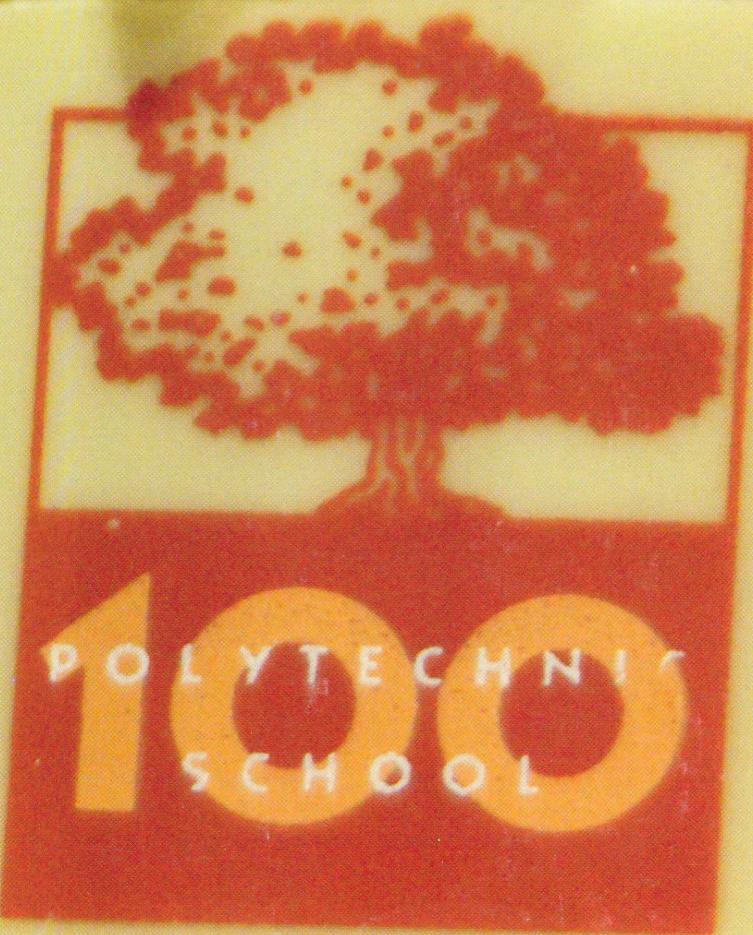


# OakTree Times

A publication for the Polytechnic School community



NOVEMBER 2007

# A Celebration of the Centennial

October 13, 2007

The Athenaeum, Caltech

A Project of the Celebrations Committee



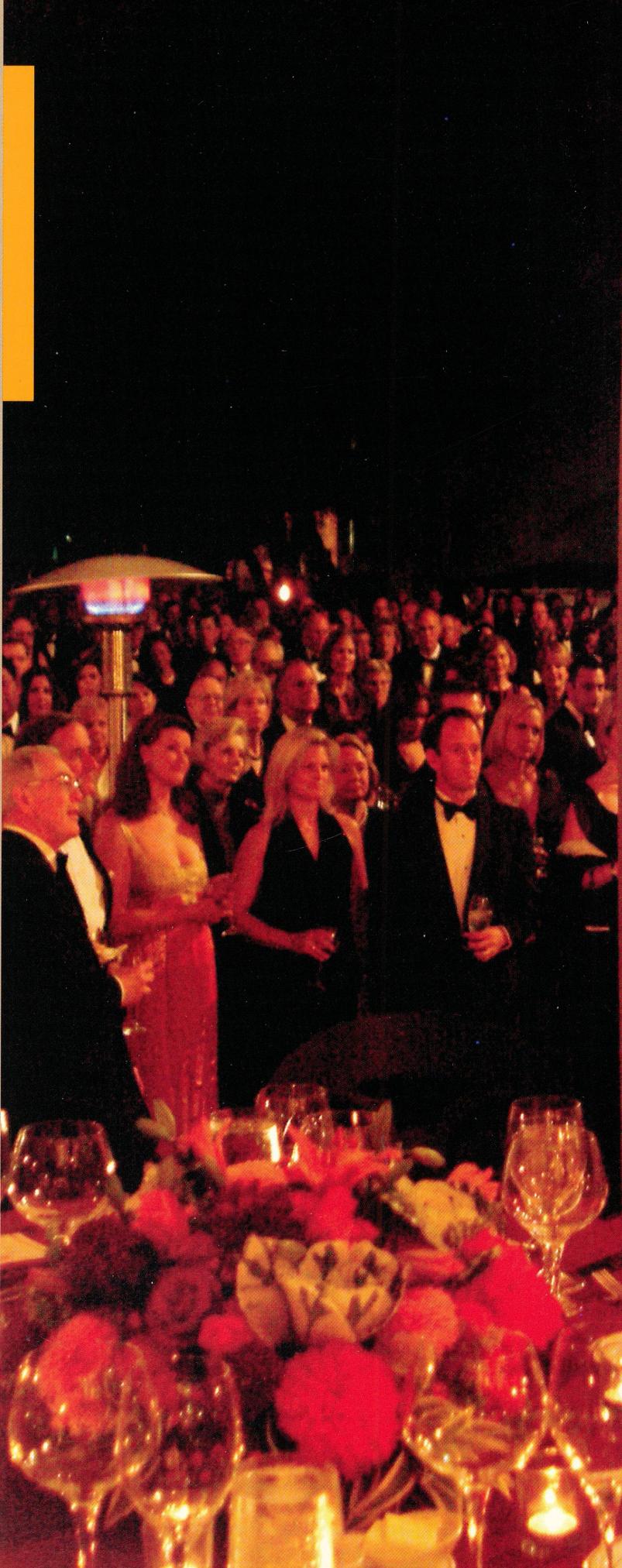
The Centennial Gala provided a fitting finale to a year of celebration.

Head of School Deborah E. Reed toasted the school on reaching the century mark and thanked all the people who served on Centennial Committees. The event was attended by over 500 people, representing families brand new to Poly as well as parents and alumni who have been associated with the school for over half the school's existence.



*Amy Lamb, Celebrations Committee Chair (left), and Debbe Booth, Poly's Centennial Coordinator.*

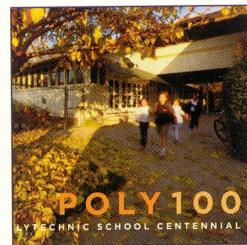
Debbe was involved in every aspect of the way Poly celebrated its 100th Birthday. As Debbie Reed expressed it, "Debbie Booth attended hundreds committee meetings, took volumes of notes, and made endless numbers of phone calls on behalf of our Centennial which benefitted from her organizational skills, attention to detail and style—of which she has plenty. She baked cookies for meetings, welcomed people at event after event, and smiled and smiled."



# OakTree Times



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# From the Head of School

## The Poly Oak: Firmly Rooted, Versatile, and Resilient



**I**n this issue of the *Oak Tree Times* we highlight the school's Centennial, a memorable celebration involving hundreds of volunteers and thousands of participants. The focus on Poly's future, as well as its history and traditions, has been on my mind—even going so far as to influence my reading selections. For example, last spring I picked up a book titled *Oak: The Frame of Civilization*, by William Bryant Logan. What I learned about oak trees underscored the aptness of the Poly logo—not just because our campus was formerly graced with a distinctive, 200-year-old specimen, but because of the tree's unique qualities.

Oak trees don't hold any records. They aren't the tallest like the redwood or the oldest like the bristle cone pine. What makes the oak remarkable is its adaptability and durability. Whereas none of the champion trees can survive outside of their native regions, the oak takes root nearly everywhere it lands. As Logan writes, "In any landscape, oaks are the keepers. They make a mark against the sky, so that even without knowing it, people find their way by them." This versatility, resilience and ability to thrive no matter where life may lead are the very qualities that we want to instill in our students.

At Poly, we strive to equip students with the tools to make the best of any given environment, so that they develop the intellectual resources and strength of character to face new challenges and weather bumps in the road. Poly alumni live, work and travel across the globe. They adapt and thrive in Beijing, Cairo, and Sydney. They climb mountains in Tibet, conduct research on Fulbright Scholarships in Norway and Japan, and work in advertising in Dubai. Others enrich their local communities by applying a law degree to teaching in an independent school or converting an old can factory into an emerging fashion studio. Our students come to Poly with the talent, heart and drive to change the world; they leave with the confidence and skills to fulfill that ambition.

Over the past year, the Centennial has affirmed for us that the Poly that exists today is firmly rooted in the values and principles of the school that was founded in 1907. Poly was established by open-minded, forward-looking leaders, and the school continues to draw people who ask questions, who seek to grow and improve, and who are dedicated to making a difference in their neighborhood, their nation and their world.

—Deborah E. Reed, Head of School



# Letter from the Board

## The Poly Centennial: Sharing a Deep Commitment

**T**he Poly Centennial has brought back to campus many people from different generations who share a deep commitment to the school that has lasted long after their direct connection to Poly ended. Some of the most heartwarming moments of the Centennial have occurred when those who worked, studied, or volunteered together at Poly in past years reunited at Centennial celebrations. Two events, in particular, stand out in my mind as showcasing the enduring relationships community members have to this school.

The Faculty and Staff Appreciation Dinner on Saturday, September 15, drew nearly 300 former and current faculty and staff members to campus for a lovely evening of reminiscing with old colleagues and meeting new ones. After a cocktail reception, the guests gathered in Garland Theater for a program led by former Head Mike Babcock, followed by a dinner in McWilliams courtyard. The program began with Debbie Reed's introduction of Mike, in which she reminded the audience that Mike had personally experienced a significant part of Poly's history, starting with his entrance as an elementary school student in 1933 and continuing to the present as the grandparent of a Poly student. During Mike's remarks, he recognized fellow former Head John Bergen, who was in attendance, and then asked the audience members to stand when the Head who hired each of them was named. Faculty and staff hired by Appleton Mason, Willis Stork, Bergen, Babcock, Sarah Levine, Greg Feldmeth, and Debbie Reed all stood to be recognized. It was awe-inspiring to see the seats of Garland filled with those who have been responsible for producing Poly's superb educational program and keeping the school running smoothly for so many decades.

On October 10, the Founders' Day assembly brought the entire student body together in the Gamble Gymnasium to watch a

program celebrating the day that Poly opened. Current and former Poly trustees, including past Alumni Board presidents, were invited as special guests to join the current students, faculty, and staff at this event. The assembly began with the flag salute and the singing of "America the Beautiful" and included the presentation of a proclamation by Mayor Bogaard of Pasadena and performances by the Upper School Advanced Acting Ensemble and the Middle School Cantatori singers. The program ended with a humorous and thoughtful speech by distinguished alumnus and former trustee R. Stanton Hales '57. The presence of the trustees as distinguished guests at this event, including those who have served over the past 50 years, was fitting, because the school was founded by its Board of Trustees 100 years ago. The volunteer service of trustees, and in particular the trustees' continuing efforts to plan for the future, have contributed greatly to the success of the school and are a source of its ongoing strength.

The Centennial has given us a wonderful opportunity to reflect on our school's founding principles and enduring values, its excellent academic program and balanced educational approach, its innovative, open-air campus, and most importantly, its community of students, faculty, staff, alumni, parents, and friends. Within all of these groups in the Poly community, there have always been those willing to volunteer their time for the benefit of the school. The Centennial has been a gift given to all of us by the volunteers who worked so hard on all of the celebratory events, and once again I thank them all.

—Wendy Munger, President



Wendy Munger (right) and her husband Leonard Gumpert.

# *A Centennial Year of Celebration*

**Poly 100** 1907-2007

## Something for Everyone: Celebrating the Poly Community

Two and a half years ago, the planning began for Poly's 100th birthday celebration. Why the long lead time? We wanted to think through the celebration carefully and sponsor memorable events without disrupting the busy life of the school. Fortunately, as you will see in this issue, that goal was achieved, along with so much more.

Sixteen wonderful events were mounted—from the opening Rose Parade breakfast to the expansive Family Picnic on Babcock Field to the festive Birthday Gala. Current parents, alumni, parents of alumni, faculty, staff and students all took part in the celebration. There was something for everyone, and this school-wide celebration was embraced with enthusiasm and good humor.

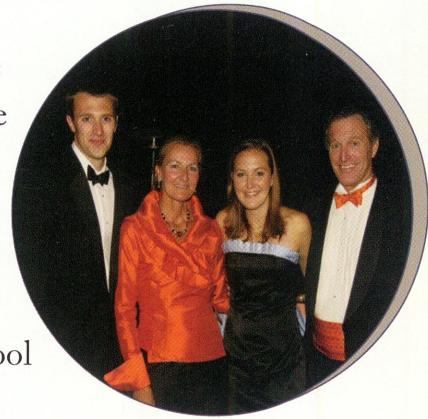
It has been my good fortune to be able to give back a bit to a school that has meant so much to our family. Poly is a place that has revered excellence for 100 years. The Centennial was yet another example of the Poly family's commitment to tradition, community, and giving back. A talented steering committee helped plan the year, and outstanding committee chairs and committee members brought the events and projects to fruition. All who were involved played a very special part in the success of the celebrations.

