

GSA *Matters*

News for the Families and Friends of GEORGE STEVENS ACADEMY

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Editor

Liffey Thorpe

Layout & Design

Lynda Snelson

Please direct any comments or questions
regarding GSA Matters to:

Liffey Thorpe, Director of Communications
George Stevens Academy
23 Union Street
Blue Hill, Maine 04614
(207) 374-2800
l.thorpe@georgestevens.org

On the Cover

Students in Erin McCormick's English
class make symbolic representations
of story characters.

from the DIRECTOR OF ANNUAL GIVING



George Stevens Academy has always been a part of my life. I am the daughter of two, long-time, dedicated GSA teachers. I am also a 2001 graduate who was well served by a GSA education both in college and in starting out my professional career. I have had many reasons along the way to feel affection and gratitude towards GSA, and now, as Director of Annual Giving, my appreciation for this school has developed a new dimension as I see so many possibilities for an even stronger George Stevens Academy for future generations of our students.

As Director of Annual Giving, my primary role is to raise awareness of and support for the Annual Fund. The Annual Fund lies at the heart of maintaining the high quality of our programs by directly supporting students and faculty and providing the funds necessary for the daily operation of the school. Improved classroom resources, extracurricular activities, maintenance of and improvements to our buildings and grounds—these are some of the ways the Annual Fund has immediate results at George Stevens Academy.

As I work to build this critical program, I will be reaching out to alumni, parents and friends to create a network of volunteers. I want to take this opportunity to thank the more than fifty volunteers who joined our efforts as Annual Fund volunteers this year. The contacts you have made, by phone, email and personal notes, have had a tremendous impact on Annual Fund giving and participation. As I continue to develop our network of volunteers, I invite you to visit www.georgestevensacademy.org/support to learn more about the range of opportunities available.

In our ongoing commitment to improve and expand our communications with all constituents, this issue of *GSA Matters* is a special edition that includes not only campus news, but alumni news as well. Inside this publication you will find *Alumni Connection* (formerly published in the spring as a free-standing newsletter), which includes alumni class notes, reunion information, an alumni profile featuring Aisha Woodward '04, an update on *The Decade Challenge*, and more. In future issues of *GSA Matters*, we hope to include as much alumni news as possible, so please take a moment to send us your email address or update your profile on our Web site: that way, you will receive *GSA Matters* in an eco-friendly, electronic, full-color format!

On behalf of the GSA Development Office, I want to thank all of you alumni, parents, faculty, and friends who have already supported the Annual Fund this year; in this challenging economic period, we are continually moved by your generosity. For me, giving back to my school continues to be deeply rewarding, and I feel honored to be part of the effort to support this already extraordinary school and prepare the groundwork for its even greater future.

Abigail Greene '01
Director of Annual Giving

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.



DESPE DODGE '10 NAMED RECIPIENT of the FEBRUARY ACADEMY AWARD

The Student Council and Administration are happy to announce that Despe Dodge '10 was selected as February's "Academy Award" winner.

Despe was nominated for embodying the spirit and work of the Maine Writers class. Despe is the daughter of Carroll Dodge of Blue Hill. **Congratulations, Despe!**

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.



DYLAN HOWARD '09 GOLD MEDALIST

On March 13th George Stevens Academy and Hancock County Technical Center (HCTC) student **Dylan Howard '09**, son of Priscilla Heslin of Brooksville and Dan Howard of North Kingstown, Rhode Island, was awarded a gold medal for Video Production Development in the SkillsUSA Leadership and Championship Convention, held in Bangor, Maine. The award includes a \$7,000 college scholarship. There were 600 Maine students competing at the United Technology Center, Penobscot County Job Corps and Eastern Maine Community College.



SkillsUSA is a partnership of students, teachers and industry representatives, working together to ensure America has a skilled work force. It helps each student excel. SkillsUSA is a national nonprofit organization serving teachers and high school and college students who are preparing for careers in trade, technical and skilled service occupations, including health occupations.

NATIONAL MERIT SCHOLARSHIP FINALIST

Allison Fleck '09 has advanced to Finalist standing in the National Merit Scholarship Award competition. All finalists will be considered for 2009 National Merit Scholarships. Winners will be announced later this spring.



ENGLISH *Matters* at GSA

In 2006 GSA's English Department redesigned the freshman curriculum, grouping 9th graders into four sections. Each section takes four successive subject modules ("mods") over the year: A poetry *mod* with **Mrs. Epply**, drama with **Ms. McCormick**, fiction with **Mr. Kazmierczak**, and non-fiction and writing conventions with **Mr. Graceffa**. The result? All 9th graders get to know all GSA's English faculty, and the teachers get to know the newest crop of GSA students.

Students who take the drama *mod* with **Erin McCormick** move on to *British Literature* as sophomores. Erin joined the faculty in 2007, but her roots here go deeper: she graduated from GSA in 2000, then completed degrees at UMO's Honors College, double majoring in English and Theatre before returning to Blue Hill. The reading list for *Brit Lit* contains familiar canonical favorites—*Beowulf*, Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, Shakespeare's *Richard III*, Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, Wilde's *Picture of Dorian Gray*, among others—but Erin's inventive assignments and hands-on class activities explore innovative learning strategies, creating puppets and staging scenes from *Richard III*, reviewing film interpretations of *Frankenstein*, or playing rounds of "fictionary." "My goal is to take the intimidation factor out of reading," says Erin. "Being able to read for ideas, write clearly, and discuss intelligently are skills that serve students no matter what choices they make after high school." Erin also teaches the junior/senior elective *Breaking the Code: Reading Across the Curriculum*.

