

news & views



Current Board President Matt Blickensderfer (right) with retiring Trustees Randy Cooper and Ashley Rouser.

Annual Dinner Wraps Up Successful Year

the Board Officers for 2015-2016 and welcomed new trustees to the Board.

Four new members are joining the Board. They are Bob Baron, Matt Gockerman, Gina Goings and Kate Keller. Tom Leugers is returning to the Board, after having served for nine years and taking a three-year hiatus from service. See Page 6 for more about our new Trustees.

Board President Matt Blickensderfer honored five retiring Trustees for their service to Springer.

Randy Cooper played an integral role on the board. He served as President from 2010-2012, and later chaired the

Committee on Trustees for three years. In whatever capacity he served, Randy was an enthusiastic advocate for Springer in the community. "He was an exemplary leader who helped Springer achieve a high level of success," remarked Shelly Weisbacher. "Randy never missed an opportunity to share Springer's story and the difference it has made in the lives of so many children and their families." Serving on Springer's Board was a family affair for the Coopers – while he was Board President, Randy's wife Nancy chaired *A Springer Celebration!* 2011 and their son (and alumnus) Sam was

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The May 19 Annual Dinner was a time to reflect, celebrate, say goodbye to old friends and welcome new ones, for Springer staff, trustees and parents. Assembled guests received a report on fundraising activities for the year from Trustee Ashley Rouser. Nine-year member of the Board Randy Cooper announced



Retiring staff members (L to R) Mary Lou Linley, Steve Ploetz and Gail Piraino

Long-time Staff Members Retire

Gail Piraino served in a variety of roles during her 24 years. She began her Springer career as a teacher in the Upper School Department, became the Principal in 1994, and has served as Curriculum Director since 2008.

Gail's impact on the program can be felt on many levels. While Principal, she developed the school leadership model that is currently in place, a model based on the principal and team leaders sharing responsibility for staff support and supervision, and for school based decision-making. While Curriculum Director, Gail oversaw the development and implementation

of curricula in all areas with a special focus on reading, mathematics, and writing. Executive Director Shelly Weisbacher said, "Gail was known for piloting new programs herself, and for her unwavering support of teachers as they worked with new materials and instructional methods. She modeled the way for others, and in whichever role she held, her deep commitment to the students was always at the center of her work."

Language Therapist Kathy McMillin described the impact Gail has had on her and her colleagues. "For many of us, her guidance has translated into insights and

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Three long-time members of Springer's staff celebrated their retirements at this year's Annual Dinner. Curriculum Director Gail Piraino, Upper School Science Teacher Steve Ploetz, and Administrative Assistant Mary Lou Linley concluded careers that total 76 years of service to Springer.

LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Our students come to us because they have struggled significantly in traditional classroom settings. Yet, as we all understand, it is not by the students' choosing that they enroll at Springer. Rather, their enrollment results from the confluence of any number of events that cause their parents to seek a better learning environment.

Sometimes, families begin to hear of their child's struggles as early as preschool. Other times, the problems remain masked until much later. In each instance though, parents likely had a hunch something was not as it should be, and either started searching for answers or at least were not surprised when someone else suggested they should.

Even when parents accept that action is required, it can still feel scary and even lonely when one first is told of a child's learning disability. How a family responds is deeply personal. For some, it is almost a relief – at least now there is an explanation, and plans can be made. For others, there is an extended period of disbelief and perhaps even efforts to prove the diagnosis invalid.

Families who make their way to Springer fall into both camps and every point in between. We are sometimes surprised they found their way to Springer at all,

given their misconceptions about the program. One parent described her journey thus, "When I first heard of Springer, I had a lot of assumptions about the school. Most of all I assumed it was filled with children that had behavior issues, none of which I wanted my son to encounter. You see, my son suffered from dyslexia and ADHD, not behavior issues. I feared he would be influenced in a negative way – boy was I wrong!"

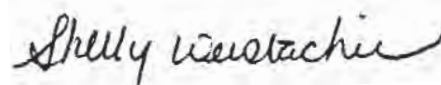
With some reluctance, this mother attended an open house because she knew her son needed help, and she ended up falling in love with Springer. In her words, "so many of my questions were answered and my anxieties relieved. I now understood that my son could continue with age-appropriate studies, via different strategies. I also learned of the tuition assistance program, which made it possible for us to afford to send him."

