March 11.



Tobias Glen, son of Steven Kessler '85.

## 1986

**Drew Koven's** business, Geoff & Drew's Incredible Cookie Company, was honored in May by the Junior Achievement Boston Business Hall of Fame. The company was cited for its outstanding corporate citizenship and for furthering Junior Achievement's mission to teach students about business, financial literacy, and work-force readiness.

## 1987

**Thomas Fritsch**, captain of coach Ed Ruck's final soccer team, attended Ruck's April retirement dinner. Fritsch took the podium to pay tribute to Ruck, who volunteered his time before school every morning to teach Fritsch to swim. (See page 10.)

## 1988

**Stella Angelakos** is running a successful human resources consultancy and just finished her master's at Columbia.

**Christos Athanitis** graduated from Lehigh University with his MS in manufacturing systems engineering. He works as a global commodity manager at Black & Decker in Annapolis, MD. He and his wife Lindsey have two boys, Loukas and Nicholas.

**Matthew Bracco** works for the Bank of Tokyo and lives in Atlanta with his wife, Ann. The couple has two children, Matthew, 2, and Katie, 1.

**Cynthia (Cheswick) Capone** recently traveled with her family to Sardinia and Munich. "We went to a different, gorgeous beach every day. The weather was absolutely perfect."

**Melissa Davidson-Grimes** graduated from SUNY Albany with a master's in information science. "I was interested in going back to school, post-Internet, having gotten my BA pre-Internet. I am now looking for a full-time library position. I live in Ulster County, NY, but am looking for a warmer climate."

**Samantha L. DiGennaro's** favorite Poly tradition was hearing Dr. Patterson read



Lindsay Noelle and Alexis Lynn, daughters of Todd Prager '88.

“There never was such a goose.”

**Alexander S. Polonsky** married in 1999 and has four children: Moshe, 6; twins Taylor and Maddie, 2; and Benjamin, 5 months. He practices nuclear regulatory law at Morgan Lewis in Washington, DC, and has co-authored the book *Fundamentals of Nuclear Regulation in the United States*. He stays in touch with **Dale Kulick** and **Dave Siegfeld**.

Dr. **Todd Prager** graduated from NYU College of Dentistry in 1996 and, after a residency at Staten Island University Hospital, founded Allied Dental Practices. He and his wife, Michelle, have two daughters: Alexis Lynn, 5, and Lindsay Noelle, 1. The family lives in Holmdel, NJ.

Dr. **Joanne (Siu) Post** is a physician with Peninsula Kidney Associates. She and her husband, Ronnie, moved to Virginia in 2001 so he could honor his military commitment. The couple ended up liking it there and stayed. “We

miss New York, though, and welcome any visitors!” Post writes. She and her husband keep busy with their three small children.

**George Venetoklis** married Kalliope Tsrilakis, a pediatric pulmonologist, and now works as president of Emmons Enterprises Corp., doing business as El Greco Diner-Restaurant-Café.

## 1990

Three films directed by **Rebecca Feldman** were screened in New York recently. Feldman co-wrote and starred in *A/V Club*, a film shot on Poly’s campus. The film was screened on a double bill with *Uber Alice* at the Chashama Film Festival in May. The third film, the award-winning *My First Time Driving*, was written by Liz Feldman ’95 and screened at Newfest in June.

**Francesca Susino-Lilikakis** and her husband, Stamati, are the proud parents of Michael John Lilikakis, born April 25,



Talia Grace and Michael John, children of Francesca Susino-Lilikakis '90.

2007. Susino-Lilikakis’s uncle Anthony Sgarlato ’74, aunt Sandra Susino ’91, and cousin Louise Imbesi ’85 celebrated the birth, along with Michael’s big sister, Talia Grace, 2.

## 1991

**Jessica (Lasher) Brooks** writes: “All is well here in Westfield, NJ. With husband, Peter, and daughter Aden, we welcomed Avery Samantha Brooks into the world on July 5, 2007. She is great, and life is wonderful!”



Aden and Avery, daughters of Jessica (Lasher) Brooks '91.

## 1993

**Anmarie Bommarito** is the mother of two beautiful boys.

**Jean Mary Bongiorno** says, “So much has happened in 15 years! I attended and graduated from Franklin & Marshall College in Lancaster, PA. Raz and Mrs. DeRuiter attended my graduation as a surprise. I’ve worked at the Brooklyn Museum of Art, the Guggenheim, Sotheby’s, the Peabody Essex, and now the Museum of Modern Art, where I met my husband-to-be!”

