



New Trustees Join Springer's Board

Springer School and Center is pleased to welcome the following new Trustees to the Board:



The Honorable Sylvia Sieve Hendon

The Honorable Sylvia Sieve Hendon is the senior judge in the Hamilton County Juvenile Court. She has served as a judge in the Juvenile Court since 1993 and prior to that in the Hamilton County Municipal Court. Judge Hendon has had numerous professional affiliations and board roles. She is president-elect and treasurer of the

Ohio Association of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, and a trustee of the Cincinnati Bar Association board. She also serves on the University Hospital board and was the 2000 Ursaline Academy "Woman of the Year."



Dr. E. Joseph Lee, II

Dr. E. Joseph Lee II is President of Thomas Moore College. Prior to joining Thomas Moore in 2001, Dr. Lee was the Vice President for Student Life at the Manhattan College in New York City. Dr. Lee is a member of numerous

Fall 2002

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professional associations including The Council of Independent Kentucky Colleges and Universities and the Greater Cincinnati Consortium of Colleges and Universities. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Dan Beard Council of the Boy Scouts of America and the board of the Northern Kentucky Chamber of Commerce.

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Annual Fund Drive Kicks Off

The 2002-2003 Annual Fund campaign kicked off in October. Tom Leugers, a Springer parent, is chairing the campaign for the second year.

"We are very excited about the launch of this year's Annual Fund Campaign. The enthusiastic response from volunteers, both current and alumni parents as well

as other supporters, is particularly gratifying as we begin this very important fundraising effort. We're confident that our donors will again support the wonderful work that the Springer staff affords on behalf of our children," Tom said.

The goal for this year's campaign is \$ 240,000. The funds will be used to

continue development of center programs for parents, children, and teachers and to provide financial aid. Twenty-five percent of Springer families are receiving tuition assistance totaling \$447,000 for this academic year.

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Executive Director's Column



Shelly Weisbacher
Executive Director

"Iz yuor kib trying to tel you sumthing?" recently appeared in pencil smudged lettering across the top half of a full page advertisement in the New York Times. The bottom portion of the ad stated that trouble learning to read and write could be signs of learning disabilities, and that if you see these signs in your child you should seek help immediately.

4 in 10 parents thought their child may be experiencing difficulty in learning but almost half of the parents waited for their child to exhibit these signs for a year or more before seeking help.

The ad sponsored by the Coordinated Campaign for Learning Disabilities (CCLD), a coalition representing 7 national learning disabilities organizations and the Ad Council may seem to deliver an obvious message. However, nationally conducted research and our own market study paint a very different picture.

In 1999, a national poll sponsored by CCLD revealed that 4 in 10 parents thought their child may be experiencing difficulty in learning but almost half of the parents waited for their child to exhibit these signs for a year or more before seeking help. Further, many parents felt that having their child 'labeled

as learning disabled' is more harmful than struggling privately with an undiagnosed learning disability.

Focus groups conducted in 2001 on Springer's behalf uncovered similar thinking, so much so that it became apparent if we wanted to help children, we first needed to find a way to help parents cross the threshold themselves. The parents in the focus groups talked about their reluctance to come to workshops at the center because they felt they would be admitting that their child had a learning disability, something they were not ready to do. These parents were holding on to the hope that the problems their children were experiencing would disappear. After all, family members, teachers and friends supported this notion with anecdotal tales of children who seemingly outgrew their learning difficulties.

The challenge before us is great. Research conducted during the last decade makes clear the need for early intervention. And, we have the tools to identify children at risk for reading failure and other learning difficulties as they begin their formal schooling. Yet we continue to battle a 'wait and see' mindset.

CCLD is working at a national level to change people's mindset about learning disabilities and there have been some measurable improvements, but there is still much to be done. Most parents, according to CCLD's research, are inclined to talk with teachers and their children's pediatricians but CCLD finds that too few of these professionals have a working knowledge of learning issues.

At the center, we are concentrating our efforts on educating local professionals so that they are able to recognize and address learning disabilities, and assist parents in seeking appropriate interven-

tions for their children. This fall, hundreds of educators have participated in the center's professional development sessions. We also continue our outreach to parents by providing information and classes to help them better understand their children who are struggling in school.

You, too, can play a role...by encouraging parents who express concern about their child's learning to seek help immediately.

