

GSA *Matters*

News for the Families and Friends of GEORGE STEVENS ACADEMY

SPOTLIGHT on ARTS FESTIVAL

pgs. 4-5

Also in this issue:

Letter from
John Greene, Headmaster
pg. 2

Student Honors
pg. 3

Office of Student Services
pg. 6

International Celebrations
pg. 7

Student Activities
& Honors
pgs. 8-11

Graduation Weekend
pgs. 12-13

Alumni Profile
pgs. 14-15

Update from the
Development Office
pg. 15

Tuesday Speakers Schedule
pg. 16

Eastern Maine Champs!
pg. 16



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On the Cover

Caleb Cousins '09 works on an
illustration during Arts Fest.



from the HEADMASTER



Traditions that preserve what is best at George Stevens Academy are important, but equally important is our tradition of innovation, the impulse to create timely new programs, activities, and facilities. One visible innovation on campus was the completion of the new boys dorm, along with our first year of a full-fledged boarding program. Of the thirty-two international students we welcomed in the fall, nineteen were boarding students. Inevitably these new students, arriving with such diverse cultural backgrounds, created new pieces in the GSA mosaic through the social and academic interactions between local students and the international students.

Our longstanding tradition of preparing students for their future lives changed in response to an increasingly global society. This year the traditional graduation "welcome" was delivered by First Honor Essayist **Ha Lai**, a senior from Viet Nam. In her speech Ha reflected on the cultural traditions of Viet Nam and her experiences in the United States, and showed the personal and institutional transformation that a remade tradition can bring about.

GSA's tradition of excellence in co-curricular activities was maintained by the Jazz Band under the leadership of **Steve Orlofsky** with a seventh consecutive state title. The girls basketball and tennis teams each won the Eastern Maine Championships and were only narrowly defeated in the State Championships. Dan Kane's baseball team played in the program's ninth state Baseball Championship six days after graduation. The Math Team attracted forty participants, and was the highest scoring team in Hancock County. Participation in extra- and co-curricular activities, both athletic and non-athletic, was at an all-time high this past year. Three members of the faculty, **Alden Colby**, **Tim Farrar**, and **Larry Gray** achieved national recognition for their work with students in Technology. **Frank Bianco's** Business Math class practiced math and business skills to institute the hugely popular "B-Day Grill."

Year-end events linked old and new: At the International Student Recognition each of the nine graduating international students thanked GSA and spoke about the new futures they face. At the Alumni Banquet, speeches by Trustees **Lucy Ledien** and **Eckley Herrick** applauded GSA traditions while emphasizing continued need for change. Alumni Awards went to **Lexi Wessell**, **Peter Dickinson**, and **Kaiya Torrey** to support future education, and the 50th Reunion Class of 1959 made a gift to support the school's future. The Basketball Championship Celebration at the Town Hall reunited members of the teams of '48, '79, and '03, the three state basketball championship teams. Each of these events recognized the traditional values that have defined GSA, while suggesting—much like Clark Fitzgerald's sculpture "I Am The Way" on the Academy's front lawn—new directions for our future.

John Greene, Headmaster



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.

ELIZABETH CLIFFORD '10 NAMED RECIPIENT of the ACADEMY AWARD



▲ Mr. Edson Blodgett presents the George Stevens "Academy Award" to Elizabeth Clifford '10 for exemplary service to the community.

Junior Elizabeth Clifford '10, daughter of Earl and Gayle Clifford of Brooksville, was awarded the George Stevens' *Academy Award* for distinguished contributions in community service. Elizabeth was nominated by Brooksville resident Edson Blodgett who cited Elizabeth's numerous service activities on the peninsula, including: initiating a bottle and can collection program to raise money for a gym stage; helping support Brooksville students to attend programs at the Stonington Opera House; serving as a member of the Jared C. Grindle Youth Sports Scholarship Program; and volunteering at the Penobscot Nursing Home. "To date," concluded Blodgett, "this young woman has been involved in raising more than \$60,000 for the children in her neighborhood, as well as her extended neighbors, the children of Maine." **Congratulations, Elizabeth!**

The *Academy Award* is given to a student or students nominated by fellow students, teachers, or community members for any of the following reasons:

- ▶ Good citizenship at GSA or in the community as exemplified by honesty and respect towards teachers, community members, employers, and fellow students;
- ▶ Service as a positive role model for their peers in the classroom or in the school by actively participating in discussions, activities, and helping peers;
- ▶ Academic improvement or academic effort regardless of academic outcome;
- ▶ Exemplary sportsmanship or participation in co-curricular activities beyond standard expectations.

INDEPENDENT STUDY

STUDENTS SHARE THEIR EXPERIENCES

On April 14, eleven juniors and one senior presented the Independent Study and Internship (ISIP) projects they completed in March to an audience of parents and friends.

Max Reiter '10 researched and developed an artisanal Maine toffee along with a business plan to market and sell it; John Ludlow '10 interned at Pine Tree Legal Assistance in Bangor; Sara Elliott '10, Lydia Clapp '10, and Molly McEntee '10 attended a language immersion program in Cuernavaca, Mexico; Emily Herrick '10 and Tynan Byrne '10 explored teaching careers; Noah Sawyer '10 studied jewelry-making and marketing with a native American artist; Michael Senter-Zapata '10 and Adam DeLong '10 studied music composition and created a CD; Kaolin Pitcher '10 worked in the Bay School Development Office and wrote and published an alumni newsletter; and Lilian Thorpe '09 learned Adobe Photoshop and created a digital art portfolio.