In some ways, it is hard to say goodbye to the Centennial year. It has been filled with wonderful people, events, and lasting memories. But now our work is done. Poly has been properly feted and launched into another 100 years of excellence. Happy Birthday, Polytechnic School!

—Heather Haaga, Chair, Centennial Steering Committee

On the pages that follow, we present highlights from all the events that helped us commemorate Poly's 100th birthday this year. The cumulative result of all these celebrations was to bring people from all areas of the community together and reconnect them with the truly extraordinary place that Poly has been and continues to be.

The school thanks everyone for their participation, particularly those who chaired and served on all the Centennial Committees. Their names are listed throughout this issue of the **Oak Tree Times**.





## Rose Parade Kicks Off Celebration

**January 1, 2007**

A Project of the Alumni Committee

Poly kicked off its Centennial year celebration on January 1, 2007, with the Tournament of Roses Parade. More than 500 people gathered on Babcock Field for a continental breakfast, and then walked to our reserved seating on Colorado Boulevard to view the 118th Tournament of Roses Parade, "Our Good Nature." What a sight it was to see an entire grandstand decked out in Poly colors, seated on their orange centennial seat cushions. The weather could not have been more perfect: blue skies, with a chill that warmed as the sun rose and the Poly crowd cheered on students and alumni who participated in the parade.

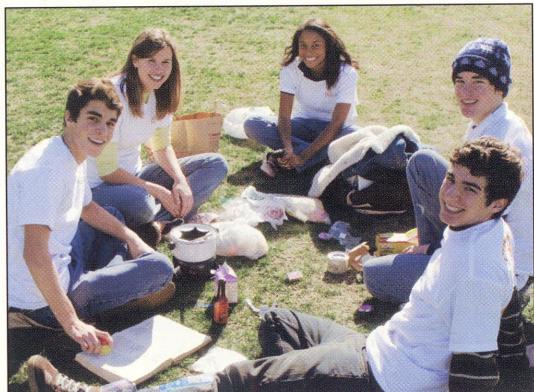
## School Community Celebrates the Start of the Poly Centennial

**January 12, 2007**

A Project of the Public Relations Committee

On January 12, 2007, Poly's students, faculty and staff joined together for a picnic lunch to commence Poly's 100th year. To get into the spirit of the event, everyone was given a t-shirt and a delicious shortbread cookie, each decorated with the centennial logo. Both Debbie Reed and former Head of School Mike Babcock '48 presented brief remarks. Mr. Babcock even rang the Francis Wass cowbell to commemorate the occasion.

The highlight of the event was watching the students of all different ages socialize and eat lunch together, clad in their centennial t-shirts, which, incidentally, provided an extra layer of warmth on one of the coldest but most beautiful days of the year! Upper School students brought picnic baskets and blankets—one group even made fondue—and invited nearby Lower School students to join them on their blankets. For the wide-eyed Lower Schoolers, there is clearly a lot to look forward to once you get to the Upper School.



### Alumni Committee

Marie Femino Queen '85  
Chair  
Suzie Korostoff Arther '89  
Susan Babcock '83  
Peter Boyle '83  
Ai Buangsuwon  
Teri Caughron  
Susan Honeyman Crawford '67  
Wendy Denham  
Andy Esbenshade '90  
Lou Fleming '40  
Lou Fleming, Jr. '77  
Ann Fromholz '86  
Lisa Parker Gorfain '87  
Schuyler Hollingsworth '89  
Ken Horner '77  
Phil Huffman '74  
Kate Galbraith Hult '88  
Barbara Jameson '48  
Holly Smith Jones '63  
Juli Khoe '84  
Leonard Kim '84  
Julia Tyson LaGrua '71  
Alison Edwards Laster '88  
Erick '47 and Marion  
Macfarland Mack '47  
Kristin McAfee  
Randall Miller '80  
Karen Mitchell '84  
Ann Mitchell '79  
Liz Olson  
Susannah Poer '90  
Carolee Reiling '89  
Mia Rondinella '92  
Maggie Heflin Sabbag '87  
Jody Savin  
Dede Kennedy Simmington '81  
Mark Simmington  
Stender Sweeney '88  
Stefani Tomono Takahashi '85  
Randy Townsend  
John Watkins '40  
Carl West '69  
Felicia Williams '90  
Ginger Wilson  
Julie Withers '71  
Michele Yuen Yang '83

## Centennial

### Public Relations Committee

Ann Murphy—Co Chair  
Carla Williams—Co Chair  
Betsy Birkenbeuel  
Marylisa Boghosian  
Dana Coyle  
Min Feng  
Olivia Garfield  
Ruth Kokka  
Katie Poole  
Julia Scotton  
Mary Sikora  
Tina Thomson  
Margaret Triske  
Beth Wu

## Hosted Dinners Draw an Enthusiastic Crowd

### January 20, 2007

#### A Project of the Celebrations Committee

On January 20th, over 450 people dined at one of 20 locations to celebrate Poly's 100th birthday. The evening began in Gosney Hall, where current parents, past parents, alumni and faculty members mingled while enjoying music performed by an Upper School student jazz ensemble. The reception had great energy, and it was fun to see people reconnecting with old friends, and even more fun to see new acquaintances struck up.

**Dinner Hosts:** Jan and Howard Askins June and Merle Banta Tiffany and Boris Beljak Debbe and Spike '69 Booth  
Leslie Richard and Richard Craven Drew Edwards and Johanna Fontenot Dodie and Gene Gregg Gina and Rod '74 Guerra  
Heather and Paul Haaga Dale and Stephanie Fox Harvey '84 Susan and Doug Kranwinkle Lucia and Ben Logan  
Ann and Peter Murphy Mary Newcombe and Kate Kenealy Elizabeth Moule and Stefanos Polyzoides Kim and Rob Shepherd  
Pam and Russ Thyret Nancy and Les Waite Kim and Bill Wardlaw Carol and Stephen '84 Watkins



After some gentle prodding, the guests were on their way to their dining destinations. Dinners varied from sit-down, catered affairs to homemade cuisine served buffet style. Although the menus varied, the Poly spirit was alive and well throughout the San Gabriel Valley. The success of this event hinged on the generosity of our hosts and their special guests, as well as the hard work of the Celebrations Committee. Our hope is that new memories were made while we took time to celebrate our past.

## Poly Centennial Blood Drive Sets Record

### February 13, 2007

#### A Project of the Community Service Committee

The Poly Centennial Blood Drive, held February 13 in the Scott Gym, collected 142 pints of blood for Huntington Memorial Hospital—far exceeding the goal of 100 pints. This event was the most successful blood drive HMH has ever had, doubling the previous record! We were especially proud of the terrific turnout by the Upper School students, as over 30 students participated.

In conjunction with the blood drive, Poly student Isabel Sunshine arranged for the City of Hope to register bone marrow donors at the same event. This project was the mitzvah (blessing) part of her bat mitzvah. She says that she learned about the importance of bone marrow donation when her father was diagnosed with a condition for which a bone marrow transplant was the only cure. City of Hope reported that the number of bone marrow registrants was twice the average percentage they usually collect when done in conjunction with a blood drive.



*Juhee LaHaye, Assistant to Upper School Director Jamie Neilson, was the 100th blood donor.*

### Community Service Committee

Nancy Carlson—Co-Chair  
Toi Treister—Co-Chair  
Janice Beá  
Ruth Zeronian Edwards '83  
Joan Fauvre  
Deborah Feess  
Louise Fox '55  
Lewis Hashimoto  
Kris Morrish  
Louisa Nelson  
Carmie Rodriguez  
Dorothy Shubin  
Ann Sunshine



## What's My Line?

March 9, 2007

A Project of the Distinguished Speakers Committee

At an Upper School assembly held on Friday, March 9, the four high school classes competed against one another in "What's My Line?" Each class was represented by two class members. The event was moderated by Poly parent and KPCC radio host Larry Mantle. Four Poly alumni, including Ned Clark '92, Tony Femino '87, Lou Fleming, Jr. '77, and Brendan Taylor '98 answered questions posed by the contestants who hoped to guess their profession. The team that guessed the profession of the alumnus would be awarded points to be applied to their Rivalry Week totals.

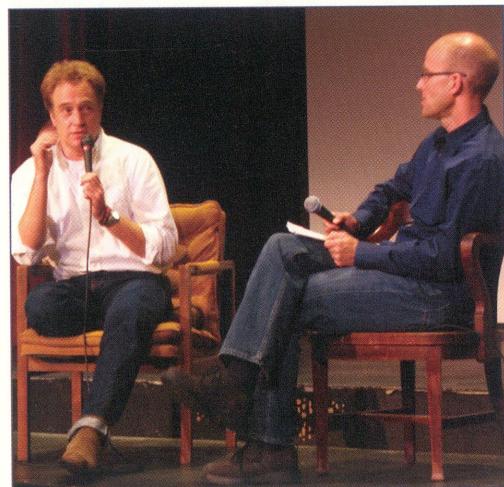
Moderator Mantle was as surprised as the rest of the Upper School audience when all the teams were stumped by the alumni panelists—despite the fact that Mr. Mantle gave some broad hints towards the end. Final scores: Freshmen – 0; Sophomores – 0; Juniors – 0; and Seniors – 0.

So, what were their lines of work? Ned Clark is an L.A. County sheriff; Tony Femino is a radio talk show host; Lou Fleming was a dentist for a number of years, but is now a fine woodworker; and Brendan Taylor is a professional poker player. Thanks to all these alumni for their participation!

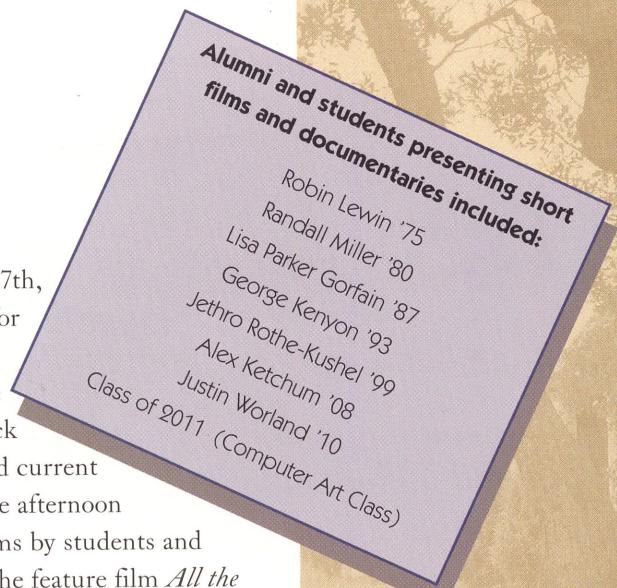
## Film Festival Showcases Alumni & Student Talent

March 17, 2007

Presented by the Alumni Association and Arts Committee



On Saturday, March 17th, nearly 200 guests gathered for the Poly Film Festival in Garland Theater. Under the direction of Michael Babcock '76, the Film Festival offered current families and alumni a unique afternoon featuring a wide array of films by students and alumni, and a screening of the feature film *All the President's Men*. Following the screening, a discussion with current parent and actor Bradley Whitford was moderated by *Los Angeles Times* entertainment writer (and current parent) John Horn '78.



## Distinguished Speakers Committee

Lori Samuels—Chair

Paul Casey

Carol Chua

Ben Chulay '70

Jennifer DeVoll '77

Sharon Ellingsen

Greg Feldmeth

Nicole Logan '87

Linda Massey

Joe Matthews '91

Dianne McGee

Denise Nelson Nash

Carol Pomerantz

Katie Shea '84

Kelly Talt

## Arts Committee

Tina Petra, Co-Chair

Ari Wiseman '93, Co-Chair

Michael Babcock '76

Susie Boyer

Laurie Burruss

Nancy Chalifour

Alan Geier

John Horn '78

Wendy Munger

Bradley Whitford

## Centennial

### Centennial Athletics Committee

Linda Rasmussen—Co-Chair  
Les Waite—Co-Chair

Bert Banta '79  
Steve Beerman  
Spike Booth '69  
Tom Bowman  
Teri Caughron  
Nancy Chulay '77  
Dave Clark '78  
Chuck Ellis  
Jordie Gaffney '04  
Mike Gill  
Penny Gill  
Brad Hall '73  
Hilary Hanel  
Debbie Hollingsworth  
Ryan Katsuyama '90  
Leslie Saeta  
Jim McInerny '73  
Casey Olson  
Missy Robbins

## 13th Annual Golf Classic, 2nd Annual Fun Run and Dinner Party & Live Auction

**April 13, 2007**

A Project of the Panther Club, sponsored by the Athletics Committee

The Golf Classic is just that—a classic! Following a light lunch at Brookside Golf Course, golfers headed for their carts in their foursomes and after a shotgun start on Course 2, spent a friendly, competitive afternoon on the links. Meanwhile, around the Rose Bowl, the Fun Run began at 3 p.m., when Lower Schoolers broke into a kilometer long run, followed by a 5K around the Rose Bowl for students, teachers, parents, and alumni alike. The day's festivities ended at the home of Cathy and Bob Woolway with cocktails, dinner and a live auction.

