

news & views

disabilities to lead successful lives

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Board President, Elizabeth Schar with retiring trustees (I to r) Steve MacConnell, Paul Wenker, and Ed Arbaugh (not pictured - Sarah Steinman)

EVERY YEAR, SPRINGER CELEBRATES ITS past and unveils its future at the Annual Meeting. At this year's meeting, held May 10th, Board President Elizabeth Schar, Springer Parent Association President Ann Robinson, and Executive Director Shelly Weisbacher reflected on the accomplishments of Springer trustees, parents, and staff as they collaborated throughout the year to ensure a successful achievement of Springer's mission.

Recognition was given for their dedication and support to four retiring trustees. Edward V. Arbaugh, III completed his nineyear term, serving on the Finance Committee, Personnel Committee, Executive Search, Committee on Trustees, Development Committee, and the Resource Committee. Ed also acted as Chair for the Here's To Henry event. During his six years on the Board, Stephen T. MacConnell participated on the Resource Management Committee and the Committee on Trustees, chaired the Resource Committee, and acted as Treasurer of the Board of Trustees for three years. Sarah O. Steinman served as Secretary of the Board of Trustees for six of her nine years on the Board. She also chaired the Comittee of Trustees and the Education Committee, and served on the Ad Hoc Committee, Personnel Committee, Committee on Communication with Constituencies, and the Strategic Planning

Springer's Annual Meeting A SPECIAL EVENING

Committee. **Paul F. Wenker** served as Board President from 2001 to 2003, and for two years prior to that as Vice President of the Board. Additionally, during his nine year term, he served on the Education Committee, Facilities Committee, and Resources Committee, and was Chair for the Strategic Planning Committee.

Three new members were welcomed to the Board of Trustees. Robert E. Rich is an attorney for Taft, Stettinius, and Hollister and is the parent of a Springer graduate.

Laura S. Petrie, J.D. is the Senior Vice

President of Trust and Estate Services for Provident Bank. Tom Leugers is Vice President of Investments for UBS Paine Webber, Inc., has chaired Springer's Annual Fund





Campaign, and is the parent of a Springer graduate. Board officers for the 2004-05 year were introduced: Elizabeth Schar, President; W. Russell Wilson, Vice President and Treasurer; and John Sawyer, Secretary.

Special appreciation was given to ten Springer staff members who have shown outstanding commitment to service and learning. Dafna Bahir, Mary Behan, Crystal Crawford, and Nicole Sullivan were recognized for five years; David Coffey, Kim LaChance, and Mary Ellen Villalobos for ten years; and Jerry Kerr and Riki Plunk for fifteen years. Additionally, the outstanding contributions of Kris Courtney were celebrated. Kris retired after seventeen years of service to the Springer community.

Highlighting the conclusion of the meeting, three graduates were honored with Springer's Outstanding Achiever Award. This award is presented to Springer graduates who have exhibited leadership and commitment in schoolwork, activities, and in their community. Nominees are high school age or older. For profiles on our Outstanding Achievers see page 3.

New members of the 2004-05 Board of Trustees, clockwise from bottom left, Robert E. Rich, Thomas C. Leugers, and Laura S. Petrie.





Executive Director's Column SHELLY WEISBACHER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

While many people assume that Springer experiences a slower summer pace, quite the opposite is true. No sooner do we bid farewell to our day school students then we begin welcoming teachers, children, and parents to our campus for center programs. This summer kicked-off with four week-long professional development seminars. In all, 85 teachers and counselors from surrounding public, private, and parochial schools attended. The dedication and commitment of those in attendance was readily apparent The seminars were filled with thoughtful discussions and a sense of purposefulness. The professionals with whom we were privileged to work care deeply about children. They came to Springer seeking to better understand their struggling students and left with increased knowledge and many strategies they can implement in the coming year. Course evaluation comments best express the impact of the training:

Below: Climbing wall activities boost confidence and teamwork in the Adventures summer program!



Since eight teachers from our school attended the Multi-sensory Approach to Reading course, we are looking forward to meeting together during the school year to see what we can incorporate consistently across the age levels. I personally am excited to try some of these

- First Grade teacher, Parochial School

I feel very energized. What I have been doing to teach reading was such a small part and now I know the larger whole picture. It helped me to see ways to put all the topics together. Fantastic Week!

- Kindergarten teacher, Private School

The Steps to Success class was very informative, especially the group discussions. I felt very comfortable. Everyone was so embracing and willing to share.