Changing public mindset is hard work. We know that children with learning disabilities can succeed but they must get the help they need. And, they will only get this help if their problems are identified. You, too, can play a role in this important work by helping to dispel the myths that children will outgrow their learning problems; by sharing your personal experiences; and by encouraging parents who express concern about their child's learning to seek help immediately.

News and Views is published three times a year. For comments or questions, please call Kim LaChance at 513.871.6080 ext. 228 or e-mail at klchance@springer.hccanet.org.

Springer School and Center does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion or ethnic origin.

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Springer Alumni Update

Call 513.871.6080 ext. 213 or send e-mail to alumni@springer.hccanet.org with news of Springer alums.



Lee Fjord '98 graduated from Mariemont High School in the spring of 2002.

Keith Gormley '93 is a 1997 graduate of Covington Catholic High School. Presently, Keith is attending the University of Kentucky. He is scheduled to graduate in December 2002 with degrees in Business Management and Marketing.

Emily Moorhead '97 entered the 11th grade this fall at Mariemont High School. In her time at Mariemont, she has served on a leadership council team as well as being a class officer. She also participated in the Art, Spirit, and Environmental Clubs. In the 9th & 10th grades, she received the Warrior Award for Track & Cross Country. This award is given to the student athlete who shows leadership within the team, a commitment to her sport, and sportsmanship. She has also received recognition on the Merit Roll & Honor Roll for carrying a 3.8 or higher G.P.A. Emily has taught Sunday School for younger children during the last two years, and this year, she was hired to develop and teach the summer Sunday program for K-13 year old church classes at her church.



John Frank '85 (a Springer Outstanding Achiever Award recipient) graduated from Yale University in 1999 and has completed one year of his Ph.D. program. Currently, he is on a leave of absence from the program and is running a computer software firm.

Christopher Ollier '90 graduated from the College of Mt. St. Joseph with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications. He enjoys writing, poetry, painting, and music.

Katie (Connelly) Hogg '91 is a 1996 Sycamore High School graduate. She is married and has a son.

Jim Damico '88 received his undergraduate degree from Purdue University in Solid Earth Science (geology) and is working on a Master's Degree from Wright State in Hydrogeology. Jim graduated from Purdue with a 3.6 grade point average and maintains a 3.85 at Wright State. At Purdue, he also received an Exxon/Mobil Oil scholarship and worked as an undergrad research assistant.

Lee Ann Cliffe '90 graduated from Mercy High School in 1994 and then attended the English Nanny & Governess School in Chagrin Falls, Ohio where she was certified as a professional nanny.



George Myatt '01 is an eighth grader at Cincinnati Country Day School. He enjoys swimming, tennis, and soccer. He also volunteers at Stepping Stones. This past summer, he traveled to France for 10 days and is planning a week long trip to Washington D.C. this school year with CCDS.

Sarah Eustis '97 attends Seven Hills School. This past summer, she was among eight students chosen for a Cincinnati delegation to participate in an exchange program with Sweden through the Children's International Summer Villages.



Robert Lewis '75 spends most of his time in Colorado. He enjoys photography, hiking, traveling, and the symphony.

Rachel Kartal '01 is attending Sycamore Junior High School. In November 2001, Rachel received a "Student of the Week" award. She was also recognized this past February as a "Pride in Excellence" winner for exemplary conduct in the classroom, on the playing field, and in school activities.

Brian Heibert '88 earned a Personal Computer Specialist certificate from Michigan Career & Technical Institute in 1997. He lives in Lafayette, Indiana where he works for The Lafayette Life Insurance Company.

Welcome New Assistant Director for Student Services

Heidi Sullivan, MSSW, LSW joins us as the Assistant Director for Student Services. This newly created position is designed to increase our emphasis on social skill development and opportunities for social interaction. The primary responsibilities of this full time position include: working with students and parents regarding social and behavioral issues; serving as a resource to instructional staff in their work with students on these issues; planning and implementing social skill training for all students at Springer; supporting parents through individual interactions and parent education

programming; and coordinating the school's after school programs.

Ms. Sullivan has begun co-facilitating social skills groups in the Intermediate Department with Dr. Tony Barone; working with Primary students at recess on social skills such as initiating play; and meeting with Upper School girls to explore topics for social skills groups.

