Toasting a Legacy of Tradition and Innovation

SPECIAL EDITION: Triple Anniversary
MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

Dear Academy Families and Friends,

I hope that with your receipt of this Fall 2009 edition of the Academy’s NewsMagazine that you’ve marked your calendars for the evening of Saturday, April 17, and that you’re planning to join us at the Hershey Lodge for Harrisburg Academy’s “A Toast in Time” gala! It will be a wonderful evening to enjoy and remember!

As you’ll read inside, Beth Zak of our Development and Alumni Relations Office and a group of Academy parents, alumni, and alumni parents have been preparing for an evening of fun, friendship, and re-connecting with former classmates and faculty members. We’ve been in touch with many alumni who are looking forward to being together again.

The gala affords us a most unusual opportunity to return and enjoy each other’s company. Facebook and other kinds of social networking tools enable us to “find” and “friend” one another after years of separation, but nothing can beat a long warm hug and laughing with friends in person. So please plan to join us on April 17!

Even though we won’t be toasting the Academy at our gala for a few months, there’s still plenty of time to join our group of volunteers and to help us realize our special plans for that evening. Year-in and year-out, volunteers who organize our annual Blue & Gold Auction tell us of how their experiences created new friendships within the Academy community and re-kindled former ones. If you would like to help with “A Toast in Time” gala, please call Beth Zak at extension 396.

Our Triple Anniversary year has indeed been a special one. Starting with the celebration of our first Charter Day last spring and a variety of other special events including the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the Academy’s location at Erford Road, we continue to recognize our special place in the educational history of Central Pennsylvania. Later this spring, our Middle School students will plant 225 trees as a service project for the midstate region, and we’ll bury a time capsule filled with objects selected by each class, our faculty and staff, trustees, and members of our Alumni Council.

There are so many exciting things happening at Harrisburg Academy, and I hope you choose to lend your time or talents towards helping us to make them memorable.

See you at the gala!

Cheers,

Jim

COVER STORY
Toasting a legacy of tradition and innovation……. 3-6

DEPARTMENTS
Academy News ........................................... 7—23
Academy Album ........................................... 24—25
Academy Sports ........................................... 26—28
Alumni News ................................................. 29—35

EDITOR
Kristina Burlew Pae

PRODUCTION
Tony Hassinger, Wheatstone Productions, Inc.

CONTRIBUTING EDITORS
Stacy Gery
George Gonzales
Alexandria Hovet ’10
AnnElizabeth Konkel ’10
Steve Stewart

PROOFREADER
Dr. Leslie S. March

A publication of Harrisburg Academy,
10 Erford Road, Wormaldsburg, PA 17043-1109
Phone: (717) 763-7811; Fax: (717) 975-0894
www.harrisburgacademy.org

To submit photos and news, contact the editor at: pae.k@harrisburgacademy.org

© Harrisburg Academy
The Harrisburg Academy logo is a registered trademark of Harrisburg Academy.

Toasting a legacy of tradition and innovation

Get ready to raise your glass high! On April 17, 2010, Harrisburg Academy will host an elegant birthday bash — "A Toast in Time" gala — at Hershey Lodge. The gala, being held in lieu of the Blue and Gold Auction, will highlight the school’s past and present success in education, the arts, athletics, and community service. This is the capstone celebration event of the 2009-10 "225 Years Young" Triple Anniversary year, and everyone is invited to join in the festivities.

The Development and Alumni Relations Office and parent volunteers are working to organize a multi-faceted evening that appeals to all types of Harrisburg Academy supporters. "There is a lot of excitement being generated around this event," said Development Office associate Beth Zak. "It is the opportunity to celebrate and to build camaraderie throughout the school."

Important elements of the gala are to showcase the school and to make guests feel both proud and nostalgic. The all-inclusive evening will kick off at Hershey Lodge at 6 p.m. with cocktails and hors d’oeuvres. The cocktail area will be set up like an art gallery, featuring artwork created by current Harrisburg Academy students. Guests will have the opportunity to explore the gallery at their leisure.

During the pre-dinner reception, guests will be treated to musical entertainment featuring current students. This will certainly highlight the breadth of Harrisburg Academy’s talented musicians.

Party-goers will have plenty of time to catch up with old friends, as one of the main goals of the evening is to provide plenty of time for socializing. "We haven’t involved the alumni as much in the past, and this gala is a way to help us re-connect and build relationships," Zak said. "It’s sort of like a reunion. We’re excited to invite them all back to join us."

After the cocktail hour, the group will be seated in the banquet hall for dinner. The meal will commence with a toast to Harrisburg Academy, recognizing the Triple Anniversary milestone: 225 years since the founding of the school, 200 years since the chartering of the school, and 50 years at the school’s current site at 10 Erford Road in Wormleysburg.

During dinner, guests will participate in a spirited live auction. Richard Rosen and Alicia Richards, both local television personalities, will serve as masters of ceremonies and auctioneers. The Hold ‘Em High portion of the evening, focusing on raising funds for a major capital improvement project for the school, is a highlight at every auction.

The silent auction, a popular event at past Blue and Gold Auctions, will change formats this year and be hosted entirely online. This change will allow alumni here in Central Pennsylvania and across the globe to get involved in the bidding fun!

Guests will also receive a special event program in the form of a glossy memory book. This publication, being created by one of the gala planning sub-committees, will serve as a keepsake and will include information about current teachers, "where are they now" information, class photographs, grandparent well-wishes, and teacher comments. Extra books will be available for purchase.

After dinner concludes, there will be more time for more socializing. The cocktail location will be converted to a lounge, where folks can enjoy desserts and after dinner drinks.

Academy graduates will also have the opportunity to reconnect at a special Alumni Brunch Sunday morning after the gala at Hershey Lodge.

We hope you can join us! The Triple Anniversary "A Toast in Time" gala is sure to be wonderful.

Connections

Harrisburg Academy’s Development Office has enlisted an energized team of gala volunteers, including honorary co-chairs, Richard and...
Anniversaries are a time to reflect upon who we are, how we have grown, and what we have achieved. As an institution, Harrisburg Academy’s biggest achievement is the accomplishments of its legion of students. The school means a lot of things to a lot of people — as you can imagine, a school that has existed for 225 years has certainly influenced many lives in many ways!

One of the greatest honors a school can receive is when satisfied, successful graduates decide to send their own children there. Recently, we re-connected with a few alumni whose children are now enrolled at Harrisburg Academy to talk about the legacies they are creating.

The Ballantines — Peter and Alison ’91

Alison ’91 and her husband, Peter, chose to send their daughters, Sally ’21 and Eleanor ’24, to Harrisburg Academy because of the community feeling of the school.

“It’s like a family, and more the feeling that you’re a part of a special experience,” Alison Ballantine said. “I like the idea of having my kids exposed to different cultures and different ideas.”

Ballantine taught at the school for several years. She believes that Harrisburg Academy offers a diverse curriculum in a diverse environment, which is an important reason her daughters are at the school. She said that she sees what Sally and Eleanor are getting in terms of art, music, and field trips that provide an excellent group of opportunities.

The Chotiners — Dr. Erik “Rickey” ’93 and Robyn

Rickey ’93 and his wife, Robyn, hold Harrisburg Academy in high regard and are sending their daughter, Lauryn ’23, to Junior Kindergarten here.

Rickey Chotiner believes that the Academy was fundamental in teaching him basic life lessons about what one needs to do to be successful. He learned how to be prepared early, to get his work done, and to work hard. Because he learned these lessons at such a early age, he found success in college work.

“I was very well-rounded coming out of the Academy,” Chotiner said. “The work ethic and the study habits that I learned as a young student I carried with me throughout my schooling. Even as I practice medicine, I try to be as well prepared as I can with research,” he said. He is currently an ophthalmologist and surgical specialist at Memorial Eye Institute in the Harrisburg area.

Chotiner believes a strong work ethic is still a major part of a Harrisburg Academy education today and is pleased that his daughter is in this environment.

Chotiner thinks that the Academy’s faculty is what makes it stand out from the other schools in the area. “When I was in college, I thought about how great my teachers were in high school and how grateful I was to them because they provided me with such a good experience. I knew that certainly the teachers at the Academy sacrifice the material rewards a public school would offer them, but I was always grateful that they would choose to teach us,” he said.

“I don’t know how typical it is to go through your life and be able to name all of your teachers… that speaks volumes,” he added.

The Buricks — Dr. Adam Burick and Dr. Theresa ’85

Theresa Burick ’85 was born and raised in Central Pennsylvania. Besides her own experience, her brother, sister, and several extended family members attended Harrisburg Academy. She appreciates the longevity of the staff at the school and was amazed to see several of the same teachers she had when she returned for an Open House a few years ago — one of the reasons she and her husband decided to send Matthew ’21 (and plan to send little brother Ryan) to Harrisburg Academy.

Some of the teachers she saw at the Open House were teachers whom she had had as a small child.

“It’s intriguing that people come back to their roots. Some of Matthew’s classmates’ parents were my classmates. It’s really fun to see the evolution, and the fact that people see that it’s a great education and return to their roots,” Burick said.

“I’ve always maintained a great love for the institution and wanted them to experience the wonderful experience that is the Academy,” she said.

Burick believes that this family approach is all about working together. She feels that the Academy provides a very warm, loving, communal approach to helping children learn to create good relationships, embrace respect, and prepare themselves for academic challenges and functioning in the real world.

A major difference between Burick and her son’s experience is technology, she says. “It is amazing how the school incorporates technology with these children’s education from an early age. When I compare Matthew’s experience with my experience and those of children in other schools, his exposure is much greater,” Burick said.
Feature Story

The Halberts — Jim ’86 and Julie

Jim Halbert ’86 appreciated the opportunity to participate in many different activities while attending Upper School at Harrisburg Academy. He found great value in smaller class sizes and encouragement from genuine and supportive classmates.

“Strong academics and smaller classes allowed everybody to participate in sports,” Halbert said. “This smaller classroom size also allowed teachers to give more individual attention.”

“It has been a similar experience for our sons, Jacob ’17 and William ’20.”

“We’re very pleased with our sons’ math and science programs and some of the more spatial programs,” Julie Halbert said. “We like how holistic the curriculum is, how it is well-rounded for the whole child — this includes the exemplary music and art programs.”

Julie Halbert said that it is very enjoyable to go to the school for plays, special classroom activities, field trips in Lower School, Forum performances, and just every day comings and goings with their children. Their sons are comfortable and confident at Harrisburg Academy.

“It’s a very warm place for the kids to be. There is a huge level of respect between the students and the teachers, and they are very happy there,” she said.

Capital improvement project to benefit John Crain Kunkel Field upgrades

Although “A Toast in Time” gala will be an enjoyable evening to connect with friends, Harrisburg Academy is counting on guests to open their hearts and wallets to invest in building the school’s future. The Hold ‘Em High portion of the live auction will be the most important fundraiser of the evening, focusing on raising $50,000 for this year’s major capital improvement project — renovations to the tennis courts and lower athletics field, John Crain Kunkel field.

The Board of Trustees and Development Office are researching the costs for several different improvement options, including building full restroom facilities, resurfacing the tennis courts, improving parking, adding lights, and constructing a concessions structure. Currently, the lower athletics field area relies on portable restrooms and has no concessions area. Parking is difficult, too, depending on the weather.

“The whole school benefits from the tennis program and from the soccer fields,” said Director of Athletics Jeane Serino. “They can be revenue generating, too — if we had accessible restrooms and a concessions area, people would want to rent our facilities.”

Many local universities choose to run their summer camps off-site, and Serino believes that the Academy’s location would be appealing for both tennis and soccer outfits if the school made the proposed renovations.

Harrisburg Academy Boys’ and Girls’ Tennis Coach April Gift also believes that there is great school-wide value in this particular capital improvement project. She thinks that it would expand Harrisburg Academy’s internal tennis program, develop the school’s business relationship with the United States Tennis Association (USTA), and most importantly, provide another reason prospective parents should send their children here — because we have great academics, a great tennis program, and great facilities.

