

## Springer Announces Board Officers & New Trustees For 2005–2006 School Year



L to R: new trustees Nick Spadaccini, Mary Ann Mulcahey and Tom Youtsey.

SPRINGER SCHOOL AND CENTER IS PLEASED TO welcome the following Trustees to its Board:

Dr. Mary Ann Mulcahey is a Clinical Psychologist and Director for the Division of Developmental Disabilities at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. She also serves as Adjunct Assistant Professor at the University of Cincinnati, Department of Psychology and is the mother of a Springer graduate. Mary Ann is a member of the American Psychological Association, the Ohio Psychological Association and

the International Dyslexia Association. She served previously on the Board of Supportive Living of Northern Kentucky. When asked about how she would particularly like to help Springer, Mary Ann said, "I am willing to do whatever is needed to continue providing this vital service to the community."

Mr. Tom Youtsey shared that he is excited to be a part of Springer's Board and says, "I simply want to give back to a school that gave me the foundation to lead a successful life." Tom, an independent insurance agent,

is the father of a recent Springer graduate as well as being an alum himself. He has served on the Welcome House Board of Trustees.

Current parent, Mr. Nick Spadaccini, is Senior Vice President and a wholesaler for American Funds Distributors, Inc. He is responsible for mutual funds sales in southern Ohio and northeastern Kentucky. During the last two years, Nick led Springer's Annual Fund campaign, first as Co-chair with Tom Leugers and as Chair for this year's campaign.

### Shelly Weisbacher Named OAIS President

SPRINGER IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT Executive Director, Shelly Weisbacher has been elected as OAIS President for a two-year term. "It's an honor to lead this dynamic organization that addresses needs common to all members including advocacy, recruitment, marketing, and professional development," said Shelly.

The Ohio Association of Independent Schools (OAIS) is a non-profit organization of preprimary, elementary, middle and secondary schools whose purpose is to support and advance independent education in Ohio. OAIS represents 38 independent schools. It does so by:

- Working to foster and preserve indepen-

dence and freedom of choice in education.

- Encouraging collaboration among member schools and cooperation with other regional and national educational organizations for the ultimate benefit of Ohio's students.
- Providing leadership and support to member schools in developing and maintaining the highest possible standards of educational program and professional and ethical conduct.
- Serving as an advocate of Ohio independent schools by providing information and leadership on educational issues to the state government, Department of Education, and before the broader community.

#### BOARD OFFICERS & TRUSTEES

- W. Russell Wilson – PRESIDENT  
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 Sheila Wall, MD  
 Kenneth Washington, PhD  
 Thomas O. Youtsey, III





## Executive Director's Column

SHELLY WEISBACHER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THIS ISSUE OF NEWS AND VIEWS PAINTS A vibrant picture of Springer School and Center on the brink of its 35th anniversary. Since 1971 when Springer became an independent school serving 30 children with learning disabilities, the organization has evolved to become the leading resource in our area for children, parents, and teachers affected by learning disabilities. The school, with a capacity of 206 students, remains at the heart of what we do. However, our reach is much broader. Center programs impact thousands more children through after-school and summer programs, and through the professional development seminars we offer to their teachers, and the classes for their parents.

Teachers participating in our one-day and weeklong classes learn ways to address

their students' issues with reading, writing, memory or attention. Further, the teachers are introduced to new tools that are changing the way students with learning disabilities access information such as a computer program that reads text. In the past year, 700 educators attended center classes. In turn the knowledge they gained impacted at least several thousand students who are struggling to learn in mainstream classrooms.

Center classes are based on the methodologies and practices we have found to be effective in working with our day school students. Developing best practices requires a deep commitment to on-going research, study and learning. This is well illustrated in the article, Two Way Learning on the next page that highlights our pursuit and implementation of learning strategies. Providing

students with effective strategies is critical to their future success, and we were pleased to join with doctoral student Amy Scheuermann in her research on math strategies that is also described in the article. Ms. Scheuermann was with us throughout the fall, working with a number of our students in small groups, and she will return this winter to share the results of her study. While we are eager to learn from her research, we are already very pleased to hear the results she obtained when as a part of her study, she measured our students' sense of optimism and belief in their ability to achieve. Her findings affirm that which we strive to have each of our children achieve – a belief in their ability to learn and to thrive, the hope of a bright future.



## Friend of Springer

DR. THEODORE WOHL, A DEDICATED FRIEND of Springer, died on September 11, 2005. Dr. Wohl was instrumental in the organization being established as an independent school. He was the first Board President and served on Springer's board through the 1970s and 1980s. Dr. Wohl's initial involvement with Springer came through his work as a consultant and Chief Psychologist for the Hamilton County Diagnostic Center.