This year more than one hundred juniors and seniors participated in ISIP, designing academic, vocational, or career-focused projects.



▲ Front, L-R: Lilian Thorpe, Emily Herrick, Molly McEntee, Tynan Byrne, Adam DeLong. Back, L-R: Noah Sawyer, John Ludlow, Max Reiter, Sara Elliott, Kaolin Pitcher and Michael Senter-Zapata.

ARTS FESTIVAL *Matters* at GSA



▲ **B-day Grill gets cooking at Arts Fest.**



▲ **Merengue with Sylvana Cuello.**



▼ **Nigel Chase leads students playing the steel drums.**

For more than thirty years, George Stevens Academy has held a campus-wide Arts Festival for a week in the spring. Each day local and visiting artists offer dozens of workshops in the fine arts & crafts, performing arts, and industrial arts: poetry, painting, filmmaking, music, culinary arts, theater, dance, photography, pottery, kite-flying, metal-tooling, weaving, auto restoration, needlepoint, and much more. Arts Fest 2009 welcomed many guest and local artists, including painters **Rob Shetterly**, **Rebekah Raye**, **Annie Poole**, **Robert Starkey**, documentary filmmaker **Dick Kane**, ceramicist **Melody Lewis-Kane**, jazz drummer **Osi Braithwaite**, the **Jorge Rossy Group**, Indian dancer **Astad Deboo**, poet **Stuart Kestenbaum**, writers **Ellen Booream**, **Gail Page**, and **Carrie Jones**, vintage car restorer **Blaise deSibour**, video animator **Chris Doyle**, and others. In addition, several Senior Debates—demonstrating the art of persuasion—were also scheduled during Arts Fest and attended by overflowing audiences in the Esther Wood Room.

Immense planning is required to pull together a week's worth of arts workshops and assemblies. The force of nature behind this organizational feat is GSA art teacher **Katie Greene**. Katie began teaching studio art at GSA in 1976; by 1978 her vision of an arts festival that brings “wonderful artistic talents throughout the peninsula into the school” was realized. Katie is herself an accomplished painter and book artist, but she makes it very clear that “teaching art is my #1 art form.” One of her chief objectives for Arts Fest is to work against what she calls “the myth of talent,” the idea that artistic talent belongs to a few people only. “Every student has creative energy and talent waiting to be tapped,” she asserts. The beauty of Arts Fest is that students who have lacked

▼ **Keira Tachibana '11 walks the red carpet at the fashion show.**



▼ **Rebekah Raye advises a student.**





▲ "Clock Project" is projected on the Town Hall.



▲ Students take a step back to evaluate graffiti art project.



▲ Trash can kiln with potter Melody Lewis-Kane.

the confidence to take a regular art course can test their creative waters by participating in workshops; many students over the years have discovered latent creative instincts in just this way, and for many, pursuing a newly-found art during the junior or senior year Independent Study has been a next step, whether in painting, architecture, culinary arts, or creative writing.

Even Katie Greene's boundless enthusiasm and undaunted commitment would not be enough to oversee every detail and carry the daily demands of Arts Fest, and she is quick to note with gratitude the many parent volunteers, as well as teachers and even returning alumni who are essential in making the week go well: this year, **Marion Morris** coordinated parent volunteers and was instrumental in making Chris Doyle's "Clock Project" a success; **Ross Gallagher '06** organized the Jorge Rossy assembly performance; and many teachers helped support students, as when **Mike Kazmierczak**, English, helped a reluctant student tread the boards in **Chuck McKay's** Swing Dance class. Some teachers hosted guest artists in their classrooms, while others, like food caterer and math teacher **Frank Bianco**, presented their own workshops; many parents provided food and drink, while others, like parent and architect **Lauren Reiter**, presented workshops. Arts Fest is a distinctive program that sets GSA apart from other area schools, an inspiring tradition that creatively brings campus and community together for a weeklong artistic feast.

To read more about Fine Arts at GSA and to see class portfolios, visit the Web site at www.georgestevensacademy.org/finearts.



▲ 2009 Arts Fest logo design by Elizabeth Gray '10.

▼ Adam Groves '09 delivers the first speech for the affirmative in Senior Debates.



LINC ARTS CELEBRATION

Five GSA students were among fifteen students whose works were celebrated on May 31 as part of the Learning in Community (LINC) Arts program. LINC, sponsored by the Maine Alliance for Arts Education, "pairs talented Hancock County high-school students with experienced local artists for specific arts training." Students presented their work at the Town Hall and in the Cygnet Gallery on Main Street in Blue Hill.