Current chair of the department, **Michael Kazmierczak**—"Mr. Kaz" to his students—has been teaching Advanced Placement (AP) English at GSA since 1996. "My AP classes often feel like a college seminar—or a lively dinner party conversation—with students challenging and debating one another's interpretations of great books." The course develops critical reading and writing skills by requiring students to perform close, passage-based textual analysis. The object, Mike admits, is not to express personal reactions to a book, but to understand and appreciate a writer's

purpose and craft. "It requires a certain humility, to look for the author's voice and purpose first, before having your own say in the matter." Advanced Placement is a national program of rigorous high school courses that make college-level demands on students; many colleges and universities give credit for high marks on the AP exam. Mike teaches AP English in the junior year and focuses on American literature. He chooses texts for timeless and universal themes—Huck Finn's uneasiness with "sivilization" and his impulse to "light out for the territory ahead of the rest," or the ambiguous critique of materialism in Fitzgerald's *Great Gatsby*. Other authors who typically find their way onto Mike's curriculum include Hawthorne, Thoreau, and Zora Neal Hurston. As well as AP English and the fiction *mod*, Mike teaches a CP section of junior English, and two English electives, *Journalism* and *Maine Writers*.

Marie Epply, long-time teacher and former department chair, indulges her passion for poetry and creative writing in her freshman poetry "mod" and her Creative Writing elective. But her most enduring contribution to GSA's program may be the Senior Debate. Marie inaugurated this graduation requirement in 1988 as a project that encapsulates all the language arts: reading, research, writing, public speaking, persuasive reasoning, the use of visual aids in a presentation, and collaborative learning, as well as the ability to organize and complete multi-step work over several weeks. At the heart of each debate are the topics students choose. Marie encourages students to tap into issues that really matter to them personally: "If you could make a difference somewhere, what would it be? What problem would

► **Katherine Doyen '11 and Elizabeth Doyen '11 play characters from Shakespeare's *Richard III*.**





▲ Story characters come to life with the use of puppetry.



you solve?" Working in pairs, seniors spend a full quarter of the year preparing a debate topic, a resolution which they argue for (affirmative) or against (negative): that gays should serve openly in the military; that federal funds should support the arts; that *No Child Left Behind* has improved academic achievement; that "clean coal" can effectively fight global warming, and so on. With the help of librarian Erich Reed, students follow a rigorous schedule of research and preparation culminating in a formal, judged debate before an audience of parents, friends, and GSA faculty. Students are evaluated on every element of preparation and delivery, and must also complete an annotated citation of sources.

The most veteran member of the English Department, **Lou Graceffa**, came to GSA in 1977 from Boston. Lou is a reading specialist, and in addition to teaching the non-fiction "mod," Lou teaches the freshman and sophomore *English Foundations* classes that help students develop the skills they need to succeed in college preparatory-level classes. The goal, says Lou, "is to mainstream all these students into the CP and elective English classes by the junior year, if not sooner."

GSA requires all students to complete four years of English courses in order to graduate. More information about the English curriculum can be found on our Website at www.georgestevensacademy.org/english.

This is the third in a series of articles focusing on GSA's academic programs. See the November issue for Science Matters and the Jan/Feb issue for Social Studies Matter.



◀ Students in Mr. Kazmierczak's Junior AP English class created artificial letters based on *The Scarlet Letter*.



ENGLISH FACULTY ATTEND WORKSHOP

Erin McCormick '00 and Marie Epply, English department, attended a workshop on Friday, March 20: "Continuing Conversations: English Teaching and Learning in the 21st Century." Sponsored by the Maine Council for English Language Arts (MCELA), the day's offerings included presentations on "Student-Staffed Writing Centers," "Rhetorical Literacy through Close Reading," a public-speaking workshop titled "Is it real? Can I use it?" and "Visual Literacy for AP English. Wait! Visual Literacy for Everybody."

▼ Seniors **Hannah Hurvitt, Emily Peake, Roz Brokaw, and Acadia Jacob** dress the part as they characterize storybook personalities.



from the OFFICE of STUDENT SERVICES

With spring here, it feels good to finally open the doors, breathe in, and reflect on all that has been accomplished through the winter. As we write this, most college-bound seniors have heard decisions from colleges. The Class of 2009 has done very well with college acceptances, and we congratulate them on a job well done! The list of colleges to which students have been accepted so far exceeds 50 schools. Among them are Babson College, Bard College, Bennington College, Carnegie Mellon University, College of Wooster, Colorado College, Drew University, Earlham College, Eckerd College, Emerson College, Goucher College, Hampshire College, Kalamazoo College, Kenyon College, Middlebury College, Mount Holyoke College, Pratt Institute, Simmons College, Smith College, SUNY Stony Brook, Syracuse University, University of Iowa, University of Maine, University of New Hampshire, University of Vermont, and Worcester Polytechnic Institute.

