

Winter 2010

GSA *Matters*

News for the Families and Friends of **GEORGE STEVENS ACADEMY**

SPOTLIGHT ON

STUDENTS CHOOSE... ELECTIVES!

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE:

FROM JILL COHEN,
ASSISTANT HEAD

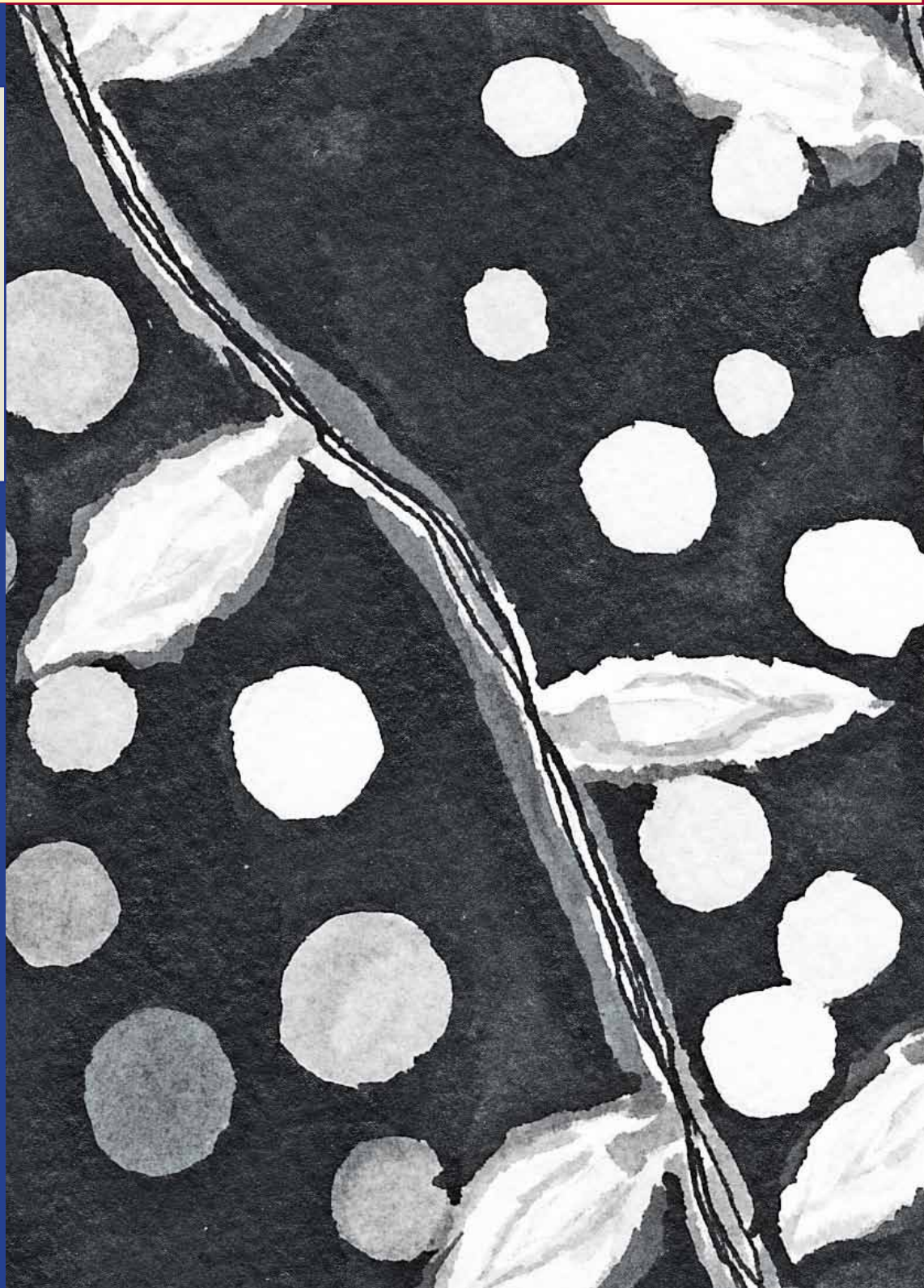
STUDENT NEWS

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On the Cover

Postcard artwork by Lily McFarland '11.
Read about the **Postcard Art Project** on page 8.



from Jill Cohen, Assistant Head of School



When I first wrote about my excitement at becoming the new Assistant Head of School last year, I spoke about the idea of community. How little did I know and how much more I now understand what this means, and how significant a factor this concept is in our success as an educational institution.

Schools strive to create a sense of community for their students and faculty. This reflects an attempt to unite diverse populations in some form of commonality. My assumption was that at GSA this commonality would be easily identified and,

consequently, would make it easy for me to join. I was correct on one account — the acceptance and welcome that the GSA community has extended to me has been incredible. This acceptance has allowed me to look at what unites us and has shown the flaw in my assumptions. Our common bond is, paradoxically, our individuality. The strength of GSA's foundation is our acknowledgment of our individuality, and especially our commitment to nurture each student as an individual. We take the time to get to know our students in so many ways. For many teachers this is through the classroom. We search for connections to student lives, and in doing so, learn each student's strengths and needs. For many students, it is through an opportunity to explore their interests and establish relationships built upon a trust that their teachers recognize their individuality and want to see each student make progress and succeed.

