

The G A 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

Welcome from a busy summer campus

As I write, the campus is enjoying a brief respite from what has been a very busy summer.

From my window I can see our new landscape project continuing to take shape. Travel in our driveway has been constricted and the *many* folks who have made use of our campus and its offerings have been remarkably good-humored about it. We had hundreds of people coming to the campus, and no access to the front of the school due to the construction project. Everyone involved in Summer Programs at Falmouth Academy, Soundfest, and the Cape Cod Theatre Project adjusted beautifully to the temporary traffic plan. But we'll all be very pleased with the new, safer configuration—not to mention the handsome walkways, benches, and terrific “bleachers” on the front field—when school opens in September.

The first National Small Schools Conference was a great success in June. Over 70 small-school leaders enjoyed speakers and networking during this three-day conference. Attendees were impressed by the number of FA faculty and staff who participated and helped with the conference. We are already considering plans for a conference next June.

(continued on page 2)

Falmouth Academy receives \$25,000 grant

In July, Falmouth Academy received a grant of \$25,000 from the Benedict Foundation for Independent Schools, based in Vero Beach, Florida. The funds support faculty professional development opportunities.

“We are grateful to the Benedict Foundation for helping us to provide learning opportunities for teachers who, in turn, bring their new skills and ideas to FA classrooms,” Headmaster David C. Faus said.

Falmouth Academy has been innovative in offering professional development opportunities to teachers: sending an entire department to a regional or national conference, when feasible, rather than following the common practice of sending only one or two teachers. The Benedict Foundation gift will fund such opportunities during the next three years, giving our teachers a wide range of professional development opportunities, from day-long symposia to national conferences.

This model of professional development was conceived in the mid-1990s, when the school’s English Department head, one of Falmouth Academy’s founding faculty, invited the entire department to attend the National Council of Teachers of English (NCTE) annual

(continued on page 3)



FALMOUTH ACADEMY FOR ADULTS (FA²) October 13 — November 30

- Issues of the Cold War
- Great Russian Operas
- Be Creative through Dramatic Exercises
- Scientific Revolutions
- The Worlds of Shakespeare’s Henry V
- Ceramics

Call 508-457-9696 ext 222 for details

Welcome from a busy summer campus

(continued from page 1)

We enjoyed another successful summer of courses and camps, bringing in hundreds of students of all ages. Our summer programs continue to grow both in imaginative content and in the number of students who join us.

I want to thank Richard Sperduto, Pusit Attha-ora-ek, and Mike Rakutis for their seemingly endless work to make our campus look fresh each September, as well as Susan Moffat, Summer Programs director, and everyone who organized or taught in the FA Summer Programs and other events on campus, for making this summer another glorious one for FA.

Now, take a deep breath... it's September once again!

David C. Faus

2008 Annual Fund exceeds goal

FA's Development Office reported in July that the 2008 Annual Fund exceeded its goal of \$325,000. At the close of the 2008 fiscal year on June 30, Falmouth Academy had received gifts and pledges of \$346,836.49.

"This is exciting news in uncertain economic times, and it wouldn't have happened without the help of many volunteers," said Director of Development Jayne Iafrate.

Especially helpful this year were parents and alumni, who made calls and sent e-mails on behalf of the Annual Fund in the fall and spring. The Parents' Association also completed two major fundraisers in the 2007-08 academic year. Members sold FA logo merchandise throughout the year, and hosted a wine tasting in April that raised approximately \$10,000 for the Annual Fund. In addition, the school received several generous grants. Ω

FA welcomes new business manager

Robert J. Bordeleau has joined Falmouth Academy as business manager, replacing Charles G. Kirshaw, who retired in June. Mr. Bordeleau has 20 years of experience as business manager, much of that with non-profit organizations, most recently with the Portsmouth, NH, Chamber of Commerce. He also worked with a start-up venture that developed software for the hospital-ity industry and was director of finance for the League of New Hampshire Craftsmen Foundation.

