

## Springer Champion Announced



Oscar Robertson, 2009 Springer Champion

At *A Springer Celebration!* on April 22nd, Springer was delighted to honor Oscar Robertson as the 2009 Springer Champion for his commitment to children throughout our community – helping them to achieve success. The ceremony was made even more special when the award was presented to Oscar from his grandson, a Springer student.

Oscar Robertson, basketball legend and Cincinnati businessman, has been involved in many national and local charities and community causes and has taught or mentored hundreds of children. To name but a few of his efforts, he has coached basketball camps for children, talked with high school students about their life goals, and improved

university opportunities for college age students by co-chairing (with wife, Yvonne,) the University of Cincinnati's five-year \$1 billion capital campaign. In 1997, Oscar donated a kidney to save the life of his daughter, Tia, who was suffering from lupus. Since that time, he has been an outspoken advocate for kidney disease prevention and organ transplantation on behalf of the National Kidney Foundation.

His own experiences as a Springer grandparent have led to Oscar's support of Springer School and Center and raising awareness about learning disabilities. Congratulations Oscar for being named the Springer Champion for 2009!

## Annual Fund Campaign Exceeds Goal!

Thanks to many generous supporters during the 2008-09 school year, together we made it happen! Springer's Annual Fund campaign exceeded goal with almost \$225,000 in donations! Making a direct and immediate impact on this year's families and programs, funds were used to support critical financial aid and outreach programs for students, parents and educators. Each year, the Annual Fund is the primary funding source of scholarship dollars for students attending Springer and in this previous year, was more important than ever with one in three families receiving financial

assistance. New to this year, a portion of annual fund donations supported special school programs; family math games to reinforce math curriculum; and a collection of the students' favorite reading materials—*Playaway* talking books—for the school library.

Arlene Roane, the 2008-09 Annual Fund Chair, and the Springer Development Office would like to express deep appreciation to this year's Annual Fund volunteers, and to all who gave in support of children, parents and teachers in our community. Thank you!!



HELPING CHILDREN  
*believe*  
IN THEMSELVES





# LETTER FROM OUR Executive Director

*Shelly Weisbacher*



In June, the National Center for Learning Disabilities released The State of Learning Disabilities 2009. ([www.LD.org/stateofld](http://www.LD.org/stateofld)). This comprehensive report looks at learning disabilities across the lifespan, providing data on elementary, secondary, and post-secondary performance of students with learning disabilities as well as employment statistics.

The report makes clear that despite advances in the field significant gaps remain between what we know about learning disabilities and the services students receive. There are a number of factors that contribute to this including both a decline in the number of qualified special education teachers and an increase in the number of general education teachers who are teaching children with learning disabilities yet have themselves received little or no information about learning disabilities and effective strategies to use in addressing them.

Long before this report was issued, Springer realized the need to provide general education teachers with information and strategies so that their students with learning disabilities could experience success. In fact, we have been offering one-day and weeklong professional develop-

ment workshops for the past decade. And, we have been collaborating with local schools and school districts to design and lead programs to meet their individual needs. Our most notable collaboration, a project with the University of Cincinnati that provides information and strategies to pre-service teachers, is entering its 6th year. This effort entitled The Downey Collaboration 4 Collaboration (C4C) is underwritten by a grant from the Harriette R. Williams Downey Fund of The Greater Cincinnati Foundation.

And this summer has been no exception with regard to our commitment to provide professional development. Two Multi-sensory Approach to Reaching Success (MARS) workshops were held in June—one on campus for 28 teachers and administrators representing public, parochial, and private schools throughout the area including Dayton Public Schools, and the other for 18 teachers in the Ft. Thomas, KY schools. And, more programs are planned for August.

The educators attending the MARS classes offered these impressions:

*"This is an excellent class. Finally there is a program that reaches all children."*

*"I never had anything like this in 5+years of college. I have been re-inventing the reading wheel for 20 years. Now I don't have to anymore."*

*"Amazing! I learned a new approach to teaching reading. I already knew a lot about teaching reading and writing, and I was shocked with the amount I learned over this past week. Thank you!"*

*"I will be a different teacher next school year because I attended this class."*

*"I so appreciate Springer sharing its professionals and professional knowledge with us."*

When the center was established in 1999 it was with the hope and vision that we would reach more children throughout the tri-state region by helping their teachers become knowledgeable about learning disabilities and effective teaching methodologies to address LD issues. The quotes above affirm that we are achieving our vision, but as the State of Learning Disabilities 2009 report confirms there remains much to be done to ensure that all children with learning disabilities are able to achieve success in school and beyond.

