

# Taft

B U L L E T I N

*Non Ut Sibi*  
Serving  
Nonprofits

KAM

W I N T E R 2 0 0 6

# Taft

BULLETIN

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■ Freshman goalie Becca Hazlett makes one of her 24 saves en route to Taft blanking Hotchkiss 1-0 in the championship game to win the Patsy K. Odden Tournament in December for the first time since 1998. For more on the girls' season, visit [www.TaftSports.com](http://www.TaftSports.com). PETER FREW '75





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### ON THE COVER

(Front) A helping hand: This issue of the *Bulletin* focuses on the efforts of a dozen alumni who've dedicated their careers to serving nonprofit organizations, and thereby helping others. ILLUSTRATION BY KRISTEN MILLER/IMAGES.COM  
(Back) Students enjoy a snow day in Centennial Quad. ROGER KIRKPATRICK '06

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### Taft on the Web

Find a friend's new address or look up back issues of the *Bulletin* at [www.TaftAlumni.com](http://www.TaftAlumni.com).

What happened at this afternoon's game? Visit [www.TaftSports.com](http://www.TaftSports.com) for the latest Big Red coverage.



For other campus news and events, including admissions information, visit our main site at [www.TaftSchool.org](http://www.TaftSchool.org), with improved calendar features and Around the Pond stories.



Don't forget you can shop online at [www.TaftStore.com](http://www.TaftStore.com)



## Little Rock and Rule

Don't know where you got the number five; there were only two of us arriving from Little Rock in the fall of 1958: Jim Mitchell and I ["Little Rock Five," fall 2005]. He came up a couple of weeks after I did, and we roomed together in the Annex. I stayed on for senior year; Jim went back to Little Rock, where he was elected president of the school (Hall High, where we had spent 10th grade, not Little Rock Central), went on to Princeton and Yale Law. Pat Caviness came up in fall of '59 (and was my roommate) to do a PG year in hopes of getting into an Ivy League school. He matriculated at Yale, played varsity football, and then MBA'd at Wharton.

There were definitely heated discussions during term and later about the Little Rock situation and integration, and I am sure that Taft would have considered admitting Ernie Green had the connection been made. I don't think Henry's conclusions are accurate,

and they detract from the magnanimity that the school did display.

When I went to England as an ESU fellow in the fall of 1960, the students at Forest School had been instructed that it would be bad form to question me about the integration issue. It was only after three or four months that some of my, by then, friends broached the topic and I was able to share my experiences and answer their questions. Very much a contrast to Taft.

Although I didn't make the *Life* magazine article, I did make it at Taft. No small feat for a country boy from Arkansas!

—Jim Rule '60

Ed. Note: There were five students total from Arkansas: George Hampton '60, who came to Taft as a lower mid back in 1956, and Alfred Aydelott, who was in the Class of '61, in addition to the three mentioned above.

## You can tell by the Pontiac

The picture on page 56 of the fall issue does not show students arriving in the fall of 1958. They are arriving in the fall of 1953.

I can identify four of the boys. In the center, carrying a raincoat in his right hand, is Steve Sherer '57. Behind him in a dark jacket and wearing a fedora is I. Way in the back and wearing a ten-gallon hat is Bill Fonville '56. All three of these are new boys. On the left, wearing a light-colored sport coat and the back of his head turned toward the camera, is Tony Morreale '54. He was my senior adviser, and he is looking for me. We are just about to introduce ourselves to each other.

Most of the new boys are carrying hand luggage because they have come from far away. My suitcase is somewhat travel-worn. It had originally belonged to a great-aunt who died in 1948 and was handed down to me. My great-aunt's initials were still on it. It had already been twice to Europe and served me for three years when I was a student at Eaglebrook. It was quite some time before it finally wore out.

The day before I got to Taft, I took the overnight train from Louisville to Penn Station in New York. I then took a taxi to Grand Central, where I ran into Bill, who had taken a red-eye flight from Houston to LaGuardia the night before. He and I had been classmates at Eaglebrook. Wearing his ten-gallon hat, he also carried his beloved guitar, which he never would have entrusted to a common carrier. We took a train to New Haven, where we found the bus from Taft. On it was an affable master who introduced himself as Mr. P.T. Young.

—Chris Davenport '56

## Letters

*We welcome Letters to the Editor relating to the content of the magazine. Letters may be edited for length, clarity, and content, and are published at the editor's discretion. Send correspondence to:*

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# Alumni

## SPOTLIGHT



### Crossing the Line

First. As Katheryn Curi '92 sped over the finish line 39 seconds in front of her closest competitor at the U.S. Elite Championships in Park City, Utah, in June, she pumped the air with her fists, thinking only “Oh, my God!”

With elevations over 7,000 feet, altitude was a big concern for many riders going into the national road race championship. The course starts high and drops down into the canyons behind Park City, where riders completed three laps of a relatively flat 24.1-mile loop before climbing back out over two long hills to the finish.

When Curi moved to Vermont in 1999 and took up mountain biking, little did she realize that one day she would ride her way to a national championship in road racing.

A competitive rower at Taft and Mount Holyoke, Curi needed to find a new sport better suited to her new location. Living in Vermont, she decided, was the perfect opportunity to explore the outdoors on her mountain bike. Unfortunately, an injury in 2001 took her out of racing for two months. After healing, she competed in a local stage race. It was then that she was bitten by the road-cycling bug, and in 2002, she raced for a New England team and loved

◀ Katheryn Curi '92 won the national road racing championship in June with a time of 3:26.03. CASEY B. GIBSON

being back in a sport “where teammates make a difference.”

After making the commitment to race full-time in 2003, Curi decided to move to California to take advantage of the mild winters and strong cycling scene. She raced for the Los Gatos Bicycle Racing Club and had a successful first season both regionally and nationally. Her results got her noticed, and, after guest riding full-time for a season for Rona, she received a contract for 2004 with Webcor Builders.

It has been a “year of resiliency” says Curi, who now lives in Danville, California. In October 2004 she broke her collarbone, then broke it again last February—the same month her mother died. And her father had a heart attack only the month before the Park City race. For this up-and-coming rider, the win was a “dream come true.”

“I just want to thank my team,” Curi told *Cycling News*. “This is the best team. The staff, the riders, and the sponsors are all so great. I couldn’t have gotten through the last year without my team and my coach [Laura Charmeda].”

Curi’s win also earned her a spot on the U.S. National Team for the World Championships in Spain in September as well as the right to wear the red-white-and-blue jersey at every race this year. Her ultimate goal? To continue racing through the 2008 Olympics in Beijing.



Katalin Vismeg '95, left, with the Arensky Piano Trio

## Vismeg on Violin

The Arensky Piano Trio, featuring violinist Katalin Vismeg '95, pianist Tamila Azadaliyeva, and cellist Neal Humphreys, recently performed at West Hartford Public Library's Webster Hall.

The trio was formed as a tribute to pianist and composer Anton Stepanovich Arensky, whose work often reflects the influence of other composers, particularly Tchaikovsky and whose students

included Sergei Rachmaninov and Alexander Scriabin.

In addition to compositions by Arensky, the trio performed works by Beethoven, Dvorak, Brahms, and Moszkowski at the November 13 concert.

A native of Mako, Hungary, Vismeg earned her bachelor's and master's degrees in Budapest at Franz Liszt Music Academy. She received third prize in the Hungarian National Violin Solo Competition, was awarded the Special Prize in the Hungarian National Chamber Music Competition, and won the 2004 Paranov Competition.

As a soloist she has performed the Sibelius Violin Concerto with the Bela Bartok Youth Orchestra as well as Vivaldi's *The Four Seasons* and Beethoven's violin concertos with various ensembles throughout Hungary. She has played for the Hungarian National Radio as a soloist and a chamber musician since she was 12.

Vismeg is violin principal of the Connecticut Virtuosi Chamber Orchestra. She is also a member of the Sylveen String Quartet, which had its Carnegie Hall debut in October 2004. She is currently on the faculty of the Community Division in the Hart School of Music in Hartford, Connecticut.

## Seas It

When Todd McGovern '93 was diagnosed with stage IV colorectal cancer in 2004, he refused to become just another statistic. Instead, he focused his energy on beating cancer and, as a goal, started planning a victory celebration to be held one year later. That celebration has become the Team Gov Invitational (Gov being Todd's nickname since Taft) and now serves as an annual fund raiser for Seas It, a nonprofit organization founded by his wife, Amanda Constanzo McGovern '93, that promotes recovery through recreation for cancer patients who seek

to recapture positive thinking and to regain control over their lives.

"Seas It provides the resources and outlets to help cancer patients and their families shift their focus from illness to wellness," says Amanda. "Whether it is sports, art, literature or music, Seas It acts as the catalyst to bridge the gap between the patient and his or her individualized activity or interest."

Held on July 23 at the Jersey Shore, the TGI consisted of a series of competitive activities for all ages such as volleyball, kayaking, beach flags, a run-swim-run, a sandcastle contest, and a

three-legged race. A cookout lunch and an awards ceremony for the winning team followed. They held several recreation-themed raffles throughout the day as well as an auction of a signed jersey donated by the Boston Red Sox.

"The Team Gov Invitational was designed to increase awareness of Seas It's mission," adds Amanda, "not only to raise money for its programs, but also to personify its spirit by providing the opportunity for all participants to seize the day."

The event was featured on ABC News and will be held again this summer, on July 22.



## On the Road Again

Trey Anastasio '83 embarked on a 13-state tour in November with his current touring outfit, 70-Volt Parade, in support of *Shine*, his first solo release since Phish's farewell concert in August 2004.

*Shine* was also released as a DualDisc—one side featuring twelve tracks of music, the other side featuring a DVD Live at Red Rocks (Trey's August 13 performance at the Red Rocks Amphitheatre in Morrison, Colorado), along with exclusive interview material.

"When we made [our first Phish] album it was \$5,000 and nobody was listening," Trey told the Associated Press. "I had that same feeling again making this album. It's the struggle itself that is my favorite part of the process. I've got a band now that's on its tenth gig. Honestly if you heard the tenth Phish gig it probably wasn't that good. Everyone always said, 'Oh, if only I could have been there in the beginning.' Well, I'm letting people in on a little secret: This IS the beginning."

Unfortunately, *Shine* was one of 52 CDs Sony BMG recalled in November



Trey Anastasio '83, right, playing with Dave Matthews at the Big Apple to the Big Easy benefit in September. SCOTT GRIES/GETTY IMAGES

because of a faulty copy-protection system called XCP. Phish also released a CD in December of the band's New Year's Eve 1995 concert at Madison Square Garden, which is widely regarded as one of the band's finest live performances.

In addition to the fall tour, Anastasio

performed with Dave Matthews at the Big Apple to the Big Easy benefit in September, appeared on *Late Night With Conan O'Brien* in November, and played with former Phish bass player Mike Gordon at the annual Christmas Jam in Asheville, North Carolina.

**Trey Anastasio '83 was nominated for a Grammy Award this year for Best Pop Instrumental Performance, "Gelo Na Montanha" with Herbie Hancock on his album *Possibilities*. Winners were announced on February 8.**



◀ Todd and Amanda Costanzo McGovern '93, center, welcome participants to the Team Gov Invitational, raising money for their foundation, Seas It, which helps support cancer patients through recreational activities.



## Alumni Gatherings



▲ Chris Saranec '82, young Lucas and dad Jeff Thompson '80, Rob Peterson '80, and Gregg Douglas '79 cheer on the Big Red at the football game under the lights against Loomis on Fall Sports Day in November.



▲ Bermuda alumni Wayne Jackson '57, Jon Ingham '86, Alisa Jackson DeSilva '89, and Nick Kyme '03 greet admissions officer Mike Aroesty, left, on his recent visit to the island, where he was scouting for more students like current head monitor and Bermudian Mike Shrubbs '05 (who was still hard at work in Watertown).



▶ One hundred thirty alumni, parents, faculty, and friends gathered at Hartford's Wadsworth Atheneum in November for a reception and docent-led tours of the museum's Dalí, Picasso, and the Surrealist Vision exhibit. The Wadsworth held the first exhibition of surrealism in America in 1931.



