



OakTree Times

A publication for the Polytechnic School community

SEPTEMBER 2008

What's Happening on the Poly Campus?

In this issue, we invite you to learn more about the Campus Plan that has been thoughtfully developed to improve and enhance facilities and strengthen Poly's educational program. We hope that you enjoy this next installment, focusing on the South Campus and we look forward to sharing more detailed information in subsequent issues, as plans progress.

Log On to Poly's New Website!

Poly launched a new website that captures the spirit of the school and provides a way to communicate more effectively with our alumni, current families and faculty. With secure, password-protected pages, members of the Poly community can find the news, announcements and athletic scores that matter to them. We encourage our readers to explore our programs, meet our faculty and students, and check our new events calendar for special events, sports games and student performances. Log on at to www.polytechnic.org today!





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From the Head of School

The Nature of Community

For one week in August, the Poly switchboard shuts off and the campus is ruled by our operations staff. During this year's relatively quiet period, I retreated to a corner of southeastern Massachusetts, a fishing village which is part of a township incorporated in 1664. In this close knit community of people who have occupied the same seats at the local café for years and who post plaques on their homes proclaiming the date they were built by ship captains and builders, I encounter good old-fashioned Yankee reserve. Generally, the locals don't speak unless spoken to, volunteer very little information, and know but can't explain the route from one small town to another on streets with names that change without notice. In these Yankee townships and villages, people pride themselves on the closeness of their communities and distrust anyone they haven't known since, oh, maybe first grade.

On daily walks about this tidy coastal village, I wondered about the nature of community — how one is formed, what leads to its formation, what keeps a community together, how are new members introduced and integrated? What is it like to be the newcomer or outsider? And, I thought about the importance of feeling included, actually being included, and how we include others.

This summer, I asked the faculty to read a book or visit a museum that would allow them to view the world from the perspective of another, to immerse ourselves in a different culture or world view, and to think about identity and community. There are literally thousands of novels, biographies, and travel adventures that explore these themes. I selected the five books below that include fiction and nonfiction and range across the globe and our country, and afford the chance to understand the circumstances, culture or world view of another.

River Town: Two Years on the Yangtze by Peter Hessler

Three Cups of Tea by Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Relin

The Namesake by Jhumpa Lahir

Who's Irish by Gish Jen

Black Teachers on Teaching by Michele Foster

Through a number of lenses, each of these books emphasizes the power and strength of community in the exploration of identity. What could be more relevant to those of us charged with the education of young people? What could be more universal than the desire to be included and appreciated? How does a community include and embrace the newcomer?

As we begin a new year, I am most cognizant of the need to include and make welcome those who are new to us. At Poly, we must be a close community and not a closed one so that we can care for all of our students and encourage their social, emotional and academic growth. In this school, where tradition is honored and community is celebrated, change is also embraced as evidenced in our curriculum, our practices, and our campus plans.

In the last edition of the *Oak Tree Times*, the school introduced the Campus Plan, building upon its valued strengths in order to ensure its future. In this issue, we focus on the changes to the South Campus and the benefits to our educational programs as well as the learning and social lives of our students and faculty.

—Deborah E. Reed, Head of School





Letter from the Board

A Responsibility for Sustainable Design

This summer, Poly reached a milestone in its campus planning process. In June, the conceptual designs for both the North and South Campuses were submitted to the City of Pasadena's Design Commission, which began the process of reviewing the plans and providing a forum for community input. The Design Commission's initial response to Poly's Campus Plan has been positive, and the school remains on track to begin major construction next summer.

Poly's Campus Plan is the product of years of thorough investigation, careful deliberation and community involvement. The plans for new construction and renovation of existing buildings are respectful of the school's historic architecture, while at the same time they include new design features that will more efficiently and effectively meet the needs of students and faculty—both today and tomorrow.

Sustainability is on everyone's mind these days, and it is certainly a key consideration in the Board's planning and decision-making for the future of Poly's campus. The goal of sustainable design is to construct buildings and landscaped areas in a way that will reduce the use of non-renewable resources, minimize adverse environmental impacts, and create positive relationships between the users and the natural environment. The school is fortunate to have enlisted Poly alumna and current parent Lisa Fay Matthiessen '78, an architect and sustainable design consultant, to chair the Sustainability Sub-Committee of the Board's Facilities Committee. Lisa's former classmate and fellow architect, Thomas Marble '78, also serves on this important Sub-Committee and has been a valuable member of the Facilities Committee throughout the campus planning process. Lisa and Tom's enthusiasm and involvement are inspiring. I like to think that there may be among Poly's current students two classmates who will follow Lisa and Tom's example, volunteering their expertise to Poly 30–40 years from now, so that Poly's future building plans continue to incorporate the best ideas available at the time.

You will be hearing more about Poly's sustainable design efforts in future issues of the *Oak Tree Times*. At this point, I can summarize our efforts by saying that all new construction on Poly's campus has been designed with LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) Green Building standards in mind. There are various levels of LEED certification that can be awarded, ranging from "certified" to "platinum," reflecting how many sustainable elements a facility features. With the guidance of the Sustainability Sub-Committee, the architects (HMC), and the contractor (Morley Builders), Poly is making informed decisions for each new construction project, seeking to balance environmental responsibility with educational value, as well as cost efficacy. Some projects lend themselves to multiple sustainable design features. For example, on the new Upper School science and math building, the south-facing, second-story roof will be equipped with solar panels that will provide power to the building, and other design features will reduce water usage and energy expended on heating, cooling and lighting interior spaces.

As the Campus Plan advances through the City of Pasadena's approval process, we will continue to explore ways to maximize sustainability in the construction process and the logistics of school operation during construction, and to reinforce the importance of environmental responsibility within the entire Poly community.

—Wendy Munger, President

Campus Plan: Supporting

Over the past 50 years Poly's Upper School has grown and its national reputation for excellence has soared. While the Upper School's annual graduating class has more than doubled, its classrooms and studios have not kept pace with the strength and variety of its academic and artistic programs.

As the school's leadership responds to the evolving needs and interests of our students and faculty, we want all of our facilities to support the scope and excellence of our current program and to inspire curricular development. The school proposes an ambitious capital improvement plan that will increase support for students and faculty, expand program offerings and enable major improvements to campus facilities.

As introduced in the previous edition of the *Oak Tree Times* (June 2008), Poly is again taking action to enhance the school's learning environment while remaining reflective of the school's culture and respectful of its history. In the last issue, plans for the North Campus were detailed to show the creation of two distinct campuses for Lower and Middle School students. This reconfiguration, restoration of the school's historic buildings and construction of new facilities will better meet the needs of our younger students and enhance the curriculum.

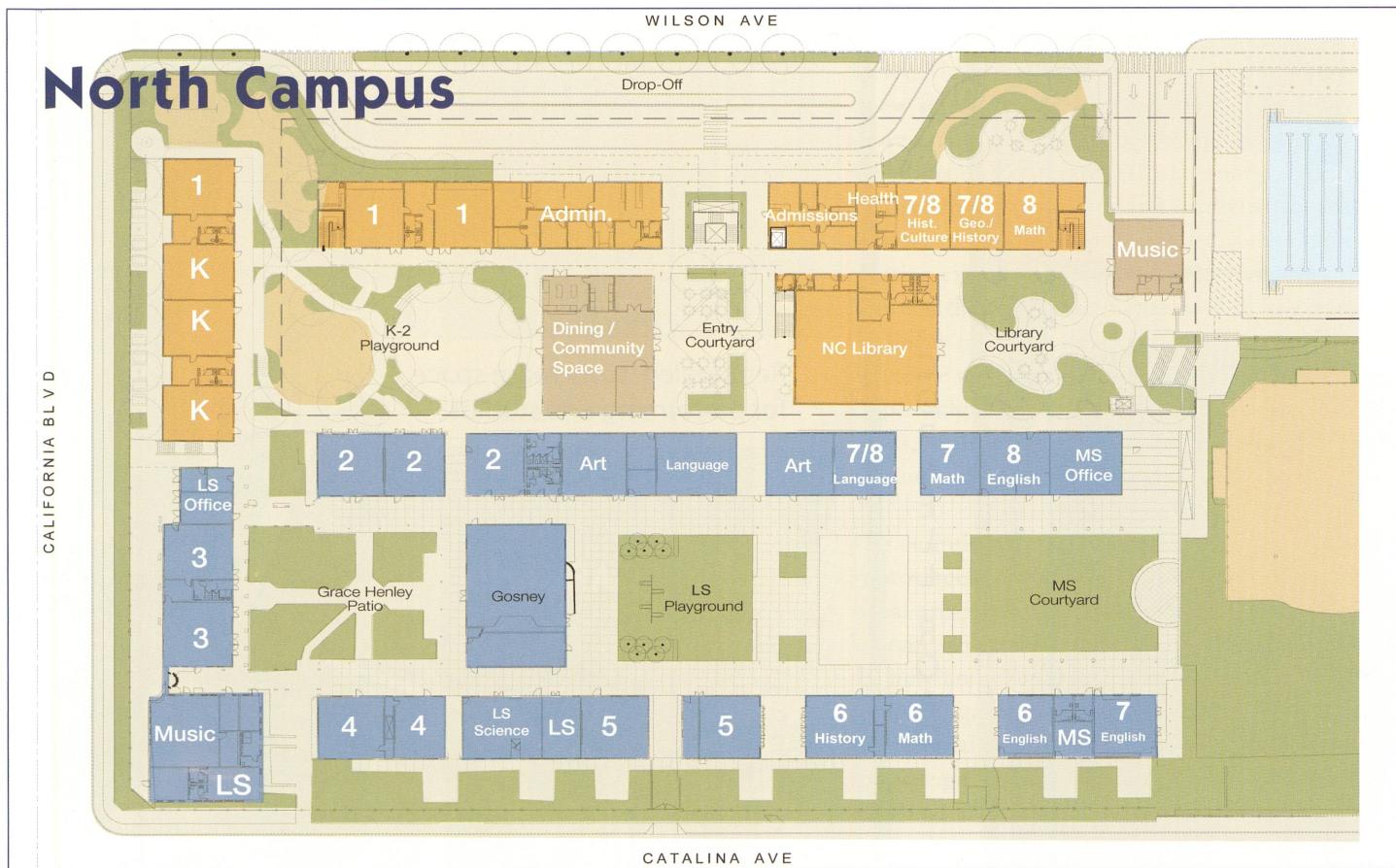
Now, we turn to the South Campus to expand upon the ways in which the Upper School experience will benefit. The capital improvement plan on the South Campus will replace well-worn facilities with state-of-the-art science labs, classrooms, and art studios. The way in which our students experience the arts and sciences will be dramatically improved. The South Campus plan also includes a redesigned Erdman Court that will offer a larger courtyard area for students, faculty and the community to gather.



