

# OAK TREE TIMES

## A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

POLYTECHNIC SCHOOL 1030 EAST CALIFORNIA BOULEVARD  
PASADENA, CALIFORNIA 91106



## CELEBRATION 75

### POLY – A LANDMARK SCHOOL

The Poly family is very fortunate to share its history with Myron Hunt, one of Southern California's most famed and influential architects. Born in Sunderland, Massachusetts in 1868, Hunt attended the University of Chicago and then M.I.T. for his architectural studies. After further training in Europe, he returned to Chicago where he practiced for five years before coming to Pasadena in 1903. Here he remained until his death at 84, creating a remarkable legacy of landmarks throughout Southern California which will speak to us of his genius and vision. The original building of Polytechnic School was among the earliest of Hunt's works in California. In later years he would design the Huntington Library, the Rose Bowl, and seven large hotels including the Los Angeles Ambassador and

completion of the Huntington Hotel in Pasadena. He designed the first Greek theaters on Southern California college campuses at Occidental and Pomona and the first building on the Caltech campus, Throop Hall. Several hospitals including La Vina Sanitarium and portions of the Huntington Hospital are among his credits, as well as many fine residences. Perhaps his greatest contribution to Pasadena was his work on the plan for the city's Civic Center including the design of the Pasadena Main Library for which he won the Arthur Noble award. The *Star News* of January 20, 1928 reported: "... Arthur Noble must have taken pride in seeing the medal for 1927 bestowed... on an architect whose fame has spread beyond the city and whose work had a decided influence on the development of California architecture."

Twenty years earlier in the design of

the relatively modest building for Poly, Hunt was already creating innovative design. The school was written up in architectural journals of the day and praised for its open-air attitude. It has served as the prototype for many later schools. The large windows and covered walkways surrounding the courtyard illustrate Hunt's love and respect for a building's natural surroundings. He was later acclaimed as having raised landscaping to a fine art, and often took an active role in planning and executing the settings for his buildings.

The style of Poly's original structure is quite "Craftsman". In 1907, the Craftsman era was approaching its peak, and its architecture was most famously executed by Charles and Henry Greene (architects of the Gamble House and other fine examples). A Craftsman building is generally characterized by a horizontal

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# Bulletin Board

## JOLLY POLY REMINDER

The fabulous Jolly Poly is right around the corner. You'll not want to miss the festive party to be held Saturday, October 10, at the home of Pris and Gary Hoecker. (Word has it that there will be a celebrity exhibition match). And for you tennis enthusiasts, don't forget October 10 and 11 for two glorious days of tennis.

Be sure to get tennis reservations in by October 1. Party reservations are due by October 8.

## CORRECTION

There was a typographical error in the budget figures announced in the September issue of *Oak Tree Times*, Page 2, col. 3. Corrected, the sentence should read: "The budget for the first year of operation of the school was just \$7,300—for the year 1981-82 it is \$3,000,000."

## AREA RUGS NEEDED

Small area rugs or carpet remnants are needed in some Lower School classrooms. Please contact Jolly Urner if you have one to donate.

## PARENTS NIGHTS

Mark your calendars for these back-to-school evenings:

October 6

7:30 pm ..... PreK-Grade 1

October 13

7:30 pm ..... Grades 9-12

October 15

7:30 pm ..... Grades 2-5

October 20

7:30 pm ..... Grades 6-8

## STAFF

*Editor* ..... Sally McQuilkin

*Production Manager* ..... Jill Polsby

*Assistant* ..... Sally Jeanne Barnum

*Lower School News* ..... Dianne Magee

Annette Schnell

*Upper School News* ..... Debora Weiss

Sally Holt

Annamarie Mitchell

*Sports News* ..... Elaine Reeves

Carolyn Volk

Patti Smith

Varley Smith

*Staff Photographer* ..... Katie Ebershoff, '84

*Staff Coordinator* ..... Priscilla Flynn

## CELEBRATION 75 continued from page 1

feeling, shingled or clapboard walls, low-pitched roofs with large, overhanging eves and the extensive use of windows, usually grouped and having smaller lights at the top with longer ones below. The structural elements of the building are often intentionally visible—the beams, joinery and the colors and textures of the wood—and the construction is careful and precise as the term "craftsman" implies. There are many buildings in Pasadena (a center of the Craftsman Movement) which display these same characteristics. Because of their excellent and sturdy construction and their classic simplicity, they have proved timeless, both structurally and esthetically.

