



FALL 2009

E-ALUMNI NEWS

www.victorschools.org

Fifty Years Later

VCS Class of 1959 Celebrates 50th Reunion

They came to reminisce and reflect, share and celebrate. This past September, forty-six members from the class of 1959 came back to the VCS campus to reconnect and reunite with their past. From a tour of their "old" campus, which has changed dramatically since 1950, to a reunion dinner at Mickey Finns and a special worship and reflection service at Woodcliff Resort, the class of 1959 proved that you can go home again.

Reflections from Lewis Fisher, Class of 1959

(The following is an excerpt from a thank you note sent to Sherri Lasky in the Office of School and Community Relations by Lewis Fisher after touring the Victor Education Center during reunion weekend.)

A couple of corrections to comments I made, in case your short-term memory is better than mine. I said the windowless room at the southeastern corner of the long hall on the second floor (current ECEC) was the projection room. That confuses it with the room off the art room overlooking the auditorium (which doubled as an art supply closet; when the movie projector was set up in the middle you

opened a little door back onto the upper-level auditorium wall to show the film). That room off the hall was actually called the Movie Room, where those of us in the Projection Club volunteered to set up and run 16-mm movies for classes or small fund-raisers. You couldn't make classrooms dark enough to show movies or filmstrips. Teachers who were all thumbs were happy to have someone else thread the film through the projector.

I said the original board room was upstairs. The term for that room was actually the Conference Room, though the board

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Class of 1959, September, 2009 ~ Graduates came from Florida, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, Oklahoma, Rome, Italy, and Texas. ~ Photo by Mary Fisher

From Student . . . to Staff

Loryn Figler-Payne, Class of 2003 Enjoys New Role as VIS 4th Grade Teacher

One might say that VCS runs in Loryn-Figler-Payne's family. This fourth generation graduate from Victor Central School, (her great-grandparents, grandparents, and parents all graduated from Victor) grew up in "Pumpkin Hook." As a VCS student, the newly married, Figler, who now goes by the last name "Payne" was highly involved in the arts programs "My main activities were Field Band and Winterguard. I was the Drum Major of the Field Band for two years (junior and senior) and played clarinet for the first two. We won two championships in my time with the Field Band, one when I was drum major. That was a great leadership experience and defined my life outside school from June to October every year," Payne said.

Payne, a graduate of Grove City College in Pennsylvania said she did not intend on coming back to this area upon graduation in 2007, but the practical side of her saw the need to pay off debt in the form of school loans.

Now that she is back, Payne has no regrets at all. "I am really excited to be back in Victor. While some things are the same, so many things have changed. It is a familiar and friendly place. My fourth grade students love knowing I went to fourth grade in the Intermediate School, too. It is a neat connection and they often ask me questions about what it was like when I was here. It is great to return home and carry out my plans to teach in the very place where I was inspired to do so." ■



Loryn Figler-Payne with 4th grade students



Jason is second from left.

VCS Alum Wins Emmy

Jason Karley (Class of '93) and his DDB Chicago Team won the 2008 Emmy for *Outstanding Commercial* on September 13, 2008. They won the award for their Bud Light SWEAR JAR Commercial. Karley is the son of Barb and Dan Karley. ■

Class of 1984 Celebrates 25th Reunion

This past August, fifty members from the class of 1984 celebrated their 25th class reunion at the Burgundy Basin Inn in Pittsford, New York. Dave DeVinny traveled the farthest from San Diego, California. Other classmates traveled from as far as Florida, Nebraska, Virginia and Georgia. As reflected in the many smiles in the photos, a great time was had by all. Thank you to Greg “Doc” Lefty Lefebre for sending in these terrific photos. ■



Class of 1984, August, 2009



Thank you from Iraq

I just wanted to say thanks for the Spring 2009 Alumni Newsletter all the way from Iraq. I was recently surprised to receive it and enjoyed seeing some familiar “old” faces from Victor. Bill Kocher was one of my old neighbors, Mr Coleman was my brother Bruce’s tennis coach from eons ago and also my 6th grade social studies teacher. I am currently serving our country with the U.S. Navy Seabees at a forward operating base in Iraq with their Logistics Dept. ensuring the health, welfare and comfort of over 1300 Seabees, Marines and other military personnel at this location. I graduated with the class of 1978.