**Nicole T. Bonica** asks: “Whatever happened to the Blue Devil mascot uniform? I think Senior Herreros has it.” Among her favorite Poly memories are Oasis Night and throwing clay at the fans in ceramics class.

**Eugene Buono** has a one-year-old named Sam. **Johnny Giacalone** is the godfather.

**Jennifer (Goykhman) Polovetsky** is an attorney with Tuchman, Korngold, Weiss, Lippman & Gelles, LLP. She is married to Alex Polovetsky.

**Frank Scotto** has a son, Frankie Jr.

Dr. **Vanessa (Solar) Hagan** and her husband, John, are the proud parents of Dylan, 4.

After graduating from Villanova with a finance degree, **Christine L. (Kando) Szabo**



Class of 1988 Special Reunion attendees included (left to right, front to back, row 1) Daniel McElhinney, Ernest Vidal, Samantha DiGennaro, Matthew Bracco, Todd Prager, (row 2) Joanne Siu-Post, Cynthia (Cheswick) Capone, Cara Lynn Cuite, (row 3) Lisa Wall, Laura Krausman, Stella Angelakos, Victoria (Hasson) Zannotto, Donna Merhige-Petrick, Jennifer Santo, Erika (Boccio) Farrell, Jodi (Coates) Fairbairn, (row 4) Jeffrey Ferraro, Christos Athanitis, Jeffrey Welger, Renato Stabile, Ethan Litwin, Stephen Petrick, Rob Sturtz, and George Venetoklis.



Class of 1993 Special Reunion attendees included (left to right, front row) Christine (Kando) Szabo, Jean Mary Bongiorno, (back row) Alexandra Spessot, Anmarie (D'Alessio) Bommarito, and Maria Plantilla.

pursued a career in investment management, but left to be a stay-at-home mom. Szabo writes: "It was a big sacrifice, but well worth it. This gave me the opportunity to start my own business, Errands on the Go, LLC, four years ago. I work as a professional organizer and errand runner. The business has grown nicely and I now have a team of errand runners."

**James Vavas** lives with his wife, Vicky, in Brooklyn, NY, where he is president of Vavas Insurance and Financial Services. The couple has a son, Daniel James Vavas, born June 23, 2006.

## 1994

In 2007, **Dan Fogler** starred in *Balls of Fury*. He has also written and directed a play, *Elephant in the Room* (inspired by Eugène Ionesco's *Rhinoceros*), which played last summer at the Bleecker Street Theatre. Fogler voices two characters in the movie cartoon *Horton Hears a Who*.

**Peter Poulakakos**'s business ventures, in particular his bar Ulysses, were featured in a *New York Times* article about the revival of lower Manhattan's commercial and residential life. He recently

opened Gold Street, a restaurant that never closes.

## 1995

**Mark Ahasic** is an MBA candidate at the Kellogg School of Business at Northwestern University, where he received the ENO Transportation Foundation Leadership Development Fellowship.

**Abrielle (Benkel) Salloway** and her husband, William, had a daughter, Leah Isabel Salloway, on January 14, 2007.

**Meredith (Norfolk) Bland** and her husband, Michael, are the proud parents of twins Benjamin William and Megan Lynn, born February 6, 2008.



(Left to right) Dan Fogler '94, his parents Shari and Richard Fogler, and Jodie Capes at the Hollywood premiere of *Balls of Fury* in August 2007.

**Michael Errigo**'s wife, Courtney, gave birth to Chloe Anna on March 1, 2007.

## 1996

**Mana Behbin** married Richard Evans Jr. on May 12, 2007.

**Thomas Yu** was recently the subject of a *TimeOut New York* feature. The article, "Justice League," listed him as one of the next generation of civil-rights action heroes. Yu, whose family was homeless in Hong Kong and who lived in public housing much of his life, is the director of housing development with Asian Americans for Equality.

## 1997

**Leah Horowitz**, a Poly theatre alumna and Clark Award winner, stepped into the role of Cosette in the recent Broadway revival of *Les Misérables*. Horowitz made her Broadway debut in *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, appeared in *Fiddler on the Roof* with Harvey Fierstein, and was a member of the Broadway casts of *The Woman in White* and *La Cage aux Folles*.

Dr. **Tom Baehr-Jones**, son of drama teacher Sonya Baehr and former arts department head Thomas W. Jones, has moved to

the University of Washington in Seattle to help start a new nanophotonics lab. Jones creates programs that synthesize electromagnetic fields and has written papers exploring the challenges of sending information along beams of light.