Former Springer Executive Director Norita Aplin described Ted Wohl as "invaluable in providing state of the art guidance to Springer, such as it was in the early 1970s. He remained a quiet but loyal trustee for many years – an important part of Springer's history." Springer salutes the work of this fine man, knowing that he will be missed. We are most grateful for his commitment to our mission and his friendship through these many years.

*Ted Wohl (center) with other past Board Presidents, Steve Allen and Dan Pfau.*



OVER THE SUMMER, SEVERAL SPRINGER STAFF members traveled to the University of Kansas for workshops on writing, reading and content enhancement through the university's Center for Research Learning (CRL).

CRL was founded in the 1970s when public law for special education went into effect. Their focus initially was on learning disabilities but has broadened today to include any struggling learners. "Using research-based strategies is what they are all about. They directly teach strategies, just as we do," says Gail Piraino, Springer's Education Director.

Staff members who attended the week-long workshops included Carrie Pruet-Brown, Assistant Director for Academics as well as teachers, Phil Jensen, Melissa McGraw, Steve Ploetz, Caryn Shaw, Pam Thomas, Terri Moorhead, and Carol Shumrick, and language therapist, Kathy McMillin.

"It was time well spent," said Terri Moorhead. Terri, along with Phil Jensen, took part in a reading strategies class. They both agreed they liked the way the class took ideas we've already been using at Springer and formalized them. "This gives a common language around the strategy and makes it user-friendly for students," said Phil, who works with Upper School students.

One strategy example that Terri and Phil spoke about being particularly helpful was "Ask It" a self-questioning strategy. Ask It stands for:

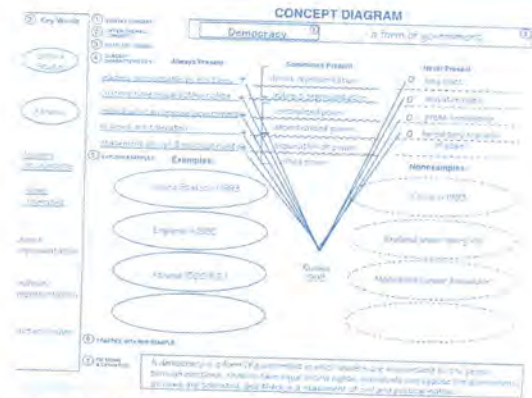
- Attend to clues as you read
- Say some questions
- Keep predictions in mind

- Identify the answers
- Talk about the answers

While using the "Ask It" strategy, students are reading text, looking for clues to help with comprehension, tapping into prior knowledge they may have, and comparing their predictions about what will happen to actual answers they get from the text.

Melissa McGraw shared that CRL practices and researches the strategies, making sure they either work or making modifications if needed before teaching them to teachers. As Upper School Team Leader, Melissa shared that 'concept mastery' is one strategy her

department will use. This strategy "helps pull out what you want students to focus on," says Melissa. With 'concept mastery' a concept diagram is used (see example) to help students create definitions that are personally meaningful to them. Understanding the concept in their own way helps the students master it.



## TWO WAY LEARNING



Amy Scheuermann working with group in math research project.

The connections to CRL are not limited to the workshops. Last winter, while at the University of Kansas, Gail Piraino met Amy Scheuermann, a doctoral student looking to do a math research project for her dissertation. The foundation of Amy's project focused on learning disabilities and math. She needed to work with at least 12 students in the middle school age range. Afraid she might have a difficult time finding enough students with those specifications in one school, Amy was thrilled to make the connection with Springer.

Amy began working in September with four groups total doing pretesting and ten days of instruction with each group. Her goal was to give students a common language for doing math and a deeper understanding of math. Amy will return to the university and, having tested strategies through her project, develop a full curricu-

lum for the CRL to publish for educators. She will also share results through a written summary for Springer staff and parents.

When asked what it was like to work with Springer students, Amy said she has never seen exemplified such "optimism and dedication to working" as she did while working with them. One test that she gave to her project groups was the Children's Hope Scale, which consists of six questions describing how children feel about themselves and how they do things in general. A typical score is 16. All of the Springer students scored above 20, demonstrating their confidence of achievement and ability to learn and do things. Amy attributes that to Springer saying, "It's amazing what a difference it makes for students to be at Springer, where they are the majority, not the minority. It changes their perspective on academics, social skills, and self-esteem."



# Springer Students Help Others



Above: The Bake Sale was a big hit!  
Right: Red Cross representative, Melanie Steinau with student committee members.