Buildings like Poly's original structure are irreplaceable today because the materials and craftsmanship are either too costly or simply not available. In recognition of its many merits, the original building of Polytechnic School was designated a City Landmark on August 11, 1970 by the Cultural Heritage Committee. The committee (forerunner of the current Cultural Heritage Commission) noted in its description that Poly was the oldest school building in continuous use in the city of Pasadena—just one more good reason for Celebration 75!

- Susan Lagler Mossman

Program Director, Pasadena Heritage  
Mother of Noah - First Grade

classroom, and the planting of grass in the lower school playground. In addition, the initial architectural study of the proposed fine arts/performing arts center was reviewed.

■ Development Committee - the Board accepted the recommendation of the Committee to begin a first phase study of our development capabilities. The Board congratulates Annual Fund Chairman Stender Sweeney and all who worked to make the 1980-81 efforts so successful. As is presented in the Annual Report, the Annual Fund successfully raised \$266,817, well surpassing our goal of \$225,000. Again, our congratulations and THANK YOU to all our contributors. And, our success spurs us on—the goal established for the 1981-82 Annual Fund Drive is \$300,000!

■ The Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the election of Dr. Leroy Hood to the Board. A Poly parent, Dr. Hood is Professor of Biology and Chairman of the Division of Biology at Caltech.

The Board concluded the meeting by unanimously passing a resolution commending Candler Miller on her accomplishment and contributions to the School as Director of Development. The Board also welcomed Judith McDonald as the newly named Director.

On behalf of the Board I wish to express our gratitude to George McQuilkin, Poly parent, Hallett Smith, class of 1958, and Willis Stork, Headmaster from 1955-1976, for their dedication and hard work in producing a pictorial documentary: "Polytechnic School, 1907-1981." It is a visual review of our rich heritage and will be premiered at the Celebration 75 dinner, Thank you too, to the members of the Dinner Committee, chaired by Ann Barrett. They have spent many hours planning a festive event to launch our celebration year—we are all most grateful to them.

Charlene Liebau  
President  
Board of Trustees

## From the Board

For those of us associated with Polytechnic School the 1981-82 academic year will be, I am sure, a particularly joyous and momentous one. Joyous because we celebrate the 75th anniversary of our founding and all the special activities associated with it, and momentous because the Board of Trustees will make major decisions regarding our fine arts/performing arts center, fund and development efforts, and will embark on a three year financial planning cycle.

At the first Board meeting of the academic year reports were received from:

■ The Headmaster who reviewed the School's summer activities, student enrollment, and the faculty handbook.

■ Buildings and Grounds Committee chairman Nelson Jones reported on the completion of summer projects undertaken to update the physical condition of the School. Most notable among these projects is the renovation of the computer room and of the American studies

# Development News

## JUDY MC DONALD NAMED DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

After an extensive search which covered a span of almost nine months, it turned out that the best Development Director candidate was right here in the midst of the Poly family. Judy McDonald, a Poly parent for the past six years and founding editor of the *Oak Tree Times*, was signed on last month as Poly's fourth Director of Development.