*(For information about our collaboration with Ft. Thomas Independent Schools, see page 8.)*

## Tributes

In honor of Jan Annett  
Ms. Cynthia E. Hardie

In honor of Norita Aplin-Ragle  
and Stan Ragle  
Ms. Karen Y. Cromley

In honor of Bradley Becker  
Mr. and Mrs. William B. Jackson

In honor of Patty Hericks  
Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence W. Grote

In honor of Dr. and Mrs. Ed Katz  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert R. Marsh

In honor of Mr. and  
Mrs. Jim Salter  
Dr. and Mrs. Greg Sherman

In honor of Eileen Schroeder  
Seven Hills Middle School  
Parent Association

In honor of Dr. Greg Sherman  
Mr. Adam N. Sherman

In honor of Mr. and  
Mrs. Vic Simha  
Dr. and Mrs. Greg Sherman

## Memorials (as of 06-15-09)

In memory of David M. Forg  
Mr. and Mrs. Allan Hollatz

In memory of Helen Juergens  
Ms. Donna J. McClay

In memory of Dorothy Lobeck  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Conners

In memory of Minnie Mastin  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward A. Kamphake, Jr.

In memory of David  
and Anne McConnell  
Ms. Michelle C. Platz

In memory of Brother  
Howard Schwartz  
Mrs. Shirley Allen



## TALKING WITH...

# Jessica Byington, Miss Teen Ohio International 2009

June 4, 2009, Jessica Byington met with an excited group of Springer girls to talk about her personal experiences with dyslexia. Jessica is a 17 year-old student from Miami University who maintains a 4.0 grade point average and serves as the official teen spokesperson for the International Dyslexia Association. Diagnosed with dyslexia at the age of 7, Jessica will represent the Buckeye State at the 2009 Miss Teen International Competition in Chicago this July and will travel to Columbus this fall to lobby for new legislation aimed at improving screening techniques and better intervention for dyslexic students within Ohio school systems.

### 1) When did you first become aware that you had a learning disability?

I was seven years old when I first realized that was different from my peers. I wasn't sure what it was but I didn't feel as smart as the rest. I couldn't read. I went home and told my mother and she immediately had me tested and discovered that, like my father, I was dyslexic. She contacted our local International Dyslexia Association (IDA) and I got connected to a tutor. This changed my life. I worked every day after school with Miss Marcia and by the time I was in the fourth grade I was reading at a 12th grade level! It was a tough journey but I made it. Now, one of my main goals is to promote earlier testing for all children so disabilities like dyslexia can be identified and children can get the help they need sooner rather than later.

### 2) Many times, self-esteem is affected when a child has learning disabilities. What helped you build or protect your self-esteem?

I was very fortunate. I had parents who sat me down and explained that some of the most intelligent and successful people in the world have been dyslexics. My mom always emphasized two things that I carry with me to this day. She always said, "Jessie you can do anything you set your mind to. You may have to work harder than everybody else but there is nothing you cannot do." When I would come home with a bad grade and was feeling down my mom would always ask, "Did you do your absolute best?" I would respond, "yes" and she would say, "Your best is always good enough and don't let anyone ever tell you any differently."



I believe very strongly that behind every successful dyslexic learner, you will find supportive, understanding, and proactive parents who focus on their child's strengths and not on their weaknesses.

### 3) What learning/life strategies are you using in college? How do you see those strategies in terms of your future life?

College has actually been a positive and welcome transition for me. Now I get to choose my own schedule and take classes that interest me and best suit my needs. For instance, I like to take lengthy breaks between my classes and try to spread them out evenly across the school week. Having too many classes on the same day or back-to-back depletes my energy and attention, which is not to my advantage. I also have learned to be a very strong advocate for myself and just speak up! I am no longer ashamed to approach my teachers at the beginning of the course and explain what I need and why I need it. I have learned that most professors are happy to accommodate my needs when I articulate them up front. Don't be shy! I will be able to use these strategies as I progress through life because I will always need to speak up for myself and make my needs known whether in the work place, in social settings, or in advocating for the rights and needs of others in the dyslexic community.