AFTER HURRICANES KATRINA AND RITA, several Springer students stepped forward and quickly organized the Hurricane Relief Committee and several projects for all student participation.

The first project consisted of collecting toiletry items. With just two days notice, eight large boxes were filled with supplies and sent to Louisiana through the Boy Scout troop of Springer student, George Howington.

Three other projects raised money for a donation to the Red Cross. Bake sales were held during lunch periods on three separate days earning \$359 for the cause. The committee also conducted a two-week read-a-thon in which all Springer students could participate. Students gathered sponsors for time they spent reading each night. Not only did students benefit from reading, they also raised \$1,711! In addition to these efforts, the Springer Parent Association chose to donate a percent of the profit from the fall gift-wrap sale. A check was presented to Red Cross representative, Melanie Steinau, at an all school assembly. The grand total of the donation - \$2,820!

Students on the Hurricane Relief Committee were: Lyndsey Caldwell, Matt Froese, Anna Harty, George Howington, Clay Kemper, Cynthia Marx, Larson Robinson, and Natalie Smith.



## 2005-06 Annual Fund Drive Has Good Kick-Off

SPRINGER'S ANNUAL FUND DRIVE, *Give Every Year-Make a Difference Every Day*, is well underway.

The goal for this year's Drive is \$234,500, and already totals are ahead of what they were at this time last year. The funds raised are used for Springer's financial aid program and continued development of center programs for students, parents, and teachers. This year, \$440,000 has been granted for financial aid with one in four families receiving assistance.

We thank all those involved for their time in planning and executing the campaign!

ALONG WITH ANNUAL FUND CHAIR and current parent, Nick Spadaccini, current and alumni parent volunteers include:

Cheryl Bakes  
Cathy Barrett  
Michelle Baumgartner  
Mary Burdsall  
Greg Gayle  
Georgine Hurst  
Mary Beth Lucian  
Chris Pedoto  
David Robertson  
Rich Shurmer  
Linda Spadaccini  
Judy Toebben  
Ellen Zembrodt



# Check Out The Website!

[www.springer-ld.org](http://www.springer-ld.org)

SPRINGER'S WEBSITE OFFERS INFORMATION from current programs at the center to pictures of activities going on around the school (on the gallery page) to alumni updates and employment opportunities. If you haven't been to the site lately, check it out. It's a fantastic way to stay connected and "in the know" of the exciting things happening at Springer!

## SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS & MICROSOFT ANNOUNCE WINNING SCHOOLS IN "HOPE FOR EDUCATION" CONTEST

"HOW WILL THE GROWING USE OF TECHNOLOGY in the classroom benefit students in the future?" Former Board President and alumni parent, Elizabeth Schar responded to this question posed by Samsung and Microsoft Corporations in their second annual *Hope for Education* essay contest.

*Hope for Education* is a philanthropic program created by Samsung. Through the program, 101 U.S. elementary, middle and high schools each received \$20,000 in technology prizes. The prizes Springer will receive include a combination of Microsoft software products and Samsung televisions, DVD players and digital camcorders.

Thanks, Elizabeth!

## SPA – Off To A Great Start!

THE SPRINGER PARENT ASSOCIATION, BEST known as SPA, has had a busy few months in this new school year. Nancy Davis, this year's SPA President shares "I'm excited to be a part of SPA and the Springer family. The work that is done here is wonderful and a vital part of our children's lives."

Many SPA programs have begun! The SCRIP program is up and running, Spirit Wear has been ordered and one Spirit Day already held, the Secret Holiday Shop was a big hit with the students and the Gift Wrap sale was a success. In September, Order Out Days began, a popular event with students and staff alike, and room parents were established for each classroom. SPA volunteers have also produced the materials for the Wednesday Folders and put together

the first of four staff appreciation luncheons. Three more staff appreciation luncheons are planned for February, March and May.

Nancy also shared that, in addition to all the good work of parent volunteers on the usual SPA projects, she is especially proud of the way the Springer community came together this fall to provide support for Hurricane Relief. Thanks to all who gave so generously of time, money, and supplies.

Things to look forward to include the Used Book Exchange, the Visiting Author program, and the biggest SPA fundraiser, the Bike/Hike & Family Picnic to be held this year on April 23, 2006 at Sharon Woods.

A big thank you to all members of the Springer Parent Association for their hard work and dedication to our community!

Right: SPA Board (l to r): Brandi Voss-VP Fundraising Programs, Mary Ann Masson-VP Classroom Programs, Nancy Davis-President, Ann Robinson-Past President, Caroline Cox-VP School-wide Programs, Patty Lufkin-Recording Secretary, Rosemary Shumaker-Treasurer





# ALUMNI UPDATE

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

**Jeremy Duncan '05** "loves attending Moeller High School." He played basketball this fall and plans to run track in the spring. He set his goal for the year to make first honors. "Thank you Springer for all your help!"