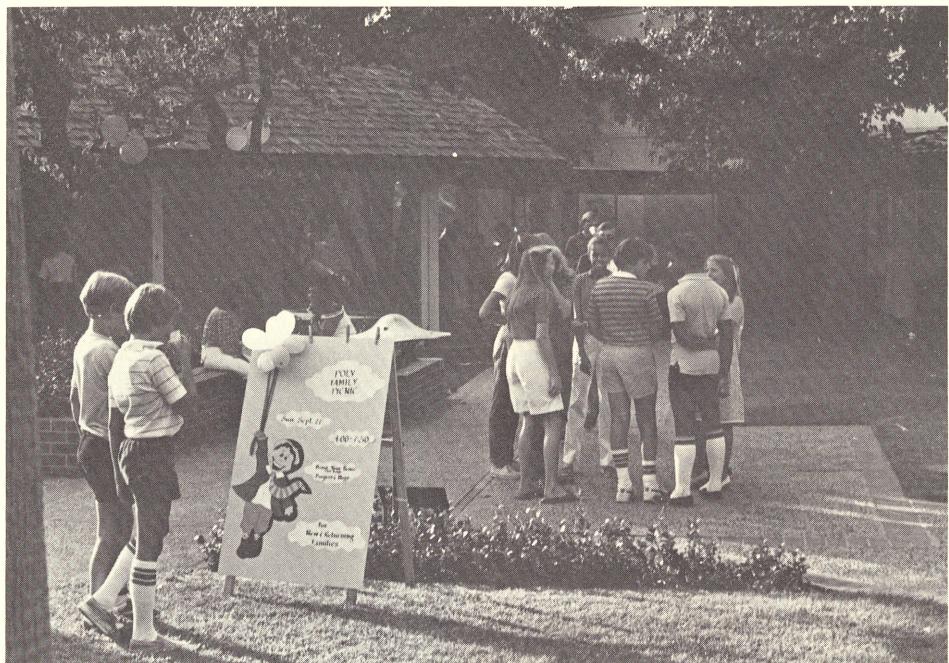
"One of the things which made the search so difficult," Mike Babcock reported, "was that we wanted to make certain we found someone who would carry on the high standards set by the outgoing Development Director Candy Miller. Not only has the annual fund more than doubled during Candy's four-year tenure, but there is also much greater awareness of the need for a strong development program; and when one looks at the persistence of the inflationary spiral, it is clear that Poly's Development Office will play an even greater role in the welfare of the school."

Judy McDonald brings a rich and varied background to her new job. After studying at Manhattanville College in New York, Judy worked as a reporter for the *Washington Post* for a couple of years and then moved to Paris where she worked as a bilingual executive secretary for Antonio deAlmeida, a world famous orchestra conductor.

Judy returned to the United States in 1965 and became assistant to the editor-in-chief of a Hearst magazine (*Bride and Home*) in New York, and worked there until the first of her three children (Liza) was born. By the time Judy's husband Steve had accepted a new job with Crocker Bank in Los Angeles, Stephen and Andrew were on the scene and the children are now in Poly's 7th, 5th, and 2nd grades respectively.

Shortly after arriving in California, Judy became the founder and original partner of Shop Chez Nous, a seasonal Christmas boutique. After five years, the operation became so successful that it outgrew its format and to the regret of many early Christmas shoppers, disbanded operation last year.

Never one to be idle, Judy stepped forward when Poly was looking for an editor for a new monthly newsletter, and the only downside to Judy's new appointment is that she will have to give up the important role she has played in getting the *Oak Tree Times* off to such a good start. Fortunately, Sally McQuilkin has agreed to step into the breach, and with this issue takes over as the new *Oak Tree Times* editor.



Open House heralds the opening of the 1981-82 school year for Lower and Middle Schoolers.  
(Photo by Greg Feldmeth)

Judy has been on the job since the middle of September and already has attended two workshops for Development Officers sponsored by the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education (CASE)—one in Alexandria, Virginia, and the other at Mayfield School here in Pasadena. Poly is indeed fortunate to have landed someone with Judy's background and talent, and we wish her the very best.



Judy McDonald, Director of Development.  
(Photo by Greg Feldmeth)

## GENERAL . . .

### RECYCLING AT POLY

Due to the effort of many conscientious

parents, alumni, students and friends of Polytechnic School the recycling drive continues stronger than ever. The school would like to thank each and every person who contributed to the project and encourage future support by current and new recyclers.

Mr. David Kressen and the Middle School students were responsible for the loading of the newspapers and every shack-full added about \$180 of welcome money to the class trip scholarship funds.

Over the past two years Christine Mitchell '82 and her helpers have stepped up the aluminum collection on the high school campus and organized the clean-up of glass and aluminum on the parking lot. Through their efforts they were able to raise over \$600 for the class of 1982.

Thanks again to all contributors and helpers and please keep up the good work. Recycling is a major factor in energy conservation and environmental protection.

**NEWSPAPERS:** Center is located on the south end (metal shack) of the Lower School parking lot. Papers should be placed in brown bags or bundled and tied.

**GLASS:** Four white bins are located on the south end of the high school parking lot. Please remove all corks, caps and metal lids on bottles and jars; also no bags or boxes should be placed into bins.

**ALUMINUM:** Aluminum cans (without seams), clean foil, pie pans, scrap, molded aluminum (pots) and tubing are collected on the south end of the high school parking lot in four trash cans.