South Campus, new Math, Science and Library Building, as seen from Cornell Road

TIMELINE		
	North Campus	South Campus
Summer 2008	Relocate current 5th grade building to gym lot	Remodel Hixon Building for arts classes
	Renovate two North Campus historic classrooms as prototypes	Redesign Erdman Court
	Install two portable classrooms on field for 5th grade classes	
Summer 2009	Major construction begins	Major construction begins
	Move 5th grade classes to Kressen Building	Install portable science classrooms
	Install third portable classroom on field to accommodate 1st grade classes	
	Relocate kindergarten classes to renovated Montessori School	
Summer 2010		Major construction completed
Summer 2011	Major construction completed	

Our Program Today and Tomorrow



North Campus Plan Highlights

New main entrance on Wilson Avenue

New underground parking garage

Renovated cafeteria building

New Lower & Middle School library & technology center

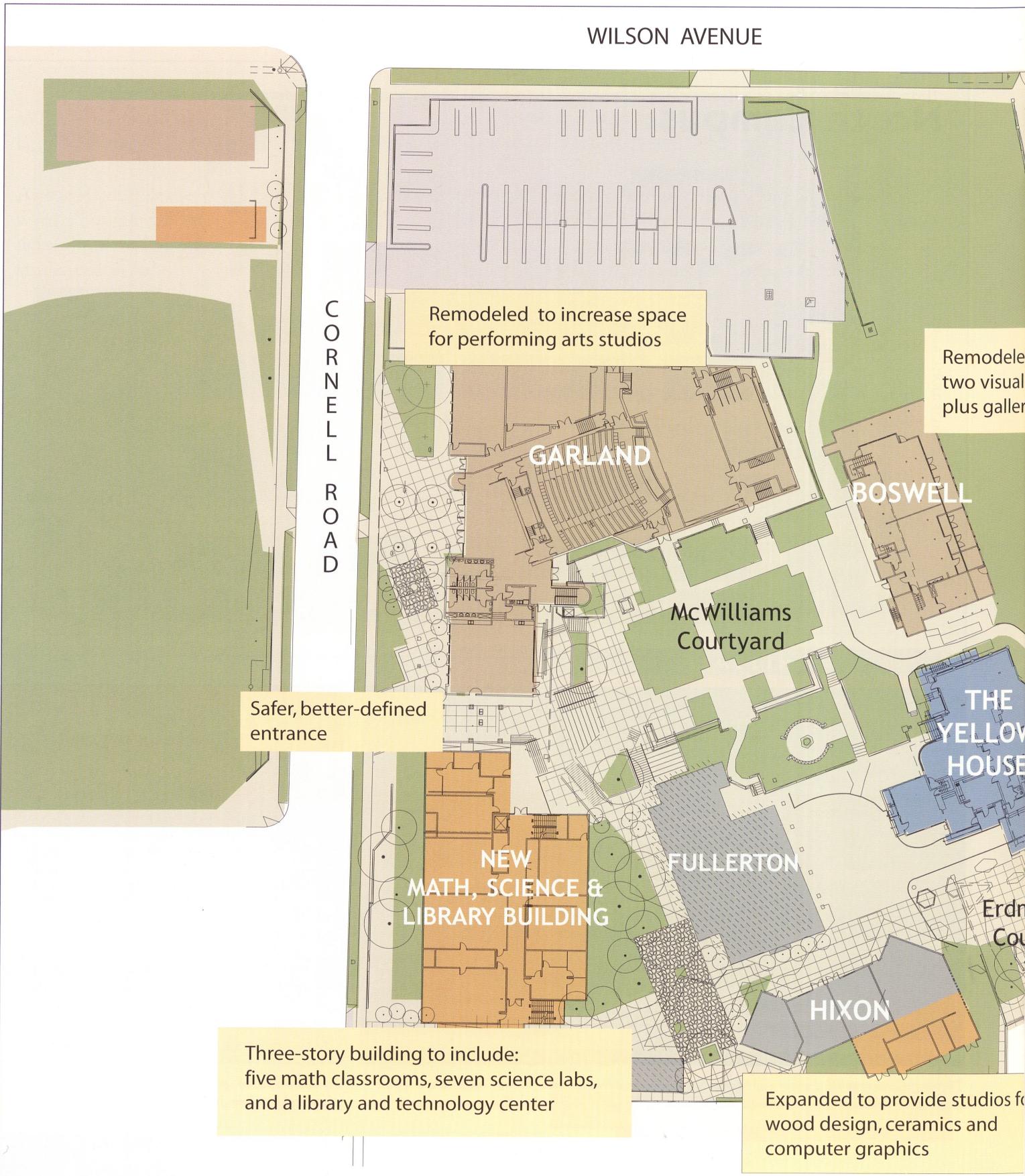
Reorganization of Lower School around three courtyards

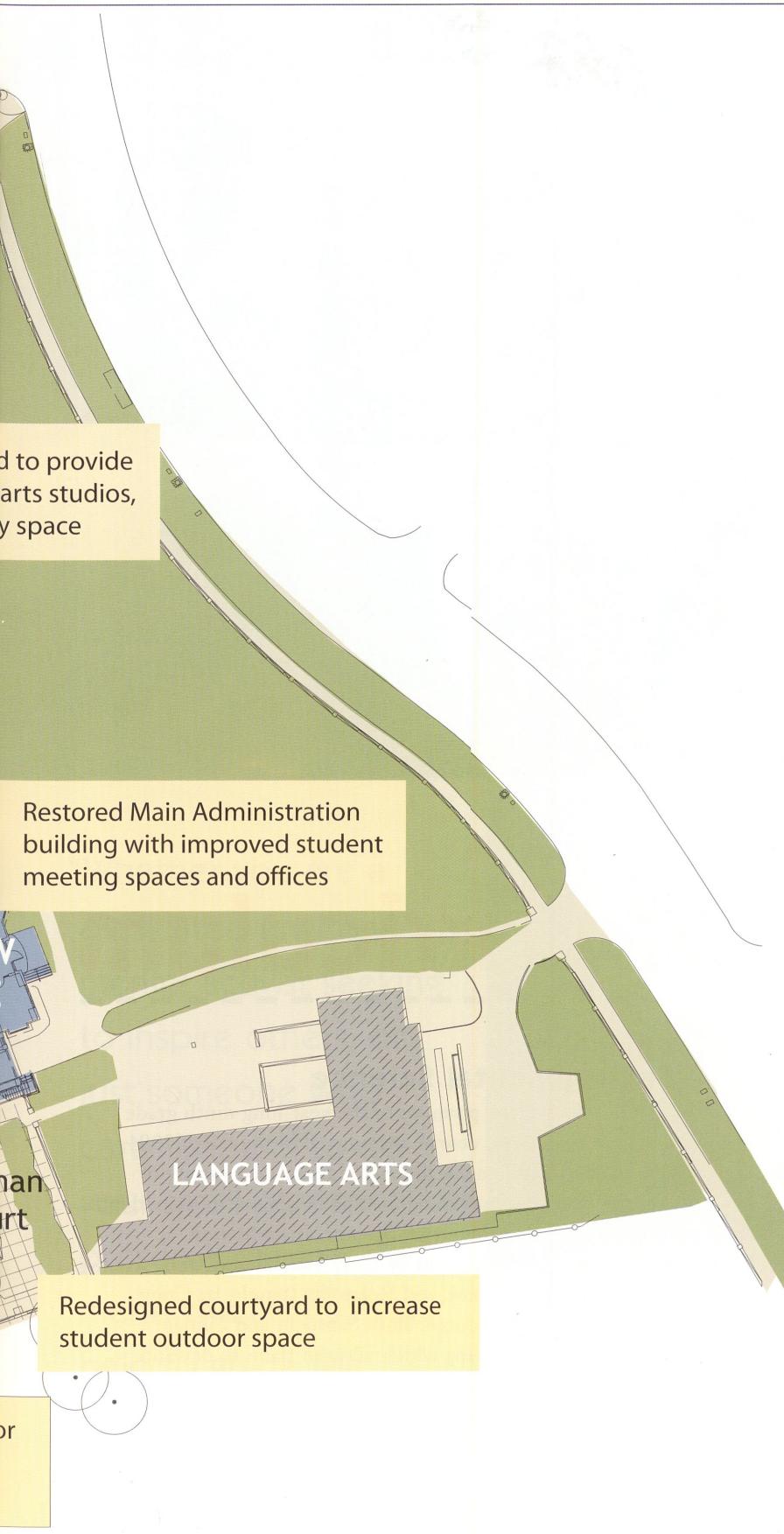
Reorganization of Middle School around two courtyards

The new entrance to the Lower and Middle Schools, as seen from Wilson Avenue, will feature a pair of two-story buildings with classrooms and administrative offices near more efficient carpool lanes.

**For more detailed information on North Campus Plans, please refer to June 2008 Oak Tree Times.*

South Campus





On the South Campus, replacing one single-story structure with an up-to-date three-story building will catalyze a range of improvements across all academic and artistic disciplines. The existing Seeley Mudd science building will be replaced by a new science and math center with two floors above grade, and a third below, on the level of McWilliams Courtyard. All classrooms, labs, and faculty offices for science and mathematics will relocate to the first two floors of this new building, creating excellent opportunities for synergy between the two departments, as well as greater flexibility in course development. The top floor will serve as the new and expanded home for the Upper School library, with increased space for books, multimedia technology, and both independent and collaborative study.