◀ Taft spirit in the Pacific Northwest? You betcha! Pictured here at a November Taft/Seattle Alumni party at the Pike Pub and Brewery are Emily Pettit '01, Jake Parker '01, Dudley and Michelle Taft '84, Glenn Zaccara '88, Sarah Richards Hedges '88, Bill Pettit '98, and Noah Van Loen '86. Also attending but not pictured were Ryan and Lindsay Dell Calkins '00, John Carnahan '81, Chris Castle '98, Pelly Charles '55, Tom Furtwangler '88, Ben Kolpa '90, Dennis Schanno '60, Amy Stelljes '88, Judy and Corydon Wagner '43, and Lindsay Zaccara.



# sport

## Fall Season Wrap-Up by Steve Palmer

### BOYS' CROSS COUNTRY 6-5

Having graduated five varsity runners and with the top two returners injured for most of the season, Taft relied on several new, young runners to carry the day. Co-captain Nick Liotta '07 led the team all season in workouts but was able to compete in only a couple of

races, so Mike Moreau '09, Christopher Liotta '09, Shane Sanderson '08, and Dante Paolino '07 formed a tight front pack and gained solid wins over Berkshire, Williston, and Northfield Mount Hermon on the way to a winning season. All seven varsity runners return for what should be a very good team next year.

### GIRLS' CROSS COUNTRY 4-6

This was a spirited and dedicated team that, for the second year, carried more than 30 runners and knocked off Northfield Mount Hermon, Kent, and Kingswood. Middler Brooke Hartley, a Founders League All-Star for the second year, was the team's top runner, followed closely by co-captain Natalie Lescroart '06 and Martha Pascoe '07. The team's best races came in their early-season battle with rival Choate, a close 26-33 loss, and in the final meet, the New England Championship meet at home, where their ninth place finish was an improvement of two places over last year.

### GIRLS' SOCCER 9-4-4

#### New England Quarterfinalists

The team earned a #7 ranking in New England after tying rivals Hotchkiss (1-1) in a tightly contested regular season finale. Despite dominating #2 Brooks, including hitting the post and crossbar four times, Taft dropped the penalty-kick shootout 3-4—a tough way to lose a tournament game. The team's solid record included convincing wins over Deerfield (4-0), Suffield (6-0), and Westminster (3-0). While



Dante Paolino '07 moves up Walnut Hill and through the pack at the New England Division I Championships, hosted by Taft. PETER FREW '75



Jackee Snikeris '07 in action against Greenwich at home in the season opener PETER FREW '75

the offensive production was uneven, Western New England League All-Stars Shayna Bryan '06 (15 goals) and co-captain Liz Carlos '06 (12 goals, 15 assists), along with co-captain Meg Edwards '06, led the team all season. Next year's defense will be tough, with Colleen Sweeney '07 in goal (eight shutouts this year) and Founders League All-Star defender Holly Donaldson '07 as captain.

### BOYS' SOCCER 9-6-2

This was an uneven season for this well-balanced team, but the chemistry and hard work led to several spectacular wins.

The most impressive games came against the strongest teams in New England, including a convincing 3-0 decision over eventual New England champion Avon. Later in the season, Taft also knocked off tournament-bound Choate (2-1) and Loomis (1-0) to stay undefeated at home (6-0-1) for the season. The stingy team defense was led by All-New England stopper Woody Redpath '06, co-captain Toren Kutnick '06, and Founders League All-Star Andrew Strumolo '06. In the midfield, Gordon Atkins '07 and Will Minter '06 ran the show, while up front Pat Clancy '07 and Alex Kremer '07 were a force throughout the season.

### VOLLEYBALL 12-6

#### New England Semifinalists Founders League Champions

One year after their second straight trip to the Championship game and graduating many key starters, this team again put together an inspiring season, making it to the New England tournament for the fifth consecutive year. Behind the steady, all-around play of captain Abby Conroy '06 and Alex Lauren '06, the 2005 squad shocked undefeated and eventual New England Champ Hotchkiss (3-0) to win the Founders League title. Other key wins included two against Loomis and, in the first round of the New England Tournament, an upset win over Miss Porter's (3-1). Kanako Nakarai '06 was the team's defensive specialist and was a League All-Star along with Conroy and Lauren. Kiel Stroupe '06 led the powerful attack from the right side of the court all season. With several talented sophomores making up the bulk of this team, the next two years look promising.

### FIELD HOCKEY 15-1-1

#### New England Finalists Founders League Champions

This was one of the great seasons for a program that has seen many strong teams over the years. Taft overpowered some opponents (Kent 8-0, Choate 5-1) and then played their best games against the other top-ranked teams (Deerfield 3-0, Westminster 3-0). The regular season finale saw Taft (12-0-1) at their peak in defeating Hotchkiss (also 12-0-1) with two first-half goals—the second coming with no time on the clock—to win 2-1. That inspiring victory secured the Founders League title, the Western New England League title, and the #1 ranking for all of New England. The tournament started with a tight 2-1 home victory over Milton, followed by an exciting 3-2 win over rival Greenwich Academy—to avenge a 3-3 tie during the regular



season. The championship game against Hotchkiss saw Taft play hard but without the same offensive power of their first match-up, a 0–2 loss in the end. In goal, Emily Neilson '07 averaged under a goal per game, due in part to the aggressive play of defenders Diana Sands '06, co-captain Annie McGillicuddy '06, and midfielder Heidi Woodworth '07. The offense was powered by co-captain Liz Nelson '06 (21 pts.), Abby Hine '07 (17 goals), and Molly Malloy (19 pts.).

### FOOTBALL 1–7

The football team played well early in the season before running into two very talented teams from Choate and Trinity-Pawling (the undefeated New England champions) and losing key starters due



Heidi Woodworth '07 gets the ball on attack in the game against Northfield Mount Hermon under the lights on Fall Sports Day. PETER FREW '75



to injuries in mid-season. Co-captains and leading running backs Victor Smith '06 and Tommy Piacenza '06, lineman Frank Cheske '06, and defensive back Paul Cocchiario '06 all were sorely missed at crucial points in the season. With these starters healthy— along with leading receivers Phil Thompson '06, Ryan Krusko '06, and lineman Kyle Gambone '06—Taft played toe-to-toe with strong teams from Avon (18–41) and Salisbury (0–13) and had a chance to knock off Kent at home on Parents' Weekend. The Rhinos put together their best overall performance in defeating Loomis under the lights at Taft, 27–14. In that game, AJ Houston '07 scored on a 61-yard TD pass from quarterback Scott Travis '06, and Ryan Rostenkowski '08 had two 25-yard TD runs. Piacenza, Cheske, and Charlie Mitchell '07 were the team's leading tacklers on defense all season. The strong nucleus of juniors for next year's squad will be anchored around the powerful line play of Mike McCabe '07, Andrew Parks '07, and Will Calder '07.

◀ Powerful outside hitter Kirstin Castellano '08 prepares her offensive attack as Alex Lauren '06 gets set to cover during another outstanding season for the varsity volleyball team. PETER FREW '75



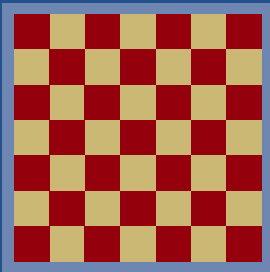
# AROUND THE pond





## Hurricane Quilters

Upon seeing all the devastation in Mississippi and Louisiana this fall, students wanted to do something special for the babies and small children affected by Hurricane Katrina. So they started a quilting group together with a handful of faculty and staff members. “Our goal was to send a box of baby quilts off to families who had lost their homes in the Gulf Coast region and to have them there by Christmas,” said Suzanne Campbell. An avid quilter herself, Campbell donated her stockpile of fabric and plenty of time. School chaplain Michael Spencer helped find the Coast Episcopal School, a school, church, and now relief center that could put the quilts to good use. As students headed into their final exams, they packed up two large boxes carrying a total of thirty quilts. “We realize this is only a small gesture,” said Campbell, “but it is our hope that little things will begin to make a difference.”



◀ Quilters display the quilts they are about to ship to the Gulf Coast. Front, Monisha Dillard, Shanika Audige, Alice Gao, Glendys Rodríguez (with Helena Orben on her lap); standing, Caitlin Maguire, Andi Orben, Mary Walsh, Kara Fenn, Casey Bartlett, Emily Moore, Carrie Thompson, Elizabeth Barber, and Suzanne Campbell. Not pictured, Carissa Blossom, Abby Conroy, Ariane Dembs, Samantha Glazer, Marrayam Khera, Michelle Kulikauskas, Stephanie Menke, Leah Morris, Hillary Saverin, Hillary Simpson, Susannah Walden, Ginny Krusko, Holly McNeill, and Manna Ohmoto-Whitfield. KACEY KLONSKY '07



Doug Jones '06, math teacher Tony Wion, Andy Balysky '08, Tommy Piacenza '06, and Nicola Glogowski '08 help out at the Salvation Army.



Lower mids Christie Chu and Julie Foote wash windows at Girls, Inc., in Waterbury.

## 10th Annual Day of Service

Community Service Day began 10 years ago with the mission to teach students about service and to reach out to the community. “Each year we have gone above and beyond our previous expectations with the support of faculty and community leaders,” says Spanish teacher Roberto d’Erizans, who organized the event. “This year was especially fruitful. Together we

contributed more than 5,200 man-hours in one day!”

“Community Service Day is one of the most important events on our calendar,” says Headmaster Willy MacMullen. “It is both proof and reminder of Mr. Taft’s motto, Not to be served but to serve, and a great way to maintain strong, enduring ties between Taft and the greater community.” ▶▶▶



Community Service Day



Ashley Barronette '07 has lunch with a visiting third-grader as part of the on-campus program during Community Service Day.

Each year Taft makes connections with diverse organizations in the greater Waterbury area, as well as local schools. Together, students, faculty, and staff members served 56 organizations in close to 60 different off-campus locations, as well as our traditional on-campus program, hosting 140 local third-graders in a full day of educational and recreational activities.

Community Service Day allows Taft to establish and solidify connections for ongoing service that occurs throughout the year through the Volunteer Program. "In a world facing hardships from natu-



Visiting third-graders wait to board the bus after their day on campus.

ral disasters, such as Hurricane Katrina, the tsunami, and the earthquake in Pakistan," explains d'Erizans, "students commented on the importance of being able to stop and do something for others and having the opportunity not just to hear about a problem, but also doing something tangible to help."

Highlights of the outreach included helping the Connecticut Food Bank; trail maintenance for the Connecticut Forest and Parks Association; painting a mural for Family Services of Greater Waterbury; working on a Habitat for Humanity

build in Danbury; building and maintaining trails for Flander's Nature Center; painting and clerical work at the Palace Theater and Thomaston Opera House; assisting in a Salvation Army project; Collegium performing at nearby nursing homes; making care packages for soldiers; and numerous projects for local houses of worship. As part of the day, students also coordinated a town-wide food drive for the Watertown Food Bank and hosted a Red Cross Blood Drive on campus.

PHOTOS BY PETER FREW '75

## Aftershocks

When the massive earthquake devastated Pakistan in October, most of us could only wonder how to help. Marrayam Khera '07 and her father, however, started making plans. In a matter of days, they were on a flight to Islamabad, the biggest city in Pakistan affected by the quake. Traveling with a group organized by the Association of Pakistani Physicians of North America ([www.appna.org](http://www.appna.org)), Marrayam and her father, a doctor, spent three days helping at the city hospital.

"My father would only let me stay about four hours each day," she says,





## Outing Club

After a long week of classes, seniors Nick Wirth and Roger Kirkpatrick wanted to find a way to get outdoors more often. They knew there were some interesting places to explore in the area, but weren't



sure how best to go about planning their trips. They sought the advice of science teacher Peter Hanby, who was active with the outing club at Colby College.

"It was really Wirth's idea," says Roger. "We figured that forming an outing club at Taft would give us the chance to do these things and at the same time help other people who are interested."

Joined by experienced climbers Peter Irving and Brendan Gangl, both '06, with Hanby as their faculty adviser, the Outing Club took its first expedition to Whitestone—a popular local climbing spot. English teacher Jason BreMiller, also a veteran climber, has joined them on subsequent trips.

The group has now "been climbing a bunch of times," but also hopes to work in a few ski trips in the winter, hold climbing sessions at the wall (in Cruikshank Gymnasium), and do some hiking and whitewater rafting in the spring.

"Who knows," says Roger, "we might even erect an igloo this winter just for good measure."