Another aspect of this project is improving the school’s relationship with the community by supporting students who cannot afford to play tennis at a private facility, Gift noted. Creating a safe, modern tennis facility that could be offered to the public would only help to grow the sport and overall community goodwill towards Harrisburg Academy.

“No donation is too small! This year’s Hold ‘Em High will feature a new format to make it easy for individuals and businesses to get involved,” Beth Zak, Development Office Associate, said. The planning committee is creating a menu of possibilities. This group is also hoping to identify members of the Academy community whose businesses are willing to donate in the form of in-kind services and materials.

“We’re trying to create something that can be embraced by all sectors who support the Academy,” Zak said. “Through Hold ‘Em High, we want to touch everyone who is at the event. This is a great way to celebrate and to prepare for the future.

“Now more than ever, if you’re choosing to support something, choose what is most important to you — Harrisburg Academy,” she said.
Gala silent auction to change format

In hopes of increasing fundraising efforts for the gala and the auction, the traditional silent auction will now be conducted entirely online. This will allow all parents, alumni, and friends of the Academy to have the opportunity to support the school and to be a part of the Triple Anniversary celebration. The auction will feature many items and will run until Sunday, April 18 — after the event.

One of the special features for this auction is the Class Projects. Historically, students have created original art projects that have been featured items in the live auction. This year these creations will be online for all to see and to bid on. The theme for this year’s projects will be centered on “environmentally friendly” ideas. The students’ creations will be the cornerstone for the online auction. The Gala committee is working to secure many items that will have a broad appeal to generate very welcomed funds for the school.

Parents will receive a special online auction catalog in early April. The catalogue will also be available at the gala. Make sure to visit our website for more information and to start bidding on April 5, 2010!

Student artwork and music to be featured at gala

Harrisburg Academy has always emphasized the importance of the arts at school, and the Triple Anniversary celebration at Hershey Lodge will be no different. Dawn Altmeyer, mother of Jack ’14, Jesse ’16, and Jordan ’17 and one of the gala coordinators, envisions highlighting several student musicians and artists during the pre-dinner cocktail hour and after-dinner lounge area.

Altmeyer and the committee are also working with the art department to create a gallery in the cocktail area to display a wide variety of current student artwork. “If I were an alum parent, I would want to see what the kids are doing now. Tina Reiley and Terry Bowie have always set up a beautiful display of children’s artwork at Grandparents Day. This is a wonderful way to showcase the artwork and to promote one thing that makes the school special,” she said.

The art gallery will showcase the much-loved Class Projects, which for the first time will be featured in the online gala auction. This will allow friends of the Academy, near and far, to participate.

“Every time a parent comes into the school, there are many visual reminders of how much the Academy offers. Creating a “Harrisburg Academy” experience at the gala is one way to encourage guests to support the school financially,” Altmeyer said.

She continued, “My kids love their school. They’re happy and safe. They participate in several activities — art, drama, sports — their voices are heard, and they make a difference,” she said.

“The art gallery is a great way to showcase the talents of all of the kids and to raise money for the school,” Altmeyer said.
The stage was set: yearbooks from the mid-fifties in place, blueprints of the new site on Erford Road displayed, and other documents detailing the history of Harrisburg Academy on hand; the celebration of the 50 years Harrisburg Academy has been at its present location was about to begin.

As the room began to buzz with conversation and laughter, it was obvious that guests had come to salute the success of a school that focused on a well-rounded education that includes challenging academics, the arts, athletics, and diversity.

Former Harrisburg Academy trustee, Pat Cameron, and former vice president of the board, Tiger Burch, were on hand to enjoy the celebration and to recall the history of the school and the changes they have observed over the years. As they spoke, names of local physicians, business owners, and politicians were mentioned and noted as Academy graduates. Clearly, this was a testimonial to the impact Harrisburg Academy has had on Harrisburg and its surrounding communities.

Gerry Martin, author of the books “Standards Must Equal the Best,” and “Past, Future Dreams,” the latter of which maps the long history of Harrisburg Academy, was also part of the energized crowd. In the Patriot-News article, “Reasons to Cheer,” Martin highlighted the unique educational setting the Academy offers; small classes, first grade students walking the halls with seniors, and friendships among students, teachers and families that lasted a lifetime were among his long list of attributes. As a biology teacher at Harrisburg Academy for 25 years, Martin saw many students reap the rewards of an independent school education and a lifetime of learning.

Elsie Burch, widow of former Board president, Ernest Burch, led the group outside to officially commemorate this historic event by unveiling a banner that read “225 Years Young.” The group returned to the building to enjoy refreshments and take tours of the campus led by Upper School students.

During the 50th anniversary reception, guests were able to look at original building blueprints, old yearbooks, and the shovel used to break ground back in the 1950s.
Taliaferro Family Donates a Piece of School History

Thanks to some inquisitive thinking and willingness to dig deep into the record books, Harrisburg Academy received an extra-special birthday gift — a reprint of the school’s original charter. The school is grateful to Addison Taliaferro, father of Max ’11, Carter ’15, and Jakob ’22 and a current Board of Trustees member, for locating this piece of history and for his generosity in sharing a copy with the school.

Taliaferro prefaced his remarks by saying, “You can learn a lot from looking at history. It started in the back of my mind at the first board meeting. I wondered if we [Harrisburg Academy] had sought some sort of legislative recognition when the school was chartered. And I realized, if it were done by a legislative act, it had to be in the State Archives.”

Conveniently, Taliaferro’s job at the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania’s Legislative Reference Bureau led him to the State Archives for an afternoon of searching. The Reference Bureau is the agency responsible for drafting bills for the state legislature and producing physical copies of the laws in books. At this time, the Bureau had decided to attempt to create a digital copy of all of law books. Taliaferro visited the State Archives on this particular afternoon to review original laws and clarify discrepancies with the agency’s printed copies before archiving an official digital copy.

While working on this project, he also made a special request for State Archive boxes containing laws and acts from 1809. Taliaferro carefully searched through the large stack of boxes with no luck. When he opened the final box, he finally saw it — a charter for Harrisburg Academy did exist! “The original charter was folded into thirds with a nice blue ribbon tied on it,” Taliaferro said. “It was written by hand in calligraphy and printed on a vellum-type paper. It was actually about twice the size of the one that I had copied for the school.”

Taliaferro had a copy of the multiple-page document printed and framed, and donated it to the school on Charter Day (April 6, 2009) for all to enjoy. It will be mounted in a public area of the school by the end of February. “I’m interested in history, and I find the history of the school to be fascinating,” Taliaferro said. “I feel a connection with the school. I believe in the mission and the message. The school’s been very good to my family, and the more that I look into it, the more I want to give back,” he said. “I was eagerly anticipating Charter Day to be able to present the charter on behalf of my family. I hope that it encourages many people to help the school,” Taliaferro said.

Academy receives substantial bequest from Elias estate

Marie Graupner Elias, who died earlier this year, and her husband, David A. Elias, Jr., who died in 1989, bequeathed a generous portion of their estate to Harrisburg Academy. The bequest will come to the Academy in two installments, totaling more than $200,000. It is the fourth substantial legacy gift to the Academy in seven years. Marie Elias was a member of Harrisburg Academy’s Jacob Seiler Society, a group of Academy patrons who generously support the school during their lifetimes and through their estate plans.

“We are grateful that the Elias family continues their legacy of generosity by supporting the important role of independent education in the Harrisburg area,” said Head of School Jim Newman. “This bequest will help us to further the mission of our Faculty Endowment Fund and will support general capital improvement projects here at school.”

David and Marie were both life-long residents of the City of Harrisburg. While both were from families who have status in the City, neither David nor Marie ever took what they had for granted. After their marriage, the couple worked together at General Machinery, where David was an engineer and Marie focused on business administration.

The Eliases continued to give back all of their lives — both time and funds — to the arts and to charities supporting the community that they loved. Both belonged to and worked diligently in various civic organizations in the area; both were devout Christians who were very humble people. After David’s death, Marie continued to support these non-profit organizations in memory of her husband and parents. It is no surprise that Marie’s main focus in her estate plan was to continue to give back even more substantially.

In addition to supporting Harrisburg Academy, Marie Graupner Elias’ estate will benefit three area churches, three non-profit organizations that serve the homeless, three additional Pennsylvania schools, several area non-profit organizations, and the Arts.
When Harrisburg Academy considered implementing the globally recognized International Baccalaureate Diploma Program (IB) into its curriculum in 2005, the school’s faculty and administrators anticipated success. After all, the Academy’s proven tradition of achievement as a college prep school on the forefront of education trends in the region spoke for itself. Immediate success with IB, however, was an exciting surprise for the entire school community.

The school’s IB journey began in the fall of 2005 when administrators decided to complete the rigorous IB Program application (submitted summer of 2006) and to have its Upper School faculty trained to teach IB courses (spring and summer of 2006). IB administrators came to Harrisburg Academy for a site visit in the winter of 2007, and the first official IB classes began in the 2007-08 school year.

“The Academy was always a strong AP [Advanced Placement program] school,” said Head of Upper School Tom Banks. “The adoption of the IB Program by the Academy builds upon that and moves it one step forward. The trend in education now is much more global because the trend in employment is much more global. The move to IB is appropriate because of the environment our students will encounter,” he said.

Locally, the AP program is the most well-known advanced curriculum option for students, said Director of College Counseling Susan Roller. Roller said that there are several differences between the IB program and the AP courses. AP courses offer college-level work for which a student can earn college credits in high school. However, in most cases a full year of an AP class is equivalent to college class taught over one semester (half of a year). “AP classes also offer a pre-

determined, specific curriculum in which content is the same all over the world,” she said. “It doesn’t have continuity or any connection with other AP classes. The difference with IB is that every course doesn’t aspire to substitute for a college course. Each course develops useful college-

Core Values on display

According to its Mission Statement, “Harrisburg Academy offers an academically challenging and globally minded liberal arts education that encourages each student to reach his or her full potential. In our commitment to excellence, we provide tools and teach skills that will prepare students to thrive and succeed in college and in their future endeavors.” The school’s 10 Core Values, which were initially outlined in the Challenge 2013 strategic plan, describe the many things we are committed to doing to accomplish this mission.

Want to brush up on the Academy’s Core Values? Please check out the new poster displays in the school’s main lobby and auditorium lobby.
level skills and prepares students for success in college-level learning,” Roller said. “The IB Program has some mandatory content, but has the flexibility for teachers to shape it appropriately for their school. IB also has varied and interspersed assessments (rather than AP classes’ one end-of-year mostly multiple-choice exam) and a very deliberate mission to study the connections among classes and different disciplines.”

“IB credentials provide many opportunities for students, helping them to get into the college of their choice, to start with more credits than other incoming freshmen, and to help them easily transition to college-level learning,” Banks said.

“Colleges are looking for students who are going to be successful and contribute to their campus. Sometimes the freshman year of college is learning how to be a college student, to write at that level, and to work at that level. The students come from the IB well prepared,” he said.

“It’s [IB] understood to be the best preparation for college, the full Diploma in particular,” Roller says. “Many colleges will actually look at their applicant groups and put all of the IB applicants in one pile and the rest in another pile. The IB Program teaches so many different skills in addition to time management and organization,” Roller added. “They know how to do an independent research paper, how to give oral presentations and analyses, how to conduct scientific research and how to perform inquiry-based labs.”

IB in action: Reflections on the experience

Harrisburg Academy students have the option to take individual IB classes in subjects that interest them, or to fulfill two years of requirements towards a full IB Diploma. The first Academy students graduating with a full IB Diploma were members of the Class of 2009, David Black ’09 (Bennington College), Emily Marcello ’09 (Dickinson College), Maddie Smith ’09 (Bloomsburg University, Honors College), and Ilsa Snyder ’09 (Penn State University, Schreyer Honors College). Eighty-five percent of 2009 graduating seniors who did not pursue a full IB Diploma took at least one IB course.