- Middle School teacher, Public School

I am eager to share the basic philosophy of this class with my fellow teachers. I feel that the main question for every teacher is "What can I do to help this child?" What I've loved is being introduced to this incredible world and resource of how to teach reading and using every possible support that is available. This has been a wonderful experience and most enriching.

- Preschool teacher, Private School

Thanks for everything. It is not often the presenters in a workshop are consistently the best of the best.

- Primary teacher, Public School



There were many more comments of a similar nature. From these responses, it is clear the courses achieved our objectives. What we find especially gratifying is that attendees are eager to share their new learnings with colleagues. It is exciting to consider how many children's lives will be positively impacted through the professional development classes we offer.

Following on the heels of the professional development series, 82 children arrived for our month long Adventure in Summer Learning program and 80 children enrolled in afternoon classes. Adventures is the cornerstone of our summer offerings. In small groups, children receive instruction and participate in group problem solving activities. The emphasis is on academics, but there are plenty of opportunities for building new friendships and having fun. One parent remarked, "My child has never before enjoyed school. This is wonderful experience." Afternoon classes ranged from science and math to drama and writing. And, while their children were engaged in summer programs, many parents attended classes to gain a better understanding of how to help their children.

When the center was established in 1999, it was with the hope and vision that Springer would become a year round resource to the Greater Cincinnati community. Anyone visiting our campus this summer would surely conclude that we have achieved this goal!

Bottom middle: Dianne Alexander and Tatiana Weedman work through a math problem. Bottom right: Area teachers participate in Springer's Multisensory Approach to Reading seminar.



Emily Moorhead attended Springer from 1994 to 1997. She just graduated from Mariemont High School with a 3.8 grade point average. In the fall, she will enroll at Miami University, majoring in Art and Psychology.

In addition to her stellar grade average, Emily has an impressive vita of honors and activities that span the arts, world affairs and athletics. She is a member of the National Honor Society, a Scholar Athlete, and an Overture Finalist, winning first place in the fine arts division. Further, Emily was a class officer for three years, Team Captain for Cross Country and Track, Leadership Council President and Student Council treasurer. Her commitment to the community is evidenced by her many activities spanning musical entertainment for Dupree Nursing Home; Sunday School Teacher; and Outreach program with the St. Thomas Youth Group in the Appalachian Mountains of Tennessee.

Emily's accomplishments transcend this list. She has been a role model and source of encouragement for other students with learning disabilities, and upon seeing her effective strategies, her teachers asked her to share these techniques with other students.

Julia Rogers attended Springer from 1989 to 1992. She graduated from Cincinnati Country Day School in 1999, receiving the Country Day Award, given to individuals who exemplify the values and mission of the school. Julia graduated from the University of Cincinnati in June with a B.S. in Early Childhood Education maintaining an overall gpa of 3.75.

During college, Julia served as the President of the Student Council for Exceptional Children, and on the UC College of Education Student Cabinet. She became a certified peer mediation trainer through the Center for Peace Education. Julia has volunteered at Springer – most notably becoming involved in our teacher education programs - sharing her experiences and insights with local teachers in an effort to demystify learning disabilities. Julia is a Golden Key Scholar and a member of Kappa Delta Pi, the Education Honor Society.

In a letter of nomination, Barbara Hunter wrote "Julia is positive, proactive, and an outspoken advocate for educating children in the way they learn best." Her professors at UC clearly concur as Julia most recently received the Pearl M. Wright Award Scholarship. This College of Education honor is awarded to a senior student "who best exemplifies high



moral and academic standards of a primary teacher; who is sensitive, loving and understanding of little children." It is the College's most distinguished award.

Andrew Brinkman attended Springer from 1986 to 1991, traveling 1 hour 10 minutes each way every day – a tremendous commitment on his and his family's part. Andy graduated from Blanchester High School in 1995, the first student with learning disabilities at the school ever inducted into the National Honor Society.

He received a B.A. from Hiram College in 1999 with a major in Math, and holds a State of Ohio Provisional Secondary Certification in Math for grades 7-12. While in college, he not only pursued his degree but continued with his passion for sports on both the varsity soccer and track teams. He was also a student athletic advisor, and a member of the math club and computer club.

Andy is now pursuing a Master's degree in Education with an emphasis in special education from Wilmington College while working full time. Andy expects to complete his degree in 2005.

