

Beyond the Quad

Ela, May, and Dowdy have stories, strings, and stamina

Alex Nebel

LAYOUT EDITOR

To say that school librarian Linelle Ela enjoys reading is an understatement. In 2011 alone, Ela read 120 books. Every month she reads around 10 books, the largest book she ever read was 1000 pages long. However, those numbers just contribute to the bigger picture.

Ela was born in Detroit, Michigan. Her father was a part of the Air Force during World War II, leading to the marriage of Ela's parents. But after the war, married women were scarcely allowed to take part in the service, forcing Ela's mother to become an Air Force wife. Although her mother was a great inspiration to Ela's interest in reading, it was not until a week after Ela graduated from college that her mother became a teacher.

Ela attended the University of South Florida, where she first majored in English education, but later became more interested in the new program of information science in library. Ela graduated with a dual major and was hired right off the bat as a librarian for Apopka High School, where

she worked for seven years until she left because of the birth of her first child.

Ela recalls her mother as the one who would often read variations of poetry, stories, and fairytales to her and her sister. Oftentimes she would find her mother so lost in a book that she would ignore all of the chaos around her, a quality which Ela greatly admires. "I don't ever remember her not having a book in her hand, at least once a day sitting somewhere reading."

Ela would return from school with her hands full with on average 14 books from the library and finished them all in one week.

Ela remembers reading novels such as *87 Precinct* by Ed McBain in the seventh grade. She is open to reading new young adult novels that trigger a return to reading books such as *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley which remind her of the fears that she and her fellow classmates faced in high school.

"Sometimes things never change, but are just a different aspect of the same story," Ela said.

Ela likes to encourage students to read for pleasure and listens to the insight of

the students and faculty members and the books they recommend. She expressed reading as, "a time machine, where you can go anywhere and be anybody. You can experience things you probably would've never experienced yourself."

Upon the knowledge that one genre does not fit all readers, Ela likes to offer variety in the library. Venturing from sports fiction to historical nonfiction to magazines, she is always on board to help a student find a book they will be interested in. She compared the books stacked on the shelves to that of a "radio station where if one does not enjoy what they are listening to they are able to change the channel."

"The man who won't read has no advantage over the man that can't read," is Ela's favorite inspirational quote pertaining to reading. "Reading is the basis of education," said Ela. "The more you read, the more informed you are."

Ela's long-term goal is to take part in the Literacy League of Orange County, where she would work with those who may not be able to read. "Reading is like opening the windows to the world," she said with a smile.



Connor Durham

Linelle Ela, Librarian



Connor Durham

Maureen May, Orchestra Director

Maureen May is the "Da Vinci" of the cello world, and has performed with famous musicians like Jimmy Page, Harry Connick Jr., and Donny Osmond. Most recently, she accompanied opera singer Andrea Bocelli.

Many acts come through Orlando that are interested in looking for the best players in the area. As one of four cellist players in the core of the Orlando Philharmonic, May has developed many new connections.

Principal cellist of the Orlando Philharmonic, Ron Gardiner, suggested May for two of Andrea Bocelli's concerts at the Amway Center on Feb. 12 and in Ft. Lauderdale on Feb. 14.

"It was fun! It was a huge event, a little scary. The musicians that surrounded Bocelli are just fabulous musicians," May said. "Bocelli was really exciting and the audience was really loud! I think the coolest part is that 20,000 people came to hear a concert that half of the concert was opera."

May grew up as the youngest of six children in Sioux Falls, South Dakota in quite the art conscious family. "My mom was a great pusher for the arts," May chuckled. "She always made sure we were watching PBS showings."

In the fourth grade she entered the strings family by picking up the violin like her older brother. She recalls not wanting to follow in his footsteps and decided to make the switch to the cello in seventh grade.

In 1981 May moved to Colorado where she graduated with a major in cello performance. 12 years later she moved to Florida. The first time she played with anyone in Florida was in 1994 with Luciano Pavarotti in the Sun Dome in Tampa for an audience of 20,000.

She experienced that playing was not just about the composer, but it was also about the venue.

In 2000 Jonathan May began the strings program at Trinity Prep, which started as only three classes, but later built up to a

strong program. "There's always that light bulb moment where at first the students are hesitant about a new piece, and then they get really excited about it," May said with admiration.

May loves how a student can be prideful of their own work with a piece. "I came across great teachers in my life growing up in the Midwest, and I had incredible mentors that changed the way I looked at things," she said.

"I love finding someone in fourth through sixth grade and holding their hand through the process that I experienced," May said as the smile across her face broadened.

Currently May is working on writing her own method book as she continues to encourage her students to keep on playing.

"Music is a source of expressing yourself no matter how old or how busy you are," she said.

May continues to enjoy her own experiences with success and believes music to be a universal language.

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When thorough
understanding replaces rote
learning, then self-confidence
banishes fear.

Eighth grade physical science teacher by day, marathon runner by dawn, Junior Varsity cross country and Junior High track and field coach Sara Dowdy does it all. She has competed in nine marathons and countless triathlons, but it all began in sixth grade when Dowdy was inspired by her parents to join her cross country team.

Both of Dowdy's parents are marathon runners and inspired her to enter her first marathon at age 21 in her hometown, Columbus, Ohio. A few years later, she had completed her second marathon in Seattle where she attended graduate school and met her husband, Jason Dowdy.

During her second year teaching at Trinity Dowdy began coaching. She encourages her students to run their best and constantly motivates them to never stop trying.

"On the start line I tell them, 'You're going to be tired at the finish whether you run fast or slow so you might as well run fast and get it over with,'" she said with a chuckle. "You can live with the pain but you can't live with the regret."

She attributes her love of running to her high school cross country coach who pushed her to do the best that she could do. Before a race he would tell her, "Run as fast as you can and when you don't feel like you can run anymore, let your heart

take you the rest of the way." To this day Dowdy still thinks of the quote when she runs and encourages the kids on the team to do the same.

Dowdy has a strong love for running and strives to be a great role model for her children and students. Six days a week Dowdy wakes up at five a.m. for a run with her co-worker and math teacher, Trish Horel.

"Running is kind of exhilarating. I think it's a good feeling. I always have a smile on my face, and when I'm having a really good day that's a really good feeling," Dowdy said.

This past January, Dowdy participated in her fourth Disney Marathon where she broke a personal record by running 26 miles in three hours and 53 minutes. She finished the race in the top five percent of her age group and gender out of 13,000 contestants entered in the race. "Every race I push myself, because I want to see what I can do," Dowdy said.

Dowdy is excited to return to Seattle in June with her father to compete in her second Seattle Marathon. Dowdy has a long term goal of running in one marathon a year until she can't run anymore. However, her new goal is to complete the half Ironman triathlon, which she has already signed up for this year.



Ed Malles

Sara Dowdy, Science Teacher