The cumulative effect of these changes will foster improvements across the Upper School campus, as visual arts studios are created in the former Boswell Library; an expanded Hixon Building becomes the new home of ceramics, woodworking, and computer graphics; Garland Center for the Arts is renovated to better serve music and theater; and foreign language classes move to the Fullerton Building, allowing the Yellow House to be restored for use by student groups and gatherings.

LEGEND

- New
- Restored
- Remodeled
- Existing



Poly administrators and architects discuss student proposals to reduce the school's environmental impact.

New Courses Reflect Evolution of Curriculum

In this issue of the *Oak Tree Times* we examine two courses that were added to the Upper School curriculum last year. Both the Environmental Science class, taught by Ellen Santochi, and the Film History and Application class, taught by Tina Cocomelli, represent carefully planned curricular innovations that not only address an evolution in Poly's understanding of what high school students want to know, but also reflect the Poly faculty's continually evolving professional growth.

Environmental Science

One of the promises of the year-long ninth grade Conceptual Physics course, introduced in the fall of 2004, was that it would enable the introduction of a variety of electives for seniors wishing to explore science in more depth. Accordingly, Environmental Science, Introduction to Forensic Science (taught by Patti Tsai Ulmer), and Cosmology, Astronomy, and Relativity (taught by Craig Fletcher) were introduced. Both Santochi and Ulmer received special funding which allowed them to develop these new courses, investigate what other schools were doing, and research best practices over the past two summers.

The major topics in Environmental Science certainly attest to its global approach: human populations, ecosystems, biodiversity, agriculture and food production, water supply, the atmosphere and global warming, and



“Whether you are a dedicated environmental activist seeking to inspire others, or just someone who cares enough to do your small part to preserve the environment, this course will help to guide the contributions you make as a citizen of the planet.”

the economics of environmental issues. Santochi emphasizes to her students that “whether you are a dedicated environmental activist seeking to inspire others, or just someone who cares enough to do your small part to preserve the environment, this course will help to guide the contributions you make as a citizen of the planet.”

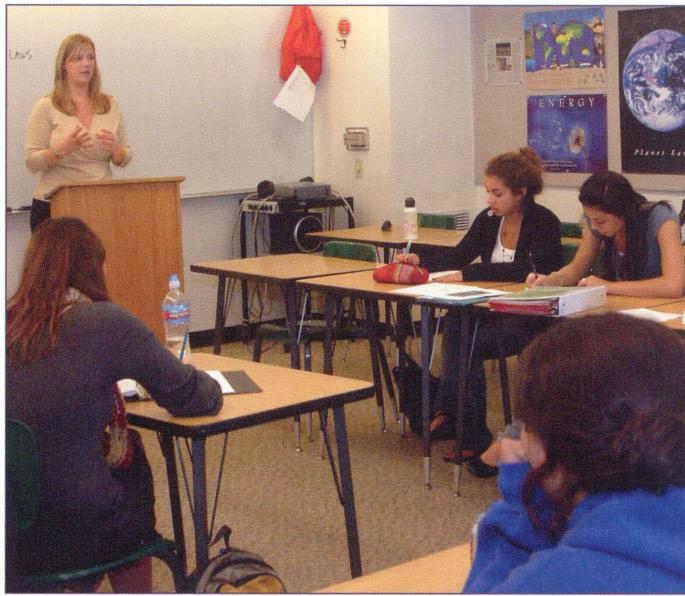
Class discussions and lab work included some fascinating “real world” issues, from a discussion of pesticide use in Rachel Carson’s *Silent Spring*, to a case study of the birds of Mono Lake, to deformed frog studies, to a case study of Hurricane Katrina. Santochi also brought in guest speakers, including her own daughter, Claire Hervey Collins ’92, an environmental lawyer who spoke to the class about the complexities of environmental law and water resource allocation in California.

When the *Oak Tree Times* spoke with Santochi about the Environmental Science class, it was clear that there was one aspect of the class that she was particularly excited about: the Environmental Impact projects. Santochi was aware that, as part of Poly’s campus planning process, the school’s Board and administration were looking into “sustainable” alternatives in building materials and practices. So, she approached Head of School Debbie Reed and asked what she thought about the idea of having students draft proposals to reduce Poly’s environmental impact. Reed was very supportive of the idea and invited Santochi’s students to present their findings to representatives of the Sustainability Task Force of the Board’s Buildings and Grounds Committee.

During their senior year, members of the Class of 2008 presented their proposals to the Sustainability Group. Chloe Gaffney and J.P. Alanis proposed reducing water usage by installing Zeroflush urinals in the men’s bathrooms; Lauren Garner and Noor Youness proposed converting to “Green Energy” supplied by the City of Pasadena; Alex Ketchum and Caitlin Walsh proposed paper recycling and reduction of paper usage; and Charlie Hanna and Gracelyn Bateman proposed installing solar panels on the roofs of any future science buildings.



Mrs. Santochi with members of her Environmental Science class.



At the end, Reed told the students how impressed she was by their ability to consider the practical as well as the philosophical aspects of their proposals. At least one of the students revealed that she had taken the class because she was, in fact, interested in becoming an environmental scientist.

“They are serious about learning what they can do personally to preserve the environment and how they can influence others to make positive choices.”

After the semester ended, Santochi said, “It has been renewing and exciting to step out of my ‘biology’ box and teach a broader range of subjects. Environmental science encompasses so many different academic fields that it offers an ideal opportunity for interdisciplinary learning and can capture the interests of a diverse group of students. The enthusiasm, dedication, and focus of my students were the most rewarding aspects of the class for me. They are serious about learning what they can do personally to preserve the environment and how they can influence others to make positive choices. I loved teaching this class, and I can’t wait to teach it again this fall!”



Film History and Application

In this year-long survey course, developed and taught by Performing Arts teacher Tina Cocumelli, students trace the development of film from the birth of moving pictures to the present day. In addition, they study film as both an art form and as a means of communication. “In this course,” Cocumelli explains, “students are taught to ‘read’ a film. By studying the traditions of filmmaking—especially the narrative traditions shared with literature—and examining how films often reflect the times and conditions in which they are made, students also get a sense of how motion pictures sometimes help shape attitudes and values in society.”

In developing the course, Cocumelli worked closely with Alice Cotti in Poly’s College Counseling Office to obtain University of California approval. After following an exhaustive process to comply with UC admissions requirements, Cocumelli and Cotti were pleased to find that the course content and key assignments met the California Visual and Performing Arts Standards.

Once the course was approved by the University of California, Cocumelli applied for and was awarded a semester sabbatical, during which she took courses at the UCLA Film School in preparation for the class. “I had the amazing experience of taking a class from Jonathan Kuntz, a widely respected expert on Hollywood cinema and the development of the studio system,” Cocumelli says. “And the Global Cinema course I took exposed me to the films and critical analysis of films from Asia, Africa, and Latin America.”



About the Course

In the Film History and Application course, students consider the social, cultural and political contexts in which the cinema developed, as well aesthetic considerations in the area of form, style, and genre. “Film opens up a range of political, cultural and artistic issues,” Cocomelli observes, adding that “it is almost unique among the arts in its ability to encompass both the ‘high’ and ‘popular’ aspects of the form, sometimes within the same film!”

The historical periods that students study include the birth of cinema (1880-1919), the late “Silent” era (1919-1929), development of sound cinema (1926-1945), post-WWII (1946-1960), and contemporary cinema (1960-present). In addition to reading, critical writing, and lecture, students view, discuss, and analyze films and get a taste of performance applications through screenwriting, story boarding, set design, camera work, directing, and developing short film projects.

Thanks to the generosity of donors to the Visiting Artist Fund, students have the opportunity to hear from a wide range of film experts. For example, last year, former Poly parent and established screenwriter, playwright and critic, Hoyt Hilsman, worked with students on screenwriting and film reviews. Poly alumnus and current parent, Michael Babcock '76 provided his technical expertise to students as they completed their final film projects.

“Teaching the course provides an incredible opportunity to connect with the students around a medium they use consistently and understand well,” Cocomelli comments. “They bring their intellect and knowledge of history to the material—it’s such an interesting and exciting way to explore the effect that a particular history and culture have on society, not to mention the sophisticated and ever-evolving technology of film. It’s a real privilege to teach this class.”

For film buffs curious about the syllabus, here is a sample list of films viewed in this course:

Introduction:

Casablanca (1942)

Invention of the Cinema:

Leaving the Factory (1895)

The Great Train Robbery (1903)

A Trip to the Moon (1902)

International Expansion of the Cinema—German Expressionism:

Metropolis (1927)

The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari (1920)

Late Silent Era:

The Kid (1921)

Way Down East (1920)

Sunrise (1927)

Development of Sound Cinema:

Singin’ in the Rain (1953)

Hollywood Studio System—Genre Innovations:

Social Problem Film—I Am a Fugitive

From a Chain Gang (1932)

Western—Stagecoach (1939)

Film Noir—Double Indemnity (1944)

Scarlet Street (1945)

Musicals—Gold Diggers of 1935 (1935)

Cinematography—Citizen Kane (1941)

Horror—Frankenstein (1931)

Screwball Comedy—

The Philadelphia Story (1940)

Adam’s Rib (1949)

Gangsters—Scarface (1932)

War Film—The Best Years of Our Lives (1946)



Freshman Dean
Charity Hume helps the ninth graders adjust to course selection and extracurricular options in the Upper School. Parents have plenty of opportunities to connect with the

freshman dean in learning about what to expect during the next four years. In the spring of ninth grade, the dean offers curriculum information with the help of college counselors and key academic department faculty to explain enrollment in Advanced Placement and honors courses for 10th grade.



Sophomore Dean
Garine Zetlian is in her third year as 10th grade dean in addition to teaching AP U.S. History since 1999. She is a valuable resource to sophomores who may not have chosen an

extracurricular area of interest. Zetlian holds an information session for parents to learn more about Poly's offerings, academic requirements, and the beginning of the college search process. This year Zetlian joins the college counseling team to work with a group of ten seniors on their school selection and application process.