NMCB 24 HQ Co. -Logistics
CS1 Steve Kujawski
FPO, AP 96601-2401 ■

Received July 3, 2009

Class of 1989 Celebrates 20th Reunion

Approximately 90 alumni attended the Class of 1989 reunion earlier this month. From an informal gathering at Mickey Finns on Friday night to a school tour and presentation conducted by Joe Carey and Brian Ferguson on Saturday morning and a buffet dinner at Cobblestone on Saturday night, a great time was had by all. Many alumni came from out of town. Brad Ryon traveled the greatest distance from Honduras. Alum also came from Colorado, Atlanta, Ohio, and Portland. ■



Class of 1979 Celebrates 30th Reunion

Eighty-five classmates from the Class of 1979 gathered for an impromptu reunion during the first weekend of October. From braving the rain during the homecoming football game on Friday night to touring their old school and sharing a picnic/bonfire on Saturday, this group of men and women showed their school spirit is as strong as ever! ■



2006 VCS Grad and RIT McGowan Scholarship Winner Earns Summer Internship on Set of “Army Wives”

Saunders College of Business student Alison Dupra is “living in southern comfort”

It’s been a double hit for Rochester Institute of Technology business student Alison Dupra. She is the recipient of the prestigious McGowan Scholarship from RIT’s E. Philip Saunders College of Business, and is also enjoying the fruits of her labor this summer as an intern on the film set of Lifetime-TV’s popular drama series, “Army Wives.”

Dupra says she is “living in southern comfort in Charleston, S. C.,” and playing a variety of “business” roles behind the scenes in the film industry.

“I first worked as production assistant on the set and it’s like being the voice and the feet of the show,” says Dupra who will work at “Army Wives” until the season series wrap-up the first week of August. “I got to prep the actors—like Catherine Bell and Kim Delaney—help out during scene rehearsals and keep everyone quiet on the set. I’ve also worked as an extra in a few of the episodes, and will be working in the office doing some general business accounting and then spend a couple of weeks in management to learn how they tabulate expenditures and budgets for the show.”

The fourth year international business and marketing major, who is fluent in French and Italian, also has something to look forward to this fall when she returns to RIT—a full scholarship for the 2009-2010 academic year, made possible by a grant from the Saunders College’ William G. McGowan Charitable Fund. Dupra says she is “so grateful to win this award and it will help alleviate a lot of stress.”

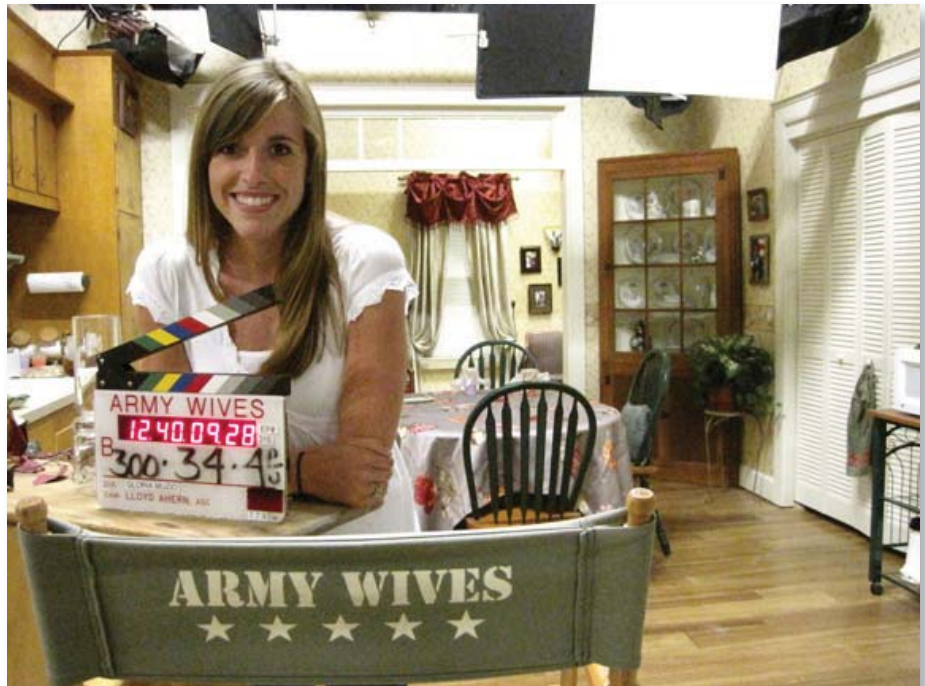
“It’s one of the reasons why I was able to come down to Charleston to pursue a different kind of summer internship to add to my resume.”

