

The G A M M

GAM: a social meeting of whaleships...with all the sympathies of sailors [and] all the peculiar congenialities arising from a common pursuit.

FROM THE HEADMASTER

Global competition and the well-rounded education

In a recent opinion piece in the Wall Street Journal (8/8/07 p. A13), Chester Finn and Diane Ravitch (both former Assistant U.S. Secretaries of Education) explain why American high schools must embrace a liberal education. They wrote in response to the “America Competes Act,” which was signed into law in August and substantially increases government funding for science, technology, engineering and math (referred to as STEM subjects).

While the authors are not opposed to the study of these specific subjects, they fear the plight of those subjects not mentioned in the legislation and the abandonment of the notion of the “well-rounded” education.

They argue for a course of study broader than STEM, which they call “a mistake that will ill-serve our children while misconstruing the true nature of American competitiveness and the challenges we face in the 21st century.”

Finn and Ravitch continue:

The liberal arts make us “competitive” in the ways that matter most. They make us wise, thoughtful and appropriately humble. They help our human potential to bloom. And they are the foundation for a democratic civic polity, where each of us bears equal rights and responsibilities... We’re already at risk of turning U.S. schools into test-prepping skill factories where nothing matters except exam scores on basic subjects.

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FA observes 30th anniversary with examination of cultural dilemma in Sinai

No simple birthday party will do to celebrate Falmouth Academy’s 30th anniversary. While there will, of course, be a big party, it will be preceded by the academic investigation which is the hallmark of FA’s curriculum. On Friday, October 19, the Falmouth Academy Community Series will host Middle East expert Clinton Bailey, speaking on the influence of Bedouin culture on the politics of the Middle East.

Dr. Bailey is a visiting professor in Middle East Politics at Trinity College. He has had experience on both sides of the Arab-Israeli divide. On one hand, he has been a student of Arab history and Bedouin culture, and has written *Jordan’s Palestinian Challenge, 1948-1983: A Political History*; *Hamas: a Challenge to the PLO*; *Bedouin Poetry from Sinai and the Negev: Mirror of a Culture*; and *A Culture of Desert Survival: Bedouin Proverbs from Sinai and the Negev*. He has also been an activist for Bedouin rights in Israel and, in 1994, was awarded the prestigious Emil Grunzweig Human Rights Award, by the Association for Civil Rights in Israel.

On the other hand, Bailey has served as a senior officer in the Israeli army and an adviser in the Ministry of Defense, and has counseled consecutive Israeli governments, including that of Ariel Sharon, on ways of breaking the impasse toward Israeli-Palestinian peace. Bailey received his B.A. in Middle East history and Islamic culture from Hebrew University in Jerusalem, an M.A. in

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Global competition and the well-rounded education

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That's not what America needs nor is it a sufficient conception of education accountability. We need schools that prepare our children to excel and compete not only in the global workforce but also as full participants in our society, our culture, our polity and our economy.

At Falmouth Academy all of our students, grades 7-12, are expected to work with their teachers to meet the demands of a challenging core curriculum that explores English, history, science, mathematics, foreign languages and the arts every year. This broad core insures a firm and stable foundation that they can build on each year — as students here and as adults. Creativity, empathy, intuition and the ability to link seemingly unrelated objects and events are central components of the culture and learning experience at FA.

Finn and Ravitch express concern over the ongoing mandate for more standardized testing. This kind of testing seems antithetical to the type of education our children will need for the future. I doubt that it will produce the skills that American students will need to succeed: collaboration, strong writing and reading skills, and problem-solving and critical-thinking skills.

It is the mission of Falmouth Academy and my hope that students leave our school as educated people who think deeply about civic duty and ethics, who can positively influence their communities, who have an entrepreneurial spirit, and who are creative, imaginative and compassionate. I applaud Finn and Ravitch for their outspoken commitment to a well balanced education, and I applaud our talented, committed, imaginative Falmouth Academy teachers for delivering one.

David C. Faus

Remember when...

The challenge to name the members of FA's 1984 JV co-ed soccer team pictured in the September GAM was won by **Jen Schneider-Ziskin '89**, who was able to name nearly all the players.

Congratulations, Jen! Your prize is in the mail.

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[See page 11 for a new photo from the FA archives.]

