

## Take a Closer Look at...Teacher Education

Fall 2001

Today's educators are inundated with mandates to reform, restructure, achieve excellence and include a population of students that many teachers have few available resources to serve. Between 1986 and 1996, the number of students with learning disabilities who were educated in regular classrooms increased by nearly 20 percent, while the percentage served in resource rooms or separate classes decreased substantially (National Center for Educational Statistics). Professionals are eager to serve children who struggle to learn but often have limited knowledge of how to provide intensive services within a classroom of varied abilities.

Springer Center is dedicated to assisting the inclusive classroom teacher in

creating successful learning environments for all children. The programs offered at the Center are helping teachers to understand the underlying theory of best practice, while also providing them with interventions and strategies that increase learning.

*"This seminar provided a 'light bulb' moment...I thought that teaching students with learning disabilities had its own set of special rules. Now I know how to present multiple strategies for a single task and have ways to manage the various problems of students."*

*Pathways To Success*, a week long teacher-training seminar was offered by the Center for the first time this past June. Participants left with an enormous

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE...

- 1 Take a Closer Look
- 2 Executive Director's Column, Board of Trustees
- 3 Springer Alumni Update
- 4 Springer Alumni Update can't Take a Closer Look can't
- 5 Springer Celebrates 30 Years, Gifts of Stock, Memorial & Tribute Gifts
- 6 Celebrating Springer Staff
- 7 Reuben Springer Society Meets Bengals Coach
- 8 Parent Volunteers Make a Difference

amount of enthusiasm driven by the timely and practical knowledge they gained from their week long investment. One teacher commented, "This seminar provided a 'light bulb' moment...I thought that teaching students with learning disabilities had its own set of special rules. Now I know how to present multiple strategies for a single task and have ways to manage the various problems of students." Springer Center will offer *Pathways To Success* twice during the summer of 2002 to increase the number of opportunities for teachers to attend a seminar.

Currently, the Center is offering five one-day workshops for teachers in the inclusive classroom. *Really Learning! Teaching Learning Disabled Children in the Inclusive Classroom* is being offered in October, November and December. This workshop offers teachers an in-depth

*continued on pg. 4*



*Carmen Mendoza discusses how the mind processes information with a group of parents.*

## Executive Director's Column

Shelly Weisbacher  
Executive Director



Most of our students come to us because they have struggled significantly in traditional classroom settings, and for many they no longer see school as a place where they can achieve success. Our job is not just to teach our students, but also to teach them that they can be successful. With guidance and the benefit of a carefully structured environment, our students' resilience is restored and they again are willing to meet the challenges that come their way. Recent notes from graduates and their families reinforce the importance of the Springer experience.

"I truly benefited from my Springer School experience. Being equipped with so many useful tools in areas far surpassing the academic realm have enriched my capabilities in and out of school," wrote a 1993 grad that is enrolled at Tulane University. From a 1980 grad that is now a police officer, we heard, "I believe Springer gave me the foundation I needed to continue my education, and get me to the point I am right now. Thank you for your help." Wrote the father of a graduate, "My son, a 1983 grad, acknowledges the support of family and friends, but considers the opportunity and guidance from Springer as the key attributes to his academic and business success. He told me that the confidence of the staff that he could overcome his learning disability was a tremendous asset."

Collectively these responses shed light on what a Springer education is all about and its role in our students' future

success. Beyond academic remediation, the Springer experience is about building a foundation of self-understanding, developing multiple tools, and gaining confidence in one's abilities. These are all elements that lead to creating resilience – the capacity and inner strength to deal with the challenges one faces. To achieve these aims, students with learning disabilities must be able to celebrate their strengths while fully understanding their weaknesses. This self-understanding gives an individual control. It allows one to establish goals and seek environments where skills and abilities can be optimized.

---

*...the Springer  
experience is  
about building a  
foundation of  
self-understanding...*

---

Our daily experiences and the reflections of Springer graduates are reinforced by researchers who study resilience and success in adults with learning disabilities. Their findings emphasize how critical it is to nurture resilience, to help students develop strategies for dealing with the multiple challenges they face as a result of their learning disabilities, and to help them discover their strengths. Indeed, it is because we attend to these elements that we achieve our mission to empower students with learning disabilities to lead successful lives.