### 4) What advice would you give younger children who are just discovering they have a learning disability?

I would tell them that it's not always easy but you are not alone. When I was little there were many times that I felt isolated and misunderstood. Nothing came easy and all I wanted was to be like everyone else. The trouble is that it's not that those of us with learning disabilities can't learn- WE CAN! We just need to be taught differently. If you have trouble spelling there's always spell check on the computer and if you have trouble reading there are amazing programs and teachers who can help you overcome and learn to read. Do your best in school but always know that grades do not define you. Stay strong, find your strengths, and do all that you can to surround yourself with others who encourage you and see your potential. You'll make it. I promise!

### 5) As Miss Teen Ohio International 2009, you have chosen the platform of raising awareness about dyslexia and learning disabilities. What is your vision of a world that is more aware and supportive of children and adults with learning disabilities?

My vision would include thorough testing no later than Kindergarten or first grade. Currently, kids aren't usually diagnosed until the third grade and by then so much damage to their self-esteem and self worth has already been done. Also, I would like to see technology in place in every school from kindergarten all the way through college. In the perfect world that I see, we will test early and identify the disability,

(continued)



(Jessica Byington, continued)

offer intervention to reach these students in a way that both honors and empowers them, and offer the gift of support services such as extended time for tests, note taking assistance, verbal exams if need be, and state of the art technologies such as the Kreader program that will support schools like Springer and promote independence like never before. In my perfect world, uniqueness is celebrated and no child or adult is ever made to feel inadequate. In my perfect world, everyone is precious and special not in spite of their difference but because of their difference. In my perfect world, everyone across the world will 'see the ability' like never before.

*"In my perfect world, uniqueness is celebrated and no child or adult is ever made to feel inadequate. In my perfect world, everyone is precious and special not in spite of their difference but because of their difference. In my perfect world, everyone across the world will 'see the ability' like never before."*

– Jessica Byington, Miss Teen Ohio International 2009

## Annual Dinner 2009

Springer School and Center's Annual Dinner on May 19th provided a wonderful evening for trustees and staff to come together to celebrate the school year. This special spring night honors retiring trustees while welcoming new members for the next term. Recognition is given to the Springer Parent Association and their efforts, and to staff for their commitment to the organization.



John Sawyer

**Tom Leugers**, Board President, introduced the three retiring trustees, **Melissa Murphy**, **John Sawyer**, and **Russ Wilson**, who were each recognized for nine years of service to Springer's Board. During her tenure, Melissa Murphy helped with Resource and Development

committees and more recently assisted with the Committee on Trustees. Melissa's activity as a strong community volunteer and her background in social work provided a valuable perspective about other agencies and operations. John Sawyer served in various roles during his time on Springer's board. He was interim Chair of the Development Committee in 2005-06, and Chair of the Committee on Trustees from 2006-08. He served on the Facilities committee and the Executive Committee, was Board Secretary from 2003-2008 and was Vice President of the Board in 2008-09. John co-chaired *A Springer Celebration!*, Springer's annual fundraiser in 2005 and, through his contacts and letter writing, was integral to securing significant support for Springer's capital campaign. Though his many accomplishments were celebrated last year, in his role as Past President during 2008-09, Russ Wilson continued his service to the Board through his thorough review and subsequent recommendations regarding board policies. A highlight of the annual dinner came when his son, **Sam Wilson**, a Springer grad, made a surprise presentation in honor of his dad.



Jerry N. Kerr

New Board Officers and Trustees were announced for the 2009-10 school year followed by SPA President **Pat Brugger's** message regarding the work of the Springer Parent Association.

In recognizing **Jerry N. Kerr**, Maintenance Supervisor for 20 years of service, **Shelly Weisbacher** said, "We are very fortunate that our facilities are in Jerry's capable hands. We all benefit from his can-do spirit, and his considerable knowledge combined with his proactive approach to maintaining the physical plant." Other staff celebrating anniversaries include **Larry Annett**, **Patty Hericks** and **Emily Malone** who were recognized for five years; **Dafna J. Bahir** and **Nicole M. Sullivan** for 10 years; and **Kimberly LaChance** for 15 years.



# A Springer Celebration!

... 2009 ...

## It was a great success!

On April 22, 2009, more than 220 guests gathered to enthusiastically support *A Springer Celebration!* 2009. Held at the Kingsgate Marriott in Cincinnati, this year's event netted \$100,000 for critical financial aid and outreach programs for educators, parents and children.