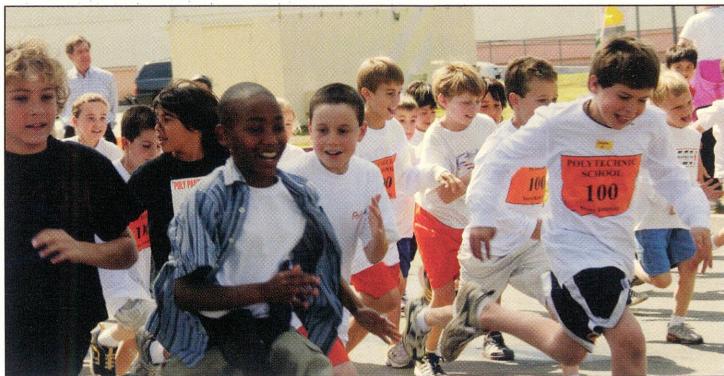
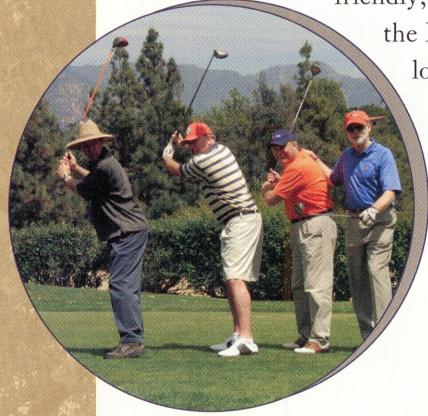


Photo: Gloria Chau

## Poly Community Service Day

**April 21, 2007**

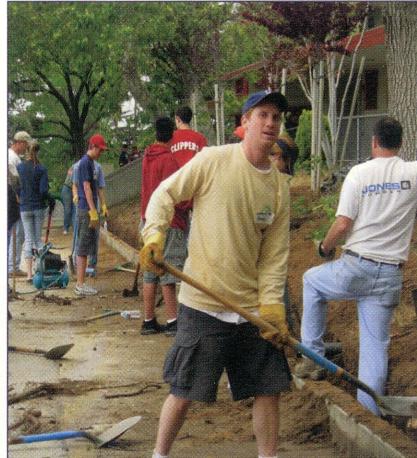
Sponsored by Polytechnic School's Alumni Board and Community Service Committee

On Saturday, April 21, current families and alumni gathered together to celebrate the Poly Centennial in a very special way—by giving back to Pasadena. In this Centennial year, the Alumni Board and the Centennial Community Service Committee joined forces to continue

Poly's long history of helping to improve and beautify our city through volunteer projects at the Pasadena Public Library and Loma Alta Elementary School.

The Central Library has a strong connection to Poly, as its architect Myron Hunt also designed the earliest buildings on Poly's North Campus. Poly volunteers helped to re-plant areas surrounding the Library's main entrance on Walnut Street in a manner consistent with landscape architect Florence Yoch's original designs.

This year a record number of Poly volunteers, ranging in age from toddler through "seasoned," undertook a number of ambitious projects at Loma Alta Elementary, including the construction of a bench/retaining wall spanning the length of the main play yard, the painting of a mural displaying the "Hickory Dickory Dock" nursery rhyme, and a variety of landscaping and organizational efforts.



## Centennial Pet & Hobby Show: "Back to the Future"

**April 27, 2007**

A Project of the Pet Show Committee, sponsored by the Traditions Committee

The Pet & Hobby Show is one of Poly's oldest traditions—did you know that the first Pet and Hobby Show was held on Poly's original tennis courts? This year marked the 89th Pet & Hobby Show, and as always there were exhibits and demonstrations in the gym, a dog show on the field, the traditional May Pole Dance, and a special sense of Centennial celebration.



## Hundreds Return to Campus for All-Alumni Reunion

**May 11–12, 2007**

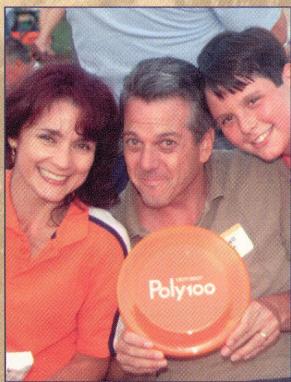
A Project of the Alumni Association, Sponsored by the Alumni Committee

For the first time in Poly's 100-year history, all alumni were invited to return to campus to join the reunion weekend festivities. The Centennial Alumni Committee, chaired by Marie Femino Queen '85, planned a wonderful weekend full of activities to attract alumni of all ages.

From the beginning of the planning stages, it was clear that the committee wanted to extend the typical Reunion Weekend and include more activities that would allow alumni to see what Poly is like for students today. It was important to show alumni that even though classrooms and courtyards may look different, there are still so many aspects of Poly life that remain the same.

Events on Friday, May 11, included a "Back to Campus Day" along with the traditional 50-Year Club and Reunion Class Celebrations. On Saturday, May 12, alumni and their families (their parents as well as their own children) gathered on campus for a picnic with plenty of food and entertainment for all. Later that evening, over 250 alumni representing graduating years from 1939 to 2004 converged on the Gamble Gym. Guests were not only treated to great company and delicious food, but were among the first to view the Centennial film, *A Celebration*, produced by Randall Miller '80 and his wife, Jody Savin. (See accompanying story on page 14).





## Centennial

### Celebrations Committee

Amy Lamb—Chair

Liz Algermissen

Tali Arnold

Darrell Banta

Laurie Burruss-Myers

Mia Dean

Gene Gregg

Gina Guerra

Stephanie Harvey

Annie Higgins

Lucia Logan

Stephanie Neilson

Sarah Shelton

Kim Shepherd

Pam Thyret

David Withers

## Centennial Family Picnic

**August 30, 2007, Babcock Field**

A Project of the Celebrations Committee

What a way to start the school year! Over 1,000 people braved the 100-degree heat to celebrate Poly's 100th birthday. Revelers registered in the Gamble Gym and picked up pre-ordered boxed dinners and Centennial blankets. Hand-dipped ice cream was very popular on this warm evening.

In addition to food and socializing, the Spirit Squad got everyone pumped up and feeling "Poly." Music was provided by the Lower School strings instructor Dr. Cheryl Scheidemann and her family and the Polymorphs, a faculty band led by music teacher and keyboardist Alan Geier.



## Faculty/Staff Appreciation Event

**September 15, 2007**

A Project of the Faculty and Staff Recognition Committee

As former Headmaster and current Pasadena School Board member Mike Babcock '48 observed in his remarks to the assembled crowd, this assembly of over 300 current and former faculty and staff was a truly remarkable gathering of the people who have continued to keep the heart of Poly pulsing ever since its inception.

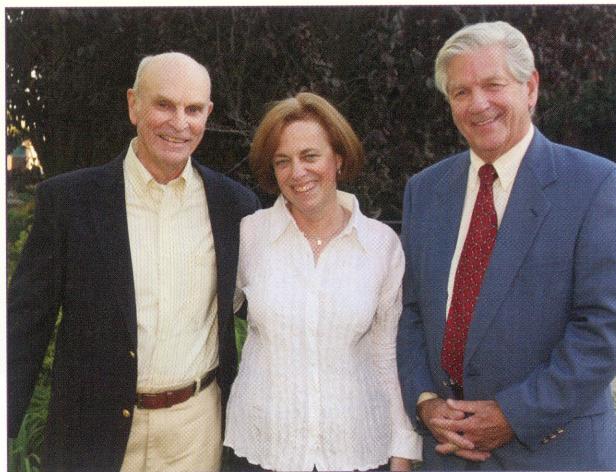
The distinguished guests gathered on the South Campus for cocktails, which were punctuated throughout by cries of "Look who's here!" "It's been too long!" and "This is so much like a reunion," followed by heartfelt hugs, broad smiles, and joyful introductions—of significant

others and new colleagues. One attendee said, "Poly was so much a part of my life—it's nice to be able to come back."

Following cocktails, the guests filed into the Garland Auditorium for welcoming remarks from current Head of School Debbie Reed, followed by former Headmaster Mike Babcock's observations. After talking about his experiences in both public and private education, Mike closed his remarks by noting that "Poly provides a unique and wonderful teaching experience," affirming the faculty for their talent and the good work that they did and still do.

Remarks were followed by a selection of arias performed on her "first stage" by Poly alumna and opera singer Lindsay Feldmeth '95. The celebration and reminiscences were spiced with gourmet fare and lasted late into the perfect Southern California night. Teachers and staff

remarked later that they truly felt appreciated, and that it was moving to see so many colleagues and friends gathered together in one place.



Former Poly Headmasters Mike Babcock '48 (left) and John Bergen flank current Head of School Debbie Reed.



Back on Campus, left to right: Dawn Cobb, former college counselor; Sally Barngrove, former alumni director; Lou Fox '55, former Upper School community outreach coordinator; Kathleen Dillon, former Upper School history and language teacher; and Judy McDonald, former development director.

## Poly Celebrates its Rich Athletic Tradition at Centennial Tailgate Party

**September 29, 2007**

A Project of the Panther Club, Sponsored by the Athletics Committee

The Poly Athletics Program has not only distinguished itself through leadership on the field and in the classroom, but has also provided our students with the opportunity to benefit from the essential lessons of sportsmanship. For this reason, the Centennial Athletics Committee chose to honor Poly's rich athletic tradition by promoting the Panther Club's Annual Fall Tailgate Party and inviting the broader community to participate in the fun.

The Boys JV and varsity football teams faced Brentwood, while Poly's water polo teams faced Glendale in the pool. Off the field, BBQ was the highlight of the day. All fans wearing orange were treated to a free hot dog lunch. One *Oak Tree Times* staffer reported that over 400 hot dogs were served during the first hour of the event!

## Centennial Faculty and Staff Recognition Committee

Susan Grether—Co-Chair  
Hannah Farbstein—Co-Chair

Catharine Grier Carlson,  
Trustee

Dawn Cobb

Vicki Duwe

Jonathan Fay '81

Priscilla Dunn Flynn '44

Christine Hessler

Jon Kidder '93

Eddie Newman

Ellen Santochi

Stephanie Suzuki

Malorie Wiebe





## Founders' Day

**October 10, 2007**

A Project of the Poly Staff, sponsored by the Traditions Committee

### **Centennial**

#### Traditions Committee

Debbie Chacon—Co-Chair  
Mia Rondinella '92—Co-Chair  
Sue Femino

The entire school met in the Gamble Gym on the actual 100th anniversary of the first day of school at Poly. Two Fifth Graders led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance, and an Upper School student sang a crystal clear version of "America the Beautiful" accompanied by music teacher and pianist Alan Geier. The Middle School Cantatori sang the original Poly School Anthem.



In attendance were a number of distinguished guests, seated at center court. Among them were current and former trustees and presidents of the Alumni Association, as well as former Headmaster Mike Babcock '48.

Pasadena Mayor Bill Bogaard presented Board President Wendy Munger with a commendation from the City. Distinguished

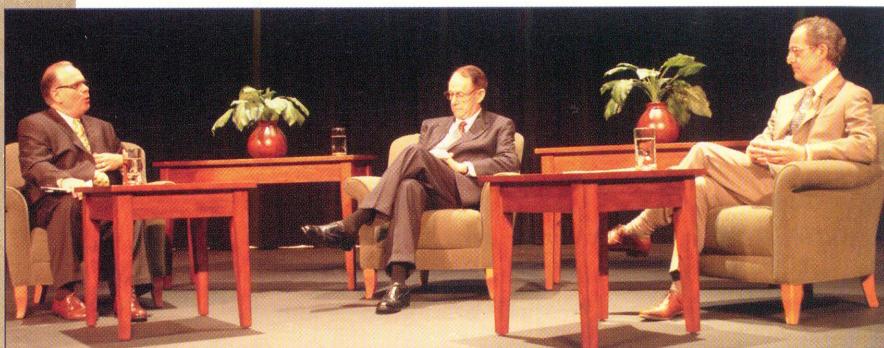
Alumnus R. Stanton Hales '57 spoke on behalf of Poly alumni. His remarks connected his own experience with that of today's students.