In a family where parents’ jobs took them to many places, David Black ’09 has lived all over the world. He spent his last three years of high school at Harrisburg Academy, where he pursued an IB Diploma by chance. “When I was arranging my class schedule with Mrs. Roller, all of the classes I was interested in taking were IB classes,” Black said. He continued, “I have met a lot of kids at college from foreign countries who went through IB. Although there is not as much depth and breadth to the [IB] program at Harrisburg Academy [due to its newness and current size], our teachers got to choose what they taught the first time. This made the classes more specialized,” he said. Since Black began the IB Program, the Academy has added 6 more courses. Black is enjoying his first semester at Bennington College in southern Vermont and is doing well. He is considering pursuing a major in political science or journalism.

Ilsa Snyder ’09, another member of Harrisburg Academy’s first graduating IB Diploma Program class, attended the Academy from Kindergarten through graduation. She enjoyed the opportunity to participate in many clubs and activities and to receive one-on-one attention from her teachers over the years. Snyder chose to pursue an IB Diploma to help her with college admissions. She knew that colleges would see this on her transcripts and view it as a rigorous program. “I saw it as a great opportunity. To be the first group going through something like this is commendable,” she said. Snyder is considering pursuing international affairs as her major at Penn State University’s Schreyer Honors College (with a triple minor in business, Spanish, and dance). “For what I want to do, it looks very good to have an IB Diploma,” Snyder said. “I’ve done well this semester.”

Regarding grades, the Academy doesn’t just hand out an “A” — you have to earn it, Snyder said. The same holds true for an IB Diploma. “You cannot get an IB Diploma unless you really want to do it,” Snyder said. “It’s a commitment because it’s not just taking a test at the end. You have to know that you want it.”

The Theory of Knowledge (TOK) Course, an IB Diploma Program requirement, is an overwhelming student favorite. Taught by Randy St. John, TOK combines philosophy with real-life knowledge. “Theory of Knowledge was really a grounding experience for me in my education,” Black said. “It allowed me to think about how I looked at everything I was learning in school. Mr. St. John changed my life,” he added.

“I had never taken a philosophy course before,” Snyder said, “but I loved it. Mr. St. John taught us stuff that we might never write down on paper... but to know it and realize it... these were more important life skills in general,” Snyder said.

“What the IB Program does for the Academy is to exponentially increase the reputation of the school’s quality,” Roller said. “It’s like having the Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval on our curriculum. We’ve always been a high-quality school; we have always prepared students in similar ways to the IB Diploma Program. Being a recognized IB World School simply highlights our quality to those who would not otherwise know of it,” she said. “The IB Program helps us do what we have always done even better.”
Harrisburg Academy congratulates two National Merit Semifinalists

Two students at Harrisburg Academy were named as Semifinalists in the 2010 National Merit® Scholarship Program: Sophia Kitlinski ’10 and Reuben Mitrani ’10. The National Merit Scholarship Program honors individual students who show exceptional academic ability and potential for success in rigorous college studies. Kitlinski and Mitrani will have the opportunity to continue in the competition for 8,200 available National Merit Scholarships, worth more than $36 million, that will be offered next spring.

The students responded: “I think the Academy has taught me a lot of important things, especially how to write and communicate effectively,” Kitlinski said. “I feel like the basic skills that I’ve learned here have put me ahead of the game. I wouldn’t have been able to achieve this without the support of my parents, teachers, and all of the people who believe in me,” she said. Mitrani attributes his National Merit Scholar success to reading. “I read a lot when I was younger. My mom is a big reader, and it instilled that value in me. It was a big honor to get this award,” he said.

National Merit Scholarships Corporation (NMSC), a not-for-profit organization that operates without government assistance, was established in 1955 specifically to conduct the annual National Merit Scholarship Program. Scholarships are underwritten by NMSC with its own funds and by approximately 500 business organizations and higher education institutions that share NMSC’s goals of honoring the nation’s scholastic champions and encouraging the pursuit of academic excellence.

Two recent Harrisburg Academy graduates have earned National Advanced Placement (AP) scholar honors in recognition of their exceptional achievement on AP Exams: Thomas Cheney ’09 and Steven Pecht ’09.

The College Board’s Advanced Placement Program® (AP®) provides motivated and academically prepared students with the opportunity to take rigorous college-level courses while still in high school, and to earn college credit, advanced placement, or both for successful performance on the AP Exams. About 18 percent of the 1.6 million students worldwide who took AP Exams performed at a sufficiently high level to also earn an AP Scholar Award. The College Board recognizes several levels of achievement based on students’ performance on AP Exams.

Cheney (8 exams) and Pecht (5 exams) qualified for the National AP Scholar Award by earning an average grade of 4 or higher on a five-point scale on all AP Exams taken. Cheney is studying History at Newcastle University in Newcastle on Tyne, United Kingdom; Pecht is studying Engineering at the University of Michigan.

AP is accepted by more than 3,600 colleges and universities worldwide for college credit, advanced placement, or both on the basis of successful AP Exam grades. This includes more than 90 percent of four-year institutions in the United States. Research consistently shows that AP students who score a 3 or higher on AP Exams (based on a scale from 1 to 5, with 5 being the highest) typically experience greater academic success in college and higher graduation rates than students who do not participate in AP.
Junior council member Rose Levenson making a difference in Lemoyne

Harrisburg Academy sophomore Rose Levenson ’12 has always had a passion for volunteering. In Lower and Middle school, Levenson conducted an award-winning project collecting used eyeglasses to be sent overseas. As an Upper School student, she is getting involved closer to home by serving as a junior council member of the Lemoyne Borough Council. We sat down with Rose to chat about her experiences this past year.

How did you become interested in participating in the Lemoyne Borough Council?
I had a neighbor who used to be on the Council. The current president sent out a notification to principals of high schools in the area asking if they had students in mind who might be interested in serving as junior council member.
Dr. Banks asked me if I’d like to do it, and I put together a cover letter and resume. I was chosen and inducted in January 2009. There had been another student (from Cedar Cliff High School) on the Council, but she graduated and went to college.

How often do you meet?
General meetings are once per month, and committee meetings are once per month. I served on two sub-committees of the Parks and Recreation committee. Specifically, I helped with the concert at Negley Park and the National Night Out events.

What is your role on the council?
Most of my role is a lot of observing. I don’t have a vote on the Council. You don’t realize how much goes into a town until you’re sitting and watching these things. Most of the time, they looked to me to voice ideas about how to get youth involved in the community. There are not a lot of kids in Lemoyne, and they don’t seem to do much in the community.

Seeing kids who are active is one of the council’s main missions — I helped to organize pool parties and to work on collaborative events with Wormleysburg.

I did a lot of routine work, too... handing out flyers, serving as a program attendant at the Concert at Negley, etc.

Do you feel like the group is successfully accomplishing its mission of growing youth involvement in the community?
Until you start building a strong network of committed families, it’s a really difficult task. It will take many years.
Has the Council given you leadership opportunities?

The three pool parties were something I did on my own. I had to call up businesses and ask them for donations. I wrote a lot of letters. I worked to get the people at the pool involved. I organized the bands and the food donations for the event. That was a very good leadership opportunity for me.

Have you felt respected and valued by the other members of the group?

I do. It's nice for them to see a young person in the area doing something that's not trivial that actually makes a difference in the big scheme of things. To actually have a presence is a thing that amazes them — that there are kids out there who actually have goals and ideas that do count towards society and not only towards themselves.

Why do you think is it important to contribute to the greater good of the community?

I like doing these things. Something that I've been taught all of my life is not to do things because you want to pad your resume to go to college. Admissions Committees can see through it. You have to love what you're doing and do it because you think it is important. This is an experience that I'll never forget in my entire life. It has taught me a lot of things about society and how it functions.

Davenport Scholars opportunity expands student’s perspective

Reuben Mitrani ’10 spent part of the fall semester doing what he likes best — challenging himself to explore things that interest him. Mitrani participated in the Patriot-News’ Davenport Scholars program, an editorial "think tank" for students to hone their analysis skills, collaborative abilities, and journalistic style.

The Patriot-News started the Davenport Scholars program last year in honor of Dale Davenport, a well-known political columnist who was fighting cancer. The program recruits a small group of high school students representing many schools across the region. Over a 10-week period, students meet once per week on-site with Patriot-News editorial staff members. The group discusses controversial topics and takes a collaborative approach to preparing several editorials for upcoming editions of the paper.

Mitrani's editorial argued for the legalization of medical marijuana. He said that after writing the article, he received mostly positive feedback, even from friends and family who are not in favor of marijuana legalization. They said that they thought his argument was well reasoned and made sense.

Thanks to technology, Mitrani also receive a lot of chatter through response comments on Pennlive.com, the Patriot-News’ site on the internet. Mitrani responded to negative comments that called him a “high school stoner” and explained that he, indeed, did not smoke marijuana and wrote about the topic because it was something about which he feels strongly.

Overall, Mitrani enjoyed working with other students and the Patriot-News editorial staff.

“This experience showed me that I like editorial writing more than journalistic writing because it allows you to put more of your opinion in it,” Mitrani said. Mitrani liked that the group could build arguments and write about topics of choice.
The Gems Not Genocide Club is a group of Middle School students on a serious mission — to help people in Darfur, Sudan who are dying because of civil war.

This special club is part of the students’ scheduled clubs period and is a project that started in the 2008-09 academic year in response to a Morning Meeting discussion. Abriana Bernstein ’14, then a 7th grade student, shared a video with her classmates about the war in Darfur and the genocide that has been occurring since 2003. She talked about how some of her out-of-town extended family members were helping to raise aid money by making and selling jewelry. Several students were so touched by the story and the plight of this group of people that they wanted to start their own support project. They approached MS math teacher Eileen Forman about serving as a faculty sponsor for a jewelry club, and she agreed. Fourteen students signed up for the club and came to help make bracelets, necklaces, and earrings. Thanks to a jump start from Forman and several parents, the students acquired a donated stash of beads and other jewelry-making materials to get them started. The students themselves coordinated a bake sale to raise additional start up funds.

“Every parent is kind of into it,” Seth Caplan ’15, a founding member of the club, said. “Other kids have baked and brought things in and have been really supportive.”

With all of the pieces in place, they got down to business, working hard to make a collection of jewelry for its first sale. An important goal was to determine an appropriate price for the jewelry so that they would be able to be self-sustaining in the future and to also turn a small profit. By the end of the 2008-09 school year, the member were able to donate approximately $500 to the Save Darfur Coalition. “It’s neat to watch these students turn a hobby they enjoy doing into profit for a charity,” Forman said. “It’s nice that they look internationally rather than just helping somebody in Harrisburg, too,” she said.

This school year, Claudia Miller ’14, Seth Caplan, and Emma Neri ’14 approached Mrs. Forman about hosting the club a second time. “The kids told me that they really enjoyed doing the club last year and wanted to continue it this year. I was happy that they initiated it on their own,” Forman said.

This year’s club has already raised $600 — more money than it did the entire previous year. The students credit this to being more selective with the structure of the club. “We’ve become a lot more organized,” Miller said, and Forman agrees. “The kids have grown so much and have taken so much pride in this project and I have seen them develop even in their thinking as to how to run it more like a business,” Forman said. “They are much more aware of the type of beads that they use so that they can make better jewelry.”

The students price the jewelry themselves, are advertising the sales better, and are displaying their jewelry in a more trafficked area in the school. The pre-holiday sale was the most successful yet.

Kennedy Jirard ’14 is a new student this year and member of the club. “It’s fun being with your friends and being able to help with the cause,” she said. “It’s just a nice group. This club was a way to get to know people and make new friends.”

The students hope that their peers will take them and their mission seriously and buy jewelry since it supports a good cause. “So many people are dying because the government’s overtaken people and it’s kind of like a civil war in the middle of the country,” Miller said. “There are starving kids and people there. Every little bit helps them — if everyone did a little bit as we do, we could help save them,” she said.
U.S. Embassy Flag Raised and Honored at Harrisburg Academy

For a few weeks, a piece of world history was flown over Harrisburg Academy. On Monday, Nov. 23, 2009 during Morning Meeting, Harrisburg Academy Middle School students conducted a brief ceremony while raising a special American flag on the school flagpole. The last time this flag flew was on Flag Day, June 14, 2009 — over the U.S. Embassy in Iraq in honor of Harrisburg Academy.