Well known local radio personality, Jim Scott, acted as emcee and auctioneer during the evening, and was well assisted by surprise auctioneer-in-the-making, Springer Trustee Martha Millett.

Oscar Robertson, guest speaker and 2009 Springer Champion, gave a personal presentation about his thoughts on education and his support for Springer

and his grandson, a Springer student. Thanks to Oscar and his wife Yvonne for their part in making our 2009 fundraiser a huge success.

Springer would also like to thank the chairs of *A Springer Celebration!* 2009—Caryn Franke, Martha Millett and Cindy Stephens—who were integral to putting it all together! A big thanks also to all the generous sponsors and table hosts, donors and the many, generous volunteers!

Each year, *A Springer Celebration!* brings together a community of supporters who believe in Springer's mission of empowering students with learning disabilities to lead successful lives.



Oscar Robertson and grandson, Mac Shaw.

On behalf of the families affected by learning disabilities, we thank everyone involved. Your partnership is what helps us achieve our goals.

Stay tuned for next year's exciting *A Springer Celebration!*



Tom Finn enjoying the evening



Event chairs (left and right), Caryn Franke and Cindy Stephens with Yvonne Robertson



Martha Millett and Jim Scott leading a lively auction!



### SPONSORS

#### Benefactors

AK Steel Foundation  
Charles J. Kubicki Foundation  
The Levenson Family  
Macy's

#### Patrons

Belcan Corporation  
Capital Group Companies  
David A. Millett, Inc.  
Interior Design  
Dean Insurance Agency, Inc.  
Frost Brown Todd LLC  
Miller-Valentine Group  
The Myers Y. Cooper Co.  
RiverPoint Capital Management  
Strategic Employee Benefit Services, Inc.  
Wells Fargo Insurance Services  
Western & Southern Financial Group



# New Officers and Trustees Announced for 2009-2010

Springer School and Center is pleased to announce Board Officers for 2009-2010—

**Thomas C. Leugers**, President; **Raymond Cooper**, Vice President; **Vincent Michels**, Treasurer; and **Arlene Roane**, Secretary. New Trustees are **Matt Blickensderfer**, **Crystal L. Faulkner**, **Paul G. Sittenfeld**, and **Kim Vincent**.

**Matt Blickensderfer** is an attorney with Frost Brown Todd, LLC. His practice focuses primarily on antitrust litigation and counseling, and appellate litigation. He was named a "Rising Star" in appellate practice by Ohio Super Lawyers Magazine (2005-2008) and "Cincinnati Leading Lawyer" in antitrust practice by Cincinnati Magazine (2006-2008). For three years, Matt also was an adjunct professor at the University of Cincinnati Law School. Community involvement includes Big Brothers/Big Sisters and Cincinnati Academy of Leadership for Lawyers program.

**Crystal Faulkner** is one of three founding partners of Cooney, Faulkner & Stevens, LLC. Her areas of expertise include financial, business and tax advisory, and strategic planning while her community involvement includes board membership with the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber and hosting of the weekly Business Report on

WCPO Channel 9 and co-hosting of WNKU and WMKV Business Wise, an on air business advisory radio talk show. She was also the 2008 YWCA Career Woman of Achievement.

**Paul Sittenfeld** is the Managing Director for Robert W. Baird & Company, Inc. The firm provides investment advisory services to individuals, corporations and institutions. He is currently involved as a board member of the Cincinnati Parks Foundation, is an Overseer for Hebrew Union College, and is a trustee and secretary for the Peterloon Foundation. Previously, Paul was a trustee at the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Garden, a Board Chair for The Seven Hills School and St. Xavier High School and was a trustee and treasurer for the Independent Schools Association of the Central States. (ISACS).