FA's student leadership for 2007-08

Student Council: Max Mann '08, president; Sarah McAra '08, vice president; Logan Driscoll '10, treasurer; Michael Deasy '10, secretary.

National Honor Society: Sonja Swanbeck '08, president; Shelley Kandola '09, vice president; Lagan Treischmann '10, secretary; Hannah Allen '09, treasurer; Ian Remillard '11, junior representative.

Senior class: Lizzie Cookson, president; Julia Astrauckas, vice president; Victoria Stearns, treasurer.

Junior class: Kylee Donovan, president; Pierson Besse, vice president; Tom Moore, treasurer.

Sophomore class: Nicole Fleury, president; Caroline Cotto, vice president; Marco Catipovic, treasurer.

Freshman class: Harly Hutker, president; Nate Haycock, vice president; Ian Remillard, treasurer.

Eighth grade: Daniel Eder, president; Rachel Dragos, vice president; Tommaso Moneta, treasurer.

The seventh grade will hold elections later this fall for two student council representatives and a treasurer.

Class presidents and vice presidents serve as members of the Student Council, in addition to the SC officers and the NHS president. Ω

The GAM

Published nine times a year for the community of Falmouth Academy

Integrating science, humanities, athletics & arts for grades 7 through 12

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Astrauckas, Mann named National Merit Semifinalists

Seniors Julia Astrauckas and Maxwell Mann have been named semifinalists in the 2008 National Merit Scholarship competition. They continue a proud tradition at FA and are among only seven semifinalists from the Cape.

Julia is vice president of her senior class and a member of the National Honor Society. In addition to her core academic program, she has taken painting or drawing each year at FA, volunteered at JML, and, for two years, played on the girls' JV soccer team. Once a piano player, Julia now spends more time playing guitar in a small band, Common Misconception. Over the summer she was a volunteer teacher of English as a Second Language for elementary school students in Sandwich.



Max Mann and Julia Astrauckas

Max, who is the president of the Falmouth Academy Student Council, is a member of the National Honor Society and was one of four Falmouth Academy students recently recognized for outstanding achievements by the Falmouth Rotary Club. Two years ago, he earned a 3rd place in microbiology at the

Intel International Science and Engineering Fair. Outside of school, he plays the piano, has studied conversational Chinese and Japanese, and learned computer programming at Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution from Dr. Raymond Schmitt, with whom he worked analyzing data during the summer.

Julia and Max earned the semifinalist honor as a result of their high scores on the 2006 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) taken last fall by more than 1 million high school juniors. The nationwide pool of semifinalists represents less than one percent of U.S. high school seniors.

Other Cape Cod schools with semifinalists are Falmouth High School (2), and Barnstable, Sturgis Charter, and Dennis-Yarmouth (1 each). Winsor, Middlesex, Belmont Hill, Waring, and Lincoln each had two semifinalists. Tabor, Rocky Hill, Providence Country Day, and Portsmouth Abbey had one semifinalist each.

Max and Julia's qualifying as semifinalists in this national competition is a testament to their hard work and that of their teachers. Well done. Ω

FA observes 30th anniversary with examination of cultural dilemma in Sinai

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international relations in the Middle East from Columbia University, and a Ph.D. in political science, with a specialization in the Middle East, from Columbia University.

Immediately following Dr. Bailey's presentation, FA will host a 30th anniversary dinner followed by dancing to the Symphony Swing Band, under the leadership of Mr. George Scharf. With the theme, "Our History/Our Legacy," the dinner setting will feature a timeline of Falmouth Academy's 30 years. We invite you to bring along your favorite memory to add to the timeline: paper and pins will be provided!

On Saturday, October 20, the Colorado Quartet will present a concert to benefit Falmouth Academy. Guest artist will be pianist Robelyn Schrade-James, performing in a program of Schubert and Brahms.

Dr. Bailey's talk is free and open to the public. Both the anniversary dinner and the Colorado Quartet concert require reservations. Tickets for the dinner dance are \$40 per person (\$25 per person for graduates of the classes of 1997-2007). A sponsorship (\$1000) includes a reserved table for 10 and a program listing. Concert tickets are \$35 per person. Reservations for both events may be made by contacting Mrs. Barbara Campbell in the Alumni Office, 508-457-9696.

