

# the bulletin

Stoneleigh-Burnham School

Spring 2011



Creating Global Connections

# Stoneleigh-Burnham School

## the bulletin

***The Mission:*** *Stoneleigh-Burnham School is an academic community that inspires girls to pursue meaningful lives based on honor, respect and intellectual curiosity. Each student is challenged to discover her best self and graduate with the confidence to think independently and act ethically, secure in the knowledge that her voice will be heard.*

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# Building a Sustainable Future

by Sally L. Mixsell, Head of School

In March, we heard from the International Baccalaureate Organization that we are now authorized to open in the fall as an IB World School®! Stoneleigh-Burnham is now the third girls' school in the USA, the only girls' school in New England and one of only three boarding schools in New England to offer this prestigious and rigorous program of study.



*As many of you know, this announcement follows a long, in-depth application process and a healthy dose of patience! This means we will begin to offer the IB Diploma Program in fall 2011 as planned. Approximately half of our sophomores (Class of 2013) have signed on to work toward the IB Diploma as they enter their junior year. Those students signaled their interest by writing an essay of intent and interviewing with faculty members who explored the ideas raised in their essays. Just those conversations alone engendered an excitement for the program on the part of both students and faculty members.*

*We are so pleased to have obtained this exclusive designation and feel it will provide new opportunities that are a truly natural extension of the work we have been doing for many years. Thanks to all of you who supported us as we worked to get here. You can read more about the IB and SBS on the next page.*

*Also exciting is the ongoing strategic work happening this year. Last fall, I established a Strategic Planning Committee, a group of representative voices including faculty, staff, administrators, Board members, past and current parents and alumnae. The Committee has been meeting periodically throughout the year and we anticipate that a common vision for our future will be rolled out at Reunion 2011.*

*As I near the end of my third year as Head of School, I am struck by what we have been able to accomplish to date. Recent interviews with students indicate that excitement for our future doesn't end with the adults in the community. Our students are feeling proud of their school and also want to be a part of strengthening our offerings. Despite the difficult economy of the past few years, we have increased our enrollment and our gifts from alumnae, added our Class Forums (life skills) program, brought on a teaching/coaching intern each year, introduced the Miriam Emerson Peters Speaker Series in Global Awareness, and traveled twice to visit our Asian alumnae and parents who rarely get to visit us here. With the IB announcement on top of that, I am beaming.*



*Sally Mixsell '69, Jinmi Kim '95 and Regina Mooney in Seoul*

*I am proud of the work we are all doing to steward the school into a sustainable future, and I am grateful for the enthusiastic response we receive when we talk about our plans. I look forward to continuing to build momentum as we shape Stoneleigh-Burnham for the girls who have yet to get here. 🦋*



# The IB Diploma & SBS

The International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Program will complement not only our dedication to preparing girls for collegiate success, but also our commitment to multicultural education. Quite simply, the IB designation affords us a more global, interdisciplinary curriculum, opening doors for our students to gain more ready access to universities around the world and graduate with exemplary critical thinking skills that will set them apart from their peers. While not every student will choose to enroll in the IB Diploma Program, each one will be positively impacted by its existence at the school; how and what we teach across the entire curriculum will shift to fall into line with the philosophical tenets of the IB.

## What's Involved?

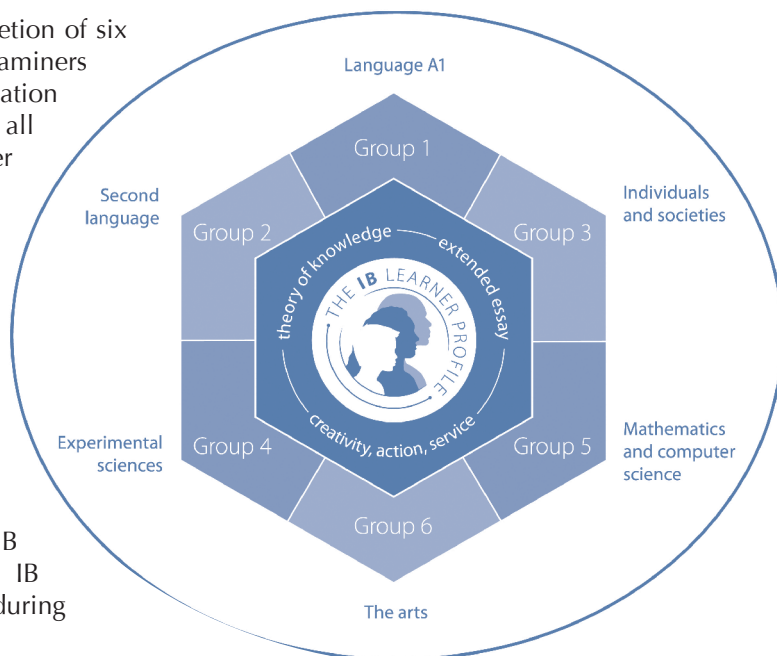
The International Baccalaureate Diploma Program is an internationally acclaimed, comprehensive, college-preparatory course of study that encourages highly motivated juniors and seniors to strive to be: *Inquiring, Knowledgeable, Thinking, Communicative, Principled, Open-minded, Caring, Risk-taking, Balanced and Reflective*. Designed as a two-year curriculum in which candidates fulfill requirements in six different subject areas, the program also mandates the completion of three core elements central to the philosophy of the IB curriculum:

- **Theory of Knowledge (TOK)**, a class designed to explore the nature of knowledge across disciplines, encouraging an appreciation of diverse cultural perspectives;
- **Extended Essay (4,000 words)**, offering the opportunity to investigate a topic of individual interest, and acquainting students with independent research and writing skills expected at the collegiate level; and
- **Creativity, Action, Service (CAS)**, encouraging students to be involved in artistic pursuits, sports, and community service work, thus fostering students' awareness and appreciation of life outside the academic arena.

The IB Diploma is awarded following successful completion of six courses plus the extended essay, TOK and CAS. External examiners will assess individual student performance. This evaluation is based primarily on final year examinations taken in all subjects as well as internal assessments completed over the two years, for example, oral examinations, science laboratory investigation reports and portfolios of artwork. Most importantly, the IB Diploma signifies that the student has taken an active roll in her own intellectual development.

## Starting this Fall

All Stoneleigh-Burnham juniors (starting with the class of 2013) will be invited to enroll in the optional two-year IB Diploma Program. Students will also be able to take single or multiple IB courses to earn individual certificates of study without completing the entire IB Diploma. If a student wants to work toward the full IB Diploma, she will be required to indicate her intentions during the winter term of her sophomore year.



This means that we will be phasing out the Advanced Placement (AP) program. The IB offers the same individual options of rigorous coursework as the AP, including the opportunity for students to earn college credit. We are attracted by the way the IB Program encourages interdisciplinary thinking, requires international focus across disciplines and teaches for understanding and self-reflection, affording our students a balanced view of themselves in a world larger than Stoneleigh-Burnham. In addition, the program provides a common thread and international network for our faculty through required training sessions. There is also a natural connection from our existing commitment to the arts, athletics and independent study to the core elements of the program described above.

We hope that you will share our enthusiasm for this new chapter in Stoneleigh-Burnham's history. Visit the IB website ([www.ibo.org](http://www.ibo.org)) or ours ([www.sbschool.org](http://www.sbschool.org)) for more details. 📖

# Spring Break Spain/France Trip

Language Department Chair, Miriam Przybyla-Baum and Spanish faculty member Jess Durfey planned and hosted a special trip to Spain and France during Spring Break in March. Additional chaperones, history faculty members Karen Levitt and Kelly Griffin, were also along for the excursion.

The teachers escorted 28 students from Boston to Europe for an eight-day tour. The weather was perfect and every day was different from the next—all very busy!

While in Spain, the group celebrated three student birthdays. They enjoyed a special dessert in a restaurant in Barcelona and sang along La Rambla, the city's most colorful and interesting street, lined with shops, cafes and markets. The girls stood in the very same spot where Christopher Columbus met with the King and Queen of Spain when he returned from the New World. They put their feet in the Mediterranean, went to the top of the Miradór de Colon observation tower and visited architectural monuments from Antoni Gaudí. Apparently, they all love Gaudí now!

Everyone enjoyed wonderful tapas and regional cuisine such as paella and tortilla española. They explored the Gothic Quarter and walked through the famous city central square, home to an array of sculptures, fountains and gardens. Students stood in awe of grand cathedrals and learned history while touring a re-creation of an old Spanish village called "Poble Espanyol." The students were able to work on their Spanish, but also got to experience Catalan, the language spoken in Barcelona / Catalunya.

The group then travelled to Carcassonne, France, a walled city built in the 6th century. The strong winds there made them imagine what life must have been like in medieval times. Peering through the slits in the castle walls, the group had superb views of the surrounding landscapes. It was in Carcassonne that Miriam's students had their first meal in France, including *salade de chèvre chaud*, *canard aux olives*, *soupe à l'oignon* and *croque-monsieur*. The girls took a walking tour of this medieval city, exploring the surrounding ramparts, bridges and towers as well as a famous basilica and fortress.

In Languedoc-Roussillon, students experienced the Haribo Candy Museum, home of all things "gummy." They learned the history of licorice, fruit







gum and sweets manufacturing and were able to sample the treats.

The group continued on to see the 2,000 year old Roman aqueduct, Pont du Gard. After taking photos there, students skipped stones on the river and savored crêpes and Orangina.

In the ancient city of Nîmes, students visited more Roman architectural remains, including the L'Amphithéâtre and La Maison Carrée. Despite the marvelous Roman ruins, our students seemed to prefer watching teenage boys doing acrobatics on skateboards in a breathtakingly beautiful public square!

Aix-en-Provence, known as a center of art and learning for centuries, provided an opportunity for a leisurely stroll along the Cours Mirabeau. This stately thoroughfare included 17th and 18th century mansions as well as a variety of lovely shops and sidewalk cafés. During their walk, they were able to see the 1860 landmark fountain in La Place de la Liberation.

Nice, the largest resort city on the Mediterranean coast, had plenty to offer in terms of culture and atmosphere. Students walked the Promenade des Anglais, which encompasses the Bay of Angels. They shopped in the Old Town and appreciated panoramic views over the Mediterranean from ruins of the original establishments. The trip coincided with Carnaval and the travelers took advantage of the festivities, including the most amazing fireworks they had ever seen and a giant Ferris wheel that allowed them a view of the city at night.

At an outdoor market, students enjoyed shopping and interacting with local merchants. The girls bought souvenirs of clothing, shoes, linens, soaps, lavender and honey.

The last day included a scenic drive with views looking down onto Monaco, a visit to a Roman temple, a walking tour of Eze Village, a tour of the Fragonard Perfume Factory and finally, a visit to the famous Musée Matisse.

The meals in France were delicious, especially at the hotel in Uzès. The service was impeccable, and our students had wonderful opportunities to interact with the staff. Desserts were a treat to look at and to eat!

Students returned to school passionate about travel and learning language. Many are already thinking about their next trip or considering studying abroad. 🇫🇷



# Australian Exchange Program

In an effort to further our goal of offering a global perspective to our students, SBS has entered into a new venture: an exchange program agreement with St. Hilda's School on the Gold Coast, Queensland, Australia, a K-12 Anglican girls' school. St. Hilda's shares Stoneleigh-Burnham's goals of helping girls to develop confidence and to seize leadership opportunities. They are strongly focused on offering a high-caliber, progressive educational experience through their dedication to providing global connections. St. Hilda's even has a competitive debate and public speaking program!



*Kate Strousse, St. Hilda's student Carrie Bamonte and Anna Swartzentruber*

The exchange program will be available for girls in the 10th grade only (Stoneleigh-Burnham girls who will have just finished grade ten). Each exchange will be five to six weeks in length.

St. Hilda's girls will visit us from the beginning to midterm of each spring trimester. We have recently scheduled our first excited Australian exchange student, Carrie Bamonte, who is taking classes with our students now. She has SBS buddies to show her the ropes and will complete schoolwork but will not receive official grades. She is staying in the dorms with our girls.

Our students will have the option of visiting St. Hilda's from the beginning of July until the middle of August. They will not miss any classes here. In fact, the first week of July is the last week of St. Hilda's vacation; SBS girls who embark on this adventure will be able to spend the first week sightseeing before they go to class (think Great Barrier Reef!). Our students will most likely stay in homes because St. Hilda's has a large day student population. However, a dormitory experience is also an option.

Students are expected to attend classes, participate in all the activities, homework and lessons, and otherwise be good additions to the St. Hilda's School community. There will not be any formal assessments, grades or credits issued, but there will be progress reports.

There will be no cost to any students to attend either school. However, families will be responsible for travel costs, insurance (most families opt for traveler's insurance) and spending money. Travel between countries will be facilitated by tourist visas.

We are so pleased to provide this new opportunity for girls to expand their knowledge and understanding of other cultures. 🍵

## Lunar New Year Celebration

The Multicultural Club held a very special Lunar New Year celebration for students and faculty, which included games, a fashion show and food. At a housemeeting, all members of the community received a special New Year "passport" complete with drawings and Chinese characters. Korean and Chinese students explained the history and customs of the Lunar New Year and quizzed the audience on the importance of the color red, eating fish, using firecrackers and honoring their parents during the holiday.

A parade of students came through in traditional dress. Then all students and faculty made their way around the room to different tables to enjoy coloring Chinese graphics, learning to use chopsticks, making Chinese cut-outs, practicing calligraphy, creating handmade dumplings and playing games such as The Yute Nori and Mah Jong.

Those who filled their passports with marks from each table, indicating they had completed all activities, received a special traditional candy at the end of the celebration. 🍵





# Profiles



Meet **Manuela Uribe**, a soon to be alumna, who is taking her passion for people from the halls of SBS to college and beyond.

**Denise Carey** tells us how her Stoneleigh-Burnham experience now positively impacts the lives of children in Bermuda.



The voice that **Obehi Janice Utubor** discovered during high school speaks to others of race and personal exploration.