Roz Brokaw '09 - Barbara Brady
abstract painting

Gregory Fisher '10 - Abigail Greene '01
voice

Di Wang '09 - Susan Webster
printmaking

Acadia Jacob '09 - Robert Starkey
painting

Lilian Thorpe '09 - Becky McCall
oil painting



▲ Acadia Jacob '09 with her LINC mentor, Robert Starkey.

from the OFFICE of STUDENT SERVICES

First, a final congratulations and best wishes to the Class of 2009 in their future endeavors. More than 80% of you will be off to college or postgraduate studies in the Fall, while others of you will be assuming responsible positions in the work force. You will be missed here, but we are all excited for you. Please keep us posted about your experiences along the way.

We want to acknowledge what a solid year we have had as a school community. The last ten months have provided us with many wonderful moments and memories on so many levels. We all end the year feeling a sense of accomplishment for each and every student. We look forward to seeing the Class of 2010 take their place as seniors, and respective classes move into new positions of leadership and challenge. But for now, students and faculty alike deserve to take advantage of the professional and recreational opportunities summer affords us. A happy and healthy summer to all!

Year-end (Final) Grades

Year-end (Final) grades will be mailed out by the end of June. Our office does a thorough inventory of annual credits for each student and reviews where each student stands in relationship to GSA's graduation requirements. Parents and students will be notified about summer school courses at Ellsworth High School or here at GSA if there is a need to make up any course work due to failing grades.

2009-2010 Class Schedules

Students will receive a tentative class schedule for next fall with their final grades. Students may call or set up appointments with our office in June or August to revise schedules. It is not uncommon for the master schedule to be revised during the summer, so students will not be late if they wait until August to make changes.

A Word of Thanks

Finally, we would like to thank **Trudy Bell**, **Debbie Davis**, and **Gail Strehan** for the incredible work they have collectively done this year on behalf of all the students. I hope you will thank them when you see them for their devotion and commitment to every student.

Welcome to the Office

As many of you know, Bags Brokaw will be taking a year off. Part of his responsibilities around college guidance and planning will be assumed by **Martha Garfield '82**. Martha has spent many years as a teacher and academic advisor at all grade levels. Recently she has served as academic advisor for students at UMO. Please be ready to welcome Martha when she joins our office in August.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact **Libby Rosemeier, Dean of Students**, or **Bags Brokaw, Academic Dean**, at 374-2120. We would be happy to talk with you or set up an appointment for a meeting to discuss your child's needs.

GSA COLLABORATES ON MAINE COMMUNITY HERITAGE PROJECT



George Stevens Academy, in collaboration with five other local schools and businesses, has received funding through the Maine Historical Society and the Maine State Library to digitize significant historical documents in Blue Hill and the Blue Hill Peninsula.

The **Maine Community Heritage Project**, a collaborative effort by the Blue Hill Historical Society, the Jonathan Fisher Memorial, the Blue Hill Consolidated School, the Blue Hill Harbor School, the Blue Hill Public Library and GSA, will create teams of students who will work with teachers and other adult mentors to identify significant

historical resources, interview town citizens, digitize documents, artifacts, and photographs, and develop written narratives about important themes in the history of Blue Hill and the Blue Hill Peninsula.

Students will then use these digitized materials to create a Web site on the Maine Memory Network (www.mainememory.net) and to develop other ways of informing local residents and visitors about Blue Hill's rich heritage. The Blue Hill team plans to use the project to help prepare for the celebration of the town's 250th anniversary in 2012.

INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM

FIRST ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL NIGHT

GSA's international students and student ambassadors organized the First Annual International Night, held on April 11. About one hundred people gathered in the cafeteria to look at displays on China, Thailand, Viet Nam, Italy, Spain, and Korea; eat delicious food; and enjoy entertainment.

Mark Messer helped the students create their displays, which contained interesting facts, books, maps, photos, and items unique to each country.

David Stearns and the International Cooking Club (Molly McEntee '10, Allison Fleck '09, Taylor Paine '10, Abby Bowden '11, Liz Salois '09, Makaela Reinke '12, Ashley Keefe '12, Sotherd Steer '12, Tatiana Urban '12, Greg Fisher '10, Allegra Pellerano '09, Lakota Bowen '12, Linglu Ma '11, and Rocky Li '11) provided the dinner

which included Mattar Paneer (Indian pea & cheese curry), Tom Kha Gai (Thai coconut chicken soup), Laab Gai (Thai chicken salad), Polpette con



Pecorino (Italian meatballs), Oi Muchim (Korean cucumber salad), rice, two Chinese dishes, and various salads donated by parents.

Emma Sweet organized the entertainment, which followed the dinner. Charlene Farnsworth '10 and Dasha Polyakova '09 were the MC's. Logan Speranza '11, Son Minh Dang '09, and Maude Green-Loft '12 showed off a few different martial arts forms. Joy Ma '10 sang Chinese songs. Tom Wang '10 played the Chinese "Er-hu". Oriol Grasa '09, with the help of Ben Avery '11, performed a Spanish pop song with background dancers Dasha, Charlene, and Kaiya Torrey '09. Sunny Jeong '09, Stephanie Jung '11, Ashlee Vu '10, Tanya Hoang '11, Ha Lai '09, Lacey Leach '10, Jasmine Huang '10, Blacks Li '11, and Gabriele Faragalli '09 dazzled the audience with traditional dress from Korea, Viet Nam, China, Japan, and Italy.

Special thanks to Bill Gray, maintenance, who set up the stage and the sound system.



