

THE ERSKINE CONNECTOR

News for Alumni

Vol. 3 Issue 1

Headmaster's Message

Greetings from the top of the stairs...

School Consolidation Part II: What Does It Mean For Erskine Academy?

In the Fall 07 *Connector* I presented "School Consolidation: What Does It Mean For Erskine Academy?" You may recall that I noted school choice was preserved in Maine educational statutes, that Erskine Academy continues to resist enrollment contracts as we believe competition requires us to constantly improve, and that we work to be adaptive while striving to maintain traditional values. As the school consolidation initiative moves forward and as Maine's budget woes worsen, you may now be asking, "What steps will the academy take to sustain itself as a viable educational opportunity during these difficult times?"

To prepare for the future, I believe that our school must apply both small business and large corporation practices when assessing coming challenges. We need to study where we can best leverage efficiencies, but we also need to have a very clear perspective about

where and how we initiate cost cuts. It is at this stage that we must determine which expenditure reductions may negatively impact programs that can draw enrollment revenues that are applied to student achievement. Ultimately, we must remember that the real bottom line is providing a true, efficient and valued service for current and potential customers.

As of this writing, Erskine administrators are preparing the 08/09 budget proposal for our Board of Trustees. It is a time of scrutiny when we search for that balance of fiscal belt-tightening and the delivery of services. For example, on one side of that balance point, we are



...see these challenges as an opportunity to improve in efficiencies and in student and community services.

working – where feasible – to consolidate programs and reduce costs. On the other side of that point, we have implemented new programs that, by design, are an incremental step toward our goal of driving student achievement.

Clearly, we will continue working toward that goal.

In closing we are trying to look at our operations from an outside perspective. We know the expectations of the state and taxpayers in cutting

budgets, and, at the same time, we are keenly aware of the expectations of those we serve for a settled and progressive learning environment. In addition, Erskine's leadership and staff have designed goals that we believe to be of high value and worth our ongoing energy. We are in the midst of difficult times that are likely to become even more challenging. Nonetheless, we need to see these challenges as an opportunity to improve in efficiencies and in student and community services. I recall author Jeffery Krames' reference that one test of corporate strategy is to see how well a business performs during difficult times. Erskine Academy will stay mindful of this as we work on planning for the future.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Don Poulin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Don Poulin, Headmaster

Upcoming Events - Save the Dates!

Alumni Beach Party

Saturday, March 8, 6:00–9:00 p.m.

Nelson Gymnasium

Erskine Presents... Outdoor Safety

Wednesday, April 30, 7:00–8:30 p.m.

Multi-purpose Room

Graduation

Friday, June 6, 7:00 p.m.

Augusta Civic Center

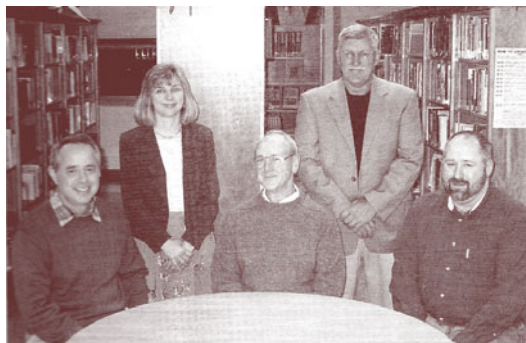
Reunion 2008

Saturday, June 7, 8:30 a.m.–10:00 p.m.

Erskine Academy and Augusta Elks Lodge #964

Trustees

Ever since the school's founding in 1883, Erskine's trustees have played a vital role in the daily functioning of Erskine Academy. Not only do the five members govern all school policies and Alumni Association activities, they also attend numerous functions, meetings, and student events. When you see a member of the trustees out and about in the community, please thank him or her for the significant commitment made on behalf of Erskine, its students and families.



Board of Trustees left to right: Scott A. Kenoyer '77 P'06 '10, Brenda Glidden Drummond '79 P'11, Barry W. Thomas '61 P'93, John W. Nored, Jr. '70 P'93 '95 '01, and Todd P. Cummings '86 P'11.

Erskine Presents... Outdoor Safety

The next *Erskine Presents...* program will be held Wednesday, April 30 from 7:00–8:30 p.m. in the Multi-purpose Room at Erskine. The guest speaker will be Mike Feeney, Recreational Safety Coordinator for Kennebec County in the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Topics to be covered will be hunting, boating, all-terrain vehicles, snowmobiles, and trapping. Call 207-445-4026 or email mromac@erskineacademy.org for more information or to sign up to attend.