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

#### *President*

Paul F. Wenker

#### *Vice President*

Elizabeth Schar

#### *Treasurer*

Stephen T. MacConnell

#### *Secretary*

Sarah O. Steinman, PhD

Edward V. Arbaugh III

Richard J. Blum

A. K. Carey, PhD

Janice C. Cook

Thomas G. DeWitt, MD

Scott N. Degerberg

Andrew C. Eustis, PhD

Charles H. Gerhardt, III

Peter D. Gomsak, Jr.

Richard M. Kimbler

Kate Lawrence

Richard P. Meder

Vincent Michels

Melissa L. Murphy

Linda Noble

John Sawyer

John Schlegel

William K. Schubert, MD

Steven Warshaw

W. Russell Wilson

#### **Executive Director**

Shelly Weisbacher

#### **Director of Development**

Donna M. Lynd

*For comments or questions, please call Sue Small at 513.871.6080 ext. 232 or e-mail at [ssmall@springer.hccanet.com](mailto:ssmall@springer.hccanet.com)*

*Springer School and Center does not discriminate against any person in admission, employment, or otherwise because of race, color, religion, national origin, disability, sex or age in violation of existing state or federal law or regulations.*

*Accredited by the Independent Schools Association of the Central States. Member, Ohio Association of Independent Schools.*

# Springer Alumni Update

Call the Alumni Office at 513.871.6080 ext. 232 or send e-mail to [alumni@springer.hccanet.org](mailto:alumni@springer.hccanet.org) with news of Springer alums.

**John Baele '81** is a 1987 graduate of Moeller High School. He earned a bachelors degree in marketing from Xavier University in 1991 and is a sales representative for International Paper. John enjoys running, reading, working out, and the outdoors.



**Jill Botkins '92** is a 1998 graduate of Seton High School and a senior at Wright State University majoring in Early Childhood Education. She works at the Beavercreek YMCA nursery. Jill plans to get a masters degree in special education.



**Corey Buck '87** is a 1994 graduate of Boulder High School. He is finishing his last year at the Denver Institute of Art, Culinary School and working at a five-star restaurant, The Flagstaff in Boulder, Colorado. Corey enjoys gourmet cooking, skiing, hiking and spending time with his five nieces. He plans on spending a year in France after graduation.

**Brie Castellini '84** studied drama at Southern Methodist University and worked in the New England-Connecticut acting circuit. She currently is doing graduate studies in drama at Yale University.

**Cindy Wiggins Cole '82** is a 1992 graduate of Northwest High School. She earned her CDA in childcare from University of Cincinnati. Cindy is married and enjoys spending time with her five-year-old daughter and a new baby.



**John Cook '90** graduated from 1997 Graduate of Wyoming High School in 1997. Currently he is a Corporal in the United States Marines and has trained and served in Australia, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait and Hawaii. John is engaged to be married in April 2002 to Clarissa Schneidt of Cincinnati.



**Molly Dabbelt '96** is a marketing major at Wilmington College and plans to work in the fashion industry.

**Paul Demmy '94** attends the University of Dayton and is majoring in mechanical engineering.

**Selina Derungs '92** graduated from Simsbury High School in Simsbury, Connecticut this past June.



**Preston Dohan '90** is a 1998 Graduate of Summit Country Day School. He is majoring in humanities at the College of Mt. St. Joseph and plans to pursue a master's degree in English.

**Douglas Fassler '83** graduated from Hanover College in 1992 with a bachelor's degree in history. He is a 1988 graduate of Highland High School.



**Heather Gee '94** is a 1998 graduate of McNicholas High School and currently attends Northern Kentucky University. Heather enjoys photography and working with pets.

**Caroline "CeCe" Gehrig '93** graduated this past June from the Seven Hills School where she received the English Department Award. CeCe is attending Loyola University.

**Brandon Hermans '97** is majoring in Eco Tourism at Hocking College. He is a 2001 graduate of McNicholas High School.



**Mike Kamphake '92** is a senior at University of Kentucky where he is a fullback on the football team. He was an All Academic S.E. C. Scholar Athlete in 2000-2001 and was nominated for the All American Strength Team. Mike is a 1997 graduate of Moeller High School. This summer he was an intern with city of Lexington Fire Division.