Wherever a family is on their journey, we join them. Just as we give their children the tools and strategies they will need to be successful when they leave us, we strive to do the same for parents. We accomplish this in a global way through parent education programs, and at a personal level through the many interactions we have, both formal and informal,

beginning with the admissions process. Equally important are the lessons learned and comfort gained by being able to talk freely with other parents who share the experience. Every interaction is an opportunity for learning.

The parent quoted earlier has come to the end of her Springer journey. Reflecting on it, she wrote, "I too have learned how my son learns best and what tools he needs to be a successful learner. I can honestly say that he has a bright future, where reading will no longer hold him back or make him withdraw from the world. Thank you Springer School and Center, and thank you to all the wonderful teachers and staff."

Families may seek us for their child, and we may most promote Springer for the direct services we provide to children, but truly Springer is about the family. When we help parents to understand, to reframe their fears, and to appreciate all that is truly wonderful and unique about their child, we are helping to build a future for the child that is filled with possibilities for success in school and beyond.



Shelly Weisbacher

STAFF MILESTONES

5 Years

Carole Barnhart
Jessica Goins
Nicole Kloesz
Wendy New
Carol Piening
Jill Wieging

15 Years

Debbie Elbert
Barb Kerr
Sandi Staud

25 Years

Judy McMahon
Steve Ploetz

10 Years

Ruth Coppel
Kim Lankford



Springer staff members celebrating service milestones and retirements at the Annual Dinner. (L to R) Judy McMahon, Debbie Elbert, Kim Lankford, Barb Kerr, Jessica Goins, Steve Ploetz, Sandi Staud, Wendy New, Nicole Kloesz, Jill Wieging, Mary Lou Linley, Gail Piraino and Carole Barnhart.

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always present at the annual events.

Matt Blickensderfer reflected on Randy's service on the Board, "While I know the Coopers will continue to support Springer in many ways, I will very much miss Randy on the Board. Randy focused on doing the right thing, and his thoughtful and sensible leadership of the Board always helped us get there. I have certainly leaned on him for wise counsel, and I am very grateful to him for that and for the many ways in which he has made Springer a better place."

Crystal Faulkner Cooney completed two three-year terms during which she served on the Resource Committee and the Committee on Trustees. Crystal was a strong promoter of Springer's public presence. She interviewed Springer's Board President and Executive Director on a segment of her program, BusinessWise Radio, and helped boost visibility and raise awareness through social media.

Kim Borcharding Gaker (2010-2015), a Springer parent for six years, quickly saw the importance of giving back to her daughter's school, first by chairing the 2009-2010 Annual Fund campaign and

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truths that we later discover apply not only to our work, but to our lives, as well," she said. Gail reflected on her years at Springer. "What makes Springer so great," she said, "is its dedication to continued understanding of the social, emotional and intellectual growth of children and adults, and its commitment to educational excellence."

Steve Ploetz worked with Upper School students throughout his 25 years at Springer. He taught social studies, writing and science, and for five years was the Team Leader. Steve embraced technology early on, incorporating presentation software into student projects, and science simulations and virtual labs into his lesson plans. "Steve's quiet enthusiasm will be missed," said Shelly. "He has empowered the children with knowledge, strategies and self-awareness."

Upper School Team Leader Brad

then by joining the Board of Trustees in 2010. Kim was a member of the Resource Committee and the Alumni Committee. For the 2014 *A Springer Celebration!* she facilitated a successful car raffle.

Ashley Rouster completed a three-year term on the board. During her tenure Ashley chaired the Development Committee and the Alumni Committee. As one of Springer's younger Board members, she brought a youthful perspective and often challenged her committees to think outside the box. Ashley helped Springer to expand its use of social media, which grew Springer's Facebook, Pinterest, and Twitter presence.

Patti Towbin (2013-2015) was an active member on the Development Committee. Having spent her career working as an Educational Diagnostician specializing in Learning Disabilities, Patti well understood Springer's mission and was especially interested in the center. She was disappointed that her time on Springer's Board was cut short due to a family move.

Johnson said, "I've been grateful for the history Steve has brought to the table to help acclimate me to my role. I've also appreciated his style when considering team decisions, sometimes indirectly reminding me I need to *slow my roll*."

"One of the most meaningful things about a career at Springer has been working with fellow professionals who always put the welfare of the students first," Steve reflected on his time at Springer.

Mary Lou Linley began her 27-year career as an instructional assistant and summer school instructor, and has served in administrative support roles for the head of the Upper School, the Placement Director, Principal and finally the Curriculum Director.

Despite her ever-changing roles," said Shelly, "the one constant has been the manner in which Mary Lou embraced each

2015-2015 Board of Trustees

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Shelly Weisbacher
Executive Director

and every assignment she was given. Above all, she was very committed to Springer."