"An educational setting seems to generate a lot of energy," Mr. Bordeleau said. "With new students and teachers bringing in new ideas, it's a dynamic and very appealing place to work. The collegial culture will also be a pleasant change from the standard business culture."

Mr. Bordeleau and his wife, Diane Martell, have vacationed for many years on Cape Cod. Last summer, a rainy day lured them into a tour of houses for sale and they decided to purchase one that lies within walking and biking distance of the FA campus. "That's quite a change from my former 100-mile daily commute!" Mr. Bordeleau said.

Welcome, Mr. Bordeleau. Ω

The GAM

*Published nine times a year for the
community of Falmouth Academy*

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

David C. Faus, Headmaster
Michael J. Earley, Director of Admissions
Jayne M. Iafrate, Director of Development
Barbara Campbell, Alumni & Parent
Relations Director
Tucker M. Clark, Assistant to the Head
Elenita Muñiz, Publications Director

*In its admissions and financial aid programs,
hiring process, and in all school programs,
Falmouth Academy does not discriminate on the
basis of race, color, religion, gender,
national or ethnic origin, sexual orientation,
or physical handicap.*

7 Highfield Drive ▼ Falmouth, MA 02540
508.457.9696
thegam@falmouthacademy.org

Falmouth Academy receives \$25,000 grant

(continued from page 1)

conference in Nashville. According to Lalise Melillo, the experience re-energized the department by introducing new and exciting ideas and by creating increased camaraderie in an already collegial faculty.

In fall 2007, Falmouth Academy again sent six members of the English Department to the NCTE conference in New York City. The group included teachers of diverse experience levels, from founding faculty members to teachers in their first years of teaching.

“It was wonderful to have teachers of all levels participating in the informal discussions that follow each presentation,” said new department head Ruth Slocum. “With everyone there and learning, we were able to find time for discussions that we normally can’t find time for at home.”

The group divided the conference workshops into areas of interest and then joined each other for keynote addresses, meals and evening discussions. During those free hours, the English teachers shared new ideas with each other, and were so excited by what they learned that they began writing new

curriculum as a group at the conference. The results were immediately evident in classroom. Within a couple weeks of the conference, the department teamed to create a new guide for the teaching of poetry across all grade levels and selected new textbooks. Other similar curricular support materials are in the works now.

“A further benefit of sending an entire department to a professional development event is that collaborative professional development for our teachers models what we expect from our students,” Mr. Faus added. “Teachers come back to Falmouth Academy classrooms feeling refreshed in their professional life and excited about sharing their experiences with colleagues. It is a natural support system, and this kind of professional development reinforces school values. When the entire department learns together, the learning and sharing can continue for years.”

For more information about the grant, please contact Jayne Iafrate, director of development, at 508-457-9696, ext. 240 or jiafrate@falmouthacademy.org. Ω

Donors needed for Edward E. Ford Foundation Challenge grant

Falmouth Academy announced in May that the Edward E. Ford Foundation of Portland, Maine, awarded FA a challenge grant of \$30,000 in support of international exchanges for students and faculty. The school must now raise an additional \$30,000 by May 2009 to match the foundation’s grant. Since the announcement, donors have given FA nearly \$10,000 to match the grant.

Falmouth Academy students regularly participate in international exchange programs in Germany and France, and the school has hosted more than 60 exchange students from 23 countries, including China, Iraq, Nepal and Hungary. In addition, Falmouth Academy regularly hosts students from its sister school in Bardejov, Slovakia. Families bear the costs of international exchanges for their students, but the cost prohibits some students from participating. This new fund will offer assistance to those families and faculty members who must stretch to afford international exchange.

For more information about the grant or opportunities to match the challenge, please contact Jayne Iafrate, director of development, at 508-457-9696, ext. 240 or jiafrate@falmouthacademy.org. Ω

New and returning faculty join FA for '08-'09 school year

We welcome four new faculty and two returning faculty this fall. Ms. Stephanie Mastroianni and Mr. Matthew Vivyan will teach history. Dr. Joanne Muller will teach earth science and Ms. Nichole Tennant FA '00 will teach math. In addition, Frau Sirkka Wakefield and Mr. Peter Conzett return to FA.