Thank you!

- Annamarie Mitchell

*Oak Tree Times*

## SALLY MC QUILKIN, EDITOR

As we toast the 75th Anniversary of Polytechnic School, let us raise our glasses one more time in acknowledgement of the first anniversary of *Oak Tree Times*.

Our newsletter has sought to open the lines of communication within the entire Poly family. It has been a truly cooperative effort on the part of the newsletter staff and the board, administration and faculty of Polytechnic School. It is with much enthusiasm for the future that we wish Sally McQuilkin, our new editor, the best of luck in her new venture. Sally has worked on the staff since we began a year ago. She is talented, dedicated, efficient, and already up to her elbows in printer's ink.

- Judith McDonald  
Former Editor, *Oak Tree Times*

## Faculty News

### POLY WELCOMES JOANNE ROBINSON, NEW MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE TEACHER

Miss Robinson worked on the administration staff of The American School of Paris for several years, and most recently was involved in geological research in Maine. She plans to share her love of geology in the classroom when she introduces a geology program around mid-year.

Her educational background includes attending Bowdoin College in Brunswick, Maine, and The University of Paris.

When you drop by her classroom you will not only notice her bright, enthusiastic personality, but an assorted array of fish tanks, crabs and other living "beasts"—all on display and ready to be loved.

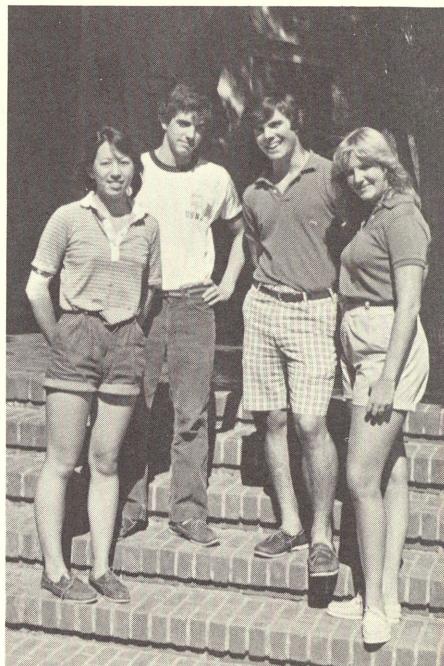
Miss Robinson will accompany the Seventh Grade class on their field trip to Catalina (Oct. 12-17), an island filled with buffalo, rocks, flora and fauna, surrounded by an ocean of interesting sea life. She and Mr. Haff, Poly's other popular Middle School science teacher, are planning several more field trips this year. One may involve visiting an incredibly large hole!

For relaxation, Joanne plays folk guitar, hikes, and is a "spelunker"—someone who crawls around in dirty caves just for the fun of it.

Born in the United States, Miss Robinson lived in Paris for ten years, and says she is already enjoying her first month in California. She is overwhelmed by the warmth and spirit of the school, and is looking forward to the challenge and the fun of teaching her first year at Poly.

- Varley Smith

## Upper School News



A.S.B. Board, from left to right: Frances Teng, Secretary-Treasurer; Vincent Atchity, Chief Justice; John McKenna, President; Andria Barnes, Vice President. (Photo by Vincent Atchity)

### A S B PRESIDENT JOHN MC KENNA

Under the enthusiastic leadership of John McKenna, the Poly student body can look forward to a new year in which each student will be encouraged to participate actively in the ASB to make it an influential force in the workings of the school. This dynamic Senior wants the ASB to be the voice for the creative student's point of view to the faculty and administration.

Helping John in his efforts to increase student enthusiasm are: Andria Barnes, Vice President, who is responsible for planning assemblies; Vincent Atchity, Chief Justice, who presides at the student court; and Frances Teng, Secretary-Treasurer, who collects funds and takes minutes at meetings of the Associated Student Body (ASB).

John ran for ASB President because he felt that Poly needed more school-related extra-curricular activities with a special emphasis on closer social ties on weekends. The ASB wants to develop a creative, yet structured social program designed to encourage *positive* activities to bring all kinds of Poly kids together on weekends. To this end, the ASB staged an All Upper School Picnic at Lacy Park which was well attended and a very encouraging first step.

John hopes to keep the ASB energy level up throughout the year. He emphasized the importance of participation by student representatives as they are a positive influence on student attitude. Striving for better press relations, the ASB will contribute articles regularly to Poly publications for more consistent input on school issues.