◀ Outing Club co-founder Nick Wirth '06 on the group's first "real trip"—to Whitestone, a popular climbing spot in Watertown. ROGER KIRKPATRICK '06

"because the facilities weren't very safe. There were open needles and blood everywhere. It was better than I had expected, though, being one of the bigger hospitals. It was hectic, too. Helicopters

◀ Marrayam Khara '07, left, is greeted by villagers in Azad, Kashmir, one of the villages she and her father visited after helping in Islamabad. "We went by car, and it was really scary," she says. "There was no real road in some sections through the mountains, just broken pavement and mud everywhere. I thought we'd turn around, but we didn't. There were other towns you couldn't get to at all."

and trucks brought new patients every few minutes."

Marrayam and her cousin, who lives in Islamabad, helped in the children's section. Most of the children had parents with them, she explained, which surprised her. But they weren't being given anything for the pain they were in. "We handed out supplies, just blankets or small juice boxes, and the kids were so happy, even if we just talked to them. That's what was most surprising. They didn't talk much, but still smiled and laughed, even though you could see the pain they were in."

## In Memory of John McNulty

John P. McNulty, father of John '03, Brynne '06, and Kevin '09 and a serving member of the school's board of trustees, passed away suddenly on November 16.

"John McNulty was a great friend to all of us here at Taft," said Headmaster Willy MacMullen '78. "He was a wonderful Taft father, and he and Anne were on campus often to celebrate the achievements of their three children—Johnny, Brynne, and Kevin. And in his first year on the board of trustees, John brought remarkable intelligence, humor, enthusiasm, passion, and commitment. I will deeply miss his presence here, as will the entire Taft community."

A senior director at Goldman Sachs, John earned his B.S. from St. Joseph's University in 1974 and his M.B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School of Business in 1979. He retired from Goldman Sachs in 2001 after a 22-year career there. Under his leadership, the firm built a global investment management business that became a significant and integral part of the firm. John became a partner in 1990 and a managing director in 1996. After his retirement, he continued to serve as a senior director at the firm.

John was also a strong advocate for education and the arts. He served on the Board of Trustees at the University of Pennsylvania Wharton School of Business, chaired St. Joseph's University's Finance Committee, and was an advisory director at the Metropolitan Opera. He was a patron of St. Joseph's School in Chinatown and served as a trustee of The Aspen Institute and on the board of the Carnival Corporation.

He is survived by his wife Anne, their three children, his mother, and his siblings Noreen Tully, Charles McNulty, Kevin McNulty, and Mary Grady.

—Source: *Naples Daily News*

## Making the Grades



▲ Fall Cum Laude inductees, front from left, Brittany Stormer, Bill Lane, Sophie Quinton, Josh Kim, Arielle Palladino, Zaynah Abid, and Derek Chan; and, back row, Laura McLaughlin, Helena Smith, Michael Davis, Eric Schwartz, Marika Bigler, and Diana Sands. PETER FREW '75

Based on their middle and upper-mid year academic records, 13 seniors were inducted into the Cum Laude Society this fall. Founded in 1908, the Cum Laude Society is a nation-

al scholarship society in secondary schools, corresponding to Phi Beta Kappa in colleges. This group will be joined at graduation by classmates whose selection will be based upon their records for their upper-mid and senior years. A maximum of one-fifth of the Senior Class may be elected into membership.

Those inducted in the fall represent the top 7.8 percent of the class, with weighted averages that ranged from 5.01 to 5.64 for those years. "It is worth noting," said Headmaster Willy MacMullen '78, "that while we celebrate their academic accomplishments, these students also distinguish themselves in all areas of school life."

Additionally, four students were named National Merit Semifinalists, scoring in the top 1.6 percent of the more than one million students who took the PSAT/NMSQT in October 2004. They are Michael Davis, Joshua Kim, Skye Priestley, and Clayton Wardell.

▼ Featured guest Theresa Thompson performs Paul Halley's *Missa Gaia* with the school's Collegium Musicum, Chorus, and a number of faculty members in October in Bingham Auditorium. PETER FREW '75



## On Stage

▲ Math teacher John Piacenza tells "Frenchy," the beauty-school dropout played by Shanika Audige '08, to go back to high school, in his cameo role as the Teen Angel in the fall musical production of *Grease*. PETER FREW '75





## Capturing the Image of Conservation

Student photographer Roger Kirkpatrick '06 [who captured the image that graced the Winter 2005 *Taft Bulletin* cover] now has a website for his work, which focuses primarily on sports, underwater scenes, and nature. To see his images, visit [www.newhousegalleries.com/roger](http://www.newhousegalleries.com/roger).

Roger spent last summer diving in Costa Rica to take underwater photographs of sharks and then did an internship in aquaculture at the University of Miami.

“My highest aspiration for my pictures is that they will somehow help conservation efforts for whatever I’m taking pictures of—scalloped hammerheads, for example, which are extremely endangered because they are one of the only species of sharks that school, which make them easier to catch.”

■ Photographer Roger Kirkpatrick '06 captured this image of a scalloped hammerhead shark while diving off Cocos Island, Costa Rica, last August.

## Rockwell Visiting Artist

Photographer Mauricio Handler spoke at Morning Meeting prior to the opening reception of his Potter Gallery exhibit *Carpe Diem: Timeless Moments Beneath the Waves*. Handler’s work emphasizes his ongoing passion with

unspoiled destinations and their unique marine wildlife. His editorial and commercial assignments have taken him throughout most of the Caribbean from the Turks and Caicos to Cuba. In addition, his images from Fiji, the Galápagos

Islands, Cocos Island, and of great white sharks off Guadalupe have gained him international acclaim. He has a healthy obsession with sharks, whales, and dolphins. He spent the day on campus as a Rockwell Visiting Artist.

Handler is the author of two books, *Diving Guide to the British Virgin Islands* (Lonely Planet), as well as *The British Virgin Islands: A Photographic Portrait* (Twinklights Publishing). He is technical field adviser to Montreal-based underwater housing manufacturer Aquatica and is a member of The American Society of Media Photographers (ASMP). To see samples of his work, visit [www.handlerphoto.com](http://www.handlerphoto.com).

◀ Middlers Lachlan Tyler, Charlie Fraker, and Alex Bermingham talk with Rockwell Visiting Artist Mauricio Handler at the opening of his exhibit in the Mark Potter '48 Gallery. KACEY KLONSKY '07





## In Brief

### Guitarist

“Unless you’ve seen Hendrix, Joe Pass, Django Reinhardt, or Andres Segovia, Michael Musillami (above) is probably the most accomplished guitarist you’ve heard,” said faculty member Peter Frew ’75. Musillami performed in the Choral Room in November and also did a very successful workshop with Jazz Band prior to the concert.

### Ballerina

Guest dance teacher Ekaterina Chtchelkanova, a former soloist with American Ballet Theatre, worked with Dance classes at Taft in November. Chtchelkanova may be best known for her role as The Hunyak in the movie *Chicago*. Having received her training at Vaganova Ballet School in St. Petersburg, Russia, she brings an extensive knowledge of classical ballet to the classroom.

### Columnist

In celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, the Diversity Committee invited Bessie Reyna, a columnist at the *Hartford Courant*, editor of *El Extra Cultural*, and for over a  
(cont.)

## Hunger Banquet

More than 80 students and faculty participated in an Oxfam fast/feast exercise to illustrate the injustices of world hunger. Having signed up to fast for one dinner, students entered the Choral Room and drew either a white chip (60%), a red chip (25%), or a blue chip (15%). Those percentages mirror the breakdown of the world’s population into those who go to bed hungry every night (white), those who have just enough to eat (red), and those who have surplus (blue).

White chip recipients stood in line to eat rice and beans, those with red chips sat and ate a slightly more satisfying meal at a set table, and those with blue chips ate an elegant feast served by others. During the dinner, students read statistics about food production and consumption inequality on the planet.

PETER FREW '75



To learn more about Oxfam America’s work to end poverty, hunger, and social injustice, visit [www.OxfamAmerica.org](http://www.OxfamAmerica.org).



▲ Once again, Ralph Lee ’53 delighted a Taft audience by performing his traveling show with the Mettawee River Theater Company: a shortened version of Bertolt Brecht’s *The Caucasian Chalk Circle* in Centennial Quad. “For several months I have been turning out masks of all sorts and sizes as well as some life-sized puppets, so our company of six actors can bring to life over 30 characters in this beautiful epic drama,” said Lee, a recent Guggenheim Fellow who founded Mettawee in 1975. The company creates original theater productions that incorporate masks, giant figures, puppets, and other visual elements with live music, movement, and text, drawing on myths, legends, and folklore of the world’s many cultures for its material. PETER FREW ’75



## Parent Receptions

Once again, current parents gathered this fall at three receptions in Connecticut and New York. Moms and dads took the opportunity to meet fellow Taft parents, and perhaps shared a few pointers with each other.



◀ November 3 at the New Canaan home of Peter and Jo Klingenstein Ziesing '78, P'07: from left, Colette Atkins P'07, Francie Thompson P'07, Sandi Lincoln P'05,'07, Jennifer Zaccara P'07, and Karen Letarte P'07,'09

▶ November 10 at the NYC home of Peg and John Claghorn P'04,'07: from left, Headmaster Willy MacMullen '78, Maria and Peter Wirth P'06,'08, and Pam MacMullen



▼ November 17 at the Southbury home of Maria and Glenn Taylor P'97,'06: from left, Larry Brownstein '74, P'09, Sandy Larkin P'07, Bobbie Secor P'94,'07, Maria Taylor, Erland Hagman, Jane Nelsen P'04,'06, and Chloe Taylor



decade assistant reporter of judicial decisions at the Connecticut Judicial Department, to visit campus in October. Born in Cuba and raised in Panama, Reyna attended Mount Holyoke College and received her J.D. from the University of Connecticut. Her 1996 collection of poetry, *She Remembers*, won the Brodine Poetry Competition, and her most recent collection, *The Battlefield of Your Body*, was published by Hill-Stead Museum last year.

### Rhythm Is Life

Taft's Step Team (aka "Anonymous") presented a multischool extravaganza featuring "Step Lively Now" by Anonymous, "Don't Break Your Back" by Taft Breakdancers MSKYO (aka "Momma Said Knock You Out"), "Crosby Be Burning" by Crosby High School's talented Steppers, and "Let 'em Roll," a stunning finale by Waterbury's 54th Regiment Drum Line.

### History of Sculpture

Sculptor/scholar Mark Mennin presented a history of the figure in Western art for students taking Historical Empires and Cultures, explaining how artists over the centuries take their cues from the archaic, classical, or Hellenistic Greeks. "We were planning the ancient Greece unit for Empires last year," explains department head Jon Willson '82, "and in thinking about art and architecture from that era—its enormous, enduring influence—I had a Eureka moment: Wait, my friend Mark *teaches* the history of sculpture!" Mennin's talk worked out so well, Willson adds, that they convinced him to come back again this year.



# THANK GOD IT'S TUESDAY

A little known group of skaters gathers every week during the hockey season for Senile Six.

*By Andrew Everett '88  
Photography by Peter Frew '75*



For a select number of Taft faculty members and local area residents, Tuesday nights are sacred. Why Tuesdays? Because that is the night that “Senile Six” convenes at the Odden Arena. Led by faculty member and current “Commissioner” Ted Heavenrich, Senile Six is a pick-up style hockey session that now runs from 8:30 to 10 every Tuesday night. Made up of a core of Taft faculty members, and supplemented by alumni, staff, staff spouses, and other select members of the local community—affectionately known as “the townies,” Senile Six is a long-standing tradition that participants cannot imagine going without. And for a couple of current skaters, it was a life-changing event.

For most, the Tuesday night skate is a combination of athletics and socializing that participants often structure the rest of their week around. Says Heavenrich, “Tuesday night is sacred. Other than can’t-miss family obligations, nothing trumps Senile Six. And I ensure every year that school duty is never on Tuesday for me.” And this passion is not shared just by current participants. Heavenrich’s predecessor as commissioner, Jol Everett, took the exact same approach. Ask his wife Susan if she ever planned anything for Tuesday nights, and she replies quickly, “No way. Senile Six was on Tuesday. Jol never missed it.”