**Miriam Lipson '93** is attending Tulane University in New Orleans majoring in communications She is a 2000 graduate of Seven Hills School.

**Paige Mezibov Silver '87** is a graduate of Boston University with a bachelors degree in psychology. She currently works with children with severe emotional disabilities in northern Kentucky. Paige married David Silver in December 2000.

*continued on pg. 4*

look at the way all children learn. It provides the classroom teacher with ideas, interventions and strategies that can help make the school environment a place where real learning takes place for all children, whether they have significant learning challenges or not.

*Teaching Social Skills in the Inclusive Classroom* is also being offered twice during the fall. Teachers in the inclusive setting often have difficulty integrating the special needs student into the life of the class due in part to social issues the child may be experiencing. These difficulties are often magnified in a less structured time of the school day, such as lunch, recess and special projects where behaviors may intrude upon the positive aspects of the inclusive environment. Teachers attending the social skills workshop receive a notebook filled with current research, practical strategies and clearly defined lesson plans for incorporating social skills

training into the classroom curriculum.

Center staff can take both of the workshops to groups of professionals in school districts throughout the Cincinnati and Dayton areas. Districts frequently turn to this type of delivery system to educate their faculty on relevant topics such as these. Springer staff can also conduct a follow-up session to evaluate the work in progress and provide further guidance. Winter programming will again offer the *Really Learning! Workshop*, as well as *Early Literacy*, *Intensive Reading Intervention* and a hands-on *Math Workshop*. All programs will address the needs of the inclusive classroom and the struggling population they wish to empower.

### *Parents Invest In Teacher Education*

Last spring Springer Center received a special gift from the family of a graduating student to underwrite a teacher

in-service training at Sacred Heart in Fairfield, their son's elementary school. Skip and Diane Kuhn believe that by helping teachers become more sensitive to the special learning needs of students with learning disabilities, fewer would have to go through painful experiences that often lead to low self esteem. They also feel that early identification of a learning disability is crucial in getting children the direct instruction they need.

By making the teaching staff aware of the challenges facing the inclusive population in their classrooms, the teachers are able to understand how traditional methods of teaching often need to be revised to include a variety of modalities for learning. The teachers at Sacred Heart are to be applauded for their willingness to embrace new ways of thinking and teaching to meet the ever-increasing needs of their student population.



**Adam Morris '91** attends Denison University. He enjoys hiking, reading, and volunteering, which he put to good use for his Eagle Scout project when he took children with disabilities camping. Adam also enjoyed his travels in France this past summer.

**Marc Schworer '80** is a graduate of Covington Catholic High School and the Police Academy at Eastern Kentucky University. He currently works for the Ft. Wright, KY Police Department as an officer. Marc also runs a lawn care service and is a consultant to insurance companies reconstructing auto accidents. His interests include weight lifting, biking, swimming and working in the yard.

**Doug Shellabarger '83** graduated in 1988 from Millbrook High School, Raleigh, North Carolina where he continued his interest in athletics. Doug played on the Springer basketball team in the early 1980s. Doug graduated from the University of North Carolina in 1993 and was recently named sales executive of the quarter with J-Tech, Inc.



**Ashley Warren '95** is a 2000 graduate of Eagle Hill School, Hardwick, Massachusetts. She enjoys volunteering with various community groups while she attends Lynn University in Boca Raton, Florida. Ashley is majoring in liberal arts.

**Joel "Joby" Wesolowski '72** is an employee of Fifth Third Bank in telesales. After graduating from Mt. Healthy High School in 1979 he attended Raymond Walters College. Currently, Joby is working on a degree from University of Cincinnati. In his spare time he enjoys volunteering at the Clovernook Center for the Blind, working out and being involved with his church. Joby also likes to write poetry.

**Thomas Youtsey III '75** earned his bachelors degree in marketing and management from Davis & Elkins College after graduating from the Vanguard School in 1985. He is an insurance agent for Bilz Insurance. Tom is a Cub Scout leader, and coaches baseball and basketball. He served on the Welcome House board.