The gift came to the Academy from United States Navy Rear Admiral (Select) Jonathan Yuen, a former Academy parent. RDML(s) Yuen was stationed in the green zone of Baghdad for a year and brought the flag back to Pennsylvania when he returned from his tour of duty. He donated it to Harrisburg Academy this summer before relocating to a new command in Hawaii. “This flag represents pride for our country, our military, and the pursuit of global peace,” said Head of School Jim Newman. “We are grateful to accept this donation from RDML(s) Yuen and honored to share it with our student body and our community.”

In recognition of the 146th anniversary of the Gettysburg Address (Nov. 19, 1863), 8th grade students Claudia Miller ’14 and Zach Barrett ’14 read the Gettysburg Address during the flag-raising ceremony. “I thought it was pretty powerful that while we were raising this flag, we took a look back in history. The flag is such an important symbol, and we see it so frequently that sometimes we don’t stop to think about what it means and how good we have it in the United States,” Head of Middle School Jen Klemunes said. She added, “To think that RDML(s) Yuen was risking his safety and security to be abroad with his role in the military, it was a great honor to receive this flag. The gesture shows that his family respects that work that we do here, too.”

From the Archives

On Walnut Street Bridge

By Georgia Bailey

Excerpt from the Seiler School’s “Cricket” magazine, 1909

As you look west from the bridge you see a little village with its church and school house right on the river bank, back of it rises the hill on which is Fort Washington. This fort was used during the Civil War.

Then comes farm houses and country places, where some of the city people go in the summer.

Next you come to Fairview. This is a village a good deal larger than the first one, and is very picturesque at this distance with its red roofs and pretty yards. Then come the Enola railroad yards, these are very prettily lighted at night. After the water gap you can see no farther.

On the other side as you come down are the farms, and then the city; back in the city you can see the Capitol and Post Office. Looking down you see the two railroad bridges and the foot bridges. In the middle of the Walnut Street Bridge is the Island, where the baseball games, track meets and all athletic sports are held.

On your left hand as you look down is the hospital and below that the iron works.

On your right hand you see the railroad, which is soon lost to view. You also see many farms, the mountains and the river, which is full of little islands.
Although Harrisburg Academy doesn’t have a track and field team, its co-ed Middle School Cross Country team is running stronger than ever thanks to Coach Sarah Ballard. Ballard began coaching last year, with a small team of eight runners. Her goal was to provide a well-rounded experience for runners of all ability and interest levels. Word got around that for a 5th, 6th, or 7th grader, the team wasn’t competitive, Ballard said. Over the next two years, the team grew to 20 runners. “It’s just a real compliment to a teacher or a coach to have kids invested in whatever your mission is — whether it is science or running. It’s so flattering to have kids show up every day and be enthusiastic.”

One of the things that really attracted her to the Academy as an employee was the school’s diversity in education, and that it gives students so many activity options to increase their academic, physical, and emotional growth. The school empowers them to choose “whatever they would like to do to help increase their self-confidence to go out and be a better human being,” she said. “I’ve borrowed that philosophy and applied it to my coaching,” Ballard said. “I have this random group of children and I give them the opportunity to express themselves in so many ways. My mission is to take this group of individuals and engage them in a way that makes them feel like a group, from the beginning. All of these kids bring different tools in their ‘toolbox.’ They might be funny, physically talented, or academically talented — it doesn’t matter as long as you bring that enthusiasm to the group,” Ballard said. “Running is a very important part of it, but that’s not what it’s all about,” she added.

“The program has been a huge success,” said Head of Middle School Jen Klemunes.

“The kids are just excited to be on the team. It’s not so much about how many races they win, but about being part of a team, setting goals, meeting goals, reflecting, supporting one another, and realizing the benefits and joys of being physically active.”

Ballard, herself, started running in Middle School and believes that being a member of a team during these years was vital to her confidence as a young adult. Harrisburg Academy’s Middle School Cross Country team meets four afternoons each week in the fall. Runners start each practice with a Family Meeting to discuss the day’s upcoming workouts. Then they perform different shorter distance and long distance workouts, fun workouts, keep journals about their experience. Each practice ends with the “Stinky Circle,” a time to reflect on the day’s accomplishments as a sweaty, happy “family.”

Sarah Trindell ’16 is a Middle School Cross Country team member who has enjoyed the experience.

“I decided to try Cross Country last year because I’m not normally a runner, and I wanted to see what I could do,” Trindell said. “I tried it, I improved a lot, and I decided to do it again this year to see if I could improve more. It’s helped me be more open to different sports — more open to trying different sports after trying Cross Country because I really liked it.” Trindell also said that this experience has given her confidence with people she does not know after making new friends through Cross Country. She enjoyed the fun runs at practice and participating in some races. “The races were fun,” Trindell said. “At first I was worried because I didn’t think anybody else from the team would be there. But there were a lot of people who came and Coach was always there cheering us on,” she said.

“Running is much more about rooting each other on,” Ballard said. “That’s the rapport I hope to build. For two years in a row, that’s what happened. Those barriers between grades get broken down and we become one big happy running family,” she said.
“How to Cook a Turkey”

Elaine Price’s Kindergarten students have their own ideas about how one should prepare a Thanksgiving feast...

Caitlyn Foley ’22

The grocery store gets the turkey by hunting in the forest. You yell “turkeys” and the turkeys come running, and then they kill them. The grocery store washes the turkeys by putting them in the shower and using soap and a sponge. Poke a hole in the front of the turkey. Put the things that are out inside the body like the head, legs, arms, beak, eyes, and nose. Now you can’t see those parts. Take off the feathers. Peel the skin off the turkey. Then you wash the turkey again. Add stuffing, potatoes, and apple juice. Put some bones inside the turkey because I saw bones sticking out of it once. Put chicken in the turkey because it smells yummy. Cook it in the oven for 20 minutes. It will ding and it looks yummy. I eat it with mashed potatoes.

Margot Kuller ’22

Probably they go to a farm, and they had to hide and they had to be really quiet, and when the turkey comes close they grab it and put it in the car. They take it to the farmers market. Take off the nose, eyes, waddle, legs, ears, and mouth. Probably they go to the barn where there is a shower, and they put it in the shower to wash it off with soap and shampoo. Dry it off with a big towel. They take out the bones, but they do not take out the head bone. We pay about $6 dollars for a turkey. You have to stuff the turkey by putting it through where you shot the turkey. Stuffing is made of potatoes, butter, eggs, and mashed potatoes. Put some broccoli and mashed potatoes, eggs, and gravy on top of the feathers. Put it in the oven for 7 minutes. The turkey feathers will be a little burnt. Don’t eat the feathers. You pull them all out and put them in the garbage. I like the turkey but not the feathers.

Nemo Dinh ’22

The store goes into the forest and look around for turkeys. They put food on the ground like corn and seeds so the turkeys come out. They shoot the turkeys and bring them to the grocery store. They wash the turkey with a sponge and water. They take off the feathers, skin, waddle, eyeballs and they make a fan out of the feathers. They get rid of the beak and the feet. We buy a turkey for 65 dollars. You put the stuffing into the bottom of the turkey made of corn and steak. Put mayonnaise, ketchup, strawberries, water, apples, peaches and blueberries on top of the turkey. Cook it in the microwave for six minutes. The turkey is all curled up and the legs are in his back and his head is curled up, and you know that it is done.
On June 13 and 14, 2009, Harrisburg Academy MS/US Spanish teacher Stacy Gery participated in the 17th Annual "24 Hours of Big Bear," a 24-hour competitive mountain biking race held in Big Bear Lake Campgrounds, Hazelton, WV. She shares her story, in her own words, shortly after the experience.

Friday morning when it was time to go, I was pretty much dreading it. My wrist, which has been fighting off tendonitis for years, was bothering me. I didn’t think I was into the whole competing thing, as I’m hard enough on myself already. For my first race, I had no idea how I would perform compared to others in my category. Plus, who in her right mind wants to ride a mountain bike in the middle of the night without any sleep for 24 hours? Actually, we were a team, so no single rider was riding for 24 hours, although there are true crazies who do such a thing. We were four women, so the first rider goes out, does a 13-mile lap and then scans her card and passes the baton to the next rider to go do her thing. The team that does the most rotations, gets the most laps completed in a 24-hour time period, wins.

In mountain bike racing, there are various categories of riders, according to ability level — beginner, sport, expert, and pro. There was no beginner category for this race because I guess beginners don’t consider doing such a nutty ride. We are sport, good riders but basically riding just for fun, no sponsors or racing for a living. This is for the expert and pro categories, which I admit I have dreamed about a few times.

We did a pre-ride on Friday afternoon to see what the course was like. Muddy, slick rocks on which it’s hard to get a grip; big rock drop-offs that had me screaming for mercy; a steep, rutted, rocky downhill through running water with emergency rescue set up and waiting to go at the bottom; some good climbing, mostly concentrated at the end of the 13-mile lap; all starting at 3,000 feet elevation, which I felt. Let the good times roll.

The race started at noon on Saturday and ended at noon on Sunday. I was the third rider in the rotation; so with four of us total, I was responsible for Lap 3, Lap 7, and Lap 11. I rode my first lap from about 4 to 6 p.m., pushed it the entire time and came in at 1:47. I was shaking, exhausted, and covered with mud when I passed the baton to the next rider. Honestly, I didn’t know my own name at that point, but I was really happy to be finished. You mean I have to do this again? And again? What is wrong with me? Can I quit now?

I went back to the campsite with my support crew. One person took my hand and made sure I walked in the right direction. Another took my bike and washed off the mud. Our mechanic checked to make sure everything was still in working order. A fourth member of the crew checked my tire pressure. I drank some electrolytes, ate some food, washed off my legs, came back down to earth, realized I had just put us in first place after I passed the competition rider early in my lap, put my lights on my bike and helmet to prepare for the night lap, sat around, and waited for my turn to go again.

My second lap began a little after midnight. The dew had just come up, and there was a slick coating on everything, making the entire trail and rocks more treacherous than in the previous lap. I would take it a little slower, but I would still ride hard, for I know no other way. That downhill that was scary in the daylight was terrifying during the night. I am pretty sure I screamed out loud down the entire thing. But there’s also a beautiful tranquility that comes with riding during the night. And I had two good lights — one on my helmet which of course went out about 10 minutes before the end of the lap, and another on my handlebars — so I could see just fine.

The solo riders, those who do the entire 24 hours on their own, were starting to slow down; some go even more nutso in the head. One guy talked to me for about 30 minutes at the end of my lap, so delirious he couldn’t tell
whether I was riding my bike or pushing it. But his talking to me helped push me to the finish line. Night laps typically take about 10 or more minutes longer because of the conditions, so my goal was coming in under two hours. I got to the table and saw my time was exactly two hours when I passed off the baton a little after 2 a.m. Darn.

Now it was time to try to get a few hours of sleep before my next lap. It’s difficult, though, when you have so much adrenaline pumping through your body and so much activity going on all around you. I probably got about three hours of not-so-restful sleep before it was time to get ready to go again. By 9 a.m., when my third lap began, the course was the best it had been. The dew had risen; the sun was shining; the tires of all the riders before me had dried out the course; plus it was light, and I could see again. The course was faster, drier, and everyone was pushing to the finish.

Riders’ spirits were better, more jovial, and friendlier than during the first lap. I was tired, but I felt pretty good, still strong. Some riders passed me, but I passed more, in a field that’s probably about 90 percent men. The downhill was still scary, but I nearly kept pace with the female expert rider barreling down in front of me. Too bad I passed her at the bottom as she was fixing a flat.

My third lap time was just under 1:53, just a little slower than my first lap, so I was pretty proud of my efforts. Truly, I was proud of every member of our team. Each person pushed herself to her limits and rode as hard as she could. Even when we were clearly in the lead, we still rode hard, aggressive but safe. By Sunday morning, there was no competition for first place, which we won by completing 12 laps. The second place team completed 10.