At GSA, we are always examining what we do and how we do it. We review our curriculum, conversations, assignments, and programs through the lens of individual students and their needs. This provides clarity and direction for the future, enabling us to see where each student is today, where he or she wants to be tomorrow, and how to help all students reach their goals. We will continue to create an environment where individuality is celebrated and relied upon through programs such as Independent Study and Cooperative Education, and by continuing to offer an extraordinary array of elective courses that respond to the interests of *all* our students.

Mission

George Stevens Academy is an independent high school located on the coast of Maine. Grounded in its traditions and commitment to the area's small towns, the Academy is a caring educational community invested in meeting the needs of each student. The Academy offers a challenging, comprehensive program of studies that fosters intellectual inquiry and the pursuit of knowledge, inspires creativity, develops self-reliance, and prepares its graduates for a purposeful life in an ever-changing world.



WIRED TO LEARN

In our world of technology, an enterprising student's first need is often sufficient access to computers. However, this computer access for research and writing has become somewhat of a challenge for both

students and teachers at GSA. Teachers are increasingly requiring assignments to be typed, and, as older laptops began to fail, heightened demand for the functioning computers has presented difficulties to students, especially to those who do not have ready computer access outside of school. In order to remove this obstacle to academic success, last summer the school administration approved the purchase of fifty Acer Netbooks. Although there have been some complaints about user-friendliness, these Netbooks are generally liked by both faculty and students, who often ask for them instead of Macintosh laptops. Also, since the Netbooks use Open Office, a word processing program that is compatible with a wide range of word processors (not just Microsoft Word), they are more useful in a school environment. While Netbooks do not have the full range of capabilities of the existing laptops—for example, they do not have CD/DVD drives—their very simplicity is helpful in enforcing their intended purpose for students: as tools for research and writing.



▲ Lucy Jakub '13, Makaela Reinke '12, Inji Hwang '13, and Eric Kim '12 use the new Netbooks in the GSA Library.

Teachers can reserve both laptops and Netbooks for use in either the classroom or the school library. GSA librarian Erich Reed has recently established an online sign-up for this purpose. Students are also allowed to sign out the Netbooks for one class period at a time, or may keep them longer and even take them home overnight with special permission. The administration is currently endeavoring to make it easier for students to sign out laptops in this manner for use outside of school.

The Netbooks were purchased as an economical alternative to joining the Maine State Laptop Initiative (MSLI), says Larry Gray '79, GSA's technology coordinator. The MSLI program would have loaned a laptop to every GSA student for the duration of his or her high school career, but involved a long-term contract that would have imposed a considerable and unnecessary expense on the school budget. It would have cost the school approximately \$250 per student every year, or a total of about \$80,000 per year, while the total cost of the Netbooks—which the school owns—was under \$20,000. The ready availability of the Netbooks to students makes them an agreeable alternative to the program, and gives GSA students just one more opportunity to attain academic success. —AB

Meet Abby Bowden '11, Student Editor

For her Independent Study project this month [see p. 6], junior **Abby Bowden** has apprenticed as a student editor on this issue of *GSA Matters*, researching and writing stories, gathering material, planning and laying out pages, and, of course, proofreading. Stories written by Abby are followed by —AB.

Abby lives in Sedgwick and hopes to continue her interest in journalism after she graduates from GSA. She is currently taking *AP English*, *AP Human Geography*, *Forensics*, *WWII to Vietnam*, *Trigonometry*, *Latin*, and *Steel Band*.



FROM THE OFFICE OF STUDENT SERVICES

Prospective Student Open House

On January 28th, 30 families attended the annual Open House for 8th grade and other prospective students. Students, parents, and friends enjoyed desserts and coffee, heard the Jazz Disciples, were welcomed by Headmaster John Greene, and attended presentations by GSA teachers in English, languages, math, science, technology, social studies and fine arts curriculums.

8th Grade High School Preview Day

On February 25th, the campus welcomed 70 local 8th grade students for a High School Preview Day. Students attended five "mini" classes typical of the ones they will take next year as freshmen: English, social studies, math, science, and industrial arts.



The Jazz Disciples perform at Open House

We are always happy to talk with you or arrange a meeting to discuss your child's needs.

*Please contact
Libby Rosemeier,
Dean of Students,
at 374-2120.*

Independent Study

Between February 22nd and March 5th, 125 GSA students—63 juniors and 62 seniors—self-designed and carried out Independent Study projects. This year, IS projects explored a wide range of research topics, career paths, and personal interests, taking students all around the peninsula and all over the globe. Students studied astronomy, researched New York immigration records, wrote and filmed a screenplay, edited the school magazine, read Vergil's *Aeneid* in Latin, and volunteered at a homeless shelter in New York City. Students found opportunities to shadow professionals in numerous fields: civil engineering, pharmacology, laboratory science, restaurant management, elementary school education, graphic design, architecture, firefighting, veterinary medicine, banking, cosmetology, and law. Students tried their hands at journalism; writing a novel; repairing diesel engines; building a school in Nicaragua; composing and recording original music; painting, cooking, and much more. A presentation of students' IS accomplishments is planned for later this spring.

Independent Study has been a GSA program for more than thirty years, and is one of the "student choice" opportunities in the curriculum that distinguishes GSA from a public school.