Gail Piraino, who worked with Mary Lou both as Principal and Curriculum Director, said "Mary Lou's can-do attitude positively impacts those around her, as does her joyful presence and sense of humor." Placement Director Terri Moorhead remarked that "Mary Lou is always thoughtful and kind, and shows a genuine interest in the people she works with."

"The Springer staff is like a family," said Mary Lou, "kind and caring to each other and to the students. Working at Springer has been a true gift to me."

Gail, Steve, and Mary Lou have contributed immensely to the culture of Springer and to the success of Springer students. Students, families and staff alike will miss them very much.

Words from the Heart at A Springer Celebration! 2015



Celebration Guest Speaker Michael Wright

The Springer community was on its game on Wednesday, April 29, when *A Springer Celebration! 2015, Game On!* was held at Xavier University's Cintas Center. The 310 guests enjoyed cocktails and dinner, and a variety of hands-on sports-themed activities designed to simulate what it might feel like to negotiate life with a learning disability.

The emotional high point of the evening was certainly the words of Guest Speaker Michael Wright, an alumnus of

Springer who played for seven years for the New England Patriots. Mike spoke eloquently about his experiences as a child growing up with a learning disability. He expressed gratitude that he was diagnosed and sent to Springer, where he gained the tools and self-confidence that made subsequent transitions to high school and college smooth and successful.

Mike had words of assurance for parents of students with learning disabilities – that their kids would be okay. And he had words of encouragement for the children. "The sky's the limit for each and every one of those kids," he said, "as long as they believe in themselves and do whatever it takes to get themselves better every single day, and they don't worry about the noise and the critics who are trying to tell them they can't, or they're different, because they're not. They're their own person, and they'll create their own destiny."

Mike thanked Springer's staff, and the generous donors who have supported the school over the years. "The things I learned at Springer will rub off on my children," he said, "and affect them in a positive way as they did me, and for that I am grateful."

During the week before the Celebration, Mike paid a visit to Springer and addressed the student body at an assembly. He told the students that he had once sat where they were sitting. He knew what it felt like, and now he knows that success is possible, with hard work and perseverance. Mike brought his helmets from the Patriots and the University of Cincinnati, and two Conference Championship rings, to show to the students, and answered the many questions they had. "I've never seen the entire school more attentive to a speaker," said Executive Director Shelly Weisbacher. "The students were riveted to Mike's words."

Mike and his wife Sarah live in Montgomery with their two young children. Mike is currently pursuing a new career in medical sales.

The event raised \$148,000 that will support financial aid, and school and outreach programs. Local 12 WKRC TV's Brad Johansen served as emcee for the evening. The Event Chair was alumni parent and former Springer Trustee Nick Spadaccini, and Springer parent Gina Goings served as Auction Chair.



Mike shares his experience with Springer students.



Auction Chair Gina Goings (L) and Event Chair Nick Spadaccini celebrate a successful event with Development Specialist Kirstin Eismín.



Celebration guests get their game gear on at the Photo Booth.



Celebration Emcee Brad Johansen (L) with Mike Wright before the evening's program.

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Springer Board Welcomes New Trustees



Matthew Gockerman and Gina House Goings are two of our new Trustees

Five Trustees will be joining Springer's Board for the 2015-2016 school year.

Robert Baron is president of Robert Baron Consulting, a firm specializing in finance and established in 2007. Previously, he founded and was President of Cash City, Inc., a payday advance and check cashing business, and he was President of East Coast Operations for CSS/TSC, Inc., a distributor of t-shirts.

Bob has a B.S. in Business Administration from The Ohio State University. His community involvement includes being a member of the Endowment Fund Committee of the Jewish Federation of Cincinnati. Additionally he serves on the Executive Committee of the Board for the Cincinnati Flying Pig Marathon

Bob currently serves on the Boards of OPKO Health, Inc., a multi-national pharmaceutical and diagnostic company; Andover Medical, a distributor of procedure specific durable medical equipment; and Green States Energy, independent power producer that acquires, develops and operates clean electric generating plants in the Americas and Europe.

Matthew F. Gockerman is the Director of Corporate Services for Unlimited Technology Systems LLC, a company he and his three brothers founded in 2003. The company, located in Sycamore Township, provides health care technology solutions to a national client base of oncology specialist practices. Matt

has specific responsibilities for legal and accounting matters.