Junior Dean
Doug Jolly, 11th grade dean, has a particularly broad perspective on Poly life. In addition to teaching U.S. History and serving on the Judiciary Committee, Jolly coaches boys' soccer

and is an assistant coach for the cross country team. As the junior class dean, Jolly has a close eye on course scheduling, academic performance, summer enrichment options, and standardized testing beginning with the PSAT in the fall of junior year. He also hosts an evening session with college counselors for juniors and their parents to learn about the college application timeline and counseling process.

Upper School Deans Offer Web of Support

By: Amanda Edwards-Shuckhart '92

Over the last five years, Poly's Upper School students have been enjoying a new advantage in navigating the choppy waters of a high-achieving teenage life. In readily apparent and some more hidden ways, a team of deans support and guide 9th through 12th graders in managing their academic, extracurricular and social lives—all the way through college admission.

It is a boost anyone could use. As Junior Dean Doug Jolly puts it, "Any problem can be overwhelming when you add it to all the other things going on in your life as a teenager. We're trying to provide a web of support for students."

Grace Hamilton held the first post of academic dean then ushered in additional deans when she was Upper School Director. After looking at other schools and their administrative structures, Hamilton found a good fit for Poly: a dean at each level would not only oversee academic counseling for each student, but would also work with a family to resolve academic problems. To be an effective resource, Hamilton says, "Deans have their fingers on the pulse of the students in their given class, chaperoning social events, going on class trips, helping to find summer opportunities and plan course schedules."

With that structure in place, the dean role has evolved to meet new needs and a larger student body. "Now with 90 to 95 students per graduating class, the way Poly does business is growing and changing," Upper School Director Jamie Neilson explains. For example, many courses, that were once the domain of a single teacher, are now being taught in sections by multiple teachers. The deans help to synthesize parent and faculty communication, making important connections early. "Parents need to know they'll hear from us in a consistent way, and we need to keep lines of communication open with them," Neilson says.

Each grade comes with unique hurdles, so a single "adult in charge" to keep track of those demands and know the kids who are facing them can truly alleviate stress. When a new ninth grade class moves into the Upper School, the dean for that level knows about the middle schools they come from, whether Poly or elsewhere. The type of language instruction they have had, the math they have mastered—this knowledge makes the dean a valuable resource in the acclimation process.

The benefits of a dean for each grade are cumulative as kids progress through the Upper School. "Our class deans have done such a great job of getting to know the kids, offering a safe place with an adult who is not graduating them," Senior Dean and College Counselor Alice Cotti emphasizes. "By their senior year, we have so much to draw on in guiding them."

Other than gleaning insight from teachers, student support professionals, and each other about a particular student or challenge, the deans draw from regular interaction with the students. They meet individually with each class member at least once and as often as weekly, but they might learn the most by talking with kids at lunch, joining them on outdoor trips, and watching them in plays and sports.

Deans work in connecting offices and meet twice a week in different configurations. Upper School Director Jamie Neilson says he talks with the deans, two adjoining grade levels at a time, for case management alone. "We plan action steps and follow-up goals for kids who might be struggling," he

describes. Full deans' meetings include the Dean of Students and Director of Student Activities as well. The whole team manages course scheduling and approvals along with a variety of topics that bring students' "big picture" issues to light.

Neilson clarifies the group's goal: "While the traditional structure of department heads keeps a very organized, vertical plan for what students can expect, in each discipline, the deans are charged with keeping a horizontal view ... what is it like for the kids to be living their school life?"

Being informed enough to help a student who might be off track in one area is a crucial reason for deans to be engaged in campus life. "Sometimes putting the puzzle together can be tough," Junior Dean Doug Jolly says of problem-solving with kids and their families. "We want to have the answer, but it may have to develop over time." Those times of struggle can be rewarding, ultimately. "Being a dean is often my favorite part of working at Poly," Jolly says.

"Any problem can be overwhelming when you add it to all the other things going on in your life as a teenager. We're trying to provide a web of support for students."

Junior Dean Doug Jolly

Beyond trouble-shooting, a dean's insight helps students develop goals and reach them over their four years in the Upper School. Sophomore Dean Garine Zetlian observes, "The great balance we look for is to help kids get engaged and excited about what they're doing *now*, then add in the view toward where they'll be going next."

Poly's strength in preparing students for college clearly comes from much more than a rigorous academic program. With the added support from deans, kids are encouraged to pursue their unique academic path, outside interests, summer experiences away from school, and social lives. "Being allowed to be comfortable in their own skin is essential," Alice Cotti says of the college preparation process. "Our kids tend to embrace the different and the eclectic in each other...and when parents also come in and say 'We just want them to be happy,' a world of opportunity opens up."

That notion has become reality for senior after senior who next must struggle with more college choices than they had counted on. Recent graduate Jake Jones attests, "I can honestly say that without Poly's deans, college might not have been possible for me. They pushed me to take risks and go outside my comfort zone. Besides being the best counselors, they are fun and interesting people outside the office as well."



Senior Deans

Renee Bischoff and Alice Cotti became senior deans as a natural extension of their work as college counselors in the Upper School, already being immersed in the social, extracurricular and academic needs of the senior class. Each supervise a group of seniors through the entire college application process. They meet frequently with individual students to conduct mock interviews, refine college lists, discuss essays, and more. Poly's unusually low student-to-counselor ratio gives the school's seniors and their parents a wonderful level of support and attention through the busy, demanding final year.



Dean of Students

Brendan McGrail has a unique oversight role on the team of deans. As Dean of Students, he manages student life on campus and supports the Upper School Director in attendance and

discipline issues by heading the Judiciary Committee. McGrail's position ranges from helping students with time management skills, overseeing the advisory group program, to finding ways to think about disciplinary action while upholding and promoting the values and mission of the school. As a faculty member, McGrail teaches U.S. History and coaches varsity football and baseball.



Director of Student Activities

Laurianne Williams works closely with the deans in her role as scheduler and activity planner for the Upper School. Aside from teaching math and coaching volleyball, Williams is the faculty liaison for the Associated Student Body leadership and supervises students in planning dances and assemblies.

Jenn Foley Middle School Director

Amanda Edwards-Shuckhart '92



So far it seems only one part of Jenn Foley's background might not jibe with Poy's middle schoolers: "I'm a huge fan of the Celtics and the Patriots," Foley admits of her East Coast sports team loyalties. Having grown up in New Hampshire and other parts of New England, she can't get behind the Lakers, but she wholeheartedly embraces Poly's Middle School program.

Foley's rich background in independent schools includes three years as the Middle School Head at Gordon School in East Providence, RI, and, most recently, Associate Head of Admissions at North Hollywood's Campbell Hall. Before holding these administrative positions, Foley taught at many grade levels, including English and History for sixth, seventh and eighth graders in New England. She also earned a master's degree in education at Columbia Teachers' College.

"I love kids this age and always have," Foley declares of middle schoolers' unique idealism and energy. "They want to change the world. They are risk-takers and problem-solvers. And when they hit a bump, tomorrow is a new day."

According to Foley's early perceptions, "Poly really honors this age group." The focus on community outreach and the BLOCK program, which offers longer periods to tackle a specific topic or multi-disciplinary project, especially resonates with Foley's idea of what works in Middle School. And with the new Campus Plan, she imagines great opportunities including better library use, art classes enhanced by geographic proximity, and improved community life centering around the new dining and gathering space.

As for her plans for overseeing that progress, Foley looks forward to observing and listening a lot during her early months here. A community with such diverse arenas of involvement as Poly's is especially energizing to a leader with wide ranging interests of her own. Foley declares a love for languages and is thrilled by the Mandarin Chinese offering new to sixth and seventh grades this year. "I'm very interested in 21st-century learning," she says. "In other words, how does the curriculum get students ready for life beyond Poly? The Middle School has focused well on answering that question with the Global Initiatives Program, great use of technology in the classroom, and a strong multicultural component." Foley imagines going even further, perhaps putting her affinity for plant life to work in a community gardening BLOCK to explore sustainability issues.

In the meantime, students will find they can overlook Foley's East Coast loyalties when they witness her enthusiasm for sports in general (she plays in a women's basketball league in Burbank) and her fearlessness on outdoor trips (she grew up paying in the New England woods, swimming in ponds and catching snakes). Another advantage in working with middle schoolers: Foley lives with a teenager, her 13-year-old daughter, Katie.

Even just a week after moving into her new office, Foley's appreciation for what Poly already does was apparent. Having worked with kids in so many environments, from a New England boarding school to a trip through Alabama with a civil rights class, she offers genuine accolades: "My sense is that I am inheriting a very strong Middle School."

"I love kids this age and always have," Foley declares of middle schoolers' unique idealism and energy. "They want to change the world.

They are risk-takers and problem-solvers. And when they hit a bump tomorrow is a new day."

New Faculty & Staff



Jessica Berger is joining Poly as a Development Assistant in the Development office. Jessica has a B.A. in Psychology from Wittenberg University and an M.S.W. from Cleveland State University. Helping her make a decision to work in schools has been Jessica's work as a full time graduate assistant for a recent Fulbright Scholar and professor; intern for U.S. Representative Dennis Kucinich; researcher, editor of book, and counselor of tsunami victims in Kerala, India; and fundraiser for The Machao Orphanage Foundation in Kenya, Africa.



Cindy Brumfiel joined the Development Department this past June. She is overseeing the establishment of a comprehensive donor relations program. Cindy received her B.A. in Communications from the University of Colorado, Boulder. After college, she worked in the Affiliate Relations Department at Fox Sports Net in Los Angeles and San Francisco. Cindy comes to Poly from

the Dunn School in Los Olivos, CA where among her duties she wrote weekly outreach newsletters, coordinated parent and alumni events, and assisted with the girls' varsity tennis team.



Angela Cruz will be assisting Kay Lee as her Kindergarten Associate. Angela comes to us from The Colonial House Preschool in South Pasadena where she assisted and taught children from two through five years old. Angela has a B.S. from Cal State LA and is enrolled in an elementary education credential program. A graduate of Flintridge Sacred Heart, Angela has long known about

Poly and looks forward to taking the next step in her professional life here.