## 1998

**Francis Barbieri** married Nicole Frenkel.

**Christopher Bruno** studied economics at Williams College and works as an executive vice president of FullTurn Media, Inc.

**Adam Dumey** is engaged to Stephanie Tramontana. He will receive his MBA from Duke University's Fuqua School of Business.

**Robert P. Kallinicos** married Jennifer Joyce in 2003.

**Frances J. Messano** has studied and worked in business. For four years, he was employed at Morgan Stanley in equity derivative sales, and later matriculated at Harvard Business School to study marketing. He has recently sung back-up vocals for a number of bands and climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro. He fondly remembers Christmas Chapel and "The Twelve Days of Christmas."

**Mary-Breen O'Connor** is a researcher at the Rutgers University Cell and DNA Repository. Before working at Rutgers, she worked at the Chief Medical Examiners Office in New York City, using genetic analysis to help identify victims of the World Trade Center attack. She has a daughter, Grace, 2, and is studying for a master's in social work.

**Allison Rizzuti** worked in the record industry at Atlantic Records for two years before starting medical school at SUNY Downstate College of



Class of 1998 Special Reunion attendees included (left to right, front to back, row 1) Julius Nasso, Nicole Barbieri, Raneeh Jaber, (row 2) Lillian Feldman, Michele Yuras-Jaber, Allison Rizzuti, Jennifer Greene, Danielle Lissance, Frances Messano, MaryBreen O'Connor, (row 3) Ali Ouni, Ray Guarini, Josh Rosenthal, Chris Bruno, Francis Barbieri, John Barone, David Cerutti, (row 4) Wil Acosta, Al Zirino, Adam Tosto, Jason D'Amelio, James Valentino, Ted Hart, and Adam Dumey.

Medicine. Her favorite Poly tradition is Christmas Chapel.

**Erica Saviano** married Bobby Tsioutas in November 2007 at Cipriani in Manhattan. Her brother, Frank Saviano '99, **Marisa Passafiume**, and Lauren McElroy '00 were in the bridal party. **Stella Koutros**, Sal Vacarro '99, Joseph LaFemina '99, Will Karczewski '99, Christine Sforzo '99, and Andria Castellano '00 attended.

**Lauren Tafuri** is a wardrobe stylist in California.

**Adam Tosto** acts and models full-time. He recently had starring roles in a short film, *Indecent Space*, and in an off-Broadway production of *Much Ado About Nothing*. He lives in Prospect Heights, Brooklyn, with his girlfriend and two dogs. He recalls Mr. Stone once calling him a "double jerk" in Shakespeare class.

**James F. Valentino** attended University of Pennsylvania Law School from 2002 to 2005. He works as a litigation associate at Cahill, Gordon & Reindel.

**Albert Zirino** is an engineer at Flack and Kurtz. He writes:

"**Ray Guarini** and **Jason D'Amelio** were inducted into the 18th Avenue Hall of Fame back in 2002. I think they would be too shy to let anyone know of their achievement."

## 1999

**Christine Sforzo** is engaged to **Will Karczewski**, who proposed at Poly in November 2007.

## 2000

In April, **Noah Aberlin** appeared in New York City Opera's production of *Candide*. After graduating from Poly, Aberlin earned his BFA in musical theatre from Syracuse University. He has since performed in shows across the United States and Canada. *Candide* was Aberlin's first opera performance.

Lieutenant **Brian M. Hart** is doing his first tour in Iraq. His classmates write to wish him well and thank him for his support.

**Matthew Murumba** performed in *The Moonlight Room*,

by Tristine Skyler, at the Bank Street Theatre in February. The show also marked his first foray into producing. Murumba returned to Poly this year for Community and Diversity Day, as part of the education component of theatre company Stage 13.

## 2001

**Leona (Kotlyar) Shnyder** married Garry in summer 2008. She is a junior at University of Buffalo School of Dental Medicine.

In June 2005, after a year at the University of Aix, **Genevieve Waite** graduated cum laude from Bates College. Her honors thesis (in French) examined trends of post-9/11 American tourism in southern France. After graduation, she taught English to children in Aix-en-Provence and Manosque for two years and is currently under contract with Hatier Publishers to produce a textbook. Waite sends best wishes to her Poly friends and invites them to get in touch if they visit the Luberon, Vaucluse, Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur regions.