I had no idea how I would fare in my first race. Although I don’t like to toot my own horn, I can definitely see some success as a competitive mountain biker in my future. All three of my laps were in the top 10 female sport times, and two were in the top five. Looking at the list of top-time finishers, I have tears in my eyes because I never expected to see my name at the top of that list during my first race. And the more precise time of my night lap, which I so wanted to complete in under two hours, was 1:59:31. My body is really tired right now but in one piece! I feel like I accomplished a monumental challenge, so mentally I am feeling pretty good as well.

Even though I didn’t want to go, and I still think it’s a little crazy, my overall impression is that racing a mountain bike in the middle of the night, for 24 hours, with an amazing group of women who have turned into great friends, was a worthwhile experience. I am glad I did it at least once in my life.

Will I do it again? Immediately upon finishing the race, I would have said, “No way.” Now, I’m trying to decide when I will attack my next challenge on a mountain bike. I’ll need some serious cheering when I move up to women’s expert and go for the solo ride.

Comely madness,
Come for me.
Muse upon my fingers
On the trigger.
Hum inside my eardrum
Undercurrents, undertows.
Lust for harbors in my veins
Where musty inspirations lie,
Fallow, fighting death.
A mainland moon is shadowed,
Shattered here,
Dreamless about the fire.
Whispered elegies permeate,
Saturate in smoke.
Madness, guide me,
Advise me in obscurity,
Accumbent, accursed.

I wrote a love letter to the Congo,
But she mailed it back,
She knew better.
Hired by Headmaster Jack Horner, I began my tenure with the Harrisburg Academy in the fall of 1969, a mere 41 years ago. I had just concluded a year of teaching mentally challenged youngsters with the Devereaux Foundation when I, a newlywed from the Philadelphia area, arrived in Harrisburg. The times were turbulent. While the American society was polarized over the Viet Nam War, on a smaller scale, some of our students were, too.

The Academy’s building was much smaller then. Sitting on top of a much smaller front office and lunch room, the Lower School was connected to a modest gymnasium by a single corridor of Middle and Upper School classrooms. The gym was converted into a make-shift auditorium when folding chairs were added for our assemblies or plays. Back then our school day consisted of ten class periods beginning at 8 a.m. and concluding at 4:20 p.m. Formally called a Country Day program, all academic classes were scheduled during periods one through six, while all of the “specials” — Physical Education (PE), Music, Drama, and Art — were held between 1:30 and 4:20 p.m. Several of our teachers were contracted to serve as coaches, and we used the PE periods to conduct our team practices. Since the Lower Athletic Field would not be constructed until 1974-75, all of our games were played on the athletic field adjacent to the school. It was a scheduling nightmare as each fall season four teams needed to play their home games on that field. Sometimes we had to play two games in one afternoon to accommodate the schedule.

As a new professional, I was introduced to the state-of-the-art office equipment of the day. A mimeograph machine with its unpredictable alcohol-based fluid topped the list. One might spend two hours typing up a beautiful document only to find the liquid undo the work when running off copies. In those days, teachers had to hold the students’ attention for a full 40 minutes. There were no TV carts, no VHS recording tapes, and certainly no CDs, DVDs, or classroom computers to enhance our lessons. We felt fortunate to acquire a film strip, a record player, or an occasional film. All calculations of grades were done in our heads or by long division on paper. The hand held calculator would not be developed by Texas Instruments for another decade, and its early price was a prohibitive $400 — too costly for an Academy teacher’s salary in those days. Smart Board technology was not even an idea in the minds of the editors of Popular Mechanics magazine then. So, with our typewriters and carbon paper we somehow managed to teach, learn, and help to develop great minds.

I remember walking into a climate of long traditions. Trustee and Faculty Teas were required at the beginning of each school year, and I remember that...
they were rather formal affairs. Even our dress code was formal. Coats and ties for the boys and dresses and skirts for girls were to be worn throughout the day. There was no air conditioning so it was useless to complain about the heat of late summer and early fall days. Our Headmaster maintained a standing tradition that the Academy would never close on the account of a weather event. I remember one day in the early '70s when we had a rather bad snowstorm with wind-driven snow. While every other district closed its schools that day, the Academy remained open for a half day of classes. This policy took a big hit in June of 1972 when hurricane Agnus shut down our Day Camp program for three days. The Academy seemed different then. While the Right and the Left expressed their differences about the Viet Nam War, our teachers were also different. Some were so creative that the usual routine of homework reports and finals could somehow be set aside in place of hands-on-learning.

Ed Barns was such a teacher. Ed ran a menagerie he called a science lab. The students entered his room dodging and weaving through many once-living obstacles suspended from his ceiling. A set of dried cow’s lungs, animal skulls, snakeskins, and other atrocities come to mind like it was yesterday. Glowing Bunsen burners, acetylene torches, and a human skeleton served as teaching tools. Along the perimeter of the room were the endless cages of straw containing mice, rabbits, guinea pigs, boa constrictors, and even two Rhesus monkeys. Reaching through its cage at 3 a.m. one night, one of the monkeys flicked the room lights on and off with enough rapidity that the East Pennsboro Police alerted our headmaster the school had a prowler. A sweep of the building that night provided to be one of the great Academy stories of that era.

But Ed’s room was a real laboratory with real scientists. He might bring the road kill of the morning for the students to dissect — each class in turn probing further into the animal than the one before. The students learned and appreciated the “Great Barns,” and I am sure that none of them will ever forget him.

Down the hall was Ed’s counterpart in the Middle School — Gerry Martin, whose science lab was his cathedral. Neat, orderly and structured, Gerry brought a sense of discipline and responsibility to the school. Gerry tolerated no nonsense, and the students knew it. He challenged them, and they learned. Two contrasting teaching styles and yet, both teachers challenged their students to think. They were perfect for the times, and as a very young teacher, I appreciated the values both had to offer.

Thinking back through the years, I remember so many colleagues who enjoyed kids and were caring, effective teachers. We were paid once a month, worked on a shoestring budget, and covered many overlapping responsibilities. For several years there was no school nurse, no admissions office, and only two secretaries to handle the business of the day. If a maintenance person was not available, we mopped up spills and took care of the scrapes and injuries in our classrooms.

Today, it is so different than it was when I began my career. Local school districts now provide bus transportation to the Academy. We have a support staff of nurses, counselors, and the Capital Area Intermediary Unit. Each division has its own administrator and administrative assistant, and there are specific offices that handle College Guidance as well as Admissions and Development. Now we have a Computer Department with a great reputation and an International Baccalaureate Diploma program to enhance the school’s own image. School initiatives to introduce technology into every phase of our instructional program continue to support the Academy’s quest to maintain its place on the cutting edge of education in our area.

Have email, online assignments and grades, cell phone availability, and computer programs improved the quality of our lives or just made it easier to live them? I’ll let the teachers of my own generation decide this one. I do know that our ability to stay connected and improve our education has improved greatly. It will be fun to see what changes the next generations bring.

Steve Stewart is a Middle School history teacher at Harrisburg Academy. The school celebrates Steve’s 41 years of service to our learning community!
Creating a Legacy

The family of current Board of Trustees member, Dr. Elizabeth McInnis Benito, celebrates a special legacy with Harrisburg Academy. Benito’s uncle attended the Academy for officer military training during World War II, at one of its locations on Front Street in Harrisburg. Becky Leon ’00, Benito’s daughter, graduated from Harrisburg Academy 60 years later.

“For him [her uncle], the fact that his great niece would be an Academy grad was such a source of admiration,” Benito said.

Benito is grateful for the education that Becky received. She is happily sharing news and updates about the gala with her Academy friends, and she hopes that they will decide to join the fun at the gala.

“For our family, the Academy provided us with lifelong friends,” Benito said. “Becky graduated from Northeastern University. Even though she is living in California, she is still close to many of her classmates, and I’m in touch with many of their parents.”

Benito hopes that her daughter’s friends and families will attend the gala to reminisce about great shared times and support the school that brought everyone together.

Don’t miss this event! Current parents, alumni, alumni parents, alumni family, faculty, staff, administration, and other friends of the Academy are invited to attend “A Toast in Time” gala. Tickets are $300 per couple and $1,500 per table of 10. Ticket price includes cocktails, dinner, the auction, and after-dinner lounge. Package deals are available to individuals advertising in the memory book.

Invitations will be mailed in late February — if you do not receive your invitation, please contact the Development Office at (717) 763-7811.

The Spring 2010 NewsMagazine will showcase Spencer and Helen Nauman, honorary co-chairmen, and additional gala volunteers. To volunteer, please contact the Development Office.

The 2009 Annual Report is now available online!

http://www.harrisburgacademy.org/supporttheacademy/annualreport/

The following was inadvertently omitted from the Annual Report

Parent Participation by Class
Class of 2015
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Caplan
Dan Seibert ’10 and Arav Agarwal ’12 served as summer interns for Harrisburg Academy’s Information Technology Department. They logged hundreds of hours of IT assistance and were critical in helping to clean, upgrade, and re-image more than 300 school computers.

Andrew Kantor ’10 participated in the Summer 2009 Keystone Games and won the gold medal for 18s singles in tennis.

Terry Bowie submitted a winning entry in the 42nd Annual Art of the State 2009 contest, the official, statewide, juried competition for Pennsylvania artists. From over 2,179 entries, 157 winners were chosen for display.

Emily Chung ’18 won the 2009 Early Bach Medal at Piano Guild auditions. She presented 15 memorized pieces of Early Bach repertoire and received the highest rating - superior plus.

Abbie Natkin ’19 created a design for the American Cancer Society’s Relay for Life (Hershey) Cake Contest over the summer. Abbie’s family worked together to make her cake, which the Survivors voted first place!

Bob Bell received and accepted an invitation from the Pennsylvania Association of Independent Schools (PAIS) to serve on its Visiting Evaluation Team at Valley School of Ligonier in November.

Harrisburg Academy was recognized as the #2 private school in Central Pennsylvania – and the #1 independent (non-religious) school in the region by the readers of Central Penn Parent magazine. Thirty-one schools were nominated for this honor.

Harrisburg Academy tennis trio, Ted Otto ’10, Andrew Kantor ’10, and Doug Caplan ’10 competed in the “Love Affair 2009” 21st Annual Pro-Am Tournament in October to raise funds for Cystic Fibrosis Research. Their three teams raised $7,100.

Chloe Picchio ’13 participated in Harrisburg’s Hydrant Hysteria city beautification project, hosted by the Harrisburg Downtown Improvement District Office, this summer. Chloe joined 59 other students, community members, and professional artists chosen to paint hydrants in the downtown area. The hydrant is located on Walnut Street and Aberdeen Street on the Capitol Complex.
Field Trips & Fun

1. Taryn Shover ’22 and Nemo Dinh ’22 enjoyed choosing pumpkins and picking apples during Kindergarten’s field trip to Paulus Orchards.
   Photo by Elaine Price

2. Eighth graders did some teambuilding at SkiRoundtop’s Flying Leap ropes course. Tristan Wali ‘14 is swinging to the other side. Students pictured behind him, from left, are: Jessica Marzari ’14, Claudia Miller ’14, Matthew Desfor ’14, Zachary Barrett ’14, Connor Robbins ’14, Kennedy Jirard ’14, and Emma Neri ’14.
   Photo by Heather Jorgensen

   Photo by Megan Price

4. HATS classes had fun on “Bubble Day.”
   Photo by Sandy Iwan

Helping Hands

1. First grade collected the most food during the annual Project S.H.A.R.E food drive. The entire school collected more than 4,000 items!
   Photo by Elaine Price

2. Nate Schmidt ’13, left, and Shannon Porterfield ’13 break a sweat on the Academy’s school-wide Community Service Day.
   Photo by Virginia Getz

3. A team of Upper School students cleaned the streets of Lemoyne on Community Service Day. Students pictured, from left, are: (front) Sarah Marcello ’12, Hannah Banks ’12, Hanna Kwak ’12, Ali Zwanziger ’12, Nathan Walborn ’13, Mary Russek ’12, (middle) Izaak Oliphant ’12, Greg Gaudio ’13, Jude Nifong ’13, Tyler Young ’12, Eleanor Boyd ’13, Erin Sheffer ’13, Noel Potter ’13, Lemoyne Borough representative, (back) Sophie West ’12, Alex Walker ’12, Upper School Spanish teacher Tim Luckenbaugh, and Upper School Chemistry/Physics teacher David Buckthal.
   Photo by Lemoyne Borough representative
Enhancing the Arts

1. Second grade teacher Mari Bender’s mother, Ritsuko Sato, left, is an artist who lives in Japan. On a visit to the United States, Sato spoke at one of the Academy’s IB art classes. Photo by Terry Bowie

2. Students draw with Ritsuko Sato and try out her techniques. Photo by Terry Bowie

World View

1. Dr. Kavita Sanghvi, mother of Avni ’19 and Aditi ’23, visited Mrs. Stabach’s JK class to talk about Diwali, the Indian festival of lights. Photo by Jackie Stabach

2. Aditi Sanghvi ’23, front, joined by her mother, display a decorative traditional outfit. Photo by Jackie Stabach

3. The Harrisburg Academy community enjoyed a visit and lectures from several African guests. Students learned about culture, traditions, food, and education in Africa.

