



## Springer's Annual Meeting – A Time To Celebrate

The Annual Meeting held May 12 provided a time for reflection and recognition. Paul Wenker, Board President,



Paul Wenker, Board of Trustees  
President

Mary Burdsall, Springer Parent Association President, and Shelly Weisbacher, Executive Director shared their thoughts on the achievements of the past year and recognized the collective efforts of trustees, parents, and staff in realizing these accomplishments. Additionally, Paul and Mary were honored for the leadership they provided in their respective roles during their two year terms.

Paul Wenker offered special thanks and acknowledged the commitment and service of the four retiring trustees.

Charles H. Gerhardt III, completed five years, serving on the Strategic Planning Committee and Committee on Trustees. During his nine years on the board, Peter D. Gomsak, Jr. chaired the Development Committee for six years, expanded our reach into the corporate community by securing numerous event sponsorships, and served on the Committee on Trustees. John Schlegel, served on the Resource Committee, Development Committee, and Facilities Committee during his three years on the board. Dr. William K. Schubert contributed his talents to the board for nine years, serving on the Strategic Planning Committee and the Committee on Trustees.

Sheila Wall, MD, was welcomed to the board. She is a psychiatrist in private practice and parent of two Springer graduates. Board Officers for 2003-2004 were introduced: Elizabeth Schar, President; W. Russell Wilson, Vice President and Treasurer; and John Sawyer, Secretary.

Nine Springer staff members celebrated significant service milestones. Cari Kelly and Kathy McMillin were recognized for five years; Jan Annett, Tony Barone, and Mike Desmier for 10 years; and Robbie Dimling, Mark

## Summer 2003

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Phelps, and Mary Lou Tepe for 15 years. Additionally, Springer recognized and celebrates Terri Moorhead for her 20 years of service to the organization.

To conclude the evening, three graduates were honored with Springer's Outstanding Achiever Award. This award is presented to Springer graduates who have demonstrated leadership through their school work, community or extracurricular activities. Nominees are high school age or older. For profiles on our Outstanding Achievers see page 3.

### Springer Ball Park Bash Best Ever Fundraiser!

**TURN TO PAGE 6 & 7**

## Executive Director's Column

Shelly Weisbacher  
Executive Director



This issue of News and Views is full of celebrations, and indeed it has been a wonderful year. Through the center and the school, we achieved our mission on multiple fronts. Center staff presented professional development workshops onsite and at numerous schools throughout Greater Cincinnati. The programs consistently received excellent evaluations from course participants. One teacher was even overheard telling another, "I always come to Springer to earn continuing education credit. It's the one place I can be sure I will learn things." Parents and students also participated in a variety of programs offered

after school and on the weekends. And, twice we welcomed Russian educators through the International Visitors Council for a day of training and classroom observation.

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At the school, students embraced the Kurzweil Reader 3000, a computer program that reads text aloud and Kidspiration, another software program that allows students to create visual displays of the information they are learning.

After school activities were expanded to eleven offerings from Tae Kwon Do and Lego Mindstorm, a computer and lego construction project to drama and art classes. Our students reached out to the broader community as well. The Everybody Counts Ambassadors visited nine elementary schools to talk about learning disabilities and through a student council initiative, the children raised \$500.00 for children in Ghana, West Africa.

Most importantly though are the individual successes we celebrated at the school and the center: a student mastering a skill; a friendship blossoming for a child who struggles socially; a parent coming to understand her child's attentional difficulties; or a mainstream teacher realizing that her student's writing difficulties are indeed real and not simply the result of poor effort.

While school may not be in session again until late August, our classrooms will fill with children who join us for our summer programs, with parents attending workshops, and with mainstream teachers who attend our week long seminars. And so, this very important work of empowering students with learning disabilities to lead successful lives continues in its yearly cycle.

## Examining The Complex Process of Learning With Dr. Mel Levine

On May 5 and May 6, Springer School and Center and The Family Resource Center at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center were pleased to sponsor presentations by Dr. Mel Levine, founder of *All Kinds of Minds*, a nonprofit institute for the study of differences in learning.

The seminars provided members of the Springer community as well as the larger Greater Cincinnati community with vital information about effective ways to enhance a child's stronger abilities while accommodating and supporting their difficulties in the learning process. Five hundred-eighty people attended the "All Kinds of Minds" parent presentation, and over



Shelly Weisbacher, Executive Director,  
Dr. Mel Levine, and Barbara Hunter,  
Center Director

100 area educators joined Springer faculty for the "Ways with Words: The Language of Language" professional seminar.

