

Save the Date!

April 22, 2009 will be A Springer Celebration!

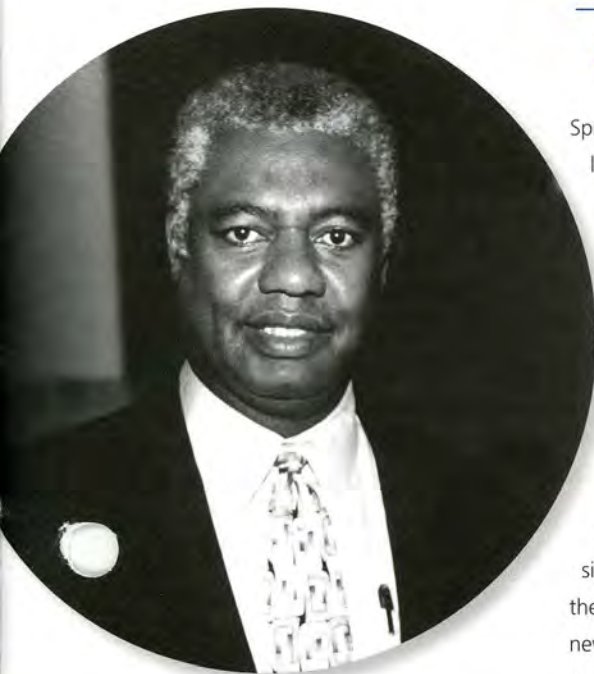


Photo courtesy
of Cleveland Clinic

Oscar Robertson will speak at
A Springer Celebration! 2009
on Wednesday, April 22nd.

Springer is delighted to announce that basketball legend and Cincinnati businessman, Oscar Robertson (The Big O), will be the special guest speaker and honoree at *A Springer Celebration! 2009*. While earning a business degree at the University of Cincinnati, Robertson led the UC Bearcats to the NCAA Final Four twice and earned national Player of the Year three years in a row. The National Association of Basketball Coaches named Robertson "Player of the Century."

After graduating from UC, he played professional basketball with the Cincinnati Royals and the Milwaukee Bucks where he continued to set new records. As a result of Robertson's leadership as third President of the NBA Player's Association, NBA players became the first to gain free agency. Since his retirement, he has been active as an entrepreneur, broadcaster and author.

Oscar Robertson is involved in numerous charities and community activities, and has taught or

mentored hundreds of children. He has been an outspoken advocate for kidney disease prevention and organ transplantation on behalf of the National Kidney Foundation. During *A Springer Celebration! 2009*, Oscar will lend his voice and perspective to Springer's cause, sharing how important education is to him and what a difference Springer has made for his grandchild.

Springer's annual fundraising event will take place on April 22, 2009 from 6:00-10:00 pm. The evening will include cocktails & hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction, live auction, raffle, dinner and program. Each year, Springer hosts an event to increase awareness about Springer's mission and to raise funds for scholarships and center programs.

Save the date for what promises to be a wonderful evening for celebrating! Please contact the Development Office at (513) 871-6080 x213 for information about this exciting event.

Record Number for Be Our Guest Day!

Springer School and Center was pleased to welcome approximately 200 guests to Be Our Guest Day on November 26th. Each Springer student had the opportunity to invite grandparents, friends, relatives or other important



people in their lives, to visit their classroom and spend time with them in fun activities. Throughout the day, special guests gathered with students to enjoy refreshments in the cafeteria and participate in a hands-on visit to



the student's classroom. Thank you everyone – for demonstrating what great support our Springer students have from the special people in their lives!



LETTER FROM OUR Executive Director

Shelly Weisbacher



Springer is a school like no other – just ask a Springer grad. Recently, in fact, four Springer grads and their parents fielded questions from dozens of current students and their parents. The occasion for this was *What After Springer?*, an annual program designed to provide firsthand information on everything from school selection to tips for making friends when starting at a new school. Most importantly, the program offers reassurance to current students and their parents that they will be prepared for high school, that the strategies and organizational skills learned at Springer will serve them exceptionally well, and that the self-advocacy they developed will give them the confidence to ask questions and seek the accommodations they need to be successful.

What After Springer? is a remarkable experience to witness for all who knew these graduates when they first enrolled at Springer. Like most of our students, these young people

came to us because they had struggled significantly in traditional classrooms – they weren't learning to read, had trouble writing, couldn't keep pace with their classmates or follow the teacher's directions. Yet, here they were – high school sophomores – revealing to all the challenges they still face and confidently sharing their secrets for success.