A graduate of the University of North Carolina School of Law, Matt began his career as a Tax Associate with Taft, Stettinius & Hollister LLP. Subsequently he relocated to Houston and worked as Tax Attorney for Enron Capital & Trade Resources Corp. and later was employed by KPMG LLP as a Senior Manager.

Matt holds memberships in numerous organizations including the Mercantile Library and the Ohio Bar Association. He and his wife Heather, have two children, daughter Grace and son Gannon, who is a Springer student.

Gina House Goings had a long-standing professional career in the field of human resources, recruitment and training. She has worked in a myriad of industries including education, banking, entertainment/animation and Internet start-ups. Currently her energies are focused around her passion for event planning.

Gina and her family moved to Cincinnati from Toronto, Ontario, and prior to that lived in London, England, as well as Connecticut, Illinois and Virginia.

Currently she teaches classes on job-seeking skills for Dress for Success and is the Logistics Chair for the charity's annual fashion show. Gina was the Auction Chair for this year's *A Springer Celebration!* While living in London she served as President of The American Women's Club of London.

Gina earned a B.A. in Government and Politics from the University of Maryland. She and her husband Bill are the parents of two sons, Bryden and Chase, who is a recent Springer graduate.

Kate Keller is the Vice President for Policy and External Relations for Interact for Health, formerly The Greater Cincinnati Health Foundation. She is responsible for the organization's health care policy efforts, including the Affordable Care Act Education program. Kate also manages Interact for Health's community relations

and communications.

She currently serves on public policy committees for the United Way of Greater Cincinnati, Philanthropy Ohio and the Health Policy Institute of Ohio. Previously, Kate was a board member for the National Assembly on School-Based Health Care.

Kate has a M.A. in Public Administration from the University of Cincinnati. She was recognized with the Forty under 40 Award in 2010 by the Cincinnati Business Courier and received the 2012 Outstanding Achievement Award from the National Assembly on School Based Health Care. In 2012, Kate was also named as a Terrance Keegan Emerging Leader Fellow from Grantmakers in Health.

Tom Leugers is a Managing Director with Raymond James Financial, a diversified holding company providing financial services to individuals, corporations and municipalities through its subsidiary companies that engage primarily in investment and financial planning. Previously Tom was a Senior Vice President with Morgan Keegan & Company, Inc. In 2012 Morgan Keegan & Company, Inc. merged with Raymond James Financial.

Tom's board experience includes serving on Springer's Board from 2003 to 2012. During that time he was the President of the Board from 2008 to 2010. Other board experience includes Bethany House Services, where he was a trustee for thirteen years and served as Board President for seven years, from 1998 to 2005. He was Board Chairman from 1998 to 2000 for the Cincinnati Division of the American Heart Association, serving a total of seven years on the Heart Association's Board. Tom is a graduate of Xavier University.

Tom and his wife Diane are the parents of five adult children. Their youngest son Craig is a 2003 Springer graduate.

New and Former Principals Recognized

At several events including the Annual Dinner, Springer welcomed new principal **Eldrich Carr**. Eldrich comes to Springer from Cincinnati Country Day School where he was serving as Dean of Students for the Upper School, and teaching history. He holds a Master's degree in Private School Leadership from Columbia University as well as a Master's degree in History and Social Science Education from Boston University, and has eleven years of teaching experience.

"The interview team and I found Eldrich to be warm, engaging and passionate about helping children grow academically, socially and emotionally," said Executive Director Shelly Weisbacher. "And we found him to be committed to fostering strong partnerships with students, families and colleagues."

"As an educator seeking to impact students for a life-time, I can't think of a better institution to contribute to and represent," said Eldrich. "Warm and compassionate, Springer is devoted to using contemporary research and the field's best practices. Simply put, landing at Springer is exciting

and a privilege. I, as any educator would, consider myself very lucky."

Springer's former Principal **Jamie Williamson** is now the Head of School at Marburn Academy in Columbus, Ohio. Like Springer, Marburn Academy is devoted to the education of children with learning disabilities. In her recognition of him at the Annual Dinner, Shelly Weisbacher thanked Jamie for his numerous contributions and acknowledged the strong relationships he forged with faculty, staff, trustees, parents and especially the children during his seven-year tenure. In closing Shelly said, "Marburn is fortunate to have Jamie as their next Head of School."

Jamie was further recognized by students, faculty and staff at a year-end assembly. Called to the stage, Jamie was given a decorated bucket, which quickly was filled with hundreds of notes from the children, faculty and staff. Amazingly this 'secret' activity had managed to remain a secret, and Jamie was truly surprised.