4. Second grade enjoyed Michele Buzbee’s demonstration of Native American jingle dancing. They learned about the origins of the dance and the special clothing – with “jingles” traditionally being made from the rolled up lids of tobacco cans.
Varsity Boys’ Soccer (10 W, 7 L)

Saucon Valley Independent Athletic Conference Champions — Third Consecutive Year — Congratulations!

From left (front): Alec (Chip) Dascani '11, Nate Schmidt '13, Jude Nifong ’13, David Levine ’12, Alex Rummel ’12, Cooper Lanning ’10, John Bower ’11, Davone Colbert ’11, Rapti Joshi ’11, Tony Kim ’11, Greg Gaudio ’13, and Zach Snyder ’12; (back): Assistant Coach Matt Barrett ’08, Nathan Walborn ’13, Nick Schmidt ’13, JacobMcCann ’13, **Cole Goodman ’12, Andy Sohn ’11, Peter Stone ’11, Nick Regal ’10, Vincent Duang ’12, “Adam Chemickoff” ’10, Ted Otto ’10, Alex Markuzzi ’10, Philippe Coronado ’11, Max Taleffano ’11, Alex Walker ’12, Tyler Young ’12, “Andrew Kantor ’10, and Head Coach Greg Crandall. *Varsity Captains **JV Captain

Middle School Boys’ Soccer (7 W, 4 L, 1 T)


Varsity Field Hockey (2 W, 12 L, 1 T)


Middle School Field Hockey (2 W, 7 L, 1 T)


Varsity Girls’ Tennis (8 W, 3 L)

Congratulations to AnnElizabeth Konkel ’10 and Sophia Killinski ’10 for advancing to the PIAA District III tennis championships.


Middle School Cross Country


Varsity Cross Country (Trinity Co-Op) **

Noel Potter ’13

Varsity Football (Trinity Co-Op) **

James Wilson ’11

** Not pictured

Photos by Michael Barrett
Varsity Boys’ Soccer celebrates high accolades

The Varsity Boys’ Soccer team had a successful fall season, finishing with a 10-7 win-loss record and a SIAC co-championship. The team made it to the District III quarterfinals but lost to Camp Hill.

Several members of team received individual honors as well. The following team members were chosen as SIAC First Team All Conference members: Adam Chernicoff ’10, Cole Goodman ’12, Tony Kim ’11, Ted Otto ’10, Andrew Kantor ’10, and Cooper Lanning ’10 received Honorable Mentions.

Photos by Michael Barrett

Harrisburg Academy 2009-10
Triple Anniversary Annual Fund

Standing on their shoulders: Reaching for the stars

This is a very special year for Harrisburg Academy as we observe the anniversaries of the school’s founding in 1784, incorporation in 1809, and bold move to Erford Road fifty years ago in 1959.

Looking at the long history of the school, we salute the vision, dedication, and hard work of those who brought us to where we are today. Embracing our core values and always mindful of our strategic plan, Challenge 2013, the Academy provides today’s students with the richest educational experience in all of these 225 years. Future generations of students will benefit from all we hope to accomplish with your gifts.

The Annual Fund supports every program in the school and helps us to close the gap between tuition and the cost of that rich experience for each and every student.

Please give generously in honor of the Academy’s past and its future. If you have given in the past, please consider increasing your gift this special year.
Four years ago, I stared blankly at a sheet of paper entitled ‘School Activities 2006-07.’ It was the precursor to our now beloved CAS hours. It listed all the activities in which students could participate, ranging from band to the lacrosse team. There were points next to each of these activities, and every student needed a total of twelve points. I soon realized I would have to step out of my comfort zone and sign up for a sport in order to receive enough points. I knew I wasn't good at basketball, soccer, or field hockey. My only option was a sport I hadn’t really played before: tennis.

When I showed up for the first day of practice, I was nervous. All I knew about tennis was that I should hit a little, yellow ball inside the court. I was at a loss for the name of the lines, and I was shaky on how to score. Can you imagine going out for a sport you know nothing about? Another example of my inexperience was when the team started playing challenge matches. At the time, I did not know what a challenge match was, I could not figure out why the coaches told me to keep playing even though I was tired. I remember being so confused because I considered this to just be practice. I later found out that those matches determined the line up of the team. But the most significant memory of playing my freshman year was watching our number one play. I considered Lena to be fantastic. I wished I had just one of the shots she had. And I hoped that someday, maybe someday, I could get to go to District singles like her.

My second year, I placed number two on the team. I didn’t win many matches, but my level of play slowly started to climb because of more practice and the lessons I started taking. As the season ended, I joined the United States Tennis Association (USTA) and started playing USTA matches. I would continue to do this throughout the year as well as take clinics from my coaches. At these clinics I met tons of new people of all ages who played tennis. What truly amazed me was that these people rarely asked what school I went to (unlike the past where this was everyone’s first question). It didn’t matter if I attended public school, was homeschooled or even was in college. These people just cared if I could hit the ball. It was such a different atmosphere and I loved it.

I greatly improved over that winter and came back to the school team with much more experience. I hoped to be number one my junior year, but fate had other plans and instead an exchange student, Laura Willms, earned the top ranking. Slightly disappointed, I concluded that at least I got to play doubles with her. I thought we might do well at Conferences; later I found out that I deeply underestimated our ability. We were a fantastic doubles team. With Laura, I reached my goal of playing in Districts. I was so happy, but I still had an aspiration to try and go to Districts for singles.

Finally four years later, I have reached my goal I set when I was a freshman. Two weekends ago [October 2009] I played at District singles. No, I didn’t win, but I was just happy to be there. And what was more overwhelming, the event itself was the number of people I know who were there at the Hershey Racquet Club two weeks ago. I knew about 50 percent of the 150 attendees. This is such a drastic difference from four years ago when I didn’t know anyone who played tennis. I never thought that deciding to play as a freshman would have led to this. It’s caused me to meet so many new people from so many places, to have some very enjoyable tennis memories (such as a tournament director standing on the top level of a metal bleacher to watch for lightning strikes to determine if play was possible that evening), to learn how to work through injuries and, most importantly, a pastime I will enjoy for the rest of my life. So my advice is to try something new; you never know where it may lead you.

AnnElizabeth Konkel ’10 is a senior at Harrisburg Academy. In 2009, she beat Class AAA competition, was the Mid-Penn playoffs runner-up, and was named to the Patriot-News’ All Star team. In addition to making it to district playoffs in singles tennis, she advanced in doubles tennis with partner Sophia Kietlinski ’10. This is a transcription of Konkel’s senior speech.
CLASS OF ‘60
Class Agent
Lynn S. Davis
LSD135@rcn.com
Lynn S. Davis ’60 played the role of Daisy in “Driving Miss Daisy” in Allentown and Quakertown, Pa.

CLASS OF ‘78
Class agent needed!
Mark Parsells ’78 has lived in Wilmington, Del. for 11 years. He and his wife, Cathy, have two children, Clare, 11 and Jackson, 8. He is the CEO of Regulatory Data Corporation.

CLASS OF ‘80
Class agent needed!
Paul Kumar ’80 has spent most of his life as a union organizer, primarily responsible for politics and public policy work. After a decade in Connecticut and a few years in Washington, D.C., he moved to the West Coast to create a political and policy program for a major healthcare workers union. He is married and has two daughters.

CLASS OF ‘83
Class agent needed!
Peter Litton ’83 and his wife, Sharon, are living in Chicago with their 11-year-old daughter, Rebecca. Peter is a software development professional for Sears.

CLASS OF ‘85
Class Agent
Missy Meyer
melissameyer2@hotmail.com
Dr. Theresa Burick, D.O., F.A.C.P. ’85 was featured in the July 2009 issue of Harrisburg Magazine as one of the region’s Dynamic Women in Business. Dr. Burick founded the Burick Center for Health and Wellness in Mechanicsburg, Pa. Dr. Burick served as the Keynote Speaker at the Women in Business event on July 16, 2009.

CLASS OF ‘90
Class Agent
Erin Harcourt
erinharcourt@verizon.net
Dana (Rubin) Dunkelman ’90 and her husband welcomed a second baby girl, Sadie, born on Aug. 14, 2009. Maya is their older daughter. The family lives in Mount Laurel, N.J.

CLASS OF ‘93
Class Agent
Zachary Scheiner
zascheiner@gmail.com
Eric “Rickey” Chotiner ’93 is an ophthalmologist at the Memorial Eye Institute in Harrisburg, Pa. He is the proud father of Michael, 3 and Lauryn, 5. Lauryn attends Junior Kindergarten at Harrisburg Academy.

Sita Susanto ’93 has been living in Jakarta, Indonesia since 1997. She married in 2000 and works for an internet travel company, Indo.com. As part of her job, Sita enjoys frequent trips to Bali.

Blair Trogner ’93 and his wife Stacy ’92 live in Trumbull, Conn. with their two children, Emma, 5 and Blair III, 3. Blair works as a manager at the Pfizer Learning Center. He is working on completing an M.B.A. from Fordham Graduate School of Business in New York. Dr. Stacy Trogner is an attending child and adolescent psychologist for an inpatient unit at Riverview State Psychiatric Hospital. She is currently fulfilling her post-doctoral requirements and will be sitting for full licensure in early 2010.

Martha Wagichiengo ’93 studied hotel management in Switzerland and Boston and worked for the Westin and Sheraton hotels and resorts for six years. She returned to her native Kenya in 2006, where she manages real estate and works as a wedding and events planner.

CLASS OF ‘95
Class Agent
Grant A. Herbert
gherbert@hotmail.com
Meghann Van Dorn ’95 welcomed a son, William Garrett “Rett” Van Dorn, born on June 6, 2009.

CLASS OF ‘96
Class Agent Needed!
Bill Higgins ’96 works for IBM and recently finished a detailed software project. He is starting to plan for the next two years in the challenging field of technology.

CLASS OF ‘98
Class Agent Needed!
Sarah Longwell ’98 is the managing director for the American Beverage Institute (ABI) in Washington, D.C., an association of restaurants committed to the responsible serving of adult beverages. She was recently spotted being interviewed on the organization’s behalf by Fox News!

CLASS OF ‘00
Class Agent Needed!
Rebecca Leon ’00 graduated from Northeastern University in 2005 with a bachelor’s degree in business administration and marketing. She relocated to San Diego, Calif., worked with the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in San Diego, and interned with Latino Sport and Entertainment Marketing Group. Through her contacts with clients and companies, she was hired by the Miller Brewing Company as a Hispanic Sales/Marketing representative for the San Diego region. Three years later, she manages a team of four bilingual representatives and is responsible for sports and concerts promotions and all San Diego Key Hispanic Accounts for Miller-Coors Company.