Please join us as we celebrate this milestone anniversary. Ω

“Energy Super Star” FA to be part of National Solar Tour

Falmouth Academy was named the second annual Energy Super Star Award winner in a competition sponsored by the Falmouth Energy Committee. Awards are given annually in the categories of individual, business, municipal employee, and organization (FA's category). The school will be one of the Green Buildings Open House sites on Saturday, October 6. The event is sponsored by the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association as part of the American Solar Energy Society's National Solar Tour.

Throughout the Northeast, homes and other buildings are taking advantage of clean renewable energy and other green building technologies. This open house offers a unique opportunity to see first-hand how clean energy and green building practices can be put to work. According to NESEA's website, “homeowners and building managers will be on site to describe their green building features and answer questions.” Building techniques on display at the open house sites will include “designing for solar heating (passive solar), energy-efficient building techniques such as superinsulation and air sealing, safe indoor air quality, and resource-efficient and healthy building materials.”

Falmouth Academy's new wing was designed by Warren Daniel Architects and built by J.K. Scanlan. It features daylighting, heat recovery ventilation, radiant floor heating. In addition, of course, there is our new wind turbine. A description of the building will appear on the NESEA website.

In his application for the tour, Mr. Richard Spurduto cited the school efforts “to live an environmentally conscious lifestyle. Our institutional approach to environmental education,” he wrote, “includes recycling 75% of our waste, conservation of energy...and formation of good habits.” Mr. Spurduto is widely acknowledged as the chief motivator for the school's efforts in this regard. Faculty, students, and visitors efforts to follow the guidelines for recycling and conservation are definitely paying off.

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Head's Outreach Council discusses communications

Capitalizing on the power of personal connection was the prevailing message as Falmouth Academy's Head's Outreach Council (HOC) met in September to suggest ideas for the school's communications plans in the coming years.

“I'm thrilled to have such a strong group of Falmouth Academy friends and supporters offer us their honest advice,” Headmaster David Faus said after the meeting. “We

know we're getting our messages out, but we're always looking for ideas about reaching people more effectively.”

Several HOC members lauded Falmouth Academy's personal touch and suggested ways to communicate directly with the communities we

serve. Falmouth Selectwoman Mary Pat Flynn believed FA students should serve as ambassadors in town, while Falmouth residents Mary Loftus and Mrs. Norman Cross suggested community service days for students, parents and alumni. Past parent Dr. Tom Gregg of Falmouth and current parent Michael Moore of Marion reminded the group that invitations to the school are important, especially for events like the Science Fair.

“I was honored to be asked to judge the Science Fair,” Dr. Gregg said, “and I learned a great deal more about the work of FA students and faculty in the process.”

Some 30 participants offered a variety of ideas in a lively conversation. Other ideas included polling, Web site upgrades, meetings with local groups, advertising and others.

The Head's Outreach Council is a group of community leaders in a variety of fields who meet regularly to discuss some of the most important issues at Falmouth Academy and in the field of education. For more information about the HOC, please contact Development Director Jayne Iafrate at (508) 457-9696, ext. 240, or at jiafrate@falmouthacademy.org.

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Mitchell sisters (FA '02 and '06) advance Human Rights work in Paraguay

Falmouth Academy's Amnesty International group has long been a student-organized, ad hoc enterprise. Meeting several times a year, on Friday afternoons, students and sometimes faculty gather to write letters on behalf of political prisoners who are being unjustly detained. Two alumnae who were instrumental in keeping the Amnesty group going have taken its philosophies and applied them on a broader international human rights stage.

When she was an FA senior, Mia Mitchell '06 thought she'd be interested in studying anthropology and becoming involved in human rights work. She was admitted to Smith College, but decided to defer for a year in order to volunteer abroad. Through the American Field Service (AFS), Mia was placed in Paraguay for a year to work for *Tierraviva a los Pueblos Indígenas del Chaco*. This collective of lawyers defends the rights of Paraguay's indigenous people, most of whom reside in the Chaco, the western half of the country that alternately suffers through floods and droughts. Unemployment, a shortage of land, malnutrition, and other health issues are prevalent in the area.

Armed with six years of French and a limited knowledge of Spanish, Mia immersed herself in the culture and was able to pick up the Spanish language fairly quickly. "I speak Spanish the way Paraguayans do," she cautions, "mixed at times with Guarani, the indigenous language spoken widely throughout the country, and using different verb tenses and subjects that the Spanish of countries like Colombia, Mexico, or Spain." One of Mia's primary jobs was translating information into Spanish for publication. She also served as official photographer to document visits to the Chaco and helped with *Tierraviva's* radio program.