The daughter of Craig and Katherine Dupra of Fairport, she is a 2006 graduate of Victor High School. During her years at RIT, Dupra has been both a dedicated athlete and scholar, and her notable achievements include: Dean’s list 2006-present, captain of the RIT varsity track and field team from 2008-2009, and member of the Lowenthal service community group in the Saunders College. She also serves as a marketing associate for the student produced “RIT SportsZone” TV program.

Dupra’s previous co-op experience included working as public relations and events marketing intern at the Canandaigua National Bank & Trust in Canandaigua.

“Canandaigua Bank was a very valuable experience for me where I did everything from preparing press releases for media sources, to organizing corporate events, to reviewing market research,” Dupra says. “But I really love marketing, and as an athlete I’m really in to sports, so ideally after graduating from RIT, I’d like to work in sports marketing or sports management.”

RIT is among 31 colleges and universities around the country that participate in the William G. McGowan Scholars Program, named in honor of the founder and chairman of MCI Communications Corp. ■



Alison Dupra on the set of “Army Wives”

*Press release provided by Marcia Murphy,
Rochester Institute of Technology.*

Partnership Award presented to Leadership Classes

The American Red Cross recently awarded its prestigious Partnership Award to former VSH Leadership classes. The award was given in recognition of the classes' harmonious teamwork and of their commitment to the mission of the American Red Cross. Past VSH Leadership classes have worked with the Red Cross in a variety of capacities – from traveling to Mississippi for Hurricane Katrina relief to going to Binghamton, New York for flood relief work. VSH, with the support of Leadership class students, is also instrumental in running two blood drives a year. Last year, they won an award for the best high school blood drive. VSH Leadership teacher, Beth Thomas says her students have benefited greatly by their collaboration with the Red Cross receiving special training in everything from Disaster Services to Mass Care. Thomas calls it “experiential learning at its best!” ■



Fifty Years Later

Continued from cover

also met there. It opened off the library with another door off the hall, where I saw the original entrance is still marked by the curving wall setting back the door to signal the room's importance.

The reason the building holds such significance for some of us is not just having spent 13 years moving through it, but also in having worked some on the custodial staff after school, on Saturdays and for two summers. We got to unlock doors daytime students never went through, and knew every nook



Three members of the Class of 1959 are recipients of VCS' prestigious Graduates of Distinction award. They are from left to right; Rev. John W. Gouldrick, C.M., Lewis Fisher, and Dr. David E. Corbit.

Photo by Mary Fisher

and cranny pretty well. All three of us Graduates of Distinction from the Class of '59 spent a lot of time on the janitorial crew. Maybe a lesson in that somewhere.