# Manuela Uribe '11

## Where Scholarship and Grace Meet

by Susanna Thompson

Serious about learning, senior Manuela Uribe '11 has made the most of her opportunities at SBS. Committed to people, she is on her way to helping others.

On a warm spring afternoon while driving up the long driveway of Stoneleigh-Burnham School, you are likely to find senior Manuela Uribe '11 running at a steady pace under the oaks, iPod in hand. Originally from Colombia, Manuela is tall with dark brown hair and blue eyes and she carries herself with a poise and gentle confidence that seem years beyond her young age.

To most who know her, it won't be surprising that she is as committed to her studies as she is to her fitness. Ever since arriving at the beginning of her junior year, Manuela has flourished at Stoneleigh-Burnham whether in the classroom, in the gym or with her peers.

Right from the start, Manuela's goal was to improve her grades and to focus on her education. Before coming to SBS, Manuela had a full-fledged modeling career that took her from her home in Florida to Geneva, Switzerland. In between photo shoots, she jumped from tutoring, to a private school, to a public school, understandably making it difficult for her to prioritize schoolwork.

***"By living with people here and watching behaviors, I've realized I'm really good at listening and trying to help."***

"I wasn't paying full attention to my education. I had distractions. A career. I wanted to choose a place where I could focus 100% on my studies," Manuela said. She gives most of the credit for her success to the Stoneleigh-Burnham schedule, her work ethic and her teachers. "I love that every day is scheduled here. I have enough time to do my work and the schedule keeps me on track and helps me to manage my time."

At the end of her first year, Manuela's uncompromising commitment to her studies was recognized throughout the school, resulting in three accolades: she was awarded the Smith College Book Club Award, the Student Council



Award for Community Service and she was also inducted into Blue Key as a student Admissions liason.

Manuela's Chinese teacher, Chia-Jung (Sara) Tsou, feels that she is the quintessential SBS girl. "Manuela loves to try new things and not just those that would be easy for her. She works hard to turn her weaknesses into strengths."

Manuela's decision to come to Stoneleigh-Burnham was built on the comfort she felt while visiting. "SBS is different from the other schools I looked at. And it's even better than I thought it would be. I feel really comfortable here. The teachers are so good in the way they explain lessons and interact with students. I'm learning more than I thought I ever could possibly learn."



Even her time in the dorms has spurred Manuela's academic pursuits. "I want to study psychology in college so that I can be a private counselor. By living with people here and watching behaviors, I've realized I'm really good at listening and trying to help." After her relatively independent life before Stoneleigh-Burnham, the boarding experience has helped her to be flexible and understanding of others' habits and needs.

"She respects people and loves to help others," said her teacher Sara Tsou. "If she saw someone having a bad day, she would give her some warm support and encouragement." Manuela has applied to a handful of schools in Michigan and one in Chicago with excellent psychology programs – she is anxiously awaiting decision letters.

As Manuela looks forward to graduation, she has a message for those girls in classes behind her own: "Use your time well. Take advantage of all the opportunities here. Get help when you need it. As long as you are willing to dedicate yourself and work hard, there are so many people here to help you get through the tough spots."

## Student Liaisons to the Alumnae Board

Associate Director of Alumnae Relations Liz Feeley recognized Manuela as a natural leader and asked her to become the student liaison to the Alumnae Board this year. Liz appreciates Manuela's demeanor, being both very friendly and serious about learning. Additionally, Liz saw the value in having someone with an international perspective join in the conversations.

The goals of the Alumnae Board are to: act as liaisons between Stoneleigh-Burnham and our alumnae, promote our academic and extracurricular programs, encourage consistent communication between alumnae and students, actively seek volunteer and financial support for the school and attend both on-campus and regional school events as ambassadors of the school.

The student liaisons to the Alumnae Board work to increase awareness within the student body about the involvement and support of our alumnae. Liaisons learn first-hand how the Alumnae Board carries out its mission by attending Alumnae Board meetings and conference calls. The liaisons are then well-equipped to educate the current student body on the importance of remaining involved with Stoneleigh-Burnham after graduation.



*The student liaisons for the 2010-11 academic year (from left to right):  
Icey Wang '12, Yvonne Wang '12 and Manuela Uribe '11*

## The Student Alumnae Association

This spring we will launch a Student Alumnae Association (SAA), which will create both a formal and informal bridge between current students and alumnae. The SAA members will learn about the rich history of Stoneleigh-Burnham and, over time, share what they learn with the entire student body at housemeetings. This will give current students a better understanding of the history of the school and help them understand that they are part of something bigger than themselves.

Our goal is to have students feel that they are "Owls for Life." They will recognize that there is a large group of alumnae who walked the halls on this campus and at Mary A. Burnham School who paved the way for them in many different areas of life at Stoneleigh-Burnham School.

The SAA members will connect the student body with the Alumnae Office, generating a pool of helpers for on-campus alumnae events such as Reunion, the Wall of Fame, 100 Nights and phone-a-thons. The officers of the SAA will hold positions as liaisons to the Alumnae Board and participate in Alumnae Board meetings and conference calls.

This particular organization will provide students with more opportunities to take leadership roles, a chance for students to network with alumnae, create a culture of involvement in the school and, most importantly, engage them in the welfare of the school while they are here.

There is a lot of enthusiasm from the student body for the inception of the Student Alumnae Association. They see the SAA as a terrific way to interact with alumnae on campus and foster relationships where they can learn about the amazing accomplishments of our alumnae. In return, the alumnae will learn more about the current campus experience. 🍷

# Denise Simons Carey '89

## Bringing Sunshine to Bermuda's Displaced Children

by Liz Feeley

Her experience at Stoneleigh-Burnham inspired Denise Carey '89 to develop a program for children to help them succeed. With a handful of borrowed principles combined with compassion, she created an environment where young people can become their best selves.

Regarded as a favorite Stoneleigh-Burnham "holiday," Mountain Day is responsible for many fond memories, but can such a simple event change lives? In a small country that lays no claim to a mountain, Mountain Day has made a big difference for a lot of kids.

Denise Simons Carey '89 incorporates the spirit of Mountain Day into her philosophy as Executive Director of The Sunshine League Children's Home in her native Bermuda. The residential care facility is for displaced children who do not "experience life on the oasis" as would be expected of people living on such an idyllic island. The ultimate goal of the organization is to help children "develop good life skills and values" that they can use as a solid foundation throughout their lives.



Lady Gozney, Bermuda's Governor's wife, and Denise Simons Carey '89

laugh. "But that wasn't a reflection of the person I was and who I was about to become."

After graduating from Stoneleigh-Burnham, Denise pursued a degree in criminal justice at Northeastern University and worked for two years in a residential girls' home, an experience that turned out to be formative. Upon graduating from Northeastern, Denise returned to Bermuda and was hired as a probation and parole officer at the age of twenty-five.

One of the first challenges she faced in her job was working with sex offenders. On such a small island (population 64,000), there was very little anonymity, meaning her parolees knew, or could find out, anything about her. She realized quickly that she needed to change her own life, to make conscious choices of where to go and what to do during her personal free time for her own safety. When most twenty-five year olds were attending concerts and parties, Denise had to decline any invitations to do so. "I had to grow up quickly due to the nature of my job."

Eventually she pursued her master's degree at Wilson College in Bermuda because she didn't just want to be a probation officer; she wanted to manage and supervise probation officers. At first she thought she would be harsh in dealing with youth offenders, but she says, "I actually became softer in my approach and made sure that my interactions with offenders would allow them to maintain their dignity without feeling belittled, so they would not respond in a negative way." This is where she began to lay the foundation of her philosophy for the Sunshine League, one that was greatly influenced by her experiences at Stoneleigh-Burnham.

Denise was the Senior Probation Officer with the Department of Court Services for four years and in 2005 became the Executive Director of the Sunshine League. "It was actually my second year at the Sunshine League when I realized that the foundation I built at Stoneleigh-Burnham was infusing my philosophy for my position there."

As a junior at Stoneleigh-Burnham, Denise received her first 'A' in a law class, which sparked an interest in pursuing a degree in criminal justice and strengthened her conviction to return to Bermuda to make a difference. Despite her passion for law, she wasn't always earning 'A's. "If someone looked at my grades in high school they would say, 'This girl is going to jail'," she said with a



According to Denise, she credits Stoneleigh-Burnham with four key components of her education that inform her work at The League:

1. She recognizes the critical importance of the relationships between the staff of her organization and the population they serve. "I learned at SBS that their staff was giving of their hearts and it wasn't in their job description. I experienced it in every interaction they had with me. I have tried to maintain positive relationships in every job I have held since high school."

2. Denise also recalls the sense of community involvement that she felt at Stoneleigh-Burnham and tries to impart the same atmosphere at The Sunshine League. "By giving every child a voice that will be heard, it gives them a sense of ownership and a view of the bigger picture...we incorporate this into the philosophy of The Sunshine League."

3. She also remembers how she benefited from study hall at Stoneleigh-Burnham and has brought the concept to her job in Bermuda. "Attending study hall was expected and there was discipline, but it wasn't rigid. The structure of it made you comfortable. So we try to meet the children's needs and accommodate them where they are most comfortable. They can do their work in their bedrooms, living rooms or wherever they feel they will be most productive."

4. Perhaps the most evident influence of Stoneleigh-Burnham on The Sunshine League is the Mountain Day tradition. "We don't have a mountain, but we have Mountain Day," Denise shares. "We choose a special day and at five o'clock in the morning we wake up the entire residential house with pots, pans, whistles. They pack their knapsacks and we explore Bermuda for two days. The children engage in various activities: mini golf, horseback riding and camping. Local restaurants pitch in by hosting meals for our group. I got that idea from Mountain Day! These children talk about it all the time and that is the experience I had when I arrived at Stoneleigh-Burnham; everyone was talking about Mountain Day!"

***"By giving every child a voice that will be heard, it gives them a sense of ownership and a view of the bigger picture..."***

Denise developed a plan to implement each element for her programming at The Sunshine League. She knew what she expected to happen, but it took a few years to develop the plan with her staff. "SBS was in the front of

my mind with the prevailing thought, 'this is what I want to see. This is what I want to feel. This is what I want it to look like.'"

"My incident reports have decreased from twenty per quarter to about one per year in regard to runaways, stealing, lying and fighting. By changing the model of how we interact with our children, our children have changed their response to us." Currently, half of the children in the house are on the honor roll.

Denise had the opportunity to travel with some of The League's children to Honduras with Habitat for Humanity last summer. "These children do not have houses of their own, but they volunteered to travel to Honduras for two weeks and build two homes for families in greater need than themselves. We worked from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. every night."



*Denise Simons Carey '89 (far right) with kids from The Sunshine League on a trip to Honduras with Habitat for Humanity to build homes.*

Due to the success of the program at The Sunshine League, Denise's model drew attention. Court services called Denise and asked her to coordinate a summer program using the same model. "I am glad that people recognize that relationships work." She is also sitting on a committee that is developing independent living houses for sixteen to twenty-one year-olds. Denise will be the program manager for two of the government-run residential homes. The government resources are already in place – now she needs to put her programming into action.

Despite the challenges she is sure to encounter on this next venture, Denise will tackle roadblocks with tenacity, her signature warmth, a sense of humor and her Stoneleigh-Burnham experience as her guide. 🍷

# Obehi Janice Utubor '05

## Speaking of Identity

by Anne Pinkerton

In the few years since her time at Stoneleigh-Burnham, Obehi Utubor has found captivating ways to use the voice she discovered here. She creates performances to explore identity, history and cultural issues and to provoke conversations.

This February, Obehi Janice Utubor '05 returned to Stoneleigh-Burnham to perform a portion of her new one-woman play, *fufu & oreos*, at a weekly housemeeting. The performance drew rapt attention from our students. During any moment of her presentation, you could have heard that proverbial pin drop.

Obehi is a Nigerian-American performer and writer whose work explores the power of voice in identity politics, cultural exchange and testimony. Having graduated from Georgetown University in 2009 with a self-designed degree in Culture, Politics and Theatre, Obehi is now living in Lowell, Massachusetts where she grew up.

Obehi grabs an audience's attention through her striking physicality, semi-autobiographical stories and stunning singing voice. At times deeply buried in an historical narrative, Obehi emerges seamlessly to speak frankly and personally to the viewers and just as easily transitions

into song. Emotions ebb and flow through humor and sadness as she moves through personal tales, social commentary and the process of self-discovery.

Obehi Janice is her stage/professional name, a marriage/rearrangement of her first two names. Having begun school at SBS as Janice Utubor, Obehi has reconfigured her moniker to match her evolving sense of identity.

In the nearly six years since high school, Obehi has been busy. She was an instructor at our "A Voice of Her Own: Debate and Public Speaking" camp for the summers of 2005-2007, working beside Paul Bassett (PB) and Cyndee Meese, who she says were two of the most important mentors she ever had. She includes former English teacher Dan Verdery as the third and passionately states: "Mr. Verdery taught me how to write without fear, PB taught me how to speak without fear, and Cyndee taught me how to perform without fear. I carry their mentorship with me always, in my heart and soul. As I continue





to learn how to live a life without limits, I am always thinking of these three wonderful people. I continue to practice everything (they) taught me."

Obehi has carried this experience into her own teaching of public speaking, acting and playwriting for programs and schools in Washington, D.C. and Boston. Additionally, Obehi mentors women in voice and performance so that they can tell their own stories. She says, "I am constantly aware of the training I got from SBS to inspire other young women to find their voices."

She feels her experience at an all-girls high school influenced her writing and performing in positive ways. It helped her fall in love with the power of language, giving her tools for creativity and connection. Most significantly, Obehi credits Stoneleigh-Burnham with having given her a true sense of self-awareness and self-acceptance. "Even when auditioning and writing and performing is difficult and confusing and frustrating, I still know *who* I am. That is definitely a product of being from Stoneleigh-Burnham."