This feeling extends to nonfaculty members as well. Says Jessica Matzkin ’90, who taught Spanish at Taft briefly and now commutes to Watertown every Tuesday night from Farmington, where she’s a counselor at Miss Porter’s, “I love

it. It’s my one night out of the week to take a break from the routine, have fun, and see people I’ve known for years. It’s like a little community.”

And this Tuesday-night community has existed for quite a long time. “It had been going on for a while before I got there in 1968,” says Everett. “I think Lance [Odden] had a hand in starting it.” A call to the former headmaster reveals that the genesis of Senile Six, and even the name, emerged during Odden’s first years on the Taft faculty.

As a young teacher fresh out of Princeton University, Odden wanted to continue his hockey-playing days, but there was no opportunity at Taft at the time. The one opportunity that did exist was over at the Choate School in Wallingford.

“The only option was The Croquet Club at Choate,” says Odden. Despite the name, this group was definitely playing with skates and sticks, not mallets and wickets. “There were a few Choate guys and a bunch of players from Hamden and West Haven.” The Croquet Club played the freshmen or junior varsity teams at colleges like Yale, West Point, and Brown, as well as other postcollegiate teams like New York City’s St. Nick’s and the Springfield Olympics.

Over time though, according to Odden, The Croquet Club fell apart as its nucleus got older and was not replenished. The combination of extensive travel and increasingly rough play started to wear on Odden. Ultimately a stick across the nose from an opposing goalie “greatly diminished my interest in hockey at that level,” adds Odden with a chuckle.

Luckily, Taft had added a critical mass of teachers who also played hockey, and who decided to form their own group

◀ Senile Six “Commissioner” Ted Heavenrich, who’s been playing with the group for nearly 30 years, says Tuesday night is sacred.

▼ Watertown Youth Hockey, which skates at Taft, has long been the connection between townies and Senile Six. WYH was founded by David Long, father of John Long ’88 (below), who is a Tuesday-night regular.



on the Mays Rink. While the vast majority of their time was spent playing shinny internally, they did schedule two or three games against the Choate team.

“We had jerseys and the whole nine yards,” says Odden, “but no name. I had just read an article on senility, so when we were asked by the Choaties what we were called, I made up the name Senile Six.”

This Taft-Choate series lasted for a few years, until it got too one-sided in Taft’s favor, both physically and on the scoreboard. According to Odden, the Choate headmaster at the time, Seymour St. John, declared that there were far too many hockey players brought in to coach at Taft after Taft won what was to be the final game 11–3. Everett, though, remembers that the series ended with “some trouble” in that final game. “I was tripped, and as I was falling my elbow went into [a Choate player’s] ribcage, breaking his ribs. But he clearly initiated it. That was the end of the series—it was seen as too rough.”

Either way, Senile Six now became a local affair. While Taft had indeed added many more faculty members with hockey experience, there were still not enough to round out



■ Senile Six is known as much for its lack of rough play as it is for its inclusiveness, but that doesn't prevent history teacher/hockey coaches Erick Dalton '00 and Cheryl Setchell from having some fun on the ice.

two teams. So town residents were asked to play on an invitation-only basis. The primary link was through the local Watertown Youth Hockey organization, according to Odden. Not only did Watertown Youth Hockey use the Taft rink for its ice time, but faculty children also played for the local teams, forging a two-way bond.

"It was a great deal," Everett recalls. "An hour and fifteen minutes of ice time, good hockey, and they did not have to pay a dime. We probably could have charged them, but they were important to us. They allowed us to have nice numbers on both teams."

It fell to one person over the years—first Odden, then Toby Baker, then Everett and now Heavenrich—to keep things organized. "When Toby Baker left, I inherited it by default," says Everett, "because we would skate after my JV hockey practice Tuesday night, so I was on the ice and could always be there." Adds Everett with a laugh, "And 'organiza-

tion' was always a loose term. I would make a few calls Sunday afternoon to make sure we had two goalies. If there was one goalie, everyone was mad at me. That was the only hassle of the whole thing."

The rest of the organization consisted of picking teams at the beginning of each skate. As Heavenrich noted, "Because people don't always show, the teams change over time." Everett brought yellow pullover "pinnies" to distinguish the two teams, and usually consulted with Heavenrich about the division of players. What everyone involved over the years with Senile Six comments on was that this selection process was essential to the skate's success.

"My goal with Ted was to create equal teams each week, not really pick a better team," explains Everett. "In doing so, it became clear that the last few picks were often more important than the first picks. The team with the weakest players is hurt more than their stars help." But be they stronger or

# "Tuesday night is sacred..."



weaker players, everyone involved enjoyed that the goal was equal competition, not trying to stack one team or the other.

These days, Heavenrich has neither Everett's counsel, nor his batch of yellow pinnies, but the tradition continues. "The goal is still to be fair and even," Heavenrich says. "I sometimes call over the experienced regulars to consult. I'll tell them, 'Here's what I'm thinking....' Other times, if the jerseys are even in certain color patterns like white and green vs. all others, we just do that."

Another feature of the constantly evolving teams is the breadth of the connections among participants. An opponent one week may be a teammate or even a linemate or defensive partner the next. But while you may play with and against someone in consecutive weeks, chances are you'll definitely see and get to know that person most weeks. This combination of continuity and change creates a "sense of community" that Matzkin says draws her back as much as the hockey itself.

"I love it," she says with intensity. "It is so fun to go back and see people I've known for years. With other leagues, the faces change all the time, so you have no sense of folks' lives outside hockey." Matzkin and others all mentioned how much they enjoy the social time before and after the skate and even on the bench between shifts. Updated pictures of kids are shared, as are congratulations for new babies, new jobs, or other life-changing events.

Many of these updates and memories are shared over the final bonus of the night for many participants—a cold beer

These shared bonds may explain another consistent Senile Six theme over the years, an absence of rough play—especially in a sport noted for it. John Long '88, who drives over from Thomaston every Tuesday to skate with the current group, and manages to attend Dav's semi-regularly, says that he cherishes Senile Six for just that reason. "A lot of the local leagues either have too many guys with something to prove or too many weak players," says Long. "Senile Six is so rare—this combination of really high-quality hockey with no ugliness."

▼ Senile Six is more than just a pick-up hockey group; it's a healthy mix of athletics and socializing. COURTESY OF JESSICA MATZKIN '90



and a slice of pizza at Daveluys. Dav's, as it is affectionately known, is a pizzeria on Echo Lake Road in Watertown. Until the Odden Arena was built, Senile Six played from 10:15 to 11:30 in Mays Rink, so more than one beer meant a few bleary Wednesday morning classes for the faculty. "Try teaching after slogging home at 1:30 a.m.," lamented Heavenrich.

In contrast, the current 8:30 time slot means the skate is done by ten, so the skaters can hit Dav's and be home by midnight. Matzkin calls herself "a regular," and describes Tuesday as her "one night out a week to have fun and drink a beer." While she likes seeing former teachers and colleagues, Matzkin also notes that the presence of townies makes Dav's "a blast." Heavenrich agrees, and lamented the fact that he is often the only teacher in attendance lately because of ever-busier faculty lives. Besides feeling it part of his duty as commissioner, Heavenrich says he just really enjoys talking about the night's skate and catching up with the other players.

Former faculty member Brian Shactman, who still comes back to play occasionally, echoes Long's sentiments. "League games with refs have become so scrappy and prone to fights. Senile Six is like a game of pond hockey in its pure love of the game. And it is a group of people you want to be around."

Heavenrich thinks the fair play is tied directly to the fact that it is free to play, but by invitation only. "The vast majority know it is an incredible deal," he says. "Thus the chippiness is generally not there at all. If there was in the past, Jol [Everett] talked to them. Now it's my job, but I have not really had to do it."

Matzkin thinks that Senile Six is special not only for the lack of rough play, but also for its inclusiveness. While it may be invitation only, those invites do not go out only to great players. "I can say with confidence that I am by far the worst player out there," she says. "But I still have a blast. The good players won't not pass to me because I stink. If I mess up, I

nothing trumps Senile Six."



■ Phil Monagan '77 makes the save. "I would make a few calls Sunday afternoon to make sure we had two goalies," says former commissioner Jol Everett. "If there was one goalie, everyone was mad at me."

mess up. And they get excited for me when I do well. If I score, I do a little dance, and they love it."

Matzkin has another reason to love Senile Six; it is where she met Shactman, who is now her husband. Their romance literally began on the ice one Tuesday night with a method of flirting unique to hockey players. During the warm-ups, Shactman skated alongside Matzkin and tripped her. Shactman got more than he bargained for, though. The always-feisty Matzkin decided to return the favor, so she tripped Shactman back, and as he fell, he tore the cartilage between his ribs.

Luckily, one of the few dirty plays in Senile Six history was also one of the most special. After Shactman left the ice in pain and went home without actually playing any hockey, Matzkin felt guilty. Wanting to make sure he was okay, she got his e-mail address and sent a message asking how he had

recovered. Shactman's reply began an e-mail correspondence that evolved into a first date, a second date, and eventually their wedding in August 2004. As Matzkin says with obvious joy, "I have the best Senile Six story of all!"

While not every skater can claim they met their spouse on the ice at Senile Six, all participants share a passion for the event itself. Because of the quality of both the hockey and the people involved, for some of the Taft community, the saying "Thank God it's ..." does not conclude with "Friday," but, rather, with "Tuesday." 🏆

Andrew Everett '88 lives and works in Charlottesville, Virginia, where he also follows the model of his father, former Senile Six Commissioner Jol Everett, by playing in his own weekly Tuesday-night hockey group.

"Senile Six is so rare—this combination of really high-quality hockey with no ugliness."



# non ut sibi serving nonprofits

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“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

—MARGARET MEAD

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When Horace Taft opened his school in Pelham Manor, New York, it was a for-profit venture—not that he ever made any money at it. In fact, he and Harley Roberts (who owned one-sixth) gave the entire school over to a board of trustees in the 1920s, as much to protect the school after his death as to allow him to ask for money from alumni. It always bothered him to go hat-in-hand, requesting funds for the school, as long as it belonged to him personally.

But that’s the nature of the nonprofit world, as the alumni on these pages can well attest. In our fifth installment in the series devoted to alumni whose careers follow the school motto—*non ut sibi ministratur sed ut ministret*—we share the stories of twelve alumni and their efforts to make the world and their communities a little better.

Following our profiles of alumni in the military, ministry, education, and the environment, this issue covers those who don’t fit neatly into a single category, but together represent a broad array of efforts and a

global reach. Whether tackling issues facing world health or the environment, the arts or affordable housing, endangered species or human trafficking, these alumni have sought meaningful work and ways to make a difference. What is amazing about this group are their varied talents: trained as lawyers, builders, Peace Corps volunteers, doctors, therapists, and educators, they found ways to share their skills with organizations whose goals resonate with them.

As always, they are not alone. (More nonprofit profiles will follow in coming issues.) Which is exactly what Mr. Taft had in mind. A firm believer in civic responsibility, he often encouraged his students to enter public service in their adult lives, but worried, too, that those very alumni would not be able to afford to send their children to his school. So he started a scholarship fund, among the school’s first, to make that possible, but I wouldn’t be surprised if he didn’t put in a little of his own money.

—Julie Reiff, *editor*



▲ Liz Matzkin '88 and her mother Sara visit with *indigenas* children in Peru in 2003.

◀ Michael Matzkin '53 with daughter Jessica '90, wife Sara, and daughter Laura '94 in front of the school/clinic in Azacualpa, Honduras.

Oral surgeon Michael Matzkin '53 has traveled on three separate medical missions to Honduras. Despite his numeric age (nearly 70), say his daughters, he has a very young spirit. But these trips have been family affairs, too. At least one of his daughters Liz '88, Jessica '90, or Laura '94, or his wife Sara has accompanied him each time.

Most recently, he traveled with Sara and Jess last summer and a group of volunteers to a small village to perform oral surgery in very primitive surroundings and challenging circumstances.

Michael explains that close friends of his had been going to the mission in Honduras for a while and kept asking him when he was going. Michael, who is chief of staff at St. Mary's Hospital in Waterbury, first went six years ago and has been going at least every other year so far.

And his daughters bring expertise of their own: Liz is a sports orthopedic surgeon working in Providence; Laura is an emergency medical resident in Springfield, Massachusetts, who also has experience in pediatrics; and Jess, a former Spanish teacher at Taft, is now a mental health counselor and coach in Farmington. She and her mother were able to help out as translators, although Sara worked primarily as Michael's assistant.