Jesse Cowling recently joined the Development Department as our Campaign Coordinator. Jesse has a B.A. in Film and Rhetoric Studies from Whitman College in Walla Walla, WA. She then moved to New York and earned a M.A. in Cinema Studies from New York University. After working for the New York City Police Foundation, she decided to make a jump from the arts to fundraising.



Ann Diederich, new to Pasadena, will serve two roles as the Associate Director of Admissions and the Spanish teacher at the Upper School. At the Packer Collegiate Institute, located in Brooklyn, NY, where she most recently worked, Ann taught Spanish and French, chaired the World Language Department. She has also led teacher workshops and supervised summer academic programs in France and Spain with the Rassias program at Dartmouth College. A graduate of Milton Academy and a Fulbright Scholar in Spain, Ann has a B.S. from Georgetown University, and an M.A. from Middlebury. An outdoor enthusiast and an avid traveler, Ann will surely find California to her liking.

Carmie Rodriguez

New Role at Poly



Poly has long been a community that thrives on the challenges of new experiences. Students are constantly motivated to participate in a variety of activities and disciplines in their quest for knowledge. Faculty members are also encouraged to focus on their own professional development and are inspired by this culture of possibility.

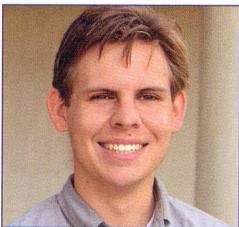
Those of you who have known Carmie Rodriguez over the years will not be surprised by her interest in growing professionally. In fact, this desire fits the pattern of her career during which she has taught Spanish in all three divisions, led a department, served as the Director of Admissions, started our SEP Program and has been the Director of the Middle School for the past 20 years. As she takes on the role of Assistant Head for Academic Affairs at Poly, she looks forward to working with the Faculty Curriculum Committee, overseeing student support and health services, and to supporting all faculty with particular attention to the orientation of new faculty and the coordination of an evaluation process that fosters professional growth for all teachers.

"Having worked in each of the three schools at various points in my life here at Poly, I have had the chance to see how each school contributes to the strength of the students we graduate. The opportunity to now work with all three divisions at the same time is a joy and a blessing."

New Faculty & Staff



Lindsay "Haddie" Dowson, our math Teaching Fellow, grew up on the Santa Catalina School campus where her father teaches math. Haddie holds a B.A. from Grinnell College where she was the captain of both the women's basketball and golf teams. During the summers, Haddie has employed all of her talents by coaching teams, tutoring math, teaching dance, and assisting an athletic trainer. We look forward to Haddie beginning her educational career on our campus.



Adam Feldmeth '04 will be teaching during the first semester in the Visual Arts Department. When the need for a long term substitute in Middle and Upper School art became known in July, Adam was an obvious choice. A graduate of CalArts where he studied the philosophy of education and theoretical aesthetics, Adam was teaching ceramics in Poly's summer program and impressing students, teachers, and administrators alike with his abilities.



Ellen Ruth Flores will be providing administrative support in our Health Office. Ellen comes to us with an extensive background in health office administration--working as a Medical Committee Coordinator for CIGNA Health Care, and as a Programs Assistant for Patient and Family Services at Verdugo Hills Hospital. Ellen took Health Science courses at Glendale Community College, Los Angeles City College, and Adventist University.



Launching our Chinese Program is **Minhua Gu**, whose path to Poly began in Shanghai where she earned a B.A. in Management at the Shanghai Institute of Foreign Trade. Determined to teach in the United States, Minhua applied to graduate programs in the US and was admitted to and earned an M.A. in Teaching at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Most recently, she developed the Chinese program for the Lower School at Spartanburg Day School in South Carolina. In addition to studying languages and traveling, Minhua enjoys learning about different cuisines and studying different ingredients/spices.



Charity Hume, new to Pasadena, joins Poly as the Ninth Grade Dean and English teacher. Charity has taught English and Creative Writing at independent schools in New York for over twenty five years. A former director of the NYU Graduate Program in Creative Writing, Charity has also served as an administrator Allen-Stevenson School where she was the chair of the English and Humanities, and at the Riverdale Country School, where she was a college counselor. Charity holds a B.A. in English from Yale and an M.A. in English and Creative Writing from NYU, where she was a Graduate Teaching Fellow.



Mariya Kupchyan will be responsible for administrative duties within the College Counseling Department. Mariya comes to us from California State University, Northridge where she served as an undergraduate student advisor for the EOP/ARC department. Mariya has a B.A. in Sociology from California State University, Northridge and is presently working on her M.A. in Educational Psychology with emphasis in Development, Learning and Instruction.



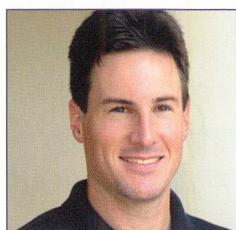
Tiffany LaBarbera, who last spring helped out in the College Counseling Office, will this year fill in for Cynthia Crass who is on sabbatical. From her family's involvement in entertainment to her own active participation, the performing arts have always been a part of Tiffany's life. Tiffany holds a B.F.A. in Theater Arts from the University of Louisville and is pursing an advanced degree in theater education. Her professional experience includes coaching voice, instructing piano, and directing children and teen's musical theatre.



Rosa Puma Torres, is a familiar face around campus, as Rosa was the long-term substitute Spanish teacher in the Lower School during Ellie Artiz's maternity leave last year. We are delighted that Rosa is with us full-time teaching 3rd, 4th and 7th Grade Spanish. After receiving her B.A. and M.A. from UC Irvine, Rosa taught at the college level and with the La Canada Unified School District.



Amanda Tavel, who is a graduate of Trevor Day School, a NYC independent school, joins Poly as the Middle School English Teaching Fellow. She earned a B.A. (cum laude) in American Literature (high departmental honors), with a concentration in Creative Writing from Middlebury College, where she was nominated by faculty to be a peer writing tutor and assist other students with their course work. This past summer, Amanda was a participant in the Collegiate School Teaching Institute in NYC, a two-week fellowship designed to introduce and mentor first and second year teachers in independent schools.



Rick Thompson '98 has always been drawn towards a career in teaching. However, before committing to education as a profession, Rick earned a B.S. in Electrical Engineering at Columbia University, earned a J.D from NYU's School of Law, and worked in patent litigation. Last year, Rick taught chemistry at Loyola High School and coached JV soccer and their mock trial team. Rick returns to Poly to teach Upper School math and to coach in our soccer and baseball programs.



Dominika Watson has joined the Upper School math department. After earning a B.S. with Honors in Chemical Engineering from Caltech, Dominika tried her hand in engineering before turning to teaching at Garfield High School in Los Angeles where she taught math to students from grades 9 -12. In addition to teaching, Dominika will coach both boys and girls tennis.



Derek Weisel is the proverbial versatility player who has taught conceptual and advanced physics, mathematics, and general chemistry while working at Penn Charter School in Philadelphia and at Los Alamos High School in New Mexico. Derek has a B.S. in Physics and an M.Ed in Math Education from Widener University and an M.S. in Physics from UC Irvine. This year at Poly, Derek will teach math.

New Faculty & Staff

PolyConnect

By: Justin Worland '10*

In 2007, the Alumni Association launched PolyConnect, a program to link current Poly students with mentors in a field of the student's choosing. According to John Horn '78, the Poly alumnus who first envisioned the program, "The idea was to marry Poly's vast and diverse circle of adults—alumni, parents, friends—with current students and recent graduates in a way that would be intellectually and personally meaningful to everyone involved."

Alumni from around the country, and even some who reside abroad, have offered to serve as mentors in a variety of fields that range from religion to acoustics to banking. The number of students choosing to participate in the program has also increased significantly since the program's inception.

Adela Wu '09 was one of many students participating this summer. After hearing about PolyConnect during a college counseling meeting, Wu expressed her interest in being connected with a mentor in the healthcare profession. The program, administered by the Alumni Office, linked her with Stefani Takahashi '85 who runs Camp Wonder, a weeklong summer camp for children with genetic skin diseases.

Wu's PolyConnect experience extended far beyond simply learning about her field of interest. "I was blown away by the overwhelming warmth and closeness of the Camp Wonder community; everyone was quite literally part of one huge family...I grew very attached to several of my campers by the end of the week and learned a lot about human beauty from them," said Wu when asked about her week at the camp.

This sentiment coincides with what John Horn sees as one of the goals of the program: "I never looked at PolyConnect as some sort of job fair. I see it as an opportunity to put like-minded people in the same room, to give Poly students a chance to see what kind of possibilities exist beyond (and sometimes during) high school and college."

Tina Thomson, a Poly parent and owner of what she describes as "a boutique public relations agency," offered an internship to Chloe Gaffney '08 through the program. Thomson sees mentoring as an important experience for anyone who has just entered or is looking to enter a field: "I'm a big believer in mentoring. There is a mentor of some kind behind every accomplished person. Somewhere, somehow, someone made an impact... I'm fortunate to have had several mentors in my life and I understand the value."

The internship included a wide range of responsibilities that allowed Gaffney to learn more about the intricacies of public relations. Her assignments included writing press releases, media alerts, press event coordination, media follow up and booking travel. Gaffney expressed her excitement about the experience and said that the internship was a great "opportunity to learn more about my field of interest and get a head-start on gathering the experience needed to land a successful PR job in the future."

Anyone interested in participating in the program, either as a mentor or a student participant, should contact the Alumni Office to learn more.

*Justin, a junior, serves on the Alumni Board as one of two Student Representatives. The Alumni Board added the Student Representative position to gain a better perspective of current student life at Poly.

Camp Wonder

By: Adela Wu '09



Interested in the possibility of gaining experience in the medical field, I heard about an opportunity through PolyConnect, to work as a counselor at a camp for children afflicted with severe skin diseases. I was connected with Dr. Stefani Tomono Takahashi '85, who is the Medical Co-Director at Camp Wonder. I became both extremely excited and extremely nervous since I've never been a camp counselor, much less a camper, before.