Her first one-woman show, *suddenly BLACK*, was written and performed in 2008 at Georgetown University. The piece explored the way Black history had historically been hidden and handled on campus there.

Her first full-length, one-woman show is *fufu & oreos*. In May 2009, the show was produced at a workshop at Georgetown. In winter 2010, she received a grant from the Lowell Cultural Council to support a full production in her hometown. Obehi will hit the stage for the official production May 13-22 at the 119 Gallery in Lowell.

*fufu & oreos* is named for fufu, a staple food of West and Central Africa made from pounded yams, and Oreo, "America's Favorite Cookie," which is symbolically significant as it is black on the outside and white on the inside. The play follows the journey of Obehi, a (sub) urban twenty-something and her attempts to negotiate and narrate her multiple identities. Along the journey, our heroine discovers there is more to her identity than simply performing it. Visit her website at [www.fufuandoreos.com](http://www.fufuandoreos.com) to learn more.

***"I am constantly aware of the training I got from SBS to inspire other young women to find their voices."***

Grateful to have been able to work in the Boston, D.C. and New York theater scenes since college graduation, Obehi is also working on new play development in Lowell. Ultimately, she would like to travel internationally and promote cultural diplomacy through theater. She hopes to found and direct a boutique cultural diplomacy firm that would curate arts events both domestically and abroad.

If that doesn't work out, Obehi has options. "One of my dreams is to move to L.A. and work in cartoon voice-over work. My little sister Joy (SBS '09) thinks I need more 'training'!"

Whatever she does, Obehi is clearly going to keep the conversation going. 🍌



# ...and the DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA AWARD goes to...

## Dr. Denise Bruner '70!

In a letter written in the mid-seventies to her former Stoneleigh-Burnham advisor Mrs. Fallon, Denise Bruner stated, "I am very certain of what I have to do in life and I am going to do it. Becoming a doctor is something I know I have to do – and I am going to fulfill this desire." Bruner wrote these powerful words in her early twenties. Not only has she achieved the goals she set for herself, she has become one of the nation's leading specialists in her field of bariatric medicine. For

her selfless service to her patients, for her significant contributions to her field and because she wholly embodies the values of a Stoneleigh-Burnham School education, Dr. Denise Bruner will be honored with the School's second annual Distinguished Alumna Award during Reunion Weekend.



In her nomination of Dr. Bruner, former classmate and current Board Chair Kathy Opdyke wrote: "Denise's efforts to help others reflect the spirit of a Stoneleigh-Burnham student. She has broken the barriers of gender and race in her profession, and the success she has achieved encompasses the mission of SBS."

Bruner arrived at the then Stoneleigh-Prospect Hill School in September 1967, the only daughter of her father, a Washington, D.C. based physician, and her mother, a professor of social work. She says she had a wealth of experiences at Stoneleigh-Burnham that enabled her to feel like "(she) could do anything she

wanted." She completed her schoolwork with such dedication and solid persistence to earn her a spot at the University of Southern California (USC).

After the birth of her son in 1973, Bruner withdrew from USC, but could not stay away from school for long. She transferred her credits to George Washington University and was then recruited by Howard University College of Medicine, the same medical school from which her father graduated in 1932.



Bruner graduated with honors from Howard in 1979 and was presented with the Emil Nash Award, given to the student with the most outstanding performance in medicine who would continue in residency at D.C. General Hospital. Upon completion of her residency, she reopened her late father's private practice and began work with Dr. Robert Beale, a pioneer in bariatric medicine, who would introduce her to the field.

She joined the American Society of Bariatric Physicians (ASBP) in 1983, and was board certified by the American Board of Bariatric Medicine in 1985. Bruner has since become nationally renowned for her work treating thousands of patients and helping them to successfully manage their weight control problems. She has been on the frontlines of the war against obesity and its related diseases and has dedicated her career to helping those struggling with their weight.

Among a range of honors too numerous to list here, she served as President of the ASBP from 1999 - 2002 and was then elected the first female Fellow of the ASBP in 2002. Bruner appears regularly on popular news and cable programs providing expert advice on obesity and weight-control issues. She has appeared on Oprah, Dr. Phil, Good Morning America, NBC Nightly News, the Today Show and Fox Morning News, among others. Bruner is regularly quoted in magazines and newspapers such as *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Glamour*, *People Magazine*, *WebMD*, *Fitness*, *Prevention* and *Reader's Digest*.

Dr. Bruner has been in private practice in Arlington, VA since 1981. She continues to be on active staff at Arlington Hospital, where she has served since 1983. In addition to her work in bariatric medicine, Bruner was certified in 2001 by the American Board of Anti-Aging Medicine and is a member of the American Academy of Anti-Aging Medicine.

The Distinguished Alumna Award was created in 2010 to honor one alumna each year who has distinguished herself in her personal or professional life, in her intellectual pursuits or in her dedication to service of community, country or society. The award also serves to inspire the entire Stoneleigh-Burnham School community to strive 'to become their best selves' in their pursuit of a meaningful life. When asked what the award meant to her, Dr. Bruner stated, "I've received many awards in my life, but this goes to my roots. I owe what I am now to my years at Stoneleigh."

After receiving Bruner's nomination, Head of School Sally Mixsell '69 stated, "Denise has always been ebullient to the point of infecting others with her positive energy and strong optimism. The fact that she has made such a name for herself in her field is, I think, testament to the power of intelligence, high energy and passion poured into her work, and resilience against all obstacles. She's a great role model for both our students and the adults in our community."

~by Susanna Thompson

*"Denise's efforts to help others reflect the spirit of a Stoneleigh-Burnham student. She has broken the barriers of gender and race in her profession and the success she has achieved encompasses the mission of SBS."*

# OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCES



The Stoneleigh-Burnham Performing Arts Department has had an amazing year so far — and there's still more to come. Dance, theatre, instrumental music and vocal music showings have regaled students, parents, faculty and friends with impressive work.

## FALL FAMILY WEEKEND

During Fall Family Weekend, the gym was filled with light, sound and color. In just a few short weeks, teachers and students had created an array of pieces to showcase their talents.

Chorus opened the show with a rousing rendition of "Didn't My Lord Deliver Daniel" and "Away from the Roll of the Sea." Seamlessly, the Octet singers stepped out of

their blue Chorus robes, under which they wore black velvet dresses and rearranged themselves on the risers. Quickly recostumed, they launched into "Joshua" and "Georgia on My Mind."

To the singing of Edith Piaf, Pointe took the stage for a fun Parisian tribute. Donned in striped tops and red berets, hands on hips, with a projection of the Eiffel Tower as the backdrop, the girls transported the audience to France (see the *Bulletin* cover).

Multi-talented Middle School Dean Bill Ivey led Rock Band through two cover tunes while supporting on rhythm guitar. Versatile drummers Rissy Dowrey and Eujan Chung took turns on the skins and at the microphone, delivering lead vocals.



Dance Performance Project surprised the audience by dancing to spoken word instead of music. Recordings of poems by Billy Collins and Alexander Pope filled the air while the girls interacted with props of chairs and stools, seemingly in conversation.

Jazz Combo, a four-piece, entertained with “Days of Wine and Roses” and a jam in D. Incredible flute solos by senior Jane Lee soared over the crowd.

Advanced Dance took over the stage to the rocking sounds of Florence and the Machine. In primary color costumes, groups of red, yellow and blue synchronized moves, entering and exiting the stage, coming together and separating.

Instrumental Music Director Dr. Greg Snedecker led the Chamber Players, a string quartet, while also playing cello. Big Band triumphantly wrapped up the show with a dynamic smashup of Queen songs arranged and conducted by Dr. Snedecker.

### MIDDLE SCHOOL PLAY

In November, the middle school presented “The Chumleigh Towers,” three short plays-within-a-play by Alison Davidson. We saw many amusing parallels in the script to life here at Stoneleigh-Burnham. The students were inspired by the extremes of the style of “melodrama” and by the challenge of the various accents suggested in the text. Dressed in prep school uniforms, the students had the crowd giggling throughout.

### WINTER SOLSTICE PRESENTATION

There were so many guests at the Winter Solstice Presentation that at some point, it became standing-room-only!

“Cinderella, an Anti-Bullying Fable,” a dance with several movements, cleverly interwove themes from the school’s new anti-bullying policy. Director Ann Sorvino managed to make an important statement through the metaphor from the traditional tale while also getting some laughs through silly cameo appearances by some of our coaches and teachers playing the Prince and the Rats. Noelle Evans, in the title role, beautifully embodied the grace and sadness of the heroine. The wee Community Dancers made for a perfectly cute infestation of mice.

The Chamber Players set the seasonal tone with “Stille Nacht” and “Deck the Halls.” Dance 7, a large group of middle school dancers, donned colorful wrap skirts and stomped out an exciting traditional African dance to a tune by KDZ.





Theater previewed pieces of the upcoming play, "The Madwoman of Chaillot" and performed "I Am An Emotional Creature" by Eve Ensler. Then both Upper School and Middle School Rock Bands picked up the pace with tunes by Blink 182 and Taylor Swift.

Jazz Combo added the vocal talent of Zoë Mancuso Dunkelberg for "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" and "Rudolph the Rednosed Reindeer." Big Band carried the holiday theme with "A Charlie Brown Christmas" and "Hot Chocolate," tossing their Santa hats into the air right on cue after the final note was played like new graduates tossing their mortarboards skyward.

New Choral Music teacher, Tony Lechner, led the Middle School Select Chorus through an outstanding a cappella rendition of "Joyfully Sing." Octet and Chorus rounded out the evening.



### THE MADWOMAN OF CHAILLOT

In February, Theatre teacher Kim Mancuso directed the students through the satire, "The Madwoman of Chaillot." Written by Jean Giraudoux during the Nazi occupation of Paris, the play weaves messages of honor and morality while tackling serious themes of greed and conformity. In light of last year's Gulf oil spill and global concerns about climate change, "The Madwoman of Chaillot" cleverly demonstrates the impact, both positive and negative, that individuals can have on the larger environmental events around them.

Timeless messages in the play continue to resonate with audiences. "When I approached the students with the script, they immediately understood the contemporary parallels," said Kim Mancuso of the Stoneleigh-Burnham School Performing Arts Department and Director of the play.

A type of comic fable, the play opens in a Paris café with a group of money-hungry industrialists plotting to tear up a Paris neighborhood to unearth oil believed to be under the city streets. The play's eccentric heroine, the Madwoman of Chaillot, played brilliantly by Jane Logan, learns of the plans and sets out to save the neighborhood from the self-serving industrialists. Despite her flaws and peculiar manner, she manages to enlist other common folk to help resurrect hope and love within the city.



### END OF YEAR PERFORMANCES

For Spring Family Weekend, the Performing Arts Department promises to bring another memorable presentation to the stage! To wrap up the year, there will be a Community Dance Concert on May 7, and Middle School performance on May 20 and the final SBS Dance Concert on June 2. Join us for one of these events if you can. 🎵



# CYNDEE MEESE RETIRES AFTER 30 YEARS

by Stephanie Dimetres



The lights dim and the heavy curtains slowly sweep across the stage, concealing the beautiful backdrop that just moments before was alive with Stoneleigh-Burnham girls reciting their lines. The applause resonates throughout Emerson Hall as the audience cheers for their friends, family

members and peers. Returning to the stage, the young actresses stand tall and proud, absorbing the praise for a job well done, a performance that took months of preparation. They join hands and bow together. Perhaps the loudest applause can be heard coming from Cyndee Meese.

For the past 30 years, Cyndee has been proudly clapping for scores of young vocalists and actresses in numerous productions and performances. Her vibrant personality, endless energy and boundless dedication to her students' growth are hallmarks of Cyndee's career and will be missed sorely when she retires from Stoneleigh-Burnham at the end of this year to live closer to family in Colorado. As I spoke with her about this article, Cyndee's face lit up as she remembered details from past shows. "I was always so impressed with the level of skill the girls had," Cyndee said. "No matter how many times I raised the bar, they always rose with it. I'll truly miss watching that kind of growth."

Her profound contributions have left an indelible impact on countless graduates, on the atmosphere of Stoneleigh-

Burnham and on our stage. We will miss not only her larger-than-life personality, but also her ability to inspire the entire community. As she reflects on parting from Stoneleigh-Burnham she says, "I really can't imagine not being a part of it; I will always be a part of the SBS family."

Cyndee has worked tirelessly each year to bring the Stoneleigh-Burnham community brilliantly entertaining theater productions. Her involvement in the Performing Arts Department has been essential for its growth and achievement. She has not only instructed Stoneleigh-Burnham's young actresses, but she has molded our vocalists as well. Whether she's cueing the Octet or keeping time with the chorus, she does so with precise focus and harmony.

Ann Sorvino, Dance Director and Performing Arts Chair states, "Cyndee's energy reserve has no boundaries. If we could bottle her resources, we could get rid of our country's energy crisis. Together, we created 13 musicals, including 'Nunsense,' 'Hello Dolly,' 'Anything Goes' and 'Chicago' and she managed to get the best performance out of everyone involved. She gave 100% and expected no less of everyone involved. She is also a master organizer. In Cyndee's world, all ships, planes, trains and automobiles arrive on time. She fueled each of her undertakings with maximum octane. I will miss her drive and efficiency."

Cyndee understands the various learning styles of young women and encourages creative expansion by teaching them the technical skills needed for building self-confidence in vocal and acting performances. "The great thing about teaching at Stoneleigh-Burnham is that I



don't have to categorize students in just one area. If they want to sing opera, I encourage them to sing opera. I can take them on field trips to hear opera. One young girl ended up singing an opera in Northampton for her senior project. Because we aren't confined to a particular mold, we can go anywhere their hearts desire," Cyndee remarked.

During her years at Stoneleigh-Burnham, Cyndee has taught film, music theory, computer music and drama courses as well as coached for the debate program. She states, "I've watched this school come so far. The thing that remains constant is the amazing women that come from this school. It's not about how much money they make or what college they go to...they just lead remarkable lives."