Ms. Mastroianni earned her BA in sociology from Syracuse University and an MS in education from Suffolk University. She also did graduate work in printmaking at the Museum School of Fine Arts and is currently at work on an MSW from Bridgewater State College. She has taught English, history, and social studies to middle and high school students and has volunteered as a teacher at the Mullen Hall School and Marine Biological Laboratories. She will be teaching seventh-grade humanities.

Mr. Vivyan will teach the freshman Western Civilization course. He earned his BA in rhetoric and communication from Hamilton College and his MA in history from SUNY-Albany. He just completed his Ph.D. dissertation on "Moral Philosophy, Politics, and Religion in Shakespearean Drama." Dr. Vivyan previously taught history at Hammond School in South Carolina. He will also offer an elective on the 2008 elections.

Dr. Muller takes on freshman earth science and 8th-grade physical science classes. A citizen of Australia, she earned her BS in earth sciences at the University of Technology, Sydney, and a First in earth sciences in James Cook University, where she also earned her Ph.D. She worked as an environmental management consultant and tutor before coming to Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution as a post-doctoral fellow.

Ms. Tennant returns to FA fulltime, having volunteered as a science fair judge in recent years. After graduating from FA in 2000, Ms. Tennant earned her BA in psychology from

minor in French. She was a pre-medical student intern at Porter Hospital in Middlebury, VT and then worked as a research assistant and desensitization coordinator at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston. There, she researched sensitivity to chemotherapy drugs in patients being treated for cancer and coordinated treatments to reduce allergic reactions. Ms. Tennant will be teaching Math 7 and Algebra IA.

Frau Wakefield returns to FA after two years of maternity leave. She will resume her German teaching (German I, IV, and V) and we can hope for a revived birdwatching elective in the future. Mr. Conzett has been on sabbatical for a year, during which he spent a great deal of time driving across the U.S. and seeking out the hidden treasures on backroads and byways. He will return to teaching earth science and physics, as well as woodworking and coaching boys' varsity basketball.

We look forward to blending the ideas and enthusiasm of these new and returning faculty into the FA community.

Ω

AUTUMN ADMISSIONS CALENDAR

- Saturday, October 25:
FALL OPEN HOUSE, 2:00-4:00 pm
- Mid-September: Initial admissions packets mailing to candidates for September '09 admission. Please call to add your family to the mailing.
- October 1: interview-and-school visits begin. Call 508-457-9696 for appointment.
- Coffee hours:
 - Plymouth Public Library,
Sunday, November 9, 2-4 p.m.
 - Martha's Vineyard,
Sunday, November 16, 2-4 p.m.

Other coffees will be scheduled as the fall progresses.

Mann, Schuster headline concert to benefit FA, CCTP

Pianist Sharon Mann and cellist Savely Schuster will present a concert at FA on Friday, September 26 at 7:30 p.m. followed by a reception with the artists. The concert will benefit Falmouth Academy and the Cape Cod Theatre Project. The program will include Brahms' Sonata for Cello and Piano in D Major, op. 78, Sonata for Cello and Piano in d minor, op. 40 by Shostakovich, and works by Schubert, Rachmaninoff, and Senanes.

Tickets are \$35, \$10 for students; \$500 for patrons (4 seats and listing in the program) and \$1,000 for sponsors (6 seats, listing in the program and a CD by each artist.)

Dr. Mann, a professor of piano at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music, and Mr. Schuster, former principal cellist of the St. Louis Symphony Orchestra, met in 1981 when Dr. Mann co-produced a series of concerts at Carnegie Hall by the Soviet Émigré Orchestra and Mr. Schuster was principal cellist of the orchestra.