INTERNATIONAL CELEBRATION

The Blue Hill Country Club was host to the festivities as the International Student Program celebrated its third successful year at George Stevens Academy on Thursday, June 11. Students gathered with host families, faculty, staff and trustees for a buffet dinner catered by Frank Bianco and students from the B-Day Grill. Before the meal, the seniors from the program stood and offered their farewells. Amidst tears and laughter, the nine seniors shared their favorite memories and thanked families, teachers, and other students for what many described as an "awesome" experience at GSA. Looking ahead to the coming fall term, GSA will welcome new students as well as welcome back 85% of this year's ISP participants.

FACULTY KUDOS!

Michael Kazmierczak, English

Two poems by English Department Chair Michael Kazmierczak, "The Fall Woodbox" (below) and "Keepsake," appear in the latest volume of the *Puckerbrush Review* published by the University of Maine.

The Fall Woodbox

I creak across the bare pine floor
in heavy mud-caked boots

to drop an armload
of roughly hewn complaint

into the woodbox near the stove
when my son, warm and safe

from neck to toe in his
one-piece pajamas,

ready to discover the world
anew, springs from the sofa,

scritch-scratching his small
padded feet across the floor

to show me the chocolate
frosting on my boots

before I return to the cold outside
and the labored thunk

and crack of the woodpile
where he imagines a cake to be.

David Stearns, Social Studies

For the seventh consecutive year, history teacher and department chair David Stearns is marking International Baccalaureate (IB) examinations in the field of 20th-century World History. David is also an exam moderator, meaning he cross-marks others' exams to help establish standards of consistency. David reads exams from students all over the world. "I not only keep in touch with ideas about teaching history current in the IB curriculum, but am able to hone my skills at assessment of historical writing. It's a great experience—except it keeps me indoors during the spring bird migration and whitewater canoeing season!"

SCIENCE STUDENTS IN THE FIELD

Students in Carol Bennatti's 9th grade Exploring Earth Systems class hit the Mill Stream to collect aquatic macroinvertebrates—good indicators of water quality, especially dissolved oxygen. The field trip introduced students to the concept of bioindicators which enable scientists to make quick assessments of a stream's health by looking at the species present.



LA SEMANA DE CULTURA HISPANICA

Students who were studying Spanish this year took part in Hispanic Culture Week or La Semana de Cultura Hispanica during the week of April 27-May 1. To celebrate, several students and community members shared their experiences of visiting a Spanish-speaking country through slideshow presentations. Also, Señora Buckingham and Señora Senter-Zapata led the students in making salsa and batidos (smoothies) for a taste of the culture.



▲ Ken Senter presents a slideshow of photos from a trip to Patagonia.



▲ Julianna Smith '09 presents a slideshow of photos from her trip to Ecuador. Julianna worked with doctors in the operating rooms on a medical mission.



▲ Students make salsa.

NHS INDUCTS JUNIORS



▲ **Junior NHS Inductees**
Front Row, L-R: *Lara Peterson, Stevie Theoharidis, Lydia Clapp.*
Back, L-R: *John Ludlow, Michael Senter-Zapata, Caroline Altman.*

Eight members of the Junior class were inducted into the National Honor Society (NHS) on Thursday, April 2. Headmaster **John Greene** congratulated the new inductees, and **Zoe Weil**, President of the Institute for Humane Education in Surry, spoke.

The eight students, all of the class of 2010, are **Caroline Altman**, daughter of Megann Holland of Penobscot and John Altman of Brooksville; **Lydia Clapp**, daughter of Rob and Patty Clapp of Blue Hill; **Woojin “Janine” Kim**, daughter of Shang Ho Kim and Young Hee Choi of South Korea; **John Ludlow**, son of David and Deb Ludlow of Brooksville; **Lara Peterson**, daughter of Buffy Austin of East Blue Hill and Michael Peterson of Connecticut; **Noah Sawyer**, son of Diana and Thomas Newman; **Michael Senter-Zapata**, son of Ken Senter and Mirna Senter-Zapata of Blue Hill; and **Stevie Theoharidis**, daughter of Steven and Lisa Theoharidis of Sedgwick.

Founded in 1921 by the National Association of Secondary School Principals, NHS bases its selection on four criteria: service, leadership, scholarship and character. The NHS requires some sort of service to the community, school, or other organizations.

MODEL UN CONFERENCE

Twelve students traveled with faculty advisor **David Stearns**, history department, to participate in the Dartmouth Model United Nations Conference on the Dartmouth College campus April 4-5: **Katherine Doyen** '11, **Abby Bowden** '11, **Dustin Piskura** '10, **Tatiana Urban** '12, **John Ludlow** '10, **Michael Senter-Zapata** '10, **Sotherd Steer** '12, **Courtney Koos** '12, **Max Reiter** '10, **Caroline Altman** '10, **Lucas Yoder** '10 and **Ian McMillan** '10. The conference attracted more than 200 New England high school students.

Abby Bowden won best delegate for the Press Corps, and **John Ludlow** won a commendation for his work representing Austria on the Disarmament and Security Committee.