What's always seemed ironic to me is that while the school board purchased and held onto all 175 acres of an old farm for future expansion, the original building itself was designed with very use-specific elements that could not be adapted easily to expansion and change. Of course the population of Victor and

I'm still impressed at the detailed level of planning and design

Farmington had not changed much in a hundred years. In the late 1930s there was no indication that the future would be much different. What is remarkable is that taxpayers previously noted for tight spending or no spending on educational facilities would suddenly open up to such a state-of-the-art building; I think state funding was becoming more available.

It became a pretty impressive environment for learning and for unspoken instruction on the importance of order in life.

I'm still impressed at the detailed level of planning and design: a ramped exterior entry at the head of the sidewalk up from the village into a concrete-floored room for students to store their bicycles; imbedded colorful shapes and nursery rhyme designs on the tile floor of the kindergarten room, with its fireplace and

cabinets and bay window to make it less alien and more homelike for the new students; cork flooring for the library and conference room, not just for silence but to emphasize the special

importance of books that could be taken from the well designed shelves, read on the spacious oiled walnut tables and Windsor chairs and checked out at the carefully crafted central desk, opposite a faux fireplace; skylights with cool northern light for

art students; the neat double-tasking design of the projection booth; the small textbook and supply storage room off the main office with the dutch door opened to the hallway at the beginning of semesters to sell books and supplies to students lined up outside; the noisy industrial arts room tucked outside the lower southeast hallway doors, and the small vocational agriculture room across from it with its concrete floor impervious to accidents from chicks

Kindergartners may have returned a half-century later to take over much of the old building. But they did not go back to the original kindergarten room.

raised in warm shelters at the back. Who'd have thought the garage around the corner would ever need bays for more than six buses?

Well, the general fixed plan turned out to be good for only about ten years, when the postwar suburban boom suddenly hit. With new students surging in, the office staff had to be increased and the main office's imposing entry counter reconfigured. Textbooks were rented and distributed in classrooms instead of purchased at the supply room, its use converted to storage. An upstairs storage room was converted into an office for a part-time guidance counselor. The nurse's office next to the principal's office had to become a vice principal's office. The nurse and the dental chair went down to the kindergarten room to displace the kindergartners, sent with more and more classes to rented Sunday School rooms in the village until there was a new elementary school building, without the old inflexible if homey features.

Kindergartners may have returned a half century later to take over much of the old building. But they did not go back

to the original kindergarten room, to be occupied not by a principal but by a superintendent who focused on Victor, not the original circuit-riding superintendent who oversaw Victor and other rural schools from a home base in Clifton Springs, I think it was--in our day at first Mr. Lovelace, with his long face and rows of curly brown hair cascading above his high forehead, glimpsed occasionally by students only during some sober conversation with Mr. Corbit in the main hallway.

You may have noticed during the tour, and I realized later, that our general attitude was not of over-sentimentality or sadness about a lost youth but joy at the rediscovery of half-remembered places in their new form, as well as delight in reconnecting with each other in our new forms. Like the building, we've adapted, too, though sometimes it's also taken some strong knocks to break through old barriers to meet the needs of the future. Like seeing how the old building has successfully endured, we were also quite happy to find ourselves structurally sound enough to handle more changes for quite some time. ■

VCS Seeks Names of Distinguished Graduates

Do you know a Victor Central School alumnus who has made a significant contribution to society? The Graduates of Distinction program honors such individuals.

Applications are currently available in the Office of School and Community Relations. Alumni selected for this honor will be recognized at graduation in June.

Posthumous nominations will be accepted. Upon request, information on individuals making nominations will be kept confidential. Honorees must meet the following criteria to be considered: (1) a Victor Central School graduate of at least 15 years; (2) Post-graduation achievement that includes job-related achievements; professional honors and awards, professional affiliations, publications; (3) Civic or community involvement; (4) Educational achievements; (5) Other appropriate qualifications that merit consideration. **Nominations must be submitted by January 1, 2010.**

V I C T O R S E N I O R H I G H
F A L L P L A Y

Marvin's Room

by Scott McPherson

November 12, 13, 14 at 7PM

VEC Auditorium

\$6 students, \$7 adults

Tickets can be purchased online at **Seat Yourself:**
<http://www.victorschools.org/district.cfm?subpage=5406>