Basketball Anyone?

On December 29, the Alumni Association hosted its first alumni basketball games. Twenty-nine women and men participated in the games and represented class years from 1982 through 2007. Each of the two 50-minute games pitted odds against evens alumni, and the players were cheered on by about 70 friends and family. Thanks go to Alumni Council President Becky Hapgood '88 for organizing the event, Vice President Theresa Drouin Haskell '88 for MC-ing, and Activities Chair Gayle Humphrey Green '60 for managing the registration desk with assistance from Mary Fletcher Lockhart '69.

Top right: Alumni Association President Becky Hapgood '88 with recent grads at the Alumni basketball games. Bottom right: The alumni men's games competition.



Class Notes

1932

Margaret Sproul Parker passed away on October 4, 2007 at her home in Auburn, ME.

1936

The Alumni Office had a very pleasant visit recently with **Evelyn Plummer Sullivan**, who lives very independently in Bar Harbor. She reminisced about her many years as a nursing home owner/administrator and her time at Erskine.

1937

Muriel Marr Otis passed away on October 24, 2007. She is survived by her brother **Robert Marr '47** and grandson **Dennis Campbellton '65**.

1940

Glenis Crocker Caouette is a CPA at her own firm in Old Saybrook, CT. She remembers attending a public speaking class taught by former principal Lewis Tatham and said it was one of her best courses.

1946

Gladys Bartlett Hewett was assistant superintendent at the Windsor Fair's Exhibition Hall in early September, her 27th year of working the fair.

1950

Richard Fall has created a video from the most recent class reunion and would be happy to copy it for classmates. Contact the Alumni Office for more information.

1960

Gayle Humphrey Green and **Rose Ring Parlin** spent many hours on the phone trying to reach all classmates, and on July 11 the class had a picnic at Moose Point State Park in Searsport, ME with many in attendance. They had a great group of old friends attend including **Judy Boynton Parker** and her husband Coe from Idaho; **Donna Brann McLean** and her husband Russ from Florida; and those from near and far in the State of Maine were **Bev Dale**; **Norman Fitzgerald**; **Gayle Humphrey Green**; **Carole Choate Chapman** and her

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Alum of the Month

Jerome Diehl '75 *Erskine Grad Flies High*

Jerome Diehl spends most of his time in the skies as a pilot on a 727 jet air plane. He became interested in flying when he took a ride in a small plane prior to his first year at Erskine, and he never stopped talking about it. When it came time to plan for college, his parents urged him to consider a college that offered training in aeronautics. He was able to attend and receive his training at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University in Daytona Beach, FL.

After college, Jerome chose to give flight instruction and work for PeopleExpress Airlines, a "no frills" airline. He then landed a job with Federal Express. Now, with 23 years in the flying industry, Jerome flies mainly between Philadelphia and his home in Indianapolis, which gives him time to enjoy fishing, hunting, skiing, biking, and boating.

On occasion, Jerome participates in the "Pilots for Kids" program, visiting children's hospitals bringing toys and other needed items. This year Jerome went with the group to the Peyton Manning Children's Hospital in Indianapolis.

One of Jerome's favorite Erskine memories is of Winter Carnival during which he and a group of classmates made a giant snowman and train complete with a cow-catcher and the class year carved in front. He recalls Brenda Peabody Curtis '75, Eddie Hubbard '75, Dean Sheaff '75, Jeff Campbell '75, and others.

One of Jerome's favorite classes was with Mr. Johnson, who taught physics and chemistry and made possible several non-school funded class trips.

He enjoyed playing sports with fellow athletes Keith Sylvester '77, Dennis Scates '76, Bruce Ballantyne '75, Larry Rexford '76, Everett Bronn '75, and Scott Kenoyer '77.

He offers the following wisdom for our youngest graduates:

Be grateful and keep a positive attitude. Take time to enjoy your relationships with schoolmates and teachers, pursue your passions, and allow yourself to be inspired by others. Remember, it's up to you to motivate yourself. Your experiences at EA will give you a great foundation.

Lastly, occasionally watch the movie "Pay It Forward" and live it.

Jerome may be emailed at JJd727@msn.com.



Jerome Diehl '75 (far right) visiting the Peyton Manning Children's Hospital in Indianapolis with the "Pilots for Kids" program.

REUNION 2008

Come celebrate with the 3s and 8s!

Starting this spring, Reunion at Erskine Academy will have a new look. We're adding events for alumni of all ages and giving reunion classes more opportunities to meet and catch up on their lives since graduation. So, whether you've been out for 5 years, 35 years, or 75 years, come and celebrate with your classmates!