◀ **Abby Bowden, MUN delegate for the Press Corps.**



▲ **MUN Participants**
L-R: *David Stearns, advisor, Courtney Koos, Dustin Piskura, Ian McMillan, Tatiana Urban, Caroline Altman, Sotherd Steer, John Ludlow, Max Reiter, Michael Senter-Zapata, Lucas Yoder, Katherine Doyen, and Abby Bowden.*

MAINE PRINCIPALS' 2009 OUTSTANDING SENIOR AWARD

Headmaster **John Greene** presents senior **Roz Brokaw** with the 2009 Maine Principal's Outstanding Senior Award, given for academic excellence and outstanding school citizenship.



STUDENT HONORED BY LOCAL BUSINESS

Student **Josh Sawyer '10** has been named Employee of the Quarter by TradeWinds Market in Blue Hill. The award is made to just one employee each quarter, and recognizes outstanding work ethic, attitude, and productivity.

FOUR JUNIORS QUALIFY FOR 2010 NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Gregory Fisher, Molly McEntee, Max Reiter, and Michael Senter-Zapata, all members of the class of 2010, have qualified in the 2010 National Merit Scholarship Program. The four are among the 50,000 highest scorers among 1.5 million program entrants. About one-third of qualifying students will advance to semifinal status in September.

STUDENT PLACES 2ND IN PIANO COMPETITION

Emmett Scott '11 placed 2nd in the senior category of the Pine Tree Piano Competition held at Minsky Hall, University of Maine, Orono, on Saturday, May 2. Pine Tree is a state-wide competition under the auspices of the Maine Music Teachers Association encouraging students to work towards their highest potential by recognizing and rewarding excellence in music performance.



SAILING TEAM SUCCESS

At the Downeast Fleet Race Championships held Saturday, May 9, in Castine, GSA's Sailing Team took second place overall. They were only two points behind the top finishers. **John Jagger '09** and **Jenny Powell '09** came in first place in the A Fleet finishes overall and the boat of **Adam Groves '09** and **Tess Lameyer '12** came in eighth for B Fleet. There were a total of 22 boats in each fleet.

Additional sailors and members of the sailing team that participated or volunteered their time were **Elizabeth Salois '09**, **Sarah Brown '10**, **Pierre Dillon '10**, **Molly McEntee '10**, **Kaolin Pitcher '10**, **Elizabeth Doyen '11**, **Katherine Doyen '11**, **Lily McFarland '11**, **Matthew Ahern '12**, **Steven Bell '12**, and **Courtney Koos '12**.

STUDENT ART EXHIBITED AT PUBLIC LIBRARY

The works of twenty-four of **Katie Greene's** art students were displayed in the Howard Room of the Blue Hill Public Library during the month of April.



Represented in the show were:

Mariah Blodgett '11, **Vita Poole '11**, **Sarah O'Rourke**, **Keira Tachabana '11**, **Jessica MacCannell '11**, **Dasha Polyakova '09**, **Taylor Higgins '11**, **Kelly Cutler '09**, **Roz Brokaw '09**, **Elizabeth Dobson '09**, **Sarah Brown '10**, **Trinh Tuyet Hoang '11**, **Sarah Elliott '10**, **Rachael Hall '11**, **Julianna Smith '09**, **Lilian Thorpe '09**, **Marjorie Friemuth '09**, **Liz Salois '09**, **Charlene Farnsworth '10**, **Kaylee Leach '10**, **Doran Curtin '09** and **Katie Herklotz '09**.

TWO STUDENTS NAMED TO ALL-STATE CLASSICAL ORCHESTRA

Congratulations to senior **Grace Bell**, 'cello, and sophomore **Anna Clapp**, violin, who auditioned and were accepted into the 2009 All-State Classical Music Festival Orchestra. Anna was an orchestra member for the second year, and Grace has performed in the All-State Classical Music Festival Orchestra all four years of high school!

The festival was held on Thursday, Friday & Saturday, May 21, 22 & 23 at the University of Southern Maine, Gorham.



JUNIORS RECOGNIZED *with* ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Ten juniors were recognized for outstanding academic achievement on Wednesday, May 27. **Lara Peterson** received the American History Award for outstanding work in the study of American History; **Molly McEntee** received the Bausch and Lomb Science Award for exceptional promise in science; **Hannah Van der Eb** was awarded a Certificate of Achievement by the Society of Women Engineers.

Michael Senter-Zapata received the Rensselaer Medal for demonstrated academic success, excellence in advanced math and science courses, and significant involvement in extracurricular activities. The Phi Beta Kappa Award, for a student who is going on to higher education and who has demonstrated intellectual curiosity and achievement in and beyond the classroom, was given to **Max Reiter**. **Sara Elliott** received the Seven Sisters Book Award for academic ability, community involvement, and extracurricular activities.

The Smith Book Award for academic achievement, leadership qualities, and concern for others was received by **Stevie Theoharidis**, and the Colby Book Award for outstanding academic achievement and substantial contributions to the high school and local community was given to **John Ludlow**.

The Dartmouth Book Award, honoring a student of strong character who has made a positive impact on the life of the school community and excelled in at least one non-academic area was given to **Lydia Clapp**. Finally, the Williams Book Award was made to **Grace Jackson** for demonstrated intellectual leadership and significant contributions to the extracurricular life of the school.