The conditions are tough, Michael says. "It's very third world. The hardest part are the sleeping accommodations, with 10 to 12 women sharing a classroom no bigger than one at Taft."

The mission normally takes over a school and converts it to

a clinic for a couple of weeks. Classrooms (school is not in session) become dorms, exam rooms, and a pharmacy.

"We come in on a Saturday, clean out rooms, move in beds, set up what we need for the clinic and are open by Monday," he adds.

"It is amazing to watch the transformation of a school into a medical clinic," says Jess, who went on the last two missions with her parents. "The villagers were excited for us to be in town, and the schoolkids did a welcome presentation with music and dance."

Three years ago they were in San Nicolas, in a very poor region of Honduras. "I had lived for two years in Latin America and had never experienced such poverty and deprivation," Jess says, "as I did during my time in this area. I worked in the pediatric clinic with Laura, as her translator. We saw a variety of medical conditions that are uncommon in the U.S. The children were beautiful. We tried to give out shoes to all the kids who had none. It never felt like we had enough shoes or clothes or toys; everyone needed something, and our supplies were limited."

"We brought more than 300 pairs of shoes with us, that St. Mary's Hospital had collected," explains Sara. "Many of the children walked for as much as six hours to the clinic without shoes, or carried their shoes so they would not to wear them out."

The town "was very poor," says Michael, "and especially the surrounding area was. People came tremendous distances; they mostly walked. My wife Sara is pretty good about everything,"



Sara and Michael Matzkin '53, Liz Matzkin '88,  
Jessica Matzkin '90, and Laura Matzkin '94

Volunteers  
*The Matzkin  
Missions*

HONDURAS AND PERU

*By Julie Reiff*

adds Michael. “The food is not what you are used to, but it is well prepared, and the showers are ... interesting.”

“It was really buggy and hot,” adds Jess. “The showers were just a pipe of cold water with a spout—and we lost water for almost 48 hours. That was a real challenge with all the disease. It’s exhausting. You really have to believe in serving others to survive. I was amazed by my parents—that they could leave the comforts of home and step way outside of their comfort zone to really embrace the experience in hard and exhausting conditions. I was inspired. The first mission was incredible. It was the first time I saw my younger sister, Laura, practicing medicine.”

The third town, Azacualpa, was not so poor, explains Michael, and people didn’t have to come as far; some traveled by truck or bus. “We were in a different area of Honduras, and I don’t think it was quite as deprived as San Nicolas,” Jess adds, “but that needs to be understood in perspective. It is hard to stay healthy; many of the volunteers got sick.”

“My parents worked together (as usual) in the oral surgery clinic, and I returned to my post as translator in the pediatric clinic—sadly without Laura. At night we would all talk and tell stories or sing,” says Jess. “I would see my parents chatting away with friends—laughing and embracing the moment. Then, in the clinic they would work hard and give their patients time, respect, kindness. At the end of the day, you are so exhausted ... but the time flies.”

Liz volunteered in Peru in 2003 as an orthopedic surgeon

through Health Volunteers Overseas and was joined by her mother. “It was an incredible experience,” Liz says, “to teach and share my knowledge with the orthopedic surgeons in Peru. I spent most of my time in Lima working at a referral hospital that sees primarily trauma. We would usually do one or two cases in the morning and afternoon, depending on the type of cases. I found the doctors to be very knowledgeable and good at using what resources they had available. Whenever there is time, they ask you to lecture.”

“It isn’t nearly as amazing a feat for any of us to spend a week in primitive conditions and volunteer,” adds Jess, who traveled with Liz and their mom before the mission, “as it is for my parents! Dad is also a great public speaker, so every year they go on the mission, the minister asks him to give a devotion (the mission is largely organized by Presbyterians). He usually talks about the concept of the mitzvah—or service—in Jewish tradition.

“Every time I return from a trip to a third-world country I am reminded not only of the challenges of life for the people but also the determination of their spirit,” says Jess. “Family and friends are priorities, not material things. I travel to remind myself of this, to refresh my spirit, to make sure my own priorities in life are clear. There is always one kid whose hugs fill me up so much that I think I go because it selfishly feels so good. I want that feeling all the time. My parents have gifted me with this desire to help others—they have not just talked about it, but have done it, modeled it. What they do at these missions is selfless, but we all benefit.”



Larry Morris '65 first got involved with the Quebec-Labrador Foundation 30 years ago as an intern while a graduate student at Cornell. He ran the group's first environmental program and hasn't looked back.

QLF started as a summer volunteer program to bring high school students and, later, university students to help in isolated communities around the Gulf of St. Lawrence and Eastern Canada.

Our founder, a chaplain at Choate School, got together with the Atlantic Salmon Federation, and they decided that QLF, with its history of community service could provide communities with environmental education programs. That's the program they hired me to run.

I came on board full-time in 1977, and my résumé reflects that; it may be two lines long if I add all my hobbies and interests.

The vast majority of our work is still done through volunteers and interns. I'd like to tell you that I do it all or that our staff does, but that's completely fallacious. We've made our reputation on the Gordon McMorrises [Class of '04, who worked at QLF as a Poole Fellow]. By design, it's a two-way

relationship. On the one hand the communities in northern Labrador get the benefit of a Taft education. You send a kid in, bringing with him everything he's learned—same thing with our university interns—and in return, these kids get a micro Peace Corps experience. For the first time in their lives, they have adult responsibilities and make important decisions; they hire and fire local staff. They remember that experience for the rest of their lives, and they support us financially because of it.

Raising money is not always easy, you've got to get used to rejection, but I enjoy meeting the people. I've stayed because of the job's diversity. I like being involved in so many different things, from the business side, to the science side, to the teaching side.

QLF is an interesting but difficult sell sometimes, because our successes are harder to quantify. We're not based on miles of river saved or number of acres preserved. QLF is really about developing local leadership, and getting citizens confident and



Lawrence B. Morris III '65

President

# Quebec-Labrador Foundation

IPSWICH, MASSACHUSETTS

*As told to Julie Reiff*

involved and into decision-making that relates to their future.

What I'm really selling isn't a community you've never seen, but a model, an approach to sustainable living that can maybe be transferred or shared globally, where everybody benefits over time.

Our first big grant came from the Rockefeller Brothers Foundation. I just wanted to go out and save stuff, but I was told to meet with someone at RBF, this guy twirls around in his chair as I come in and it's [former headmaster] John Esty; he was a program officer there. He was absolutely instrumental in generating that first grant. He described us as an investment—venture philanthropy, he called it. He saw something to QLF as we jumped into this exchange work and helped us go from that sort of one-man show to an organization with a broader mandate.

This got us involved in exchange programs with Central Europe, with the Middle East, with Latin America, all based on our cross-border work between the U.S. and Canada as a nongovernmental organization [NGO].

In Central Europe, there was the move toward democratization in the '80s, when they were still trying to figure out what the role of the private sector was. We focus more on land conservation there, introducing people to the whole concept of private land protection through things like land trusts or

conservation easements, techniques we take for granted.

The Caribbean and Latin America are what really got everything going globally for us. Again, we focus primarily on land stewardship, parks and people, and ways to better manage the landscape.

We got involved in the Middle East using the environment as a language for peace. It's a very good language to get people talking. And foundations have supported us in that. So we've been back and forth with programs and people for the better part of 15 years there.

We help regions adapt to change. You can't bottle them and keep them from change. They already have technology, so you have to help them take responsibility for their own futures.

We've shifted from helping individuals to helping emerging NGOs, and we've done it successfully. We're a community-based organization that's been doing this for 40 years with the conviction that you need to include local people in the equation.

Thirty years later I still love what I do. Fortunately the Class of '65 seems to think it's their responsibility to keep Morris employed, since he never got a real job. There are times when this job is very tough, but by and large I can't think that there's any place where I would rather have been.

For more information, visit [www.qlf.org](http://www.qlf.org).



# AHEAD

affordable housing, education and development

NeighborWorks®  
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Training Center  
and  
Residential Entrance

For Rental Inquiries Call  
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◀ After 17 years in construction, David Wood '69 saw a need for more affordable housing options. "At AHEAD, we believe that quality housing provides security and stability home by home, neighborhood by neighborhood, and community by community," he says.

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Believing that a home is more than just a roof over your head, David Wood decided to create AHEAD, an organization that helps families with limited means find affordable housing.

After 17 years as a builder, I moved back to New Hampshire from southern Quebec in 1985. I got a job as a construction specialist with the North Country Council's Regional Planning Commission, which administered housing repair grants from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. That was my first taste of nonprofits.

After five years there I became their community development director, but I realized I didn't know what community development really was, so I enrolled in a master's program at New Hampshire College on weekends. Their School of Community Economic Development was part of the business school then, now it's its own graduate school. For my final project I chose to study affordable housing needs in New Hampshire.

At the same time, my organization was starting to face serious funding cuts. I was probably going to be out of a job soon, so I started AHEAD. There were already a

number of threats to affordable housing, and I saw there was a need.

Even now, with six or seven relatively strong affordable housing groups, they still don't quite cover the whole state. Most of us are affiliated with the national group NeighborWorks America.

All nonprofits reach a crossroads where they need to decide, "Do we help even more people? Or do we scale back and become more profitable but help fewer people?" Our board has always tried to reach a little farther, but we also look for opportunities to make some profit to help the mission, to balance the books. We have a variety of different funding sources, but we make sure we don't drift too far from our mission. We've even managed to create a small endowment, which is fairly unusual for groups like ours.

I spend most of my time traveling these days. We got



David H. Wood '69

Executive Director

# AHEAD

(Affordable Housing, Education, And Development, Inc.)

LITTLETON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

*As told to Julie Reiff*

involved in the national network in 1998 and so now I'm involved in a number of national initiatives. I'm a pretty political animal. I've also taught a fair amount over the last ten years, at NeighborWorks workshops and at the master's program I took. I'm really the organization's entrepreneur—always looking for projects and new funding sources.

I'm also the developer for any multifamily housing we do. It's very complicated these days, but we probably average ten units per year. Most take two to three years to complete. I'm also trying to spend more time with my grandkids.

In 1998 we also joined up with two nonprofits from Vermont and bought out the for-profit management company that was managing our units, but not doing a very good job. The company now manages 1,400 units in six counties, and we've been able to make it profitable. Those profits are redistributed between the three groups. It's sort of our version of the Museum of Fine Arts gift shop—another way for us to support our mission financially. Owning the management company has also allowed us to

mold it so that it manages our properties the way we'd like it to. It also protects us. If this company had gone under, AHEAD would have been very hard-pressed to manage all our properties on our own.

When we were founded our board created a ladder so homeless people barely hanging on could climb up the ladder to home ownership. We call it ABC, Assets for Building Community; it's designed to help people who rent strengthen their finances and credit, to build assets for the future. We offer financial education and help them improve their credit. We also have something called Individual Development Accounts, that allows them to build savings for a down payment with corporate and foundation donors matching their savings.

Seeing your renters, your clients, be able to save up and buy their first house is very rewarding. Or having them come to volunteer and give back at one of our NeighborWorks events. It's a nice feeling.

For more information, visit [www.AHEAD.org](http://www.AHEAD.org).

*"I'm really the organization's entrepreneur—always looking for projects and new funding sources."*



“People risk telling you their story. And then you risk going down that path with them. But you are helping them to live life more fully, to live life with more feelings, and to get more out of life. It’s fabulous,”

◀ Lock McKelvy '76, left, with a Family Center client at Frost Valley Camp in 2001

As a social worker and therapist in New York City, Lock McKelvy’s career has led him into some challenging situations: caring for the mental health of HIV/AIDS victims in the epidemic’s early years, working with the children of parents with the disease, and helping families cope with the effects of terminal illness in some of the city’s toughest neighborhoods.

“People risk telling you their story. And then you risk going down that path with them. But you are helping them to live life more fully, to live life with more feelings, and to get more out of life. It’s fabulous,” he said.

Admittedly Lock was “a little lost” before finding social work as his calling. After a false start at Pitzer College, and some time on the beach in California, Lock earned a degree in landscape architecture at the Rhode Island School of Design. He spent a few years as a practicing architect in Santa Fe, New Mexico, before landing in a rut. A soured relationship and a positive personal experience in therapy led him to the Big Apple to pursue a master’s of social work at Fordham University.