**Kim Vincent** is currently a realtor with Sibcy Cline Realtors but has extensive experience (26 years) as an occupational therapist in hospitals, rehabilitation settings, private practice, and public schools. She has been involved in the community as a parent volunteer at Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy, as a St. Xavier Extravaganza volunteer, and has been a part of the SPCA Fur Ball Committee. She was also the founding member of Wittenberg University Parent's Circle.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

*Thomas C. Leugers, President*  
*Raymond Cooper, Vice President*  
*Vincent Michels, Treasurer*  
*Arlene Roane, Secretary*

Philip L. Breen  
Matt Blickensderfer  
Anna K. Carey, PhD  
Cheryl H. Derrick  
Crystal L. Faulkner  
Melanie N. Hynden  
Nancy C. Koglmeier  
Sean V. McGrory  
Martha J. Millett  
Robert E. Rich  
Marianne R. Rowe  
Greg Sherman, DDS  
Paul G. Sittenfeld  
Nicholas D. Spadaccini  
Margaret L. Tondow  
Kim Vincent  
Thomas O. Youtsey, III



Kim Vincent



Matt Blickensderfer



Paul Sittenfeld



Crystal Faulkner



## ALL SCHOOL QUEST

# Taking Care of Planet Earth



Each year, Springer experiences an All School Quest in which students and staff share and explore a common theme with the extended Springer community. This year's gathering of students, families and staff on April 2nd viewed

exhibits focused on the learning theme, "Taking Care of Planet Earth." Using math, science and technology, this year's All School Quest celebrated the students' creativity, ingenuity and discoveries regarding our precious resource

—planet Earth. For the first time, the students' work was further displayed and enjoyed during *A Springer Celebration!* on April 22nd when some of the exhibits "traveled" to sit amongst the event auction display!



## Musician in Residence

On Friday, May 15th, Springer Intermediate students performed scenes from an adapted version of the opera "Carmen" as the culmination of the 2008-09 Musician in Residence program. This year's musician was opera singer, Kay Raplenovich who was also the Musician in Residence in 2000. Kay is a classically trained vocalist who has sung with various orchestras in the United States and Europe, including the *Lirico Sperimentale* in Spoleto, Italy. During the residency, Ms. Raplenovich took the Intermediate students through the complex process of auditioning, rehearsing, and finally performing for the student body and parents. Thanks to the generosity of former Springer Executive Director, Norita Aplin, Springer annually invites a professional musician to provide an enrichment program to the intermediate students.





# The 2009 Spirit Award Winners!

Each year, teachers are asked to choose one student in their homeroom to receive the Springer Spirit Award. Recipients of this award demonstrate a spirit of cooperation with adults and peers on a consistent basis, act as a good role model for other students, both socially and academically, and show pride in themselves both as learners and as individuals. Congratulations to this year's award winners!

AWARDS	Primary Department	Intermediate Blue Department	Intermediate Green Department	Upper School Department
	Brandon Smith	Trey McCausey	Tatiana Weedman	Jack Raymer
	Kathryn Borcherding	Natalie Heimbrock	Devon McClea	Tara Taylor
	Hope Garza	Danny Rogers	Abigail Heep	Molly Shuter
	Catherine Fowler	Joel Beard	Foster Opals	Myra Khan Emily Orabella

## PUTTING KIDS FIRST:

# Community Partnerships Build Strong Schools

What is a school to do when it sees the need to improve the early reading proficiency of their youngest students? Woodfill Elementary School, a part of Ft. Thomas Independent Schools, was faced with that situation, and it chose to put the needs of their students first by investing money into the most important school factor related to student achievement—the professional development of the teachers. That decision, it turns out, improved outcomes.

Springer School and Center's partnership with Ft. Thomas Independent Schools began as the result of a grant from the William P. Anderson Foundation. This grant allowed Springer School and Center to provide parent programs to the parents at Ft. Thomas Independent Schools. On March 18, 2008 parents were invited to attend a course, Supporting Reading Development, hosted by Woodfill Elementary. Parents, as well as administration, found this course to be of value, and as a result, Woodfill Elementary School funded another two-hour parent course—Reading Comprehension on April 15, 2008. This course led to the Multi-sensory Reading Teacher program being scheduled for all K-3 teachers in Ft. Thomas Independent Schools in May of 2008. Three Woodfill Elementary teachers, who attended this session, then decided to gain even more in-depth information about teaching reading.

During June of 2008, the three teachers from Woodfill Elementary, along with 15 other teach-

ers from the Tri-state area, attended Springer's weeklong reading training called Multi-sensory Approach to Reading Success (MARS). Over the course of the five days, these teachers learned how to teach reading using an explicit, systematic, and multi-sensory approach. Equipped with this hands-on training, the teachers returned to Woodfill and planned how to best implement the methodologies learned for the students who were struggling with reading.