*"Cyndee's energy reserve has no boundaries. If we could bottle her resources, we could get rid of our country's energy crisis."*

Cyndee's contributions to our school are best illustrated in the statements from alumnae who have benefited from her instruction, guidance and advice over the thirty years of her tenure. Rachel Elmaleh '94 reflects, "I've known Cyndee since I was eleven years old. She

was a pivotal figure in the development of my self-esteem and my ability to relate to people...through music. Cyndee taught me that my best self does exist by digging deep, pushing my boundaries, and sometimes, letting go. She is one of the few individuals I have met who walks her talk, as she gives of herself completely in every aspect of teaching, and her enthusiasm for music and the arts is truly unmatched. I feel grateful and fortunate just to know her as my teacher and my friend."

Cyndee is credited with inspiring more than a few career decisions. Her students have gone on to be stage managers, theater technicians, jazz and opera singers, actresses, filmmakers and ballet dancers. One of our most famous performing arts graduates, opera singer Teresa Williams-Yetming '90, said, "I started my musical career at Stoneleigh-Burnham under the direction of Cyndee Meese. Thanks to her support and guidance, I was able to pursue a passion that has become my career and love."

Cyndee has embodied the mission of our school. In the words of her daughter, Jessica Meese '04, "While I was there, she was the spirit of Stoneleigh-Burnham, with her endless energy and inexhaustible enthusiasm. In class, she would get so excited about whatever topic she was teaching that we would all get caught up until the bell reminded us we were in school." As she retires, Cyndee reflects, "All I can really do is thank SBS. The school has come so far and made such an impact on girls all over the world...it has certainly made a great impact on me, as well." Her infectious enthusiasm, dedication to her students and positive attitude will leave a lasting legacy on our school, our stage and in the hearts of the students and alumnae with whom she has worked. 🎵

## Introducing Tony Lechner



Tony Lechner has stepped in to fill the role of Choral Director. He is excited to be working with the SBS girls and enjoying getting to know the faculty and staff as well.

Tony is an educator, composer, performer and producer of music. He is the creator of the internationally-acclaimed high school jazz a cappella group 5-Alone at the Pioneer Valley Performing Arts Charter School. Additionally, Tony directs the Valley Jazz Choir and Valley Jazz Choir for Teens, two community-based ensembles open to anyone who loves singing jazz.

Tony has scored short films that have appeared in the Chicago Film Festival and his song "Partiste" can be heard in the 2010 Paramount film *Dinner For Schmucks*. His song "Midnight Stars" won the 2010 Billboard World Song Contest Grand Prize for Jazz. "Mocha Maya," another original piece, won the same prize in the Instrumental category in 2011 and the Grand Prize in the 2010 John Lennon Songwriting Contest in the Jazz category!

If he weren't busy enough, Tony also runs his own recording studio, Wild-Wood, and is the creative force behind the indie folk/pop band of the same name. He wrote and produced the band's first album and lent his songwriting and recording talents to a related endeavor, The Rosewood Project.

We are so happy to have Tony on board at SBS! If his first concert was any indication, we are in for some spectacular vocal performances.

For more information about Tony, visit: [www.TonyLechner.com](http://www.TonyLechner.com)



# Hey Octet Alumnae!



Join us for Reunion 2011 and sing together again!



Saturday, June 11, 2011 3:00-5:00 p.m.  
Octet Alumnae Gathering & Sing-a-Long  
with Cyndee Meese in the Geissler Gallery

**We will honor Cyndee Meese  
as she retires from Stoneleigh-Burnham School  
after 30 years of octets, musicals and debate.**

The evening will wrap with performances by  
Octet Alumnae and Teresa Williams '90, soprano.

**Enjoy an evening of music while you catch up with friends and classmates!**

## THE STONELEIGH-BURNHAM ANNUAL FUND

2010-2011 Goal = **\$300,000**

Raised to date = **\$202,000**

Help us raise **\$98,000** by June 30!

*What does your gift do?*

- It helps fund some of our brightest boarding and day students' education.
- It enables us to keep the buildings heated, lit and maintained.
- It keeps top-notch faculty committed to the mission of the school.



*Every gift at any level gives lifeblood to your school.*

# SBS Traditions

## 100 Nights

Classes since the mid-1980s remember the excitement of 100 Nights, a tradition that marks the length of time until graduation. During this event, we celebrate the transition of seniors to alumnae.

On an unseasonably warm evening in February, the Class of 2011 was presented by 12th grade dean Sara Gibbons, then entered the Capen Room arm-in-arm with a friend. Decked out in glamorous attire, each student sashayed through the room to huge applause from families, faculty and students, finally arriving in front of her little sisters who presented her with roses.

After an hour or so of hugs, tears, laughter and picture-taking, family and staff departed. The seniors were then introduced as soon-to-be members of the Alumnae Association in the Dining Hall. Alumnae Board President Lisa Zewinski Adams '87 addressed them before dinner, sharing stories of what she learned as a student at SBS and how those lessons helped her successfully navigate through life.

The seniors and alumnae in attendance enjoyed a special candle-lit dinner served by the junior class, a new tradition that added to the feeling of community and continuity. After dessert, each senior stood and addressed the room with her personal goals for her last 100 days at SBS. Many wanted to avoid "senior slump" and keep their grades up. Others wanted to ensure they made the most of their friendships here, understanding from other alumnae that, with any luck, these bonds will stay with them for a lifetime. 🌸



1985



1996 (above)

2011 (below)





# Equestrian Wall of Fame

A new annual tradition was established in 2010 in the form of an Equestrian Wall of Fame, designed to spotlight and celebrate the achievements of our alumnae in various sectors of the equestrian world. We now annually look forward to honoring alumnae who have made significant contributions and have brought distinction and excellence to the field.

Past eligible alumnae have been involved with horses in numerous ways: as rider, trainer, coach, breeder, owner, artist, journalist, jockey, author, veterinarian, judge, manager, rescuer, braider, groomer, equine pharmaceuticals and photographer.

The new group of honorees brings similar talents and dedication. The second annual Stoneleigh-Burnham School Equestrian Wall of Fame induction took place on Saturday, February 19, 2011.

To start the day, Kimberly Cartier Dome '94, one of the honorees, conducted a clinic for current riders. Then the new inductees were introduced to parents and students who engaged them in a question-and-answer session at the Equestrian Center. The students were thrilled to learn about the vast array of opportunities available to them in the equestrian world.

During a lively cocktail reception in the Red Room, all in attendance could feel the tight-knit nature of the riding community. Inductees attended a formal dinner during which Head of School Sally Mixsell presented plaques to each. Director of Development and Alumnae Relations Regina Mooney introduced each inductee, including a brief story about their accomplishments.

**Abby Fuller '77** was not able to attend the event, but was praised for being a pioneer as one of the first and one of the few female jockeys in the U.S. She won the Filly Triple Crown with "Mom's Command" in 1985 and was inducted into the U.S. Racing Hall of Fame in 2007.



*Cocktail reception at the Wall of Fame ceremony.*



*Joannah Hall Glass '59S, Libby Cowperthwaite Schmitt diel '84, Mina Payne Williams '78 and Kimberly Cartier Dome '94 at the Wall of Fame ceremony.*

**Joannah Hall Glass '59S** is one of the most well-known and most decorated sidesaddle riders in the U.S. She is a riding instructor and serves on several riding boards, including Aiken Steeple Chase, and is the Director of the Devon Horse Show and Country Fair. Her facility, Sporting Days Farm, in Aiken, SC, has hosted USEA/USEF events, SCDCTA and GDCTA dressage and schooling shows as well as trail rides and fundraisers over the past 20 years.

**Kimberly Cartier Dome '94** has been competing since 1984 in eventing and dressage in Area I and II and is show jumping locally and nationally. She teaches and manages the vibrant Cartier Farms (currently in NH, but relocating to NC in the near future) and provides the unique service of making house calls for training students and horses.

**Libby Cowperthwaite Schmitt diel '84** is an accomplished rider, trainer and entrepreneur. With her husband, Patrick, she started a farm in Carthage, NC to board horses and give lessons in 2005. Her passion for caring for needy horses drove her to create Healing Hearts Equine Rescue, a non-profit arm of the farm, that takes in and rehabilitates abused, neglected, abandoned and surrendered horses, giving them a chance at a better life.

**Mina Payne Williams '78**, Director of the Equestrian Center, has been teaching riding at Stoneleigh-Burnham since 1979 and was recently named one of the top 50 instructors in the U.S. by the American Riding Instructor Association. Her diverse background in competing and teaching has made her well-versed in providing instruction in hunters, jumpers, eventing and dressage. As a show manager and course designer, she is indispensable to our equestrian program.

Inductees took to the podium for short acceptance speeches during which they reflected on their time at SBS and what it meant in terms of giving them the confidence and education to pursue their goals in the world of horses. Each spoke from the heart while accepting her award, expressing gratitude to the school. 🌿



## Junior Leadership Award (aka The Sweater Girl)

The Junior Leadership Award, also known as “The Sweater Girl” Award was first presented in 1986 to Julie Rowe '87. Julie was literally handed a sweater with her initials knitted on the front and the SBS owl on the back with the intention that she (and future recipients) would wear the sweater to special SBS events.

The award symbolizes commitment to the school as well as demonstrated leadership qualities. It is given to a girl in her junior year who has shown her pride for Stoneleigh-Burnham School. The faculty make the decision for whom to honor with the sweater. At the Academic Awards ceremony at the end of each school year, a new girl dons the sweater, embodying the spirit of SBS. Her initials are then added.

The creation of the Stoneleigh-Burnham sweater was a labor of love. The idea was the brainchild of then faculty members, Kim Ladd and Sue West. The sweater was knitted by Mrs. Markoski, who worked in the accounting office.

The sweater itself now lives in a special display case outside of the Admissions office when not being worn. With 23 sets of initials now woven into the garment, it is running out of space for future winners!

The Junior Leadership Award recipient for this academic year is Charli Brown '11. Charli is a four-year senior and president of her class as well as a key player in varsity basketball, soccer and lacrosse. She wears the sweater well! 🦉

*Melanie McCusker, 1990*

*Charli Brown, 2011*





# Mountain Day



1946

girls are awakened by their “big sisters” in lieu of the traditional bell-ringing. Then the entire student body is bussed to a local mountain. They trek to the top, enjoy the view over the Pioneer Valley, play games like Frisbee, Whiffle ball and football, eat a picnic lunch, jump in leaf piles and lie in the sunshine before heading back down, tired but gratified.

This year, girls met up at the foot of Mount Holyoke, where the Mountain Day tradition was born. Mount Holyoke College started celebrating in 1838 on that very hill. Smith College joined the tradition starting in 1877. Since then, a number of other independent colleges and secondary schools have embraced Mountain Day and have similar rituals for their students. Mary A. Burnham School and Stoneleigh-Prospect Hill School had both adopted the Mountain Day tradition long ago, so when the schools merged in 1969, it was only natural to keep it going.

Each year when the school announces Mountain Day, the Alumnae Office sends out an email to all alumnae and posts the announcement on Facebook. The volume and depth of the sentimental responses are amazing!

If you would like an email announcement of Mountain Day, please send your name, class and email address to [alumnae@sbschool.org](mailto:alumnae@sbschool.org).

See the story on pages 12-13 about how one alumna, Denise Simons Carey '89, implemented the concept of Mountain Day into programming for a residential care facility for displaced children. 🌿



2010

If there is a school tradition that successfully spans the years and schools (MAB, SPH and SBS), it is Mountain Day! For the first few weeks of classes, students guess when it will be announced. Anticipation builds. Wagers are made as to when it will happen.

It is a lovely surprise holiday, usually occurring on a clear, crisp autumn day. Classes are suddenly cancelled and instead of studying, students spend the day outdoors hiking a nearby mountain to enjoy exercise, fresh air and colorful fall foliage.

These days at Stoneleigh-Burnham,



1985 (above)



1950 (above)



# Alumnae Association Regional Events

## Boca Raton, FL

1. Marisa Abbo Quintero '74 and Hope Busk Reis '73
2. Marisa Abbo Quintero '74, Sally Mixsell '69, Gigi Abbo '71 (host of Boca Raton event), Liz Feeley from Alumnae Relations



## Naples, FL

3. Gaye Cavanaugh '53B, Sally Scott Blumenfeld '47B, Sally Mixsell '69 and Sue Milkey '49S
4. Marcia Kibbey '32B, Marcie Potter Crocker '54B and Nan Dietrich '60B
5. Nancy Forman Urfer '48S, Mimi Morgan Merola '69 and Nancy's sister Bobbie.
6. Pamela Coffin Williams '70, Martha Coffin '47B (hostess of Naples event), Sally Mixsell '69
7. Sally Mixsell '69, Mimi Morgan Merola '69, Cinda Savage Yaremo '72, Pamela Coffin Williams '70, Roberta Lee Gerber '57B, Nancy Forman Urfer '48S, Martha Coffin '47B, Marcia Kibbey '32B  
Front: Bobbie Forman







8. Dorothy Caten '38B and Sally Mixsell '69 in Venice, FL.

## Wellington, FL

9. Jill Schwartz, Mary McFadden '88, Stephanie Cutt Bernard '88, Janet Lince and Shannon Paul Lince '83 attending the reception at The White Horse Tavern.

10. Kelsa Fuller Zereski '88, Mina Payne Williams '78, Mighty Mouse and Lorna Conway '88.

11. Kelsa Fuller Zereski '88 and Mighty Mouse competing.

12. Back row (left to right): Liz Feeley-Alumnae Relations, Lorna Conway '88, Kelsa Fuller Zereski '88, Alex Warriner Gruber '90, Marisa Catalano, Abby Fuller '77, Mina Payne Williams '78, Stephanie Bernard Cutt '83, Amy Matthews Elftmann '71, Shannon Paul Lince '83, Janet Lince, Sally Mixsell '69, Laura Luther '80. Front row: Julie Ulrich, Karen Eisenhauer, Virginia Nielsen Robitaille '69, Mary McFadden '88.