COLLEGE & CAREER CORNER

Career Fair

GSA's Student Services presented a career fair for freshmen and sophomores on March 3rd. Professionals representing a variety of career areas came to the campus and were available to talk with and counsel students. Career areas included: veterinary medicine, acting, non-profit organizations, law, banking, hospitality, nursing, and education. Students had the opportunity to attend two information sessions with plenty of time for questions.

Right: Chris Sargent '03 of the Sheriff's Office describes law enforcement career opportunities.



INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM

SIX NEW STUDENTS ARRIVE AT GSA

On the 15th of January, we welcomed a new group of international students to GSA. During the holiday weekend, they attended orientation activities with the other international students and student ambassadors. Orientation activities included a tour of the school and town, discussions about academic and residential life expectations, English and math placement tests, course registration—and fun: roller skating, shopping, and an Asian feast at a Bangor restaurant. These six students are adapting well to life in Blue Hill, and we're glad that they're here. Many thanks to Ander Thébaud, Mark Ford, and Marge Longwood for organizing this successful orientation weekend!



Bottom: Wendy, Vivian, Ellery
Top: Andy, Roy, Taowen

Meet the students, all from China:

Wenwen (Wendy) Xu '12 from Hangzhou likes to travel and toured Tibet on her own. Wendy enjoys music, painting and sports.

Xiaoyu (Vivian) Tian '12 from Tianjin enjoys outdoor activities and wants to learn to do winter sports. Vivian did a lot of hiking with her family and loves to travel and learn about new places. She is a pianist.

Jingyi (Ellery) Liu '11 from Beijing is excited to be at GSA and wants to experience something new every day. In China, Ellery worked as a volunteer helping senior citizens. She plays a traditional instrument called a Zheng.

Zehao (Andy) Wu '12 from Shanghai has a special interest in environmental activities. Andy plays the cello and enjoys basketball and other sports.

Zihao (Roy) Xu '12 is from Hangzhou, loves basketball and has played since elementary school. Roy is a saxophonist.

Taowen Zhang '12 from Shenzhen is a jazz drummer and plays in the GSA band. Taowen also enjoys badminton and making people laugh.

College Applications Update

GSA college counselor Martha Garfield '82 reports record applications this year: ninety-four percent of the Class of 2010 is seeking admission to college. At this time, nineteen students have already been accepted; most applicants will receive their notifications in April. Several of the currently accepted students opted to use the Early Decision program, enabling them to apply to a single desired college early in the fall. This gives their applications an advantage over those submitted by regular submission deadlines, but, if accepted, they must enter into a binding commitment to attend that school. Thus Early Decision is useful for students who know exactly where they want to attend college, and who are willing to complete applications early for a better chance of admission.

Students have already been accepted to Wellesley, Smith, UPenn, Wesleyan, Earlham, and Eckerd, among others. Although the majority of students are applying to schools in New England, there have also been applications to schools in California and Florida. Popular choices include the University of Maine, the University of Vermont, Maine Maritime Academy, and Husson. Ms. Garfield said that she was very impressed with the number of students applying, and that it spoke well, not only of the students themselves, but also of GSA and its academic curriculum. —AB



Ms. Garfield

FLOOR ME!

GSA TRUSTEES GIVE GREEN LIGHT TO CONSTRUCTION PROJECT

At its January meeting, the George Stevens Academy Board of Trustees voted to begin construction on a new foundation for the gymnasium and multi-purpose facility. The building was originally built in 1973, and the 120-seat Esther Wood Room was added in 1990.

FLOOR ME! represents the first phase to reconstruct and renovate a building that serves many different purposes and activities: a gymnasium and basketball court; a venue for concert and theater performances, all-school assemblies, and Rec Center weekends; space for Athletic Department offices and storage; classrooms; the school library, the cafeteria, and a faculty lounge. The building is also used for community events, including the Bagaduce Pops Concert and the popular Summer Speaker Series.

FLOOR ME! will focus on stabilizing the deteriorating foundation and laying a new, wood floor. It will be paid for in part by funds that have already been raised, including a leadership gift of \$100,000 from Chuck and Belinda Lawrence; the remaining money needed to complete the project will be raised over the next several months. Construction is set to begin the day after graduation, and the new foundation, floor, and reconfigured spaces are expected to be completed by early Fall.

FORENSIC EVIDENCE

Students in **Susan Jellison's** *Forensics* classes have been learning that solving crimes is much harder than is indicated by TV shows such as *CSI*. To reinforce this principle, Ms. Jellison took twenty-eight students on a field trip to the Maine State Crime Lab in Augusta on December 16th. Officials gave the students an overview of the functions of a crime lab using a computer presentation, and tours of the lab itself. Students were able to see technicians working on actual crimes, and the correct processes for handling evidence. Ms. Jellison said she was pleased that the students knew enough about forensics to understand the officers' explanations, and that they could converse knowledgeably about what they were seeing.

In addition to core biology classes, Ms. Jellison teaches the elective classes *Forensics* and *Marine Science*. These are offered in alternate years to both juniors and seniors. They are just two of the many innovative electives available to GSA students. —AB



Forensics students in Augusta

NOTED MAINE AUTHOR VISITS MAINE WRITERS CLASS

Sandy Phippen, Down East Maine author, editor, and teacher, visited Michael Kazmierczak's elective class, *Maine Writers*, in December. Phippen has written numerous books, edited collections of Maine literature, and is the current editor of the *Puckerbrush Review*, a literary magazine headquartered at the University of Maine's Orono campus.