Although they have been friends ever since and visit in Falmouth in the summer, their first public performance together was a concert three years ago, which also benefited Cape Cod Theatre Project and Falmouth Academy. Ω



***ERRATA** – Our apologies for printing this photo with an incorrect caption in the July-August '08 GAM. The happy graduates pictured above are Zuzana Sottová, Melora Armstead, Christian Cabral, and Regina Antolick, all of Martha's Vineyard. Zuzana, our Slovakian exchange student, lived with the Baumhofer family on the island. Ω*

54 hours in Slovakia

FROM A REPORT BY MRS. OLIVANN HOBBIE
[full text available at www.falmouthacademy.org]

That was how short my visit was, but every waking hour was packed with some memorable new experience, new beauty, or new gesture of generous hospitality. Two FA families took me in charge: Zuzka Sottová's ('08) father and younger brother, both named Juraj Sott, met me at the Kosice airport and delivered me to Jozef and Margita Scesnak, parents of Jozef '93 and Katarina '97. Younger brother Stano served as one of my several kind and indefatigable interpreters.

My first evening included a delicious dinner—the Scesnaks are great cooks—and a tour of several of the region's springs, each with its own "this-must-be-good-for-you" flavor. Stano teaches P.E. and knows all the kids, who giggled when introduced but didn't want to practice their English with me.

Saturday, Martyna Scesnak showed me the beauties of Bardejov, home to eight [so far!] FA exchange students. The city won UNESCO World Heritage status in 2001 for its restoration of the town center: prized historic buildings surrounded by an almost unbroken ring of fortifications.

The Scesnaks took me to two spas, one Bardejov's own and the other in Poland, just 20 kilometers away. Then Sunday morning the Sotts picked me up to explore more of eastern Slovakia. Two special highlights: a visit to a monastery, now a museum, that lies along the river marking the border with Poland, and a drive to the high Tatras, Slovakia's rugged mountains. Mr. Sott said that when Czechoslovakia agreed to split in the early 1990s, the Slovaks knew they would forever feel the loss of Prague and the Czechs the loss of the Tatras.

I have always been proud of the warmth our FA host families have shown to our exchange students, but nothing could have prepared me for the gracious and generous hospitality my Slovakian hosts showered on a visitor from Cape Cod. Ω

Falmouth Academy Refro

EARLY SOCCER PRACTICE

FOR BOYS' VARSITY

Tuesday -Thursday
August 26-28
3:00-5:00 pm

FA BOOKSTORE HOURS

- Tuesday, Sept. 2nd --
for all **returning** students:
1:30-3:00 pm
- Wednesday, Sept. 3rd --
for all **new** students:
8:30-10:00 am
for all students:
1:30-3:00 pm
- Thursday, Sept. 4th --
for **ALL** students:
8:00 am-3:30 pm

Yearbook portraits
by our new photographer,
Coffee Pond Studios.
Friday, Sept. 12.

Portraits will be taken outdoors
(raindate: October 21).
Details will follow soon...

**7th & 8th
grade
Pizza & Games
Night:**

**Friday, Sept. 12
5:00-7:00 pm**

6

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednes
		1	2
Early soccer practice -- see box at left for schedule.	Labor Day holiday.	FA Bookstore open this week •8:00 a.m. -- testing for summer work & late admissions. •Faculty Mega-meeting Day. -9:30 -- Acad. Comm. 11:00 -- Fac. mtg. 12:30 -- Fac. lunch. 1:30 -- dept. mtgs. 5:00 -- 7th gr. teachers & new fac. dinner meeting.	•8:30-10:00 New Student New Parent Orientation (at right.)
7	8	9	
	•Reg. deadline for 10/4 SAT's. •2:30 -- Auditions for <i>The Ash Girl</i> . (See note below.)	•3:30 -- BMS & GMS @ Chatham. •7:00 p.m. -- College guidance mtg. for '09 and parents (see note at right.)	•4:00 -- BV Hyde (h). •4:30 -- GV Marianapol
14	15	16	
•9:00-5:00 -- Soph. trip to Boston.	•8:05-- Freshmen depart on class trip. •6:00 -- Jrs. return.		•3:30 -- BV Thomas M •5:30 -- Tru Dev. Comm •6:30 -- reg Parents' B School Night (Classes be 7:00.) (See
21	22	23	
	•4:00 -- BJV & GJV @ CCA.	•3:30 -- GMS & BMS vs. Mashpee (h).	•4:00 -- GV vs. Wheele 4:15 -- BV Wheeler. •6:00 -- Tru Comm. mtg •7:00 -- Tru Exec. Com
28	29	30	
	•3:30 -- BV & GV @ CCA. •4:00 -- GMS & BMS vs. CCA (h). •7:00-8:00 p.m. -- FA Parents Assn. mtg.	Rosh Hashanah •Reg. deadline for 11/1 SAT's.	• Focu Falmo from 5:3