One of my eight campers was named Kat. Kat has Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB), a rare genetic skin disorder that causes the skin to be especially fragile and liable to blister. I accompanied her to the "Med Shed" almost daily for new bandaging and baths that were given usually after she swam in the pool. Witnessing the daily pain and fear that she endures in order for her to participate in activities was an emotional and uplifting experience.

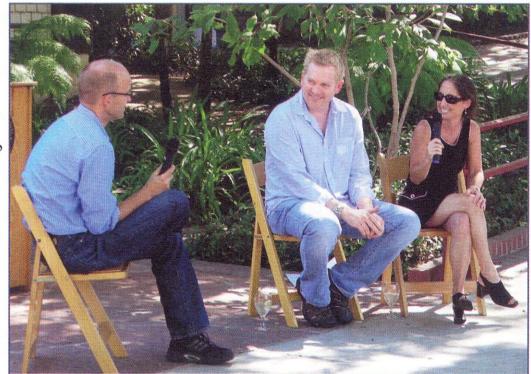
I was constantly reminded of the importance of how a warm, caring environment can make even the most uncomfortable situation better and how smiles and laughter can help ease most pain.

Building relationships with campers like Kat, helped me realize that, while I may be giving my campers care and boosts of self-confidence, I have also learned and received so much from them in return. I saw Kat's daily cheerfulness and optimism in spite of her debilitating disease. I received hugs and beautiful artwork from Sirena, a first-time camper in my cabin with severe eczema. I saw everyday the small but significant gestures that mark Camp Wonder as a close-knit community: people giving up their places in line for another, people conscientiously scooting multiple chairs out of the way for wheelchairs to pass. I learned to see the real beauty of human compassion that goes deeper than the beauty of superficial, "skin-deep" appearance.



Summer Events

Over 100 guests gathered for an afternoon at the movies on August 10th, to support alumnus and current parents Randall Miller '80 and Jody Savin's newest release, *Bottle Shock*. Following the showing at the Laemmle Playhouse 7 Theaters, guests returned to Poly for a wine tasting and Q&A with the filmmakers. The planning of this event was truly a group effort—Marie Femino Queen '85, current parent and Alumni Board President, took the lead in orchestrating the event; John Horn '78, current parent and Entertainment writer for the Los Angeles Times, moderated the Q&A; and Linda Dean, current parent and wine distributor, donated the wines for the event and arranged for the blind tasting. Thank you to all!



Many members of the Poly community filled Vroman's in Pasadena on August 14th, to hear alumnus David Ebershoff '87 give a reading of his newest novel, *The 19th Wife*.

Alumni Association Welcomes the Class of 2008



New Fund Created to Honor Sarah Gilfillan '99

The Sarah Gilfillan '99 Global Studies Fund was recently created by the Gilfillan family to support faculty education which will enable curricular development relating to global issues and programs. Those who knew Sarah will immediately recognize the thoughtful connection between her innate curiosity and passion for other cultures and the Fund's purpose. This endowment fund is truly a wonderful, fitting tribute to her legacy. To learn more about Sarah, read on....

About Sarah.....

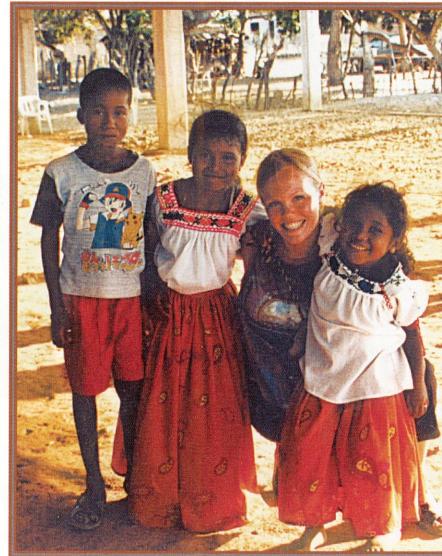
Independent, determined and gifted, Sarah Gilfillan was an adventurer who pushed herself outside what was familiar to explore the culture of other countries. She eschewed tourism, and endeavored instead to become an active member of the communities in which she traveled.

Sarah's exploration of the history and traditions of the diverse countries of Latin America and Europe was inspired by the language faculty and programs at Poly. She delighted in her experience as an AFS student in Argentina, and during the eight years following her graduation from high school, she continued the study of Spanish language and Hispanic culture including the arts. Following graduation with a Phi Beta Kappa key and multiple honors from the University of Pennsylvania with a degree in Spanish Language and Literature, she broadened her understanding of Latin American art through extended travel and volunteer work in Brazil. In addition to the time she spent in South America, Sarah's academic and professional career included study in Mexico and Spain.

Sarah sought to find a way to blend her love of languages and Hispanic culture with a growing passion for contemporary visual arts and a desire to serve as an advocate for the under-represented. Her interests coalesced as she brought together disparate groups in support of Latin American art, an emerging segment of the contemporary art world. She wrote, *"I am interested in the ways artists in Latin America use their work in an activist manner to create positive social change. Works that have a poeticism in their political statements and social consciousness especially move me. They evoke a profound meaning that comments on the human condition of us all, while also provoking vital reflection on regionally-specific matters of ideology, nationality, ethnicity, and social class."* Her passion and compassion, supported by her fluency in both Spanish and Portuguese, enabled her to forge international alliances in the arts world. The breadth of her interests and depth of her personal relationships afforded her the opportunity to bring contemporary artists together with art enthusiasts.

Sarah's passion wasn't limited to her interest in art and society, she approached every aspect of her life with enthusiasm. Whether she was curating an exhibit, in the stands rooting for her younger brothers at sports, or sharing a meal with family and friends, she dedicated herself with enviable energy. And music and laughter were ever-present background noise.

Sarah's sudden and tragic death at the age of 26 in a car accident in November 2007 inspired an international response. Fittingly, at the same time in thirteen cities around the world, including Mexico City, Paris, Istanbul, Sao Paolo and London, Sarah's family, friends and colleagues gathered to honor her. Sarah was a connector who sought out and attracted lively minds at home and abroad. In the words of Poly '99 friend and classmate, Ali Ahn, "Sarah's passing leaves us with the tall task of furthering the connections she began and reminds us of the power of human communion and the interconnectedness of our world."



Class Notes

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 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, email alumni@polytechnic.org or visit the Polytechnic School website: www.polytechnic.org

1920–1949

Emily Angle Wallis '41 Enjoyed the school reunion dinner on May 9th even though I was THE 1941 graduate attending! • **Ben Nyce '47** I'm back on the tennis court after herniated disk surgery. It feels great to be back! Talked to **Nick Browning '47** on the phone recently. He's doing well.

1950–1969

• **Stan Hales '57** Diane and I have completed our retirement move to Santa Rosa, to be nearer to our son, Chris, and his wife, Felisa, as they expect their first child in October. Looking forward to seeing classmates in the Bay Area. • **Don Graff '62** The highlight of this year, so far, was a trip in February with Betty and our 1-year-old grandson, Bryce, to visit my daughter Megan who teaches French at the Canadian International School in Singapore. (She now is the lower school librarian.) Since my son

Evan, who runs Gentle Hands, an orphanage/rescue center for abused and abandoned children and youth in Manila, was on furlough in Estevan, Saskatchewan (not going there in February!), we continued on to Australia for two weeks. CISS reminded us so much of Poly. The high points of our time in Australia were: The Australia Zoo (Steve Irwin and family) in Beerwah, The Lone Pine Sanctuary



in Brisbane, and the opera "A Masked Ball" at the Sydney Opera House. Evan and family have returned

to Manila. Now he and his sister are in the same time zone, GMT+16, which is 12 hours ahead of EDT. It makes communicating a challenge with a lot of texting and e-mail and not so much with phone calls. I often think of my classmates at Poly, and that cohort that was the first complete Upper School. Let's keep in touch. • **Adele Morse '66** and **Bill Nevins '66**



On May 10, 2008, Poly alumni from the Class of 1966, Adele Morse and Bill Nevins, wed in Pasadena.

Livermore, CA. • **George Schirtzinger '69**

Kids are doing well if they are too far away. Alexa finished Columbia Journalism School in May, nice trip to NYC. Peter continues in DC and Eric in Austria. Business started a bit slow but is catching up. Our carbon rigging system for racing sailboats is having a very good year, onboard the Sydney-Hobart and Vemdee Globe race winners, among others. Did the Palos Verdes Half-Marathon in May, will likely do both the Pasadena and LA Marathons toward year-end. Lapping days at Laguna Seca and Willow Springs racetracks have been more intense due to the kind loan of a friend's race car, slightly heavier than my WRX but with about 2.5x the power. My respect for the professionals is greater the faster I go.

1970–1979

Christopher Williams '78 I recently re-located from Oakland to South Pasadena, and am working as an environmental consultant with SCS Engineers in Long Beach. Most of my current projects involve commercial recycling and composting policy development and technical assistance to local government agencies and businesses, and greenhouse gas reduction and sustainability consulting are rapidly emerging as major practice areas. Current clients include the Art Center College of Design, the Langham Huntington Hotel, Athens Services, the city of Richland, Washington, and Flathead County, Montana. (And NO, I'm not moving to Montana soon). I'd love to get together with any of my old classmates, so drop me a line or give me a call sometime. • **Laura Treat Harvey '79** After many years of infrequent contact with Poly friends, I had the great

Class Notes

pleasure of attending a party at the home of Carol and **Parker Kressen '79** in June. They have a gorgeous place in Ellicott City, outside Baltimore, MD, where they and their 3 adorable chil-



dren host an annual croquet tournament. It was a blast and I've attached a couple of photos to prove that you can find Poly-life in Maryland! My job at the International Youth Foundation is going well, and I'm gearing up for my first trip to Istanbul (and a return trip to Helsinki) this fall. I was able to visit my brother, **Tim Harvey '81**, in California, and sister, **Lindley Harvey '78**, in Nevada, this past spring. They are both doing well. • **Arienne Haring**

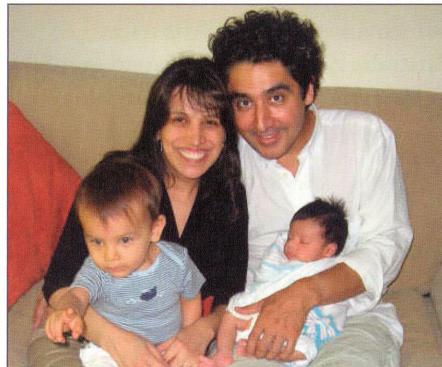
Heupler '79 This is a big year for our family. Ed and I are celebrating our 25th wedding anniversary, Bethany and Natasha are graduating from college, and Mariel from Poly. Fortunately, we still have Joe (age 10) home with us, because this parenting process is going by much too quickly.