**Taylor Sunderhaus '01** graduated from Oak Hills High School in 2005. Currently, he attends Diamond Oaks studying Computer Programming. Taylor is a member of the Ohio Athletic Boosters, and a board member for the Westside Relay, part of the American Cancer Society.

**Kevin Higgins '00** writes that he attended a vocational school for his last two years of high school and studied law enforcement. In his last year, he had to take a state test and passed with the second best score in his class! These days he is working in the warehousing business and living in Kentucky.



**Tina Sweetland '99** stopped in to Springer for a visit recently. She shared that she has graduated from Purcell Marian High School and is now attending the Eastern Hills Hair Academy School. She is expecting to graduate in January of 2006.

**Adam Sherman '91** graduated from the University of Illinois. He began dental school at Boston University this fall and is doing very well.

**Kevin Kummerle '92** finished as a Business/Entrepreneur major at George Washington University in December 2004. He moved

back to Cincinnati and is now working in the family business – Metalex Manufacturing, Inc.

**Kelsey Doyle '01** was recognized for her skills in art as an Anderson Applauds Student of the Month. Students are chosen for this award by faculty who consider such factors as overall classroom performance, positive attitude, contributions to school or community, good citizenship and improvement. She was also recommended for the same award in science. Kelsey was a freshman at Anderson High School last year, and made all A's and B's in her studies.

**Mark Muenchen '04** loves attending Elder High School and is doing well, even making honor roll.

**Bobby Ferguson '04** moved with his family to North Carolina last year. He is making A's and B's at his new school.

**Tess Pendery '03** did well at Mariemont as a freshman this past year. Her grade point average the last 1.5 years has been 3.5.

**Max Cobey '01** is a student at Wyoming High School where he is receiving almost straight A's and is on the honor roll. Max lettered in wrestling as a freshman and sophomore. He has also been published in the school newspaper and was one of only two sophomores to receive a role in the school play, "Twelfth Night".

**Santino Ellis-Perez '04** played 1st violin in The School for Creative and Performing Arts' recent production of Beauty and the Beast at the Taft Theater.



**Tony Webb '96** graduated from McNicholas High School in the spring of 2005. This fall, he started at the University of Louisville's Speed School of Engineering. He is entering a 5-year continuous program that includes 3 semesters of co-op. His current goal is to get a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Electrical Engineering and then work for Sony Electronics.

## MEMORIAL & TRIBUTE GIFTS

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

### Memorials

*In memory of David and Anne McConnell*  
Ms. Michelle C. Platz

*In memory of Sister Anna Meit*  
Mrs. Shirley Allen

✓ *In memory of Louis Orloff*  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward A. Kamphake, Jr.

✓ *In memory of Dr. Theodore Wohl*  
Ken and Norita Aplin

*In memory of Dr. and Mrs. Mike Lipson's mother*  
Dr. and Mrs. Greg Sherman

✓ *In memory of Jerry Courtney*  
Ken and Shelly Weisbacher  
Springer Faculty & Staff

✓ *In memory of Terri Moorhead's mother*  
Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Stewart

*In memory of Rabbi Nechemiah Kibel*  
Dr. Bruce H. Allen

✓ *In memory of Raymond K. Patterson*  
Ms. Donna McLay

✓ *In memory of Ida Johnston*  
Ms. Donna McLay

✓ *In memory of John Osberger*  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Conners

✓ *In memory of Julia Kinneary*  
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Conners

*In memory of Ruth C. Klug (former Springer teacher and motor therapist)*  
Ken and Norita Aplin

### Tributes

✓ *In honor of Matt Tatham*  
Mrs. Kris Courtney and the late Jerry Courtney

*In honor of Dr. and Mrs. Ron Drasnin's grandson*  
Dr. and Mrs. Greg Sherman

*In honor of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Beck (and Jenny and Andy's marriage)*  
Dr. and Mrs. Greg Sherman

✓ *In honor of Denise Bertuck's birthday*  
Mr. and Mrs. Richard L. Friedman

*In honor of John and Ruth Sawyer*  
Dr. and Mrs. Greg Sherman

✓ *In honor of Springer 5th grade students that participated in the Everybody Counts program at All Saints School*  
Ms. Elena Duma

✓ *In honor of Dan Frey*  
Ken and Norita Aplin



# Back By Popular Demand – Be Our Guest Day!

ONLY IN ITS SECOND YEAR, SPRINGER'S BE Our Guest Day is a hit with all! Students were especially excited to welcome special relatives and friends into their classrooms on Wednesday, November 23.