## 2002

**Christine Capone** spoke at an April dinner in honor of coach Ed Ruck's 40th and final year at Poly. Capone recalled Ruck's signature whistling, which, according to her, he could sustain for an entire 6-minute race. (See page 10.)

**Frankie Nasso** produced the film *Officer Down*, which was screened at the Staten Island Film Festival in June. Directed by Richard Recco, the movie won the award for Best Short Film in the Babelgum Online Film Festival at Cannes in May.

## 2003

**Marsha Bannister** graduated cum laude a semester early from Georgetown University. She is studying public policy at Harvard's Kennedy School. She writes: "I remember trying to dye Mr. Oliveras's hair red when we went to Spain, but it only ended up turning his scalp pink for the rest of the trip. What a good sport!"

**Jesse Campoamor** is lead community organizer for the Healthcare Education Project, a joint initiative of the Greater New York Hospital Association and 1199 SEIU United Healthcare Workers East.

**Anthony Ciccone** received his BS in information systems management from Quinnipiac University. He works at Pepsi Bottling Group as an IT business analyst, has volunteered for United Way and Habitat for Humanity, and helped raise money for AIDS awareness. He lives in White Plains.

**Matt Dresher** went to Bowdoin College. A former captain of Poly's squash team, Dresher works at Greenwich Academy in Connecticut, whose squash team has been rated best in the country. Dresher will bring



Class of 2003 Special Reunion attendees included (left to right, front to back, row 1) Lydia Popper, Meekaelle Joseph, Maxine Donskoi, Marsha Bannister, Leah Sherman, Shanell Bryan, Emily Rubin, (row 2) Kazmira Pytlak, Dominique Zirino, Jennifer Romanelli, Oksana Magomedova, Julia Morrison, Sigourney Chin, Amanda Ammirato, (row 3) Maria Marinakis, Peter Rocco, Alexis (Abbracciamento) Bruno, Allison Reddy, Beth Becker, Amanda Atallah, Amanda Owaid, Serena Vaccarino, Rachel Shafer, Nandita Kripanidhi, (row 4) Kathryn Aberlin, Susannah Kalb, Kirk Deligiannis, Anthony Ciccone, Mark Kleynerman, Rob Francis, Jonathan Bracci '02, Vanessa King-Jones, (row 5) Christopher Mihal, Tristan O'Donnell, Ketan Bhalla, Jesse Richman (guest), Michael Falotico, Paul Nolan, Andres Dass Patacsil, and Robert Shelala.

Greenwich Academy's middle school squash team to play against Poly.

**Jason Goldstein** is majoring in management.

**Nicole Grillos** recently worked as an usher at the Broadway show *Curtains*, with occasional stints at Valentino Fashion Group. She writes: "I audition a lot, I sing, and I do not dance. I traveled to Europe for a month in April and visited London (after spending five weeks there for study abroad while in school), Paris, Amsterdam, Copenhagen, Prague, Krakow, Vienna, and Salzburg."

**Diana Ioannides** is substituting at public schools in New York.

**Leah Sherman** plays squash at George Washington University.

## 2004

**Idriz Bauta** is an offensive lineman for the Villanova Wildcats.

**Cassandra Cona** graduated from Claremont McKenna College in December and began graduate work at Loma Linda University a month later.

She is director of the Pomona College Youth Radio Program at 88.7 FM, KSPC, which provides mentoring and workshops to underprivileged Los Angeles high schoolers. Several of her undergraduate compositions were published by Inkwater Press in the anthology *The Best of Civilization*. She lives in San Diego, CA.

**Minoo Fadaifard** plays squash for Brown University.

**Naheem Harris** plays football for the University of Pennsylvania as a defensive lineman. In 2007, he was

first-team All-Ivy for the second year.

Last year at the University of Pennsylvania, **Will Milne** played on an offensive line that led the Ivy League and finished seventh nationally in sacks allowed per game.

A concert violinist since the age of six, **Jesus Reina** has performed in some of the world's great concert halls, most recently with the Symphonic Orchestra of Barcelona and the National Arts Centre Orchestra of Canada. He has played the Royal Festival Hall and



Former Blue Devils faced off on the field at Villanova in September: (left to right) Naheem Harris '04 (playing for UPenn), Imer Bauta '06 (Villanova), Will Milne '04 (UPenn), and Idriz Bauta '04 (Villanova).

Wigmore Hall in London, and Carnegie and Steinway Halls in New York City.