An important component of this new role will be to develop after school programs for our students. A portion of the funds from last year's 30th Anniversary Gala will provide seed money for the after school arts programming that will include art, music, drama, movement,

and dance. "My goal is that these activities will afford the children opportunities to develop artistically and to refine their social skills while also encouraging development in the areas of problem solving and initiating peer relationships," comments Ms. Sullivan.

The addition of this new position will allow us to better achieve our core values: Student Growth and Development; Staff Expertise and Development; Partnership; Communication; and Stability, and we believe will significantly strengthen each child's experience at Springer.



Heidi Sullivan working with Primary students at recess

Memorial & Tribute Gifts

Thank you to the following friends of Springer School and Center who made Memorial or Tribute gifts from July 2002 to September 2002.

Memorials

In memory of Emil Brinksneider

Liz Wenker

In memory of Thelma Cleek

*Carla Belcher, Gary and
Debbie Gibbs*

In memory of Kenzie Comisar

Ken and Norita Aplin

In memory of Tatiana De Cavel

Bruce H. Allen, M.D.

In memory of Mary L. Finn

Russ and Julie Wilson

In memory of Mrs. Ernest Frankel

Bruce H. Allen, M.D.

In memory of Philip Harten

*Butch Brougham, Yvonne
Fryberger, Ilze Genovese,
Pat Kuntz, and Roz Parrish*

In memory of Danielle Hater

Ken and Norita Aplin

In memory of Joann Hoffman

Shirley Allen

In memory of Aaron Horwitz

Bruce H. Allen, M.D.

In memory of Father Lindsey

Ken and Norita Aplin

In memory of Randy North

Bernie and Cheryl Blau

In memory of Kathryn Weichert

Liz Wenker

In memory of Inge Weisbacher

*Lorraine M. Anzinger, Ken and
Norita Aplin, Russ and Dottie
Auten, Paul and Sue Belanger,
Mrs. Robert Bergstein, Carpetland
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Distributors, Jim Clark and

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Eulanda Contois, Mike and
Lominda Desmier, Alice J. Dewald,
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Donna Dinkelaker-Compton
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Patti Misrach, George and Mary
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and Dr. Sue Weinstein, Bob and
Paula Ott, Bert and Ruth Pleatman,
Hal and Marianne Pressman,
Randy and Michelle Sandler, Mark
and Elizabeth Schar, Rolf and
Roselyn Schickler, Dr. Harold and
Mary Schneider, Melvin and Zelma
Schulman, Stephen and Ann
Shapiro, Dr. Richard and Alicia
Sparks, Springer Staff, Jeff and
Diana Stewart, Mr. and Mrs.
Charles H. Tobias, Jr., Tom and
Dr. Barbara Tobias, Debora
Weisbacher, Barbara Weisenberg,
Russ and Julie Wilson, Joe Wiman
and Dr. Carolyn McCabe, Ricky L.
Wooton*

Tributes

In Honor of Momi Bolan's Birthday

Michael and Mary Clauder

Springer Students Shine at Hyde Park Art Show

Under the guidance of art teacher, Corrinne Thaler, 17 Springer students entered artwork in this year's Hyde Park Art Show held on Sunday, October 6th. Tony Slavinski and Josh Howard received Honorable Mentions for their entries. Artwork from the show was displayed at the Hyde Park Library and at the school. Congratulations to all participants!

Andrew Armor

Hailey Hushak

Elizabeth Bible

Benjamin Morris

Eleni Burns

Jeffrey Pilger

Barbara Carnes

Tony Slavinski

Ava Chaney

Jasmine Smith

Trent Coffin

Ben Sweeney

Josh Cummins

Ellen Weckenbrock

Josh Howard

Lex Weigand

Maranda Hughes

*Congratulations
to all
participants!*



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.