Reflecting on his time at Springer, Jamie said, "I feel so incredibly honored to have had the opportunity to be part

of the Springer community for the last seven years. Springer is truly an exceptional school that sets the standard for how children should be treated. I'll forever be inspired by the strength and resilience of our students."



New Springer Principal Eldrich Carr (L) with former Principal Jamie Williamson at the Annual Dinner.

Artist in Residence Sandy Gross

Every student and staff member at Springer is represented in the two by four foot glass mosaic that hangs in the hall. The mosaic was created during the 2015 Maureen Wenker Artist in Residence program under the direction of local glass artist Sandra Gross. Students and staff created the two by two inch squares that make up the mosaic, using bits of glass to fashion houses that reflect their personality. The squares and the final mosaic were fused at Brazee Street Studios, where Sandy is owner and director.

During her residency, Sandy met with each class and oversaw their construction of the tiny houses. She also worked with a small group of Upper School students

who created larger freestanding works in glass, depicting the home they'd live in if they could live anywhere in the world. The students' creations and the final mosaic were unveiled at a reception in March.

Eighth grader Fin Vieh placed his imaginary home on a mountaintop. "It was interesting figuring out how to put the house together," he said. Skye Colvin had no plan for her house when she began working on it. "It just happened," she said. "It was fun to do, and I am proud of how it turned out."

The Maureen Wenker Artist in Residence program was established in 1993 by Paul Wenker, in honor of his late wife Maureen, a Springer supporter and volunteer, and mother of three Springer graduates.



Artist in Residence Sandra Gross advises Jillian Fraley on the construction of her glass house.

IN MEMORIAM: Former Trustee John Sawyer



Springer lost a long-time friend and ardent supporter with the passing of John Sawyer on July 9. Well-known to many for his involvement with the Bengals and the Reds, and for his business ventures, John served nine years on Springer's Board of

Trustees. He held leadership positions and he made many connections for Springer that helped raise funds for financial aid and outreach programs. John arranged for the *Springer Celebration!* to be held at Great American Ball Park shortly after it opened. He secured for Reuben Springer donors a private tour at Paul Brown stadium and a meeting with then head coach Dick LeBeau. And, at his invitation, head coach Marvin Lewis was the guest of honor at another *Springer Celebration!*

Former Board President Russ Wilson shared, "John and I joined Springer's Board at the same time and I had the pleasure of working with him for nine years. For six of those years, we were both on the Executive Committee. I considered him to be a close friend. John was extremely passionate about Springer and helping children. You could just feel the emotion whenever he talked about what Springer had meant to his grandchildren."

John and his wife Ruth were frequently seen on Springer's campus. They never missed the opportunity to join their five

grandchildren, who attended Springer, at a special event or assembly. Grandson Nick Ryall said, "He gave me the opportunity to be at Springer, and to learn how I learn so that I could be successful. He taught me many life lessons. When I was in college, I interviewed him for a class project. My last question to him was 'How did you become so successful doing all the things you did?' My grandpa flashed his big smile and said, 'I have failed more than I have achieved in life. You are going to fail more than you'll succeed. You need to take risks, believe in what you do, and commit to it.'" "No matter what he was doing, he always wanted to make people happy," added his granddaughter, Christina Ryall.

"Even after the grandchildren had graduated and his board term expired, John's interest in Springer and his commitment to its success continued," remembered Executive Director Shelly Weisbacher. "We feel his loss deeply, and extend our heartfelt sympathy to his family and friends."

MEMORIALS AND TRIBUTES

(as of 8/16/2015)

In Honor of Barbara Klein

Harriet and William Freedman

In Memory of Louise Deisch

Norita Aplin and Stanley Ragle

Ruth and Steve Coppel

Concetta and Robert Donatelli

Lauren and Stephen Donatelli

Kirstin Eismín and Ian Henry

Julie and Gary Flowerdew

Barb and Jerry Kerr

Mary Lou and William Linley

Kathy McMillin

Julie Pratt

Springer School and Center

Shelly and Ken Weisbacher

In Memory of Robbie Dimling

Judith and James Adams

Patricia and Harry Andreadis

Norita Aplin and Stanley Ragle

Lisa Arnold

Matthew Blickensderfer

Judy and Brian Bresser

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Margaret Keefe

Carol and J. Thomas Markham

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Linda Murphy

Julie and John Muzyczka

Nancy Olman

Sandra and Andris Olukalns

Judith Peck

Springer Remembers Librarian Robbie Dimling



It was with deep sadness that Springer marked the passing of Roberta "Robbie" M. Dimling on April 14, 2015. Robbie had been an integral part of the Springer community for 21 years in her role as librarian, from 1988 to 2009.