Before hitting the books, Lock, originally from a small town in Ohio, went on a yearlong, round-the-world tour. When he returned, he faced a dilemma over where to devote himself.

“Do I do the Peace Corps? Leave the country and work with refugees in Thailand? I thought no. I’m going to stay here because these are my people. This is my country,” he said.

While earning his master’s, Lock volunteered for the Gay Men’s Health Crisis, and was later offered a job working with AIDS victims.

“That was right when the AIDS epidemic was starting to dig in and become understood in the gay population and hitting them fairly hard. So I made AIDS my niche in school, and I did a lot of my fieldwork with people with AIDS. I said to myself, this is important because I’m a gay man and these are my folks. And I was getting the intellectual training in terms of becoming a social worker,” he said.

In the 1980s, victims of HIV/AIDS faced a negative social stigma that was much more severe than today. “You can’t compare it to today. Which is a good thing,” Lock said.

Lock’s experience with families coping with AIDS led



C. Lockhart McKelvy III '76

Social Worker and Therapist

# Helping Families Cope with AIDS

NEW YORK, NEW YORK

*By David Lombino '96*

him to New York's Beth Israel Hospital, where he created a program for children whose parents were suffering from the illness and over six years he built up a sizable caseload.

"What I had seen with families with AIDS, when the women got it the whole family was hammered with this negative stigma. I would meet parents in the hospital who were sick, and try to get them to begin to understand that their illness was affecting the whole family. The parents were so afraid of being rejected by their own children, and they were already so walloped with their own illness," he said.

"The kids are already stressed out and having a hard time at school. If their parents are at the hospital with some illness that they think could kill them, whatever it was that was driving them is pretty much derailed. I would talk to their schools, tell them to be more patient. I would talk to the kids, tell them: your parents are sick. It is normal to not do well."

Working at Beth Israel, Lock was introduced to the Family Center, a start-up nonprofit that targeted New York families facing terminal illness in the parental generation. He joined the organization as a field therapist and met with families in some of New York's toughest neighborhoods in the Bronx and parts of Brooklyn. That made for some awkward moments.

"They open the door and they see a white guy. All these associations are happening with them. All these associations

are happening with me. Then you have to build something that is real. If you stick with it, it works. If you can get your judgment out of the way, and they can get theirs out of the way, it works," he said.

After several years in the field, Lock became a supervisor who oversaw other clinicians, teaching therapy techniques and designing programs. Now Lock has his own private practice, and also serves as an adjunct professor at New York University School of Social Work, teaching group therapy.

"Measuring what is helpful in my business is always difficult. You may not see the tangible, measurable payoff in the time you spend with the person," he said. "But if you planted some different ideas, or created some different possibilities, then maybe it will happen down the road."

"The best people in my field are those who have been affected by something that was difficult—an early death of a parent, coming out—someone who works to overcome adversity, finds that rewarding, and wants to give that back," he said. "Really not everyone has to be a social worker and not everybody should be. But it is all of our jobs to figure out what makes us happy and do that. That's no easy task."

For more information, visit [www.thefamilycenter.org](http://www.thefamilycenter.org).



◀ Lindsay Kosnik '80, right, with Jane Goodall and lecture tour assistant Stephen Ham (holding Mr. H who always travels with Jane).

*Founded in 1977, JGI continues Dr. Goodall's pioneering research into chimpanzee behavior—research that transformed scientific perceptions of the relationship between humans and animals. Today, JGI is a global leader in the effort to protect chimpanzees and their habitats. It also is widely recognized for establishing innovative community-centered conservation and development programs in Africa, and the Roots & Shoots global education program.*

As an undergraduate at UVM, I spent a semester abroad in Africa—I was hooked. I went back as an English teacher in Kenya with the Peace Corps from 1985–87. When I returned, I got into fundraising with Audubon, and it was there I became very interested in population issues, specifically human population growth as a natural resource management issue. I entered Cornell in 1990 to get my master's in international development. In addition to a getting a fabulous education and further developing an already intense commitment to Africa and international development, I met an awesome guy who shared many of my interests and goals, Chris Kosnik.

We got married and moved to Africa. Chris was again working for the Peace Corps—first as a program manager, eventually as a country director. I did various interesting jobs with USAID, the US Embassy, and several nonprofits over the course of the seven plus years. Connor and Ian—our first two sons—also came along. Our posts included: Cameroon (three and a half years), the Republic of Congo (only eight months—civil war broke out forcing us to close the program and evacuate, but that's another story!), and Malawi (for two years).

It wasn't easy leaving Africa and adjusting to life Stateside. We were ready to come back, though; it was important to reconnect with friends and family. And I was keen to get my fundraising career back on track.

I joined the Jane Goodall Institute two and a half years ago. The organization's mission is a complex one, and anyone

with an understanding of international development and conservation issues can appreciate why—the challenges we are addressing are all interrelated and very complex. The foundation of our work, of course, centers on chimps and the protection of their habitat but radiates outward to encompass community development in Africa and global education. Through a program called TACARE, our staff works collaboratively with African communities in and around critical chimpanzee habitats to improve their livelihoods through girls' scholarships, micro-lending schemes, technical assistance in sustainable agriculture practices, reforestation projects, health and family planning projects, and more. Working hand in hand with local communities, one of our goals is to create leafy corridors of habitat that connect isolated groups of chimpanzees, increasing the gene pool and, hopefully over time, the number of wild chimpanzees.

Coffee is an important element of our program. Chimps don't eat coffee, so it serves as an effective buffer crop between chimp habitat and fields of tastier crops that chimps raid, often causing human/chimp conflict. Coffee also provides a useful cash crop to families struggling to meet their daily needs. We are searching for partners to get our coffee to U.S. markets and raise the price per kilo going into farmers' pockets. The critical thing here—unless there's an understanding of the value of biodiversity and a vested interest in conservation from local people—there is little hope for saving chimpanzees, or any other endangered species. The good news is that programs like TACARE are working.



Lindsay Hance Kosnik '80

*Vice President of Development*

# Jane Goodall Institute

ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

*As told to Julia Feldmeier '99*

Most people have followed Jane's career for years. From time to time I encounter, "That's the gorilla lady, right?" The next thing the confused ask is, "Is she still alive?" "Yes", I nod with a smile. She's very much alive. She turns 72 in April and can outrun any of us, whether it's on her grueling 300-day-a-year lecture tour or running up the steep slopes of Gombe!

A good portion of my current work involves major donors. One of the first things I did was to establish a leadership giving circle—Jane's Peak Society—for people who invest \$1,000 or more in JGI. We run trips to Africa for these very committed and generous people. They visit our sanctuaries, and then we take them to Gombe National Park in Tanzania, where Jane began her research in 1960.

I accompanied our first group of JPS members to Gombe in February 2005. I had a very close encounter with Freud, one of the Gombe chimps. I met Faustino, and I saw the twins, Golden and Glitter. It was magical. They are amazingly like us. I watched them interact—pat each other on the back, pick up a stick and shake it in the air, kiss and hug, pant-hoot. Their personalities are so distinct and special. Frodo, one of the well-known chimps, is quite a bully and has been known to throw rocks—even at Jane! No doubt about it, they're amazingly like us. In fact, humans genetic make-up is 98 percent the same as chimpanzees; you can get a blood transfusion from a chimp.

One of the most critical issues threatening chimpanzee populations is the commercial bushmeat trade. In the Congo

Basin, logging companies are opening up huge tracts of tropical forest with roads and hunters are going in and shooting everything that flies, walks, burrows—bats, elephants, chimpanzees, snakes, everything—and then selling it in urban markets such as Yaoundé and Libreville. Unlike traditional subsistence hunting practices, this is completely unsustainable.

Baby chimps, who don't have much meat on them, are sold in African markets and end up chained in bars or as pets in expatriates' homes (where they grow up and become rather difficult to care for!). Some end up in the entertainment industry or sold for research. It's illegal to sell chimps in these countries, so we do have government cooperation in confiscating these orphans. They are turned over to JGI sanctuaries in Africa, where we love and care for them. Jane has been criticized for doing this because it's very costly—chimps in captivity can live 60 years—but Jane and the rest of us feel that each of these little guys deserves to live a full and good life.

When you work for a nonprofit, you absolutely have to be passionate about the cause. (It's certainly not the paycheck that motivates you!) Much more important, it's hugely satisfying work. I wake up feeling good every day about what I do. I am making a positive difference in the world, and, I hope, providing a good example for my three boys. (Luke came along in 2001!) It's about giving back and not just taking, taking, taking. Hopefully there will be chimps on this planet for their children to learn from and enjoy.

For more information, visit [www.JaneGoodall.org](http://www.JaneGoodall.org).



kimberly Walsh Stone and her husband Tony started Adelante in 1998, after watching the news about Hurricane Mitch on CNN. The hurricane devastated parts of Honduras; rains were so strong there, an entire factory washed down river. Although the couple lived in California—Tony was an aerospace engineer and Kim a prosecutor for the district attorney—his mother still lived in the village of La Ceiba, where Tony grew up. Kim and Tony moved to Honduras in 2000 but returned to California last July.

On my first day in La Ceiba, I saw a horse-drawn buggy going through the drive-through at the local Burger King. That was really emblematic of the culture clash there, in a country where more than half the residents live in poverty. Although my husband Tony was born in Mexico, he grew up in Honduras, the second poorest country in the Western Hemisphere (after Haiti). We lived in a regular house in town, but most villages have no pavement, electricity, or running water. Even some places that have services, lose their water or electricity for eight hours a day. When I insisted on a house with 24-hour plumbing, my husband quipped, “I didn’t know you were so high maintenance.”

Wondering how they could help, they met philanthropist Ed Cohen, who gives seed capital to nonprofits.

Tony didn’t want to start a nonprofit, but he went to Honduras to figure out how best to use the money there. That’s when he learned about microcredit. At the time, it was only available in bigger cities and not at all along the northern rural coast where Tony

was from. When we got started, it was a new thing in rural areas.

Microcredit is a revolutionary idea pioneered by Mohammed Yunus in Bangladesh, who believes that poor people need financial services as much as rich people. Lending people money helps much more than giving people money in terms of reducing world poverty. There isn’t enough money nor enough desire to erase poverty, but there is enough to loan money, to reinvest it and give it to other people. This is a way of changing our worldview, of seeing the poorest people not as potential recipients of charity but as creditworthy consumers. We’re doing our little part along with thousands of other microcredit groups around the world.

The beauty of this system is that loans aren’t given to individuals, they are given to solidarity groups who are responsible for one another. They know much better than we ever could who is trustworthy. They know if a woman’s tamales are any good and if people would buy them, or if she would work hard. They make payments on the group’s loan every two weeks, with



Kimberly Walsh Stone '87

Board Member, Former Director of Development,  
Adelante Foundation

# Working Their Way Out of Poverty

HONDURAS AND SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

*As told to Julie Reiff*

interest. If one woman has a bad week, the others make up her share. This minimizes risk for the organization, and we have a really high repayment rate; there were no defaults or late payments for the first three years. As we got bigger we encountered more problems, but still have a repayment rate in the high 90s.

We lived in Honduras for five years, although Tony still spends almost half his time there. I stay involved on the board of directors, but we are phasing out our day-to-day involvement, focusing on stateside fund-raising efforts for Adelante instead.

Honduras is not a safe place, though. Despite its 12-foot iron bars and our two dogs, our house was robbed twice in the first six weeks. My mother-in-law was once tied up and left in a closet for over four hours. Living in the third world is not that romantic. There is a lot of natural beauty, but it's not a convenient place to live.

The women there are amazing. They didn't know what to make of me before I had children ... that's the first thing they ask. Once I did have children of my own it gave me a completely different understanding of these women and their lives, their fears and worries about taking care of their children. I have so much respect and admiration for their ambition; their priority is to take care of their children.

That's why women are a better investment as well as a better credit risk. Women repay at a rate of 95 percent, whereas men repay 80 or 85 percent of the time. Women invest in the

future, too, by taking care of their children. The first thing they do once they have more income is feed the family better. Second, they can afford medicine and better health care for their children. And third, they send their kids to school. School is free in Honduras up through the sixth grade, but they need to be able to afford shoes, a uniform, and a way to get them there.