Important Academic Dates

April 9	Parent-Teacher Conferences
April 9	Junior College Planning Night
April 18 - 26	Spring vacation
May 2	SAT exam for all juniors
May 5 - 15	AP exams
May 4 - 8	Academic Notices prepared and mailed
May 18 - 22	Arts Festival
May 25	Memorial Day; no school
June 8 - 12	Final exams
June 14	Graduation
June 15, 16, 17	Final exams for underclassmen

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Libby Rosemeier, Dean of Students, or Bayard 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.

As you know, the state requires 175 class days each year, and "snow days" must be made up. Since the date of graduation is set a year in advance, make-up class days need to be held in the week following graduation. At this point, the last three class days of the year will be June 15, 16 and 17 (Mon, Tue, Wed). Summer vacation will begin on June 18.

2009- 2010 Course Registration

Current 9th, 10th and 11th grade students have begun registering for fall courses. Our 2009-2010 Program of Studies booklet is available from our office and is also online on our Web site. Registration presents parents with a good opportunity to begin talking with their children about college interests and career possibilities as students consider the numerous and broad range of classes available next year. Each registration form requires a parent signature, so please look for this from your son or daughter.

Independent Study and Internship Program (ISIP) 2009 Update

This year 110 juniors and seniors took advantage of GSA's Independent Study & Internship Program. This program offers students in good academic standing an opportunity to spend two weeks exploring an academic, vocational, or career interest outside the classroom. Students must design a project, and submit a detailed proposal of the project in order to participate. They typically work over sixty hours with a project mentor who volunteers his or her time on behalf of our students. We are very grateful to the greater community for their support of our ISIP.

This year students designed projects reflecting many different fields and interests, including construction, banking, outdoor education, photography, costume design, culinary arts, elementary school education, medicine, pottery, filmmaking, graphic art, law, painting, market research, creative writing, law enforcement, cosmetology, and veterinary medicine. Many students carried out their projects in the Blue Hill area, while others traveled to—among other places— Florida, Virginia, Mexico, Costa Rica, Los Angeles, Portland ME, and New York. Students must conclude their project with a written self-evaluation and a mentor's assessment of their work. ISIP projects are graded as Pass, High Pass, or No Pass and are included on a student's GSA transcript.

GEORGE STEVENS ACADEMY ~ A World of Learning ~



Program of Studies
Course Descriptions
2009 - 2010

JAZZ BAND EARNS FIRST PLACE FINISH *for* 7TH CONSECUTIVE YEAR

The George Stevens Academy Jazz Band, under the direction of Steve Orlofsky, won the state championship for Division III jazz bands for the seventh consecutive year on Saturday, March 14, at the State Jazz Festival held at South Portland High School. In the finals, GSA edged out Houlton High School and Mattanawcook Academy of Lincoln with a final score of 94.8. Grace Bell, vibes, and Sam Eley, drums, received Most Valuable Player Awards, two of only five MVP awards handed out for all festival jazz band players. Soloist award recipients were Keira Tachibana, Adam DeLong, Anne Ames, Ellie Howell, Emmett Scott, Eric Burns and Allison Fleck.

In the Division II combos, GSA's *Mosaic* finished in second place behind Cape Elizabeth. Grace Bell, vibes, and Bjorn Peterson, guitar and violin, received Most Valuable Player Awards. Soloist awards were presented to Adam DeLong, Anne Ames, Ellie Howell, Emmett Scott and Bjorn Peterson.

In the Multiple Combo Division A, *Vitality* placed second behind Fryeburg Academy. Coral O'Brian, Allison Fleck, Tynan Byrne, Vesta Davis and Martin Conte received outstanding soloist awards.

In the Multiple Combo Division B, *Notation* and *Early Morning* earned third and fourth place finishes, respectively, behind Old Town and Cape Elizabeth. For *Notation*, Charlie Volkwein, piano, received a Most Valuable Player Award and soloist awards were presented to Derek Gray, Eric Burns and Ben Olivari. *Early Morning* soloist award recipients were Dillon Morris, Nicole Bakeman, Nick Doolittle and Forest Barkdoll-Weil.



Jazz Band State Champions

1st Row, L-R: Keira Tachibana '11, Adam DeLong '10, Eric Burns '10, Ramsay Williamson '12, Haley Maiden '12, Sam Elliott '12, Derek Gray '11;

2nd Row, L-R: Allison Fleck '09, Katherine Doyen '11, Lucas Yoder '10, Ellie Howell '09, Vesta Davis '10;

3rd Row, L-R: Sam Eley '11, Bjorn Peterson '11, Grace Bell '09, Grace Bugbee '12, Aji Hall '11, Annie Ames '11, Tynan Byrne '10, Meredith Olivari '12, Ben Olivari '12, Steve Orlofsky, Director;

4th Row: Emmett Scott '11.

DISTRICT JAZZ FESTIVAL RESULTS

The Jazz Band and all four GSA jazz combos—following is a recap of points earned and of those who received individual awards at the District Jazz Festival:

Jazz Band -95.6 points!

Individual award recipients: Keira Tachibana, vocals; Grace Bell, vibes; Bjorn Peterson, guitar; Anne Ames, trumpet; Adam DeLong, soprano sax; Eric Burns, tenor sax; Emmett Scott, piano; Allison Fleck, flute; Ellie Howell, trombone; and Sam Eley, drums.