# Gifts of Stock—Easy as 1, 2, 3

Gifts of appreciated stocks are easy to make to Springer School and Center. Giving long-term appreciated stock offers you a two-fold tax savings. First, you avoid paying any capital gains tax on the increase in the value of your stock. Secondly, you receive a tax deduction for the full fair market value of the stock on the date of the gift.

1. Contact Donna Lynd, Development Director at 513-871-6080 ext. 213 for instructions on a stock transfer.
2. Contact your financial institution with the information and indicate the name and quantity of stock you wish to give to Springer School and Center.
3. Sit back and enjoy the tax benefits with the knowledge that you are helping children with learning disabilities succeed in life.

Example: You purchased stock many years ago for \$1,000. It is now worth \$10,000. An outright gift of that stock to Springer would result in a charitable deduction on itemized IRS returns of \$10,000. In addition, you permanently avoid paying capital gains tax on the \$9,000 of appreciation.

## Memorial & Tribute Gifts

Thank you to the following friends of Springer School and Center who recently made Memorial or Tribute gifts from June 2001 to September 2001.

### Memorials

In memory of Willard Kahn

*Marjorie K. Bender*

In memory of Effie Lazarus

*Rick and Dee Dee Abraham*

In memory of Rose Newburgh

*Leonard and Jane Meranus*

In memory of Pinkey Nichols

*Sibcy Cline Realtors*

In memory of Aliene Ryan

*Bruce H. Allen, M.D.*

In memory of Frederick Ziv

*Bruce H. Allen, M.D.*

### Tributes

In honor of Nathan Bachrach's 50th birthday

*Abby and David Schwartz*

To learn more about Springer School and Center's Memorial and Tribute Gifts Program, please call the Development Office at 513.871.6080 ext. 213.

## Springer Celebrates 30 Years



This academic year marks the 30th anniversary of Springer's commitment to students with learning disabilities. To showcase Springer's accomplishments to the broader community and increase our circle of support, we are planning an anniversary gala for February 9, 2002. The event is a fundraiser for Springer and will include dinner, dancing, a silent auction and a presentation of the Spirit of Springer Award. This award recognizes an individual who has excelled in their profession, has made a significant contribution on behalf of children, either through their work or philanthropy, and who has a learning disability.

Springer's honoree for 2002 is Tom Bacher, a local artist who is recognized internationally and has worked extensively on behalf of the children in our community.

Melody Sawyer Richardson, a Cincinnati arts patron and president of the board of the Cincinnati Ballet, is serving as honorary chair. Bill and Linda Lovett, current parents, and Rick and Debbie Blum, alumni parents, are serving as general co-chairs.

Chairing events of the evening are:

### Corporate Underwriting

Rick Blum and Springer Trustees

### Silent Auction

Tami Blowers and Cathy Hassett

### Reservations/parent ticket sales

Cynthia and John Bismayer, MD

### Decorations

Nancy Johannigman

### Mailings

Julie and Roger Baldwin

### Set up/tear down

Pat and Mark Stiebel

### Coffee and Dessert stations

Joyce Horn, MD and Jerry Tasset, MD

### Bars

Lynn Harkness

Proceeds from the evening will be used to enhance programming and facilities and a portion of the funds will provide seed money for after school arts programming that includes art, music, drama, movement, and dance.

We invite you to get involved in our celebration by donating an item for the silent auction, adding names to the invitation list, acting as host or hostess for the evening or securing corporate sponsors to help underwrite the cost of the event. Call the development office at 513.871.6080 ext. 232 and let us know how you can help.

# Celebrating Springer Staff

Teaching is a celebration for Kris Courtney, Intermediate Green teacher. While she “likes it all,” Kris believes the best part about teaching is seeing the “light bulb go on” when a child comprehends a concept she is teaching.

Kris began teaching in a traditional fourth grade classroom in the early 1960s. She found that she most enjoyed working with students who were struggling to learn. After taking a twelve year hiatus to raise a family, Kris went back to teaching when learning disabilities was a new area of focus in education. “There was a huge demand for learning disabilities teachers at the time.”