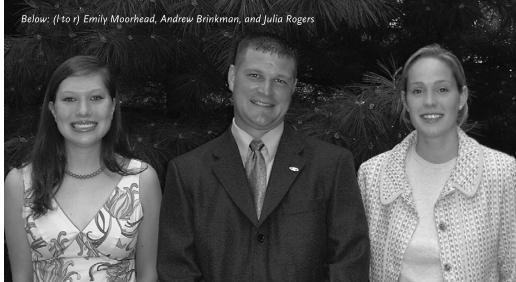
Upon completion of his undergraduate degree, Andy entered the work force as a high school math teacher. Since 2001, he has worked at Clinton Massie High School. Former Springer Executive Director, Norita Aplin shared in her letter of nomination a story about Andy's persistence in developing a group approach for his students who were struggling. Andy taught himself the specific training and successfully implemented this approach, now an established program.

Andy is also the assistant men's soccer coach as well as the head goalkeeper coach and an Olympic Development Goalkeeper Coach. He is the assistant director of the Midwest Soccer Academy. Head soccer coach Bud Lewis wrote, "Andy is a real student of the game...but perhaps his greatest asset is his genuine enthusiasm, care and effort he gives in all that he does. He is an extraordinarily dedicated and caring coach and teacher."

One of Andy's professors wrote, "I have known Andy for nearly three years now, as a student and as assistant coach for the college's soccer team. He has been delightful to work with, exemplifying the characteristics of any student with whom you would want to work, with or without disabilities! He has been so generous about sharing with his classmates how his learning disability has affected his educational efforts as well as his life goals. The students in my Teaching Individuals with Exceptional Learning Needs class consistently identify Andy's appearance and/or participation as one of their most invaluable learning experiences for the semester. They find him "inspiring" and he challenges their notions about what persons with learning disabilities are really capable of achieving."







BELIEVING THAT THE ARTS AND PHYSICAL activities offer individuals with learning disabilities dynamic ways of learning, Springer provides a wide range of after-school opportunities. After-school programs offer experiences that promote positive self-esteem and confidence building, through activities such as art club, science club, music groups, and noncompetitive skill-building sports. Heidi Sullivan, Assistant Director for Student Services, coordinates these after-school programs. Heidi believes the programs, "are essential to student growth because they provide students with opportunities to break out of the student role. Students can interact with a variety of other children, broadening their friendship base, and enhancing social development." In addition, students can practice skills and strategies that are typically limited to the classroom.

Comments from parents indicate that the accepting environment in which the programs are conducted reduces stress for their children. And, because Springer families live in different neighborhoods throughout the tristate area, many parents appreciate the convenience and opportunity for their children to interact with friends who do not live close to them.

This year, the Soccer Club was an outlet for Primary students to have fun with their peers, while learning about playing together as a group and working on motor skills. Other athletic activities offered included Upper School Bowling Club, Ski Club (for Intermediate & Upper School students), Intermediate Newcombe, and Primary & Intermediate Taekwondo. In the spring, the Track Team was a huge hit with students from all departments.

Plenty of after-school opportunities were also offered to students who preferred less physical activities. In Intermediate Robotics, students built robots out of Legos and programmed them to accomplish tasks, encouraging problem-solving and organization. Intermediate Boys' and Girls' Clubs provided opportunities for students to get to know each other and build friendships outside of school, while participating in fun activities such as bowling, laser tag, trips to a farm, and community service outings. The Science Club for Primary and Intermediate students expanded interests in nature and the environment, without the pressures that sometimes accompany a structured classroom.

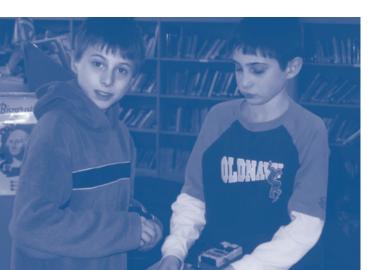
Students interested in the arts selected from several different activities. The Intermediate Choral Group taught students the fundamentals of good choral singing, as well as the cooperation and commitment needed to be an active member of a team. Art Club and Advanced Pottery allowed students to express themselves artistically. The Primary Drama Club enhanced students' self-esteem and confidence as they practiced character exploration, storytelling, sequencing, and cause



and effect relationships. Students showcased their drama skills in a performance based on the book, Caps for Sale: A Tale of a Peddler, Some Monkeys and Their Monkey Business, by Esphyr Slobodkina.