## New York City

13. Sally Mixsell '69, Kristen Landino '98, Nyati Mistry Parikh '01, Dara Raskin '01, Anne Morris-Stockton '64S gather in New York City at The Algonquin.





# CLASS NOTES...



Group of alumnae at The Port Royal Club in Naples, Florida



Class Agents are needed for the following years: 1943S, 1944B, 1944S, 1947B, 1948S, 1951B, 1968S, 1979. Contact the Alumnae Office if you are interested in being a Class Agent at [alumnae@sbschool.org](mailto:alumnae@sbschool.org) or 413.774.2711 x247.

**Tell us about yourself!** Post a class note in the Alumnae section at [www.sbschool.org](http://www.sbschool.org).

### 1943B

*Class Agent: Jane Swift Wood – 4231 Grattan Price Dr, Harrisonburg, VA 22801*

### 1943S

*Class Agent needed!*

### 1944B

*Class Agent needed!*

### 1944S

*Class Agent needed!*

### 1945B

*Class Agent: Patricia Birt Morse – 735 Riomar Dr, Vero Beach, FL 32963, [tmorse997@aol.com](mailto:tmorse997@aol.com)*

### 1945S

*Class Agent: Connie Johnson Corsiglia – 101 Country Side Rd, Greenfield, MA 01301*

### 1946B 65th Reunion!

*Class Agent: Barbara Cox Sileo – 8963 Oldham Way, West Palm Beach, FL 33412, [jimbarb63@bellsouth.net](mailto:jimbarb63@bellsouth.net)*

### 1946S 65th Reunion!

*Class Agent: Elizabeth McLean McLain – 12725 Via Nasca, San Diego, CA 92128-1572, [patmclmcl@hotmail.com](mailto:patmclmcl@hotmail.com)*

### 1947B

*Class Agent needed!*

### 1947S

*Class Agent: Joan Hutton Landis – 450 Osage Lane, Media, PA 19063, [jlandis1@swarthmore.edu](mailto:jlandis1@swarthmore.edu)*

**Joan “Dusty” Hutton Landis** reports: I have had some interesting and very welcome responses to my October letter from **Nancy McQuigg Rutledge**, **Janet Byron Brehaut**, **Peggy Brown Hummel**, **Emily Trant Burgwyn** and **Mary Pearson Miller**. While there are some hip and knee complaints, (not surprising for our vintage), most everyone who answered is in good health and involved in a variety of projects and pass-times. **Emily Trant Burgwyn** has been living in a retirement home in Newport News, VA for the last seven years. A mini-stroke caused her to resign from her job as fraternity house director at Washington and Lee. She is fine now. Two of her three children live close by and all have been wonderfully supportive. She would like to come to a reunion, promises more details about her life and wants to hear those of other classmates. **Janet Byron Brehaut** shared with me: “It was so good to hear from you. Also, I had a call from Rachel Abadi. She was in Miami and lives in Caracas now. We have kept in touch over the years. I talked to **Mary Em Bodman ‘49S** awhile ago too. My daughter lives in Florida and my son lives near me and is a great help as

I live alone. I have twin grandchildren, a boy and a girl; teenagers. I belong to two art groups and have been busy getting my paintings ready for the galleries. I am also active in a garden club. Have trouble with my knees but would like to come to a reunion if I can.”

**Mary Pearson Miller** wrote to me: “I have five children, thirteen grandchildren and five greats, soon to be six. I did get to visit with **Sue Bridge Blair ‘46S** last June. We met in Maine and it was like old times, much laughter and many hugs. She looks young and is energetic.”

**Peggy Lou Brown Hummel** shared with me: “I have lived a full life. Graduated from college and married my first husband who was in the Marines. We had three wonderful children and lived in Pennsylvania. After working as Personnel Manager for a knitting company, I divorced and remarried. Between us we have six children, seventeen grand children and five great grandchildren. We worked in Saudi Arabia for six years. We did a lot of traveling around the world at that time. After returning from Saudi Arabia, we settled in Florida. I worked as a manager and then administrator for a group of neurologists in Ocala, retiring two years ago. I am a fifteen-year breast cancer survivor and have been active on the Citrus County Cancer Board and Reach to Recovery programs. I started the first breast cancer support group which is still functional today. Thanks again for contacting me. I look forward to news from you and Stoneleigh even though I did not graduate from there.” She adds that she would like to attend a reunion. I had an email from James Mason, son of **Joyce Rushton Mason**, with the sad news that Joyce had died last June. My own news is much the same; I am writing poetry, belong to a book club, look forward to the summer in our Vermont house, enjoy our six grand kids. A former student/composer is setting some of my poems for performance by a Philadelphia choral group. Please do send news to me at 450 Osage Lane, Media, PA 19063 or by email at [jlandis1@swarthmore.edu](mailto:jlandis1@swarthmore.edu). Think about 2012 and our sixty-fifth reunion!

### 1948B

*Class Agent: Joan Fenton Clark – 313 Tally Ho Dr, Indian Trail, NC 28079, [jclark020@carolina.rr.com](mailto:jclark020@carolina.rr.com)*

**Audrey Lampe** writes: I have just passed my 80th birthday; a surprise gathering arranged by my progeny: Doug, Don, Dean and Deb with the two grandchildren, Elizabeth (13) and Rachel (11). I was fortunate to be able to visit the Holy Land with a group from my church in June last year. It was a wonderful experience. There are pictures on our website, [pccumc.com](http://pccumc.com). You will see me getting on a camel! Book Club, Church and playing Bridge keep me busy. My husband has mild Alzheimer's and is at an assisted living facility. We are saddened by this turn of events but he is healthy and does not mind being away from family.

For that I am thankful. My Blessings to all; especially Head of School Sally Mixsell and Development Director Regina Mooney, who have visited and become friends.

### 1948S

*Class Agent needed!*

### 1949B

*Class Agent: Jacqueline Oothouse Mitchell – 131 Cumberland Rd, Burlington, VT 05408, [jacqmitch@comcast.net](mailto:jacqmitch@comcast.net)*

### 1949S

*Class Agent: Sue Heubisch Milkey – 27076 Kindewood Ln, Bonita Springs, FL 34134*

### 1950B

*Class Agent: Emily Cooper Stephenson – PO Box 957, Carmel, CA 93921, [emilystephenson@sbcglobal.net](mailto:emilystephenson@sbcglobal.net)*

### 1950S

*Class Agent: Addie Warner Minott – 2518 Stage Rd, Guilford, VT 05301, [pulpitfm@myfairpoint.net](mailto:pulpitfm@myfairpoint.net)*

### 1951B 60th Reunion!

*Class Agent: Susan Huber Gross – 49 Ravenwood Rd, West Hartford, CT 06107*

### 1951S 60th Reunion!

*Class Agent: Joan Walthers Parks – 37 Church St, Westminster, MA 01473, [bowtie-1@mindspring.com](mailto:bowtie-1@mindspring.com)*

### 1952B

*Class Agent: Sandra Williams White – PO Box 790, Franconia, NH 03580*

### 1952S

*Class Agent: Barbara Schaff Blumenthal – 36 Sullivan Dr, West Redding, CT 06896, [Barbglea@aol.com](mailto:Barbglea@aol.com)*

### 1953B

*Class Agents: Gaye Alexander Cavanaugh – [cjcava1@aol.com](mailto:cjcava1@aol.com); Jane McGrath Packer – [jpacker796@comline.com](mailto:jpacker796@comline.com)*

**Jane Packer** shares: Art and I left California in the early 90s and, after brief stops in Alabama and Florida, we have settled for good in North Carolina. Our youngest daughter and her family live near by. Our daughter coaches a national award winning 4-H program here. Her daughters, Sarah (19) and Hannah (16), are studying equine science at Virginia Interment College and pursuing a scholarship in volleyball, respectively. Her son Joshua (11) is just an all round jock. Soccer is his favorite right now. We just had two grandchildren married. Sarah Zorn was married in Seattle, in March and Geoffrey Etherson at Monterey Bay in October. Two new great-grandchildren round out the picture. After a rough two years with the Redskins, Jim is now quarter-back

coach for the Baltimore Ravens. Happily, his family was able to stay in their home in Virginia. Since moving to North Carolina I have been able to see my family, two sisters and a brother, often. I was the only one living on the west coast for so long. I am sad to report that **Leigh Westbrook (Shirley Steuernagel '53B)** passed away November 29 after a long battle with breast cancer.

## 1953S

*Class Agents: Pat Birge Johnson – 4130 SW 25th Pl, Cape Coral, FL 33914*

## 1954B

*Class Agent: Jill Crawford Stoll – punkygram57@aol.com*

## 1954S

*Class Agent: Linda Jennings Kraus – 58 Judson Rd, Fairfield, CT 06824-6655*

## 1955B

*Class Agent: Pat Reinking McBane – dpmcbane@aol.com*

## 1955S

*Class Agent needed!*

## 1956B 55th Reunion!

*Class Agent: Judith Howard Whitney-Terry – judith.whitney@gmail.com*

**Judith Whitney-Terry** writes: I would like to remind you that Reunion will be June 10-12, our 55th, and at that time you should elect a new class agent. Again, because we travel so much, I am finding it very difficult to gather and put notes together. I do hope someone else will take over the task. I doubt we will be at the reunion as we are heading for Europe shortly thereafter. Thanks to those of you who have kept notes coming, I've enjoyed hearing from you over the years and hope we can keep in touch.

## 1956S 55th Reunion!

*Class Agent: Linda Maiuzzo Budd – linnieb13@hotmail.com*

## 1957B

*Class Agent: Roberta Lee Gerber – 47 9<sup>th</sup> St, Bonita Springs, FL 34134, rlgerber@me.com*

## 1957S

*Class Agent: Winnie Steel Walker – 14 Honey Corners Rd, West Topsham, VT 05086*

## 1958B

*Class Agent: Karen Preefer Hanauer – khanauer@optonline.net*

## 1958S

*Class Agent: Anita Smiley Bailey – PO Box 83, Boyce, VA 22620*

## 1959B

*Class Agent: Susan Cummings Campbell – beachrosedesigns@comcast.net*

**Louise Walsh Throop** shares: I am busy with grandchildren, now twin boys and a girl, and my volunteer genealogical research for the

General Society of Mayflower Descendants. My latest book will appear shortly this year, published by the Society in Plymouth, MA. It covers the first four generations of descendants from George Soule, a passenger in 1620 of the Mayflower. I am slowly exploding the myth that all the Mayflower passengers were simple English folk with farming experience. George appears to have been born in Holland of Belgian parents! What between the Delano and the Soule families, and probably others who died the first winter in New England, there was a distinct Dutch representation which was city dwellers. The myth was first promulgated, by the leaders of the passengers on the Mayflower, as a cover-up story. This contemporary version was to mask the fact that several passengers were being sought by the English authorities with respect to "illegal," illicitly printed books. The romantic version of the Mayflower's Pilgrims and Strangers was advanced by poetry written in the 1800s, which also glosses over the historical fact that Virginia Colony was settled before Plymouth Colony. For anyone interested, my booklet, called "George Soule, version 6," is available from the Mayflower office by calling: 508-746-5058. What they do not teach in elementary school!

## 1959S

*Class Agents: Betsy Barry Beaudin – betsy@beaudins.com; Joannah Hall Glass – jhallglass@aol.com*

## 1960B

*Class Agents: Rachael Chamberlain Schlegel – rcs4335@aol.com; Cynthia Poltrack Skinner – cynth6@earthlink.net*

## 1960S

*Class Agents: Margery Lawton Cooper – mtlcooper@yahoo.com; Laura Richards – lrichards102@gmail.com*

**Laurie Price Muth** retired from nursing in August of last year. But she will never lack for things to do! Even during this particularly "nasty" winter: lots of snow, lots of skiing - when it was above zero and not blowing at 25 to 30 miles an hour with wind chills up to 45 degrees below! She is hiking too, of course. And playing tennis, although she had a game cancelled a couple of weeks ago because of blizzard conditions: that's when she stays home. It's early March now and after all this, I think she's ready for some spring. Laurie is, as I write, spending two weeks in Haiti with a group of eight from the Mennonite Church on a "work and learn" tour. They will be picking up cement rubble in the mornings and touring in the afternoons. She's been studying her Creole, has taken her bathing suit to enjoy the beautiful beaches and hopes to hike in the beautiful mountains some. That would be Laurie, always there to help and to also have some fun! She was sorry to have missed everyone at Reunion, but had a wonderful time at her school reunion in Chappaqua, NY, with classmates from nursery school through 10th grade. Wow! **Marci Currier Currier** is spending three months in Summerfield, Florida with husband Rey and lots and lots of friends and family! Per usual, her schedule makes me dizzy; all

kinds of company and some traveling around besides. Having two grandsons (10 and 12) for a week and "running the theme park gamut" are an example. They'll return home to Southport, North Carolina at the end of the month. **Ceci Ament Roberge** is also in Florida for the winter season, in Kings Point, Sun City Center near Tampa Bay, a community designed in the 70s with a "Jetsons" quality about it. Seems they're very happy there, enjoying all the "retirement stuff." Ceci's still taking Spanish classes at the local community college and tutoring children of farm workers in an after-school program. She swims 4 days a week and Leo walks 5 miles every day. "And there's spring training!" Their son Rob has had a new book published, a collection of short stories: "Working Backwards from the Worst Moment in My Life." Ceci says it's as dark as the title sounds, but it's getting some very good reviews. Daughter Dianna completed her doctor of education degree at the University of Hartford. Ceci and Leo were in Connecticut in March for granddaughter Nadia's (14th) birthday and in December for the blizzard. Needless to say they were glad to be back to feel that wonderful, warm Gulf air! I have been emailing with **Sally Gottlieb** and all is fine in lovely Woodstock, Vermont. Perhaps a bit tired of the winter colds and the winter cold! Sally says, "We've had more than enough snow, sleet and ice," but otherwise, fine. She and Robert were planning a visit with family in Florida in January, but got caught up in the crazy storm/flying mess, and had to cancel. They were hoping to reschedule for April. **Laura Richards** sent along a short description of her fabulous trip last September to Slovenia and a small ship (50 passengers) cruise of the Adriatic. She found Slovenia very beautiful and similar to Austria. The group spent three days in northern Slovenia at Lake Bled, with a few side trips. They traveled on to Zagreb, the capitol of Croatia, for three days; sightseeing in the city and surrounding areas. Next they went to the Plitvice Lakes National Park on their way to meet their ship in Split and then a cruise for 10 days along the Dalmation coast to Greece, stopping at Hvar and Korcula, and then on to Dubrovnik. The next port was Kotor in Montenegro, then the archaeological site Butrint in Albania. In Greece they visited Corfu, Itea to tour ancient Delphi and its museum, and Athens. Sounds wonderful! And all's fine here in lovely St. Augustine. Been a chilly winter here, too (not very Florida-y). Next thing we know, we'll be heading north to Connecticut for the summer for fun and festivities with kids and grandkids. We were with them at Christmastime, but those boys (11 and 13) can grow like crazy between December and May! Hope everyone is happy and healthy. And, please, drop a line anytime, to keep us all up on what's happening with you. Take care! **Susan Farmer** shares: I was so pleased to get a phone call from the governor who is appointing me to the RI Board of Elections. (Overseeing all election laws, processes, disputes, recounts, and more). VERY cool. I have to be confirmed by the Senate, but having served as the state's highest election official as Secretary of State, this should be smooth.