One of our first clients, Doña Nancy, lived in a little shack with her son—in a culture where it is unusual to have only one child. When she opened her store she named it after him. Five years later, she's moved the store to a three-room concrete house near the bus stop. She's the local version of a department store, selling soccer balls, uniforms, clothes, mirrors, towels, Scope, everything. She was really motivated to make her store bigger and better in order to help her son. Not only could he go to school, but now he'll be able to continue his education after sixth grade. I could tell you fifty stories like that.

I hope I never lose the sense of appreciation you gain after living in a country where so many have so little. Living there for five years helped me keep a healthy perspective on things. Perspective is hard to gain and easy to lose.

Moving people out of poverty is a long process, but I'm a total convert. I'm a believer that microcredit can change the world and change the way we see poverty.

For more information, visit [www.adelantefoundation.org](http://www.adelantefoundation.org).



THE JIFF WAS LAUNCHED IN 2004 AS PART OF THE JACKSON HOLE FILM INSTITUTE, A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO EMPOWERING INDEPENDENT FILMMAKERS. THE 2006 FESTIVAL WILL TAKE PLACE FROM JUNE 7 TO 11.

I had been living in San Francisco for about seven years, working on the business end of technology companies. I liked it, but I kind of burned out of that type of work—it's pretty draining—and I decided to get back to the mountains.

I moved to Jackson in 2003 and I met up with two guys who had the idea of starting a film festival in Jackson. I didn't really know that much about film, but my interest was being involved with something creative, so this was great. I like pushing boundaries, and I was always interested in being part of a nonprofit organization that added community value.

We wanted to build a film festival that was like what the Sundance Festival in Park City, Utah, used to be in its early days: A true independent film festival. The idea is to be true supporters of films made on much smaller budgets and from

filmmakers not necessarily associated with a big studio. A lot of the bigger festivals highlight films that have a \$50 million or \$100+ million budget, so the few smaller films at those festivals get lost in all the limelight surrounding the big films.

Our first festival was in September 2004, but it was basically a practice run. People didn't really know what we were about or how long we'd be around. By next June we'd really geared up our marketing. We had 4,000 people in attendance. We're getting a lot of interest from sponsors.

We show about 80 films in five days over four theaters. We have evening parties every night. It takes a team of about 100 volunteers. Last year we had 500 films submitted for consideration. This year, we might have 1,000 submitted, so we'll need other people to help screen them. I think next year

▲ Todd Rankin '89, left, at the festival's opening night party with Australian finalist filmmakers, an aborigini digiridoo player, actress Sarah Wynter, and his partner Eben Dorros. Last year's festival highlighted Australian filmmakers. MICHAEL CAULFIELD/WIRED IMAGE



H. Todd Rankin '89

MANAGING DIRECTOR

# JACKSON HOLE FILM FESTIVAL

JACKSON HOLE, WYOMING

*As told to Julia Feldmeier '99*

we'll get somewhere between 6,000 and 10,000 attendees.

We hold competitions for the standard best feature, short, and documentary, but we've also launched new programs. Our "Global Insight" program is the one I really focus on, one that uses film to draw awareness to human rights issues. Film is a very powerful medium in terms of broadening awareness. There's a whole niche of filmmakers that make films about humanitarian issues. Our goal is reaching out to those filmmakers and using our platform to give more voice to those films and connecting them with advocacy organizations.

For Global Insight, we wanted to focus on a general theme every year and have films and panel discussions supporting that theme. Last year our theme was the global refugee crisis. We brought in films about Uganda, Rwanda and other countries where people wouldn't necessarily know how dire the situations are there.

One of the films we showed was the documentary "God Sleeps in Rwanda," which has been nominated for an Academy Award for best short film. We had the president of the International Rescue Committee on a panel with a Rwandan genocide survivor, Congolese refugees, and the senior adviser for Refugees International, and they all obviously had different perspectives on the refugee situation.

We really want to create an environment where people can come and talk to the speakers or subjects or film makers and it's not one of those things where you have to pay \$3,000 for a pass and then wait an hour to see the screening or talk to the filmmakers.

Other festivals, they start at \$400 and go to \$3,000. Ours is comparatively inexpensive: A typical festival pass, which includes films for the whole five days, is \$100, and a VIP pass and tickets to the opening night party is \$250.

We kind of want to be somewhere between the Telluride Mountain Festival and maybe what Sundance used to be. We don't see our festivals getting too glitzy or glamorous where everyone from Los Angeles descends on us. It will always keep true to its western feel. Jackson's not close to a major city, so that helps.

It's exciting when you start laying out a vision and start achieving the goals that you set. Building an organization is fun, especially when you're really creating a product that adds value to the community. It's creative.

And, of course, it's in Jackson. It's great just to be able to ski or climb or bike, or go do whatever you want to do in the mountains.

For more information, visit [www.jacksonholefilmfestival.org](http://www.jacksonholefilmfestival.org).



◀ George Gardipe '94, wearing the whistle, leads a game during the Nickelodeon Worldwide Day of Play in October 2004 that he organized at the Pawnee Nation Tribal Campgrounds.

According to the American Diabetes Association, more than 15 percent of Native Americans over the age of 20 are estimated to have diabetes, a disease in which the body does not produce or properly use insulin. Gardipe is the director of the Pawnee Nation Reach 2010, a program that works with the Oklahoma state health department and other tribes to combat diabetes and cardiovascular diseases.

I always knew I wanted to come back here and work for my tribe. These are my people, and there's a deep sense of cultural identity. We have an old joke that it's like a rubber band effect: We may go away for a while, but we'll always come back.

I went to college at Dartmouth for two years and then I came home. I joined Reach 2010 as an assistant in 2001. In 2004, I became its director. Our focus is to get our native people physically active and provide nutrition education in order to prevent or delay the onset of diabetes and cardiovascular diseases in our population. We hope to convince people that their health is important and that they can take steps now to prevent deterioration in the long run.

We provide aerobics, karate. We've done archery, bike

riding, hiking, croquet. We had about 30 young ladies involved in a ballet program here until we lost our instructor. We have such a small community—the town of Pawnee has only about 3,000 people—and it's difficult to find somebody qualified to lead the course and to get them trained. Our budget simply can't afford it.

Originally we were more focused on our elders because that's most of our tribe. But they're pretty set in their ways; it's harder to get them to try new things.

So we switched our focus to youth. The big thing here is basketball. We have open basketball nights every Tuesday and Thursday until 10. In December we had a 3-on-3 basketball tournament to promote the Pawnee Nation Academy, a new college that just started this fall.



George R. Gardipe, Jr. '94

Director, REACH 2010

(Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health)

# Pawnee Nation

PAWNEE, OKLAHOMA

*As told to Julia Feldmeier '99*

We ended up having 20 teams total. With the crowd, there had to be at least 300 people there. Which was a pretty good turnout, but we were hoping for 1,000, because we're like that. We just think big.

Pretty much all the youth know who I am. There's really not much to do in this town except come to the Wellness Center, so it's even more important that we keep their interest focused on positive lifestyle.

The Wellness Center, where our office is based, has a gym, and we just built a fitness center. It has a sauna and a spa, as well as exercise equipment and free weights. We actually use the basketball court in the gym to play tennis; we ordered indoor nets for it. There are two courts here in town, but they're just so dilapidated you can't even play there.

It's sad to say, but in order to get the number of participants that we want, we have to offer the youth something. We're trying to sell health—their health, their life—but they like to get stuff. They like to get free things, whether it's just a little keychain or pedometers.

We try to collaborate with other programs here at the Pawnee Nation, like the special diabetes program and the substance abuse program, because there are certain things that we can't afford that other programs can. Our budget just keeps getting cut. This year we've gotten cut \$2,500,

which is a pretty big hit for our little program.

When I was growing up, nobody ever talked about diabetes and fitness. We had Nintendo back then, but it wasn't really a big deal. We'd be outside playing baseball every day, playing football, or whatever. I'm not saying that the kids today don't do that, but it's definitely a lot less than when I was growing up. Now there's all this new technology, so as a society we can just sit back and relax and we don't have to do as much. And we're getting obese. I want to see lifestyle changes.

I used to work as a wildland firefighter for the Pawnee Nation—I was part of the crew that went down to the Columbia shuttle recovery in Texas in 2003. That was pretty rough. It was pretty tedious work because we had to search every inch of ground for anything—equipment, body parts. We mostly found a lot of tile.

This was the first year I wasn't a firefighter. It's too hard to get away as a director. There's tons of paperwork to do and activities to organize. But I love coming here every day. I can't believe we get paid to do the things we do—to go out and have fun with our tribal members and to get them active while we're having fun. It's amazing.

For more information, visit [www.pawneenation.org/reach](http://www.pawneenation.org/reach).



A NATIVE OF THE CZECH REPUBLIC, KLÁRA SKRIVÁNKOVÁ FIRST GOT INVOLVED IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING WHILE WORKING FOR A GROUP IN PRAGUE CALLED LA STRADA. SIX MONTHS AGO, SHE MOVED TO LONDON TO CONTINUE HER EFFORTS WITH ANTI-SLAVERY INTERNATIONAL.

As the trafficking program officer, I am responsible for Anti-Slavery International's activities connected with combating trafficking in human beings both in the United Kingdom and in the rest of the world. Apart from advocacy and lobby work, I also implement a specific four-country project targeted at the issue of trafficking for forced labor.

Anti-Slavery International is the oldest human rights organization in the world. It was founded in 1839 to combat the transatlantic slave trade. Anti-Slavery focuses mainly on campaigning, lobbying, and advocating against all forms of modern-day slavery, such as trafficking in human beings, forced labor, bonded labor, child labor, etc.

Before I joined Anti-Slavery International, I worked for four years for a Czech anti-trafficking NGO in Prague, called La Strada. They address the issue of trafficking in human

beings by lobbying, raising awareness, and providing direct assistance to survivors of trafficking. I used to work at the position of prevention and education manager of La Strada.

I first became interested in the policy-making connected to human-rights and gender issues during my studies of public and social policy at the Charles University in Prague. I did an internship at La Strada and further volunteered for the organization for another year and half. Then I was offered the job there.

Working for nonprofits emerged somehow as THE option when I was still at university. I strongly believe in the potential of NGOs as actors in the "third" sector—having on one hand access to the problems and issues on the ground, being flexible enough to react to them, and at the same time contributing to the public debate and shaping the policies.



Klára Skrivánková '96

TRAFFICKING PROGRAM OFFICER

# ANTI-SLAVERY INTERNATIONAL

LONDON, ENGLAND

*As told to Julie Reiff*

The issue of trafficking is very complex, and there are no immediate and easy solutions to it. One can make changes by small steps, although the impact might not be visible immediately. However, I am glad if my work and the work of my colleagues brings about a change in a policy or the response of respective governments or international institutions to their approaches to combating modern slavery. Hopefully our work contributes to raising public awareness about the issue. All this positively affects the situation of those who have been trafficked and provides for mainstreaming unacceptability of slavery in our society.

The most rewarding part of the work is to see the impact of the work on a situation of a trafficked person. Unfortunately, there are not that many happy endings out there, since the mere fact of getting out of the environment of trafficking or to be released from slavery or bondage, does not directly imply a better life for the survivors. People often face further threats and hardship before they finally regain control over their lives in engage in common life.

One woman who actually managed to get over the experience of trafficking sent us a letter in which she praised our work as empowering her to start again. She regained control over her life, received training and founded a small

business in Ukraine, starting a new life. Such moments make up for all the difficulties and perhaps even frustrations that are connected to this job.

Again and again, I am struck by how few people believe or realize that slavery is still present in the world in the 21st century. And we're not talking solely about developing nations. Slavery, in one of its various forms, is present almost in every country in the world. Only, it is very different from traditional slavery; it is more sophisticated, more covert, and increasingly widespread. It is not only sexual exploitation; it is also exploitation for various kinds of labor.

Lack of awareness and perhaps ignorance of modern forms of slavery make it still acceptable in our society. I would like to appeal to everyone to support initiatives against this severe violation of human rights, to keep your eyes open, and to question whether the products we buy are produced fairly, without the use of forced labor and exploitation.

The more people ask the question, "Was this produced in a fair way?" the more it will become unacceptable to employ forced labor. 🙏

For more information, visit [www.antislavery.org](http://www.antislavery.org) and [www.strada.cz](http://www.strada.cz).