Many of the after-school activities would not have been available if not for the involvement and commitment of parent volunteers. They served as drivers, chaperones, class assistants, and in many other ways necessary. Their support was a vital key to the success of the programs, and very much appreciated by the Springer community, especially the students who enjoyed and benefited from these extracurricular opportunities.

After-School Programs Popular With Students





Top: Chris Holter works the wheel in Advanced Pottery class.

Left: Drew Sorensen and Mark Arnold enjoy making robots in the Robotics Club.

Right: There's lots of action on the Primary Soccer team!

As the New School Year approaches, Springer students, parents, and staff will surely notice the absence of Intermediate Green teacher, Kris Courtney. Kris made the decision to retire from teaching at the end of the 2003-04 school year, after seventeen years of service and dedication to the Springer community.

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 12 year hiatus to raise a family, Kris came to Springer in 1987.

Kris provided a nurturing classroom that celebrated all students. She taught students the strategies they would need as they moved into junior high. She encouraged their efforts and had a gift for seeing the child first and their difficulties as the work that she and the child would undertake together to ultimately achieve established goals. Kris enjoyed celebrating the discoveries that her students made about themselves and their ability to learn. She delighted in seeing her former students return to Springer and demonstrate how they have continued to grow in confidence and meet goals they set for themselves.

While at Springer, Kris participated on key committees, jumping in right from the start 17 years ago by signing on for the curriculum committee. Student teachers and practicum teachers have benefitted from her skill and wisdom including math workshops she designed complete with hands-on demonstrations. Kris also served on the ISACS visiting team for Eton Academy, an LD day school in Michigan. The chair of the visiting team wrote in a letter to Executive Director Shelly Weisbacher, "All of us in independent schools are fortunate to have dedicated teachers and administrators whom make our lives better. However, I was particularly impressed by Kris and wanted you to be aware of my appreciation for her thoughtful contributions."

Kris says she will miss "the opportunity to socialize and be stimulated by the staff, and the educational partnership with Springer parents." Russ and Julie Wilson, parents of Sam (a former student of Kris') said "We have always been struck by Kris' genuine in-

terest in all her students. We, Sam included, appreciated how Kris came to understand the individual student and to respect their perhaps unique way of learning."

While Kris will surely miss Springer, she is looking forward to spending time with her family, reading, gardening, and doing some bird-watching. Eventually, she and her husband plan to move back to northwest Ohio, where they are both from originally.

Despite her retirement, Kris hopes to do some substituting in the coming year, to help her with the transition from full-time work at Springer. She admits, "There is just no way around missing the kids." As for the Springer community, there is no way around missing Kris. Her contributions to Springer have left a mark on both students, parents, and staff that will surely last a lifetime.

Kris Courtney Concludes Seventeen Years With Springer



EACH YEAR, SPRINGER STUDENTS HAVE THE opportunity to explore different forms of art and music through instruction from local professionals. These enrichment opportunities are made possible through the Maureen Wenker Artist in Residence program and the Norita Alpin Musician in Residence program.

This year, the Artist in Residence program brought local artist Greg Storer to Springer. Greg is an accomplished painter, with work displayed in galleries throughout the United States and in Europe. In addition, he has a local studio located in the old Peter's Cartridge Factory in Kings Mills. Greg began painting at age five, taking classes at the Cincinnati Art Museum, and later earned a fine arts degree from Ohio State University as well as attending the Vermont Studio Center.

While this residency is a whole-school experience, 26 Upper School students were given the opportunity to work closely with

Greg, exploring technique and expression through paint, charcoals, and pastels. As the students worked together to make a mosaic mural, they focused on the process involved in creating art, rather than the product. The finished mural depicts Abraham Lincoln and can be seen on display in the school's cafeteria.