John would like to establish his officers as the group who set the standards for school government at Poly. Certainly the student body will be unable to resist the enthusiasm generated by John McKenna.

### NATIONAL MERIT NEWS

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation has just made public its list of recipients of Letters of Commendation and the names of the Semi-Finalists. In the former group, which includes those students whose scores on the PSAT taken in October 1980 were in the top 5 per cent in the state, are:

Alessandra Bianchi, Natalie Blake, Chris Cantwell, Scott Collins, Chris Framer, Mark Kranwinkle, Richard Loggins, Richard Mayne, John McKenna, Beth Palmer, John Ramsay, A. J. Rylaarsdam, and Daniel Shaw.

The Semi-Finalists represent the top one-half of one per cent of the state's test-takers and will qualify as Finalists on the basis of the school's recommendation, their academic records, and SAT scores. Only Finalists compete for National Merit scholarships. Poly's Semi-Finalist list includes:

Larry Albert, Eric Ashton, Vincent Atchity, Andria Barnes, Andy Campbell, Cassandra Caraway, Bruce Coffey, Julie Cohen, Eric Felberg, Sandy Grozdanic, Charlene Huang, Jerry Ingersoll, Carole Jeung, Jean Kutner, Jon Matsumura, Beth Pryor, Janet Rickershauser, Iain Smith, Johanna Spiro, Dennis Stanfill, Trevor Tarr, Frances Teng, and Tracy Thornburg, who transferred to Exeter Academy when her family moved away from Pasadena.

### GIRLS SERVICE LEAGUE

The Girls Service League (GSL) is sponsoring an all day picnic on Saturday, October 24. All members of the GSL are encouraged to bring a "friend" and head for the Chilao Flats area of the Angeles National Forest for a day of sports, picnicking, relaxing and having fun.

The GSL raises money by sponsoring a number of activities during the year. Membership is open to all Upper School girls interested in school and community service projects. The profits realized from these activities help support the AFS program at Poly.

#### COLLEGE ADMISSIONS VISITS SCHEDULED

During the summer vacation the appointment book began to fill with autumn dates requested by college admissions officers. These visitors look forward each year to the opportunity of describing their schools to Poly Juniors and Seniors, and the informal gatherings on campus during the school day provide an excellent forum for a two-way exchange of information. The following dates are already firm, and each mail will bring additional ones:

UNIVERSITY OF THE PACIFIC  
1:00 p.m., October 1  
SCRIPPS COLLEGE  
9:00 a.m., October 13  
KENYON COLLEGE  
1:30 p.m., October 15  
VASSAR COLLEGE  
8:45 a.m., October 20  
RENNSSLAER POLY-  
TECHNIC INSTITUTE  
9:30 a.m., October 20  
UC RIVERSIDE  
11:30 a.m., October 26  
UC SANTA CRUZ  
11:30 a.m., October 27  
ST. LAWRENCE UNIVERSITY  
9:45 a.m., October 30

Westridge School extends a cordial welcome to parents as well as students at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, October 20, to hear Richard Moll, Dean of Admissions at UC Santa Cruz. Prior to July, 1980, Mr. Moll had been Dean at Vassar and Bowdoin, and Assistant Dean at Yale. Based on all that experience, he wrote "Playing the Private College Admission Game," a gold mine of information for students and their parents who are about to "play that game."

## Middle School News

#### CLASS TRIPS PLANNED FOR THE YEAR

Once again off-campus trips will provide enrichment and experimental learning opportunities for students in Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Grades.

The Seventh Graders will start the year off with a trip to Catalina Island for the week of October 12 through 17. They will leave the Poly parking lot at 7:00 a.m. on Monday, October 12, for a cruise from Long Beach to Catalina where they will spend four nights at Camp Fox on the leeward side of the island. In the days to follow, environmental education activities will include a slide presentation and

talk on the Indians and natural history of the island, a visit to the USC Marine Laboratory, a guided tour on a glass-bottom boat along the north and east sides of the island, and an examination of inter-tidal zone life forms. Those students who are interested in back-packing will have the chance to spend one night out on a hiking trip from Two Harbors to Little Harbor. Greg Feldmeth, Director of the Middle School, Dave Kressen, Mona Hayles, an accomplished scuba diver and marine biologist, and several other faculty members along with some Upper School students will accompany the Seventh Graders on this excursion. The school has some equipment to lend for the trip; and many half-fee scholarships, provided by proceeds from the re-cycling projects, are available to those who might otherwise not be able to come.