Phippen kept everyone in stitches as he told stories about his various personal and professional experiences. He left students with the idea that they, too, have stories to tell from the richness of their anything-but-boring lives.

Wrote one student about the visit, "I love how you can make jokes . . . but still let us understand that things you talk about are serious and true."

ELECTIVES MATTER AT GSA



▲ *Painting*

arts. For a school the size of GSA, the number and variety of choices are remarkable. Students headed for college can enroll in Advanced Placement (AP) courses in *English, Human Geography, U.S. History, Statistics, Calculus, Drawing, and Environmental Science*.

Many elective classes are offered as one-semester options: *Maine Writers, Journalism, Writing for TV & Film, Reading Across the Curriculum, and Creative Writing; WWII to Vietnam, Street Law, Psychology, Philosophy, The Holocaust and Public Policy; Trigonometry, Advanced Algebra & Analytic Geometry, Elementary Statistics, and Business Math; Forensics, Marine Science, and Maine Environment; Photography, Chamber Music, Book Arts, Painting, Music Theory, and Dance; Guitar Making, Residential Construction, Drafting, Home Repair and Maintenance, Manufacturing Technology, and Architectural Drafting.*

Student choice is a hallmark of GSA's curriculum. To earn a diploma, a student must earn 4 credits in English, 3 credits in Math, 3 in Science, and 3 in Social Studies; 1 in Fine Arts, 1 in Phys Ed, and ½ in Health. Beyond these minimum core requirements, a student must complete 6½ credits in elective classes, but most students choose to exceed this minimum expectation in electives.

In choosing these electives, GSA students follow their interests and inclinations by filling their class schedules with courses from all academic areas: math and science, English, languages, social studies, computer technology, and industrial and fine



▲ *Residential Construction*

GSA does not require a second language, but most students spend two or more years studying French or Spanish, and a healthy number of students enroll in a semester of *Latin Foundations of English*.

GSA's *Program of Studies*, published each spring, describes all the courses offered for the coming year and is available on the GSA Web site.



▲ *Science Through Technology*

POSTCARD ART PROJECT

"Dear Reader,

The Postcard Art Project grew out of several colliding incentives. First, upon returning from winter break, the single week before exams provided a "power" time for art-making, encouraging students to produce quick solutions for a new assignment as compared with the prolonged efforts of work earlier in the semester. Second, our recent study of pen and ink as a medium warranted a specific project. And last, I had recently been emailed by a friend asking me to join an art-gifting chain letter, exchanging artwork with strangers from around the world.

The idea appealed to everyone. These Strathmore watercolor postcards are ideal for both ink and watercolor, and students could choose one or both techniques. From a list of thirty prompts, each student received a list of three or four prompts randomly selected to be included in their design. Would they have to create a maze? Or begin a story? Or include footprints or circles?

Initially a project for one class, the word got out and each art class wanted to take part. From there the project grew, and we needed a mailing list. A key element of creating postcards is mailing them, embracing their functionality as well as the creative aspects. The cards headed out to randomly selected GSA alumni representing nearly every U.S. state, nine different countries, and two military branches!

And so we were off and running. I hope that if you received a card, you will know that even though you may have attended GSA years ago, you are still connected. Please do let us know if you received a card. There will be a current student anxious to hear from you.

Sincerely,

Katie Greene
GSA Fine Arts Teacher"

Hello!

I would like to thank you for the nice postcard, which I received last week from Elle...we live in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Our house is situated just outside of the city center. It takes 15 minutes by bike.

In the period 1989-1990 my father attended a teacher exchange program at Maine Maritime Academy. We then lived with my family in Castine and I joined the senior class at George Stevens. A very nice time!

Best Regards, Mark de Steur '90



Watercolor by Carla Weed '10

Student Historians



Four GSA students are researching the history of Blue Hill by way of the state-wide *Maine Heritage Project*. At GSA, the project is led by social studies teachers **Bill Case** and **David Stearns**, and is part of the Maine Memory Network's Community Heritage Project, an endeavor to gather historical information about different Maine communities. Students at the Blue Hill Consolidated School and The Bay School are also participating in this project.

The GSA students are studying several aspects of Blue Hill history, including education, music, rusticators, and shipping. **Vika Grindle '11** and **Anna Clapp '11** are researching education, **Lara Peterson '10** is investigating music, and **Josh Sawyer '10** is exploring the history of rusticators. For those who are not familiar with the term, a "rusticator" is a vacationer who comes to Maine for the summer. Lara, Vika, and Josh are using the *Maine Heritage Project* as their undertaking for Independent Study, the two-week period in late February and early March during which GSA juniors and seniors are encouraged to work on a project of their own choosing. [See p. 6]

The information the students collect will be reviewed and fact-checked by local historians and then placed on the Maine Memory Network's Web site for public use. *The Maine Heritage Project* requires extensive independent research and study and is a valuable tool for students to learn more about their local history. —AB

Student Historian Vika Grindle '11: In Her Own Words

"For Independent Study I chose to participate in the *Maine Heritage Project* for the Maine Memory Network. The topic I chose was "The History of Education in Blue Hill." I had to interview numerous people, conduct research at the libraries and the historical society, search through archives for artifacts, documents, and photographs, and then compile all the information into one well-composed piece describing the history of education in Blue Hill. Above are a couple of the photos I was able to find. The larger photo was taken in 1893 and shows students standing in front of the Blue Hill Academy. The smaller photo is from a photograph *circa* 1890 of the old Blue Hill Academy, now the Legion Hall."