During the planning phase in July, another critical decision was made at Woodfill. The language arts block was reconfigured for these three teachers and their students. Intensive reading and decoding instruction, based on what was learned during MARS, began in August 2008. The results were remarkable. In fact, some students receiving the intensive intervention showed grade-level mastery in line with students in other classrooms. Several months into the intervention program, the superintendent of Ft. Thomas Independent Schools was invited to observe what was taking place at Woodfill. He concurred with the principal that it was time to expand the MARS reading in-service offering to additional teachers in Ft. Thomas Independent Schools.

In December, the Multi-sensory Reading Teacher course was taught to K-3 teachers at Woodfill Elementary. Eileen Schroeder, Program Coordinator, met with each of the teachers prior to the course so that she could best meet their needs

during this one-day, intensive course. The content gave a framework for understanding why the reading interventions were working with the initial three teachers and their students. In addition, the teachers left with strategies they could implement immediately in their classrooms. The Report of the National Reading Panel underscores the fact that trained teachers are a critical variable in effective reading intervention. Ft. Thomas Independent Schools understands this fact and has scheduled multiple professional development days for the summer of 2009. The principal, the teachers, the parents and Ft. Thomas Independent Schools are to be commended for their forward thinking about what works in teaching children who are struggling to break the reading code. When there is this type of collaborative partnership—where the best interest of the students is the priority for all parties—the likelihood for positive outcomes is greatly increased.

Find out more about Springer School and Center's programs for parents and professional development for teachers, call (513) 871-6080 x402 or email [center@springer-ld.org](mailto:center@springer-ld.org)





## Class of 2009

Springer School and Center presents its transitioning Class of 2009. In partnership with Springer staff and their families, they are ready and well prepared to return to traditional classrooms throughout the Greater Cincinnati area. They have strategies for learning and skills to advocate for their own learning process. The all-school Commencement celebration took place at the beautiful Springer campus on June 3, 2009. Good luck to all our graduates!

Eric Michael Adriano

Thomas Anaya

Joel Evan Ausman

Nicholas R. Baumgartner IV

Alexis Lauren Breyer

Kendra Alexis Brickler

Jake Brown

Molly Elena Cantor

Zachary Class

Cormac Conway

Jacob Cron

Halee I. Curtis

Daniel M. Dolzhansky

Andrew Doster

Viktor Michael Elkins

John E. Fay

Cullen Charles Gray

Kaitlyn Gray

Matthew Alan Greive

Rachael Anne Haupt

Natalie Heimbrock

Joseph Michael  
Kammerer

Myra Khan

Ben Kimmel

Natalie K. Kite

Anna Kramig

Josh Kuebbing

Evan Lamontagne

Nolan Losier

Helen Lydia Macmann

James N. McCausey Iii

Bridgett M. Miller

Emily Orabella

Samuel Ross Peasley

Ryann Elisabeth Pedoto

Robert Rachel

Rebecca Lee Rainous

Abigail Rau

Madelyn Rau

Michael O'Donnell Rowe

Christopher Schack

Patrick G. Schenk

Kate Schiller

Oscar McFadden Shaw

Ioana Shea

Benjamin Shurmer

Molly M. Shuter

Jessie Simmons

Tyler J. Sirn

Nicholas Patrick  
Spadaccini

Margaret A. Spain

Tara Taylor

Timothy J. Veerkamp

Jeffrey Michael Wallace

Daniel Wasniewski

Ben Woeste

Tripp Wyenandt

Drew Zimmerman

## Bolan Scholarship Award Winner

Intermediate Blue Department student, Natalie Heimbrock, was named the 2009 Bolan Scholarship award recipient at this year's commencement ceremony. This award recognizes a graduating student who demonstrates an understanding of his or her learning disability, applies the strategies learned at Springer, displays a positive attitude, demonstrates leadership, and shows concern for others. The award provides

the winning graduate with a scholarship to offset future educational costs. The scholarship is available through a fund established in 1988 in memory of Mr. Peter Bolan, a Springer alumni parent and great supporter of the school. The award was presented by Mrs. Weisbacher, Peter M. Bolan, Jr., and Benjamin Shurmer.

Congratulations to Natalie and her family!



Natalie Heimbrock



# Alumni CONNECTIONS

**James Damico '88** graduated from St. Xavier High School in 1995 and earned a BS degree from Purdue University in 2000. He then went on to earn a Masters degree in Hydrogeology from Wright State University in 2003. James was also a Peace Corps volunteer from 2003 – 2006 in Bolivia. He is currently employed at the University of Illinois, working as a researcher for clean energy resources.