*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 [klachance@springer.hccanet.org](mailto:klachance@springer.hccanet.org).*

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## Springer's 2003 Outstanding Achievers



**Chip Pratt '96** has served the Anderson Township community for five years as an Explorer/Cadet with the Anderson Township Fire Department. In May 2000, he received his Eagle Scout award for initiating and organizing the refurbishing of the sorely neglected Hillcrest Cemetery, a predominately African American cemetery with many veterans and their families buried there. He was recognized by local media for his efforts to restore this important land and its heritage and was nominated as Anderson Citizen of the Year. Chip currently serves as scout master for Troop 124 in Anderson Township. He attended Cincinnati State and represented the college as a student ambassador. This summer he is transferring to the University of Cincinnati. Chip's career goal is to be in law enforcement.



**Dan Frey '86** works as Vice President of Foxfire Properties. He is highly respected in the construction industry for his technical expertise and "on the job" leadership. He was elected to and is currently serving on the Board of Direc-

tors of the Home Builders Association of Greater Cincinnati, and cochairs the Membership Committee of the Home Builders Association. Dan volunteers for the Starfire Council of Cincinnati, an organization that enables persons with disabilities to develop their full potential through service to the community, informal education, and social interaction. Dan also cochaired a fundraising event for the Starfire Council.



**Pam Rockenfield '93** involves herself as a docent for the Contemporary Art Center, and in September 2002, served as docent and host for the Ameri-

can Artist Guild black tie gala at the Cincinnati Club. At the request of the Cincinnati Art Museum and UC Art History professor, Dr. Leininger-Miller, Pam presented a lecture at the Student Guest Lecture Series in the summer of 2001. Pam is a graduate of the College of Design, Architecture, Art & Planning at the University of Cincinnati. She also serves on the Student Alumni Council for the College of Design, Architecture, Art & Planning and as an advocate for the Annual Cancer Gala which benefits research for cancer studies. Pam plans to continue her education and earn a master's degree in arts education. Ultimately, she hopes to use her talents as an art educator in a museum setting.

Congratulations to all three of these fine young adults on their accomplishments!

## Bike Hike – Fun & Prosperous!

The Springer Parent Association (SPA) hosted the annual Bike Hike and Family Picnic at Sharon Woods on Sunday, May 4. Students, parents, and staff all had a great time while raising over \$9,000 for student enrichment at Springer School and Center.

"The importance of this fundraiser," said Bike Hike Chair, Mariana Harness, "is that the money raised goes back to the school and the children it serves. And, more importantly, because the children participate in and contribute to this fundraiser, it gives them a sense of pride in their school and themselves." To raise money, students obtained sponsors who made donations for their efforts at biking, hiking, or roller



*Face painting was a big hit at the Bike Hike!*

skating/blading around the 2.7 mile trail.

Supporters of this year's event included Kroger, Target, T.C. Sferra/Body Masters, the Kahmann Family, the Stegman Family, Gold Star, and Marx Bagels.

A special thank you to all of the volunteers, parents, and students who generously supported this year's Bike Hike!

# Springer Students Benefit From Arts & Literature Programs

Springer students recently explored forms of art, music, and literature under the guidance of community professionals. These enrichment opportunities are offered during the school year through the Maureen Wenker Artist In Residence program, the Norita Aplin Musician In Residence program, and sponsorship for the Visiting Author program from the Springer Parent Association.



Visiting Author, Andrea Cheng with students, Cory Schuler and Luke Hickey.

The Maureen Wenker Artist In Residence program brings a local artist to the school to do hands-on learning with our students. Our featured artist this year was Mr. Greg Seigel of Seigel Pottery. Greg began making pottery in Cincinnati about 30 years ago. He uses blends of local and regional clays to form his work. The pieces are then fired in either a gas-fired or wood-fired kiln to a temperature of approximately 2,500 degrees. The unpredictable firings (especially in the wood kiln with its bizarre flame patterns) cause variations in the glaze finish. All Seigel pottery pieces are one-of-a-kind and individually formed, giving each piece a unique character.

While this residency is a whole school experience, 15 of our Upper School students worked with Greg to create a mosaic mural. The mural depicts

Cincinnati's riverfront and the finished product is on display in the school's 1st floor hallway.

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The Artist In Residence program is made possible through a fund created in memory of Maureen Wenker, mother of three Springer graduates.



Geoff Lovett paints mosaic pieces for Artist In Residence project.