Registration materials have been mailed to all 3s and 8s alumni, as well as to all "50Plus" alumni (all alumni who are more than 50 years out), to all Alumni Association Founding Lifetime Members, and to all current and former Erskine faculty and staff. If you haven't received a registration form in the mail and would like more information, contact the Alumni Relations office at 207-445-4026, go to http://www.erskineacademy.org/alumni/reunion_details.html or email mromac@erskineacademy.org.



Alumnus Mark Parlin '87 and the Coyote Drifters

The Saturday evening Reunion 2008 event will feature the music of Mark Parlin '87 and his group the Coyote Drifters (*above*). The band plays a mix of country, classic rock, and country rock. Check out their website www.coyotedrifters.com.

Alumni Beach Party! Saturday, March 8 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Come one, come all, and fling into spring with Erskine's 2nd annual alumni reception on Saturday, March 8. The Beach Party runs from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the James V. Nelson Gymnasium where guests will enjoy refreshments, courtesy of White Flour Catering (Gardiner, ME), and will dance to Beach Boys and other "beachy" music, courtesy of our great student DJs. Again this year, guests will be treated to a complimentary photo. So come on your own or bring a friend, wear casual or fun beach attire, and get a jump on spring and summer at the Erskine Alumni Beach Party. **Admission is free. RSVP at http://www.erskineacademy.org/alumni/upcoming_events.html, by email to mromac@erskineacademy.org, or by phone at 207-445-4026.**

See you on the beach!

Class Notes

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husband Steve; **Nancy Judkins Doane**; **Susan Johnson Keller**; **Joyce Pelton Babb** and her husband Bob; **Rose Ring Parlin** and her husband Wendall; **John Starkey** and his wife Coleen; **Dean Willoughby** and **Ann Roach '63 Willoughby**; **Doug Wright**; and, of course, their favorite teacher **Bev Hancock**. For some of the people attending it was the first time in 47 years seeing classmates. It was also the first of what is planned to become an annual event. In September there was another "girls'" outing at Vinalhaven, ME, and in October they resumed their monthly luncheons.

1963

Ann Roach Willoughby has located all lost classmates with help from **Norma Hallowell Miller**, who has retired after being in the insurance business for 30 years. Ann received an email from the widow of **Edward Eckhardt**, who informed her that Edward died in 2006 after a long illness. She said Edward had fond memories of his high school years at Erskine. Ann reports the class has lost five classmates: **Fred Varney**, **Clarence Glidden**, **Ervin Ewen**, **Edward Eckhardt**, and **Lucille Crummett Wilson**. They are gone but not forgotten.

1968

Dennis Reed and **Brenda Foster Williams** have volunteered to be Class Correspondents. They, **Jeanie Swan Beaulieu**, and others have been very helpful to the Alumni Relations Office in locating 16 lost classmates in preparation for Reunion!

1969

David Thomas is a lobsterman off of Little Cranberry Island, ME. David is also a volunteer fireman and chairman of the Affordable Housing Trust. He and his wife have two college-age daughters. He invites folks to look him up at www.thomaslobster.com.

1974

Sherri Dowe Glidden is co-manager of the new China Dine-ah restaurant in

China, ME. She was at one time a clerk in the building when it was a hardware store originally built by her parents.

1975

Jerome Diehl is a pilot for Federal Express and lives in Camby, IN. He is interested in contacting classmates; please e-mail him at jjd727@msn.com.

1976

Diane Tardiff Gallant is co-owner of D. C. Trans, and she and her husband Glenn live in Burnham, ME.

1978

Iry Witham attended Erskine but left in December 1977 to be married to Evelyn E. Enman. They will celebrate their 30th anniversary next year. They live in Ellsworth, ME and have three children and two grandsons. Iry and Evelyn moved from the Augusta area in 1997 to Bar Harbor, when he began working at The Jackson Laboratory in the IT Dept. as a Desktop Support Technician. Evelyn works there as well as a Project Coordinator. Iry also attends Colorado Technical University Online working on his B.S. in Computer Science/Software Development.

1983

Lisa Morang Wardwell owns and operates Lisa's Restaurant in Augusta, ME.