The Sixth and Eighth Grade trips occurring later in the year are still in the planning stages. However, it does appear that the Sixth Grade will be going to a winter camp in the San Bernardino Mountains and the Eighth Grade will spend a week in a desert environment in March.

The outdoor education programs are an integral part of the curriculum of the Middle School. Students have an opportunity to investigate and learn from new environments; in addition, relationships with classmates and teachers are enriched and enlarged through the concentrated week-long experience. The off-campus trips always prove to be memorable highlights in the year's activities.

#### DANCES AND SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

This year Middle School dances will occur at about six-week intervals, the first being tentatively scheduled for Friday, October 2. Parents will be called upon to help chaperone these evening activities which are usually fund-raising events for various class or Poly community service clubs. Plans are also in the works for alternative social activities for the Middle Schoolers. Suggestions and ideas for additional events are welcome from all.

#### BRIEFLY NOTED . . .

The Middle School Back-To-School Night, Tuesday evening, October 20, is a good time to meet your child's teachers, familiarize yourself with the books and requirements of each class, and learn about the study plan in each course for the year. It is an informative and rewarding evening.

- Susan Arcaris

#### DRAMA DEPARTMENT NEWS

A number of Southern California Schools and colleges, including Poly, are planning theatrical productions in conjunction with "Shakespeare Year," a year-long celebration designed to keep alive the times and works of the great bard. Various functions are planned, including a visit by Will himself. Many will remember Will Shakespeare's visit to the Poly campus last February. He will be offering a varied program in which he will depict the manners, speech, songs, music and dress of Renaissance England.

Carol Cierco, Drama Department Chairman, has announced the choice of "A Comedy of Errors" as the play to be presented to the Poly family on January 15.

The year, however, will not be entirely devoted to Shakespeare. Miss Cierco is in the process of selecting a modern play, scheduled for production on October 30.

- Sally Holt

## Lower School News

#### COMPUTER AGE COMES TO LOWER SCHOOL

Third, Fourth and Fifth Graders during this year will begin a course in computer programming. Dave Kressen, who directs computer education for the north campus, will teach all classes: Fifth Graders during the first term; Fourth Graders during the second term; and Third Graders during the third term. The classes will meet twice a week for a half hour. The course has been designed to familiarize the youngsters with the mechanics of operating the computers and to begin to give them the feel for what it means to have a computer do some of their thinking. The students will learn BASIC, which is the language the Poly computers understand. Both Apple and TRS-80 computers will be used for this course. Classes will be held in the computer room located in the Flagler Learning Center.

With the initiation of Dave Kressen's computer programming course, Poly becomes a leader in the development of early computer education and the Lower School enters the computer age.

#### ROOM PARENT MEETINGS

Lower School Room Parents meetings are open to all parents. Watch Poly Days Calendar section of *Oak Tree Times* for time, date and place of meetings.

**BRIEF NEWS NOTES**

- There is a new carpet of soft grass replacing much of the sand in the Pre-kindergarten, Kindergarten and First Grade playground. A new tough hybrid grass (named "Adelaide") has been planted and carefully tended in the hopes that it will survive a year of running, playing children.
- Kindergarten and First Grade students have their own planting garden and water fountain behind the Kindergarten classrooms, Poly Eighth Grader Jim Franke designed and constructed the lovely fountain and garden as a Scout project. Jim is working on attaining Eagle Scout status. Thanks to Jim and his helpers for creating a place which will bring much pleasure to Poly's Kindergarten and First Grade students.
- Jolly Urner reports enrollment of 291 students in the Lower School for the 1981-82 school year. There are a total of 15 new students entering First through Fifth Grades. In addition, there are 18 new Kindergarten students and 24 Pre-kindergartners.

**Sports News**

Although the academic school year has just begun, the Upper School athletic program is well under way. For most, training began the first of September in preparation for this week's season openers.