We were pleased to have Mr. Jim McCutcheon join us this year as our Norita Aplin Musician In Residence. Jim is a classical guitarist whose styles include classical, international, blues, renaissance, folk, ragtime, popular, and original music. He is listed on the Ohio Arts Council Touring Roster and has been the featured performer of concert series, summer outdoor series and with orchestras. Jim has made five solo recordings, his latest recordings feature

music for children and demonstrate many different fretted instruments.



Musician Resident, Jim McCutcheon works with Intermediate Blue students.

Every Springer student had a chance to work with Jim, and two core groups of Intermediate students did additional work with him in preparation for joining him in an all school performance held April 28.

Springer's Musician In Residence program was inspired by former Executive Director, Dr. Norita Aplin.

Local author, Ms. Andrea Cheng visited Springer on May 2 as part of the Springer Parent Association's (SPA) Visiting Author program. Andrea shared her experiences and the challenges of writing books. She has written four picture books intended for grades 1-3 (*Grandfather Counts*; *When the Bees Fly Home*; *Anna the Bookbinder*; and *Goldfish and Chrysanthemums*), a novel for grades 3-6 (*The Key Collection*), and a novel for grades 7-12 (*Marika*). In addition to writing, Andrea teaches English as a Second Language in Cincinnati where she lives with her husband and three children. She is the daughter of Hungarian immigrants and grew up among extended family members who survived the Holocaust. *Marika* is loosely based on her mother's story.

# Springer Parent Association Has a Busy and Successful Year

*Reflections on the year by retiring SPA President, Mary Burdsall*

All the support given this year has made my position as Springer Parent Association President truly an honor. Incredible team work has been done by SPA for Springer students. Our fundraisers are great examples of the unbelievable support from volunteers, parents, and staff, with gross proceeds totaling \$22,350.00. This money will benefit students next year in many different ways.

*Thanks to all for a dynamic year!*

A sampling of the programs we sponsored since last fall include our Drum Circle and Ice Cream Social, and the after school Lego Mind Storm Robotics program. We held a Used Book Exchange and sponsored Visiting Author, Andrea Cheng who talked with students about book writing. Additionally, we sold SCRIP certificates, Spirit Wear, and hosted the Holiday Secret Shop. We served Order Out Day lunches that the kids (and staff) appreciated, and coordinated desserts and drinks for many evening events such as the All School Quest. In appreciation of our terrific Springer staff, we provided a week of lunches with special dishes from our parents in the spring, and a Lazarus gift

certificate to each person for the winter holidays. To wrap up the year, students, families, and staff enjoyed the Bike Hike and Family Picnic in which many people played a part.

There are so many ways that SPA has been an integral part of Springer, and we can reflect with pride on our accomplishments. Our success would not be possible, however, without the fabulous support of our volunteers, program officers, families, and Springer staff and trustees. Thanks to all for a dynamic year!

## 2002-03 SPA Officers

**President:** *Mary Burdsall*

**Past President:** *Linda Lovett*

**Vice President, Classroom**

**Programs:** *Dianne Wade*

**Vice President, Fundraising:**

*Mariana Harness*

**Vice President, School-wide**

**Programs:** *Betsy Wones*

**Treasurer:** *Barbara Sander*

**Recording Secretary:**

*Joy Loewenstine*

## Memorial & Tribute Gifts

Thank you to the following friends of Springer School and Center who made Memorial or Tribute gifts from March 2003 to May 2003.

### *Memorials*

In memory of Erin Rose Brennen  
*Mr. and Mrs. Bernard J. Blau*

In memory of Betsy Callaham  
*Tony and Marla Barone*

In memory of Dr. Irvin Dunsky  
*Bruce H. Allen, M.D.*

In memory of Willard Kahn  
*Mrs. Marjorie Bender*

In memory of Stephen Kurlansky  
*Bruce H. Allen, M.D.*

In memory of George William Oetjen  
*Ken and Shelly Weisbacher*

In memory of James G. Parry  
*William H. Schneebeck*

In memory of Sallie Payne  
*Donna McLay*

In memory of Nancy P. Schneebeck  
*William H. Schneebeck*

In memory of W. W. Schneebeck  
*William H. Schneebeck*

In memory of Elizabeth Snow  
*Mr. and Mrs. Jim Gangloff,  
Ms. Marjorie L. Howes,  
Chuck and Janet Meyer,  
Mr. and Mrs. Carl E. Pratt,  
Ms. Dorothy Ruby, and  
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Schuster*

In memory of Dr. Thomas Weldon  
*Russ and Julie Wilson*

### *Tributes*

In honor of George Fischer  
*Mrs. Shirley Allen*

In honor of Chip Pratt  
*Mr. and Mrs. Carl E. Pratt*

In honor of John Schar  
*Ms. Elizabeth C. Davies*

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.