Vika Grindle '11



Max Hurvitt '13, trumpet, and Coral O'Brien '11, flute

DISTRICT JAZZ SUCCESS

The District VI Jazz Festival was held on Friday, February 26th. This preliminary competition determines which groups go on to the Maine State Instrumental Jazz Festival on March 26th & 27th at South Portland High School. Groups receiving a score of I (best) or II, move on to "States." Under the direction of Steve Orlofsky, all of GSA's groups received a I rating and will therefore move on!

Soloists with asterisks received awards at the Festival.

2010 GSA Jazz Band:

Alto Sax I...Ramsay Williamson
Trumpet I...Anne Ames*
Alto Sax II...Hayley Maiden
Trumpet II... Ben Olivari
Alto Sax III...Nicole Bakeman
Trumpet III...Meridith Olivari
Tenor Sax I...Eric Burns*
Trumpet III...Zachary Strehan
Tenor Sax II...Tynan Byrne*
Trumpet IV...Max Hurvitt*
Tenor Sax II...Sam Elliott
Tenor Sax II...Lorna Stephens

Bari Sax...Adam DeLong*
Vibes... Lucy Jakub*
Trombone I...Vesta Davis*
Piano...Emmett Scott*
Trombone II...Lucas Yoder
Guitar...Bjorn Peterson*
Trombone III...Imogen Page
Bass Guitar...Grace Bugbee
Trombone III...Katherine Doyen
Drums...Sam Eley
Trombone IV...Peter Howell
Vocals...Keira Tachibana*

"Eccentricity" Combo:

*Anne Ames, trumpet
*Bjorn Peterson, guitar
*Adam DeLong, bari sax

*Emmett Scott, piano
*Grace Bugbee, bass
*Sam Eley, drums

"Jazz Disciples" Combo:

*Tom Crowe, trumpet
Michael Senter-Zapata, guitar
Nick Doolittle, trumpet
Gavin Rogers, piano
Hannah Billings, alto sax

*Martin Conte, steel drum
*Tynan Byrne, tenor, bari sax
Ian McMillan, bass
*Vesta Davis, trombone
Liam Russell, drums
Lucas Yoder, trombone

"Audacity" Combo

Beck Brownlow, alto sax
Ben Plohr, guitar
*Sam Hodgkin, tenor sax
Ariel Dauk, vibes & flute
*Lorna Stephens, tenor sax

Coral O'Brien, vibes & flute
*Peter Howell, trombone
*Bjorn Peterson, bass
Linglu Ma, piano
*Max Hurvitt, drums & trumpet
Zach Strehan, drums & trumpet

"Dusk" Combo

*Ben Olivari, trumpet
*Tess Lameyer, vibes
Nicole Bakeman, alto sax
*Sotherd Steer, vibes
*Eric Burns, tenor sax

Jacob Reiley, bass & cello
*Kara van Emmerik, bari sax, vocals
Meredith Houghton, piano
Meredith Olivari, bass
Maddie Sawyer, drums

"Daybreak" Combo:

*James Szawz, alto sax
*Alex Turanski, piano
*Imogen Page, tenor sax

*Lucy Jakub, vibes
*Katherine Doyen, trombone
Ben Eley, bass
Jacob Wight, drums

Learning by Making

Sophomore students in Caroline Richards' *Western Civilization* worked in small groups on research projects related to inventions or structures in the ancient world. Projects were displayed throughout the school for all to admire.



The Gate of Ishtar, to scale, by (L-R) Courtney Koos, Tess Lameyer, Sotherd Steer (not pictured, Meredith Olivari).



Medieval battering ram by (L-R) Quinn Mitchell, Nick Dillon, River Plouffe Vogel, Schuyler Van der Eb, Forest Barkdoll-Weil.



King Tut's sarcophagus by (L-R) Sam Elliott, Haley Maiden, Ramsay Williamson, Grace Bugbee.

Winter Sports Wrap-Up

Girls' Varsity Basketball



Coach: Donald Allen '76 **Assistant Coaches:** Brandi Winters '06 and Bill Case

The girls finished their regular season in 10th place with a record of 10 wins and 8 losses. They traveled to Orono High School to play the 7th place team in the preliminary playoff round where they lost by a score of 54 to 51. **Coach Allen** had high praise for this team as "one of the best defensive teams I have ever coached." Post-season notable individual achievements: **India Frazier** '10 and **Stevie Theoharidis** '10 were selected as 2010 Maine McDonald's Class C/D East Senior All-Stars, and both were also selected to the Penobscot Valley Conference 2nd team. **Hannah Van der Eb** '10 was selected to the Penobscot Valley Conference All-Defensive team. **Lydia Clapp** '10, India, and Stevie were selected to play in the Penobscot Valley Conference Senior All-Star game. Coach **Donald Allen** was selected to coach the 2010 Maine McDonald's Class C/D East Girls team. Best of luck to the graduating seniors: **Becky Brady**, **Sarah Brown** (one-year starter), **Lydia Clapp** (one-year starter), **Sarah Elliott**, **Charlene Farnsworth**, **India Frazier** (three-year starter), **Amber Gray**, **Emily Herrick**, **Stevie Theoharidis** (three-year starter), **Hannah Van der Eb** (one-year starter).