Mia lived in the capital city of Asunción, at first with an affluent family. Looking for more diversity, she later settled in with a middle-class couple, their children and grandchildren, becoming part of their family. It was, however, a treat when her real sis-

ter Emma (FA '02) visited on two occasions.

A student in the University of Virginia's Ph.D. in nursing program, Emma was able to research the effects the indigenous people's economic and political situation has on their health. "The health issues these communities face are complex," Emma said, "and the limited resources available compound the problems."

On Emma's first visit, Mia and Tierraviva were able to connect her to a Chaco community where she set up a small clinic to perform minor first aid. Emma returned a few months later with a fellow UVa student. With Mia acting as liaison, they researched available nutrition, looking for signs of malnutrition and stunting by measuring the height, weight, and upper arm circumference of children in four communities,



Mia [left] and Emma Mitchell

ranging from age 2 to 18. "The communities lack a secure food or water source because of the political situation," Emma explained. "As they have been forcibly removed from their lands, most cannot farm crops and are thus reliant upon governmental food

rations. These are not regularly monitored for content, quality, efficiency, etc."

Emma is still analyzing her data and compiling results. She presented her findings at the Universitas 21 conference in Hong Kong in September. Universitas 21 is an international network of 20 leading research-intensive universities in twelve countries. The University of Virginia is the only U.S. member of the network.

"Paraguay was an amazing experience," said Emma. "We're hoping that the research we did will help *Tierraviva* in their work on behalf of these communities in the Inter-American Court of Human Rights."

Meanwhile, as Mia enters her freshman year at Smith, she is clearer about her future priorities. She spoke about her experience to Church Women United this summer at their observance of World Day of Prayer. Going from middle-class New England to the poverty of the Chaco, Mia said, allowed her to learn more about

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FA poet reads for Space Station astronaut

The Falmouth Academy phone rang recently with an urgent request from the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution for the presence of one Maia ten Brink '09 to attend a reception for NASA astronaut Sunni Williams and read a poem – one of her own.

The poem appeared in the 2007 edition of *Resonance*, FA's literary magazine, and won for Maia the first prize in the magazine's writing contest.

The poem pleased the assembled guests and we are pleased to reprint it here.



We hope our readers will indulge us as we bring you one more update from Making

Waves, the successful FA auction held in the spring. We have news of a very satisfied customer!

Barbara Milligan [left], grandmother of Rachel Allen '04 and Hannah Allen '09 (and Libby Allen BHS '06), spent

her 81st birthday jumping out of a perfectly good airplane in a tandem skydive.

The skydiving experience, donated by FA alumna Miyoko Sato '86, was purchased at the spring FA auction by FA trustee Ben Allen. He thought it would make the perfect gift for his mother-in-law, a woman who had always dreamed of skydiving.

Her daughter, Julie Allen, sent us this description: "The skydive began at 10,000 feet with a freefall to 5,000 feet. Then the canopy opened and they floated gently back to the landing field. Barbara loved it and wants to go again next year!"

It just goes to show that you'll find plenty of action at an FA auction -- and new horizons, to boot. The event raised \$75,000 for the school, as well as many new friends.

We await news of Mrs. Milligan's next adventure! Ω

Mitchell sisters in Paraguay

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herself. Now, she's sure that she will pursue a career in human rights law.

At Smith, Mia is considering a double major in Government and Latin America Studies. She is taking a Spanish literature class to keep up her language skills. "I am also helping a Colombian professor research how globalization, especially NAFTA, has affected Latin America film," she reported.

Looking back on her year in Paraguay, Mia said, "It was the perfect time to experience a different culture. It made me appreciate where I am," she said, "and where I'm going."