CLASS OF ‘01
Class Agent
S. Colleen Morris
Morris.colleen@gmail.com
Tighe Lanning ’01 has been working at Riverside Architecture, PLLC in New York, N.Y. for three years. He has been involved with projects throughout Manhattan, India, and Beijing. His firm is active in becoming a “green consultant” for other architects in the area. Tighe still manages to take time out of his busy day to stay physically active, recently...
participating in the Nautica N.Y.C. Triathlons and the Malibu Triathlon in California.

Jill Waity ’01 earned a master’s degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania. She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in sociology at Indiana University (Bloomington, Ind.) and teaching undergraduate courses. Her research has allowed her to explore poverty, inequality, and public health policy throughout the United States. During her free time, Jill enjoys running and completed her first full marathon this fall.

CLASS OF ’02
Class Agent
Meredith Scheiner
mscheiner@gmail.com

Zenzele Cooper ’02 earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in acting from Rutgers University, Mason Gross School of the Arts. Zen has performed in more than 10 professional productions, including the roles of Sasha in “Nick,” an adaptation of Chekhov’s “Ivanov,” with Blessed Unrest (New York); Ramatu in The Classical Theatre of Harlem’s “Troy Women,” (New York); Adriana in “The Comedie of Errors,” at The American Globe Theater (New York); and Melibea/Isabelle/Hypolyta in “The Illusion,” at The Berkshire Theatre Festival (Mass.). Her most recent acting credits include an international tour through the Balkans (Albania, Kosovo, Macedonia) with the first-ever U.S. / Kosovo, international theater production of a Play.

CLASS OF ’03
Class Agent
Emily Mackin
emily.mackin@gmail.com

Arthur Winer ’03 attended Georgetown University and completed a major in Japanese studies. After finishing his undergraduate degree, he taught English as a second language in the JET program in Japan. He started medical school this fall at New York University.

CLASS OF ’05
Class Agent
Albert Farr
afarr@tulane.edu

Albert Farr ’05 is attending Tulane University and working towards a master’s degree in accounting. He is completing an internship this spring with Berdon in New York, NY and will graduate in 2010.

Jennifer Jin ’05 graduated from Franklin and Marshall College in 2009 with a bachelor’s degree in neuroscience and music. She is enrolled in her first year at Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine. School of Pharmacy. An accomplished musician, Jen is planning to teach violin and piano as well as play in the community orchestra. Please visit the alumni section of Harrisburg Academy’s website to listen to Jennifer’s full senior recital at Franklin and Marshall.

Katie Kantor ’05 is currently living in Connecticut and is involved in the Connecticut Ballet’s production of “The Nutcracker.”

Mia Prensky ’05 graduated from Bryn Mawr College in 2009. She is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in medieval Spanish literature at Princeton University.

Tom Sisto ’05 graduated with a bachelor’s degree in chemistry from Colby College in Waterville, Maine. Tom began teaching chemistry at Fryeburg Academy in Fryeburg, Maine. Fryeburg Academy is one of the oldest schools in the country, having been founded shortly after Harrisburg Academy. Tom plans to pursue a Ph.D. in chemistry.

CLASS OF ’06
Class Agent
Katharine Sloss-Hartman
bouwrightyouare@gmail.com

Ryan Lysaght ’06 graduated from Pepperdine University in 2009 and is completing his first year of law school at the Penn State University – Dickinson School of Law.

Leigh Myers ’06 is studying education at Washington & Jefferson College. She will be student teaching Kindergarten at Washington Park Elementary.

Annie Stone ’06 is pursuing a degree in comparative literature at Harvard University. She is perpetuating her love of music and is currently a member of Harvard’s premier a cappella group, The Radcliffe Pitches, and the Harvard drama program.

CLASS OF ’08
Class Agent Needed!
Anna Novak ’08 is an emerging young artist who exhibited original paintings at the Midtown Cinema in Harrisburg in July 2009. Currently a student at the Maryland Institute College of Art, she has studied with Terry Bowie at Harrisburg Academy, Kim Bowie at St. Stephen’s Episcopal School, and at the Art Association of Harrisburg. She also is an alumna of the Governor’s School for the Arts.

Rachel Tillison ’08 is a sophomore at Bryn Mawr College and is pursuing a major in anthropology and a minor in Spanish. She works at the campus library as an information services assistant and writes for the college newspaper in the Features section. Over this past winter break, she traveled to Guatemala to work in an orphanage. Rachel has been nominated as an Alumni Regional Scholar at Bryn Mawr and hopes to have an internship this summer in New York City or Washington, D.C.

CLASS OF ’09
Class Agent Needed!
Thomas Cheney ’09 toured Europe and Normandy Beaches after graduation. He is studying History at the University of Newcastle and plans to accept funding from the British Army, leading to enlistment as a Junior Officer on completion of his three-year degree program.

CLASS NOTES
Get married?
Promoted?
Have triplets?
Travel the world?
We want to hear about it!

Send your class notes to alumni@harrisburgacademy.org or submit your note online at www.harrisburgacademy.org/alumni.
Class Agents
Is your class year missing? Interested in being the Class Agent? Contact George Gonzales in the Development Office at alumni@harrisburgacademy.org to learn more.

Lynn S. Davis ’60
LSD135@rcn.com

Louise Kunkel ’64
louisekunkel@verizon.net

Carl Marshall ’65
cmarshall2304@verizon.net

Rodney Firestone ’68
firestonemotors@rs.com

George L. Morrison ’69
mrbat12@comcast.net

David H. Stone ’75
dstone@stonelaw.net

Daryl Jacobs Bressler ’77
dbressler59@hotmail.com

Dave Heisey ’79
dheisey@hppigpo.com

Ted Stevenson ’81
tedstevenson.jr@saic.com

Dan Klain ’82
danmedia@multimediawebs.com

Missy Meyer ’85
melissameyer2@hotmail.com

Damian Packer ’86
damian@mazunetworks.com

Alumni Council seeking to locate missing graduates
Harrisburg Academy’s Alumni Council is a dedicated group working to inspire fellow graduates to re-connect with the school. This year’s Council officially began its tenure on May 27, 2009 with Joe Gillette ’82 taking the reigns as president. The group’s main focus of 2009-10 is to assist in locating alumni and encouraging them to return for “A Toast in Time” anniversary gala. Council members are enthusiastic about locating missing classmates and creating awareness and excitement around the gala and future school events. “We’re trying to establish a tradition,” said Alumni Relations Associate George Gonzales. “We want our alumni to come back. We want them to not only receive our mailing pieces, but also to actually attend our gala, athletic events, and concerts.”

President Joe Gillette ’82 chose to get involved in the Alumni Council because he believes in giving back to the institutions that have helped to shape his life. “My vision for the role of the Alumni Council is simple — let’s reach out and try and make all of the alumni feel more connected to the school,” Gillette said. “My father was headmaster for eight years. Given his profession, I have an appreciation for what really makes an independent school go. I am in full of gratitude for the education I got at the Academy and happy to give back,” he said. “There really aren’t too many schools with such a rich history as the Academy. Everyone who attended the school knows what a special place it is. Why not join us at this special night to commemorate it?” Gillette added.

The full Alumni Council includes: Joe Gillette ’82 (president), Roy Brenner ’86, Albert L. Clark ’51, David Heisey ’79, Grant Herbert ’95, Christiana Kasian ’06, Dan Klain ’82, Mark Parsells ’78, Stephen Sorett ’67, Curt Trogner ’95, Jeff Walters ’85, and Andy Hickok Warner ’54.

Interested in joining the group? Contact George Gonzales at (717) 763-7811 or via email at gonzales.g@harrisburgacademy.org.

Triple Anniversary Referral Program
In appreciation for constant contributions of time, talent, and treasure, Harrisburg Academy is pleased to announce a small way for us to say “thank you” — in this case for the effort that our community makes to grow our school in this special Triple Anniversary year and beyond. At the All School Picnic to kick off the 2010-11 school year, we will give away $1,000 to a person in the Academy community who has made a referral of a prospective family to Harrisburg Academy which resulted in an enrollment in 1st through 12th grades for the 2010-11 academic year. Learn more about this on our website or contact Jessica Warren, Director of Admission and Financial Aid.
My Visit with Richard Reese ’47
By George Gonzales

This summer, I had a unique opportunity to visit Captain Richard Reese ’47 at his home in Cape May Court House, N.J. Prior to my visit, my connection with Richard was limited to phone conversations. With each call it became increasingly clear that Richard had interests to share, stories to tell, and, most of all, his life-changing experience while attending Harrisburg Academy.

As I pulled into his driveway, it was obvious to me that Richard had a maritime background — everything in its place, lawn cut, shrubs trimmed, and not a speck of dust on his red 1992 Cadillac convertible. As he opened the door to his home, I wasn’t surprised to see a friendly look on his face. I felt as though I had seen him before or somehow knew what he looked like from our conversations over the phone.

Upon entering the living room, I could not help but notice his collection of naval artifacts: model cargo ships, various types of brass hardware, a clock that came from the bridge of a ship he had navigated, and many other items too numerous to mention. I’m sure Richard would agree that his home was as close to a museum as you could get. Of course, with each question about his décor came an interesting story about his life at sea.

After graduating from Maine Maritime Academy, Richard worked for several shipping companies and traveled the world. Now retired, he enjoys kayaking, working out at the gym, and volunteering at the community hospital several days a week. Our conversation soon gravitated towards Harrisburg Academy and the impact it had on him as student and person. He remembered the names of students and teachers who influenced his educational and social growth. Richard particularly enjoyed special events, guest speakers, athletic contests, and class elections that were held throughout the year. I reminded him that these traditions are still in place today. Referring to the diversity of the student body and the dedication to education by the faculty, Richard gives the Academy full credit for his open-mindedness and continued desire to learn.

Tami Swartz ’85 continues to shine on and off the stage

While Tami Swartz ’85 attended Harrisburg Academy, many observed her passion for music that would lead her to a career in the performing arts. Tami displayed her talent during class plays, arts festivals, and performances on her own. Her energy and enthusiasm for the arts were contagious throughout her years at the Academy.

Never willing to accept the average or mundane, according to a September Patriot-News article, Tami, as director of her latest production, transformed a one-act Puccini opera, “Il Tabarro (The Clock)” to a future time — she shifted it from a barge along the Seine in 1910 to one docked in Paris 1959. However, this opera will have a unique twist by incorporating elements of the “golden age of jazz,” Tami said. She is enthusiastic to have Tim Warfield, a local recording artist, as part of the production.

After attending a performance in Memphis that featured a rock band after a production of “Faust,” Tami originated the idea of combining opera and jazz. She believes jazz and opera can share the stage comfortably, especially if opera gets a period update. In the article, Tami was quoted as saying, “We are joining forces with jazz to create a unique crossover experience with socially relevant themes.”

Tami is also known for her accomplishments throughout the opera community. Hailed by the Washington Post as “a lithe soprano […] especially clean and well modulated,” Tami is an “American soprano” with a varied career in opera, musical theater, new music, and jazz.

With the support of her parents, Lee and Frances Swartz, and the Harrisburg Opera Company, Tami continues to perform opera in Manhattan, Harrisburg, and overseas.
Dan Shanken ’89 makes a career of his passion, photography

Energetic and fun loving, Dan Shanken ’89 attended the Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT) as an economics major for one year. Feeling confined, Dan traded his dorm room for a backpack and a Eurorail pass and traveled extensively throughout Europe.

Upon his return, Dan went back to RIT to study photojournalism. After accepting an internship in the South, a “life-changing experience,” he said, Dan decided to travel to Israel to research Russian immigrants and work as a freelance photographer for a news agency in Jerusalem. Completing his college degree in the United States, Dan went back to Israel for a second time to hone his skills as a photojournalist.

After living in New York for a period of time, Dan and his wife, Ayelet, returned to Harrisburg in 2009 to pursue their passion by starting a local photography studio, Shanken Photography. Dan is quoted as saying, “Photography is a basic sense of curiosity that fuels my career.” Clearly, Dan loves what he does!

In October, Dan joined forces with Mr. Bowie’s IB art classes to discuss his career experiences as a photojournalist. Take a moment and visit Dan’s impressive website, www.shankenphoto.com.