The parents spoke to their role in helping their son or daughter now that they were in high school, but most strikingly in each instance the parent explained that the student is the main advocate with the parent providing the back-up support. As the parents shared this, you could sense the pride they felt in their child's ability to not only manage the complexities of high school but to thrive in it. These parents remember all too well a time before Springer when their child dissolved into tears of frustration trying to complete homework or woke each morning with a knot in their stomach. And, it's probably for

this reason that they spontaneously spoke to Springer being the best decision they had ever made for their child.

Like these four grads, Springer has changed many children's lives and empowered them with strategies and skills, and with a strong sense of their personal strengths and challenges. The teachers, therapists, administrators, and support staff all played a role in partnering with the children and their parents to achieve these outcomes. However, we recognize that the strength of our program depends also on the tremendous commitment of our trustees and on the generous support we receive from the community. Together, we make it possible for families to renew hope and experience the joy that comes when their children succeed. At this time of year, we have much for which we are grateful. *Happy Holidays!*



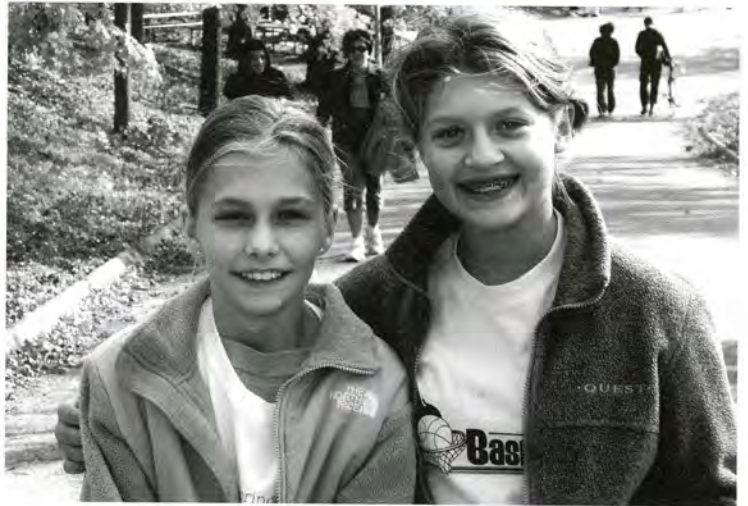
(L to R) Executive Director Shelly Weisbacher and *What After Springer?* Alumni panel: Ryan Godar, Nick Lefke, Gretchen Stoehr, Cora Ohmer, and Placement Director Terri Moorhead.



Bike Hike & Family Picnic A Huge Success!

On October 26th at Sharon Woods, the Springer community came together on a beautiful fall day to celebrate children, family and fun! The annual Bike Hike and Family Picnic, hosted by the Springer Parent Association was a great success, raising more than \$5,000 for student enrichment programs. During the day, students walked or biked around the 2.7 mile trail and collected sponsorships from family and friends. Activities included biking, hiking, games, hair painting, a bake sale hosted by Student Council, and entertainment from a fire-throwing juggler!

This year's event was co-chaired by Elizabeth Rogers and Kim Schenk with additional support from Andy Wilson. Fresh Market, a repeat supporter, generously donated the food for the picnic. The Springer Parent Association would like to thank all the students, their parents, and all the volunteers for another wonderful Springer gathering and fundraiser.



Memorials

(as of 11-13-08)

- In memory of James M. Brim
Mr. and Mrs. Edward A. Kamphake, Jr.
Ms. Elizabeth F. Wenker
- In memory of John McPhillips
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Conners
- In memory of Holly Prater
Dr. and Mrs. Greg Sherman
- In memory of George Romans
Ms. Elizabeth F. Wenker
- In memory of Mick Scheu
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Conners
- In memory of Thomas Schmidt
Ms. Elizabeth F. Wenker

Tributes

- In honor of Gregory Hahn's
engagement
Mrs. Shirley Allen
- In honor of Chana Horewitz
Dr. and Mrs. Greg Sherman

2008 Spirit Awards!

Springer would like to correct two name omissions in the Summer 2008 issue of News and Views regarding the 2008 Springer Spirit Awards. **Emily Orabella** and **Abbey Rau** should have been included in that listing. *Congratulations to Emily and Abbey!*

Springer School and Center is pleased to announce the Springer Parent Association

(SPA) Officers for the 2008-09 School Year:

The Springer Parent Association continues its vital role in supporting Springer's mission through fundraising to benefit students and staff, and by providing a forum through which parents can share ideas and come together for family networking and social activities.

SPA programs include: Order Out Days, Spirit Wear, the much anticipated Bike Hike and Family Picnic, Visiting Author, Holiday Shop, Room Parents, and Staff Appreciation.