Middle School Director Carmie Rodriguez and performing arts teacher Tina Cocumelli read excerpts from Poly's first admissions brochure, and members of the Upper School Advanced Acting Ensemble read alumni comments about Poly from two alumni surveys.

## A Conversation Between Two Presidents

**USC's Steven B. Sample and Caltech's Jean-Lou Chameau**

"Preparing Students for College and Beyond"



Poly parent and KPCC radio personality Larry Mantle (left) moderated this lively discussion between two giants of education, representing very different institutions. The event, chaired by Poly parent Lori Samuels, was attended

by nearly 450 people from Poly (including students) and the surrounding community. Sample and Chameau discussed current trends in education and answered questions from the audience.

# Poly100

## The Polytechnic School Centennial

In October of 1907, Polytechnic School opened its classrooms, breezeways and courtyards to students. One hundred years later, we have the unique opportunity to look back and celebrate the rich history and traditions that have shaped Poly over the years. To commemorate this milestone, members of the History and Archives Centennial Committee have developed a compelling history and highly visual account of the school, *Poly 100: The Polytechnic School Centennial*. Own your copy of this comprehensive keepsake, designed by Kurt Hauser and published by Balcony Press, by completing and returning the order form below.

You may pick up your book at Polytechnic School or you may have it mailed to you at no additional cost.

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Centennial Book



# Poly Centennial Book

A Project of the History and Archives Committee

By Amanda Edwards Schuckhart '92

There is a hidden treasure at Poly, cleverly disguised in a rickety old set of metal file cabinets in a closet tucked away in the offices above the Flagler Learning Center. Once you get past a heavy, locked door and squeeze into a chair next to a tiny work table, the school archives are literally at your fingertips.

When I first glimpsed the place in 2005 after joining the varied and eager band of Poly Centennial volunteers, I was surprised by the cramped quarters and quickly learned to watch out for the top file drawer with an unreliable catch mechanism. But soon our History and Archives Committee agreed that a new coffee-table-style book celebrating the school's hundred years was in order, and the writer in me anticipated weekly visits to the archives with secret excitement.

Inside the files I found speeches, budgets, photos, children's essays, and letters that stirred my imagination about a time in Pasadena much different from today. Even more startling than the differences was how clearly the voices of the past rang out with familiar messages.

Former Principal Grace Henley's words touting freedom of discussion and a scientific spirit in the 1930s well articulated my experience as a Poly student during the 1980s and '90s. The sturdy threads of academic innovation, service to the community, and strong family involvement seemed to hold the school tapestry together through expansion and societal change. I wished the school's foremothers and fathers could witness how thoroughly their values had endured, yet how much had changed on campus and beyond.

The real fortune of my involvement in this Centennial project was the chance to work again among those who embrace Poly's principles. How could I imagine as an intimidated fifth grader that someday I would co-write a book with my Lower School director, the insightful Jolly Urner? As we formed a friendship collaborating on the text, other volunteers including alumni, parents and spouses of alumni, and former staff and board members also spent countless hours researching, selecting photos, and editing.

Our collaborative meetings revealed that the archival material spoke to us all in a similar way. Somehow the stories of the distant and recent past evoked our own connection to Poly, no matter how or when the school had been part of our daily lives. In over 100 pages of photos and text, some familiar and some surprising stories emerge. The quaintness and other-worldly quality of Poly's archives might be missing, but the essence of the school's enduring character is there.



Centennial History & Archives Committee

## Centennial

### History & Archives Committee

Ann Barrett—Co-Chair

Annamarie Mitchell—Co-Chair

Carole Babcock

Mike Babcock '48

Nancy Rhodes Burrows '52

Carolyn Cutler

Amanda Edwards-Shuckhart '92

Priscilla Dunn Flynn '44

Brooke Larsen Garlock '70

George Larrimore

Charlene Liebau

Judy McDonald

Ann Mitchell '79

Jessica Niblo

Kurt Rahn '85

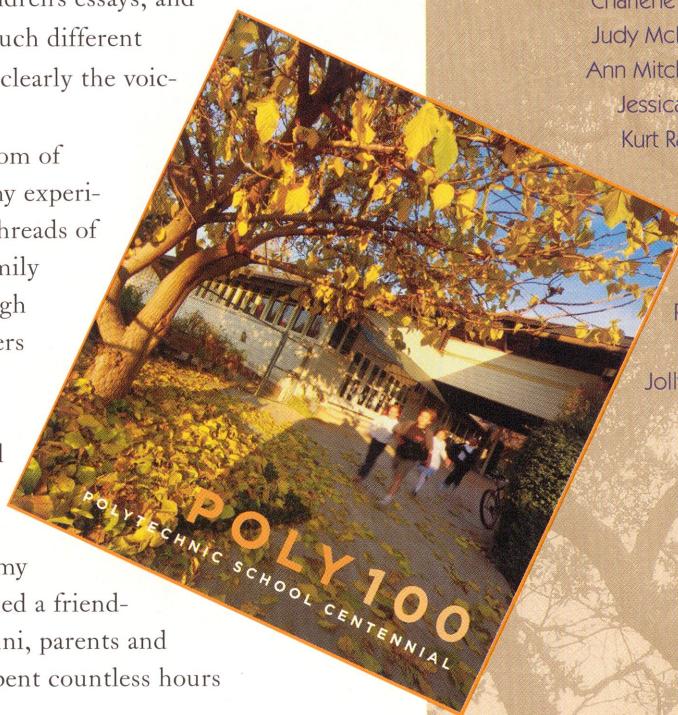
Liza

Weiss

Roberts

'85

Jolly Urner



## The Making of the Film “A Celebration”

A Project of the Alumni Centennial Committee

By Jody Savin

*Poly parent Jody Savin and her husband Randall Miller '80 are independent filmmakers and have been in the film and television business for many years. Their most recent films include Noble Son (2007) and Marilyn Hotchkiss Ballroom Dancing and Charm School (2005).*

When Marie Femino Queen '85 and the Poly Alumni Centennial Committee approached Randy and me about making a movie to celebrate 100 years of Poly, we couldn't find a way to say no. So we said sure. It was like that moment at the end of *The Graduate* when Dustin Hoffman is sitting on the bus wondering what in the world he just got himself into.

But the timing was right for us. And Marie can be very persuasive. Something about her smile, I think. Thinking about it now, Marie Queen has the makings of a fine movie producer. By the way, Marie, did you know producers always pay for lunch?

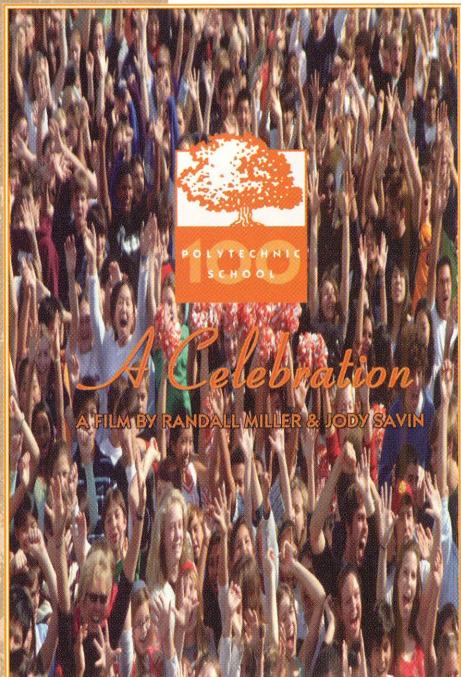
After agreeing to make the film, we realized we had a deadline and immediately began to brainstorm. We knew we needed to find a way to communicate the spirit of the school that had been a second home and extended family to Randy. His memories were full of warmth and laughter, friendship and intellectual challenge—some of which he rose to, some of which he squandered (or so he says).

In the middle of the fourth day of shooting, it struck us (Randy and me, as well as our diehard crew members, Julie Withers '71 and Kristin McAfee) what an extraordinary insight into the school the filming experience was affording us—and moreover what an extraordinary school our children have the great fortune to attend. We saw opportunity in every corner. We saw the joy of the teachers and the interest of the students. We saw a strong sense of humor. But perhaps the most exciting thing we found was a place where students are

encouraged to try new things even at the risk of failure.

Through the process of making the Poly movie, we came to realize so much of what Poly is. Many of you completed the sentence for us on camera. Here is our chance: **Poly is...a place where dreams are born.**

“We saw opportunity in every corner. We saw the joy in the teachers and the interest of the students. We saw a strong sense of humor.”



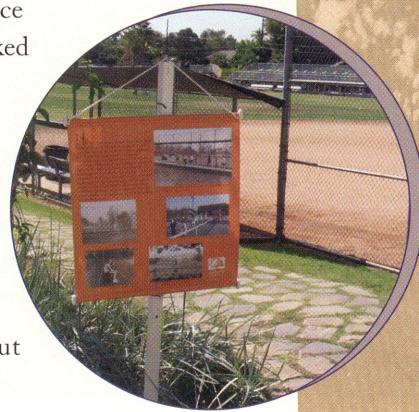
# Poly Walking Tour and Historical Displays

A Project of the History and Archives Committee

## A WALK THROUGH TIME

As of mid-January, everyone in the Poly community got the chance to walk down memory lane and see what the school's historic campus looked like throughout the decades. At the Campus Kick-Off Event for students and faculty, a series of 26 signs depicting various buildings and events of historical significance was displayed on the North and South Campuses. "The purpose of this walking tour was to show people what took place in a particular spot on campus," said Ann Mitchell '79, a current parent who created Centennial exhibits as a member of the History & Archives Committee. "I wanted people to be able to visualize the school as it looked 10, 50, even 100 years ago as they learned more about the traditions and events that have shaped Poly over time."

The walking tour was also on display at the October Founders' Day ceremony. Mitchell said that the banners will continue to be available to campus groups interested in visualizing the history of the Poly campus.



## LOOKING BACK

On October 10, 1907, Polytechnic School welcomed 106 students in grades K–8 for their first day of classes. A mere six months prior, it had been decided that a new grammar school should be established to serve students who formerly attended Throop Grammar School, and over the summer, architects Myron Hunt and Elmer Grey set about building the school's beloved one-story classrooms and adjacent courtyards.

Starting in January 2007, visitors to Poly's campus got a glimpse of what the school looked like in its earliest years. On the North Campus, 17 exhibit cases along the library, the

Flagler Learning Center and the Stork Administration Building featured a timeline of pivotal moments, photographs of key people and events and other memorabilia from 1907–1932. In April, exhibits

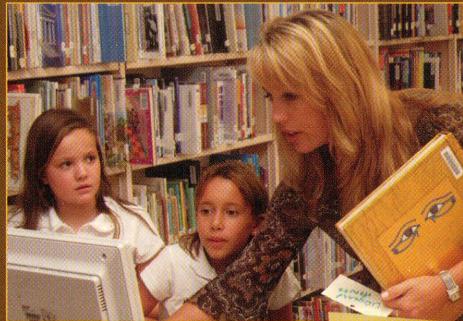


were replaced by materials from 1933–1957. An extra exhibit of Poly musicals over the years was added to the cases in May, complete with costumes and playbills, and some of this exhibit was used to decorate the All-Alumni dinner on May 12.

The final 12 posters, covering the history of the school from 1957–2007, was displayed at the Centennial Gala. Afterwards, the 1957–1982 exhibit was moved to the display cases on the North Campus, and included some fun clothing from the '60s and '70s. Mitchell said that the material covering the school's most recent 25 years, from 1982 to 2007, will go into the cases in early December and be on display through January, to complete a full year of Centennial displays.

Special thanks to Moule & Polyzoides, Architects and Urbanists, for doing the layout and printing of the posters.

*Go to [www.poly100.com](http://www.poly100.com) to see a full set of Walking Tour banners and posters from the display cases.*



# New Faculty & Staff

## NEW STAFF POSITIONS



### Lori Dver, Learning Resource Coordinator

Coordinating our student support services will be Lori Dver (pronounced “du-veer”) who comes to us from Chatsworth Hills Academy, where during her tenure she was a teacher, learning specialist, director of admissions,

and for the past eight years head of their middle school. At Poly, Lori takes on the role of Learning Resource Coordinator for grades K–12. A graduate of Northwestern University with a B.S. degree in Speech Education, she also holds a Master’s in Educational Counseling from UCLA.

This is how Lori explains what she does at Poly: “My job is to coordinate the support team, faculty, and families to ensure that each child has the opportunity to reach his/her potential as the students move through the program from kindergarten through graduation.”