Mosaic -98.3 points!

Individual award recipients: Emmett Scott, piano; Grace Bell, vibes; Bjorn Peterson, violin & guitar; Sam Eley, drums; Anne Ames, trumpet; Adam DeLong, soprano sax; and Ellie Howell, trombone.

Vitality -93.3!

Individual award recipients: Ariel Dauk, flute; Passage Crampton, flute; Vesta Davis, tenor sax; Coral O'Brian, vibes; Lucas Yoder, trombone; Allison Fleck, vocals & trombone; Tynan Byrne, tenor sax; Ian McMillan, bass guitar; Michael Senter-Zapata, guitar; and Martin Conte, steel drum.

Early Morning -90!

Individual award recipients: Dillon Morris, guitar; Nicole Bakeman, alto sax; and Nick Doolittle, trumpet.

Notation -92.3 points!

Individual award recipients: Charlie Volkwein, piano; Derek Gray, tenor sax; Eric Burns, alto sax; Ben Olivari, trumpet; and Ben Plohr, guitar.



FACULTY KUDOS!

Paul Gilden, Mathematics

Paul Gilden, mathematics, will be heading to Kansas City in June for his third year as an Advanced Placement Calculus exam scorer. Last year, Paul was one of 893 college and high school calculus teachers who hand-scored 1.8 million student math problems in a 7-day grading marathon. Paul describes the experience as the most valuable professional development activity of his career. He sees student strengths and weaknesses from schools all over the world, participates in the implementation of national standards of scholarship, and swaps ideas with other teachers. He continues to be amazed by the consistency with which grading protocols are applied, and by the ability of the Kansas City Royals to lose games in the final two innings.

Michael Kazmierczak, English

Two poems by Michael Kazmierczak, "The Fall Woodbox" and "Keepsake", appear in the latest volume of the *Puckerbrush Review* published by the University of Maine. Michael, current Chair of the English Department, was among twelve poets and writers who read at the Maine Grind in Ellsworth on March 28 as part of a 30th anniversary celebration for the journal.

"HOW DIFFERENT ARE WE REALLY?"

Earlier this winter, all of GSA's international students joined area 5th through 8th graders at the Blue Hill Consolidated School for Union 92's 3rd Annual "Project Acceptance." Middle school students from Blue Hill, Penobscot, Brooksville, and Castine met to discuss issues of cultural diversity and grapple with the question, "How different are we really?" The

international students facilitated one of the workshops and gave the younger students the opportunity to ask them questions about their experiences here and at home, and to learn a Chinese game called, "Catch the Dragon's Tail." The purpose of the session was to highlight the importance of asking questions and avoiding making assumptions about people.



◀ In the final activity of the day, "Wishes for 2009," students and teachers were divided into twelve groups and developed wish-lists for the world in 2009.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT-- AND COURSE CREDIT!

Students in Frank Bianco's *Business Math* class are learning by doing this spring: the 18 seniors have created a school lunch business, "The B-Day Grill." Operating once a week on either Thursday or Friday—whichever is a "B" day—the grill serves a hot-off-the-grill three-course lunch to GSA students for the reasonable price of just \$5. Recent entrées have included bone-in pork chops and chicken kebabs; entrées are accompanied by a vegetable, fresh salad and milk.

Students control and learn every aspect of the business, from developing a business model, planning menus, ordering food, preparing meals, to keeping the books, developing statistical analysis of costs and sales, creating profit-loss statements using Quickbooks software, and making recommendations for improvements and cost efficiencies. Students prepare meals during Period 3, and sell them on a first-come/first-served basis. Part of the project is learning to predict the number of meals needed to meet demand. The business is designed to be profitable, with all profits going to support GSA's cafeteria—although students are hoping to save enough to purchase chef's jackets. The week's menu is published at <http://bdaygrill.wikispaces.com/>.



◀ **Business Math** students serve their grilled lunch to faculty and other students.

Chess Team Has Successful Season

TK Vu '10 earned an invitation to compete in the state high school individual chess championship with a 3-1 score on first board during the state scholastic chess team championship tournament at the Memorial Union, University of Maine on Saturday, March 7. In the novice division, the GSA team of Tom Strehan '10 and Katherine Doyen '11 earned the first place finish, with Strehan winning the individual novice trophy with a perfect score of 4-0. The varsity team, made up of TK Vu '10, Quinn Waring '10, Ian McMillan '10, Nick Kane '11 and Beth Doyen '11 finished in the middle of the pack in the championship division with a 2-2 score.



TK, who has only been playing chess since the beginning of this academic year, was ranked the #33 player in Maine according to the March publication of United States Chess Federation player ratings. He finished 2-2 in the state individual high school championship on March 21 at the UMO Memorial Union.

In earlier action, GSA secured a team trophy in the County Team High School Championship, sponsored by the Hancock County Schoolmasters Association, by having an undefeated season in match play. In the county individual chess championships held at GSA on February 12, GSA players TK Vu and Quinn Waring took the second and third place spots, respectively, while Greg Fisher '10 and Nick Kane '11 tied for fourth and fifth place.

◀ **Front row, L-R: Katherine Doyen, Tom Strehan**
Back row, L-R: Beth Doyen, Ian McMillan, Nick Kane, Quinn Waring, TK Vu.