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

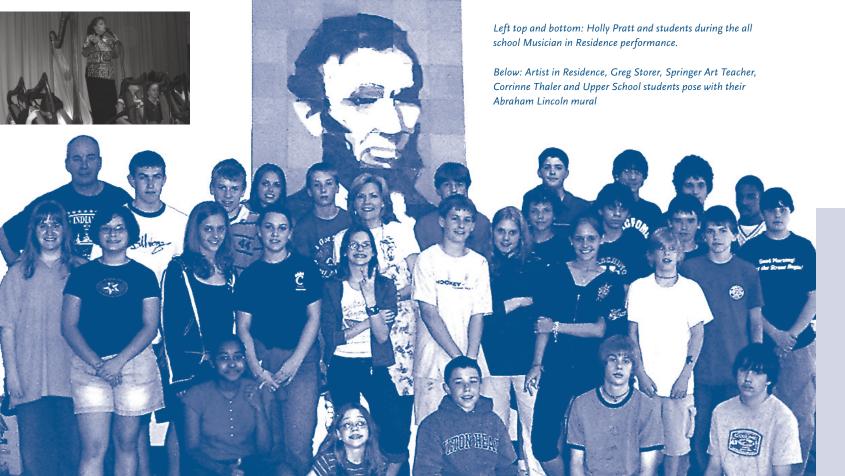
Welcomed to Springer this year as the Norita Aplin Musician in Residence was accomplished harpist, Holly Pratt. Holly performs on a variety of harps, collaborates with contemporary composers, and is the founder of the chamber ensemble *Lyrica*. Her work has been profiled on television, and in newspapers and radio, and has taken her to North America, Europe, and Japan. She has been recognized by organizations such as the

Great Isle Organization, Ohio Arts Council, Very Special Arts, and Music Historic.

Each Springer student had a chance to work with Holly and become acquainted with a harp throughout her residency. Two smaller groups of students from each of the Intermediate teams spent extended time with her in preparation for joining her in an all-school performance which was held February 13. The children learned about music, explored scientific principles, linked music to math, considered other cultures in history, used new vocabulary in multiple languages, and enjoyed hands-on music making.

Springer's Musician in Residence program was inspired by former Executive Director, Dr. Norita Alpin. These special programs encourage students to view music and art as an integral part of their lives, and as an outlet for their creativity.

SPRINGER STUDENTS BENEFIT FROM HANDS-ON EXPERIENCE IN MUSIC AND ART



ALUMNI UPDATE

CALL 513.871.6080 EXT. 213 OR SEND EMAIL to klachance@springer.hccanet.org with news of Springer alums.

Jeremy Hassman '94 is an apprentice with T.P. Mechanical and was married in May 2003.

Badger Johnson '99 attends the Zoo Academy of Hughes Center. During his time there, he has been elected to the National Honor Society and was also a part of the Cincinnati Junior Rowing Club's Novice (JV) team. He rowed in competitions that won the Midwestern High School Championships.

Sam Cooper '97 graduated in June 2004 from Indian Hill High School. He plans to attend Wittenberg University in the fall.

Courtney Renner 'oo will be a junior at Mt. Notre Dame High School this coming fall. She recently participated in "Days of Reflection," a two-day program designed to help students explore their faith journey and their place in the community through service, prayer, art, and reflection. Courtney spent community service time assisting the Animal Care Center in Blue Ash.

Cecilia Pratt '99 graduated from Anderson High School in June 2004. She recently attended the Buckeye Girls State program at Ashland University. The program is designed to educate Ohio's young women on the duties, privileges, rights, and responsibilities of good citizenship.

Claire Tipton '03 received the "Charles F. Yeiser" Scholar Award from Cincinnati Country Day School at the end of the 2003-04 school year. This award is given to a new CCDS student who has exhibited out-

standing abilities in citizenship, leadership, extracurricular activities, and sports. Claire's mom wrote, "Claire had a terrific year at CCDS and we feel Springer deserves credit for helping her achieve this success!"

Kristen France '96 graduated this spring from Butler University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Biology, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Secondary Education. Kristen was also a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority.

Nathan Munafo '00 graduated this spring from Bishop Fenwick High School.

Libby Bentz 'oo, as a senior at the School for Creative and Performing Arts, received the Dean's Award scholarship to attend Columbus College of Art and Design. She will begin her studies there this fall, and plans to major in industrial design.

Sarah Madden '97 and Jerry Stuckey '03 will both be freshman this coming school year at Purcell Marian High School, and both were elected as members of the 2004-2005 Purcell Marian Student Council.

Jack Hemmer '02 recently participated in a Purcell Marian community service program with his baseball team. The team visited local elementary schools to address the importance of reading during Right to Read Week. They also worked on making the house of a teammate more handicap-accessible for a family member.

William Bismayer '03 spent his summer traveling in London and Paris and visiting sights such as Buckingham Palace, Big Ben, Westminster Abbey, and Kensington Park.









Top to bottom: Claire Tipton with parents, Nathan Munafo, Sam Cooper, and Kristen France

MEMORIAL & TRIBUTE GIFTS

Thank you to the following friends of Springer School and Center who made Memorial or Tribute gifts from May 2004 through July 2004.

Memorials

In memory of Leonard Baker Bruce H. Allen, M.D.