T

# MA90

## Advanced Placement Calculus BC

This course follows the CEEB syllabus for the Advanced Placement Examination in Calculus BC, which is designed to lead to a college sophomore honors course in the second-year calculus. Students may take the Calculus BC examination in May.

Faculty: *John Piacenza*

“The course is a lot of work, for sure,” admits **John Piacenza**, who has been teaching math at Taft since 1983. “Students can’t take it lightly. We say

math is about thinking and training the brain to work in certain ways and to develop habits; BC Calculus is the culmination of those ideas.”

The course covers many topics that require different types of mathematical

Solving for P: Math teacher John Piacenza, inset, makes sure his students get their fair share of pi. From left, seniors Marika Bigler, Zaynah Abid, Nathan Chuang, and uppermid Ben Grinberg.





thinking: pattern recognition, grinding through the algebra they've learned, as well as some intuitive thinking.

"All those things we say in our 'portrait of the math graduate,' they all happen in BC Calc. By this point, students have definitely trained their minds as mathematical thinkers."

"You must know the concepts and the equations well," says **Wilson Yu '07**. "And when solving a problem, you must know exactly where you are going from the start, or you will get nowhere."

The course used to be more theoretical, have more proofs, Piacenza adds, but the national syllabus has gotten away from that, toward more applications. "But when there's time we'll work a proof out," he says. "Every kid finds some kind

of problem that he or she is interested in. We learn the foundations of some of the math they've been using for awhile in their science classes." Most of the class takes at least one AP science.

"It is very difficult," admits **Gordon Atkins '06**. "I enjoy the challenge most, but also the fact that although the concepts we learn are complex they can be applied to real-life situations."

**Simone Foxman '07** was surprised by the amount of discussion for a math class. "We discuss how we did problems," says Simone, "how calculus could apply to our daily lives."

"The other thing I like is the opportunity to work in a little history," says Piacenza. "Calculus is filled with great thinkers—mathematicians who

made great leaps in thinking. In earlier courses we may come across a new idea and I have to say, 'Well, we don't have enough calculus that I can show you how he proved this,' but with this group I can say, 'This is what Euler was thinking when...'. It never ceases to amaze me how far our students can go. We're lucky to have enough students every year who are able to do this level of work."

"Even though I was in Honors Accelerated Precal last year, the pace of this course makes that seem almost slow," says **Nathan Chuang '06**. "I'm actually understanding a lot. Even if the material seems to be way over my head at times, I eventually work through it and am able to understand the core concepts."

**Zaynah Abid '06** enjoys learning the different concepts of calculus and solving tough problems, especially when she gets the right answer! "Although limits, derivatives, and integrals may seem like abstract concepts," she adds, "we are frequently able to apply calculus to real-life problems. These types of problems intrigue me the most. Our class has many bright and serious students, but we are still a fun-spirited class, often finding humor in Mr. P's math jokes."

"What makes it unlike any other math course I have taken," says **John Canary '06**, "is that many of the problems initially seem impossible. After I apply all of the math I have learned throughout my years at Taft, I am able to come out with the correct answer, albeit an answer that usually surprises me."

"BC is the most challenging course that I have taken at Taft, but Mr. P refuses to let me give up," says **Marika Bigler '06**. "Although slightly embarrassed to admit it, when I get the right answers on my math homework my week is made! There's an abundance of math jokes, and we all get our fair share of pi!"

"BC Calculus is one of my favorite classes," says **Ben Grinberg '07**. "The curriculum is challenging, but Mr. P is a great teacher and we have a great time in class. Really." 🙌



# The Last Juniors

"Juniors" in the fall of 1957, the last eighth graders to come through Taft:

1. Charles Collins
2. Stephen Foote
3. Godfrey Harrison
4. William McDaniel
5. John Reynolds
6. Hubert Soutendijk
7. Thomas Spencer
8. Michael Swires, all Class of '62.



"When I arrived at Taft,

I was 12 years,

8 months old. I was a

couple of days early,

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At meal times, I felt like

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was nice though."

Slowly the language is changing. Rarely are any students called "middlers" anymore (except for the occasional reference to a "mid-chick"). Everywhere we have sophomores and juniors. It's a shame really that we are losing part of our school culture. Still, Taft vernacular can be confusing to the uninitiated. Why, many wonder, do we have the term "middle class," forgetting any economic implication, what is it in the middle of? Coincidentally, some years ago, I pondered the number of alumni who listed "5 years at Taft" on their *Annual* pages. That's a lot of PGs, I thought, until someone enlightened me that our school had once had five classes: juniors, lower middlers, middlers, upper middlers, and seniors. Aha!

Until this year I had never bothered to find out when the junior year ceased to be offered, but a query from George Hampton '60 sent me to the archives to find out. The last junior class, we discovered, arrived in Watertown—some as young as 12 years old—in the fall of 1957, a starter dough of sorts for what would become the Class of '62. And just as they prepared to sell beds to their successors, they learned they would be once again the bottom of the ladder for another year—the only class to be the youngest in school, twice. Here are some of their recollections of that time.

—*editor*

I came from Venezuela and had never seen winter, much less snow. My new clothes made me look like a child banker. We were directed to a short hallway of rooms. I met my roommate, who was destined not to make it through the year. Next we met a group of enterprising lower mids who offered to sell us our beds, desks, toilet paper, etc. I felt like a target for every scam in the early days. Because of the extremely small class—only eight of us—we came to know each other intimately. Familiarity often causing less than loving sentiments, I spent Christmas vacation back in Venezuela with a broken right index finger from trying to slug my intimate friend, Mike Swires. We played hockey on the pond, and I became a goalie, eventually on the varsity. In the spring there was golf, and finally it was the end of the year and there was a sense of achievement. We survived and had an enormous leg up on the incoming class; we already knew the price of beds.

—*John C. Reynolds '62*

I remember arriving at Taft in September of 1957, thinking I had finally gained my freedom (the whole purpose of the exercise). Little did I know. In retrospect, Taft in those days sort of reminded me of a Thomas Hardy novel—grim and cold and a little overwhelming. So much to learn and so many new people and experiences to deal with.

That tiny corridor outside Len Sargent's apartment where we lived was its own little world—only four or five rooms plus Sargent's apartment. In the winter the wind would whistle through those leaded-pane windows as if they weren't even there. My roommate Mike Swires liked to sleep with the windows open, but it really didn't matter when the wind was blowing. Like John Reynolds, I recall being offered the exceptional opportunity by my new lower-mid friends to buy my bedding and other essentials at a significant discount. Mike and John were both from Venezuela and, though good friends, loved to yell at each other in Spanish—mostly curse words, which the rest of us learned instantly. I think John roomed with Hubert Soutendijk. Harrison and Foote had the singles.





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northern lights.  
Sure this was another  
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endure, we reluctantly  
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him outside and  
sure enough, there  
they were.”

My parents really took to Mike, and he joined us at a number of Sunday lunches at the Waverly Inn in Cheshire. I think they hoped Mike’s good study habits would rub off on me; they didn’t.

One winter night Sargent got all of us up to see a rare display of the northern lights. Sure this was another scam or rite of passage we had to endure, we reluctantly accompanied him outside and sure enough, there they were.

In those days no electrical appliances of any kind were allowed—and so of course it became necessary to have an immersion coil to heat up our instant coffee—with lots of CoffeeMate and sugar. Terrible stuff. We hid the coils under the floorboards when not in use; it’s a wonder we didn’t burn the place down.

Everyone else in the school seemed so old and worldly. We were just 13 or 14 and really green and naive. Masters like Ed Douglas helped us over some of the rough spots. The feeling I had was that we were being watched over, but from a distance. As you walked the corridors there was a feeling of security. We were allowed to take our lumps and get into trouble, but somehow total disaster was avoided.

As I look back on those years I realize how fortunate we all were. And though we complained about the food or the rules or whatever it was that irritated us at the moment, Taft was a tremendous experience. Friendships forged there have lasted and grown to this day.

—Bill McDaniel ’62

□ □ □

My parents, sister, and I had lived in Caracas, Venezuela, since 1950. We got to go back to the States for vacation every two years for two months, and I loved the summer lifestyle in Akron, Ohio, our hometown. I had also gone to a summer camp in New Hampshire with a Caracas friend for two summers and loved that too. Toward the end of seventh grade, I heard that a few guys from my school in Caracas, including John Reynolds, were planning to go to a school called Taft in the States in the fall. I thought it would be great fun to do the same. Somehow I talked my parents into it, applied, and was accepted. I was elated, since I didn’t really expect to be able to go.

When I arrived at Taft, I was 12 years, 8 months old. I was a couple of days early, and only the football players were there. The school buildings and grounds looked enormous. Tom Losee ’59 was my student adviser and showed me to my room, a double on the top floor, next door to Mr. Sargent’s apartment. No other juniors were there yet.

At meal times, I felt like a little kid surrounded by adults; everyone was nice though. At the end of the first dinner I tried to leave the table before we were excused, a big no-no. At the first breakfast I waited and waited, thinking we had to be excused; it turned out I could’ve asked to be excused. But I learned the rules, and made each mistake just once.

I was very happy to see other juniors arrive. School life was very disciplined, but it didn’t bother me. I soon learned that we juniors were at the bottom of the school status hierarchy, and I was about a year younger than

the others. I didn’t know how to dress, especially not with a coat and tie. The Pooles were kind enough to help me buy the dress clothes I needed.

I soon found out, to my surprise, that I was pretty good at studying, taking tests, getting good grades, etc. I remember geography class with Mr. Poole, art class with Mr. Potter, English class with Mr. Donnelly, and Latin class with Mr. Snow.

I enjoyed the afternoon sports part of the day, even though I wasn’t that good athletically. I played with gusto on the Alpha teams. In the winter, I learned to skate and started to play hockey, which became my favorite team sport. I even enthusiastically helped clear snow off the pond after each snowfall. I grew to love the “feeds” (team snacks) we would have at the end of each sports season. Thanks to these events I learned to love pizza, which we had never had at home.

I was a very picky eater at home, but I quickly learned to eat whatever was offered at Taft. I also learned to really appreciate the few opportunities to eat well away from Taft, or even at Taft when we had our surprise steak dinners. Bill McDaniel’s parents and grandparents came up to Taft from NJ for a number of weekend visits, and several times were kind enough to invite me along for a delicious lunch.

I went home to Caracas for Christmas vacation. When I came back, I remember I was terribly homesick for weeks that first winter. I wasn’t going to see my family again for six months. I didn’t have a lot of time to dwell on it, fortunately, thanks to the regimented life at Taft. By spring vacation, I was cured.

The daily job requirement was totally new to me, too. At home in Latin America, with maids and all, a kid didn’t do any manual work. I never grew to like things like sweeping halls or cleaning erasers, but in later years enjoyed working at the Jigger Shop and the school switchboard.

I learned to love the Saturday night movies. It became a real problem to decide (during the winter) if I would watch the movie or go up to the rink for a pick-up hockey game on the good ice. It took me a while to get used to going to church on Sunday; we never did that at home. I got a serious scolding from Mr. Cunningham after some childish behavior during the Christmas service.

School work took a lot of time and effort, but it felt good to do well at something that adults felt had real value. I formed a close relationship with Mr. Lovett-Janison, who got me interested in chemistry and science, which kept me motivated at Taft, helped get me into Stanford, kept me motivated there as well, and has been the foundation of my 40-plus years of professional work in polymers.

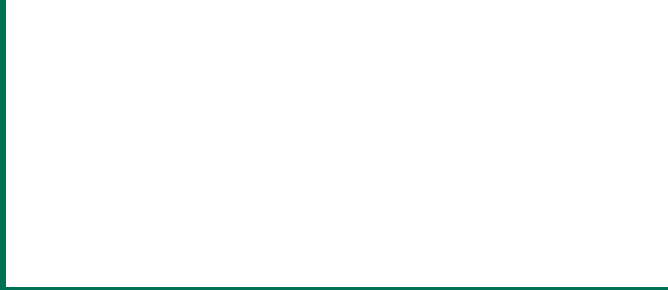
That first year wasn’t the fun U.S. lifestyle I expected. It was lonely, especially that first winter, and it was tough getting along with a group of guys 24 hours a day, seven days a week. I did a lot of growing up junior year, to an extent that never would have happened at home, and the overall experience was good enough that I came back for four more, and I’ve always been very glad that I did. 🏆

—Mike Swires ’62

# Taft Bulletin

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