President
Pat Brugger

VP School-wide Programs
Candace King

VP Classroom Programs
Emily Kite

Treasurer
Karen Kramig

Recording Secretary
Brandi Voss

Past President
Caroline Cox

REFLECTIONS FROM

Outgoing Springer Parent Association President, Caroline Cox

As I look back over the past two years as President of the Springer Parent Association (SPA), I am flooded with memories of all that has been achieved. I am grateful that I had the opportunity to meet and work with such a diverse and supportive parent body. SPA is only as strong as the parents who support it and that strength is demonstrated from the way we all work together for Bike Hike, Order Out Day and all the other things we do to support Springer. We are a great group and I am proud that I was and still am part of that team.

During my tenure as President, we had many successes and a few hiccups. We raised more than \$24,000 during the past two years through wrapping paper sales, Bike Hike and scrip. The scrip program really took off and that is a direct result of parents supporting our program. We had great teacher lunches each year where the parents shared the products of their amazing culinary skills.

Not too long ago, SPA assisted a Springer grad who was working hard to earn his Eagle Scout badge. After enlisting friends and materials, he installed a gravel path around Springer's outside classroom. To hear this young man speak about wanting to give back to a place that had given him so much made me proud that SPA was able to help.

Every aspect of being SPA president was rewarding, exciting and a great way to support an institution that so easily gives of itself to make all who enter it feel welcome, successful and important.

FROM THE CENTER

Springer Provides Literacy Workshop at Cincinnati Children's Hospital



The start of the school year always brings with it a spirit of newness both for students and those professionals who work with them on a daily basis. On October 20th, as students across Cincinnati sat in their classrooms making new learning connections, so too did twenty-two of their respective Speech and Language Pathologists (SLPs). Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Division of Speech Pathology, enlisted Springer School and Center to present a full-day workshop on the Children's Hospital campus entitled, *A Multisensory Approach to Reading Success*. The focus of the day was to provide SLPs support in the area of literacy development with an emphasis on strategic multisensory intervention in reading and writing. Also addressed was

the complexity of memory and the key roll it plays in processing, storing and retrieving information.

Springer brought expertise to this literacy training through the use of best-practice, research-based methodologies. By sharing how to scaffold information, providing strategies that combine multisensory experiences that create lasting memory imprints, and teaching practical, hands-on techniques, participants were able to leave the workshop with essential tools, critical to working with struggling students.

The day was widely heralded as practical, timely and beneficial. Bridgitt Pauly, Continuing Education Coordinator for Children's Hospital, noted

that the workshop supported participants in "the understanding of 'normal' development and skills needed for literacy success – helping Speech-Language Pathologists make a difference in the children that we see."

Presented by Program Coordinator Eileen Schroeder, this full-day, accredited course is just one of many specialized trainings that Springer provides to area schools and organizations. Springer's dynamic, research-based professional development offerings can be tailored to fit your organization's needs. To find out more, go to Springer's web site at www.springer-ld.org or call (513) 871-6080 x400.

Alumni CONNECTIONS

Pamela (Rockenfield) Ashmore '93 received her masters in Art Education from the DAAP program at the University of Cincinnati in 2007. She is currently teaching art to students in grades K-8 at St. Thomas More in Withamsville, Ohio. She was married to Jay Ashmore on October 21st, 2006 at The Summit Country Day School chapel. They have two dogs, Zoe and Dutch.

Anna Cucinotta '75 (pictured) graduated from Indian Hill High School in 1986. She continued her education at Southern Ohio College (Brown Mackie College) where she graduated with an Associate of Applied Science degree in Information Systems in 1989. With her 40th birthday approaching, she decided to go back to college and finish her long time goal. On August 8, 2008 Anna graduated from Indiana Wesleyan University, Magna Cum Laude with Bachelor of Science in Business Information Systems. She is currently working for Cerner Corporation in Kansas City, Missouri. She shares these words of



advice for other Springer students. "Goals can be reached at anytime in your life if you set your mind to it."

Mimi (Cooper) Gerwin '91 has been working with The Children's Home of Cincinnati for more than four years. She was a Community Support Provider for children with mental health disabilities for three years, and is now doing marketing and special projects in Early Childhood and

Education. She was married in June 2007 to David Gerwin and they have a 3 month-old son, Oliver.

Geoff Lovett '03 is studying Criminology and Sociology at the College of Mount Saint Joseph. He is enrolled in the dual study program.

Amy Zepf '05 is a senior at Mariemont High School. She is currently applying to colleges and finishing up her senior year!



Artist in Residence Keeps Springer Glowing!