Before the classroom fun began, guests met as a group with administrators for a brief introduction and to view the video made last year by the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center around Springer's All School Quest: Celebrating Freedom.

During the classroom visits, students shared stories and activities with their guests as well as displayed their artwork and showed off computer skills. Approximately 100 guests celebrated the students' hard work and

efforts since the beginning of the school year.

As one grandparent shared, "This is such a wonderful event. I appreciate the opportunity to be a part of my grandchild's daily routine but more importantly, he has a chance to share and be proud of where and what he is learning. It's a great thing for all of us."



*Students and their guests enjoy Be Our Guest Day*

## Springer Forms Partnership With Preble County Schools

"I HAVE BEEN FRUSTRATED WITH THE WAYS I have been instructed to teach reading. I have felt inadequate for a long time. Now I feel like I have "POWER" to lead my students to be successful readers." This is what one Preble County teacher had to say after attending Springer's Multisensory Approach to Reading Success (MARS) class this fall.

The MARS course is designed to provide teachers and professional tutors with instruction in implementing multisensory, direct-concept instructional strategies while using a traditional, district-wide reading program. A multisensory approach to reading is a strategic approach that puts into practice critical educational principles. The first principle relates to how the brain takes in information—through the five senses. The other relates to how the brain can more efficiently process that information—by using concrete or hands-on tools to build internal thinking processes. It is the utilization of multiple sensory channels, in conjunction with specific reading strategies that produces a multisensory approach.

Reading, in general, is not a natural skill

but a combination of complicated brain functions, which require a student to work at becoming automatic at the following levels:

- auditory level (phonological processing)
- sounds level (decoding)
- spelling level (encoding)
- chunk level (morphology and syllabication)
- word meaning (semantics)
- word order (syntax)
- comprehension (discourse)

Teachers participating in the MARS course learn core concepts, systematic approaches and multisensory techniques for teaching reading at these seven levels. They also receive a tool kit and guide, which include such things as sound cards for drill work and a student strategy toolbox.

When asked why it was so important for their teachers to participate in Springer's MARS class, Iris Riviera, the Special Education Coordinator for Preble County Schools and 21st Century After-School Program Director, said, "Our teachers were having a lot of problems understanding strategies and interventions. The MARS inservice makes these very clear.

Our teachers needed to understand that you have designated reading curriculum—some students will take it and run, others won't. Those students need strategies in order to make associations with already established curriculum, rather than replacing curriculum with a different reading program. That way all students are learning the same thing—they are just learning in different ways."

Ms. Riviera went on to say, "Our teachers have attended many workshops and programs. The response from the 50 teachers that took part in the MARS inservice is that this is the training they have been most impressed with and have used the most in their classrooms."

Preble County, a small community of 41,000, is located in southwestern Ohio. Known for its agricultural presence, Preble County, in recent years, has grown into a thriving business community.

There are currently five school districts located in Preble County that take part in workshops through the Preble Educational Service Center. They include: Eaton, National Trail, Preble Shawnee, Tri-County North, and Twin Valley Community. Springer has done two 3-day programs for the Preble Educational Service Center and one 2-day program for Twin Valley Community Schools.



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## INSIDE

A Springer Celebration!

Two Way Learning

and more!

## Save The Date!

### MAY 3, 2006 WILL BE A SPRINGER CELEBRATION!

SPRINGER IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THAT Coach Marvin Lewis will be our special guest and honoree at A Springer Celebration! on Wednesday, May 3, 2006. The event will take place at Paul Brown Stadium from 6:00-10:00pm. The evening will include cocktails & hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction, and dinner.

Since his arrival in Cincinnati, Marvin Lewis has made an indelible impression in the community, both on the field and off. He was named the ninth head coach in Bengals' history on January 14, 2003, and in three seasons has led the team to secure their first winning season in 15 years.

Off the field, he has spread the message of community involvement and accountability

by lending his voice and passion to issues that affect the Greater Cincinnati area and its children. Giving his time and energy to countless causes and schools, Coach Lewis has been a tireless community activist and youth advocate. He has participated in activities supporting organizations such as Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Cincinnati, Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation, The Youth Foundation and countless others. Additionally, Marvin and his wife, Peggy launched the Marvin Lewis Community Fund to empower, educate, and inspire children while enriching the region. In its short existence, the Fund has donated over \$600,000 to its recipients and programs.

Save the date for this exciting evening!



Marvin Lewis, Head Coach of the Cincinnati Bengals.