## 1961B 50th Reunion!

Class Agents: Judy Vandever McDermott – judithmc33@aol.com; Toni Schust Zegras – tzegras@optonline.net

## 1961S 50th Reunion!

Class Agent: Julie Stephens Wyman – Julie4cats@gmail.com

## 1962B

Class Agent: Kathy Conathan Reardon – kathyrt1230@aol.com

**Kathy Reardon** shares: Our classmate **Vicki Simmons** lost her valiant battle with lung cancer March 1, 2010. **Libby Apfel Sanderson** shared with me Vicki's blog, <http://vickicancer.blogspot.com/>. Vicki was an inspiration to her family, colleagues and friends. Please read her blog; a wonderful wife, mother, journalist and friend gone too soon. I have had a busy spring helping my son Tiger and family move to Denver. I spent some very busy days in Boston taking care of nine month old Declan and two year old Trevor. It took me quite a while to recover. **Mary Ellis Bowers**, **Libby Montague Mundy**, **Pat Corcoran Wood**, **Becky Ellis** and I are hoping to have a mini reunion in June. We hope Becky has at least two new puppies for us to play with by then. If we get organized we will try to get a group together for lunch or dinner. We need to start planning our 50th. The class of '61 seems to be well organized for theirs this year; hope we will get as big a turnout. Remember there is quite a group of '62 classmates on Facebook. It's a great way to keep in touch.

## 1962S

Class Agents: Roby Akin Phillips – rphillips@worldtrav.com; Charlot Martin Taylor – PO Box 1333, Wainscott, NY 11975-1333

**Elizabeth Off Bergener** shares: All is well in Colorado but I am already looking forward to attending our 50th in June of 2012. Let's have a great attendance. We had a ball at the 40th! First time we have all been together in a year

since they were working, going to school and raising two children. Don't know how they did it. Now I have three grandchildren with one due next month. They are great fun and all live in Colorado so I get to be a grandma often! When not doing that, I work and play at the local golf course. And I still get on the skis in the winter.

## 1963B

Class Agent: Judith Whalen Dunbar – judidunbar@aol.com

**Margot Dunbar Bleier** shares: My daughter Kimberly and husband Travis are ecstatic new parents, and I am enjoying every moment as a grandmother with my cutie granddaughter, Elizabeth Woods. She was born two months premature on November 27, 2010 so she is still catching up. Happily she is healthy and thriving and adorable!



Elizabeth Woods, Granddaughter of Margot Dunbar Bleier '63B

## 1963S

Class Agent: Sally Miller Fuller – ImFuller@sopris.net

## 1964B

Class Agents: Gail Martin Clock – gclock@aol.com; Ellen Chello McFarland – ejmcfarland@snet.net

## 1964S

Class Agent: Anne Morris-Stockton – annasenf@yahoo.com

**Anne Morris Stockton** shares: I am traveling back and forth to Florida to check up on my parents who are doing well at 91 and 89. Their dog Buddy is 14 and my fur kid, until I get another one of my own. My years in England seem so in the past. I did some wonderful things there along with getting a divorce, so that I can say "been there, done that." I am living in Chelsea, NYC and enjoying what the city has to offer and my friends. I am on the Board of Governors at Bard College. It has become quite an impressive institution since my days there. I have two institutions of learning of which I am so proud. I have made some good friends through my involvement there, but I still remember my Stoneleigh friends and would love to get together whenever any of you comes to New York.

**Pam Benson** is always busy and dedicated to the school and has been her whole adult life. We are proud of her and love her. I always remember my visit to her house in Deerfield when there was the infestation of ladybugs. If they mean good luck, she certainly has it in abundance! **Jane Braddock** writes: I am a divorced abstract painter living in Music City (Nashville, TN) and my web site is [janebraddock.com](http://janebraddock.com). My avocations: astrology, I just returned from a seminar in Bali with Alan Oken; travel, less Europe and more everywhere else; food, especially ethnic, both eating and cooking; and reading, walking, taking care of my beloved animals and of course FRIENDS.

**Pat Hall Hunt** says: I am still running my business, [huntstock.com](http://huntstock.com), creating imagery for publishing and my daughter's baby is due in May; my first grandchild. That's pretty exciting for me. My husband and I completed our MBAs a year ago, better late than never. He is teaching at college level. We enjoy living in the Pinehills area of Plymouth, MA. **Linda Hess Hill** shares: I am living in St. Petersburg, FL (32 yrs) and raise Labrador Retrievers. My boy, Salty, won "Best of Breed" at



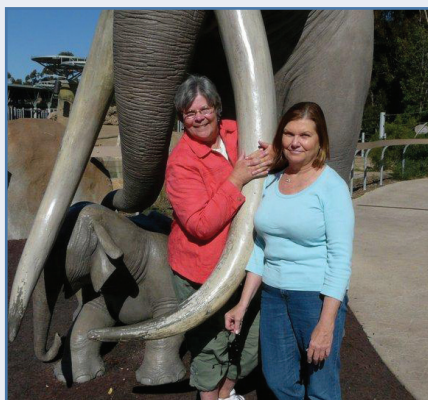
Janie Braddock '64S

Westminster in 2007 and his daughter, Surfer Girl, is now winning a lot! However, she is currently at home taking care of her eight five-week-old puppies! Both of my boys live here in St. Petersburg and I have four grandkids! 65 is looming around the corner... LIFE IS GOOD! **Marion Kohn O'Brien** writes: I am well and living in Florida. I enjoyed meeting Sally Mixsell this winter in Boca Raton for a Stoneleigh gathering. She is a great woman and impressive leader. It was great to reconnect. **Jacquie Williams Dorrance** shares: I am about to turn 65 this year, (ugh!) but I feel great! I dance three times a week, chairing Cap Campaign for Ballet, on too many boards, have FOUR grandkids, and generally speaking I am having the time of my life! I hope the same for all of you! **Leba Philipson Zaborny** says: I am living in Florida on Longboat Key which is a barrier island on the west coast of

Elizabeth Off Bergener '62 and family (below)



Florida. I am in restaurant management at a 5-star resort only five miles from home. One daughter lives in California and the other in Minneapolis. I have three grandkids and another due in August. I wish that the families lived a little closer. Thank God for the airlines! Hope everyone is well. 65 does loom large doesn't it? **Sue Barta Hadley** shares: Hi there, Stoneleigh Girls! So great to be in touch and hear where everyone is. Sounds like a lot of you have wonderful families and some dogs. I am writing a book about the relationship of dogs and people. I would love and welcome any high resolution pictures of your dogs in nature without people in them if you are willing to share any special ones. If you have pictures of small children with the dogs that would be great too. Just thought I would throw the thought out there for all dog lovers. Feel free to be in touch through my personal Facebook or email. **Linda Cudmore Morris** writes: I had a wonderful lunch and spent the afternoon with **Cheryl Marcelle Remple**. So great to see her! Stoneleigh '64, you girls still rock! Cheryl and I live about 45 to 55 minutes apart. **Jeannie Porter Jennings** is about 15 minutes from where we live. **Kathy Johnson Talmage** and hubby come to Denver about twice a year to visit family. Sometimes I get to NYC to visit **Anne Morris**, but it's been about six or seven years. I have to get back East to see friends and family. **Carol Grasso Brooks** says: Hi all! Greetings from Maine. As soon as the snow and rain stop, I'll be back on the golf course. We have a short window for warm weather, but we take full advantage. Meanwhile, I'm busy with real estate. Nothing stops Maine buyers and sellers from moving! Thank goodness. **Lynn Wood** writes: I am busy traveling and visiting **Pat Yeungling**, **Janie Braddock** and New York City. She is pretty active on Facebook, so catch more there. **Victoria Schacht** shares: I am still as you might remember me, sneaking the dog into a reunion! My two are both rescues and most of my unemployed-time is dedicated to helping with rescues, including fostering. I am getting another one tomorrow afternoon; saved her from being put down in Greenville, SC. It's very rewarding and satisfying work! I am also making beautiful handmade shell pots. **Pat Yeungling** says: I am very involved with the San Diego Zoo and particularly involved with the Pandas and I see **Lynn Wood**, who goes out that way not infrequently.



Pat Yeungling '64S and Lynn Wood '64S at the San Diego Zoo

## 1965B

*Class Agent: Ann Mickelson de Brauw – amdebrauw@aol.com*

**Marjie Klingeman** shares: Hi all Burnham 65-ers! I had a great phone call from **Linde McCabe Gee** who lives in Boston, actually in Cambridge. A city gal who loves her time in the summer on the mountain in Salisbury, CT. We agreed that it has taken the starch out of all of us to think that **Tina Vogt Fisler** is gone from us all now. Live well and long ladies. She would want you all to enjoy every moment!

## 1965S

*Class Agent: Patricia Roberts – proberts6@nyc.rr.com*

## 1966B 45th Reunion!

*Class Agents: Kiki Black – henshaw66@yahoo.com; Mandy Burr – RevMandy@aol.com; Judy Arnold Conner – jmac333@comcast.net*

**Sally Wiepert Speas** shares: Just a note to say I am unable to attend reunion as work gets in the way. I have been working with primarily autistic children, ages eight to 21, for the past five years and when one of the staff is away from class, it can be disastrous. We also have children with multiple challenges, thus our presence is monumental. I still volunteer at Winter Park Ski Area teaching disabled people to ski. I have been there for 30 years, but it feels like 10 and is still very close to my heart. I am still with my significant other, Pete, going on 20 plus years now. He is a true soul mate. We ski together, hunt together, and always enjoy the closeness we share. I have been living in the Denver area (Littleton, CO) for over 30 years and never tire of this beautiful state. I have always been an outdoor person and this is truly the place for that. My health is good and being with a younger man has kept my age at bay, maybe. I had the opportunity to catch up with **Kiki Black** in Vail, but I just work too much. I also live fairly close to **Kathy Dewitt**, but again, life gets in the way. It shouldn't be like that and I really need to "chuck" work and start renewing friendships and take a breath every now and then. Did my days at MAB really teach me this crazy work ethic? Maybe retirement would be a good thing. Signing off for now and hope everyone who attends Reunion has a blast.

## 1966S 45th Reunion!

*Class Agent: Beth Born Mellina – 710 Dartmoor, Westfield, NJ 07090*

**Deborah Ecklund Moore** writes: I cannot believe that it has been almost 45 years since I graduated. I do believe that my education at Burnham has been pivotal in creating me as the woman I am today. I am proud of my family and my career in nursing. I send my best regards to friends and classmates.

## 1967B

*Class Agents: Jody Geberhardt – jodyg@cablone.net; Judith Lilleston – lillestonj@hotmail.com*

## 1967S

*Class Agent: Susie Hine – PO Box 96, East Dennis, MA 02641*

**Mary Jackson Powell** wrote: It was such fun to hear from Susie Hine. I would love to get back for a Reunion. I am living in New Hope, PA. **Robin Rochette** shares: I finally retired last August and I am enjoying staying busy at home. I still volunteer with a local animal shelter and foster cats for them. My husband is still working on the house renovations as well as a full time job. Both kids have graduated; Jonathan from college and Gianna from high school. He is working with computer systems and she is travelling on Mission trips and working at a 5-star restaurant in the area. Our son Jonathan is 23 and our daughter Gianna is 19 years old. Where did the time go? I am so proud of Sally Mixsell and of course we can say "I knew her when..." **Helen Shaskan** shares: I would like to thank **Susie Hine** from the bottom of my heart for your sweet note, hand drawn holly and seasons greeting which I appreciate 101%! So glad to hear that Susie rescued another incredibly lucky lab and that she keeps up with SBS classnotes. I am a retiree now, officially, but more active than ever before in my life. In September I became a volunteer with the Metropolitan Opera Guild and am now training to become a backstage tour guide. I am slowly establishing a small pet care business; keeping it small so that I can enjoy it. I still have my pet bird Aurora (**Susie Hine** adds: "I can personally say that bird is as tough as a guard dog! He went right for my feet when I visited!"). Susie Hine writes: I am still living on beautiful Cape Cod. I am out of work at the nursery for the winter. I am getting creative with flower arrangements, holiday wreaths, the house and dog sitting. **Penny Homan Neale**, her husband Phil and their dog Chief visited us late summer. We enjoyed many beach walks and an outdoor symphony concert. Penny is involved with senior citizens and breast cancer conferences all over the country. **Debbie Hawkins Weber** writes: Dennis and I still have our house in Bar Harbor, but spend the winter in Colorado Springs, CO. We love the big sky, the west and the sunshine especially. Our adult children are in NYC and Denver. Next time you see or talk to Lucia (Beer) or Sally (Leach Mixsell) please give them my best. I follow Sally's important events at the School. Fantastic for the School and her.