1984

Keith Acedo and his wife Jeannie live in Barstow, CA kaylaandkeeta@aol.com. He is a principal in the Barstow Unified School District. **Tammy Haskell Cunningham '84** tcunningham23@roadrunner.com and her husband Troy recently moved to S. China and have a new grandson Aidan. Aidan's father **Keith Durgin, Jr. '04** is serving his second tour of duty in Iraq. Tammy's daughter **Felicia Haskell Durgin '04** and grandson are staying with the Cunninghams. Tammy is a Junior Business Analyst for Strategic Business Solutions, a private government contracting company out of Virginia. Tammy's stepdaughter Meagan recently entered Erskine as a junior.

Patty Glidden Maillet still lives in Palermo with her husband of 14 years, Thomas, and their two boys. She graduated in 1989 from the University of Maine/Orono with a degree in Animal Medical Technology and is now a full time Licensed Veterinary Technician at the Garland Road Small Animal Hospital in Winslow.

1986

Karina Olsen Patton weluvnlife@aol.com has volunteered to be the Class Correspondent. Her daughter **Savannah Patton** graduated from Erskine in 2007 and her son Gage is in the class of 2009.

1989

After graduating from Erskine, **Greg Cross** joined the military and was stationed in Ft. Lewis, WA as a Medical Specialist. He served four years in the U.S. Army and is a veteran of the first Gulf War. After his military time, Greg returned to Maine with his wife and son and worked in sales and security services management positions. While working full time, he attended the University of Maine where he earned his BA in Human Services. Greg worked for the Maine Long Term Care Ombudsman Program, where he created one of the most successful Volunteer Ombudsman Programs in the country. Greg has assisted many other states in creating their Volunteer Ombudsman Programs. Greg is currently the Associate State Director for AARP Maine. In addition, he has served on the Maine Elder Death Analysis Review Team, the National Association of State Ombudsman Program's Effectiveness Committee, AARP Maine's Community Outreach and Impact Team, and Chair of the City of Augusta's Public Safety Comprehensive Planning Committee. Greg resides in Augusta with his wife, **Jennifer McCarthy Cross**. They have been married for 18 years and have a 15-year-old son, Brandon, who is a Cony high school student.

1991

Karen Doe Parker works at the Capital Area Technical Center in

Class Notes

Augusta, ME.

1993

Dr. Rebecca Newcomb Homan is an environmental biologist at Denison University in Granville, OH and recently was appointed holder of the Bayley-Brown Faculty Fellowship for a three-year term.

1994

Jason Homan and **Andrea Allen '95 Homan** live in San Diego, CA jajkm@hotmail.com. Jason serves with the U.S. Navy.

1996

Thomas Williamson and his wife **Chrisha** live in Colorado Springs, CO, where Thomas is a Security Forces Member in the U. S. Air Force serving an eight-month temporary duty assignment in support of Operation Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. They had their first child **Sabella** December 2006 and are expecting their second child April 2008.

1997

Sarah-Lynne Tucker Carrara graduated from Vermont Technical College five years ago, receiving her bachelor's degree in Computer Engineering Technology. She and her husband **Jeff** have been married five years, live in Brandon, VT, and have two young children.

1998

Andrea Spoden Swasey married **Eric Swasey** of Andover on June 9, 2007 in Hallowell. Andrea is a 2003 graduate of Southern Maine Community College with a degree in nursing. She is employed as a registered nurse in the emergency department at Maine Medical Center and Central Maine Medical Center.

1999

Shane Hutchins would like to find **Amanda Lewis '01**. Anyone with information may email mromac@erskineacademy.org.

2000

1st Lt. Richard Blackwell was recently featured in an article entitled "Maine Soldiers Help Supply Iraqi Schools."

Lt. Blackwell, who is serving his second tour of duty in Iraq, came up with the idea of organizing a stateside effort to provide the much needed basic supplies such as pens and notebooks for children in newly rebuilt Iraqi schools. **Rick Redmond** was reported to say "he wasn't surprised his friend came up with the idea... He's a very bright guy and one of the smartest people I know. He's one of those eternal optimists, where he could go to Iraq and have the military mission on the forefront but also find small ways like this to make a difference. And that's kind of how he goes through life." **Blackwell** is a finance analyst who lives in Richmond, VA. **Randi French Goodwin** was married on August 24, 2007.

2002

Vici-Jo McLean Crane was married to **Ian Crane** in May 2004 and they have a beautiful baby girl. **Anne Pinkham Waldrop** is a homemaker living in Provo, UT with her husband **Jeffrey**.

2003

Daniel Sorrells was named to the Dean's List at the University of New Haven for the Spring 2007 semester and works as a page for the Maine State Legislature.