Executive Director Shelly Weisbacher remembers Robbie as a source of inspiration and encouragement for Springer students. "Robbie understood that Springer's library needed to be especially inviting to our many reluctant readers," Shelly said. "She accomplished this through the books she chose for the collection, the displays she created, and even the reclining chairs she selected."

Robbie established a "Birthday Book Club" where students and their families could pick new titles to add to the collection as a "birthday" gift to the library. Through the purchase of audio books, Robbie introduced many of our students to the wonder of reading with their "ears." She supported the teachers' instruction by finding engaging texts that provided windows into math concepts, social studies and science topics.

Retiring Curriculum Director Gail Piraino remembers Robbie as someone who understood the power of reading. In her honor Gail selected for the library a collection of audio books and Newberry

Award winning titles for our Intermediate and Upper School students. A selection of the most recent Caldecott winners will capture the interest of the Primary students. These will be displayed on a dedicated shelf in the library.

"Robbie was always checking in with teachers to find out what the students were interested in," recalled Placement Director Terri Moorhead. "She would use that information as her guide when choosing new materials for the library. Robbie was an integrated part of the Springer community, involved in life events of her co-workers and in staff activities."

Shelly remembered, "Those of us who were privileged to work with her know that Robbie had a ready smile and a caring heart. Springer extends deepest sympathy to her family and friends."

*Nancye and Bill Prather
Salli Roberts
Katie and Fred Robertshaw
Wm. T. Robinson
The Sathe Family
Cristeen and Michael Scherer
John Shepherd
Elaine Sicking
Kristin and David Skidmore
Springer School and Center
Joanne Suer
Bertha Tepe
Shelly and Ken Weisbacher
Julie and Russell Wilson*

In Memory of Edward Gallenstein

Sally and Edward Kamphake

In Memory of John Sawyer

*Norita Aplin and Stanley Ragle
Caroline and William Cox
Springer School and Center
Shelly and Ken Weisbacher
Julie and Russell Wilson*

In Memory of Nancy Thomas

*Christina and David Acomb
Patricia and James Ahlrichs
Jill Barlon
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Ruth and Joseph Titschinger



Class of 2015

Thirty-seven students were joined by family, friends and Springer staff at Commencement ceremonies on June 2, 2015. Many of the students spoke about their time at Springer, recalling lessons learned, friends made and confidence gained. Upper School student Brad Becker reflected, "When I entered Springer, I thought that I wouldn't be able to learn anything, and that having a learning disability was a bad thing. Springer proved me wrong. I was able to learn something every day."

Chloe Addington
William Trey Barger
Anna Becker
Bradley Robert Becker
William Martin Bertsch
Joshua Scott Campbell
Alexander T. Christensen
Ethan Clark
Skye Caroline Colvin
Jenetta Destani
William Francis Duke
Mary Margaret Fitzpatrick
Hannah Frank

John Edward Garvin
William Chase Goings
Emma Jean Harlor
Chase Hillard
Wyatt Benjamin Hotchkiss
Henry Jost
Gerhard Koenderink
Cathy Leahy
Alexander James Link
Katherine Grace Lohmueller
Ian Mark Sheridan Lucic
Grace Madigan McDowell
Grace Catherine Moore

Mary-Elizabeth L. Morgan
William Roberts
Leah Rudemiller
Robert Schramm
Sarah Souder
Natalie L. Sparling
Ashley Paige Suttner
Finian Michael Vieh
Connor Jackson Ward
Katerina Wilmanns
Quinn Alexander Zumbiel

Bolan Scholarship Goes to Ashley Suttner

Commencing student Ashley Suttner was chosen to receive the 2015 Bolan Scholarship. The award was conferred at recent commencement ceremonies by Executive Director Shelly Weisbacher and Katie Bolan Finley, daughter of the couple memorialized by the award.

Upper School Team Leader Brad Johnson said, "Ashley demonstrates a high level of integrity, and she incorporates many of the strategies she's learned at Springer to meet her personal goals."

The Bolan Scholarship recognizes a commencing 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 was established in 1988 in memory of Mr. Peter Bolan, Sr., an alumni parent and great supporter of Springer. For many years his wife Mrs. Bolan continued to support the fund, took a genuine interest in who was receiving the award and often attended commencement to present it. As Mrs. Bolan passed away in 2010, the award is now presented in her memory as well as that of her beloved husband.