1980–1989

Scott Lindus '84 Happy to announce the birth of our son, Beau Benedict Lindus, born on May 29, 2008, a healthy 8 lbs 13 oz and 22 inches. Big sister, Sophia, and mommy, Marjan, are all doing well. Professionally, I have been lucky, too, surviving the Bear Stearns acquisition and have signed on with JP Morgan. • **Kristin Olson McKissick '84** From our new house we can see the mountains! Great view. Hope to see many of you at

our reunion next year. Cheers! • **Karen**

Mitchell '84 Randy and I hope to be enjoying the completion of our home remodel later this summer. We look forward to seeing the class of '84 at our reunion in 2009! • **Omar Ali '88** Our baby girl Samina Isabel was born on



July 8th. Diana and baby are doing well, as is Samina's older brother, Pablo, who just turned 15 months old. We're moving from Maryland to Tennessee in a couple of weeks. I have a new book coming out this month called "In the Balance of Power: Independent Black Politics and Third Party Movements" (Ohio University Press) and I begin teaching at Vanderbilt University. Hope everyone's doing well!

1990–1999

Troy Pilalas '91 Troy Pilalas '91 participated in the Leukemia Lymphoma Society marathon for the third year in a row. He raised over \$42,000 for LLS in addition to running the marathon in a personal best 3 hrs, 43 min, 17 secs. •

André Vener '91 André's local jazz club/restaurant, redwhite+bluezz, was recently featured in an article in the *San Marino Tribune*. The article chronicles how André incorporated his passion for jazz into the Pasadena restaurant scene.

• **Mia Rondinella '92** On April 18, I was blessed with an incredibly beautiful day on which to marry Richard Singer in the magical town of Hanalei on the



north shore of Kauai. My still-dear Poly friends **Amy Hall '92**, **Gavi Yariv '92** and **Charles Wood '92** joined in our wedding community for a week of celebration. Rich and I now live in a bungalow in Santa Monica, just a stone's throw from the ocean that we both so love. • **Sarah Schoellkopf '92** Sarah was awarded her



PhD in Hispanic Languages and Literature at University of California, Berkeley, on May 19th, 2008.

Many celebrations marked the event, including a private dinner in San Francisco which included Poly classmates **Pratima Gupta '92**, **Martin Andersons '92** and **Eugene Kim '92**.



• **Jon Kidder '93** Dear Classmates...I have some news. My partner May Hu and I got engaged in Machu Pichu in July. We met at UCLA where we were working on our doctorates in education

planning our wedding. I'm no longer teaching at Poly although I immensely enjoyed my six years there working in the middle school. I'm currently the Assistant Head of the Pilgrim School in Los Angeles...I miss teaching, but the challenges of administration keep the juices flowing. I'd love to hear from any and all of you. My email is jon.kidler@gmail.com • **Caitlin Wheeler '96** My baby, Madeleine, is doing well, for which I'm very grateful. Kenyon graduates from law school in May 2008 and starts at Allen Watkins in October. Hope all are well. • **Lauren Nungesser '98** Lauren and John Giovannone are expecting their first child in October 2008. • **Ryan Nungesser '98** Ryan (Capt USMC) received his MBA from Boston University. • **Brooks Suttle '98** These days I am living near our family farm in small-town Alabama (Columbiana, near Birmingham), where I moved a few years after graduating from UPenn in '02. I have enjoyed helping my uncle start a local organic farm over the past few months, although I am planning to move to Asheville, NC in the near future. My first anniversary is coming up in September, after Mollie and I got married last Fall in Saratoga Springs, NY where she is from. I am currently pursuing a Master's Degree in Integral Theory through JFK University, and will begin teaching and designing adult education programs in Asheville, hopefully by next Spring. After working as a bartender in a number of places for several years, I have recently begun teaching for Kaplan Test Prep (LSAT), and managed to turn my passion for photography into a small business down here in Alabama. Other than that, I am pretty much enjoying the country life and waiting to see where my path will go from here.

2000–2007

K.K. Kidde '00 I am currently deployed aboard the USNS Mercy in support of Pacific Partnership 2008. • Classmates from '02 paused for a picture at the wedding of **Janet Holt '02**. Janet married



Lucas Arribas-Layton in July in La Canada. The class members are (From L to R): Back Row—**David Saeger '02**,

Gabi Koch '02, and Eric Lee, Front Row—**Katelin Radcliff '02**, **Amanda Soloway '02**, **Katrina Damasco '02**, **Rebecca Robinson '02**, and **Rebecca Isaacson '02**. • **Eli Bocek-Rivele '02** I'm a technical director on Madagascar 2 which comes out November 7th, 2008.



• **Merin Frank '02** I actually have some news for the next edition of class notes. I am getting married this December!

Kirsten Jacobsen '02 will be a bridesmaid (the rest are from boarding school and college) and the wedding is going to be in LA. Will, my fiance, and I met in college and both work in DC. He works for a private equity group and I work for a nonprofit arts organization.

• **Steve Hsu '02** I am a 3rd year medical student at Case Western School of Medicine working on my current research project on methylation patterns

in meningiomas. • **Brett Nungesser '02** Brett (1st Lt USMC) returned from his first tour of duty in Iraq in April 2008.

• **Katelin Radcliff '02** I'm currently working as part of the commercial blog department at M80, an online marketing firm in Silver Lake and love every minute. • **Meara Wiebe Schmidt '02**

Hey! I've been married to Jeffrey Schmidt for almost a year (7/28) and am living in Davis. I'm up here because my husband goes to UC Davis veterinary school. I have a BA in math and an M.Ed in Education from UCSD. I currently work in the UC Davis School of Law Admissions Office. • **Lucie Svitek '02**

I'm very excited to report that on June 28th 2008, I married LTJG Justin Guernsey in a garden wedding in Pottstown, PA. The wedding party included bridesmaids **Katelin Radcliff '02**, **Katrina Damasco '02**, and **Hana Svitek '14**, and groomsman **Filip Svitek '06**. Also helping us celebrate were **Omar Alfi '02** and **Amin Al-Sarraf '02**. On top of the excitement of being newlyweds, Justin and I are delighted about our upcoming move from Norfolk, VA to San Diego—after all, there's no place like Southern Cali! We look forward to the surf, sun, and catching up with all those who are in the area! • **Zach Withers '02** I'm still at Epic Systems, the



medical software maker, and as of July I'm moving out of technical support and development for the surgical division and into training for the reporting division. I'll be teaching the analytical people and consultants at our customers how to get useful information out of the gigabytes of data their systems produce.

Class Notes

• **Gavin Hale '03** Gavin is living in Scottsdale, AZ, and working in marketing for the Arizona Diamondbacks. •

Emily Aull '04 Congratulations to everyone from Poly '04! It's hard to believe we're finished with college already. I graduated from Princeton this June (along with fellow Panthers **Peter Krueger-Wyman '04** and **Chelsea Carter '04**) with a degree in Art & Archaeology and now am back in Los Angeles for a couple of years before law school. I will be working downtown in Bunker Hill at O'Melveny & Myers LLP; if anyone else is in the area, please be in touch. I'd love to meet up with alumni of any of any age.m.emily.aull@gmail.com



• **Winnie Chen '04** I am graduating from Stanford next month and will spend the next year in Beijing as a Fullbright scholar, studying the effects of migrant remittances in affiliation with Peking University. • **Kate Woods '04**

Kate graduated from the US Merchant Marine Academy June 2008 with a B.S. degree in Marine Systems Engineering. She is also a certified sea firefighter and EMT. • **Mark Dodge '05**

Mark received the Navy/Marine Corp. Leadership Award—one of six awarded. This award was voted on by his classmates. • **Philip Hamilton '05** Phil just finished his first year at Warren Wilson College in Asheville, NC. He is an anthropology and creative writing major. • **Asia Bennett '06**

Asia was awarded a Kemper Scholarship at Pitzer College. Double majoring in political economy and science & critical reasoning, Asia will spend her sophomore and junior summers interning with non-profit organizations. Asia is Pitzer's fifth student to be awarded the Kemper Scholarship which is given by the James S. Kemper Foundation.

Save the Dates

Classes of 1999 and 2004

5 & 10-Year Reunions

Saturday, December 27, 2008



Reunion Weekend 2009

50-Year Club Dinner

(classes 1958 and earlier)

Friday, May 8, 2009

All Alumni Family Picnic

(all classes welcome!)

Saturday, May 9, 2009

Classes of 1964, 1969, 1974, 1979, 1984, 1989 and 1994

Reunion Dinners

Saturday, May 9, 2009

In Memoriam

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.

Elizabeth Ehrens Wade '30

April 30, 2008

Prescott, Arizona

Mrs. Wade, a long-time resident of Santa Barbara, California, had lived in Arizona since 1968. She is survived by her three sons: William Jr., Patrick, and Timothy. Her husband William Wade, a noted architect in Santa Barbara, died in 1992.