**David Fraser '91** graduated from Lehigh University in 2001, earning a BS in Industrial Engineering. After college, he moved to San Francisco and worked for Xerox, before returning home to Cincinnati in 2007 to work as an executive with Silco Fire Protection. David's wife Catherine is a cardiac nurse.

**Miriam (Lipson) Hodesh '91** and her husband, Jacob, recently moved to Savannah, Georgia, where they have started two new business ventures. The first, New Moon of Savannah, is a social venture that promotes social and environmental awareness through art. Their second business is Refuel Savannah, a local recycler of Waste Vegetable Oil and a supplier of alternative fuel. Miriam writes, "we seek to make a positive impact on the community by designing programs that lead to social change."

**Michael Slack '93** graduated from The Ohio State University in 2005 with a BS degree in Horticulture, and a Chemical Applicator License. While he was a student at Ohio State, he worked at Muirfield Village Golf Club. Through the contacts Michael made at Muirfield, he was hired as Assistant Superintendent at Card Sound Country Club at Ocean Reef in Key Largo, Florida.

**Roger Long '94** graduated from St. Xavier University in 2001, and Miami University in 2005. He is currently a Relationship Manager in commercial real estate lending for the Portland, Oregon division of Wells Fargo Bank.

**Kelly Reindl '96** (pictured) graduated from Northern Kentucky University in 2007 with a BA degree in Criminal Justice. She graduated from



Kelly Reindl

the Cincinnati Police Academy in 2008, and is now working for the Cincinnati Police Department in District Five.

**Emily Moorhead '97** graduated from Miami University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in studio sculpture. At Miami, Emily interned at the Lost Art Salon of San Francisco as a gallery assistant and collections cataloger. Her work has been exhibited at the University of Indianapolis, Eastern Kentucky University, and Northern Kentucky University. She won two artwork based scholarships as well as an undergraduate research grant and a student initiative grant. Emily has just finished her first year at Washington University in St. Louis where she continues to study her passion—the arts!

**Lee Fjord '98** graduated from Jacksonville University in 2007, earning a dual BS degree in Aviation Operations and Finance, as well as his Private Pilot License. He worked for Aviation Insurance Services upon graduation in Destin, Florida. Lee is now working for Star Dynamics in Columbus, Ohio as a Project/Marketing Manager. He lives with his girlfriend and dog in Winter Park, Florida and loves to travel for both fun and business!



Rosalyn Johnson

**Amanda Olden '00** graduated from Vincennes University in 2007 with an Applied Associates Degree in Science. She is now working for the Hamilton County Board of MRDD at the Jackson Adult Center.

**Rosalyn Johnson '01** (pictured) graduated Summa Cum Laude from Beacon College on May 2, 2009. Rosalyn earned a B.A. in Human Services and is currently enrolled at Nova Southeastern University in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida pursuing a Master's degree in School and Guidance Counseling. She hopes to receive her degree in June 2011. Her dad, Vincent Johnson (pictured here with Rosalyn and her mom, Rhonda) writes, "Springer, thank you so much for providing Rosalyn with a solid foundation and the skills to compensate for her learning disabilities!"

**Paul Kuhn '01** is currently at Indiana University, where he was accepted into a 3 + 2 program. He attended 3 years of undergraduate study, and is currently in his first year of graduate school. He will graduate in May 2010 with an MBA in Accounting.



Elliot Harkness

**Elliot Harkness '02** (pictured) is a member of the 2009 Walton-Verona High School graduating class. Elliot plans to enlist in the United States Marine Corps.

**Elizabeth Bible '03** is in her second year at the College of Mt. Saint Joseph. She is studying art and has consistently made the Dean's List. She is also active in the campus ministry, and traveled to New Orleans for a weeklong Sisters of Charity mission trip.

**Jason Harris '03** graduated from Franklin Academy in 2007, and is currently studying at The College of Mount St. Joseph. He writes that he is "really enjoying his college experience—thank you Springer!"





Leo Bible



Clay Kemper



Caitlyn Zirkelbach



Sean St. Clair



Ava Chaney

**Sean St. Clair '04** (pictured) achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, and was recognized in a Court of Honor ceremony held at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in March 2008. Sean is a member of Boy Scout Troop 641. For his Eagle Scout Leadership Service Project, Sean added natural beauty to Farbach-Warner Park by building a privacy fence, planting trees and shrubs, and creating natural habitats for the local animals. In addition, Sean has been recognized for his achievements at school, and was selected to represent Colerain High School as an ambassador for a weeklong leadership seminar in Washington, DC.