In memory of John Braidic Bob and Carol Conners In memory of Jenny Isphording Carroll
Bob and Carol Conners

In memory of John C. Cottingham Bob and Carol Conners

In memory of Mary Claire Eagen Greuer Bob and Carol Conners

In memory of Carol Haile Bob and Carol Conners

In memory of Vera Catherine Julian Ms. Elizabeth F. Wenker

In memory of Willard Kahn Mrs. Marjorie Bender In memory of Ethel Lynch Bob and Carol Conners

In memory of Nat Sherman Mrs. Shirley Allen

In memory of Harrison Stauft Bob and Carol Conners

In memory of Ron Tatham's mother Mr. and Mrs. M. Warshauer

Tributes

In honor of Steven Sachs' and Arrianna Sales' wedding Bruce H. Allen, M.D. and family



news & views

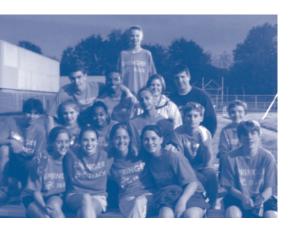
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Springer Track Team Defies the Odds



COACH MARK PHELPS SEEMED PARTICULARLY proud of this season's track team when he described their season as "an unbelievable accomplishment considering that, due to lack of practice space, the team's only practice opportunities took place in Springer's upper parking lot." Students arrived early to school one day a week in order to prepare for the season. They demonstrated their skills at weekend competitions, competing against students from area schools.

This dedicated team was comprised of 55 students - 16 from the Upper School, 29 from the Intermediate Department, and 10 from the Primary Department. They competed in four regular season meets, and ended the season at the CYO City Championships. Events included running 50m, 75m, 100m, and 200m, as well as long-jump, and throwing the shot-put. Awards were received by Jake Knueven, Kevin Petit, Jessica Martin, Jewel Walker, Zamarria James, Liz Scherzinger, Demarcus Banks, and Mark Muenchen for placing within the top six finishers in their events. Participation ribbons were earned by all track members in grades one through four.

Many thanks to coaches Mark Phelps, Laurie Herman, Cari Kelly, Debbie Phelps, and Nikki Sullivan.

CLASS OF 2004

Springer School and Center presents its Class of 2004. We are proud of all that these students have accomplished and learned in their time at Springer. We celebrate their efforts and successes!

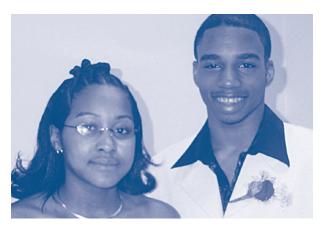
Mathew J. Adams Christopher Bakes Demarcus Banks Liz Bowers Teddy Burdsall Eleni Burns Trent Coffin Kelsey Ann Doyle Santino Ellis-Perez Laura Elizabeth Ely Bobby Ferguson Sam Ferguson Zach Fessel Deanna Keri Garcia Kevin Matthew Good Nathan Gushulak Christopher Lars Holter Taylor Hudepohl Alex Hushak
Hailey Louise Hushak
Vanya Jabin
Zamarria C. James
Arica Johnson
John Kahmann
Kyle Kruse
Nicholas Lambing

Bradley M. Langford

Chris Lilley
Sean Macke
Russ Magoteaux
Jessica M. Martin
Mikki Martin
Ryan Patrick McMahan
Mark Muenchen
Kevin Walter Petit
Gretchen Pott

Steven Joseph Sander II Elizabeth Scherzinger Charlie Schneider Cory Schuler Colton Sharp Michael Squicciarini Sean St. Clair Kyle A. Stevenson Angie Sulfsted Jacob Paul Tasset Charles Joshua Wade Colleen Weckenbrock Ellen Weckenbrock

Bolan Scholarship Awards



DEMARCUS BANKS AND ZAMARRIA JAMES, both students in the Upper School, were named the 2004 Bolan Scholarship award recipients at this year's commencement ceremony. This 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. 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.

Congratulations to Demarcus and Zamarria, and their families!

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 the students chosen as this year's recipients!



Eleni Burns
Ava Chaney
Griffin Fuller
Danny Gerner
Nathan Gushulak
Anna Harty
Chloe Illif
Zamarria James

Sean Kallmeyer Sean Macke Jeffrey Pilger Greg Schneider Nolan Shumaker Margaret Spain Gretchen Stoehr Ty Youtsey Caitlin Zirkelbach