Recent grad makes her mark at NYU

Silpa Tadavarthy ’08 is pursuing a major in psychology and a minor in chemistry. She is currently completing a pre-health curriculum at New York University.

At NYU, she is involved in the Hindu Students Council and is a member of the College of Arts and Science Presidential Honors Scholars Program. The top five percent of each entering class of students is invited to join the program, based on having demonstrated superlative academic achievement, consistent leadership, and service to the community. As a member of the Program, she has traveled to Florence, Italy on a study abroad intersession trip last January and will be studying abroad at NYU in London during the Spring 2010 semester. Silpa made the Dean’s List last year, one of the requirements to maintain membership in the Program.

This past summer she interned at Heritage Cardiology in Camp Hill and also volunteered as a counselor at the National Organization for Albinism and Hypopigmentation (NOAH) Family Summer Camp at Beacon Lodge in Mount Union, Pa. Her involvement with NOAH has always been significant, but it has been growing since she graduated from the Academy. The summer after Silpa graduated, she attended the national NOAH conference held in Las Vegas, Nev. Silpa states, “It was a wonderful and eye-opening experience to have before starting my freshman year at NYU in terms of networking, making a lot of friends with albinism who were also just starting college, and learning about new adaptive technology.” This past summer, in addition to being a counselor for the NOAH camp, she also attended a PA NOAH event at Longwood Gardens and met with Dr. Gabbay, an endocrinologist with albinism at Penn State Hershey Medical Center. Meeting with Dr. Gabbay affirmed her desire and intention to pursue an M.D. program that encompasses a visual impairment. Silpa was also interviewed several times for ABC’s 20/20 special on albinism, which aired this fall. She plans on volunteering at and helping to organize the teen portion of the next NOAH conference to be held this coming summer in Washington, D.C.
In Memoriam

Marie Graupner Elias

Marie Graupner Elias, a long time resident of Harrisburg, passed away July 17, 2009 at Harrisburg Hospital. Born Nov. 26, 1916 in Harrisburg, she was the daughter of the late William R. and Laura (Herberle) Graupner. She was preceded in death by her beloved husband, David A. Elias, Jr. in 1989.

Mrs. Elias was a member of the Zion Lutheran Church, Junior League of Harrisburg, Historical Society of Harrisburg, Garden Club of Harrisburg, and the Harrisburg Country Club. She is survived by several cousins.

Dr. Philip Stoddard Brown ’26

Philip Stoddard Brown ’26, an alumnus and benefactor of the Harrisburg Academy whose father Arthur E. Brown, was headmaster of the Academy from 1912 to 1940, died on Nov. 17, 2009 in his home at the age of 100.

Dr. Brown was born Aug. 12, 1909 in Philadelphia, Pa. and grew up in Harrisburg, PA. He attended Harrisburg Academy from 1914-1926, where his father Arthur E. Brown was headmaster for 28 years. His was married to his wife, Adele Smith, for 69 years until her death in 2001.

Dr. Brown received his B.A. from Harvard in 1930. After teaching for a year at William Penn Charter School in Philadelphia, he returned to Harvard where he received an M.B.A. and a doctorate degree in Commercial Science in ’37. Dr. Brown first moved to Washington D.C. in 1936 as a fellow for the Brookings Institute. He then worked for the U.S. Treasury, the Federal Reserve, and on the War Trade Staff of the Board of Economic Warfare, before being stationed in England during WWII with the Office of Strategic Services. After the War he worked briefly in the State Department and with the Economic Cooperation Administration on the Marshall Plan.

Dr. Brown is predeceased by his brother, Nicholas C. Brown, Ph.D. ’37 of Lancaster, Pa. and his sister, Virginia Brown House, Seiler School Class of ’29.

Dr. Nicholas Brown was provost and vice president for academic affairs emeritus of Millersville University. He had followed in the footsteps of his father with a long, successful career in higher education and a legacy in volunteering for and promoting Amnesty International. He received the Academy’s Alumnus of the Year award in 2006.

For donations to the Arthur E. and Mabel S. Brown Headmaster’s Discretionary Fund in memory of Dr. Philip Stoddard Brown, please contact Arthur Moore at moore.a@harrisburgacademy.org or (717) 763-7811.

Albert L. Allen, Jr.

Albert L. Allen, Jr. of Enola passed away July 20, 2009 at home. Born Feb. 21, 1920 in Harrisburg, he was the son of the late Albert L. Allen of Worcester, Ma. and the late Alice Lenore Allen of New York, N.Y. Mr. Allen attended the Harrisburg Academy and Mercersburg Academy. He was active in the military during WWII and active in the community later on. He graduated form the University of Virginia in Charlottesville, Va. He was preceded in death by his wife, Betty Gordon Allen and sister, Barbara A. Hench also of Camp Hill, Pa.

Barbara Kirkpatrick Stroup

Barbara Kirkpatrick Stroup died Dec. 3, 2009 at Cumberland Crossings Retirement Center in Carlisle, Pa. where she had resided since 2000. Born in 1919 in Harrisburg, Pa., she was the daughter of Elmer Kirkpatrick, a newspaper writer and editor, and Fannie Ober. She graduated from John Harris High School in 1936 and received her bachelor’s degree in English and a teaching certificate from Dickinson College in 1940. She would later receive a master’s degree in education from Shippensburg University. In 1941, she married Herbert W. Stroup, Jr., also of Harrisburg. Mrs. Stroup lived and taught in several places but while living in Camp Hill she taught at Harrisburg Academy. She was preceded in death by her husband of 58 years, the Rev. Dr. Herbert W. Stroup. She is survived by two children: Kirk Stroup, of Hagerstown, Md., and Katharine (Kate) Stroup Brooks, of Austin, Texas.

Gus R. Kuhlman, Sr.

Gus R. Kuhlman, Sr. died Aug. 12, 2009, at Park Place Center in South Brunswick. Born Oct. 26, 1917 in Harrisburg, PA, he resided there until moving to New Brunswick in 1939 and then to North Brunswick in 1941. Mr. Kuhlman attended the Harrisburg Academy and William Penn High School. He received a B.A. degree from the University of Pennsylvania in 1939, where he was member and president of the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternity. He was employed by Johnson & Johnson as a chemist from 1939-1957, then as a sales representative with Pioneer Salt & Chemical Co. from 1958 until his retirement in 1967. He has served on the North Brunswick Township Committee and as Police Commissioner from 1958-1963 as well as serving on a number of other township boards and committees. He was predeceased by his beloved wife of 58 years, Theo Poole Kuhlman, who died in 1999.

Rosanne H. Mahler

Rosanne H. Mahler, 66, surrounded by her loving family, passed away Dec. 18, 2009, at her home in Nuangola, Pa. after a long and courageous battle with breast cancer. She was born Sept. 6, 1943, a daughter of Nicholas J. Haydock and Marcella Adamski Haydock. Rosanne was a graduate of Wyoming Seminary Preparatory School, Forty Fort, Class of 1960. She received her undergraduate and graduate degrees from Barnard College, New York, N.Y., Arizona State University, Tempe, Az., and Wilkes College, Wilkes-Barre, Pa. She began a teaching career in 1964 at Harrisburg Academy and then taught at the Wyoming Seminary Upper School. Her teaching career concluded in 2004 as a professor of mathematics at the Pennsylvania State University, Wilkes-Barre Campus. She is survived by her husband of 47 years, Paul R. Mahler, and her three sons and their families.
Harrisburg Academy Homecoming
Week highlights service, celebration

The students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends of Harrisburg Academy observed a special Triple Anniversary Homecoming this year with stewardship and celebration.

On Friday, October 2, 2009 all Harrisburg Academy students participated in Community Service Day, a school-wide philanthropic effort. Upper School (US) and Middle School (MS) students dispersed to 24 locations throughout the greater Harrisburg area, including Channels food rescue, the Bethesda Mission, Country Meadows, and the GreenBelt. Their volunteer tasks included cooking, packaging food, painting, cleaning, raking leaves and sorting donations.

Younger children in the Early Childhood (EC) and Lower Schools (LS) stayed at the Academy and completed items to be donated to local children’s charity, Caitlin’s Smiles, and to area nursing homes.

US and MS students returned to school for the afternoon and joined the EC and LS students for lunch and an afternoon Fall Festival, run by US students. Children were able to purchase snacks, paint pumpkins, stuff scarecrows, play games, and buy raffle tickets for a chance to throw a whipped-cream pie into the face of Mrs. Smith, Mr. Martin, or Dr. Buckthal, Academy teachers, or at Upper School student council president, Reuben Mitrani ’10 at the end-of-day pep rally.

All proceeds from the Fall Festival were donated to Domestic Violence Services of Cumberland & Perry Counties in recognition of Domestic Violence Awareness month (October).

Harrisburg Academy Golf Classic

While students were doing good in the community, Harrisburg Academy supporters were be doing good for the students — by golfing in the Harrisburg Academy Triple Anniversary Golf Classic to raise money for the Scholarship Fund. The tournament, held at Blue Ridge Country Club in Harrisburg, allowed golfers the chance to reconnect with Academy friends while competing for great prizes.

Harrisburg Academy Triple Anniversary
Athletics Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony

Harrisburg Academy Homecoming activities concluded on Saturday, Oct. 3 with the Athletics Hall of Fame induction ceremony. This event recognizes and honors the outstanding achievements of students, coaches, and friends of the Academy’s athletics programs by inducting four new members each year. This year, the Academy was proud to induct remarkable graduates Donald H. Brownlee ’40 (awarded posthumously), Courtney J. Kaplan ’99, and Rangsey K. Van ’99.

Brownlee was a natural athlete, says his brother William, who accepted the award on Donald’s behalf. It didn’t matter whether it was a football game in a neighbor’s backyard or playing basketball at the local gym, Donald Brownlee always had the upper hand. When Brownlee went to Harrisburg Academy, he did it all — he played football well enough to make the all-city team, was on the championship basketball teams, and set the high jump record for the track and field team. He went on to be a three-sport athlete at Lehigh University and continued his athletics participation as a commanding officer in the Army, and later, as while working as a business professional. Brownlee was a modest individual and never spoke much about his athletic accomplishments. However, after he died, the family found his Harrisburg Academy varsity letter and graduation program in the night stand next to his bed.

Kaplan was a well-rounded athlete with skills to play sports all three seasons. She had intensity, dedication, and passion that were a part of her personality and character, said Kaplan’s former coach and current Director of Athletics Jean Serino. Kaplan was an accomplished tennis player, playing in USTA tournaments at the age of seven. Kaplan played number one singles and doubles in tennis for four years and was awarded MVP in 9th, 10th, and 11th grades. Her career as a basketball player was no exception. Always willing to work hard in practice and games, she was selected to the SIAC League All-Star Team. In her final season as a varsity softball player, Kaplan was a member of the SIAC League Championship in 1999, and was elected to the All-Conference Team. She received Harrisburg Academy’s most prestigious athletics award during her senior year, the Sports Club Trophy. Kaplan attended the University of Pittsburgh and played tennis at the NCAA level.

Van was also a three-sport athlete, playing soccer, basketball, and lacrosse. As an underclassman, Van was curious about lacrosse and welcomed the challenge of learning a sport about which he knew nothing. According to former coach George Gonzales, he was a natural. Van’s career in athletics at Harrisburg Academy evolved throughout high school. Each day that he came to practice, he brought an aura of confidence that was contagious to team members and coaches. On the basketball court, Rangsey brought a charisma to every aspect of the game, said former coach Steve Stewart. He was a passionate competitor who respected the game and everything around it, and he embodied all the positive qualities that high school athletics are meant to instill in student athletes.

Congratulations to this group of special inductees!
Moving?
Please forward your change of address to the Alumni & Development Office at alumni@harrisburgacademy.org.

A Toast in Time

Come Join Us...
Raise your glass and celebrate Harrisburg Academy’s 225 years of academic excellence!

Saturday, April 17, 2010
Hershey Lodge

To purchase tickets contact Beth Zak at 717-763-7811