### Frances Callero, North Campus Librarian

Central to the life on the North Campus is the library, and this year it will be in the capable hands of Frances Callero. With a Master’s in Library and Information Science from the University of Houston, Frances brings a teacher’s

appreciation and understanding of the library along with technical expertise. Before becoming a librarian, Frances spent several years teaching 4th grade in Texas. Frances, a native Californian, earned her B.A. from UC Irvine. She and her daughter enjoy living in Pasadena.

## ART



### Arnor Bieltvedt, K-12 Visual Arts Department Chair

Arnor joins the newly formed K–12 Visual Arts Department as its chair, a position he held at North Shore Country Day School (Winnetka, Illinois) and Logos School (St. Louis, Missouri).

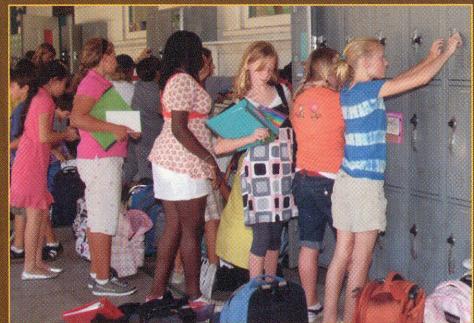
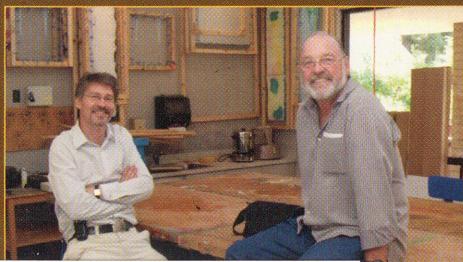
A native of Iceland, Arnor studied Economics and Social Sciences at Augsburg University in Germany, receiving a “Vordiplom” (two-year general studies degree) before coming to the United States to study Marketing (B.S.) and Managerial Technology (M.S.) at Johnson & Wales University. He then turned to art, his passion, attending the Rhode Island School of Design and finishing his B.F.A. in Painting and then an M.F.A. in Painting at Washington University. When he is not painting and teaching, his hobbies include chess and handball.

## ENGLISH



### Renee Larios, Sixth Grade English

Renee comes to us with 15 years of teaching experience. She holds a B.A. from UCLA in English and an M.A. in teaching from Grand Canyon University. After college, Renee taught middle school in Los Angeles, which inspired her to seek certification as a bilingual teacher. She then moved to Mexico and taught English in private high schools such as the German School of Guadalajara. Her most recent experience was teaching and administering at Nimitz Middle School in L.A. Unified. This past summer she was an integral part of our Skills Enrichment Program for talented students from the Pasadena Unified School District.



# 2007-2008

### **Rebecca Beucher, Upper School English**

Rebecca joins our Upper School English department after teaching in an L.A. based charter high school and a local junior high. Rebecca's educational background includes a B.A. in English and Psychology from Santa Barbara and an M.A. in Education from Loyola Marymount University. At Poly, Rebecca will teach English.

### **Joanna Smith Swerdlow '97, Upper School English**

Joanna's appreciation for English and passion for literature began in Poly's Lower School, and now she returns to Poly as a teacher of English to both sophomores and seniors. Joanna has a B.A. from UC Berkeley and an M.A. in Education from Loyola Marymount University. Joanna completed her M.A. while she taught AP and honors courses at Lower School.

### **LANGUAGE TEACHERS**



### **Rachel Karsen, Upper School French**

Holding a joint teaching appointment in French at Poly and Westridge is Rachel Karsen. Although an unusual solution to our school's needs, we have great confidence in Rachel because she has extensive experience in teaching French, Spanish, and human development. Rachel most recently was on faculty at Trinity School in New York City, where she was both a teacher and a counselor. She holds an M.A. in French Literature from NYU and a B.A. in French, Spanish and International Studies from Macalester College.



### **Elliott Goodman, Latin and Upper School Admissions**

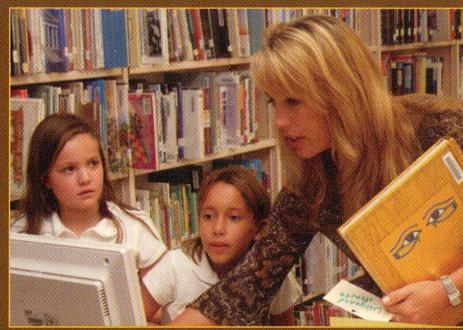
Elliott is excited to return to his native Southern California to teach Latin and assist in the admissions process for the Upper School. He recently finished his B.A. in Classical Studies and Linguistics at the University of Chicago, where he and Poly alum Benno Nelson '04 became known as the guys racing chariots on the quads and performing Greek and Roman plays.

*“To coordinate the support team, and families to ensure that each child has the opportunity to reach his/her potential...”*

**Resource Coordinator**

**NEW FACULTY**

**17**



# New Faculty

## NEW STAFF POSITIONS



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Coordinating our student support services will be Lori Dver (pronounced “du-veer”) who comes to us from Chatsworth Hills Academy, where during her tenure she was a teacher, learning specialist, director of admissions, and for the past eight years head of their middle school. At Poly, Lori takes on the role of Learning Resource Coordinator for grades K–12. A graduate of Northwestern University with a B.S. degree in Speech Education, she also holds a Master’s in Educational Counseling from UCLA.

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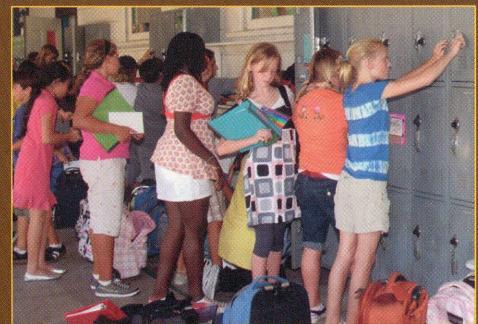
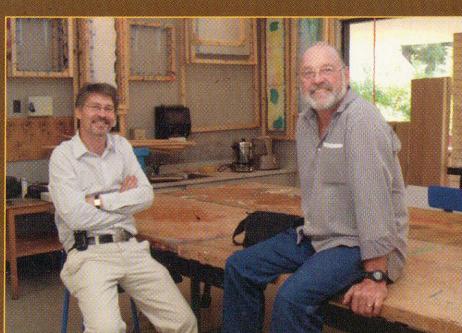
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## ENGLISH



### Renee Larios, English Teacher

Renee comes to us with 15 years of teaching experience, most recently from UCLA in English. After teaching English at the middle school level, she decided to pursue her passion for teaching English as a second language. This inspired her to seek certification as a teacher of English as a second language and then moved to Mexico and taught English in schools such as the German School of Mexico City. Her most recent experience was teaching and leading English Language Arts at Middle School in L.A. Unified. This is an integral part of our English Language Arts program, and we are excited to have her join our students from the Pasadena Unified



# staff 2007-2008



## Rebecca Beucher, Upper School English

Rebecca joins our Upper School English Department after teaching in an L.A. Unified charter high school and a parochial junior high. Rebecca's educational background includes a B.A. degree in English and Psychology from the University of Minnesota and an M.A. in Education from Loyola Marymount University. At Poly, Rebecca will teach 9th and 10th grade English.



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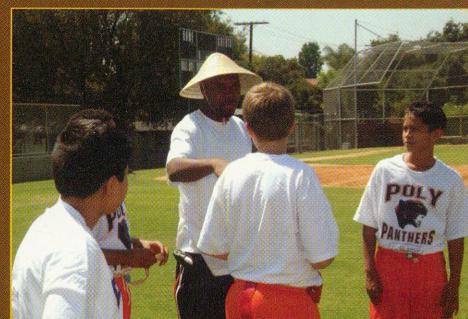
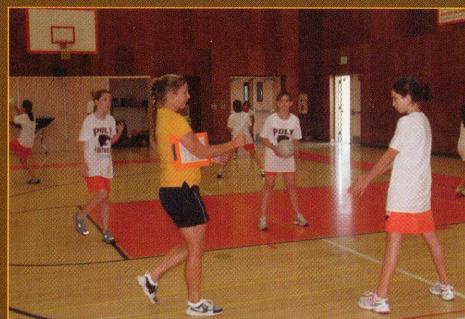
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**Lori Dver, Learning Resource Coordinator**

**NEW FACULTY**

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# New Faculty & Staff

## MATH AND SCIENCE



### Christopher Schmoke, Upper School Science

A native of Michigan, Chris has taught chemistry and physics for ten years and chaired the science department at Petoskey High School. Chris holds a B.S. in Education, with a major in General Science and a minor in Chemistry from Northern Michigan University. In addition to his skills as a teacher, Chris is an experienced coach, and he will be our Varsity Track and Field coach and assist in the Varsity Football program.



### Jason Woodbury, Upper School Science

After a career in the Navy where he served in training and leadership positions on the *USS Michigan*, a nuclear submarine, Jason taught science at Saint Andrew's School in Savannah, Georgia, for three years. He holds an M.S. in Engineering Management from Old Dominion University and a B.S. in Business Management from Tulane University. At Poly, Jason will teach 9th grade science and assist in the soccer program. He's also teaching an Upper School P.E. elective in Tae Kwon Do.



### Tiffani Tedrow, Middle School Science

Tiffani comes to us from Dana Middle School in Arcadia. She holds a B.S. in Human Physiology from the University of Oregon, and she is pursuing an M.A. in Education at Point Loma Nazarene University. An experienced volleyball coach, Tiffani will help out in the Athletic Department. In her spare time, Tiffani obsesses over college football, attempts to travel the world, and single handedly keeps Starbucks in business.



### Roberto Alvarez, Middle School Math

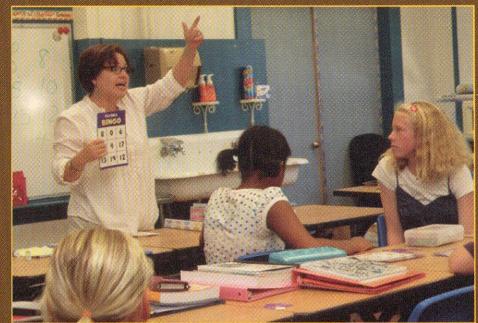
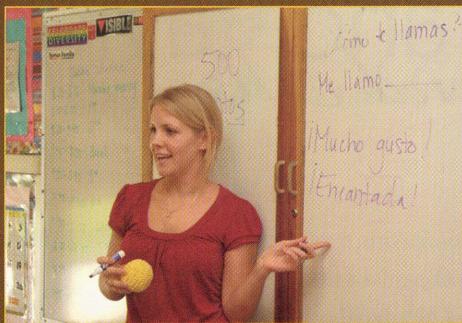
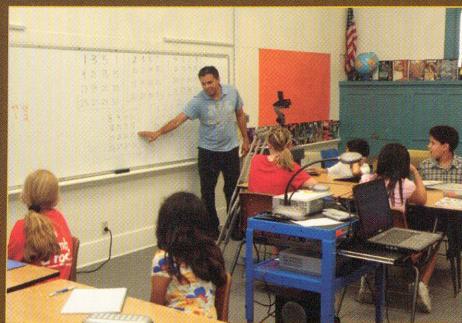
We are fortunate to have an experienced math teacher joining the Middle School team. Roberto has been teaching in middle schools for the last seven years, most recently at Central New Middle School #4 in Los Angeles. He holds an M.A. in Education from Cal State Los Angeles, a Master's in Accounting from USC and a degree in Public Administration from San Diego State University.

## LOWER SCHOOL



### Kara Ramirez, Fourth Grade

Kara's first career was in human resources, and she has made use of these skills in her classrooms for the last seven years. Kara has a B.A. from Colby College and a Master's in Elementary Education from Lesley University. She taught in a public school in Brookline, Massachusetts, before settling in Pasadena with her family.



# taff 2007-2008



**Amy Davidson '77,  
Second Grade Assistant**

The long-term plan at Poly calls for three sections in kindergarten through second grade. Until space allows for these classrooms, we have added an assistant for our second grade teachers.

Amy holds a B.A. in Economics from Stanford University, and she is one of three Poly alumni to return to campus to teach this year.

## ATHLETICS



**Heidi Strauss,  
Physical Education & Athletics**

An experienced teacher and coach, Heidi looks forward to contributing to the Poly P.E. and Athletics Departments. Heidi's soccer career began in elementary school and continued throughout college at California State University at Northridge, where she earned her B.S. in Kinesiology and is now a candidate for an M.S. in the same field. After graduating from college, Heidi taught P.E. at Sierra Canyon and was the girls' Varsity Soccer coach at both Taft High School and Canoga Park High School. She also coached women's soccer at Antelope Valley College.