Auditions for *The Ash Girl*: a modern retelling of the Cinderella story, by Timberlake Wertenbaker, **Monday Sept. 8 @ 2:30 pm**.
Open to ALL students!

Mann-Schuster Benefit Concert:
Friday, September 26, 7:30 pm

Tickets: \$35 (\$10 students)
\$500 (patrons: 4 seats plus program listing)
\$1,000 (sponsors: 6 seats, program listing, and CD by each artist)

Call 508-457-9696 for reservations.

Generator Calendar: 9/08

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
3 -- check box at left for hours!	4	5	6
9 a.m. -- nt and t (see note)	•8:05 -- School begins.		•1:00 -- GV & BV vs. Williams (h).
10	11	12	13
& BJV vs. vs. lis (h).	•EARLY FA BUSES today. •2:30 -- Faculty mtg.	•8:00-Noon -- Yearbook portraits today! (See note at left.) •Noon -- Jrs. depart for class trip. •5:00-7:00 -- 7th & 8th gr. Pizza & Games evening.	•1:00 -- BV vs. Marianpolis. (TBA). •7:30 p.m. -- Simon Sinfonietta Concert. Call 508-457-9696, x.227 for information.
17	18	19	20
vs. St. ore (h). stees n. mtg.	•8:05-2:30 -- All- School Trip to Marconi Beach. •3:30 -- GMS & BMS @ CCA.	•Rain date for All- School Trip. •3:30 -- BV @ Marianapolis.	
24	25	26	27
& GJV r (h). @.	•TBA -- BMS & GMS vs. Nauset (h). •7:00 -- 7th grade student/parent roundtable on Homework.	•7:30 -- Mann- Schuster benefit concert (see page 5.)	•12:00 -- GV & GJV @ Marianapolis.

Classes on Architectural Photography: Advanced Photographers from
South Academy. 9/29-10/31 at Highfield Hall. Opening reception 9/30
10:00-6:00 p.m.

Orientation
for new students and
their parents

Wednesday,
September 3
8:30 to 10:00 am

Student guides will intro-
duce **new students** to
the FA day, locker area,
computer room & library,
and help them get their
new books. **Parents**
will meet with the deans,
athletic director, and Mr.
Faus and receive the FA
Parents Handbook.

Bring your questions!

FA SOCCER TEAMS

BV/GV = Boys' or girls' varsity

BV/GJV = junior varsity

GMS/BMS = middle school

@ = away

(h) = home game

COLLEGE NIGHT!

For seniors and
their parents.

- Meet with Mrs. Taylor
- to get the application process
- off to the right start.
- Tues., Sept 9 at 7:00 pm

PARENTS BACK-TO-SCHOOL
NIGHT: WED., SEPT. 12
REG: 6:30; CLASSES: 7:00 PM

All 8th grade parents are asked to bring
cheese, crackers, or fruit.

All 10th grade parents are asked to bring
snacks or desserts.

Please mark your platters and plan on tak-
ing them home afterwards.

**7th grade
and parents
Homework
Roundtable:**

**Thursday, Sept. 25
7:00 pm**

New Parents News

FA PARENTS' HANDBOOK

This handy guide (distributed to new parents at Orientation and to returning parents at Back-to-School Night) explains many of the ins and outs of life as an FA parent. It expands on items included in the New Parents' News and covers additional topics such as the dress code, after-school rules, Grandparents' Day, food, snow days, and more. Please keep it handy and refer to it as new questions or situations arise.