Junior Award Recipients Photo

Front Row, L-R: **Molly McEntee, Sara Elliott, Lydia Clapp, and Stevie Theoharidis**. Back, L-R: **Lara Peterson, Max Reiter, Michael Senter-Zapata, Hannah Van der Eb, Grace Jackson and John Ludlow**.

NEW ENGLAND YOUNG WRITER'S CONFERENCE AT BREADLOAF

A Student's Reflection

Kaolin Pitcher '10 of Deer Isle attended the New England Young Writer's Conference at Breadloaf in May. Kaolin reflected on her experience in an essay, a portion of which we excerpt here:

The first night all two hundred of us [student participants] were given a speech that we will surely never forget. After welcoming us to Breadloaf, novelist **Philip Baruth** explained that it was no mistake that we were all here. He told us that by being here we could be confident in our ability as writers, that every single one of us has extraordinary talent. But then he told us something else. He told us that New England needs us, it needs our creative words and overall presence, and that he hoped by being here we would find how much we loved the place where we lived enough to stay. For the next three days, I kept coming back to his words. "Stay strange," he told us. "New England needs you. You are the strange ones."

I was never without a notebook for an entire four days, and it seemed also that the pen never left my hand. Now back at home, I am always writing in whatever free time I have, and each piece seems to be about my time at Breadloaf. While I miss the inspiration of the rolling grassy hills and the smiling faces of my friends there, I write about it every day, which assures me that it will stay forever fresh in my mind. I wouldn't change a single day of my time in Vermont, and I will remember every detail. Now I am attempting to take the wise advice I was given on the first night to "stay strange," and I also know I won't be leaving New England anytime soon. After all, what better inspiration for my writing than somewhere I know so well and love so much?



class of 2009

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!



Rob Shetterly graduated from Harvard College. After moving to Maine in 1970 he taught himself painting, drawing, and printmaking, and for twelve years drew for the Maine Times. In 2005 he began a project called "Americans Who Tell the Truth," a series of portraits of Americans. The publication of the first fifty portraits won an International Reading Association award, and was named a Notable Social Studies Trade Book by the Children's Book Council. Rob's two children, Caitlin and Aran, both graduated from GSA. He and his partner live in Brooksville.

Graduation 2009 was held on Sunday, June 14 at 1 PM—indoors, thanks to an inauspicious gathering of rain clouds. The GSA Band played as families and friends filled the gymnasium; then graduating seniors filed in to the familiar strains of *Pomp and Circumstance*.

First to speak was Honors Essayist **Ha Lai** who joined GSA this year from Viet Nam, and who thanked her host family, her teachers, her fellow students—in English—and her parents and her sister—in Vietnamese! Salutatorian **Grace Bell** described the life lessons she learned from her years of studying 'cello, and Valedictorian **Roz Brokaw** read an original poem that reflected on learning by traveling. Student Council President **Trisha Bakeman** then introduced local artist and activist **Rob Shetterly**, who implored graduates to be guided by common sense and courage. Dean **Bags Brokaw** announced more than 60 scholarships and awards.

Finally **Rob Clapp**, Chairman of the Board, and Headmaster **John Greene** handed out diplomas to 64 newly minted graduates. Concluding the ceremony, Honors Essayist **Allison Fleck** mused over a grammatical conundrum before Class Marshal **Tynan Byrne '10** led the recessional.

To read Rob's remarks and Roz's poem, visit www.georgestevensacademy.org/graduation2009.



VALEDICTORIAN

Rosalind Lafrentz Brokaw ('05-'09)

Daughter of Bayard and Kerry Brokaw, Brooksville

National Honor Society
Student Council
Varsity soccer (4), Varsity tennis (2),
Jazz Combo (2), piano (4)

Colorado College

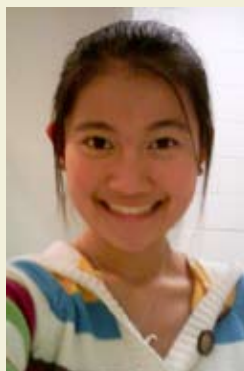
SALUTATORIAN

Grace Lauren Bell ('05-'09)

Daughter of Scot and Trudy Bell, Blue Hill

National Honor Society
Student Council
All-State Orchestra (4), Jazz Combo (4), Jazz Band (3),
Theatre (3), piano (4), cello (4)
All-State Jazz Combo Championship

Middlebury College



FIRST HONOR ESSAYIST

Ha Thi Ngoc Lai ('08-'09)

Daughter of Trung Q. Lai and Hanh H. Nguyen, Viet Nam

Host parents: Fred and Prudy Heilner, Blue Hill

National Honor Society
Basketball (1), Math Team (1), Bagaduce Chorale

Baldwin-Wallace College

SECOND HONOR ESSAYIST

Allison Kathleen McEntee Fleck ('05-'09)

Daughter of Jarlath McEntee and Barbara Fleck, Castine

National Honor Society
National Merit Finalist
AP Scholar
Theatre (4), Jazz Band (2), *Vitality* Combo (1),
A Capella (3), Book Club (3), Track, (1), Sailing (3)

Cornell University





▲ During Class Night Maddi Park and Nick Saunders announced that this year's *Mountain Echo* was dedicated to Edd Hardie for his loyal support of the GSA basketball program. Edd has been the scorekeeper for GSA for the past 16 years. He was presented with a yearbook and a plaque.