PARENT INVOLVEMENT ENHANCES THE SPRINGER EXPERIENCE

Parent involvement at Springer is so appreciated! For new and current parents alike, there is always another parent nearby to help answer questions about upcoming events at Springer. Each homeroom has a designated room parent who is the point person for informing his or her homeroom of parent volunteer opportunities including Order Out Days, the Staff Appreciation Luncheon, *A Springer Celebration!*, clubs needing volunteers, classroom parties, and many more events specific to each homeroom.

Peggy Kuhlman, the 2014-2015 Parent Community Coordinator, was the main communicator to the room parents and helped to inform and prepare them with their messages to the other parents. Peggy stated, "It has been a privilege to be involved at Springer in this way!"

A special thanks to Peggy, the Parent Community Coordinator, all the homeroom parents, and also Caroline Beiser for her support of Order Out Day! It's been a great year of parent involvement!

Thanks to the 2014-2015 Room Parents!

Caroline Beiser
Kim Bibbs
Debbie Brensike
Pamela Clark
Deb Cnota
Melissa Comarata
Hollie Floyd
Gina Goings
Tammy Moore
Laura Nickell
Stacey Pavlin
Fran Schwartz
Paige Silver
Kim Taylor
Andrea Werbrich
Patti Wuenneman



Parent volunteer Carime Schofield helps guest Sandra Laney at A Springer Celebration! wine pull.

Alumni Connections

Ken Covey '12 has completed his junior year at Holy Cross High School in Covington, Kentucky, where he has been inducted into the National Honor Society.

Seth Davis '06 graduated from Taylor High School in 2012, where he was on the honor roll and participated in swimming, choir, track and drama. Seth has completed training in fire science, and is currently employed as a fireman and EMT at Miami Whitewater.

David Molloy '05 graduated from Loveland High School in 2010, and from the Hobart Institute of Welding Technology. He is currently employed as an aviation welder.

Daniel Allen '03 earned a Bachelor's degree in political science from DePauw University in 2012. For two years, Daniel participated in the Teach for America program, teaching at the Indiana Math and Science Academy West in Indianapolis, Indiana. Currently he is employed at the Emma Donnan Elementary and Middle School, a public charter school in Indianapolis, where he teaches students with emotional disorders in a self-contained setting. Daniel has been involved in establishing a pilot program that combines a half day of academic work with a half

day of vocational experience, including mini-internships.

Rosalyn Johnson '01 "I recently completed my Doctorate Degree in Counseling Psychology at Argosy University, Sarasota after successfully defending my dissertation entitled 'A Phenomenological Study of the Experiences of African American Adolescents with Learning Disabilities.' I also recently completed a Post-Master's Graduate Certificate in Marriage and Family Therapy, also at Argosy University's Sarasota campus. I am the very first alumna ever from my college here in Florida, Beacon College, to earn a doctorate degree! I continue to work full-time as a Licensed Mental Health Counselor, providing therapy to children, adolescents, and families. However, now that I have completed my doctorate degree, I am hoping that new doors will open in regards to my counseling career. Additionally, I am excited to see what my future holds in terms of being an advocate and now also a leader in the field of future mental health and learning disabilities research."

Lauren Barone '99 graduated from Purcell Marian High School. She works for Staples in downtown Cincinnati, and is the single mother of a 4-year old son.

Cecilia Umberg (Pratt) '99 earned her Bachelor of Science in Addiction Studies and Deaf Studies from the University of Cincinnati in 2010. She was married to fellow UC alum Matthew Martin Umberg on May 30, 2014, at St. Monica - St. George Church in Cincinnati.

Meara Edwards '98 graduated from Purcell Marian High School and earned her LPN degree. She is working as a nurse for a home health care agency, coaches soccer at Pleasant Ridge Montessori School and has two children and is expecting another.

Jordan Werwa '94 earned a Bachelor's degree in Education from Bowling Green University and another in linguistics from Ohio State University. He received certification in English as a Second Language from Cambridge University in England, and has been accepted for a Master's program in ESL at Columbia University in New York City. He has worked in Columbia, South America, teaching and writing curriculum.

Andy Brinkman '91 earned a Master's degree in Special Education from Wilmington College, and is the Director of Goalkeeping for the Columbus Crew Major League Soccer team, and owner of GK1 Goalkeeping Academy.



L toR: Ken Covey, David Molloy, Daniel Allen, Rosalyn Johnson, Lauren Barone, Cecilia Umberg (Pratt), Meara Edwards, Andy Brinkman

Student Council Encourages Outward Focus



Intermediate student Nik Breech drew posters for Student Council's Weekly Challenge.