WHAT TO DO IN CASE OF

ABSENCE Please call the school to let us know that your child is ill. Every student needs to arrange for a **home-work buddy** who will *automatically* collect handouts and assignments in the event of a child's absence from school. The office cannot collect such assignments or leave messages for a homework buddy. Students should call their teachers in the evening if they have questions about what they've missed.

A WORD ABOUT PHONES

School phones are not available for students to use, so every child should come to school with a calling card or change for the pay phone in the foyer. Cell phones may only be used in the office – not elsewhere in the building or on school grounds. Cell phones should remain in lockers during the day, turned off, please.

EMERGENCY MESSAGES We will transmit emergency messages only to students.

The office staff is not able to take routine messages for students, so please confirm all logistical arrangements with your child before

he or she comes to school in the morning.

ACADEMIC ADVISOR This is the teacher who will be your contact for general questions about your child, or for questions you don't know whom to ask. Your child's advisor will meet with her or him on the first day of school, at the end of the day.

After that, advisors and students meet regularly, when progress reports and report cards are released, and as needed at other times. Please don't

hesitate to contact the advisor if you have general questions or concerns. For course-specific questions, please contact the teacher directly. (All faculty and staff phone numbers are listed in the FA Directory. See below.)

Each grade also has a **class advisor**, not to be confused with the student's individual

advisor. The class advisor generally stays with the class from seventh grade through senior year, guiding the class through the landmarks and changes of those six years.

PHONE CALLS TO TEACHERS YES, students are welcome and encouraged to call their teachers when they have a question. If that first call is a little daunting, it's nice for the parent to rehearse the question and stand by for moral support, but the student is the one who should call.

FA DIRECTORY This will be handed out at Orientation, for new parents, and Back-to-School Night for everyone else (see below). It lists not only all students and parents but also

WHOM TO CALL FOR WHAT 508-457-9696

Absences	Mrs. Garcia, x. 221
Academic questions:	
-general:	Dr. Bradley, x. 231
-specific to course:	the teacher
-personal:	your child's advisor
Billing questions:	Mrs. Joyner, x. 226
Bookstore:	Mrs. Joyner, x. 226
Bus schedule:	Mr. Swanbeck, x. 230
College guidance:	Mrs. Taylor, x. 233
Guests at dances:	Mr. Swanbeck, x. 230
Parents' Assoc.:	Mrs. Campbell, x. 227
Permission to bring a guest to school:	
	Mr. Faus, x. 223
Athletics schedule:	Mr. Wells, x. 232
Admissions office:	Mr. Earley, x. 224

New Parents News

all faculty and staff. Be sure to pick up your copies (one for parents, one for students) along with the FA Parents' Handbook.

IMPORTANT EARLY FALL EVENTS As the refrigerator calendar in this issue shows, you are invited to attend two important events early this fall. Please post the calendar on your refrigerator! It is your best notice of events, deadlines, and athletic schedules.

- New Parents' Orientation**, Wednesday, September 3, 8:30 a.m. Coffee and a discussion with FA faculty. **BRING YOUR QUESTIONS!**

- Parents' Back-to-School Night**, Wednesday, September 17, at 6:30 p.m. – a chance to move through your child's schedule, meet the teachers, and get an introduction to all the courses.

ALL-SCHOOL TRIP This event is organized by the Student Council to foster our strong sense of community. On Thursday, September 18, all students, faculty, and staff will head out to Marconi Beach in Eastham for a massive sand sculpture contest. It IS a school day. Details will be provided closer to the date as each team meets to plan its entry in the contest.

SPORTS FA's coaches welcome any and all students to go out for our team sports (soccer in the fall, basketball in the winter, and lacrosse in the spring.) No experience is necessary, as we offer three levels of play for girls and for boys. Soccer practice begins for the varsity teams before school even starts (see the Refrigerator Calendar.) Playing sports is a great way to get to know people!

DANCES Yes, *all* students are invited to attend FA dances, from seventh through twelfth

graders. Dances are thoroughly chaperoned by FA teachers, lots of students go, and most of them actually dance! Dances usually run from 7:30 to 10:30, with admission of \$5. FA students may bring a single guest, as long as the guest is registered with Mr. Swanbeck before the dance and agrees to abide by FA's rules for dances.