MATH TEAM

GSA placed 1st among the Hancock County schools that participated in the third math meet of the year. In this meet, *forty* GSA students competed! John Ludlow '10 earned a perfect score on his individual test.

The top scorers by grade were:

12th Grade: Long Nguyen, 14 points; Alex Kim, 19 points; **11th Grade:** John Ludlow, 25 points (perfect score); Dustin Piskura, 21 points; **10th Grade:** Eric Guo, 21 points; Emily Lowell, 16 points; Chris Salois, 16 points; **9th Grade:** Courtney Koos, 17 points; Quinn Mitchell, 17 points.

The following GSA students are currently ranked in the top five in the county for their grade level:

12th grade: Long Nguyen, tied for 1st place; Alex Kim, tied for 4th place; **11th Grade:** Dustin Piskura, tied for 2nd place; Max Reiter, 4th place; **10th grade:** Bjorn Peterson, 1st place; Stephanie Jung, 2nd place; **9th grade:** Tess Lameyer, tied for 2nd; Courtney Koos, tied for 4th.

"A MAD BREAKFAST" DELIGHTS AUDIENCES

On March 6, GSA students presented "A Mad Breakfast," a one-act comedy by Isabel McReynolds Gray, directed by Amy Grant, at the Maine Drama Festival at Camden Hills Regional High School. Performing in the play were Elizabeth Salois '09, Maude Green-Loft '12, Kaiya Torrey '09, Ellie Howell '09, Katherine Doyen '11, Marjorie Freimuth '09, Bjorn Peterson '11, Charlie Volkwein '12, Allison Fleck '09 and Tynan Byrne '10.



GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM WINS EASTERN MAINE CLASS C CHAMPIONSHIP!

The GSA Eagles held off a late surge by the Washington Academy Raiders to win the girls' Eastern Maine Class C basketball championship 51-41 on February 21 at the Bangor Auditorium. A GSA lead that reached as many as 13 points was cut to four early in the fourth period by the fifth-ranked Raiders, but the Eagles connected on six of nine foul shots down the stretch to preserve the win. Junior guard **Stevie Theoharidis '10** led the third-ranked Eagles with 17 points and went 7-for-9 from the free throw line, junior **India Frazier '10** added 15, going 9-for-12 from the foul line, and senior **Maddi Park '09** had 14 points.

The girls were also presented with the Maine Principals' Association (MPA) Good Sportsmanship Award which honors the conduct of the players, coaches and fans throughout the tournament games.

Maddi Park '09 was named a semifinalist for Maine's "Miss Basketball" title and was selected to play in the McDonald's All-Star Basketball Games for Classes C/D. During the all-star game, Maddi helped lead the East to a 73-54 win over the West with 11 points. Prior to the start of the game, Maddi won the three-point shootout, netting 12 of 25 shots. Earlier this season, Park became just the fourth female player in GSA history to reach 1,000 points for her high school career. Following the Eastern Maine Tournament competition, she was voted the Owen Osborne Most Valuable Player in the girls' Class C division. She averaged 12.6 points in three games, scoring 14 in the championship win over Washington Academy.



▲ The girls varsity basketball team accepts the tournament Class C Good Sportsmanship Award.



WINTER ATHLETICS HIGHLIGHTS

Wrestling

John Jagger '09 - 5th place at state wrestling meet

Freshmen Girls Basketball

GSA won the PVC championship

Cheerleaders

edged out of state cheering competition by only 2 points

Boys Basketball

PVC conference all-stars

Nick Saunders '09 - second team selection

Rashad Frazier '10 - honorable mention

JV Girls Basketball

won the JV championship

Indoor Track

Peter Dickinson '09 qualified for state meet (was unable to compete due to an injury)

Swimming

Ben Avery and **Jessica Dyer**

each swam in two events at the state meet and had qualified in 3 events each

Girls Basketball

PVC All-Stars

Maddi Park - first team selection

Tournament All-Stars for Class C Girls

Maddi Park selected as tournament MVP

Stevie Theoharidis '10 selected as first team all-star

Alida Peake '09 selected as honorable mention

EVERYWHERE You LOOK...

The collective generosity of alumni, parents, and friends makes it possible for George Stevens Academy to continue to be a leader in high school education. We are grateful for the support of both new and returning donors who, despite the challenging economic climate, have helped us raise \$138,000 to date on our 2008-2009 Annual Fund goal of \$280,000. With three months left in our fiscal year, 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 of George Stevens Academy. Here is how you can help:



GSA graduates – step up to the Decade Challenge!

Will the 1970's stay on top, or will another decade grab the lead? To reach our goal of 10% alumni participation this year, we need just 234 more alumni donors. I hope you will represent your decade and help achieve this record for GSA alumni!

GSA parents – honor your child!

George Stevens Academy's Annual Fund offers a meaningful way to ensure exceptional opportunities for your child. You understand first-hand the importance of supporting your children's education; please help us make their education today reflect the better future we all hope for.

Friends of GSA – enrich your community!

George Stevens Academy has been a landmark of this community for more than 200 years, and strong community support continues to have a tremendous impact on the current success and future vitality of the Academy. Please join our ever-growing GSA family today.