## 1968B

*Class Agent: Joyce Cornish Suter – ljsuter@comcast.net*

## 1968S

*Class Agent Needed!*

## 1969

*Class Agent Chairs: Meg Long White – megevents@gmail.com; Bonnie Briskin – bonnieb351@yahoo.com; Class Agents: Deborah Chamberlain – dorchamb@aol.com; Mary Maloney – maloneym@ummhc.org; Tori Askerberg – tori@us.ibm.com*

**Jocelyn Clark Beyeler** says: Hello all! Just to let you know I'm still alive and well. My e-mail address is: jocelynbe@windstream.net and although we live in North Carolina for most of the year, we fly over to Switzerland to stay in our second home from May to September. I take my little laptop, so I can



check e-mail when necessary; although I have to find a 'free' spot to connect! Thanks for the birthday card. I love hearing about the class of '69! **Sue Ellen Rothery** writes: Bravo to **Sally Mixsell** and the crew of Stoneleigh-Burnham School in achieving the status of an International Baccalaureate World School! Impressive work, Sally. In previous notes I told you that my first return visit to Stoneleigh-Burnham was forty years after graduation. That 40th Reunion weekend was a wonderful experience. I hope more of our class will come to Reunion this year. The rekindling of those old friendships is so rewarding and fun! Since then I have attended other SBS events. The most moving was to be a part of the 100 Nights celebration last month. The senior girls marked the 100 nights remaining before their graduation. The ceremony was capped with a candle lit dinner. Each girl spoke of her hopes and dreams...it was very moving. My own news: I am optimistic about the easing of this long and arduous recession which has had a huge impact on the design industry. My most exciting news is that my sister and I now have a place on Martha's Vineyard. I am in the process of spiffing up this unique property and opening my design studio there. It has been a long time dream of mine to extend my practice to the Vineyard, Nantucket and the Cape! Does anyone hear from Andree Markoe, Linda Wright or Debbie Swift? All for now!

## 1970

*Class Agent Chair: Kathy Seyffer Opdycke – wlpmom@verizon.net; Class Agent: Perky Heath Hamill – peezola@optonline.net*

Many thanks to **Martha Reynolds Coffin '47B**, joined by her daughter **Pamela Coffin Williams '70**, for hosting a Stoneleigh-Burnham alumnae event at The Port Royal Club in Naples, Florida in January. Your hospitality and generosity were so appreciated by everyone who attended. Reunion is right around the corner (June 10 - 12, 2011). Wouldn't it be fun for the Class of '70 to return to campus to see your little sister as her class celebrates their 40th reunion? Reunion is a wonderful trip down memory lane; renewing old friendships and walking the hallways. I hope to see many of you on campus! Thanks to Anne Sears '70 for her donation to renovate room #70 in the dorms. I'm sure there is a student who is enjoying your contribution to our school.

## 1971 40th Reunion!

*Class Agent: Lynda Decker Gallagher – lyndadeckergallagher@gmail.com*

**Annette van Duren** reports: **Jean Messinger Thoren '72** and I see each other from time to time. We were both in Cannes in October for MIPCOM and had a lovely dinner. We had a lot of laughs as we reminisced about various escapades and adventures. Life is good; we are all happy and healthy. I'm still doing well as an agent and co-head of the parent association at our daughter's school. Alan is running film and television for Jonas Enterprises. Samantha is a junior at CHAMPS Charter High School and thinking about colleges. I'll try to come in June for the Reunion. **Suzanne Greene** writes: Hello my long lost classmates and friends! I am very excited to be coming to Reunion this June



*Jean Messinger Thoren '72, Mercedes Serralles '72 and her husband Eddo Bult in Geneva, Switzerland*

(just don't mention the 40th part), and hope that many of you will also be making the trip. I don't think I've been to one since our 15th. Over all these years I've really only stayed in touch with **Lynda Decker Gallagher** and **Anne Sears '70**, both excellent choices (LOL) but it's time to add to that. Anne visited me in Phoenix for a week to play golf, etc. In fact as I write this, she and her partner Cindy are up at the Grand Canyon for the first time. I think that has been a favorite part of living in Arizona for 15 years; introducing my visitors to the wonder and awe of nearby Sedona and the Grand Canyon. And now it looks like I may be finally moving back to Colorado (that is IF I can sell my house). Great timing. My job will be the same; I will just do it back where I started my career with Schwab in Denver. Tennis is still my passion and my knee replacement was a great success and I'm finally able to compete again (albeit doubles) which makes me very happy. Anne and I had the scrapbook and yearbooks out the other night reminiscing, laughing and groaning. I'll look forward to doing the same with those of you who can make it this June!

## 1972

*Class Agent: Melissa Leach Dickson – MelissalDickson@gmail.com*

**Winifred Hawkridge** shares: I had a wonderful visit from **Joanne Richardson**, **Karin Whittemore** and **Kim Butcher** this winter. They all came to the farm for a terrific weekend of laughing and reminiscing. We walked the farm and played with the puppies, which there were quite a few at the time. It was great to see them and we all hope to make it an annual event. **Charlotte Lewis Hankus** writes: My husband Julian just had shoulder replacement surgery in February and is recuperating. Another long recovery, but hopefully it will be less pain and more mobility. I love going onto Facebook and getting caught up on all the chatter. It is lovely weather this time of year, but it is the kind that means that spring is getting closer and I will be outside once more in my gardens! My son Scott is living in LA now and enjoying managing 24-hour fitness clubs at Santa Monica pier and my older son Craig is a successful electrician here in New Hampshire. Wow does time fly! **Joanne Porter Richardson**

says: Things in Northern NH are really snowy this winter. The drifts are so high they will almost reach an elephant's eye. I do hear a rumor that spring is coming...around Memorial Day. Seriously it has been very snowy this year, but days are longer and brighter and so there is light at the end of the tunnel. It has been a tough winter; my husband Thom had his prostate removed on January 17 at Dartmouth Hitchcock Hospital. They feel they got all the cancer removed, thank goodness. It was really tough but my Mom always used to say, "what doesn't kill you makes you stronger." We had a mini-SBS reunion at **Phreddie Sienkiwicz's** in early December. **Kim Butch**, **Karin Whittemore** and I all met up at Phreddie's and it was a total blast. We had so much fun and it was amazing to all be together. Phreddie had over 14 puppies of various breeds and so we got tons of puppy love all weekend. I was especially in need of that because I had to put my beloved lab Sophie to sleep in late November; it was very hard. Anyway, Phreddie has a beautiful farm! I am still working at the Garnet Hill Photo Studio and actually just went full time. We will be reopening Jax, our snack shack, in May, so let the games begin. I wake up during the summer and try to remember which job I am doing that day and whose books I am keeping. I think I am working harder now than I was ten years ago. It is not what I had planned but when does life ever go as we planned? I hope everyone from SBS '72 is well and life is good. I am not sure when we got to be 55; especially because when we were at SBS we didn't want to trust anyone over the age of 30. Egad, our daughter is 31. Anyway, if any of you come to Whitefield this summer, stop by Jax (we are right in the center of town, can't miss us) and we will buy you an ice cream. **Jennifer Pickering** shares: **Suzy Bell Fraser** and I had a real nice lunch and catch up at a restaurant in New London, NH (about halfway between both of our houses) on February 20. I don't think we had seen each other since our graduation in 1972. YIKES! It was great to see her. We talked about many of our classmates and school and our lives and really, really, really hope that **Sue Tuttle** and **Jan Eisner** can make it to our 40th next year (in 2012). We both plan on being there! This winter in NH has been the worst that I can



Lisa Bailey White '72 with grandchildren Myles and Maeve

remember. It's March and I still have three or four feet of snow in my backyard. I can't WAIT for spring! I may have to consider becoming a "snowbird" and living somewhere warm every winter. I can run my travel agency, Seahorse Travel, from anywhere as long as I have a phone and a computer! My best to everybody! **Karin Whittemore** writes: I am still living in Mystic, CT with my husband Peter and Goldendoodle Marley. Peter had a busy year being the main caregiver for his Mom who passed away on the solstice at the age of 91. I have been busy with work, traveling and taking care of my grandmother's house where we live. I have returned to school at Rhode Island School of Design in hopes of finishing up my degree in Digital Photography. It is great to be back in an artistic, learning environment. I have missed it. School, my photography and also a part-time design business with my friend Anthony DeAngelis keeps me more than busy. I just got back from my annual trip to Jamaica which was wonderful. It has been great to have had the opportunity to reconnect with so many SBS friends! Last June about eight of us from our class spent some time out in Taos, NM with **Nan Fischer**. We had a great time out in that beautiful country and it was so good to see that even though so many years have passed, we could all still be together and pick up nearly right where we all left off. I feel very blessed to have such wonderful friends and family in my life! **Melissa Leach Dickson** says: I'm teaching and enjoying a lot of Mat Pilates classes lately. I always look forward to the one I offer at SBS's Reunion weekend! Our son Elliot will be married July 30, 2011 in Vermont. My whole family is well and my mom, for those who remember her, is still working as an interior designer; going strong and doing a lot of business! **Karen Harris Hathaway** writes: I had a great time in the Carolinas and ran into SBS graduate **McKenzie Rollins '01** and her Ethel Walker students in Aiken, SC. I am getting ever closer to wanting to retire in that very horsey place. I love the history and the architecture of the old south! When my horse in Aiken got sick and he was tended to by another SBS graduate, **Dr. Kate Echeverria '98**, of the Southern Equine Service right in Aiken.

## 1973

Class Agent: Susan McVie – 1731 Rose Ave, Bethlehem, PA 18018

**Elena Shaubah** shares: I am living on Water Island, USVI and working for Virgin Islands Paving, Inc. as Assistant Manager, St. Thomas/St. John. I have two Sons, 29 and 27, both living on St. Croix USVI. I've been keeping in touch with **Celeste Bertucci McShane** and **Annette Cazenave** throughout the years and have reconnected with many more through Facebook.

## 1974

Class Agent: Victoria Claman Hewitt – vchewitt@aol.com

## 1975

Class Agent: Susan Murphy Mulcahy – emeraldsm@sbcglobal.net

## 1976 35th Reunion!

Class Agents: Nancy Maurer Preston – npreston07@gmail.com; Susan Tyrrel – styrrrel@cox.net

**Karen Schmitt Montgomery** says: It has been almost two years this spring that my family and I made the big move from California to North Carolina. What an adjustment it has been. But we have all survived and now feel settled in. My husband and I launched our own business over a year ago and we are doing great. We manufacture and sell a line of home & garden accessories! We are in over 250 stores nation wide. Our booth at the Atlanta Gift Show this past January was packed! Check out our web site: elizabethkeithdesigns.com. Our daughter Emma is almost 11 and is busy with dance and school. Think of all of my classmates often and have such fond memories of the class of '76!



Karen Schmitt Montgomery '76 with husband George and daughter Emma

## 1977

Class Agent: Kathryn Whitney Mansfield – kat.mansfield@verizon.net

## 1978

Class Agent: Lynne Schulthess – SabrinaS@optonline.net

**Michelle Kennedy** shares: Here I am writing a few notes at the last day deadline. Some things never change with me having the creative, artistic and disorganized mindset! I miss hearing from SBS friends and I have been remiss as well with writing. So, here's

some news. I am quite proud of myself to be up and typing at the computer today as I just had mastectomy surgery a few days ago, March 10th. Celebrating a happy 50th birthday last year turned out to be a surprise year that I had breast cancer too. Now, I'm rather curly haired, from it growing back in after chemo treatments; yes, me with curls is rather shocking and now, boob-less, with my first surgery being last June. However, I am determined to not only grow my hair back to its original lengthy straight style but to also laugh about knitting boobs! Yes, I did write "knitted boobs." I can always use the creativity of knitting to help me find the humor in all situations. My friends helped to dye my hair many shades of pinks before it fell out. It was something like the Dr. Seuss-Tinkerbelle style! For the past ten years I have taught knitting & fiber arts to children at local schools in Wisconsin, writing a book about all the wonderful ways knitting has enriched my students' lives and mine. Once healed from this surgery, I hope to be back working part time at the Three Rivers Waldorf School in the Kindergarten Rooms and volunteering in Handworks. I have many children's books I'm writing and illustrating with knitting themes. After much research, I am finding acupuncture and nutritional teas and juicing veggies to be very beneficial. My charming son Oren, who's nearly 19, has been a wonderful, patient nurse, with tremendous humor. Our tabby cat, Chubby, is infamous in our house for her PhD in Purr Therapy but as well, she is a fabulous Cat-Hat Model, being in a knitting book titled: "1,000 Fabulous Knit Hats," compiled by Annie Modesitt. Chubby is seen modeling a little red beret I knitted for her. Oren chose not to be a hat model, imagine that. Two of my knitting students have knitted hat designs in the book, as well as me. I hope this Spring Bulletin finds more of our classmates writing. I was a groom at the riding barn years ago to afford riding lessons. I loved watching **Abby Fuller '77** and **Mina Payne Williams '78** and others with their amazing riding skills. I was a far better artist than rider, but really enjoyed going to the shows. Yes, the school horses Fog and Henry tipped me off easily. One of my absolute favorite memories: Waking up to Holiday Christmas as a freshman, with seniors singing to us by candlelight and inviting us downstairs to the cafeteria for early morning cocoa. It was very magical. With sincere gratitude for the wonderful four years I had at SBS.