## 2005

**Jerome Giovinazzo** recently played squash for Amherst against Brown University. The Brown squash line-up included fellow Poly alums Minoo Fadaifard '04 and Evan Besser '05. Tom Rapisarda '07 is among Giovinazzo's Amherst teammates. In the end, Brown won, but not before Giovinazzo scored a point for Amherst.

In 2008, **Kristy McLean** led the Bentley College Falcons in three-pointers, steals, and scoring, with an average of 11 points per game.

**John Roelofs** has been elected drumline captain and vice president of the Duke University marching band.

## 2006

**Imer Bauta** is a civil engineering major at Villanova University, where he is an offensive lineman for the Wildcats.

## 2007

Former squash teammates **Evan Besser** and **Tom Rapisarda** recently faced each other across the court in college play. Besser, who now plays for Brown University, beat Amherst's Rapisarda, helping Brown to a victory.

**Cosima Higham** led the Bucknell women's basketball team to victory in this year's Patriot League Tournament. Higham dominated the court, going 4-for-4 from the floor and finishing with 10 points, six rebounds, three blocked shots, and three steals in 21 minutes. The fifth-seeded Bucknell's 57-45 victory over Holy Cross captured the program's second league championship.



**FACULTY NOTES**

History teacher **Michael Bass** will visit Cambodia with Teachers Across Borders this summer. During the trip, he will lead a workshop for Cambodian teachers on the subject of human rights law. In August, Bass will visit Georgetown Law School to participate in “The American Judiciary,” a seminar conducted by Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O’Connor. The seminar is sponsored by the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

Math teacher **Alex Basson** was chosen to deliver Poly’s 2008–2009 Miles M. Kastendieck Lecture in the Humanities. The working title of Basson’s talk is *Harmony of Spheres: Pythagoras and Bach*.

**Lynn Chandhok** was awarded a 2008 Genna Luschei Prize from *Prairie Schooner* magazine for six

poems published in their fall 2007 issue. She was also the March 2008 Poet of the Month on Poetrynet ([www.poetrynet.org](http://www.poetrynet.org)), and in the same month traveled to Deland, FL, where she was a visiting writer at Stetson University.

Grade 5 dean **Marie Corkhill** and Middle School learning specialist **Denise Cotogno** are planning to develop and consolidate the “dean time” curriculum for fifth graders. The students attend the “dean time” class, taught by Corkhill and Cotogno, once a week over the course of a year to learn organization, self-evaluation, and study skills.

As part of her coursework for a state certificate in school and district leadership, Middle School learning specialist **Denise Cotogno** will



Kristin Wynne-Jones (left) will give the 2008–2009 Livingston Lecture, while Alex Basson and Louise Forsyth will offer Kastendieck Lectures.

participate in a six-week internship at a New York City public school.

Math chair **Anita DeRuiter** was appointed to Poly’s William M. Williams Chair in Professional

Studies. She shares the three-year appointment with her colleague in the English Department, Gail Karpf.

History teacher **Caesar Fabella** has been selected



The 2007–2008 **Annual Fund** exceeded its goal, thanks to the support of Poly’s many devoted alumni, parents, faculty, and friends. Your **generosity** has helped to fund countless Poly programs and is truly **appreciated**.

—The Poly Prep Development Office

SAVE THE DATE: **SEPTEMBER 26**  
2008–2009 Annual Fund Kick-Off and Student Musical Revue

to participate in two National Endowment for the Humanities summer seminars on Landmarks of American History and Culture. The seminars are “Ellis Island 1891–1924: Immigration, Public Health, and the American Workforce” and “Immigration, Religion, and Culture on New York’s Lower East Side.”

Middle School drama teacher **Monica Flory**’s adaptation of *The Jungle Book* was published by Playscripts and performed at South Coast Repertory in Costa Mesa, CA. Her play *Third Wheel* is soon to be published in an anthology of ten-minute plays. *Twilight*, a full-length play, has received a series of workshop readings through Threads Productions. Her article, “Eloquent Mirrors: Gender, Race, and Ethnicity in a Grade Eight’s Solo Performance,” was published in *Stage of the Art* magazine.

History chair **Louise Forsyth** (see page 13) was awarded a 2008–2009 Miles M. Kastendieck Lecture in the Humanities.

Kaya Amira Freeman was born on October 24, 2007, to science teacher **Erika Freeman** and her husband, former English teacher Khari Freeman, joining big brother Khari Jr.