In football, the Junior Varsity, led by coach Dale Rasmussen, and the Varsity, led by coaches Geoff Yurek and Irwin Gersch, received a good turnout in terms of numbers of players, but an immediate plaguing problem is size. A second and equally plaguing problem has been injuries. Pre-season injuries have taken their toll. Varsity quarterback Bruce Coffey is out for the season with a broken collar bone, and back-up quarterback Peter Boyle is laid up with a knee injury. Another asset to the front line, center Rich Mayne, has been limited to kicking again due to pre-season injuries. In the season opener against Montclair Prep, Poly lost its three starting linebackers, including Team Captains Dick Loggins and Peter McWilliams, and starting tailback Jeff Blatt. These injuries will prove

to be more costly than the loss itself. While the team will now be led by quarterback Scott Wilson, end John Ramsey, back Iain Smith and center Tom Bakaly, these injuries have left the Panthers in a poorer position to play high-ranked Coast Union here next Saturday.

In volleyball, the story is a little brighter. The C. & J.V. teams, coached by Chuck Ellis and Kate Moulder respectively, are full of fresh new talent, while the Varsity is composed of mostly returning players from last year's victorious team. The new face on the team is Coach Judy Benjamin. She has a healthy philosophy in her coaching, based on the feeling that "winning is great, but just playing is the best!" Her star players include Kristina Hamm, who is good at the net and has "good court sense," A. J. Rylaarsdam who is "a hard worker, a great setter, and good at the net," and Yumi Yuge, whom the coach describes as being "an all around good digger, passer, and setter, and one of the strongest members of the team." She also adds that Sophomores Jill Norgaard and Beth Albrecht and Seniors Julie Cohen and Amy Lightstone are people to keep an eye on. Replacing Coach Melinda Burbank who has left Poly, Judy Benjamin feels she has "a tough act to follow. If I could just equal that record of 15 and 6 last year, I'd be lucky!" She is pleased with the progress her players have made, however. She states that she likes to have the players push themselves and, while she says that "I'm not Woody Hayes," she feels that "all the girls are playing at and above their ability right now." This team is definitely bound for the playoffs!

Another C.I.F. bound team is the coed cross country team, coached by Alex Hansen. Led by the impressive Senior Jean Kutner and Junior Britt Doyle, the team's eight runners have been practicing in the local San Marino area in the early mornings, anticipating the first meet around the first of October. Beside the statewide acclaimed runner Jean Kutner, added strength and support have come from Britt Doyle, who has improved rapidly and looks promising in upcoming events, and Christin Olson, who should also do quite well in the upcoming eight meets. Placing exceedingly well in C.I.F. last year, the team hopes to do as well, if not better, in the upcoming year. We wish all our athletes the best of luck in the season ahead!

- Scott Collins  
Class of '82

**AFS News****POLY WELCOMES  
AFS STUDENT**

Poly extends a warm welcome to a new member of this year's Senior class, seventeen-year-old Alexander Auf der Maur from Switzerland. Alex comes from Stettlen, a village of 2500 people located ten miles from Berne. The home he shares with his parents and a sister and brother faces the Alps. Alex's active language is German and he will be spending the year with Senior Chris Cantwell and his parents, Dr. and Mrs. Howard D. Cantwell. *Oak Tree Times* plans to interview Alexander in a future issue. We welcome our new AFS student.

- Sally Jeanne Barnum

**A SUMMER IN COLOMBIA**  
by Andria Barnes

When I first learned that I would be spending my AFS experience this summer in Colombia, I had mixed emotions. I was certainly excited about the chance for this new opportunity, but I was also nervous about living in a country which I knew so little about. Now that I have returned from what seemed the shortest summer of my life, I can honestly say that through the opportunities for discovery given to me by AFS, I found in Colombia a family and a country which I will always consider my second home.

I spent an unforgettable ten weeks this summer with a family in the city of Cali, located in the northwest section of Colombia. This tropical country is known for its incredible beauty, and the city in which I lived was certainly no exception. The city of 2½ million people is filled with tree-lined streets and beautiful parks (some of the parks in the middle of the city even had cows grazing in them!) and there is a small river that runs right through the center of the city. The city is located in a green valley of small farms, sugar cane fields, and coffee plantations, and is surrounded on all sides by the Andes mountains.