*Thank you
for your support!*

GSA ALUMNI DECADE CHALLENGE 2009

<u>RANK</u>	<u>DECADE</u>	<u>NUMBER OF DONORS</u>
1st	1970's	27
2nd	1940's 1950's	18 18
3rd	1960's 1980's	16 16
4th	2000's	12
5th	1990's	6
6th	1930's	4
TOTAL ALUMNI DONORS:		117

... YOUR GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE !

Please make your Annual Fund gift today by one of the following methods:

ONLINE

Giving online is a simple and secure way to make your gift. Please visit our Web site at www.georgstevensacademy.org/onlinegift.

BY MAIL

Mail your check, made payable to George Stevens Academy, or credit card information to: George Stevens Academy, Annual Fund, 23 Union Street, Blue Hill, ME 04614.

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Make your gift by calling the Office of Development and Alumni Relations at 207.374.2800.

CONTACT US

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THE ALUMNI CONNECTION

~ A Newsletter for GSA Alumni ~

Class Notes



Want to know what your fellow GSA alums are up to? Here is your chance! GSA alumni can be found from Maine to Ghana to South Korea, and nearly everywhere in between. The Alumni Notes section is a great way to stay in the know about what GSA graduates are doing today. Thank you for keeping us up-to-date with your news and contact information. Be sure to subscribe to *GSA Matters* - the eco-friendly, full color, e-newsletter edition - by sending your email address to lsnelson@georgestevens.org to keep the news coming. Enjoy!

CLASS OF 1965

Dale Robertson

Dale and his wife, Stephanie, have left Honolulu where he was a Trust Compliance Officer at Bank of Hawaii. They have relocated to Colchester, Connecticut and Dale is the Trust Compliance Officer and Assistant Treasurer for the Savings Institute Bank and Trust in Willimantic, Connecticut. Last year Dale and his daughter, Jen, coached the Connecticut Storm 14U AAU girls team to a 31-6 record, taking the girls to tournaments in New York City, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Albany, NY and other New England cities. He and daughter, Kim, continue to go the Oxford 250 each year up in Maine as well as the NASCAR race in Dover, Delaware.

CLASS OF 1973

Melissa Brownlow

Melissa is teaching kindergarten in North Rustico, PEI. In November 2007 she received the Champions For Children Award. She has the pleasure of offering the Family Math program to advance numeracy and literacy to the community of North Rustico, PEI. Melissa is also a volunteer with the Central Queens Home and School Association, where she coordinates the healthy snack program. She volunteers with the Roots of Empathy Project and has helped the Project L.O.V.E. program, providing reading support.

CLASS OF 1979

Soren Larson

Soren recently helped organize a show of his father's, David Larson's, artwork at UMO. He also built him a website at www.larsonstudio.com.

CLASS OF 1984

Jennifer Holmes Flood

Jennifer has been a stay-at-home mom since the birth of her first child in 1992. She looks forward to getting back out into the workforce when her youngest starts first grade in 2009. Recently, Jennifer has become more involved with writing and has started to sell a few freelance articles to web magazines. She plans to continue to work on her writing after she goes back to work fulltime.

CLASS OF 1985

Christy Johndrow Gontarz

Christy has been an employee at Saint Peter's University Hospital for sixteen years. Her daughter is now in the 6th grade and her husband works for Cordis Corporation, a subdivision of Johnson & Johnson.

CLASS OF 1991

Spencer Marcus

Spencer has been married for 6 years. He has three children, two girls and a boy: Jordana is 3 ½ years old, Asher is just over two years old, and his baby girl is almost a year old.

CLASS OF 1994

Crystal Bowden Clarke

Crystal and her husband, Jason, recently celebrated their ten-year anniversary. They have three children and another on the way.

CLASS OF 1997

Seth A. Cole

Seth was married on June 22, 2008 to Shannon Ford. Shannon is a pediatric oncology nurse. Seth works in the athletic department of Saint Michael's College in Colchester, Vermont. They live in Essex Junction, Vermont.

Kimberly McGraw

Currently living in Hermosa Beach, Kimberly moved out to California after graduating college. She has worked with Staples for seven years and still plays soccer on a co-ed team.

CLASS OF 1998

Cory J. Astbury

After eight years, Cory recently ended his service in the call department of the Brewer Fire Department. He is currently pursuing a paramedic degree with Capital Ambulance. Cory has been in a committed relationship for eleven years and has a four year old son.

Caeli E. Kimball

Caeli graduated from Smith College in 2002 and from Denver University Law School in 2005. She worked as a lawyer in a private practice for about 2 ½ years in Denver, Colorado, and now works as a lawyer in Washington, DC for the federal government.

CLASS OF 2000

Toby Cole

Toby got married on August 2nd, 2008. Toby is the technology integrator at Glenburn Elementary School and JV Baseball Coach at John Bapst Memorial High School. His wife, Kari, is a first-grade teacher at Glenburn Elementary.

CLASS OF 2002

Mathew Burgess

Mathew is engaged to be married to Kimberly Randall '04. A fall 2009 wedding is planned.

CLASS OF 2003

Meghann Shepard

Meghann is currently pursuing an AAS degree for medical assisting, then plans to attend UMA in Augusta for a nursing degree.

CLASS OF 2004

Kimberly Randall

Kim is engaged to Mathew Burgess '02. A fall 2009 wedding is planned. Kim is a 2008 graduate of the University of Maine and is currently a pre-school teacher at New Beginnings in Blue Hill.