## 1979

Class Agent: needed!

## 1980

Class Agents: Kim Day – 403 Pacific Cir, Newbury Park, CA 91320; Dawn Slaney Hill – 303 Tutwiler Dr, Trussville, AL 35173; Cindi Grader Viola – jckviola@comcast.net

## 1981 30th Reunion!

Class Agent: Becky Rawson Aronson Weaver – baronson75206@yahoo.com

**Lisa Russell** writes: Hey Class of 1981! It's 30 big ones this spring! Come out to the Reunion! Please, Please, Please! Considering I live in the same small state as SBS, I HAVE to



be there! **Debra J Van Dyke** shares: I changed careers in 2007 and became a Registered Nurse. I also joined the Navy again! I served on active duty 1995-2000 in the US Navy. I served in the Army National Guard from 2000-2008. Now I am in the Naval Reserves (2008-present). I also hold a full time Staff Nurse civilian position and currently work in Psychiatric Nursing with prior Medical-Surgical Nursing. We have been very busy with annual education and major events for the Navy. We went to Haiti to assist with Earthquake Relief in January to February 2010. I look forward to more adventures with the Navy in the future. Looks like I may be leaving for Central America over the spring and summer with the Navy. I still very much enjoy outdoor activities especially skiing and kayaking and I try to get outdoors as much as possible!

## 1982

*Class Agent: Bridget O'Brien – bobrien@comcast.net*

## 1983

*Class Agent: Lois Kuiper Fuller – lcuiper@comcast.net*

**Cat Schmidt Lewis** shares: I am having a great time reconnecting with not-so-old (ha!) SBS friends on Facebook. Everyone's doing such interesting and benevolent activities, just like you'd expect from SBS alumnae. **Libby Cowperthwaite Schmitt** '84 and I found out we only live a few miles away from each other in North Carolina and Libby introduced my kids, Anna 9 and Howie 7, to Libby's dogs and horses at Libby's Healing Hearts Equine Rescue at Healing Acres Farm in Carthage. Howie had been bitten by a dog and wasn't sure about getting out of the car, but Libby's husband Patrick offered his coveted Harley Davidson baseball cap to Howie if he met the dogs. After a little time warming up, Howie was soon playing fetch with Mercy, a rescue dog. The dog was the one fetching, but Howie's heart was caught.

## 1984

*Class Agents: Susan Mahoney Casey – suem65@flash.net*

## 1985

*Class Agents: Sophie Aikman – sophieaikman@hotmail.com; Sharon Barbour Petrecca – spetrecca@cox.net; Suze Stutzman – suzedesigns@hotmail.com; Evelyn Trebilcock – Evelyn.Trebilcock@oprhp.state.ny.us*

## 1986 25th Reunion!

*Class Agents: Liz Engel – eengel1241@aol.com; Liz Tichenor Percheson – elizabeth.percheson@pharna.com*

## 1987

*Class Agents: Damiane Adamczyk – dadamczyk@snet.com; Jenny West Pender – penderjenw@yahoo.com*

## 1988

*Class Agents: Linwood Bardusch Kenneally buggie221@yahoo.com; Taffy Bassett-Fox – tbassettfox@hr-k12.org; Travis Stewart –*

*travandboo@sbcglobal.net; Kelsa Fuller Zereski – kelsa96@aol.com*

**Sabrina Putnam** writes: **Lee Buckingham Skillin** and I visited together over the winter holidays. We may have a few future SBS girls in the mix here!



*From left to right: Calvin (Putnam), Matthew, Nick Skillin, Charlotte Skillin, Julia Skillin, Betsy (Putnam), Matthew*

## 1989

*Class Agents: Julie Gunther – julesgunther@yahoo.com; Sam Loud Migon – migons@bellsouth.net*

## 1990

*Class Agents: Dionne Cason – 5904 Terry Parker Dr N, Jacksonville, FL 32211; Melanie McCusker Fenstermaker – dm fence@aol.com; Tamar Cooke Luck – twnsrul@yahoo.com; Teresa Williams-Yetming – paris100@aol.com*

## 1991 20th Reunion!

*Class Agents: Amy Christiansen-Burton – ajchristiansen@aol.com; Rebecca Whiting Harr – rwharr2@aol.com; Brooke Harris – ebroke326@yahoo.com*

## 1992

*Class Agents: Tracy Allison Evans – 1611 Prather Ave, Saint Louis, MO 63139; Leelee Harrison – leelee\_harrison@yahoo.com*

## 1993

*Class Agents: Jennifer Anderson Hayes – jhayes36@yahoo.com; Sarah Johnson – sarahflies2004@yahoo.com*

**Rebecca Siegal** writes: Hi to all from the Class of '93. I noticed that, as usual, our class notes were looking pretty slim in the last Bulletin I received so I thought I'd send a quick update to everybody. I moved to Windham, CT a little over a year ago and am attending UConn full time as an animal science major. I absolutely love it here and am having the time of my life pursuing a degree in something I am very passionate about. This past April I adopted a Carolina dog puppy from the Connecticut SPCA and she's been a great addition to the household! I have one year left on the bachelor's degree and plan to stay immediately for a research masters if they will have me. I'd love to hear from everyone and if you are going to be in the area let me know so we can get together. My e-mail is reeba99@hotmail.com. I hope everyone is doing great and having lots of fun in life! **Ali Cross Lieske** shares: My husband Noah and I are still living in Naples, FL and enjoying our two children; Sebastian is 4 and Jule Eden is 2 going on 22! We are hoping to

spend some time in Nantucket this summer again if anyone is around that way, email me please at ali@lieske.com. I still go to the USVI as often as I can to get a taste of "home." I love exposing my kids to the lifestyle there and wish I could make the permanent move. Being how small the world is as you get older, I was able to spend some quality time with **Breck Baker '92** via a mutual Naples friend. She is still beautiful, charming and strong, yet not as intimidating as she was on the soccer field now that we are older! I have been in touch with several SBS girls, especially since the gaining popularity of social media. All of whom I have spoken with are doing very well. **Jen McCarthy** is doing some amazing work in Arizona with dogs and wolves in Colorado; she has become quite the celebrity among celebrities. Losing **Erin Strecker** this year was difficult. I know I speak for all of my class when I say she was an amazing and hilarious friend, competitive athlete, unique thinker and always a doer, ready for anything. I remember when she and a few other girls came with me for Spring Break to St. Croix to help in my parents' B&B for the week. Wow, what a week! We all learned how to make beds and we were like the Amelia Bedelias of hospitality! My heart goes out to her family and friends. Naples is beautiful this time of year. I would love to host anyone willing to make the trip and wake up to two screaming children at 7 am!



*Ali Cross Lieske '93 and husband Noah on Scrub Island.*

## 1994

*Class Agent: Amie Tessler Butman – amieb@cox.net*

**Heather Rutka** shares: I am still in Brooklyn! Doing well and enjoying our kids! I often think of Sandra Day O'Connor's speech at graduation as I balance the professional career with motherhood now that I'm in full swing again. Gus is 3.5 years old and showing true signs of a modern dancer with front-and-center quality improv skills! And it would be fine if he didn't because we have a beautiful baby girl now who looks good in a leotard! Ruby is already 6 months old. I just can't get enough of them! So much love! I am still working as an SLP (speech-language pathologist) and seriously considering moving to western MA or somewhere nearby for the kids to have some nature! We'll see if next year I'm really there or if I'm forever an urban mom. I love

seeing and following everyone on Facebook! **Anne Stevens Frost** writes: I spent a couple of weeks visiting Spain for the first time in February and enjoyed it even more than I expected. I went with a college roommate and we had a blast seeing the sights and art in Madrid and getting lost in the twisty alleyways of Barcelona. My husband and I recently went diving with whale sharks over a long weekend. They are as wide as your out-stretched arms and as long as a bus; a little intimidating when they emerge headed straight at you from the murky water, but they are non-aggressive and amazing to see. I've found that my expat life in the Philippines consists of a lot of routine interspersed with the occasional mind-blowing experience. It's an interesting way to live. Highly recommend! Two thumbs-up!



Heather Rutka's '94 kids, Gus and Ruby

## 1995

*Class Agent:* Emily Clarke Whitney – ewhitney@bement.org

## 1996 15th Reunion!

*Class Agents:* Marguerite Barrett – margueriteb@yahoo.com; Mary Ellen Hennessey Blake – mary\_ellen\_hennessey@hotmail.com

**Sara Dodson** reports: On September 12 I married Stephen Holmes, also an architect, at the beautiful Saltwater Farm Vineyard in Stonington, CT. (Yes, CT has lots of tasty wine!) Our hand fasting ceremony was outside amongst the vines and we celebrated afterwards in the beautifully renovated airplane hangar that has been converted into a winery! **Linda Tucker Jones** was my "co-person of honor" along with my college friend Matthew. It was a wonderful day made even better with the company of fellow '96ers **Juli**

*Sara Dodson '96 at her wedding (below)*



**Goodwin Jakub** with her daughter Eowyn, **Karen Richmond Benin** and **Logan Mott Chase**.

## 1997

*Class Agents:* Erin McDonald – emcdonald82@hotmail.com; Becky Plough – rtp9979@aol.com; Kilian Tracy – kiliantracy@yahoo.com

## 1998

*Class Agents:* Sara Brown Gibbons – sarambrown@hotmail.com; Melissa Hemming McWeeny – melissa5074@yahoo.com; Meg O'Brien – megoatc@hotmail.com

**Sara Brown Gibbons** reports: We have a couple of marriages to announce. **Kristen Landino** married Vikrant Agnihotri on February 4 in Jaipur, India. Here's the announcement link: <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/02/06/fashion/weddings/06landino.html>. **Jessica Tudryn** married William Wisniewski on January 1 in Chicopee, MA. Jessica also has followed her childhood dream and started her own relish business, Relish the Harvest. Here's the marriage announcement: [www.chicopeeregisteronline.com/010711cr.pdf](http://www.chicopeeregisteronline.com/010711cr.pdf) And here's Jessica's business website: <http://relishtheharvest.com/aboutus.aspx>

## 1999

*Class Agent:* Alexandra Slack Hindle – alexandra.slack@gmail.com

## 2000

*Class Agent:* Caisey Jefferson Kakascik – cjef2@yahoo.com

## 2001 10th Reunion!

*Class Agents:* Joyhdae Albert – simply.joyhdae@gmail.com; Katelyn Morgan – kmorgan@hartford.edu

## 2002

*Class Agent:* Samantha Pleasant – sampleasant@gmail.com

## 2003

*Class Agent:* Jessica Fydenkevez – jess.fydenkevez@gmail.com

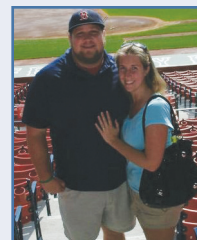
**Mary Dooley** writes: I am currently living in St. Paul, Minnesota and graduated from Berklee College of Music in 2010. I am now a student at Hazelden Graduate School of Addiction Studies and working to become

a licensed alcohol and drug counselor and licensed public counselor. **Emily Hadley Peterson** shares: I am living in Fairbanks, Alaska with my husband Chris and daughter Lily. I am a grad student at the University of Alaska and in my "spare" time I compete in Fitness Expos. **Jessica Mabree Sturgeon** tells us: I am living in Hinesburg, Vermont with my husband Patrick and newborn daughter Clara (2/3/11). It has been a busy year for us as we moved to VT, got married and are now proud new parents! **Katie McClary Clyburn** writes: I am living in Charleston, South Carolina with my husband Frank and son Henry and finishing up my dental hygienist program at Trident Technical College; an intensive program which has kept me very busy. Henry is turning 2 on May 26 and gives me even more work, but I love it!

## 2004

*Class Agent:* Jessica Pleasant – jpleasant@student.umass.edu

**Amanda Taylor** shares: I currently live in Boston, splitting my time between working as a special education aide with middle schoolers and working with kindergarteners at an after-school program. As crazy as working with children can be, I love it. I enjoy the variety and humor it provides on a daily basis. Recently, I took a trip down to North Carolina to visit **Brittany Witty** who now lives down there and is doing great.



Brittany Witty '04 and boyfriend Kevin

## 2005

*Class Agent:* Erika Marback – Wedges9@aol.com

## 2006 5th Reunion!

*Class Agent:* Natalie Rosenstock – rosenstock\_n@mitchell.edu; Marcy Segel – mwindy15@aol.com

## 2007

*Class Agents:* Ashlee Houle – ashleehoule@gmail.com; Kirsten Porter – kirst.porter@gmail.com

## 2008

*Class Agents:* Martha Kingman – foremek@sover.net; Caroline Marsden – cmarsden@student.umass.edu

## 2009

*Class Agents:* Audrey Lewis – alewis@sbschool.org; Chi-Hung Liao – xurucj@hotmail.com; Colleen Mangan – cmangan@sbschool.org

## 2010

*Class Agent Chair:* Ashley Daigle – Ashley.daigle@mail.goucher.edu; *Class Agents:* Dylan Tomalin – dylansierra13@yahoo.com; Kim Balk – kbalkyunxi@gmail.com

## 2011

*Class Agents:* Charli Brown, Rissy Dowrey, Theresa Oh



## In Memoriam

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Parent '66B, '69 and '74: **Rhoda Paradise Janov**, May 19, 2010

1947 SPH: **Joyce Rushton Mason**, June, 2010

1966 MAB: **Karen Turner Dexter**, July 10, 2010

1953 MAB: **Leigh Westbrook Steuernagel**, November 29, 2010

Math Teacher, MAB & SBS '66-'75: **Louise Eleanor Dandelske**, November 23, 2010

1947 MAB: **Janice Marsh Sheppard**, December 28, 2010

1952 MAB: **Elizabeth Bungay Giles**, March 11, 2011



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## Girls' Weekend Get-Away! Reunion 2011 • June 10-12



*Class of 1961 MAB celebrating their 40th Reunion in 2001*

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