**Madeline White '04** a 2009 graduate of Ursuline Academy, was featured in a Northeast Suburban Life news article in May. Maddie shared that "I went to Springer to help me learn to cope with my learning disability and come up with strategies to work around it." Maddie made honor roll all four of her years at Ursuline, was elected student council president of her class her junior and senior years, and served as a peer leader and school ambassador. She also participated in many extracurricular and volunteer activities. Maddie plans to study engineering at Ohio Northern University.

**Leo Bible '05** (pictured) achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, and was recognized in a Court of Honor ceremony in January 2009. His Eagle project was to make and install trail markers for hiking trails in Burnet Woods. He is currently applying to several schools, and plans to start college in the fall!

**Ava Chaney '05** (pictured) is currently at Clark Montessori. She traveled with her 8th grade class to Andros Island, and completed the Civil

Rights Tour of notable historic sites from George to Memphis. She has also traveled to Germany, Hawaii, Colorado, and China, since graduating from Springer. She plays soccer for both Clark Montessori and Kings Club Soccer.

**Evan Groneman '05** (pictured) had a wonderful high school experience at Sycamore High School! His mom writes, "that would never have been possible without the care and expertise that the Springer staff provided him." Evan graduated from Sycamore in May 2009. In addition to his studies, Evan served as manager of the varsity football team and player/manager for varsity lacrosse. He is headed to Project Launch at UC next year.



Evan Groneman

**Kevin Kreutz '05** is currently attending Sycamore High School, where he is kicker for the Sycamore football team!

**Francisco Michels '05** (pictured) received the 2009 Award of Courage from the Greater Cincinnati Chapter of The National Football Foundation. Francisco has been a member of the Holy Cross football team since his freshman year. Earlier in the year, he also received the Holy Cross Spirit Award. He graduated from high school this spring and has been accepted at Thomas More College.

**Caitlyn Zirkelbach '05** (pictured) celebrated her graduation from Larry A. Ryle High School on June 3rd, 2009.

**Clay Kemper '06** (pictured) achieved the rank of Eagle Scout, and was recognized in a Court of Honor ceremony held at St. Joseph's Church in January 2009. Clay is a member of Boy Scout Troop 86.

**Corey Hurst '07** is currently a sophomore at Purcell Marian High School, where he is a member of the Drumline, and has earned High Honor Roll.

**Mitch Frazier '08** writes that he is "doing very well" at Madeira Middle School. He also shared, "my grades are very good and I am making friends quickly. I am running cross-country and track this year. I miss you all a lot and I will visit once I get a chance."

**Colton MacKay '08** is currently at McNicholas High School, where he has achieved honor role and was named Student of the Month by the religion department. He is also running cross-country for McNicholas.



Francisco Michels



Non-Profit  
Organization  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Cincinnati, OH  
Permit No. 1670

## INSIDE

● **Success: A Springer  
Celebration! 2009**

● **2009 Graduates**

● **Talking with  
Miss Teen Ohio**

## Track Team Debuts a New Mascot and Finishes a Great Season!

**What a great track season!** Springer had an outstanding 66 track participants this year! Despite rain at many of the Friday and Saturday meets, the students worked hard and most importantly, had fun. This year also marked the debut of our new Springer mascot—the eagle! At the CYO Championships on May 15th and 16th, several Springer students placed in the top ten, including:

**Samme Polanco** – 9th place in the 200m dash, 6th place in the 400m dash, and 5th place in the discus throw; **Francesca King** – 7th place in the discus throw, **Tatiana Weedman** – 8th place in the long jump, **Alex Nieman** – 8th place in the 100m dash, **Nick Spadaccini** – 9th place in the 200m dash, **Chris Schack** – 3rd place in the shotput, **Ben Kimmel** – 4th place in the discus throw, **Brennan Kirkpatrick** – 5th place in the discus throw, as well as several relay teams in the 4x100m and 4x200m races.

Many thanks to all the students for their participation and parents for their support! A special thanks is given to Springer's wonderful track coaches—

**Kristy Ilg, Debbie Phelps, Mike Kennedy, and Mark Phelps.**

Congratulations team, for another great season!