Richard Davis '34

June 3, 2008

Arcadia, California

After graduating from Pomona College, Dick served as an officer in the Army Infantry during WWII in the Pacific Theatre for three and a half years. Following the war, he had a 38 year career at Union Oil of California, settling to raise his family in Arcadia. Dick was involved in many organizations in the Pasadena and Arcadia area including the Tournament of Roses, the Kiwanis Club and the Masons, to name a few. He was an active golfer and loved tennis and travel. He is survived by his wife, Dottie, his children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Franklin Otis Booth, Jr. '38

June 15, 2008

Los Angeles, California

Following his graduation from Cal Tech in 1944, Otis served as a 1st Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy during WWII. After the war, he graduated

from the Stanford Graduate School of Business. Upon his return to Southern California, Otis began his career with the Times Mirror Company, retiring in 1972 to launch his second career as a cattle rancher and citrus farmer, and owner of Booth Ranches. As a member of the board of many local organizations including the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles, the Smithsonian National Air & Space Museum, Otis was an avid philanthropist, businessman and outdoor enthusiast. His father, **Franklin Otis Booth '08**, was in Poly's first graduating class, the first student body president, and was the first of four Booth generations to graduate from Poly. Otis is survived by his wife, Lynn, his sons and daughters, including **Otis Booth III (Spike) '69, Loren Booth '71, Scott Brittingham '79, and Ashley Brittingham '82**, and grandchildren including **Griffin Booth '98** and **Morgan Booth '00**.

Thaddeus Jones '39

July 16, 2008

Laguna Beach, California

After attending Poly, Thad continued onto the Catalina Island School for Boys, followed by Princeton University. He enlisted in the U.S. Navy in 1942 and was stationed aboard the U.S.S. Massey in the South Pacific. He went through medical school at USC and began his practice in Laguna Beach in 1955. He is survived by his children, grandchildren and brothers **Graham Jones '40** and **Nelson Jones '45**.

Daniel "Rich" Chute '41

June 19, 2008

Arcadia, California

Ben Davis Massey, Jr., M.D. '46

August 10, 2008

San Marino, California

Ben thoroughly enjoyed 70 years of a happy and rewarding relationship with Poly—first as a student, then as a

parent of **Sarah Massey Hunt '84** and **Ben Massey III '86**, and as the husband of retired faculty member **Linda Massey**. From each of these ties to Poly, great friendships formed and remained among Ben's best friends—getting together often. Following his strong foundation at Poly, he graduated from Occidental College, USC Medical School, and a Fellowship in urology at the Mayo Clinic. He enjoyed years of medical practice with his father in Pasadena. Retirement gave Ben more family time, which included his five granddaughters, and time to travel, especially to the Isthmus of Catalina Island.

Melissa Phillips '69

May 31, 2008

McKinleyville, California

Melissa passed away after a battle with malignant melanoma. She resided in Humboldt County and is survived by her sisters **Cassandra Phillips '68** and **Shelley Phillips Hauser '75**.

Martha Williams '71

June 28, 2008

Pasadena, California

From Poly, Martha went on to high school at Santa Catalina School and graduated from Smith College with a B.A. in Art History. She spent much of her life as an advocate for the arts. Her early career included affiliations with the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco. Martha served as a long time board member and curator of The Capital Group Art Foundation, a board member and past President of the Armory Center for the Arts in Pasadena, and a member of the Pasadena Art Alliance. She is survived by her brothers Bill Williams and **John Williams '73**, sister **Nancy Williams Shea '75**, and her nieces and nephews, including **Phelps Williams '03** and **Louisa Williams '08**.

2008 Poly Panther Fall Sports Season Preview

By: Kevin Jones

Fresh grass on the field, nets up in the gyms and in the pool, the sound of whistles blowing...it must be time for the Fall sports season.

As in every year, these teams are made up of experienced upper classmen as well as young newcomers eager to participate and represent the **Poly Panthers**. Most student athletes have worked out through the heat of the summer months to prepare for the much anticipated season and their enthusiasm sets the tone for the other Panther teams throughout the 2008-09 school year.

Once again, this year is loaded with strong Varsity team competition in the Prep League. There are grudge matches and long-time rivalries within the league that bring out the best in every Panther athlete and fan alike. With upbeat expectations, Poly coaches are tasked with organizing rosters and preparing their respective teams to come together, compete, and have fun!



Cross Country

('07 records: Boys - 2nd Prep league, 3rd CIF, State Finals; Girls - 5th Prep league)

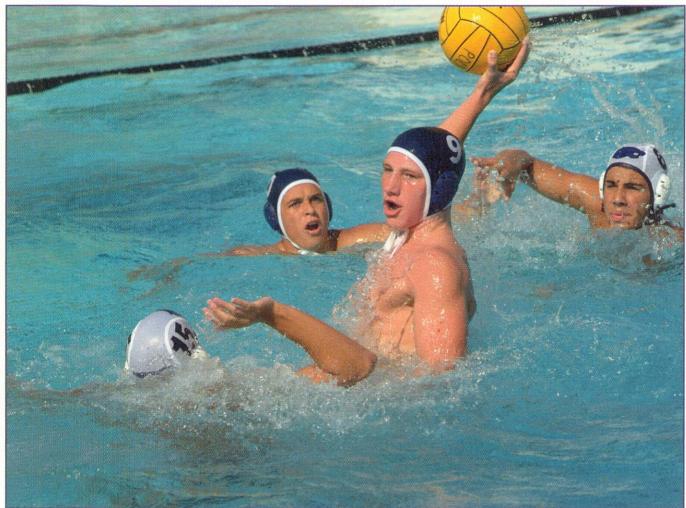
Following Head Coach **Rick Caragher**'s rigorous summer conditioning schedule, both cross country teams are ready for another run at the league title. "One of our biggest goals is that we put forth our best effort. We can't determine how other teams will run, but we can control what we do," says Caragher.



Varsity Football

('07 records: 2-3 tied 3rd Prep League, 3-6 overall)

Head coach **Brendan McGrail** begins his fifth season at the helm of the football Panthers. McGrail looks forward to improving this season with nine returning starters and talented young running backs.



Varsity Boys Water Polo

('07 records: 7-1, 1st Prep league, 23-5 overall, C.I.F. semi-finalists)

Ryan Katsuyama coached his team to their first ever Prep League title last fall. "The Prep League should be very competitive this year. All teams return with experienced players, so we will have to be at our best every game."



Fencing

Coach **Laura Holmgren** will guide Poly's first ever competitive fencing team. Holmgren shares, "My goals are to foster a passion for the competitive element of the sport and to provide the student members with an excellent experience that is the hallmark of Poly's athletic programs."



Equestrian

Head Coach **Janelle Blanco** leads the equestrian team which participates in the Interscholastic Equestrian League, the competitive horse show organization for students in the greater Los Angeles region.



Varsity Girls Tennis

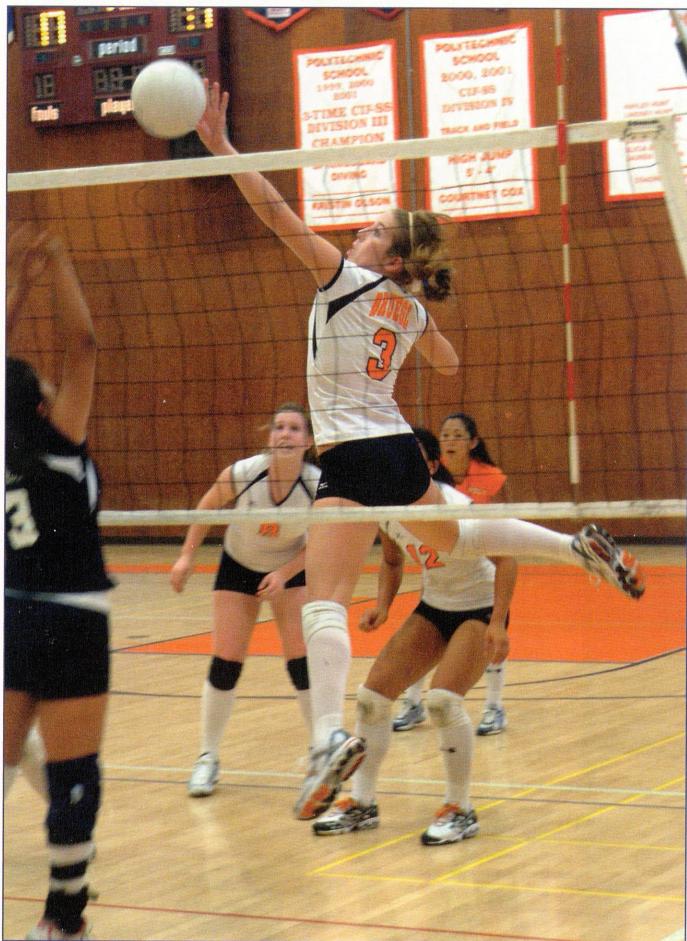
('07 record: 10-8 overall, 3rd Prep League)

This year the girls head tennis coach **Howie Farer** will be assisted by first-year coach **Cindy Brumfiel**. "A new season brings new challenges," says Farer. "I want the athletes to improve their skills as the season progresses and to have fun. We also hope to be competitive in our league and in our playoff division (II)."

Varsity Girls Volleyball

('07 records: 5-7 tied 4th Prep League, 6-11 overall)

Head coach **Steve Beerman** and assistant coaches, **Laurianne Williams** and **Stephen Tam** look forward to the season especially the annual Poly Invitational Tournament in September which will highlight what promises to be an exciting season.



If You Build it, They will Come



Varsity Football Team

Thanks to the funding from the Poly Panther Club, Athletic Director Steve Beerman and his coaches are excited to have a new state-of-the-art team viewing room. Located upstairs inside Scott Gym, a long-time storage room was recently renovated and is now being utilized to benefit Panther teams off the field.

The twenty-eight seat space includes a giant whiteboard, large screen LCD television monitor, and a Power Edit "Coach Cam" system powered by two computer stations. Beerman is thrilled to have this new facility, as he explains, "now the coaches have a designated space to break down film and communicate with their team." Member of the Varsity Football team, Andrew Ellingsen '09 adds, "We are looking forward to having our own room instead of waiting for classrooms to become available."

Student athletes are also excited to have another tool to help them improve their skills. "It's going to be great to come in every Monday after our weekend football game," says Tommy Arnold '09, "hopefully, by seeing the small details we'll have a better understanding of our mistakes and we can perfect our game."



Girls' Vollyball Team



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