CLASS OF 2005

Samuel Guilford

Sam Guilford is participating in the Bates College Junior Semester Abroad program. Sam is an art major, and is studying in Mendoza, Argentina through the Institute

for Study Abroad at the Universidad Nacional de Cuyo. A dean's list student, Sam also participated in the Mount David Summit, a showcase of student achievement at Bates, in 2008.

CLASS OF 2008

Kate Orlofsky

In October, Kate was selected as a winner of an essay contest for her response to a study question about Gary Wills's *Lincoln at Gettysburg*. Her essay was selected from over 2800 student entries. Kate's essay can be read on Cornell's website at <http://reading.cornell.edu>.

Keith Fisher

Keith is enjoying studies at Lafayette College where he is playing music, ultimate frisbee, breakdancing and drumming.

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.

2009 REUNIONS

5 Year Reunion - Class of 2004
10 Year Reunion - Class of 1999
15 Year Reunion - Class of 1994
20 Year Reunion - Class of 1989
25 Year Reunion - Class of 1984
30 Year Reunion - Class of 1979
35 Year Reunion - Class of 1974
40 Year Reunion - Class of 1969
45 Year Reunion - Class of 1964
50 Year Reunion - Class of 1959
55 Year Reunion - Class of 1954
60 Year Reunion - Class of 1949

2010 REUNIONS

5 Year Reunion - Class of 2005
10 Year Reunion - Class of 2000
15 Year Reunion - Class of 1995
20 Year Reunion - Class of 1990
25 Year Reunion - Class of 1985
30 Year Reunion - Class of 1980
35 Year Reunion - Class of 1975
40 Year Reunion - Class of 1970
45 Year Reunion - Class of 1965
50 Year Reunion - Class of 1960
55 Year Reunion - Class of 1955
60 Year Reunion - Class of 1950

If you plan to celebrate your GSA reunion,
please contact the Development Office.

WE'RE HAPPY TO HELP!..... 207.374.2800

REUNIONS THIS SUMMER

Class of 1959

Congratulations to the members of the class of 1959 who will celebrate their 50th high school reunion this summer!

Class of 1979

Thirty years certainly fly by! If you are interested in your 30th class reunion, 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 Bates Nason at dawnnason@yahoo.com for details.

Class of 1994

The class of 1994 is planning their 15th class reunion for this summer. For more information, look up the Facebook group *GSA Class of 1994* or contact the Development Office at a.greene@georgestevens.org.

BEHIND “UNDER THE MANGO TREE”



“Under the Mango Tree,” a short documentary film completed in September 2008 about the people of Kissehman, Ghana, was a collaborative effort between Aisha Woodward '04, Anna Karass, and Steven Bartus, working in conjunction with the Maine Ghana Youth Network (MGYN) and the Kathryn Wasserman Davis 100 Projects for Peace program.

Aisha Woodward '04 graduated from Bowdoin College in 2008, where she pursued a B.A. in Government and Legal Studies with a concentration in International Relations, as well as significant coursework in Italian literature. She currently works at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where she assists students who are interested in finding internship, fellowship, and job opportunities abroad.

The following interview with Aisha about her work on “Under the Mango Tree” shares her thoughts on the goals, experiences, and outcome of giving voice to one small community.

How did the idea for making the documentary come about?

My friend Anna alerted me to the Kathryn Wasserman Davis 100 Projects for Peace program, so together we brainstormed potential opportunities to which we could apply the funding. After consulting with another friend, Steven, we decided that partnering with MGYN might be a great opportunity. The three of us met with the US directors and pitched the idea of a short documentary/photo project to them—and they were very receptive. Anna, Steven, and I each brought unique skills to the project that allowed us to be very effective in a short period of time.

How did you become involved in MGYN?

During my junior year in college, I studied abroad in Accra, Ghana. While I was studying at the University of Ghana, I found myself with a decent amount of free time, so I began to look around for a non-profit organization with which I could work. Serendipitously, I stumbled upon the *Maine Ghana Youth Network* which, with its obvious ties to the state, made its mission and work all the more compelling to me.

MGYN works with children in Kissehman, a particularly impoverished slum within Ghana's capital (Accra). Kissehman is populated largely by second-generation Togolese refugees, who essentially have created a permanent resettlement on land that is technically not theirs. Co-founded by a Bates graduate and a Kissehman resident, MGYN aims to provide basic social services to the children in the community. Through fundraising in the US, children in Kissehman have been able to attend public schools in Ghana, take part in drum and dance instruction, receive English and math tutoring, and eat healthy meals.

Did you have certain expectations going into this project? Were things as you expected or not?

We knew we could not enter with too many expectations, so our main commitment was to create opportunities for all individuals to express their perspectives on Kissehman and Ghana as a whole. This lack of expectation worked in our favor: during the process of editing the film, we did not need to force a storyline—one emerged organically. So, to answer your question, nothing occurred as expected, and ultimately, that was a perfect outcome.

What was the most surprising part?

I found it pleasantly surprising that we were so readily embraced by so many members of the Kissehman community, when we were essentially strangers. We were invited into homes for dinner, even when we wondered how any of these people could spare to feed extra mouths. The idea that this was a community project—that there would be no external narrative—really created a special kind of energy for the project. Everyone—from old women to small children—were allowed to tell their stories in their own words. The fact that everyone was so willing to do so was surprising in the best of ways.