Boys' Varsity Basketball

Coach: Dwayne Carter '80 **Assistant Coach:** Brandon Allen '03

The boys finished the regular season with a record of 8 wins and 10 losses, placing 9th in the standings. They traveled to Penobscot Valley High School to face the 8th place team in the preliminary playoff round and lost a nail-biter in the final seconds by a score of 63 to 62. **Coach Carter** is looking forward to a competitive season next year, with many strong returning players. Post-season notable individual achievements: **Elias Springer** '10 was selected as a 2010 Maine McDonald's Class C/D East Senior All-Star and was also selected to the Penobscot Valley Conference 3rd team. **Nick Doolittle** '11 was selected to the Penobscot Valley Conference All-Academic team. **Nick Kane** '11 was selected to the Penobscot Valley Conference All-Defensive team. Best of luck to the graduating seniors: **Michael Bryant** (one-year starter), **Pierre Dillon** (two-year starter), **Josh Jones**, **Liam Russell**, **Elias Springer** (four-year starter).



Wrestling

Coach: Jake Sinclair **Assistant Coach:** Christopher Sarro

GSA was among 23 teams competing at the Maine State Class C Wrestling Meet in Dexter, finishing 13th. Three GSA students qualified for the meet. **Josia Moore** '10 competed in the 135 pound weight class, **Tom Strehan** '10 competed in the 189 pound weight class, and **Alex Turanski** '13 competed in the 103 pound weight class. Josia won his consolation match, achieving the third place standing in the state! **Coach Sinclair** has noted that there are several strong returning wrestlers to watch for next season. Best of luck to both **Josia** and **Tom** who are graduating seniors.



Swimming

Coach: Jim Goodman **Assistant Coach:** Carol MacCannell

Front row L to R: Jessica MacCannell '11, Jessie Dyer '11, Beth Anne Avery '13. *Back row L to R:* Carol MacCannell, So Young Ihm '13, and Jim Goodman. (Not pictured: Daye Kim '11)

The GSA Varsity Swim Team is a small team with a big heart. There were five swimmers this year, all girls. They excelled in their relays, which require team effort and spirit. It is especially important to realize that there were two freshmen in the group and one beginning swimmer. Their star in individual events this year was **Jessie Dyer** '11. She qualified in three events for States. The Relay Team qualified for States in two events and did well. They all look forward to doing even better next year!



Cheerleading

Coaches: Rhonda Ulichny and Jessica DeWitt

The Cheerleading squad participated in three competitions this year including the Eastern Maine Class C Maine Principal's Association Regional Competition. They scored higher in this event than they did last year—bravo! Best of luck to the graduating seniors: **Lilia Dupee**, **Kaylee Leach**, **Danielle Mangels**, **Lilianna Smith**, **Ashlee Vu**. (No photo available.)

MAKING A DIFFERENCE



Schoolchildren in Casas Nuevas



Lydia, Anna, Lara, with Aidan Stearns



Lydia receives a grateful hug

If you were to ask students **Lara Peterson '10**, **Anna Clapp '11**, and **Lydia Gray '10** how they spent their February vacation, their answers might surprise you. Along with six others, including GSA Social Studies teacher **David Stearns**, these students spent ten days in Nicaragua. The trip was part of a mission to build a new concrete school in Casas Nuevas that will replace the existing mud school, which is in very poor condition and insufficient for the nineteen children attending. Casas Nuevas is a small village, a three hour drive from Managua, the capital of Nicaragua.

The organization the team worked with, AMOS (A Mission Of Sharing), is a Nicaragua-based aid agency that uses funds raised by churches to buy supplies for mission trips to build schools and clinics in poor communities. Teams travel to Nicaragua, bringing their supplies with them. This group was made up of seven congregants from the First Baptist Church of Blue Hill and two from the First Baptist Church of Belfast. Pastors **Steve and Sheila Heneise** of Blue Hill lived for ten years as missionaries in Nicaragua and are fluent in Spanish; other members of the team speak some Spanish and used translators to help them communicate with the people of Casas Nuevas.

Because of flight cancellations due to bad weather in Atlanta, the trip was postponed nearly a week. The team was also delayed in Managua by a lack of transportation to Casas Nuevas, but spent the time sightseeing, riding a zip line, and helping with projects at the Managua AMOS center.

Once at the village, the team stayed with a local family and quickly fell into a daily routine: every morning they worked on the school, and during the afternoons, when it was too hot for work, Mr. and Mrs. Heneise led a Bible School for the children involving games and activities. In the evenings, they met with the community and shared their thoughts and stories of the day.

Despite their travel setbacks, the team managed to complete their section of the 20' x 15' school. Their work included finishing the foundation, putting up walls, and tying rebar for the later framing of the roof. Once the school is finished, the government of Nicaragua will commit to drilling a well in the town, which will save the women the one hour walk they currently take every day just to obtain water.

The students all agree that the best part of the trip was meeting the people of Nicaragua. Anna said that she really enjoyed playing with the children and that she will always remember the hospitality and kindness of the people she met. Lara loved working with the people and learning about their culture. She also liked being able to get sunburned in February! Lydia also enjoyed playing with the children, and will most remember the people of the AMOS foundation because of the lasting friendships her group made with them.