## TEACHING FELLOWS



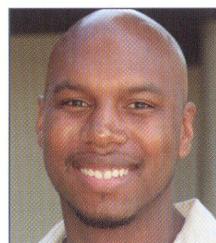
**Anna Moriarty**

Again this year we welcome three Middle School fellows. Let's begin with Anna Moriarty, who holds the distinction of being the first teacher hired this year. Anna earned a B.A. in Spanish Language and Latin American Studies from Harvard, and she will be interning in the 7th and 8th grade Spanish classroom.



**Matthew Johnson**

After graduating from the University of Michigan with a B.A. in English, Matthew Johnson completed his student teaching and received a Secondary Education Certification for English and History. He will be interning in the 7th grade English classroom.



**Marshall Duncan '01**

Marshall Duncan '01 returns to his alma mater after earning a B.S. in Business Administration from the University of Arizona. After college, Marshall worked in banking, then turned to a career in teaching, where he will make a difference in our 7th grade math classes.

# Joann '90 and Taylor Smith '90

## *Mr. and Mrs. Smith Go to Washington*

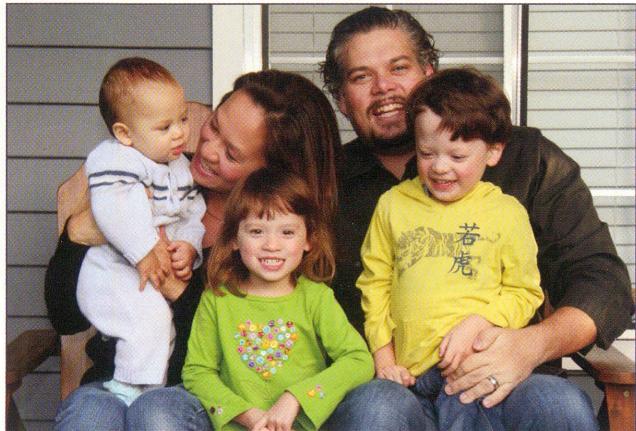
**T**aylor Smith and Joann Louie Smith, both Poly Class of 1990, began their relationship in their junior year of high school. They have come a long way since then, making their way from sunny Southern California up to the Pacific Northwest.

In 1995, after they graduated from UC San Diego, Taylor and Joann moved to San Francisco with classmate Laura Morris Dwyer '90. Taylor took a job working for the advertising agency, Foote Cone & Belding. Meanwhile, Joann was earning her Master's in Animal Behavior at San Francisco State University, where she became immersed in a National Science Foundation project, studying communication in the endangered Giant Kangaroo Rat. She had an "Aha! moment" when she realized that she was spending more time designing PowerPoint presentations than doing actual research. So in a gutsy move, she left SFSU and began to work at an interior design firm. In 1997, she started her own company, Balance Design, Inc. "Graphic design is a mathematical and scientific art. I was really able to incorporate my strengths with my passions," she explained.

Meanwhile, when Taylor heard about a job with Microsoft in Redmond, Washington, he was initially hesitant. He had some common misperceptions about Microsoft; for example, that everyone would be highly technical, that it would be an overly corporate environment. But keeping an open mind, he quickly discovered the opposite. "On my first visit there, it seemed like the perfect fit," Taylor says. "We hit it off right away."

He and Joann had married in 1998 and felt like they had "run their course" in the City by the Bay. Joann's design business allowed her much portability, enabling her to move to a different state, yet still maintain her clients. So, going out on a limb (and with some assistance from Microsoft), they accepted the opportunity that "fell into their laps" and moved to Seattle in 2003.

"I started out working in advertising for Windows Server," says Taylor, "but recently switched to the XBOX group to manage marketing communications for all the games that Microsoft publishes." For the recent launch of the XBOX game, *Halo 3*, Taylor and his marketing team created an integrated marketing program that spiraled through web sites, blogs, email,



*The Smith Family*

television, retail stores, and events. *Halo 3* went on sale September 25, bringing in \$170 million in US sales, making it the largest opening in entertainment history.

Joann uses the interactivity of technology in a different way. "I always start with pen and paper," Joann reveals. "I focus on the look and usability of the finished product." Joann affirms that technology has made the world much smaller, more accessible and allows her to reach a wider client base. She can work with people all over the world, including a long-time client in New York, whom she has never met in person, and her most distant client in Taiwan.

Although technology has enabled Taylor and Joann to do business on a global level, they credit much of their success to the small, nurturing environment at Poly. "We've made bold decisions in our lives and we couldn't have done so without the motivating spirit instilled in us," says Joann. "That spirit, as well as the education and resources I received throughout my time at Poly, gave me the drive and confidence to do something creative." Taylor agrees, "It's the kind of place where you learn how to work and communicate with people. It's something I draw upon daily."

Taylor and Joann remember Poly for the camaraderie and lifelong friendships they established. "Our Poly friends are part of our family now," they concur. And, indeed, they have started a family of their own: twins Cooper and Rosa (age 3 1/2) and Kobe Louie Smith, the newest addition, born on November 9, 2006. Nearby in Seattle is Taylor's mom (and proud grandmother) Debby Taylor Smith '64, and classmate Brandi Bazler Wolchko '90.

# Ezra Callhan '99

## Right Place, Right Time

After he graduated from Poly, Ezra headed north for Stanford, where he majored in Symbolic Systems. "It's a combination of cognitive/computer science," Ezra explains. "People who major in symbolic systems usually go on to study Artificial Intelligence." Not sure that he wanted to head that direction, Ezra took a year-long position as business manager at the *Stanford Daily* student newspaper after getting his degree.

"I lived in a house with a bunch of friends," recalls Ezra. One of his roommates was Sean Parker, co-founder of Napster, the original online music source. Around the time that Ezra moved out of the house and began applying to law school, Parker made the acquaintance of a couple of Harvard students/software engineers, and became president of their new start-up.

While he waited to hear from schools, Ezra traveled to Europe and the East Coast. In December 2004, while in Dublin, he got good news from the University of Chicago Law School. A couple of days later, Ezra got an e-mail from Parker: would Ezra be interested in working for the new start-up?

"I wasn't doing anything else," Ezra recalls, "So I showed up on their doorstep in Los Altos. By this time, one other software engineer had joined them, so I was the first non-engineer on staff. The five of us, once again, shared a house together." Ezra explains that he was hired as "a sort of do-everything business guy," responding to business emails, doing sales stuff, dealing with ads, with some customer support thrown in.

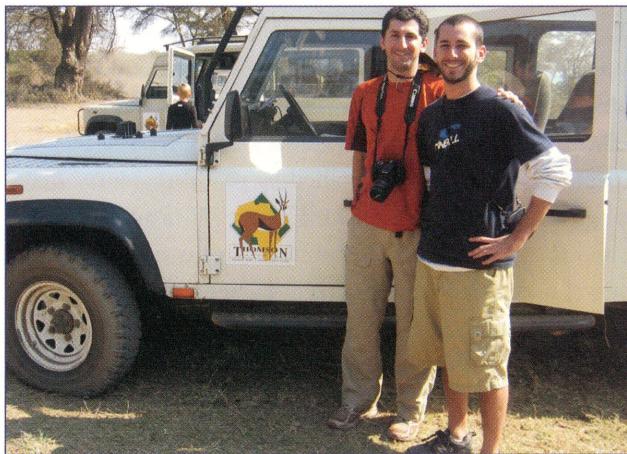
"Sean told me that he didn't know exactly what I'd been doing when I worked for the *Stanford Daily*," Ezra remembers, "but he noticed that I was always working, and he thought the company could use a guy like me."

Now it's time to talk about that little company which, according to Ezra, "kept growing like wildfire." It's called Facebook. As Ezra explains it, Facebook started at Harvard as an online version of a print publication intended to introduce new faces to the campus community. The online version was so successful at Harvard that Facebook spread to other college campuses, where students used their college email addresses to log on.

"In late December 2004, just after I joined the company, the site had expanded to include 200 colleges

with over a million users," says Ezra. As venture capitalists such as Peter Thiel (PayPal), Accel Partners, Greylock Partners, and Meritech Capital Partners continued to invest in the company, Facebook broadened its reach to include high schoolers and, by fall 2006, was available to anyone who wanted to join.

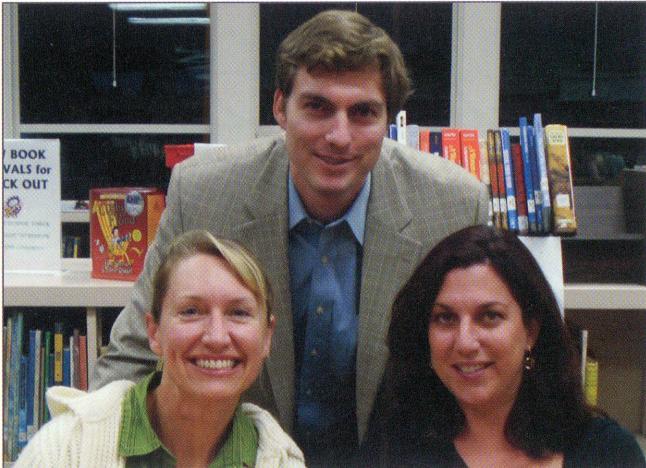
"The fastest growing age group is the 'over-30' demographic," Ezra explains. "Seventy-five percent of our users are college graduates at this point." He mentions that all the presidential campaigns have Facebook pages, and that he initially served as the point of contact for their political staffs, though like everything else at Facebook, the election staff has grown.



Josh '96 and Ezra Callhan

In fact, Ezra estimates that there are around 100 engineers and over 300 employees total, spread through four offices in Palo Alto. At last count there were 43 million active users, making Facebook the sixth most trafficked site in the United States (according to comScore). Ezra says Facebook is the largest website in Canada, which has the most users outside the U.S., followed by the United Kingdom, Australia, Norway, South Africa, Sweden, Egypt, India, and Mexico, making Facebook a truly global company.

So, what about University of Chicago Law School? "The first year I got a deferral, because working at Facebook was fun, and I wanted to see where it was going to go. I got a second deferral, just in case. And then I decided to stay with Facebook. My parents were supportive."



The Alumni Board kicked off another year with their Annual Alumni Board Meeting and Appreciation Dinner on September 19. Past and present Alumni Board members, as well as alumni volunteers, gathered in Garland Lobby, which looked especially inviting as it was adorned with paintings by art teacher Jim Barry '68. In his final role as Alumni Board President, Peter Boyle '83 thanked outgoing Board members John Edmonston '71, Roopal Mehta Saran '90, and Felicia Williams '90, welcomed new Board members Heather Bohr Unterseher '85, Suzie Korostoff Arther '89, and Todd Dietrick '90 (pictured above). Peter was joined by past presidents Stephanie Fox Harvey '84, Ken Horner '77, Phil Huffman '74, and Rich Mayne '82 (pictured below) as he passed the gavel to Marie Femino Queen '85, who also received a Poly letterman's jacket in a tradition begun by Rich Mayne in 2001.)

## Alumni Association Board 2007–2008

President:

Marie Femino Queen '85

Annual Fund Chair:

Maggie Heflin Sabbag '87

Nominating Chair: Peter Boyle '83

Outreach Chair: Michael Babcock '76

Services Chair: John Horn '78



Susan Honeyman Crawford '67, Brooke Larsen Garlock '70, Phil Huffman '74, Louis Fleming, Jr. '77, Ken Horner '77, Daniel Yen '81, Mark Kassabian '83, Juli Khoe '84, Leonard Kim '84, Heather Bohr Unterseher '85, Ann Fromholz '86, Alison Daly Van Dyke '86, Lisa Parker Gorfain '87, Katie Galbraith Hult '88, Alison Edwards Laster '88, Stender Sweeney '88, Suzie Korostoff Arther '89, Carolee Reiling '89, Todd Dietrick '90, Andy Esbenshade '90, Mia Rondinella '92, Amber Tyson '94, Pia Leudtke '95, Larry Perkins '95, Scott Steuber '96

## Mark your Calendars!

Important Winter Alumni Dates

### Alumni in College Lunch

**Friday, November 23**

**McWilliams Courtyard**

**Poly South Campus**

### 5 & 10 Year Reunion

**Saturday, December 22**

**Classes of 2003 and 1998**

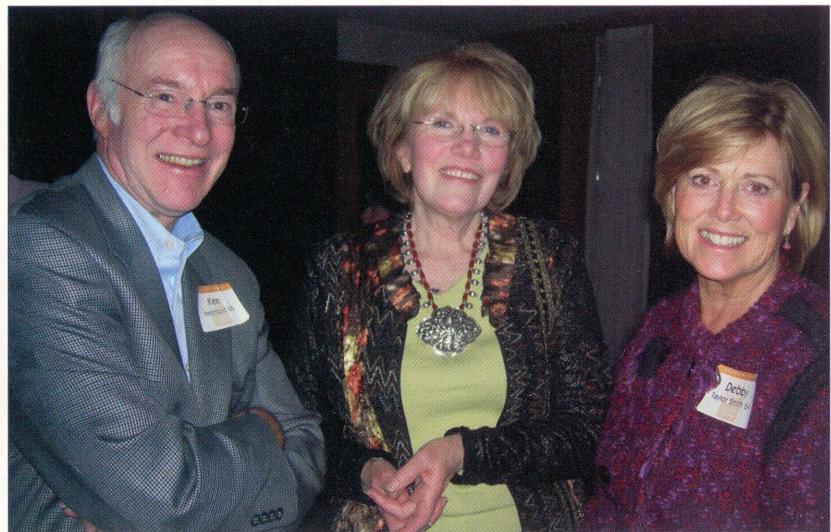
**Poly Campus**



**Sara Burgess Ijadi '70 and  
Nancy Young '70 at the Seattle  
Gathering in October.**



## Seattle Gathering



Ken Hammond '65, guest Mary Weatherley and Debby Taylor Smith '64.