Academic, Athletic and Artistic Distinctions

- The 2008-2009 VSH Masterminds team finished the league with a 10 and 0 record and garnered first place scoring some 1915 points.
- In June 2009, 97% of our students graduated with a Regents Diploma. 61% earned a Regents Diploma with Advanced Designation and 29% received a Regents Diploma with Honors. To receive a Regents Diploma with Honors a student must have an average of 90% or higher on their Regents examinations.
- The Rochester Broadway Theatre League Stars of Tomorrow Awards Program recognized the 2009 Senior High Musical for Outstanding Musical Production, Featured Actress, Singing Ensemble, Student Orchestra, Supporting Actress, Acting Ensemble, Leading Actress, Leading Actor.
- Fifteen new members were inducted into the VCS Tri-M Chapter this past September. Tri-M is an honor society for music students that not only recognizes a superior level of achievement in musical performance, but also academic achievement, character, responsibility, dedication to the art, and service to the department.
- More than 50% of our high school students participate on at least one of our 82 athletic teams and many are two and three sport athletes.
- All ten fall varsity teams qualified as scholar athlete teams. While eight out of ten of our winter varsity teams and six out of eight of our spring varsity teams qualified for scholar athlete teams.

Hall of Fame Nominations Sought

**JUNE 7TH DEADLINE
FOR NOMINATIONS**

Victor Central School District is seeking nominations for the Athletic Hall of Fame Program. Any individual can nominate a potential candidate by completing a Hall of Fame nomination application. Applications are available on the school district website at www.victorschools.org or may be picked up at the office of Victor's Athletic Director Ronald Whitcomb located in the Senior High School.

Through nomination and committee selection, the VCS Athletic Hall of Fame will recognize individuals who fall under any of the following categories:

ATHLETES

Individuals who were athletes in the Victor Senior High School and have been graduated a minimum of ten years.

COACHES

Individuals who have made a significant and extraordinary contribution to the Victor Athletic program.

HONORARY

An honorary candidate must have made a significant impact on Victor athletics and/or on sectional, regional, state, national, professional, administration or international levels of athletes. The honorary category may include but not be limited to counselors, faculty managers, scoreboard/book operators, cheerleading coaches, as well as local community supporters.

Inductees will be chosen by the VCS Hall of Fame Committee which is comprised of eight voting members representing coaching staff, administration, Board of Education, students and/or community residents. The Athletic Director will serve as a non-voting permanent member of the Committee.

The Hall of Fame was established in order to recognize and celebrate the accomplishments of outstanding athletes, coaches, administrators and Blue Devil supporters. Through recognition, those individuals and their families will be reconnected with Victor Central School providing current student athletes with a deeper understanding and appreciation for the history of Blue Devil athletes.

Honorees selected for the annual Athletic Hall of Fame will be announced in the Fall of each school year along with an announcement of the planned celebration event.

For more information on the Athletic Hall of Fame program, please contact Ron Whitcomb, VCS Director of Athletics at (585) 924-3252 ext. 1460 or whitcombr@victorschools.org.

Victor Central Schools Seeks Archives

“Students can benefit in several ways from researching their school’s history... This is history that is near at hand and that has a direct connection to their lives.”

~ Larry J. Hackman, Director, Truman Presidential Museum and Library; former New York State Archivist



Do you have photographs of the victory garden that students in our school planted and tended during World War II?

Does an old box or filing cabinet hold copies of letters that students wrote concerning our country’s involvement in Vietnam?

Did the science curriculum at Victor Central School change during the formative years of the personal computer revolution?

Schools produce rich historical records. Yearbooks, school lunch menus, flyers promoting dances, student elections, musicals, plays, photographs, letters, issues of the school newspaper, and other items document not only the history of the school, but often reflect the history of our community, state, and nation.