We will certainly be interested in where both these young women are going. Ω

AFTER THE TELEPHONE CALL FROM THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION TO THE DEEP-SEA SUBMERSIBLE ALVIN

Earth is a vaulted ceiling and a dirt-packed floor
The Alvin careens down underwater
Everests,
Disturbing the silt, a sting-ray, a cloud of sleeping fish
Everything is black and speckled with copepods
The operator has his technical night-lights
And the lullaby hum of the engines

An oceanographer snores with his forehead
Against the window, a few panes of glass
Holding out thousands of pounds of echoing,
Teeming ocean destruction
We'll call him Charlie
An astronaut snores with his forehead
Against the window, a few panes of glass
Holding out thousands of light-years of freezing,
Infinite midnight destruction

The space station drifts on an endless plane of emptiness,
Disturbing no one with its roar and wide ten-thousand-watt eyes
Everything is black and speckled with stars
The operator has his technical night-lights
And the lullaby hum of the engines

6 Earth is a vaulted ceiling and a dirt-packed floor. Ω

Refrigerator Calendar

MONDAY, OCTOBER 1:

- 7:00 pm -- Parents' Association meeting.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 2:

- Registration deadline for 11/3 SATs.
- College Admission Workday for seniors.
- Grade 8 departs for Monadnock trip.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3:

- Grade 7 Watershed Project trip.
- Grade 8 returns from Monadnock.
- 3:30 -- BV & BJV vs. Hyde (h).
- 3:30 -- GV @ Hyde.
- 5:30 -- Board of Trustees meeting at FA.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 5:

- 10:15 am -- Grandparents' Day.
- 3:30 -- BMS & GMS @ CCA.
- 4:00 -- BV & GV vs. CCA (h).
Tailgate picnic sponsored by
Student Council.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6:

- SAT I & II.
- 10:00 -- FA on 2007 Green Buildings Open House tour (*see page 4*).

MONDAY, OCTOBER 8:

- Columbus Day holiday -- no classes; offices closed.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10:

- 7:15 am -- Grade 7 teachers meeting.
- 3:30 -- GMS & BMS @ Mashpee.
- 4:00 -- BV vs. St. Andrew's (h).
- 4:00 -- GJV vs. CCA (h).

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11:

- 8:00-Noon -- Yearbook Portraits.
- 4:00 -- GJV @ Moses Brown.
- 4:15 -- BMS & GMS vs. St. Francis Xavier.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 12:

- Progress Report day -- no classes; no faculty meeting; offices open.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13:

- 10:00 am -- GV @ PCD.
- 11:00 am -- GJV @ PCD.
- 1:30 -- BV @ St. Thomas More.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 15:

- 3:30 -- GV @ CCA.
- 3:30 -- GMS @ Riverview.
- 4:00 -- BV @ Cambridge-Weston.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16:

- 8:00-9:00 am -- 7th - 9th grade parents' coffee with the headmaster.
- 3:45 -- BMS @ Westport.
- 4:15 --GV @ Gann Academy.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17:

- 8:00-9:00 am -- 10th - 12th grade parents' coffee with the headmaster.

- 8:00-11:00 -- PSATs for grades 10 & 11.
- 3:30 -- GV vs. Lincoln (h).
- 4:00 -- BV vs. Rocky Hill (h).
- 5:00 -- Comm. on Trustees mtg.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18:

- 3:30 -- GMS & BMS @ Chatham.
- 4:00 -- BV vs. PCD (h).

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19:

- Progress Reports dist. at Break
- 4:00 -- GV & GJV vs. Wheeler (h).
- 4:00 -- BJV @ Chapel Hill.

• **FA's 30th Anniversary celebration**

(*see over.*)

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20:

- 1:00 -- BV @ St. Andrew's.
- **2:00-4:00 -- Fall Open House** (*see over*).
- 3:00 -- GV @ St. Andrew's.
- 7:30 -- **30th anniversary** Colorado Quartet concert (*see over*).

MONDAY, OCTOBER 22:

- NO Falmouth Public School buses.
- 4:15 -- BV vs. Gann (h).

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23:

- 4:00 -- GMS & BMS vs. Nauset (h).

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24:

- 4:00 -- GV & GJV vs. PCD (h).

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25:

- 3:30 -- BMS & GMS vs. Chatham (h).
- 3:45 -- GV @ Cambridge-Weston.
- 7:00-8:00 -- 8th grade Book Club (*see over*).

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26:

- 4:00 -- GJV vs. Moses Brown (h).
- 7:30-10:30 pm -- Dance sponsored by *Mainsail '08* (yearbook).

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27:

- 9:00 am -5:00 pm -- Tech. rehearsal for *The Importance of Being Earnest*.
- 2:30 -- BV & BJV vs. Ports. Abbey (h).