—AB

METAMORPHOSES

A Review by Martin Conte '11

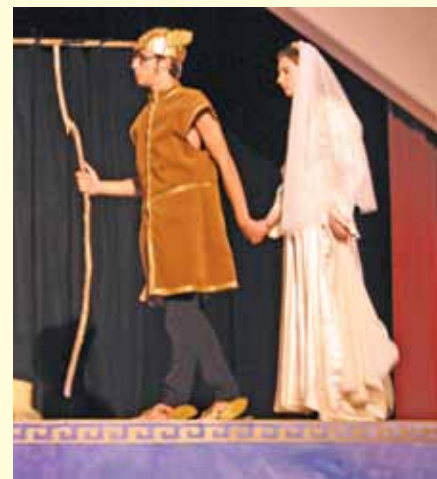
On the weekend of November 12th, GSA students premiered their performance of *Metamorphoses*, a play by American writer Mary Zimmerman that brings a fresh twist to the stories of the Greek gods. However, it appeared that there was to be no divine intervention for the performance. While there has always been an all-school buzz surrounding “play weekend,” this year the feeling was unease bordering on hysteria. Students were plagued by bouts of the flu, chicken pox, and swiftly dropping grades. As many as eight people, in the final week of rehearsals, were passing their scripts on to new and old actors, in a scramble to at least cast the play. It was with a touch of uncertainty that I sat in Emlen Hall at the Bay School, but I was soon swamped by a play of phenomenal success.

From the opening soliloquy delivered by **Aji Hall '11**, to the African tribal Call of Peace at the end delivered by **Maude Green-Loft '12**, the audience was taken in, completely absorbed by the magic unfolding before them. The delivery of the line “that’s a really, really bad idea” by **Tynan Byrne '10** nearly brought a standing ovation in the first fifteen minutes. The multiple times bare-chested men stepped center stage, the dialogue could not proceed for minutes on end as the audience roared and whistled.

And yet, when Ms. Green-Loft sang the lead on “MLK,” a gasp of awe rippled through the crowd, as her clear soprano voice stole the show.

This play was not GSA’s norm. It broke boundaries as it featured orchestrations by **Emmett Scott '11** and Tynan, as well as a student-composed piece by Maude. It was **Moirah McMahon’s** first GSA production, and she delivered a masterpiece.

One cannot always find such art and perfection among small high school performances. But when the stage lights went up, and the house lights dimmed, the doors to Greek sorcery were opened, the mists of Mount Olympus descended, and even just for those few hours, the audience’s lives were transformed.



*Tynan Byrne '10 and
Maude Green-Loft '12*



*(L to R): Keira Tachibana '11, Katherine Doyen '11,
Ramsay Williamson '12, Vesta Davis '10,
Lorna Stephens '13, and Alice Carriveau '10*

One-Act Play Production

Thirteen students recently performed a one-act play “Interview,” a segment from the 1960’s play *America Hurrah* by Jean-Claude Van Italic. Students **Steven Bell '12**, **Tynan Byrne '10**, **Vesta Davis '10**, **Katherine Doyen '11**, **Gregory Fisher '10**, **Truman Forbes '12**, **Maude Green-Loft '12**, **Molly McEntee '10**, **Taylor Paine '10**, **Jacob Reiley '11**, **Lorna Stevens '13**, **Keira Tachibana '11**, and **Zak Vogel '13** all participated. The play was directed by **Moirah McMahon**, and was performed on March 3rd & 4th. On Friday, March 5th, the students took their entire set and traveled to Rockland to participate in the District One-Act Play Competition. GSA placed second in the competition, the cast received an ensemble award, and Steven Bell received two awards: one for lighting design and one for set design. —AB

ALUMNI PROFILES

CHRIS GRAY '00

Owner of Chris Gray Handcrafted Furniture, Blue Hill



Chris Gray '00



Jewelry cabinet

Christopher Gray '00 is making a name for himself in the world of fine furniture, taking an early interest in woodworking to new heights. As a talented craftsman and the owner of his own business, *Chris Gray Handcrafted Furniture*, Chris specializes in custom design, including tables, chairs, benches, and chests.

Working with wood comes naturally to Chris, perhaps due to the long lineage of carpenters to which his father, grandfather, and great-grandfather all belong. Woodworking was always there, the tools always at hand, and Chris enjoyed working on the small projects that were a constant presence in his daily life.

Chris's enthusiasm and passion for woodworking grew while at GSA, and after graduating in 2000, he enrolled in Maine College of Art, but soon decided that his strong interests in building fine furniture and developing his craftsmanship skills would be better fostered in a technical program. He returned to Blue Hill to work with a cabinetmaker for a year, building his skills while taking time to look at different schools.

In 2001, Chris was accepted into Boston's North Bennet Street School's two-year program in Fine Furniture. Here he found strict and specific methods, providing the necessary foundation and repertoire of techniques to later apply to a large variety of individual pieces. In 2003 he graduated with an Associates Degree in Fine Furniture Making.

Equally important during those two years were the connections and relationships Chris built with other craftsmen—invaluable connections, especially for subbing out work to others whose skills may be specialized. Boston, Chris says, is a hub for woodworking, and a great place to be when creating those industry relationships.