At Springer, students campaign and are elected to fill Officer positions in the Student Council, but any interested student may participate as a Representative. Student Council advisors guide activities with an eye toward building confidence and competence, and encouraging leadership skills and an outward focus toward the world.

That outward focus was evident in many of the Student Council's activities this year, culminating with a Student Council Representative receiving an award for philanthropy from Magnified Giving, a local nonprofit that gives students hands-on experience with philanthropy.

Upper School student Griffin Melson was awarded the Roger Grein Spirit of Philanthropy Award at a May 13 awards ceremony, where Student Council Officers presented a Magnified Giving check for \$1,000 to Our Daily Bread, an Over-the-Rhine ministry that provides warm meals, social services and a place for area residents to socialize.

The students had researched local charities from a list provided by Magnified Giving. They then narrowed down the list and invited six organizations to submit grant applications. The students reviewed the applications, and decided which charity would receive their gift.

"The students really stretched

themselves," said Springer Assistant Principal Siobhan Taylor. "They made phone calls to Development personnel at selected charities and asked them questions about their mission and their effectiveness in accomplishing it. They then shared what they'd learned with one another, and made their decision by vote."

"I so appreciate the opportunity to share Our Daily Bread's programs and services with the students of Springer," said Director of Development Julia Sharp. "Their compassion and interest is inspiring, and these funds will help us continue to lessen the burdens of poverty in our area."

Student Council also sponsored the "Power Packs" initiative, in which students gathered toiletry items and assembled them into packages that were donated to the Walnut Hills Kitchen.

Each Power Pack contained soap, toothbrush and toothpaste, lotion, shampoo and conditioner. The students collected enough toiletry items to fill more than 300 Power Packs for the Kitchen, which serves hot meals seven times per week – nearly 101,000 meals annually.

An April 22 Earth Day celebration turned Student Council's attention toward the environment we all share. Students observed the day by constructing "plant

people," whose faces were decorated cups in which wheat grass "hair" was planted. Googly eyes and ribbons for bow ties or ponytails completed the plant people, which could be taken home and nurtured indoors or out.

Student Council kept an outward focus on students' minds all year with Weekly Challenges. Council members generated a list of challenges at the beginning of the year and presented them to the student body each week through posters and announcements. Challenges included ideas such as "cheer up someone who is sad," or "encourage others to join activities." Intermediate student Nik Breech put his artistic talents to use, creating detailed posters for some of the challenges, which were displayed in the school cafeteria.

Student Council Advisor Siobhan Taylor was proud of the effort made by students this year. "The goal was to elevate the conversation," she said, "and to deepen our understanding of what it means to be a leader, a community citizen and a student – they all intersect. As a community, we want to send out students who are not only academically strong, but life-strong too."



Student Council members and advisors present their Magnified Giving check to Our Daily Bread.



FINAL WEEKS OF FUN!

The final weeks of school offer chances for fun and celebration. Both students and staff enjoy the All School Outing – an annual day of play at the Cincinnati Sports Club. Students share lunch on the piazza and time for signing autograph books at the Autograph Party. It's a bittersweet evening for many, when students reflect on their time at Springer and celebrate bright futures at Commencement ceremonies. And on the last day of school, Springer hosted Circus Mojo and their program filled with thrills and laughs.





Another Successful Season for Springer's Track Team!

The Springer Eagles wrapped up another great track season this year at Elder High School's Panther Athletic Complex, where the CYO City Championships were held on May 16. Captain for the 7th and 8th grade team Jack Garvin placed 6th in the city in the 100m dash. Leah Rudemiller captained the 7-8 grade girls' team.

Intermediate student Peter John McColgan placed third overall at the city-wide championship in the 5th and 6th grade category. Peter John and Intermediate student Anna Kuhlman were finalists in the 75m and 100m sprints.

This year's coaches were Liz Crellin (K – 2nd grade), Erin Corrado (3rd – 4th grade), Mark Phelps (5th – 6th grade) and Kristina Williams (7th – 8th grade). The coaches applaud the effort put forth by all 55 track participants, who practiced and competed in both rain and sun. Congratulations to the Springer Eagles Track Team!





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Summer Learning Can Be an Adventure!

For 22 consecutive summers, the center's program for struggling learners, Adventures in Summer Learning, has given students opportunities to discover new strategies, new confidence and new friends. The Launch program, for students entering Kindergarten and first grade, has completed its second year.

ADVENTURES IN SUMMER LEARNING 2015