We have developed a school archives in our records center, housed on the second floor of the Victor Education Center. Hopefully, this archive, or historical collection can serve two primary purposes:

1. Be a repository for the collection and preservation of historically valuable documents relating to the history of our school, which would otherwise be lost.
2. Constitute an important element of programs for teaching research-related skills to students.

As a key element in establishing this archive, we are urging the public to help support our endeavors by donating artifacts to the archives that they may have in and around their homes, which may otherwise be lost to future generations. We are particularly interested in:

Student handbooks

Student newspapers

Yearbooks (especially from 1998)

Photographs

School lunch menus

Course catalogs

Student term papers about the school or Community

Artifacts (trophies, flags, uniforms, memorabilia)

Older Newspaper articles from the local newspapers

Special awards received

Records of special school programs

Audiotaped or videotaped oral histories

Scrapbooks

Videotapes of school performances and athletic events.

Perhaps you don’t wish to part with your piece of history. You can still help our efforts by loaning us the article to copy, scan, or photograph. We look forward to your response. We also plan on having the artifacts exhibited from time to time. By the way, does anyone have a school bell from one of Victor’s many one-room school houses? We’d love to hear from you.....

*Contact Chuck Callari at callaric@victorschools.org or 585-924-3252, ext. 1116

VCS ORCHESTRA ROCKS!

Be part of a unique event with the
VCS Orchestra and Mark Wood,
the world-renowned string master of the
Trans-Siberian Orchestra.



Victor Central School District has a long history of excellence and innovation with its Strings Program. From its implementation of the revolutionary Suzuki Method for strings education to the recent development of a symphony orchestra resulting in an exhilarating performance of music from the *Pirates of the Caribbean* movies, the Strings Program has been at the forefront of music education in Victor.

The VCS Strings Program is now ready to take it up a notch with Mark Wood's "*Electrify Your Strings!*" program. During two days of workshops next April 9&10, Mark will introduce our students to a whole new world of string playing and give them an experience they will NEVER forget. This program will change the students'

perception of what their instruments are capable of and enlighten them as to how they can express their creativity through strings. "*Electrify Your Strings!*" is a unique opportunity to partner with a world-renowned artist and board member of the prestigious American String Teachers Association. Our students are sure to benefit from the inspiring and motivational techniques Mark has developed through years of research and experience.

What's more, the program culminates in an evening concert extravaganza featuring our Sr. High students performing alongside Mark and his touring band, *The Mark Wood Experience*.

You can help release the creative potential of our students with your generous donation.



"We each have a song inside us which needs to be heard. My sincere hope is that this course will trigger your students' curiosity and spark their passion to develop their own personal voice."

Mark Wood

Sponsorship Opportunities

(sponsors will be acknowledged in concert program)

- Maestro's Circle : \$500 +
- Director's Circle : \$250 - \$499
- Benefactor : \$100 - \$249
- Patron : \$50 - \$99
- Friend : \$15 - \$49

Please make checks payable to

Victor Central Schools - Sr. High Orchestra Club and mail to
Victor High School, c/o Tim Nowak, 953 High Street, Victor, NY 14564

SPONSOR CONTACT INFORMATION

Name

Student Name (if applicable)

Address

City, State, Zip Code

Email Address

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

S A V E T H E D A T E

Miceli's Restaurant

1011 State Route 31, Macedon, NY 14502

Sunday, June 13, 2010

*For Information about the banquet or about joining the
alumni association, call Ken Weigert at 585-924-2944*

VICTOR CENTRAL SCHOOLS 115TH ALUMNI BANQUET



Send Us Your News

If you are an alumnus of Victor Central Schools, we encourage you to e-mail us at **alumni@victorschools.org**.

Feel free to tell us about accomplishments or events in your life such as a wedding, birth of a child or grandchild. Whether or not you have visited campus lately, participated in a recent alumni event, or browsed our directory, you are sure to find information instrumental in helping you maintain a connection to your alma matter and other Victor graduates.

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