Art teacher **Neddi Heller** is participating in a traveling exhibition called “Your Documents Please.” The show

involves more than 200 international artists, who were asked to create small artwork about the size of a passport, leading to an exploration of identity and documentation. Heller’s piece, “China,” will travel from Japan to Hungary and Slovakia next year before eventually arriving in New York.

Middle School English coordinator **Gail Karpf** is one of two Poly faculty recently named to a three-year appointment as a William M. Williams Chair in Professional Studies. The other is math chair Anita DeRuiter. In August, Karpf will attend the Summer Reading and Writing Institute at Columbia University Teachers College for the second year in a row. Then she will be “chasing Vermeer” across Belgium and Amsterdam in order to learn more about the life and times of the great artist. She writes: “*Chasing Vermeer* is one of the first books we read in fifth grade English. The Rijksmuseum houses several of Vermeer’s famous paintings. Upon my return, I will be able to share my knowledge with fifth graders and the greater Poly community.” Karpf will also work this summer with other Middle School English teachers to establish book clubs for Grades 5–8.

Dance teacher and Form III dean **Amy Kohn** won Poly’s Raymond Hamway Summer Study Grant, which will allow her to study world dance,



Michael McGrann (right) and his husband, David Allen, with their son Theo Allen McGrann, born December 7, 2007.

including African, Flamenco, and Brazilian.

Grade 1B head teacher **Anne Leibler** completed her first semester as an adjunct professor at Bank Street College of Education, teaching EDUC 808: The Study of Children in Diverse and Inclusive Educational Settings through Observation and Recording.

Middle and Upper School Latin teacher **Michael McGrann** and his husband, David Allen, are the proud parents of Theodore James Allen McGrann. Theo was born on December 7, 2007.

Associate director of communications **Joshua Mehigan** has recently had poems in *Poetry* and *The New York Sun* and reviews in *Poetry* and elsewhere. This fall, he will teach a six-week seminar on political poetry at the 92nd Street Y.

Art teacher **Jo-Ann Menchetti** won Poly’s James and Anna Fantaci Grant in Visual Arts.

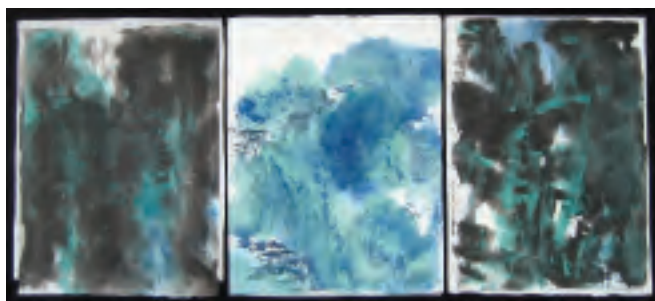
Track-and-field and cross-country coach **Matthew Miller** will marry Carolina

Sofia Cometto on July 25 in San Diego.

This summer, math teacher **Elizabeth Rapacchietta** and science teacher **Suzanne Wolbers** will participate in a teachers’ workshop in Belize. Sponsored by International Zoological Expeditions, the workshop concerns tropical rain forests and coral reefs. The pair hope to use the experience to develop a ninth grade science trip to study biodiversity, conservation, and environmental responsibility.

Pre-KB associate teacher **Pamela Weinstein** earned her early childhood education and special education degree from Brooklyn College this spring. She will be studying in Puerto Rico this summer.

Science teacher **Kristin Wynne-Jones** was invited to deliver a 2008–2009 Livingston Lecture in the Natural Sciences. In her lecture, she will discuss the impact of early Nobel laureates, such as Svante Arrhenius and the Curies, on the fields of physics and chemistry.



Neddi Heller’s “China.”

# On the Road Again

Poly alumni have had a busy spring, gathering not only for Special Reunion but also for alumni receptions all over the country. To see more photos of these and other alumni events, visit [www.polyprep.org/alumni/gallery](http://www.polyprep.org/alumni/gallery).



Cliff Barr '48 (left) and Nick Trynin '48 (right) met with headmaster David Harman at the Florida Regional Alumni Reception on January 29.



The March 12 New York Regional Alumni Reception brought together (left to right) Marianne Bertuna '94, Nadia Mastromichalis '94, and dean of faculty Susan Beiles.



Diane and Ed Ruck (left to right) chatted with Eric Chaikin '85 and Brian Levell '86 at the March 18 Los Angeles Regional Alumni Reception.



Ellis Mottur '48 (left) spoke with Russell Tilley '43 (center) and Lenore Briskman at the Washington DC Regional Alumni Reception on April 21.



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