In early October, over 30 alumni in the Pacific Northwest region gathered at The Edgewater Hotel in Seattle, Washington. The Alumni Office was delighted to receive such a great turnout from alumni spanning over 50 graduating years. As always, Poly alumni enjoy sharing their similar experiences from their school days and many found new ways that connected them—mutual friends in the area, work contacts in common, and some even live in the same neighborhood. Debbie Reed gave a brief overview of current Poly life and Carmie Rodriguez spoke about the foreign language curriculum.

## West Los Angeles Event



Alumni ranging from years 1968 to 2003 gathered at Border Grill Restaurant in Santa Monica on October 25, 2007. Special thanks to Andrea Uyeda '91 for her help in organizing the event, and to our special faculty guests Jim Barry '68, Tina Cocomelli, Gretchen Gantner, and Geoff Yuré !

# Class Notes

## 1960–1969

**Don Graff '62** I thoroughly enjoyed representing the class of '62 at our 45th reunion in May. Another highlight of my trip to California was visiting my aunt, Virginia Graff, widow of **Frederic Graff '22**.

She also was celebrating 100 years. Her only complaint was that her driver's license wasn't renewed. Talk about a "little old lady from Pasadena"! I am now looking forward to our 50th reunion and induction into the 50 Year Club (which, by the way, my Uncle Fred helped start). Perhaps in five years we can gather a few more folks and



even celebrate the 50th anniversary of the complete Upper School by inviting '63, '64, and '65 to join us. • **Quinlan**

**Cobb Brown '64** My daughter Emily Brown (Carlin) was married at All Saints on September 1st. In attendance were my mother Dawn Cobb, along with family members **Candace (Cobb)**

**McNulty '65, Gillian Andrews '95, and Sylvie Andrews '98.** The reception was at Cal Tech at the Athenaeum. (Thank you Candis and Roger Ipswich!) Of



course, I drove all my guests past Poly. Happy Birthday, Poly. Also, I retired in

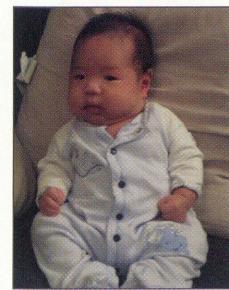
June after 38 years as a teacher in North Sacramento; now I am going to volunteer in my grandson Mason's kindergarten classroom.

## 1970–1979

**Valerie Jaffee '74** Hello Poly classmates & fellow alums, For those of you interested in doing a significantly discounted 2 local weekend days of skiing at Mt. Baldy (target mid-late March '08) and Mt. High (target late March to mid-April '08), please contact me. I anticipate discounts on rentals, lessons, kiddie school, tickets, mountain shop, etc. Exact dates will be determined by January '08. These ski days will also be announced to several local Dartmouth alumni groups so consider a day in the fresh mountain air! Please email me for more details if you're interested- be sure to provide me your name, class, tel & email contact info. Let's wish for lots of snow! Valerie- skivj@earthlink.net

have been keeping busy with our twins, John Matthew (Jack) and Elizabeth Rose, born on March 30, 2007. •

**Linda Sakimura Kawaguchi '86** My



husband Alan and I are pleased to announce the birth of our twin boys, Alexander Hideyoshi Kawaguchi and Andrew Yoshitsune

Kawaguchi, on July 25, 2007, in Stockton, CA. We are very sleepy but loving everyminute! • **Maggie Heflin**

**Sabbag '87** Our daughters, Jacqueline



## 1980–1989

**Alison Sloane Gaylin '83** Alison had a book-reading and signing featuring her latest book—and first hardcover—*Trashed*, on Wednesday, September 5 at Vroman's. Her first novel, *Hide Your Eyes*, debuted in March 2005 with nearly a quarter of a million copies in print and was nominated for the Edgar Award for a first novel. The sequel, *You Kill Me*, was published in 2006. • **Mark**

**Kassabian '83** My wife Kristin and I

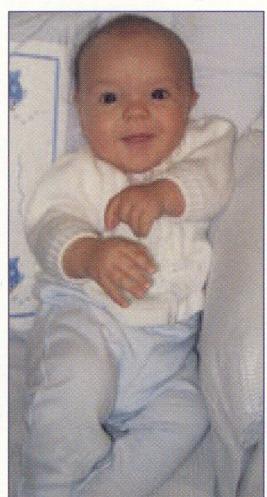


(3) and Michela (2) are delighted to welcome their new playmate Catherine "Catie" Alexandra Sabbag who was born on August 1, 2007. Ken and I are proud to report that all is well! •

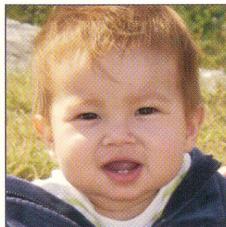
**Carey Johnson '88** Hello class

of 1988!

Eduardo and I are so happy to announce the birth of our (not so) little Lucas! He was born June 16, 2007 weighing in at 9lbs., 13oz and already a



# Class Notes



character. Hope to see everyone at the 20th reunion!

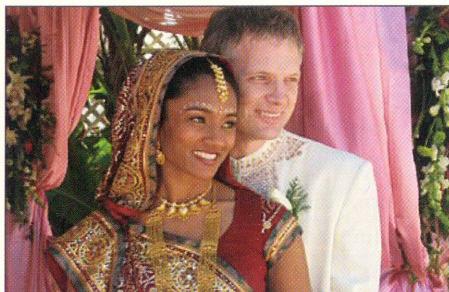
## 1990–1999

**Andy Esbenshade '90** Michele and I are loving life with our daughter, Elizabeth Lee Esbenshade, born December 18, 2006. She is doing great. • **Pratima**

**Gupta '92** I married Jonathan Henry Bayfield Soper of London, England in Huntington Beach this past March. We celebrated our wedding with **Anu Shrivastava Shah '92, Tehmina Jaffer Bhure '92, Daisy Ha '92, Christine Tse Kuecherer '92, Sarah Schoellkopf '92, Monica Partridge '92, Jennifer Scalf Vargo '92, Jennifer Barnum Thayer '92, Rashmi Shrivastava Turner '90, Todd Turner '81** and, of course, my sister **Neelima Gupta Doshi '89** and my brother, **Anuj Gupta '98**. We live in San Francisco where I am an Obstetrician/



Gynecologist at Kaiser Oakland, with a primary focus of establishing an abortion and family planning training



program for the residents. In addition, I am the volunteer medical director of St. James Infirmary, a free clinic for sex workers and transgender individuals. I miss Pasadena, but I am establishing some roots up here! Drop me a line if you are coming to the Bay area: pratimagupta@hotmail.com • **Jennifer**

**Lanski '96** Samuel Finn Lanski Wagenaar, born 10:36 pm, on Saturday, September 15, weighing in at 7 pounds, 8 ounces and about 19 1/4 inches long. Mama, papa, and baby are doing fine. • **Nick Degani '99** just completed a clerkship on the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals with Judge Jeffrey Sutton, and now lives in Washington, D.C., where he works as an attorney for the Federal Communications Commission. •

**Classmates from '99** paused for a picture at the wedding of **Betty Picnic '99** this summer in Los Olivos. The class members are (from L to R): **Jeff Bader '99, Ryan Haden '99, Sumner Hollingsworth '99, Chris Roberts '99, Anna Sones '99, Paul Haaga '99, and Blythe Haaga '01**.

## 2000–2006

**Alexis Casillas '01 and Jordan Segal '01** were married on July 7, 2007, in San Gabriel, CA. • **Kolapo Odujinrin '03** In May, I graduated from the University of Southern California with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. During college I was a member of Sigma Nu Fraternity with **Ini Archibong '01, Duncan Hedges '03, Chris Huskey**

'03, and **Jon Olson '04**. I now live in San Jose, CA, and work as a business operations analyst for Yahoo! at the corporate headquarters in Sunnyvale. If anyone is interested in contacting me, please send me an email at kolapoodujinrin@yahoo.com.



Class Note Editorial Policy: The editorial staff gives preference to those Class Notes which come from primary sources. We reserve the right to edit class notes (primarily because of space considerations, occasionally for clarity). We do not print engagement or pregnancy announcements. We do not have the resources to fact check Class Note entries, therefore we cannot be liable for inaccurate or false information that may inadvertently find its way into a class note. We thank you for your understanding.

To submit a class note, drop a line to our Alumni Director, Sara Rodriguez '94. In addition to regular mail, Sara can be reached online at [alumni@polytechnic.org](mailto:alumni@polytechnic.org) and via the PolyLink section of the Polytechnic School website: [www.polytechnic.org/alumni](http://www.polytechnic.org/alumni)—click on the “Polylink” tab across the top of the Poly Alumni Webpage.

# Corrections to August 2007 Issue



## Page 13

Thanks to Jane Parks '48 for identifying herself as "the unidentified alumna and friend" in the photo with Sara Taylor Stephenson '49 and Ted Bacon '42 at Reunion Weekend.

## Page 14 (Photo Caption)

We apologize to Charmaine and Sean Bailey, Class of '87, who are pictured with their classmate Alec Berg at their class's 20th reunion. The Bailey's were misidentified as the Hotchkisses. Also, the photographer of that photo was David Ebershoff '87—we put too many "d's" in his first name.



## Page 15 (Photo Caption)

Our apologies to Olin Barrett '52 who has two "r's" and two "t's" in his name. We omitted the last "t."

## Page 16

In our profile of Reg Spear '39, we mistakenly identified Priscilla Flynn '44 as former Headmaster Willis Stork's assistant. As we knew, but conveniently forgot,



Priscilla was former Headmaster Mike Babcock's assistant for a period of time. Priscilla also gently corrected Mr. Spear's assertion that her father, Harry Dunn, had been a founder of the O'Melveny & Myers law firm. While Mr. Dunn came to the firm when it was relatively young and worked there for many years, he was not one of the firm's founders.

*The Oak Tree Times In Memoriam column lists obituaries, as space allows, when we receive information about deceased alumni. If we have neglected to list a member of your Immediate family, we would ask that you send us any pertinent biographical information, which we will print in subsequent issues. This information means a lot to classmates and friends.*

## In Memoriam

### Mary Frances Russell '28

October 16, 2007

Pasadena, California

Mary Frances attended Polytechnic School and graduated from the Westridge School for Girls. She later studied at Mt. Vernon Seminary in Washington D.C. After her school years she began a long association with both the *Los Angeles Times* and the *Star News* of Pasadena, writing Society and Travel columns. During World War II she served as a translator for the government and, like so many other women of her generation, worked for Lockheed assembling airplanes. Mary Frances additionally took jobs in the advertising industry in New York, working for Saks Fifth Avenue and Helena Rubenstein Cosmetics. At the end of the war she returned to Pasadena where she became active in real estate and eventually started her own real estate brokerage business.

Mary Frances met her loving husband and sidekick, Virgil Russell, at a Rose Bowl game in 1949. They established a second residence in Kona, Hawaii, where Mary Frances was active in many civic and cultural organizations. Mary Francis was also active in many Pasadena civic organizations, including the Pasadena Beautiful Foundation, which she helped to found. She is survived by her son Stephen, daughter-in-law Julie, and granddaughter Alexandra.