MONDAY, OCTOBER 29:

- 3:30 -- BV @ CCA.
- 3:30 -- GV @ Woodward.
- 4:00 -- BJV vs. CCA (h).

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 30:

- Reg. deadline for Dec. 1 SATs.
- 2:30 -- auditions for Middle School play.
- 4:00 -- BMS & GMS vs. CCA (h).

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 31:

- 3:00 -- GV & GJV @ Ports. Abbey.

Please see over for more information...

Calendar Bulletins

IN THE FA GALLERY:

- Main Floor gallery: 8th grade bas relief sculptures of Civil War citizens. Created by class of '11 in spring '07. *Through Oct. 31.*
- Bulletin Board Photo show: Isabel Stearns '09.
October 29-November 12.

Grandparents' Day

*Friday, October 5th
Gather at 10:15 am*

Please join your grandchild for All-School Meeting in our gym, followed by classes and lunch on us.

*Questions? Call Mrs. Campbell at
508-457-9696, x. 227.*

Fall Open House

Saturday, October 20
2:00-4:00 p.m.

This year, our visitors will go on a quest, seeking out FA teachers and students for hands-on demonstrations of the FA educational experience. At each stop, you'll *learn something* or *take part* in an activity that will help you get to know our school better.

Please join us! If you know families who might be interested, please bring them along with you.

*Questions? Call Mr. Earley in the
Admissions Office at
508-457-9696, x. 224.*

Falmouth Academy's 30th anniversary!

- Friday, October 19: 6-7 p.m., FA Performance Space
**FALMOUTH ACADEMY COMMUNITY SERIES: Professor Clinton Bailey on
*The Heritage of Bedouin Culture in Middle East Politics***

7:30-10 p.m., FA Gym
A 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION DINNER DANCE
Buffet dinner, music and dancing (RSVP required)
- Saturday, October 20: 7:30 p.m., FA Performance Space
COLORADO QUARTET CONCERT with Robelyn Schrade-James, piano
An evening of Brahms and Schubert to benefit Falmouth Academy
(RSVP required)

Please see page 3 for reservation details.

Mansal

*invites all students 7-12
to the **first dance** of the year
in the gym on **Friday**
October 26, 7:30-10:30 pm
\$5.00 per person*

*Drinks and snacks available.
One guest per FA student
(must be registered with
Mr. Swanbeck in advance)
Please join us!*

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GRADE 8 BOOK CLUB

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25TH

7:00-8:00 P.M.

Join the 8th graders and their teachers for a discussion of *Down the Rabbit Hole*, by Peter Abrahams. Parents are welcome!

FA's ROV team tops regional, places in international competitions

Long-time readers of the GAM may recall a story back in the summer of 2004 about Falmouth Academy's first Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) team demonstrating their craft in a classmate's swimming pool. That ROV was an ungainly, rectangular object on land, although surprisingly maneuverable underwater and its designers earned second place (breaking a three-way tie with their articulate, extemporaneous oral presentation) in the regional competition held at the University of Rhode Island.

Flash forward to the 2007 ROV team. This team's ROV was more compact in appearance, about 15 pounds lighter, and absolutely nimble underwater. The team [pictured above], consisting of Ben Mann '07, Reese Kuppig '08, Chris Moore '08, Evan Hutker '07, Eric Schmitt '07, Stephen Schmitt FHS '07, Addison Jones-Mulairé '08, and Sarah McAra '08, went to the regional competition at Massachusetts Maritime Academy and blew away the challengers.

A report in *Marine Technology Reporter* quotes the head judge, Bob Lobecker of TMS in Newport, as saying "The Falmouth Academy mission performance was awesome. They completed all missions in 6 out of 20 minutes, and included bonus points for picking up two extra Glo-Balls." This mission is completed blind – that is, the operators can't see their vehicle directly, only via a monitor, as would be the case operating under ice cover.

The competition is multi-faceted. Teams must design and build their vehicle, operate it under water (this year's challenge simulated working under ice cover in honor of International Polar Year), produce a poster display explaining their project, submit a technical written report, and introduce their vehicle to the panel of judges. It's clear that years of FA, regional, and state science fairs have provided the FA students with the right kind of preparation for this event. In addition to their swift and efficient underwater operation, the Falmouth team placed first for their poster display.