CLASS TRIPS As the September calendar shows, several classes have field trips scheduled this month. Details will be provided by the class advisor, but don't hesitate to call the school or the advisor if you have particular questions. (Class advisors are so indicated in the FA Directory.)

OUT-OF-TOWN FAMILIES From time to time, weather may interfere with a student's ability to get home (for instance, if the ferry to the Vineyard is cancelled.) Families who live outside of Falmouth might want to connect with a local Falmouth family as an emergency "foster home" for those rare occasions.

GRANDPARENTS' DAY Friday, October 10. Please be sure we have your parents' addresses so we can send them an invitation to join us for lunch and to attend classes with their grandchildren. Last year, some 130 grandparents shared this day with us. Contact Mrs. Barbara Campbell if you're not sure whether we have your parents' address. Thank you!

Ω



FA's Cool Nights Jazz Band played the national anthem for the Pawtucket Red Sox during "Falmouth Academy Night at the PawSox" in June. They also provided pre-game entertainment with a fine program of popular American standards.

Alumni News

Joey Smith '04 graduated from Bucknell University and has begun a master's program in structural engineering at Lehigh University.

Sean O'Neill '04 interned with Massachusetts Lieutenant Governor Tim Murray this summer. "I mostly do research and write talking points and a few speeches. The things I worked on included economic development in Massachusetts, fighting homelessness, and seaport and maritime issues. It was very interesting and the opportunity to work in the State House was great."



Congratulations to **Ted Melillo '92** and his wife Nina who were married in August. Nina is a teacher at Waldorf School, and Ted will teach at Franklin and Marshall College in Pennsylvania this year.

Andy Kingman '00 has returned from Washington, D.C., and will attend Suffolk University Law School in Boston this fall.

Hillary Giacomelli '06 did a summer studies program at Rhode Island School of Design in Providence and is contemplating a transfer from Sarah Lawrence to art school.

Mike Falcone '94 coaches soccer at Lawrence Junior High in Falmouth, and called FA Athletic Director and history

teacher Rob Wells "one of the
10 best referees on the Cape!"

Slovakian exchange student **Peter Kurnat '06** finished his first year studying international business at University of Bedfordshire in Luton (Greater London) and was accepted to study his second year at the University of Nipissing in North Bay, Canada, but declined the offer so he could remain in London. He wrote, "Hello to everybody. I miss FA!"

Alyssa Gantz '03 tested the waters in Chicago by doing a production internship for a documentary called *We Believe*, about the Chicago Cubs.

Tyler Bell '02 is living in Los Angeles and working for a commercial production

Chris Buccino '02 [at right above], working for Steven Stimson Associates on the re-landscaping of Falmouth Academy's front entrance, was careful to re-install his class's gift to the school, a brick walkway constructed by the class of 2002 and their parents.

Although moved to the side of the lawn, where it serves as the direct route between locker rooms and Sam's Field, the walk still includes the numbers "2002" as a permanent memento.



company. One of his summer projects was assisting on the production of a Justin Timberlake spot for the ESPY awards.

Congratulations to **David Tamasi '90** on his new job as Senior Vice President at Rasky Baerlein Strategic Communications in Washington, D.C.

Jonathan Meltzer '87 documents the trials and tribulations of learning a new hobby in the blog: <http://woodpursherdairy.blogspot.com> In his first post, Jonathan wrote, "I have taken

Alumni News

up woodturning, and when I realized how much I had learned, and how far I still had to go, I decided to document my experiences on the chance someone might want to come along for the ride. I am sure many of my mistakes would not be made by those familiar with power tools (don't worry - all of my limbs and extremities are still attached), but maybe there are some people out there who, like me, enjoy working with wood and want to create with it, but have no clue what they are doing."