▲ At this year's Alumni Banquet Peter Dickinson, Lexi Wessell, and Kaiya Torrey were presented Alumni Awards to support their future education.

JOSTEN'S YEARBOOK AWARD
for two people who have contributed
immensely toward this year's "*Mountain Echo*"
Marilyn Lawson
Emily Walker

YEARBOOK ADVISORS

Thank you to Jenny Bryant and Angi Lawson for their hard work and dedication as yearbook advisors again this year and for putting together the class night slide show.



CLASS NIGHT AWARDS

VALEDICTORIAN AWARD

Roz Brokaw

SALUTATORIAN AWARD

Grace Bell

ENGLISH AWARD

to the most improved English student
Connor Meginnis

SPANISH AWARD

to the Spanish student with the
highest academic achievement
Emily Peake

SPANISH HONORABLE MENTIONS

for completing 5 full years of study
Grace Bell
Elizabeth Dobson

MATHEMATICS AWARDS

for excellence in Mathematics
Allison Fleck
Ha Lai

SOCIAL STUDIES AWARD

Julianna Smith

TECHNOLOGY AWARD

for excellence in the field of technology
J.D. Dionne

ART AWARDS

Lilian Thorpe
Di Wang
Roz Brokaw

SKETCHBOOK AWARDS

Julianna Smith
Liz Salois
Emily Pettigrew
Acadia Jacob
Kelly Cutler
Roz Brokaw

SCHOLASTIC ART AWARDS

Di Wang
Roz Brokaw

FINE ARTS AWARDS

Allison Fleck, Marjorie Freimuth, Ellie Howell

DRAMA AWARDS

for outstanding contributions to GSA's Drama Program
Kelly Cutler, Allison Fleck, Marjorie Freimuth,
Ellie Howell, Liz Salois and Kaiya Torrey

OUTSTANDING SENIOR MUSICIAN AWARDS

Trisha Bakeman, flute, Band
Emily Peake, clarinet, Band
Allison Fleck, trombone, flute & vocals
Band, Jazz Band & Vitality Jazz Combo
Ellie Howell, trombone
Band, Jazz Band & Musaïc Jazz Combo
Grace Bell, vibes
Band, Jazz Band & Musaïc Jazz Combo

GOOD CITIZENSHIP AWARD

from the DAR (Daughters of the American Revolution)
for having demonstrated the qualities of dependability,
service, leadership and patriotism
Sam Allen

ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

Alida Peake
Peter Dickinson





AMANDA AKER '96, JEWELER



Amanda Aker '96 is a skilled fine jeweler. Her artistic voice is evident in her distinctive pieces, speaking to both her particular attention to detail and her elegant design sensibilities. Amanda resides and works in Watertown, MA.

Amanda Aker's artistic vision is simple and straightforward: to create meticulous work with a hand-made touch —different, custom, well-made.

Amanda began to love jewelry at a young age but made her first piece of jewelry at Haystack Mountain School of Crafts during a three day session at Studio Based Learning where, as a GSA student she was one of seventy high school students taking part in intensive arts workshops, including printmaking, blacksmithing, jewelry making, felting, and clay. Amanda fell in love with metals.



Amanda then took Earthworks at GSA and several additional workshops in jewelry making. She later took a position at Pyramid Studios, a shop in Ellsworth she had always admired for their workmanship, getting a taste of the possibilities that becoming a fine jeweler could offer. There, Amanda received an inside look at the technical and artistic skills and craftsmanship involved in creating a single piece while at the same time gaining experience in jewelry retail. With a strong desire to make her own work, Amanda recognized a need for additional advanced schooling.

Amanda attended the North Bennet Street School, a leading trade school in Boston, MA, known for craftsmanship excellence. She describes the first year as "jewelry boot camp. It was a test of seriousness about the program. You need to be disciplined for NBSS—they want to know that you are really committed." That year she revisited the fundamentals, receiving more technical instruction and learning proper building and construction techniques. At the end of the year she felt "a mental shift towards a positive 'I can do this' attitude," and she began to see improvement.



Amanda's second year at NBSS was "challenging, but I was excited to learn new skills." Among them were stone setting, which has become an integral part of her work today. Students in jewelry at NBSS also make their own tools, an invaluable skill for a jeweler, who can then customize them to fit individual needs. The two-year experience at NBSS helped Amanda find her own way as a fine jeweler; she graduated from North Bennet Street School in 2007 with a degree in Jewelry Fabrication and Repair.

Amanda has recently taken the next step forward and is now exclusively making her own work from her home studio. She mainly works in silver, using stones such as rubies and sapphires, which come in all colors and are extremely durable. She strives to make each piece a work of art that is functional and can withstand the test of time. Amanda's stunning pieces are a testament to her love for her work and her dedication to her craft. She maintains that it is "truly a lifelong learning process. Somehow you have to become comfortable being confident and stop second-guessing yourself. At some point you have to be happy with the final product. I think it's good to push yourself. It's good to have a challenge and always strive for artistic integrity."