Work began in the fall and occupied one



day every weekend to the project, right up to the regional competition in April. The ROV was tested in the pool at Holiday Inn and at Sarah's home. They spent some \$2,000 on their vehicle, with the generous help of sponsorships by Webb Research Corp., Deep Sea Systems International, Inc., Wood Lumber Co., Onset Computer Corp., Emily Jackson, Eban Franks and Benthos, and Mrs. Lalise Melillo.

Their win qualified them to go to the international event in St. John's, Newfoundland. The whole team (and several parents) flew up to a "much bigger, tougher competition," according to Reese. There were three missions in three different venues: an ice tank (used to test models of ice-breaking ships), a tank with a strong current, and a tank with waves. "The facilities were very impressive," said Addison.

They made some modifications to their vehicle after the regionals, adding a ping-pong ball catcher and changing the spring system on the ROV's claw, according to Sarah. The efforts paid off, as the team placed 4th in the missions and 5th overall. They also earned the award for Design Elegance.

Reese and Addison are both interested in pursuing engineering, although not sure yet whether it will be in robotics. Sarah, while intrigued by the design process, says she has no idea yet what her college major will be.

As for more immediate plans, they plan to poll the current senior and junior classes to see if anyone else is interested in building a 2008 ROV. "But we need a place to build it in," said Reese, "one with metal machining tools." (Last year, their mentor, Dr. Raymond Schmitt, allowed the team the use of his complete home machine shop.) If any GAM reader has such a location to offer, please let us know. They'd like to see how far they can go!

ten Brink '06 takes recycling fun to Israeli kibbutz

When Talya ten Brink graduated from Falmouth Academy in 2006, she decided to take some time before going to college to live and work in Israel. Her grandmother lives in the port city of Haifa, so she had a home base, but she wanted to explore the countryside of Israel, too.

She planned on spending five months on a kibbutz, where she split her time between working and studying Hebrew. At Ma'agan Michael, located between Tel Aviv and Haifa, she worked for a time in a plastics factory and then doing landscaping. She made friends there and learned a great deal.

After that, Talya went to Haifa for another two months and worked two days a week as an intern in a Tel Aviv public relations firm. The firm handles all the international PR

for Birthright Israel, an organization which provides a one-week tour of the country for Jews from around the world.

But it was her final two months that proved especially interesting to Talya. One of her friends from the kibbutz met a man who worked in the northernmost Field School in Israel and was looking for volunteers. The fifteen Field Schools located throughout the country are operated by the Society for Protection of Nature in Israel to offer Israeli teens an opportunity to learn about the environment, generally through school field trips. This particular school is located near the border with Lebanon. "Security was very tight, but the school was safe and quiet," Talya said.

At the field school, the staff spoke only Hebrew. Talya and her friend spent their time doing odd jobs, painting walls, designing gardens, and designing a recycling program. "Israel doesn't do much recycling. Before we arrived, the school's recycling effort consisted of a four-sided tall fenced area, into which they threw bottles," Talya said. "Our goal was to make recycling fun for the kids."

First, they lowered the fences and cleaned out (and sorted) the bottles. Then they rebuilt the container dividing it

bottles, cans, and paper. On one wall, they placed a basketball hoop for plastic bottles. On another, there was a slot in the wood for paper.

For glass bottles, they designed a fortune telling wheel. And for cans, they designed three plastic tubes that wound around each other. The tubes were to be made from large, clear plastic bottles. Cans are dropped in at one place, then randomly travel through one of the tubes and down to a receptacle at the bottom.

Talya and her friends also designed a

game to encourage composting. A board holds pictures of various items and the students guess which ones are compostable.

Because Talya had only eight weeks to spend at the school,

she wasn't able to see the recycling center completely built. They did get the plastic bottle center built and temporarily installed separate bins for glass, cans, and paper, as seen in the photo above.

The head of the Society for Protection of Nature in Israel visited the field school and was "really enthusiastic about the plan and our ideas," said Talya. She got to put to use the PR skills she had picked up in Tel Aviv to get the recycling program off the ground.

One reason the field school was so interesting to Talya was because the staff represented so many areas of Israeli society. "The manager was Druze (a sect of Islam that keeps its beliefs secret in order to blend into the society of the country where they live), one of my colleagues was Arab, some of the cleaners were from Russia -- it was an unusual mix," Talya said.