Jonathan has come a fair way since his first blog posting, and has sold a few woodturned pens on consignment. Although he claims he will not quit his

day job as a programmer/analyst, he said, "I enjoy doing woodturning and have been lucky enough to make some things that have been worth selling." To date, Jonathan has made 18 different styles of fine pen from the Classic American fountain pen to the Dyed Burl Chrome Twist pen. Perhaps one will find its way to former headmaster Bruce E. Buxton's collection of fountain pens.

Sam Amazeen '07 returned to the FA campus this summer to help coach Mr. Earley's FA Lacrosse Camp, part of a growing and popular summer program of events. Sam returns this month to the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis for his sophomore year. Ω

From the Alumni Director's Desk:

Peterson '00 Reflects on FA Experience

One of my daily pleasures as FA's Alumni Director is to read the e-mail messages that come in droves from my direct address or through Facebook. Imagine my delight to hear from Derek Peterson '00, from whom I hadn't heard since his early college days. He inquired if Mrs. Centurino still sent out cookies to FA's alumni at college. I immediately responded that she does, in fact, *[Class of '08, don't forget to return your postcard!]* and I was happy to have the opportunity to catch up with Derek. What followed was a rewarding assessment of his growing gratitude for the FA experience, which he allowed me to share with GAM readers.

"Sending back Mrs. Centurino's postcard then was exciting, trying to reconnect with FA for the first time since I graduated, knowing a gratitude that continues to grow for the experiences I had there."

A psych nurse at Arbor HRI Hospital in Brookline, Derek explained that he had just returned from an evening shift and was feeling drained yet satisfied. (He also volunteers at Children's Hospital on the oncology/hematology ward.) "My life has filled up gradually at exactly the speed it was supposed to," he said.

"When I was attending FA, I wondered why so many talented, educated people would choose teaching at a small private school over other careers that revolved around money, prestige, power and other things that looked very important to my adolescent male mind.

"Now that I've had my own experiences of life on life's terms, I'm beginning to understand the importance of service to others as a rewarding way of life in itself. I'm very grateful for the faculty who chose service."

We are pleased to see so many of our alumni put into practice the principle of giving back to the community as their FA teachers modelled. Certainly, Derek Peterson is one of those. I'd love to hear from others of you who have careers in service or who volunteer in your communities. Stay in touch!

- Barbara Campbell

11

NON-PROFIT
PRSRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
OSTERVILLE, MA
02655
PERMIT #3

The GAM
Falmouth Academy
7 Highfield Drive
Falmouth, MA 02540



Alumni News

Class of 2004:

What are you doing this fall? Send your news and address change info to alumni@falmouthacademy.org

ALUMNI DATES TO REMEMBER:

- November 28: 5th Annual Alumni/Varsity Soccer Game
- December 18: *12 Days at All-School Meeting*
- January 9: *Alumni Visiting Day*

Mark your calendars!

Three members of the FA Class of 2004 were inducted into Phi Beta Kappa prior to their respective college graduations. Each year only one percent of college seniors nationwide is invited to join the prestigious honor society. Congratulations to **Rachel Allen** (Williams College), **Joe Giacomelli** (Middlebury College), and **Julia Wagner** (Mount Holyoke College).

Rachel spent her summer as a Student Fellow working in Chemical Research at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Julia will focus on her art this fall as she completes her internship at Mass

MoCA (Massachusetts Museum of Contemporary Art), working as a team member to produce the exhibit, "Sol LeWitt: A Wall Drawing Retrospective."

Joe graduated *summa cum laude* as a history and geography major. He attended the Università degli Studi in Ferrara, Italy, during his junior year and was also inducted into the Italian National Honor Society. He will perform a year of public service through Americorps, working at a community center in southern Colorado.

Emily Denham '04 graduated *magna cum laude* from St. Lawrence University with English honors. She began work in August at Estée Lauder in New York City as assistant to a VP in the Global Communications division, and is sharing an apartment with FA classmate **Blake Pearlstein**.

Ali Baker '04 graduated *summa cum laude* from Cornell University with a degree in neurobiology. She will do medical research at Boston Children's Hospital prior to attending medical school at Washington University in St. Louis.

(continued on page 10)