Chris has since returned to Blue Hill, where he opened the two-person shop, *Chris Gray Handcrafted Furniture*. He creates a variety of beautiful custom works, including built-in cabinets, custom furniture designs, and *architectural millwork* or large moldings and paneling. He works with architects, designers and private clients to build unique pieces to fit individual specifications, using an array of different wood types, styles, finishes, and detail. One of his favorite projects is a mahogany jewelry case. Five feet tall, two feet wide, and eighteen inches deep, each of its twelve drawers houses customized compartments lined with suede. Chris emphasizes that math is a regular part of his daily life, and this jewelry case is a prime example. With a fixed width, he needed to calculate the graduated heights of the drawers from top to bottom. He sought advice from **John Meerse**, his math teacher while at GSA; Meerse helped him create a function based on the Fibonacci series, solving the challenge.

Chris considers himself “lucky to live and work in a community that’s so supportive of craftsmen and artisans.” His advice to others interested in similar pursuits? “Explore, find new and interesting people to work with, and find new ways to introduce the arts to others. If you look around, you’ll find that art is more intertwined into our daily lives than we might think.”

Visit Chris on the Web at www.chrisgrayfurniture.com.



Chris Gray's shop



Tabletop

JILL SMITH '92

Owner of Millbrook Company, Blue Hill

Jill Smith '92 has always loved cooking. Growing up, she spent time in the kitchen with her grandmother and mother, and her first job was in a restaurant. It seemed only natural that she would embark on a career in the food industry, and Jill has now landed back on the Blue Hill peninsula to offer her talents in the kitchen to this community by opening her own bakery, Millbrook Company.

After graduating from GSA in 1992, Jill moved to Essex, Vermont to attend the New England Culinary Institute. NECI offers an intensive culinary education with a strong emphasis on hands-on learning to master skills in food preparation and entrepreneurship. Jill received her Associates Degree in Culinary Arts and accepted several internships which took her to California, Vermont, and Massachusetts. Jill worked as an executive chef for eight years before making the decision to return to Maine in February 2005.

Upon returning to the area, Jill felt a need for homemade bread on the peninsula, which reinforced her own love for bread making. Although she had no formal training in bread, she refocused her attentions from cooking to baking and researched the field carefully, teaching herself along the way and working on and off for a baker in Vermont to master the trade.

Jill opened her bakery, Millbrook Company, in the winter of 2006. Her mission—apart from mastering the art of bagels!—is to make people happy through simple pleasures. Jill's bakery creations are made with all-natural ingredients. Her signature favorites include her famous sticky buns, hearty seven-grain bread, specialty focaccia, onion-dill-cheddar loaf, and rich anadama bread. Millbrook Company became a dual venture into not only exceptional baked goods, but homemade ice-cream as well. Jill's specialty flavors include Ginger Pear, Maine Blueberry Lemon, Toasted Coconut, and of course, Dutch Chocolate. Millbrook Company's selections also include numerous other breads, bagels, scones, muffins, cookies, cakes, pies, squares, bars, coffee cake, Danish, and quiche, as well as several other ice cream flavors.



Jill Smith '92 in her kitchen



Oven-baked breads

Jill loves her work and would encourage anyone who loves food to pursue it, recommending NECI as a wonderful place to study. It's a demanding profession, but there are jobs available almost anywhere. Inspired by her own deep love for baking, Jill's kitchen offers her the space to be creative and to challenge herself. Jill says she finds kneading dough to be therapeutic, and spending time in the kitchen can turn any day around. As a small business owner in this community, Jill notes that "winter can be challenging, but rewarding." She takes part in five to six farmers' markets, and "loves seeing people she knows buying her products and loves making them happy."

*Millbrook Company goods are available year-round at Tradewinds, the Blue Hill Co-op, and The Cave. Interested in a special order?
Send Jill an email at millbrookcomp@gmail.com.*

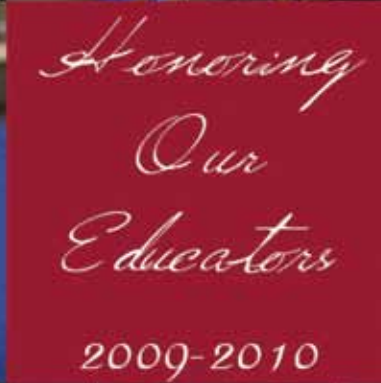
The Annual Fund

"If I could think of a teacher [to honor], it would be Mildred Hinckley, who taught history, math and Latin. She was one of four teachers when I went to GSA 1939-1943!"

"This is in honor of Roger Bennatti's thirty years of service. He was a fantastic Physics teacher."

"For Mr. O: positively the most supportive, energetic and influential teacher I've ever had! Thanks for everything!"

"In honor of all the teachers that put up with us 1955 thru 1959: they were all SAINTS...well maybe not, but close!"



Who at GSA made a difference in your life? Designate your Annual Fund gift in honor of an individual who has influenced your GSA experience, and let us know!

We are pleased to report that the Annual Fund is more than halfway to our \$300,000 goal for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. With four months to go, there is still time for you to make your Annual Fund gift by June 30th. Please honor our educators and make your gift today—your support lets our faculty know that their work as teachers, advisors, coaches, and mentors is truly appreciated.

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Thank you for your support!

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