

## A Springer Celebration!

WE ARE DELIGHTED TO SHARE OUR PLANS for this year's event, *A Springer Celebration!* which include honoring Mr. Matth. Toebben with the Springer Champion Award for his demonstrated passion and commitment to the education of children. Well-known throughout the Northern Kentucky and Greater Cincinnati business community, his dedication to education is especially evident in the many scholarship programs he funds for local colleges and schools including Springer. Mr. Toebben's life experiences grew into personal awareness of how critical educational opportunities are for children and young adults.

At age 20, Matth. Toebben left his family in Germany to come to the United States. He had \$10 in his pocket and spoke no English. For six years prior, he studied woodworking as an apprentice carpenter. Within two years of his arrival in the U.S., he started his own business, which over time became Toebben Companies, an extremely

successful construction and real estate development company in Northern Kentucky.

You sense very quickly when talking with him just how important education is to him, and especially how close to his heart Springer is because of the difference it has made for three of his grandchildren. Mr. Toebben is grandfather to one Springer graduate and two current Springer students.

The evening's program will include hors d'oeuvres & cocktails, a silent auction, dinner, and the presentation of the Springer Champion Award to Mr. Toebben. Mr. Ralph Drees will speak about his friend and colleague. Jim Scott, noted radio personality, will join Springer as emcee. Places for this special evening can be reserved by calling the Development Office at 871-6080 ext. 232. Tickets to *A Springer Celebration!* are \$125.00 per person. Proceeds from the evening will be used to support our financial aid program.

Matth. and Laverne Toebben



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## Executive Director's Column

SHELLY WEISBACHER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

LONG BEFORE OUR STUDENTS WALK THROUGH Springer's doors, many have concluded that school is not a place where they can achieve success. Like most children, they entered formal education eager to learn, yet their optimism and excitement quickly faded as they struggled daily to keep pace with their peers. Our job is not just to teach our students to read or write, but to teach them that they can be successful. With guidance and the benefit of a carefully structured environment, our students' belief in themselves is restored and they are again willing to meet the challenges that come their way.

A recent note from a '97 Springer graduate reinforces the importance of the Springer experience. "I am in my second semester at Keene State College in New Hampshire. I am earning my B.F.A. in Graphic Design. I love college! I feel so lucky to be in college and have the opportunity to learn. I feel so happy that all the hard work I have done and all the obstacles I have overcome have finally paid off and I am in a good school with a great Art program. The one major obstacle I had throughout my whole life was my learning disability. It still affects me to this day but I have learned to work with it. Springer helped me with my learning disability in ways greater than words. Thank you so much!"

This response sheds 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 challenges. This self-understanding gives an individual control. It allows one to establish goals and seek environments where skills and abilities can be optimized.

The goals of our program are reinforced by the work of researchers, including Dr. Robert Brooks, who study resilience. During his recent visit to Cincinnati, Dr. Brooks emphasized that in order to nurture a resilient mindset, it is critical to place oneself inside the shoes of the struggling child; to help students develop strategies for dealing with the issues presented by their learning disabilities; and to help them develop their strengths. Indeed, it is because Springer attends to these elements, in addition to providing a researched based academic curriculum, that we achieve our mission to empower students with learning disabilities to lead successful lives.

### MEMORIAL & TRIBUTE GIFTS

Thank you to the following friends of Springer School and Center who made Memorial or Tribute gifts from December 2004 through February 2005.

#### Memorials

*In memory of her husband, David F. Diehl*  
Ms. Frances L. Diehl

*In memory of Joanne Fraley*  
Bob and Carol Conners

*In memory of Katherine T. Kahn*  
Mr. and Mrs. Louis W. Seiden

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*In memory of her husband*  
Mrs. Mildred Sack

*In memory of Alfred Schwab*  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Abraham

*In memory of Carolyn Smith*  
Dr. Bruce H. Allen

*In memory of Fanny P. Smith*  
Bob and Carol Conners

*In memory of William Strassel*  
Dr. Bruce H. Allen

#### Tributes

*In honor of Steve Francia*  
Matt Tatham

*In honor of Roger Johannigman*  
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Besecker

*In honor of Rachel Samuels*  
Mr. and Mrs. Sandy German

*In honor of John Schar*  
Mr. Floyd Holloway and Mrs. Jane Holloway

*In honor of Christina L. Webster*  
Ms. Julie B. Rust



## An Evening and Day with Dr. Bob Brooks

150 PARENTS, AND 130 EDUCATIONAL PROFESSIONALS, INCLUDING Springer staff, attended presentations by Dr. Bob Brooks on February 10 and 11, sponsored by Springer School and Center and The Family Resource Center of Cincinnati Children's Hospital.