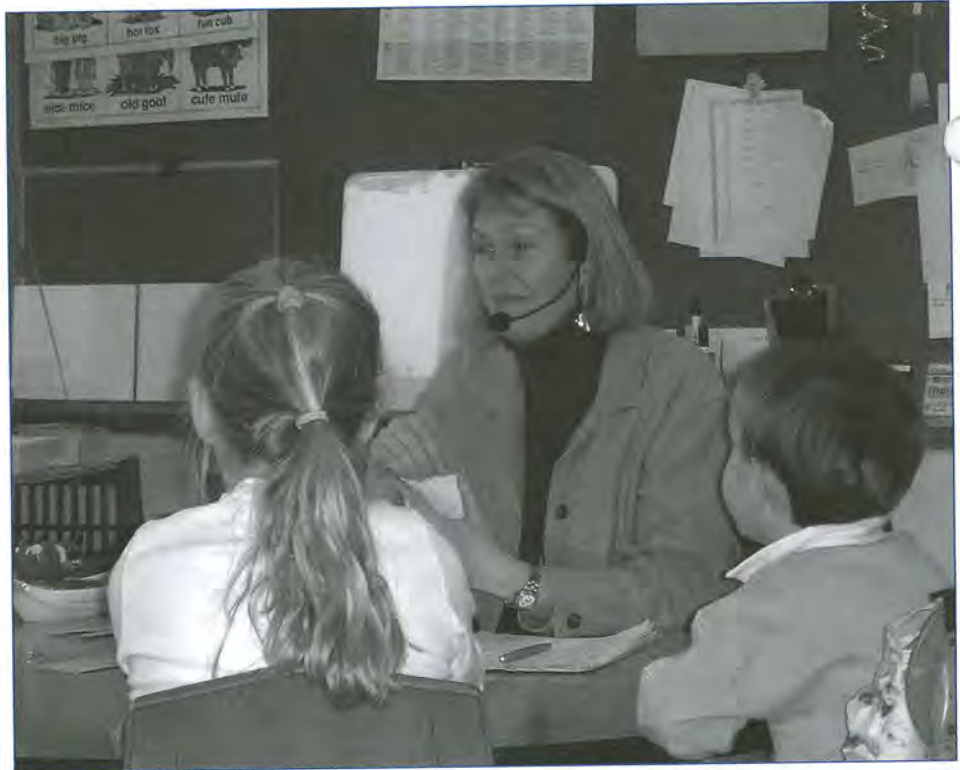
Technology Tools Enhance Learning

Kurzweil 3000, a computer program, allows teachers to scan virtually any printed material. Scanned information is then read back to students and displayed on the screen offering a multisensory approach to reading by providing both visual and auditory feedback to students.

This program enhances a student's reading rate and comprehension, and can increase the length of time that attention to reading can be sustained. It can also make reading less stressful and less tiring. The dictionary, synonyms, syllables, and spell features of the Kurzweil program also aid in reading comprehension, word decoding, and writing tasks.

Springer School instructional staff attended a full day inservice in August to learn more about the Kurzweil program. Scott Marsillius, from HumanWare, Inc., presented the workshop. He has an extensive background in special education and assistive technology. Scott shared with Springer teachers an experience he had working with two high school students who had trouble with reading. After seeing how Kurzweil worked, the students realized going to college was a possibility for them because they would have the support they needed with the massive reading requirements. Springer staff were just as enthusiastic about how this program could help our students.

Cari Kelly, an Intermediate Green teacher reports, "I am using the Kurzweil



Fran Cohen uses the FM System during her small reading group

program and the kids love it! It's easy to use and very kid friendly as well. Students have been using it to pre-read their work in reading groups as well as using it in writing. Some students even used it to write vocabulary sentences, using the dictionary and Thesaurus features. It gives students a lot of flexibility in their independent seat work!"

*"I love it!
I often wonder how
I managed before."*

Another assistive tool used in Springer classrooms is the FM System. The FM System is a headset/microphone device worn by a teacher to amplify his or her voice which helps students to be better able to focus on the instruction and/or directions. Fran Cohen, a teacher on the Primary Team, had the following to say about using the FM System:

"I love it! I often wonder how I managed before. It benefits my students in a myriad of ways including all aspects of phonological processing, and it helps students screen out distracting sounds from inside or outside the classroom and allows them to better focus on the teacher's instruction. There is a big difference when using the system, especially during large group instruction."

We are most appreciative of the generous grants we received to support implementation of this technology. Purchase of Kurzweil 3000 was made possible by a grant of \$6,360 from the Jack J. Smith Jr. Charitable Trust, PNC Bank and James S. Wachs, Co-trustees. Use of the FM systems have expanded thanks to the Spaulding Foundation's grant of \$7,350. Additional support for these projects was provided by the Springer Parent Association.