Captions clockwise from above: Vince Michels, Lydia Michels, Jeanine Hill, Casey Hill, Mark Stallings, Pete Michels, Minda Michels, and Paul Michels; Jack Cassidy and Mike McGraw; Ann Robinson and Patty Carew-Lufkin; Elizabeth Schar and Dick Meder; Bill Toebben, Judy Toebben, Diane Seiter, Tom Seiter, Scott Schilling, Susan Huff Schilling, Geoff Egbers, and Rose Egbers; Jim Katsanis, Claire Katsanis, and Julie Wilson; Steve Sander, Mary Burdsall, Barbara Sander, and Cindy Youtsey.

## Benefactors

American Financial Group, Inc.  
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SEC Stand Energy Corporation  
Strategic Employment Benefit Services





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## Springer Track Team Runs Into A Great Season!

Thirty-nine students made up Springer's track team this year. Competitive events at five different track meets included running 50m, 75m, 100m and 200m races, throwing in the shot-put event, and long jumps.

Despite a wet and dreary weekend, track team members felt good about their participation at the CYO City Championship track meet held May 17 and May 18. Students from area schools competed in heats for different events, and the top six finishers for each event went on to compete in the finals. Springer's team finished 2nd in the city! Additionally, the team placed 2nd and received a trophy at the St. Catherine Invitational meet held earlier in May. Congratulations to all students and coaches, Mark Phelps, Cari Kelly, Nikki Sullivan, Laurie Herman, and Tara Cunningham for a successful and fun season!



Captions clockwise from top left:  
Robbie Stroehlein throws in the shotput event; After the races; Teddy Burdsall coming in 1st in his heat; Boys from 5th & 6th grade division.





# Class of 2003



Our mission to empower students with learning disabilities is reflected in the faces of our Class of 2003. Our students have worked hard to embrace new ways of dealing with their learning issues. In partnership with Springer staff and their families, they have integrated the academic, emotional, social, and life skills necessary for the transition to mainstream classrooms. They have also developed the skills to become advocates in their own learning process. We celebrate their success!

**Daniel Allen**  
**Andrew T. Armor**  
**Brady Jameson Basham**  
**Elizabeth Joan Bible**  
**William Jonathan Bismayer**  
**Ngomakubwa Bowman**  
**Meredith E. Brown**  
**Jeremiah R. Coleman**  
**Ryan B. Dougherty**  
**Steven Duncan**  
**Justin M. Forg**  
**John Ganim**  
**Katherine Megan Goldcamp**  
**Jason Phillip Harris**  
**Alison Ann Hessling**  
**Mitchell Joseph Hodge**  
**Maranda Hughes**  
**Craig Smith Leugers**

**Sean Lobins**  
**Geoffrey R. Lovett**  
**Myles J. Mattingly**  
**Jimmy Meinking**  
**Tess Marie Pendery**  
**Trey Phipps**  
**Luke Prather**  
**Alexander Reitz**  
**Andrew Michael Snell**  
**Margaret Kathryn Stone**  
**Jerry Stuckey**  
**Claire Carter Tipton**  
**Brooke Andrea Trindle**  
**Charles Wolff**  
**Robert James Yingling, III**

## Bolan Scholarship Awards

Elizabeth Bible and Ngomakubwa Bowman, both students in the Upper School, were named the 2003 Bolan Scholarship Award recipients. The award recognizes graduating students who demonstrate an understanding of their learning disability, apply the strategies learned at Springer, display a positive attitude, demonstrate leadership, and show concern for others. The award provides each graduate with a scholarship to offset future educational costs.

## Spirit Awards

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 as learners and as individuals. Congratulations to all those chosen!

Joey Adler	Zamarria James
Demarcus Banks	Clay Kemper
Colin Barrett	Russ Magoteaux
Brady Basham	Kevin Petit
Ngomakubwa Bowman	Alex Roebken
Nathan Gushulak	Liz Scherzinger
Brian High	Sam Schneider
Hailey Hushak	Jessica Schoen
	Lex Weigand

*Congratulations  
to all  
those chosen!*



*Ngomakubwa Bowman  
& Elizabeth Bible*

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.