She wrapped up her year by visiting with friends from the kibbutz who live in Germany and Holland. "In Germany, I visited the cafeteria in a university, where they had a great recycling center. I took a picture of it for Mr. Sperduto!"

Talya plans to return to Israel after she finishes college. "I think I can be of some use there," she said. We expect she will be "of some use" wherever her life takes her.



Alumni News

In the second game of the season for Hobart William Smith College, he started against Keene State and helped win the game 1-0. Nick Chu reports that he likes his dorm and roommate at Earlham, and he even saw Evan Dalton '04, a senior there this year.

Dylan Meyer '07 deferred entering Eckerd College for a year to work at Scripps Institute of Oceanography. He is a curator at the International Ocean Drilling Program's West Coast Core Repository, and hopes to have the opportunity to sail on their newly renovated drillship as a marine technician.



(above) Sam Amazeen '07 got a visit from Jes Waller '09 and John Hough '07 during his first liberty after an intense plebe summer at the U.S. Naval Academy. Sam would love to hear how his classmates are doing: semperf66452@aol.com.

More college news

Sean O'Neill '04 has transferred to Boston College. Fellow FA alumnus and BC student Philip Logan '05 has decided to major in biology and psychology. He also took an EMT class.

Fred Denton '05 took some time off from college to sail with his father, and, as of this publication, is on the island of Tonga. We also received word that Rachel Mandeix '05 is spending time in Kenya, and Kristen Jochems '05 is doing her fall semester in Aix-en-Provence.

Lily Gray '03 graduated from Williams College with a bachelor of arts in political economy, *cum laude*.



(above) Nathaniel Peters '03 and Phoebe Billings '05 got together for dinner recently in Belmont. Phoebe was married in April and is moving soon to California with her husband. Nathaniel graduated from Swarthmore in June and has begun a stint as a junior fellow at *First Things*, a theological and philosophical magazine in New York City. (By the way, history buffs, Nathaniel's great grandfather wrote a memoir about his experience as an Austrian submarine captain in World War I. This book has recently been translated from the German by Nathaniel's mother. See www.tothesalute.com for information.)

Ω

Remember when...



...Revels included every single student? Marc Levine '89, Megan Schwarzman '90, Melissa Lerner '90, Emily Golenberg '90 and Anna Golenberg '91 share the Hanukkah story on the stage at the Otis Air Base theater.

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Alumni News

Max von der Heydt '02 is over the moon about his job way over the moon. He is working on the Mars Science Laboratory project at the Jet Propulsion Lab in California, testing an instrument that will collect and analyze rock and soil samples from the surface of the red planet. According to the Web site (marsprogram.jpl.nasa.gov/misions/future/msl.html), this particular rover will have a laser to vaporize a thin layer of the rock's surface and analyze the elemental composition of the underlying materials. Additionally, the rover will be able to identify features such as organic compounds and gases that may be associated with biological activity. Max is very excited about his work, ("It's been a great experience so far!") and also enjoys living in California.

Nell Ament '00 (*right*) was married September 3, 2007 to Aaron Hiller at Highfield Hall in Falmouth. Their attendants included Sarah Twichell '99 and Katie Bergren '00. Both Nell and Aaron are first year associates with law firms in Washington DC. She is at Alston & Bird; Aaron is working for Venable Law.

Jess (Brown) McMaken '00 is teach-

ing kindergarten in Princeton, NJ. Her husband Travis has begun a Ph.D. program in theology at Princeton Seminary.

Following her graduation from DePauw University, **Norah Schneider '03** is now working on her master's degree in history at Providence College. She is also taking classes toward teacher certification.

Greetings from the Class of 2007! **Sophie Switzer** is majoring in music and history at University of Iowa. **Stephanie Pommrehn** will study economics and international relations at the University of St. Andrews in Scotland. **Evan Hutker**



is majoring in industrial design at Syracuse University. **Joele Zeger** sends greetings from Rollins College; **Katie Paiva** from Drew University, and **Caitlin Merrick** from Shimer College in Chicago. **Bridget Miskell** said hello from American University and **John Gwynn** from Arizona State University. **Ben Mann** will study electrical engineering at Columbia University. **Steven Smith** is enjoying classes and playing soccer.

(continued on page 6)