### Lorance W. "Bill" Lisle '27

September 28, 2007

Fullerton, California

Bill was born in Leipsic, Ohio, but grew up primarily in Pasadena. After Poly he attended the Thacher School and got his B.A. in history from Princeton University. Starting out as a traveling salesman, he became a life-long businessman starting his own company and continuing to work with

his business ventures up until his final year. He was director of Aro Corporation, Lisle Corporation, Buckeye Stave, and National Lime & Stone. Bill and his wife Sally lived in Sierra Madre for 53 years, where he was very active in civic affairs. He was elected twice to the City Council and once as Vice Mayor. He was on the board of Scripps Home in Altadena, CA. Bill is survived by his wife, Sally Dix Lisle; four children Maria '57, Larry '62, Janet and Phil, as well as nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

**Howard Walter Wright '37**

*July 17, 2007*

*Long Beach, California*

Howard was born in Pasadena and attended Stanford University. He served as a navigator on a destroyer during World War II. He married Jane Caroline Miller in 1947 and continued a career as President of SWECO until his retirement in 1983. His life was filled with a love for the ocean and sailing. His early years were spent sailing out of Avalon and racing. He cruised the coast of California and Mexico spending lots of time anchored in Howlands Cove at Catalina Island. He was commodore of the Los Angeles Yacht Club in 1962. He was also a member of the Transpacific Yacht Club, the California Club, the Long Beach Yacht Club, and a member of the Cruising Club of America for many years. He is survived by his wife of 60 years Jane, his brother Robert '43, his three sons Howard, William, and Richard, six grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

**Kenneth M. Clark '39**

*July 5, 2007*

*Reno, Nevada*

Ken was born in Evanston, IL, graduated from Harvard University and then trained with the 10th Mountain Division of the Army during WWII. Following his service, Ken attended the University of Geneva Medical School in Geneva Switzerland. In 1949, Ken

married Odette Mahuet and brought his French bride to the United States. After various residencies, they settled in Milwaukee, WI, where they both practiced psychiatry; Ken as a child psychiatrist. Ken was known to be a champion for the underdog, much to the frequent dismay of those in power. He retired from psychiatry in 2005. Fulfilling his wish, Ken died at home surrounded by his family, caregiver Shannon, and beloved dog, Josh. Ken was preceded in death by a son, Jonathon, and wife, Odette. He is survived by his daughters, Sylvie Bramhall, California; Laura Clark, Oregon; and Valerie Walsh, Reno; and two grandchildren.

**Marguerite Singer Smith '41**

*December 2, 2006*

*Darien, Connecticut*

Mrs. Smith was born in Pittsburgh and raised in Sewickley, Pennsylvania. She also spent her early years in Honolulu, Southern California and aboard the Singer family's schooner in the Pacific. Mrs. Smith was a member of the Religious Society of Friends and lived each day of her life in the Quaker spirit of simplicity, charity and community service. She was a tireless volunteer on behalf of the blind and for many years served as the President of the Connecticut Braille Association. She was also active with the Darien chapter of the American Red Cross. She is survived by her children Susan Wedgwood, Dr. Harton S. Smith and Turner Smith. She also leaves five grandchildren.

**Arthur M. "Tony" Clifford '57**

*August 2006*

*Point Richmond, California*

In addition to being a successful investment counselor with Clifford Associates, founded by his grandfather in 1915, Tony loved fixing and building just about everything. He was a docent for the USS Hornet Museum and a member of E Clampus Vitus. But his primary passion was racing cars. He retired with a division championship

after 21 years and stayed on the track as a racing instructor. He is greatly missed by his wife Lynn, children Anne and David, daughter-in-law Alice, two granddaughters, his mother, and his sister Sally Clifford Moore '50.

**Thomas Fleming Rhodes '62**

*September 13, 2007*

*Pasadena, California*

Tom was born in Pasadena, the son of the late Elizabeth Fleming Rhodes and Kenneth Olney Rhodes '27. After Poly, Tom attended Whittier College. He was active for many years as a volunteer at Friends Outside, the American Cancer Society, I Can, and other local charities. He was an active member of the congregation at All Saints Episcopal Church and for many years an avid bowler. Though faced with a number of physical and medical challenges throughout his lifetime, Tom remained a gentle, kind, friendly soul with a wonderfully engaging laugh. He is survived by his brothers Richard and Ted, his sister Margaret, and seven nieces and nephews.

**FORMER COACH**

**Irwin Gersh**

*May 24, 2007*

*Pasadena, California*

Irwin was an assistant football coach for the offensive line from the mid-1970s through the mid-1990s. He was known for his booming voice and his generosity to Polytechnic School. Irwin touched many young men's lives, and is remembered by many of them for the nickname given to the offensive line blocking sled: "The Gersh-mobile."

# Steve Beerman: Poly's New Athletic Director

By Kevin L. Jones

On a warm and sunny Saturday afternoon in early September, the Poly campus is populated with hundreds of gridiron and aquatics fans for football, water polo, tailgating, and the continuing celebration of the institution's Centennial. Today there are grilled hamburgers! There is Panther Club Wear on sale! Both stadiums are filled to capacity with fans clad in orange! With all the events taking place on campus, one familiar face (in a new position) strides across Babcock Field towards the public address tower. Smiling, shaking hands and checking in with coaches and campus facilitators, this particular face is now in charge of the entire show. And it's a good thing!

Throughout the past few decades, the Poly athletic department thrived under the watchful eyes of Chuck Ellis. With Ellis retiring, the Panthers' sports division is now nurtured by coach, parent, and long-time faculty and P.E. department leader, Steve Beerman. Judging by his confident stride, engaging manner, and overall knowledge, he is more than ready for the challenges ahead.

Recently, Beerman shared some of his thoughts with the *Oak Tree Times* on various topics from his new job, lessons from his predecessor, and the proto-typical Poly Panther athlete.

## Why is this job so special?

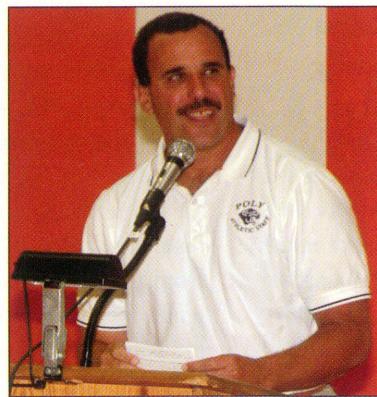
"The nicest thing about my new job is the fact that we can continue the philosophy that Chuck (Ellis) helped to cultivate."

It's clear that Steve is motivated by his desire to maintain on this idea. "That premise won't change. I get to carry it on. Plus, I'll be able to influence my own kids with it as well.

**"Excellence in sports as well as continuing the concept of the student/athlete."**

## Lessons from the taskmaster:

"Chuck (Ellis) and I worked together a long time. In those twenty-seven years, I got to watch him handle situations, coaches, parents and his kids on a daily basis. It was a real education for me, and now I get to implement those techniques. So, it's all about continuing what Chuck helped put in place."



## The Poly athlete:

"There's nothing better than being involved with a Poly kid, because they're so intelligent and they love sports! They're like sponges. Once you communicate it to them, they soak it up. Our kids get to participate in a variety of sports, even

with so many hours of study time on their hands. We encourage a healthy balance between academics and athletics. The typical Poly athlete doesn't have aspirations to play at the professional or even college level. So, it's about the opportunity to play with classmates—some of which they may have known since age 5—and more than anything enjoy their high school experience. We want our kids to remember these experiences."

## Learning from the Poly athlete:

"The kids here are very good at understanding their level and realistic expectations. They digest information you give them, and they use it to the best of their abilities while understanding themselves. It's important to understand your abilities even when we as coaches might not."

## Steve's attributes:

"In everything I've ever done with my life, I've always liked being involved in a big way. As a parent, coach and now a leader of this department, I feel I've had experiences that will benefit me. I've been that parent watching his/her kids compete. I've coached these kids, and now I can continue to lead them. Plus, our faculty and staff share the same experiences and commitment."

Beerman's message to the Panther community revolves back to the commitment to the school's values: "When someone takes a new role, you never know what direction it will go. Here, we'll simply maintain the energy, the care, the understanding our philosophy. That'll stay in tact."

## Being 'the man':

In general, the athletic director maintains and oversees the entire athletic program, ensuring that the program runs efficiently. Beerman also continues his duty as the head of P.E. "The biggest difference in my duties is the time required to help with all the athletic events. I've got so much help here, but overseeing the entire operation is unique."

Oak Tree Times Editorial Staff

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Associate Director of Communications

Sara Rodriguez '94  
Director of Alumni Relations

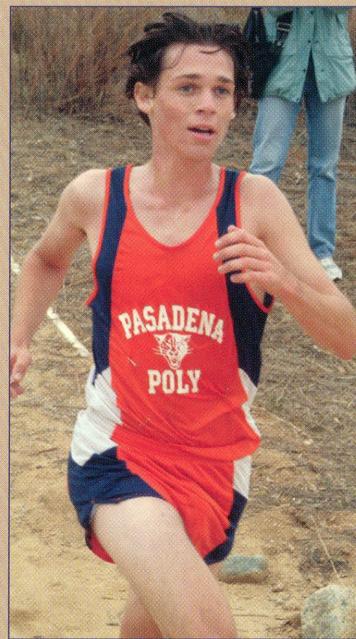
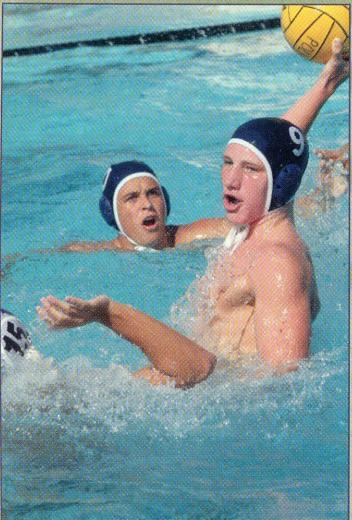
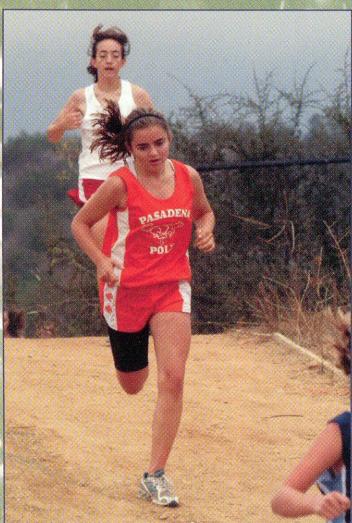
Mary Stathatos  
Assistant Director, Alumni Relations

Jennifer Godwin-Minto  
Photographer

Carol Zorn, Zorn Design  
Art Director

#### **Fall Sports 2007**

For the most comprehensive sports coverage, contact the offices of "The Paw Print," the Upper School student newspaper: 626.792.2147, extension 140; or [thepawprint@polytechnic.org](mailto:thepawprint@polytechnic.org).



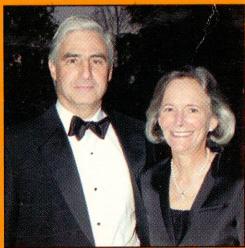


*Change Service requested*

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**In the Archives.** As Poly contemplated its Centennial celebrations, a thorough inventory of our historical resources was needed. In order to accomplish this task, Poly hired Barbara Bishop, wife of alumnus Bailey Bishop '46. With institutions like the Huntington Library and the Smithsonian in Barbara's background, we knew Poly's archives would be in good hands. Starting in the summer of 2006, Barbara came in once a week to list, identify and describe all items stored in the "historical records room," Flagler Loft, and various other campus repositories. She produced a spreadsheet document that describes Poly's collections and makes recommendations as to their future cataloguing, organization, preservation, publication, and use.

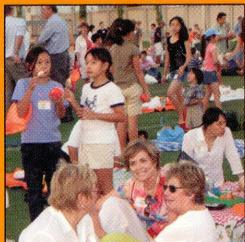
### Inside this issue:



#### FROM THE BOARD

"The Centennial has given us a wonderful opportunity to reflect on our school's founding principles and enduring values, and its community of students, faculty, staff, alumni, parents, and friends."

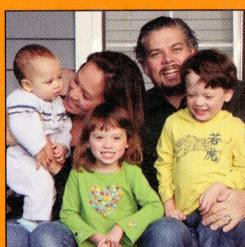
Page 3



#### A YEAR OF CELEBRATION

"Sixteen wonderful events were mounted—from the opening Rose Parade breakfast to the expansive Family Picnic on Babcock Field to the festive Birthday Gala. There was something for everyone."

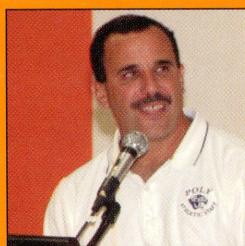
Starting on Page 4



#### ALUMNI PROFILES

Three alumni who have yet to celebrate their 20th Reunions are featured in this issue. They are at the forefront of new technology in the incredible shrinking global world.

Page 20



#### POLY'S NEW ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

"Chuck (Ellis) and I worked together a long time. In those twenty-seven years, I got to watch him handle situations, coaches, parents and his kids on a daily basis."

Page 28

*Plus New Faculty, Class Notes, and a ton of Alumni News*

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