*Thanks so much for your kindness during my visit to Cincinnati. I thoroughly enjoyed speaking with such warm and responsive audiences. I have already received some lovely emails from people who attended.*

*I loved spending time at your school. The children seem very happy and you have a very caring and dedicated staff. You just have a great program!*

*Thanks again for the invitation to speak, I had a wonderful time. I hope our paths cross again in the future.*

*Warm Wishes,*  
Dr. Bob Brooks

# Two New Members Join Springer Board

KENNETH WASHINGTON, PH.D., is the Psychology Supervisor at the Warren Correctional Institution as well as being a Treating Clinician for the National Football League. He received his doctorate from the University of Cincinnati in Clinical Psychology. He has been practicing for over twenty-five years with a wide range of specialty areas (e.g., children, substance abuse, families, etc.). His job and training experience has been varied. He received specialty training during his fellowship and internship at NYU-Bellevue Hospital Medical Center. Along with this training, he also held a position at Montefiore Medical Center (providing mental health and substance abuse treatment for those incarcerated on Rikers Island in New York City) and was a school psychologist for the New York Board of Education. It was his acceptance of a fellowship in the Dept. of Anesthesiology at University Hospital, to provide Behavioral Medicine treatment for the Pain Control Center, which brought him back to the Cincinnati area. Concomitant with this position, he resumed a consultative relationship with the Department of Psychiatry until he was hired as the Unit Coordinator of the Dual Diagnosis Unit at the CPC/Alcoholism Clinic. He held this position for four years

until he accepted his present position in the Department of Rehabilitation and Correction. Along with providing substance abuse treatment for the National Football League, he has provided services to the University of Cincinnati Bearcats.

PHILIP BREEN is a native of Boston, Massachusetts. Following graduation from Holy Cross College and service in the U.S. Marine Corps, he went to work for the Procter and Gamble Company. Ultimately, his P & G responsibilities led him to Cincinnati 34 years ago. Now retired from Procter and Gamble, he is into a second career as owner of Heritage Properties LLC. His company does historic preservation work in Mason County, Kentucky. This work includes researching and restoring National Historic Register quality properties and maintaining these properties for residential and commercial purposes. Philip is a Trustee of the Stepping Stones Center, the Interfaith Hospitality Network, and the Wallingford Foundation and previously served on the Board of United Cerebral Palsy. He resides in Mt. Lookout with his wife, Phyllis. Their children and grandchildren live nearby.



## ALUMNI UPDATE

Call 513.871.6080 ext. 213 or send email to [klachance@springer.hccanet.org](mailto:klachance@springer.hccanet.org) with news of Springer alums.

**Andrew Babey '99** is a senior at Highland High School. The following is an excerpt from an essay he wrote:

*"I remember my first day at Springer, my teacher stood up and said 'Every one of you look around. Everyone in this classroom has a learning disability.' I remember the wave. I don't remember if it was a wave of shock or a wave of relief that there were more people like me that had to deal with what I did everyday...I realized that it was possible for me to succeed even though I faced an uphill battle. Success is an uphill battle, but my hill is steeper than most students. By the end of my time at Springer, although I faced many challenges, Springer made me complete them, showing that I could do it and in the process raising my self-esteem. My first year at Highlands Middle School I earned straight A's for the fourth quarter. I knew then that I had what it takes to earn a college degree and that there is no reason why I cannot attain that goal also. I finally realized that disabilities won't stop me from achieving greatness. They just make it that much sweeter when I do."*

**Megan Lowe '00** graduated from St. Ursula Academy in May of 2004, earning the Danielle E. Hater Award, given to the senior who "best exemplifies Danielle's courage, perseverance, and optimism in the face of adversity." (Danielle Hater was a 1996 Springer graduate.) Megan is currently a freshman at the College of Mount St. Joseph and earned a 3.78 GPA for her first semester.

**Arielle Bachrach '00** was recently recognized as an outstanding student at Sycamore Junior High School's "Pride in Excellence Breakfast."

**Blake Dowling '94** is currently a junior at Wright State University. He is majoring in psychology with a goal of helping others with learning issues.

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## INSIDE

A Springer Celebration!

New Board Members

and more!

# SPRINGER WELCOMES ARTIST IN RESIDENCE

KATE GORMAN RECENTLY SPENT TIME AT Springer as the featured artist in the Maureen Wenker Artist in Residency program. This residency program brings an artist to the school to do hands-on learning with our students.

Kate is trained in illustration and literature. She tells visual stories with her art, and her work is influenced by traditional folk art, renaissance portraiture, and mythology. She likes to take traditional forms of artistic expression, such as quilt-making, and present them in a contemporary way.

All students had the opportunity to work with Kate in their art classes, while 22 Upper students worked closely with her over a two week period to create a beautiful quilt entitled *Places, Faces, Races*. A reception was held on February 25 for parents and staff to see the unveiling of the project. The quilt will be displayed in the school for all to enjoy. It is a beautiful addition to Springer!

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