My Colombian family consisted of my father, mother, sixteen-year-old sister and fourteen-year-old brother. My father owned his own business, a tropical fish and aquarium store that was in part of our house. My mother helped with the family business, and my father went out each day to work on the farm where he had tanks and ponds full of tropical fish along with some crops, cows, horses, and chickens. I had the opportunity quite often to work with my father on the farm, and it was a great experience for

me. Our family also was able to travel together and I saw a great deal of the country, along with having fun and getting to know each member of my family better.

While I was in Colombia I learned what it means to be an exchange student from the United States. I was seen as an example of the youth of our country, and was constantly observed and questioned about our American beliefs and way of life. I realized that people saw me as "different." Being tall with blonde hair and blue eyes in an area where the majority of the people had brown hair, brown eyes and were dark-complexioned really made me quite visible. People would stare and make remarks as I passed by, and little children would follow me down the street.

Aside from the physical differences, however, there were many deeper, cultural and emotional differences. One of the hardest things for me at first was coping with the language problem, as no one in my family and none of my friends spoke English. I also had trouble learning some of the customs and beliefs that are important to the Colombia way of life. However, I found that constant exposure to the Spanish language, also my three years of language study at Poly, enabled me to learn quickly. Likewise, with other cultural differences, I found that as time progressed I learned more about Colombia and I began to notice not the differences between our cultures, but the great similarity that all of us as people share.

I am so grateful for the experience that I had through AFS. The summer seemed so painfully short, and yet I learned so much about Colombia and its people. The experience was certainly not a vacation; it was hard work, and I had many discouragements as well as feelings of great accomplishment. When I think about AFS' and my own goals of international brotherhood and understanding, I especially see my experience as worthwhile, as well as one which I will always remember.

#### A SUMMER IN COSTA RICA by Chris Cantwell

My AFS experience in Alajuela, Costa Rica was a fantastic one, although it was very different from the norm. As opposed to the vast majority of the AFS'ers, I was placed with a very poor family. As a result, I traveled nowhere and saw very little of Costa Rica. It is in this that my AFS experience differed, but I learned much about the people and their values.

I spent all day, every day, with my host brother and our friends. Most AFS students went to high school sporadically, but I attended every day. As a result of this, I feel I learned considerably more than most AFS students about the life of

an average Costa Rican teenager. In addition, I learned how few material goods are needed for a full and happy life. To me, the epitome of the "AFS Experience" is to live with a family, not to go on a 2½ month vacation. I lived for ten weeks with a new family, adopted their ways, and became a part of them. It was great!

As do all AFS students, I learned some things about myself as well as Costa Rica. That may sound *really* corny, but it is true. I discovered these things by living and working with people who became my good friends. I had many experiences in Costa Rica which really tested my patience and adaptability. One that sticks out in my mind is the time I tried to teach an English class to my schoolmates before a big exam. It was much harder than I had expected to find the proper level of English and to keep their interest.

I would wholeheartedly recommend the AFS program to any student wishing to learn about both a foreign country and himself. I will never forget my experience and all that it has given me.

#### A SUMMER IN CHILE by Matt Dalany

The American Field Service this year granted me the opportunity to live for two months in Vina del Mar, Chile. The eight weeks I spent in this city, located on the coast about 2½ hours from Santiago, will have a permanent place in my

mind as one of the most enjoyable summers I've ever spent.

I stayed in an apartment one block from the ocean with my host mother, brother, Richardo, age 24; and host sister, Regina, age 27. Because it was winter, and therefore in the middle of Chile's school year, I attended a high school during my stay. Apart from this, I also was enrolled in an AFS-oriented program that enabled me to take Spanish classes for college credit with eleven other AFS/American students.

Because my brother and sister were so much older than I was, my social life was apart from theirs. I had many Chilean friends from school or who were brothers and sisters of other AFS students living in Vina del Mar. But this doesn't mean that I didn't see my brother or sister. Despite our age differences, we were, and still are through the mail, extremely close. The relationship that I developed with my family in eight weeks was as strong as it could ever get.

I don't know if I have changed in any way from my AFS experience, but I know I've learned a great deal. Besides being almost fluent in Spanish, I have learned to appreciate other cultures and ideals. It's a great experience to be a foreigner, and when you feel that the country has accepted you and that you are a part of the country, not just a mere tourist, the feeling is very rewarding. I hope that future AFS students will have as fabulous a time as I had in Chile.



*Circa 1920 photograph of Grace Henley Patio with Gosney Hall in the rear, right. This scene shows a truly "open" classroom.*



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