What did you find to be the most difficult?

I think it was particularly difficult to go to Ghana and know that we really could not have an agenda or plan. Things in developing countries rarely work as we might expect, so it required a good deal of flexibility and humility in order for the project to be a success.

As an example, it rained for one of the three weeks we were in Ghana. Not just a drizzle—these were torrential, tropical downpours. This made filming impossible on many days. But we were fortunate that the community members in Kissehman were willing to help us make it work—without their support and optimism, the project would have been impossible.

What was a highlight of this experience?

On our first Saturday in Ghana, we conducted an informal census of the children in Kissehman. There were over 100 present, and we were tasked with getting basic biographical information from each of them, in addition to taking individual photos. This was an exhausting, humbling, and exciting task. So many of the children did not know how old they were, when their birthdays were, or how many siblings they had! But at the same time, they were delighted to dance in front of the camera and often insisted on having several photos taken. It was hilarious. It was also nice to know that we were able to provide an immediate tangible service to MGYN—the photos and biographies are now being developed into a sponsorship program for individuals in the US to help individual kids in Kissehman.

What has been the general reaction to the film?

Overall, I think the response has been quite favorable. It is a short film, which allowed us to get to the point, without belaboring any one issue. We have shown it in a few different venues, and it seems to be proving to be a great fundraising tool for MGYN (which, ultimately, was our hope).

Is this something that you would like to pursue in the future?

Yes, most definitely. I would love the opportunity to go back to Ghana and do a follow-up film in Kissehman. One thing that we began in Kissehman but I wish we could have further developed was the photography project that we did with the children. We gave out 15 disposable cameras to some of the older kids and instructed them to take pictures of images in their lives that they found most interesting or compelling. Without fail, the kids returned with some phenomenal photography. I would relish the opportunity to develop a program with more children that allows them this opportunity—to gain a practical skill (photography), while also allowing Western audiences the chance to see the world through their eyes. It could be a potentially powerful and exciting project.

What did you take away from the whole experience?

I think I learned a lot about what it means to portray the developing world to Western audiences. It is so easy to make poverty seem abject—to show small children with hungry eyes and distended stomachs and beg for outrage from the developed world. There is also a competing tendency to idealize poverty, to say, “Yes, these people are poor, but look how happy they are!” To me, both inclinations do a disservice to the reality. What we attempted to do in Kissehman was to allow its citizens to tell the truth—to illuminate the triumphs and the frustrations of being part of a marginalized community within an already impoverished country. By doing this, I learned so much about the strength of the spoken word—about the empowering nature of allowing individuals to speak for themselves. I learned to reject the feeling of being compelled to offer our own voices as mediation. It has given me a more inclusive perspective on our responsibility as citizens to educate one another about the inequities of the world in a balanced, unbiased manner.

For more information about MGYN and to view *Under the Mango Tree*, please visit <http://mgyndavisproject.wordpress.com/>.

All photos on pages 14-15 were provided by Aisha Woodward '04.



▲ The children of Kissehman, Ghana, with Bowdoin graduates Aisha Woodward '04, Anna Karass, and Steven Bartus.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 9	Parent-Teacher Conferences from 3-6:30 PM
April 9	Junior College Planning Night from 7-8:30 PM
April 11	1st Annual International Dinner at 5 PM
April 15	EMCC/Husson Field Trip
April 18-26	Spring vacation
May 2	SAT exam for all juniors
May 2	Jazz band and combo plays for MMA Graduation
May 5 -15	AP exams
May 4-8	Academic Notices
May 16	Junior Prom from 7:30-11 PM
May 18-22	Arts Festival
May 25	Memorial Day; no school Memorial Day Parade; Band Marches at 10 AM
May 27	Book Awards presented
May 27	Spring Concert at 7 PM
June 12	Alumni Dinner at 6 PM
June 13	Class Night at 7 PM
June 14	Graduation at 1 PM
June 15, 16, 17	Final exams for underclassmen

Don't forget
to keep checking the
new & improved Web site
for frequent updates.

www.georgestevensacademy.org

NEW PAGE!

GSA Student & Faculty News page:
www.georgestevensacademy.org/inthenews

STUDENT ARTWORK ON DISPLAY at the BLUE HILL PUBLIC LIBRARY

During the month of April the Blue Hill Public Library will be hosting a student Art Show of work by local students. More than thirty paintings, drawings, and pastels by twenty students in Katie Greene's art classes grace the wall outside the Howard room.

There will be a reception to honor the artists and their instructors on **Tuesday, April 14, from 4:00 to 5:30**. Supported by the *Friends of the Library*, this reception is a fun community celebration during which you can view the art work and meet some of the artists.

For further information, please call 374-5515.

ICE FISHING



On March 18, Dan Kane took his *Experiential Education & Outdoor Leadership* class on a day-long ice fishing trip at Wight's Pond in Penobscot. Students had a great time and caught ten fish!

GEORGE STEVENS ACADEMY

23 Union Street
Blue Hill, ME 04614
Phone: (207) 374-2808
Fax: (207) 374-2982
www.georgestevensacademy.org