2004

Keith Durgin, Jr. is serving his second tour of duty in Iraq and his wife **Felicia Haskell Durgin** and their new son **Aidan** are staying with his in-laws. **Jennifer Hayward** lives in Skowhegan, ME and attends Kennebec Valley Community College in Fairfield where she is studying psychology. **David Field** was named

to the Dean's List at the University of New Haven for the Spring 2007 semester.

2005

Kimberly Scarduzio was a contestant in the Miss Maine USA Pageant in November. She is studying special education at the University of Maine at Farmington.

2007

Savannah Patton attends Gordon College in Lynn, MA. She works with low income children and teaches English to French-speaking children. She is involved with a homeless shelter on the weekends. **Corey Rozell** graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Recruit Training Center in Cape May, NJ and promoted to the rank of Seaman Apprentice.

In Memoriam

The following alumni and other members of the Erskine community have passed away since September 2007.

Margaret Sproul Parker '32
Muriel Marr Otis '37
Janice Zwicker O'Donnell '49
David C. Parmenter '52
Peter C. Wescott '54
Bennie L. Irish '62
Sally Oliver Riordan '78
Gregori S. Jackson '05
Joseph C. Pinette

125th Anniversary Celebration

Erskine Academy will be celebrating the 125th anniversary of its founding throughout the 2008-2009 school year. Watch for information about special activities and events. Contact the Development and Alumni Relations Office if you are interested in assisting with the planning of the festivities.

Online Giving – “Donate Now”

Early this fall, Erskine’s website made history by introducing the “Donate Now” option for gifts to the Annual Fund. Alumni and friends of the Academy can now participate in the Annual Fund by simply going to the website and making a credit card gift. The site even offers donors an option to give in monthly installments. So if you haven’t yet made your 2008 Annual Fund gift but want to, go to http://www.erskineacademy.org/making_a_gift/index.html and join the many members of the Erskine family who are actively helping to secure the future of our school.

Distinguished Alumni Award

In 2005, the Alumni Association established the *Lifetime Achievement Award*—an annual award given to an alumnus/na whose service to Erskine has been exemplary. In an effort to recognize an even broader scope of achievement and to more clearly define the nomination criteria, the Alumni Association Council has renamed the award and refined the process. Beginning immediately the award will be known as the *Distinguished Alumni Award*.

- All alumni in good standing will be eligible to win the award.
- Candidates will be evaluated on a broad range of achievements including personal and professional achievements relating to service to Erskine and/or the community and/or society.
- Nominations can be accepted from any individual with an Erskine connection and on a year-round basis.
- Nominations must be accompanied by supporting documentation and references.
- A selection committee, made up of four alumni, will meet once annually just prior to reunion to select a winner from the nominees submitted.
- The award will be presented during the annual reunion event.

All alumni and friends of Erskine Academy are encouraged to submit nominations for the award, which are available at www.erskineacademy.org/alumni.

Distinguished Alumni Award Selection Committee: Wilson A. Childs ’80 P’10, Miriam Ulbrich Keller ’64, Morgan J. Titus ’97, T.B.D.

Prior award winners: Laura Fowle Gray ’55 P’76 GP ’01 ’03 ’05 (2005); Sherwood ’55 and Betty Reed ’53 Glidden P’78 ’79 ’85 GP ’11 (2006); Louise Russell Dancer ’49 P’71 ’73 GP’08 (2007)

Planned Giving

“I wish it could be more!”

This is what we hear from many of our alumni and friends when they give to the Annual Fund. Well, there may be a way for them to realize their dreams of making a significant contribution that doesn’t impact their current financial stability. And that’s through a planned gift. A planned gift – especially a bequest – allows a donor to set aside a specific amount from, or a percentage of, the remainder of his or her estate that will come to Erskine after his or her death. In this way, a donor can make a lasting impact on the future of Erskine Academy and the students it will serve, without using current assets. For more information on Planned Giving or how to be recognized as a member of the *1883 Society*, contact Nina Tilander in the Development and Alumni Relations Office at 207-445-4026 or ntilander@erskineacademy.org.

Facts About Erskine Mailings

“Householding” – Erskine does its best to “household” all mailings to spouses/partners at the same address, so if you and your spouse/partner are each receiving separate copies of the same piece of mail, please let us know so that we can update our records.

If your Erskine alumni children are still receiving mail at your home, all it takes is a call or email to our office and we can start sending their mail directly to them. After all, we don’t want them to miss receiving news about alumni events and classmates. And we’d be happy to decrease the amount of mail going to your home!

By the way, Erskine never, ever, EVER shares or sells its mailing lists!

Contact us...and please notify us of any errors or omissions.

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