This year's Maureen Wenker Artist in Residence Program featured Cincinnati's own Tom Bacher, a visual artist recognized internationally for his luminous painting technique. Mr. Bacher, a third time Springer Artist in Residence and also a recipient of the Spirit of Springer Award in 2002, shared his expertise with Springer students from November 10-21, 2008. A group of Upper School students worked with Mr. Bacher to create their own glow-in-the-dark works of art. To see Mr. Bacher's paintings, please visit his website at www.tombacher.com, or visit his gallery showing, beginning January 23, 2008 at the Weston Art Gallery in Cincinnati.



Tom Bacher
with Upper School
students, Ben
Kimmel, Jeffrey
Wallace, and
Helen MacMann

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

"Pig 4"

Created for the Big Pig Gig, Summer 2000, by Tom Bacher and Springer students (Springer's glow-in-the-dark pig happily resides in Springer's lower hallway.)



Springer Receives Grant from the Dater Foundation

Springer is excited to announce a \$10,000 grant from the Charles H. Dater Foundation for upgrades and technology enhancements to Reuben Hall – the facility that houses Center staff and classrooms. This generous grant will support improvements needed to maximize student, parent and educator outreach offerings to the community, helping Springer impact even more children and families affected by learning disabilities. The Dater Foundation

makes grants to non-profit organizations in the Greater Cincinnati area to carry out programs that benefit children and focus in the areas of arts/culture, education, healthcare, social services and other community needs. The private foundation was established by fourth-generation Cincinnati, businessman and philanthropist, Charles Dater (1912-1993), to ensure that his resources would continue to fund worthwhile community programs after his death.



**Check out
Springer's Website!**

www.springer-ld.org

Springer's website has a wealth of information and photos at your fingertips! On the site, you can access the latest News and Views, the 2007-08 Annual Report, up-to-date monthly Department News, exciting gallery photos of school activities, recent press releases, and the Springer calendar listing of upcoming school and center programs and special dates. Prefer to do your giving online? You can now donate to the 2008-09 Annual Fund online on Springer's home page. What are you waiting for!

Annual Fund 2008-09

The 2008-09 Annual Fund campaign is underway!
Help us reach our goal of \$200,000!



HELPING CHILDREN
believe
IN THEMSELVES

*Together we can
make it happen*

YES!

I want to help children with learning disabilities believe in themselves with my gift of \$ _____

The Annual Fund campaign still remains the primary funding source of scholarship dollars for students that attend Springer and is more important than ever with nearly one in three families receiving financial assistance. The Annual Fund also supports center programs that expand Springer's mission to the community and, beginning this year, will support special school programs. *Annual Fund gifts will be used for this year's families and programs, so your giving will make a direct and immediate impact.*

Please know that your gift will support hundreds of children, parents and teachers in our community in need of Springer's life-changing learning disability resources.

Arlene Roane, the 2008-09 Annual Fund Chair, and the Springer Development Office would like to thank all who have already given to this year's campaign!

DONOR INFORMATION

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PHONE _____

PAYMENT OPTIONS

- Pledge to be paid by June 1st, 2009
- Check payable to Springer School and Center
- Transfer of appreciated stock
- Credit card payment (Visa or Mastercard only)

Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

MATCHING GIFTS

If you and/or your spouse are employees/retirees of a company that matches charitable contributions, you can multiply the impact of your gift to Springer.

_____ will match my gift

RECOGNITION

Please indicate below how you would like your name listed in the Annual Report:

I would like my gift to remain anonymous.

STAY CONNECTED

I would like to receive Springer's e-newsletter, featuring current and upcoming programs, learning disability resources, and much more! My email address is: _____

QUESTIONS?

Please contact Springer's Development Office at (513) 871-6080 x213

MAIL FORM TO: Springer School and Center, Attn: Development Office, 2121 Madison Road, Cincinnati, OH 45208

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INSIDE

- *A Springer Celebration! 2009*
- **New SPA Officers**
- **Bike Hike & Picnic a Success!**

Springer Hosts Circles of Diversity Conference

Approximately 70 middle school students and staff from Cincinnati Country Day School, The Seven Hills School, The Summit Country Day School, and Springer School and Center, joined together on November 12th to discuss diversity issues on the Springer campus. After attending a play performed by the Know Theater at The Summit, students returned to Springer for lunch and afternoon activities involving discussions about stereotyping – a focus of the earlier performance. Students were appreciative of the workshop indicating that it allowed them to voice their opinions in an atmosphere of acceptance from their peers. The students provided great insights during the day with powerful comments such as “*PEOPLE CAN CHANGE* – we don’t have to be like this, we can become more accepting.”