Please visit Amanda online at www.amandaaker.com.



GSA CELEBRATION for STATE CHAMPIONSHIP BASKETBALL TEAMS



1948 • 1979 • 2003

Fifty players, coaches, faculty and staff, family members, and friends gathered on June 13, 2009 to honor the three GSA basketball state championship teams. This year roughly marks the 60th, 30th, and 5th reunions of the 1948, 1979, and 2003 GSA varsity boys basketball teams bringing home the state title. After a welcome by **John Greene**, Headmaster, **Gordon F. Carter '49** and **Percy Blaisdell '49**, **Jim Frost** (Head Coach 1979) and **Jim Murphy** (Assistant Coach 1979), and **Matt Mattson '91** (Head Coach 2003) and **Dwayne Carter '80** (Assistant Coach 2003) shared their memories of the tournaments, each with humorous anecdotes and obvious pride for their accomplishments as a team. Across the decades, the message remained much the same: these individuals understood

teamwork and worked hard together to go the distance. **Dwayne Carter**, now the Head Coach of boys varsity basketball, offered remarks on GSA basketball today, followed by **Jim Murphy**, GSA Athletic Director, who addressed the athletics program as a whole at George Stevens Academy, which is continually developing and expanding. A reception followed the program, including celebratory cakes and film footage of the 1979 and 2003 games. After all three teams signed a single basketball in honor of the event, each player left with a commemorative T-shirt and a season pass to this year's regular varsity season. Thank you to all who attended and made it such a wonderful and memorable event!



Please stay tuned for upcoming alumni events!

Front, L-R: Martin Nowland '79, Larry Gray '79, Ronald Boutin '79, Blake Wessel '06, Mark Clapp '03, Michael Astbury '03, Christopher Candage '03. Back, L-R: Shawn Gray '79, Kent Lawson '79, Dwayne Carter '80, Andrew Dombek '79, Nicholas Henry '03, Robert Grindle '49, Chris Saunders '03, Timothy Carter '05, Gregory Saunders '81, Jim Frost, Percy Blaisdell '49, Gordon F. Carter '49, Jim Murphy, Norris Wessel '50, Matthew Mattson '91. [Not pictured: Basil Bowden '79]

ANNUAL FUND

THANK YOU to all those alumni, parents, and friends who have so generously supported George Stevens Academy so far this year.

For those who have yet to become involved, there is still time to make your Annual Fund gift by June 30!

Give in honor of a teacher, a classmate, a family member, a friend; give because YOU can make a real difference in the daily lives of the current students and faculty of George Stevens Academy.

Please make your secure online gift today at www.georgestevensacademy.org/onlinegift.

REUNIONS

To all the members of the 4s and 9s reunion classes – your year to celebrate is here! Planning a reunion this year? Let us know! We can help you spread the word, and we would love to publish your event in an upcoming issue. If you are part of the planning and organization of a reunion or would like to learn more about how to get involved, please contact the Office of Development and Alumni Relations by sending an email to a.greene@georgestevens.org or by calling 207.374.2800. To follow are some upcoming 2009 reunion events:

Class of 1979

Thirty years certainly fly by! The 30th class reunion will take place on Saturday, July 18. Please contact **Penny Hatch** at pkhatch@gmail.com or **Janet Torrey** at jbutler79@live.com for more information.

Class of 1989

Save the dates! The 20th class reunion will be held on Saturday, July 11 and Sunday, July 12. Please contact **Dawn Nason** at dawnnason@yahoo.com for details.

Class of 1994

The fifteen year reunion is being held on Saturday, July 11 from 2-5 PM at Marlintoni's in Blue Hill. Please contact **Jules Tufts** on Facebook for more information.

GEORGE STEVENS ACADEMY

21ST SUMMER of TUESDAY SPEAKERS

- July 7** **Wyn Kelley**, Literature Department, M.I.T.
“Sailing in Melville’s Wake”
- July 14** **Dr. Tabb Moore**, Johns Hopkins Medical School
“The Fountain of Youth: Which Hormone Should I Take?”
- July 21** **Leslie Clapp** GSA ’82
“Adventures in the Southern Ocean: Falkland Islands,
South Georgia and the Antarctic Peninsula”
**Repeated August 5*
- July 28** **Zoe Weil**, President, Institute for Humane Education
“Most Good and Least Harm—Making Choices that
Improve Your Life and the World”
- Aug 4** **Eliot Coleman**, Four Season Farm, Harborside
“Gardening ’Round the Year in Maine”
- Aug 11** **Ashley Gagné** GSA ’00
“Jesuit Refugee Services in West Africa”
- Aug 18** **Benjamin Mendlowitz**, NOAH Publications, Brooklin
“The Maritime Photography of Benjamin Mendlowitz,
with a Focus on Classic Yacht Restoration”

Tuesdays at 7:30 PM in the Esther Wood Room at GSA

Open to the public. Admission is free.

For more information and for directions to the school,
please telephone 374-2800 or visit our Web site at

www.georgestevensacademy.org

Eastern Maine Champions

*Congratulations to the girls Tennis team
and the Baseball team for winning the
Eastern Maine Championships
in their respective sports.*



GEORGE STEVENS ACADEMY

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