Patrick J. Ward

Patrick J. Ward is the Vice President and Manager for The Not-for-Profit Group of Fifth Third Bank. Prior to joining Fifth Third, he had 26 years of not-for-profit experience in health care including more than 15 years as President and CEO of the Bethesda Foundation. Mr. Ward has served on numerous boards and currently serves on the boards of Japan American Society of Greater Cincinnati, the Mid-America

Chapter of the Association of Healthcare Philanthropy, St. Joseph's Home, and the Urban Health Project. Reflecting on his decision to join Springer's board, Mr. Ward stated, "I have a long-standing interest in education. Springer School and Center is doing exceptional work to meet the special education needs of children who are challenged in the traditional setting."



Thomas J. Westerfield

Thomas J. Westerfield is with Cors & Bassett. His practice focuses on providing counsel to business entities and business owners on legal and strategic matters. In addition, he is a director of Professional Transit Management, Ltd., a company that manages public transit authorities. Mr. Westerfield has a long history of board service. He is currently a trustee of The Huntington Funds and The Huntington, VA Funds. He serves on the board of Cincinnati Works and is secretary of the Good Samaritan Hospital Foundation board.

Annual Fund Drive Kicks Off, continued from pg. 1

We thank the following people for their time in planning and executing the campaign:

Annual Fund Chair
Tom Leugers

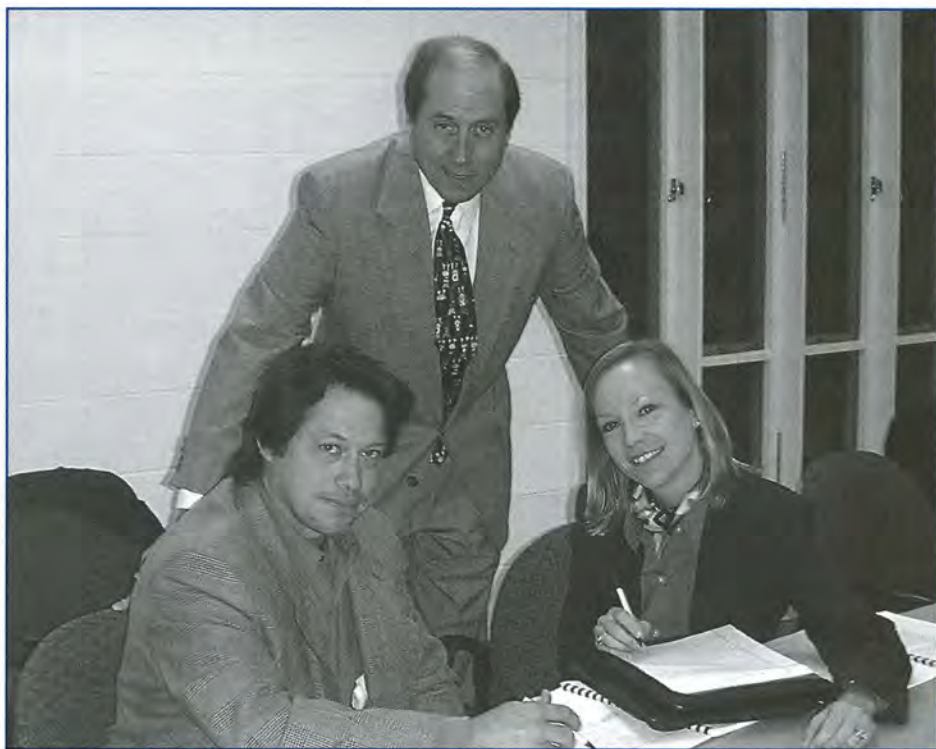
Current Parent Chairs
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Current Parent Callers
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Alumni Parent Callers
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Development Committee Chair
Elizabeth Schar



Tom Leugers, Annual Fund Chair, confers with Vince Michels, Current Parent Chair, and Cathy Sleva, Annual Fund Specialist

Russian Educators Visit Springer

On September 30th, eight Russian educators spent the day at Springer learning strategies to teach students with learning disabilities. The Russian visitors were part of an Open World-Library of Congress program facilitated by the International Visitors Council of Greater Cincinnati.

Eleven Upper School students interviewed the visitors with questions about Russian schools, the weather in Russia, what their families are like, how their government works, foods they eat, and clothes they wear. Two of the students, Daniel Allen and Elizabeth Bible, shared their personal stories and ways they cope with their learning disabilities.



Checking out a gift of Russian coins