The recognition of learning disabilities and the need to tailor teaching styles to each student’s need has been both

a challenge and yet, very rewarding for Kris in her more than eighteen year teaching career. She noted some changes that she has seen in working with learning disabilities. “We began tutoring students one-on-one or in groups of three in a traditional school. From there I worked in a resource room and then to Springer, which is totally focused on students with learning disabilities. Today the focus in traditional classrooms is on inclusion – doing team teaching and including all students in the classroom.”

As she begins her fifteenth year at Springer School and Center, Kris finds it a great place to work. The staff is close and well cared for by the board, the parents and the administration. And Springer parents are true partners in their children’s education.

“One of my fondest memories is my first week at Springer. I had a young lady with organizational problems and I thought that she would need three desks for me to work with her. How am I going to do it all? But by the end of the day, I had a motor therapist in my room asking how she could help. That’s the kind of place Springer is.”

Kris has found Springer a great place to work and to teach. She enjoys celebrating the discoveries that students make about themselves and their ability to learn. She takes joy in seeing her former students come back to Springer and discover that they still feel good about themselves and are continuing to reach the goals they have set.



*Kris Courtney leads a discussion in her classroom*

# Reuben Springer Society Members Meet Bengal's Coach

On September 6, members of Springer's Reuben Springer Society enjoyed a behind the scenes tour of Paul Brown Stadium. The event, which was hosted by Springer trustee John Sawyer, was a "thank you" to donors who made leadership gifts to the 2000-2001 Annual Fund.

The highlight of the evening was a speech by Bengal's Coach Dick LeBeau who charmed the audience by thanking them for their work on behalf of the children in our community. He then gave a scenario of a typical week for a football player during the regular season.

Everyone had a great time and wondered aloud to staff how we could ever top this event.



*John Sawyer introduces long-time friend, Bengals' coach, Dick LeBeau.*



*Trustees Elizabeth Schar and John Sawyer chat with Tom Leugers, current parent.*



*Donors get a bird's eye view of stadium.*



*Donors get an insiders view of the Bengals' locker room.*

2121 Madison Road  
Cincinnati, Ohio 45208

**Address Service Requested**

*Parents of grads: If this publication is addressed to your son or daughter who no longer maintains a permanent address at your home, please notify the alumni office of his/her new mailing address.*

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

## Parent Volunteers Make a Difference in the Annual Fund

Springer staff and volunteers launched the 2001-2002 Annual Fund campaign on September 27 and 28 with an orientation for 25 parent volunteers who made follow up phone calls through October to current and alumni parents.

“The phone calls that parent volunteers made last year nearly tripled the current parent campaign. We learned once again that the personal touch makes all the difference in raising money for Springer,” said Tom Leugers, annual fund chair.

The goal for this year’s campaign is \$275,000, a fifteen percent increase over the previous year. The money raised will be used for financial aid, for teacher training at Springer Center, and to close the gap between tuition and operating expenses. We are most appreciative of the following individuals who were instrumental in the planning and the execution of the campaign.

<i>Honorary Chair</i>	Tim Jabin	Lin Isaacs
Donald L. Neyer	Norm Lobins	Bill Meiman
<i>Annual Fund Chair</i>	Joy Loewenstine	Mary Ann Mulcahey
Tom Leugers	Marilyn Martin	Julie Rugh
<i>Current Parent Chair</i>	Keith Pryse	Mary Ann Tiemeier
Lydia & Vince Michels	<i>Alumni Parent Chair</i>	<i>Annual Fund Committee</i>
<i>Current Parent Callers</i>	Skip & Diane Kuhn	Rick Blum
Cynthia Bismayer	<i>Alumni Callers</i>	Tom Leugers
Jack Brown	Terri Babey	John Sawyer
Hallie Goldcamp	Tim Boesken	<i>Development</i>
Maureen Flanagan	Jeff Doyle	<i>Committee Chair</i>
Ed Harness	Mary Fehrenbacher	Elizabeth Schar



Planning for the kick-off of the Annual Fund is from left to right: Elizabeth Schar, Vince Michels, Diane Kuhn, John Sawyer, and Tom Leugers.