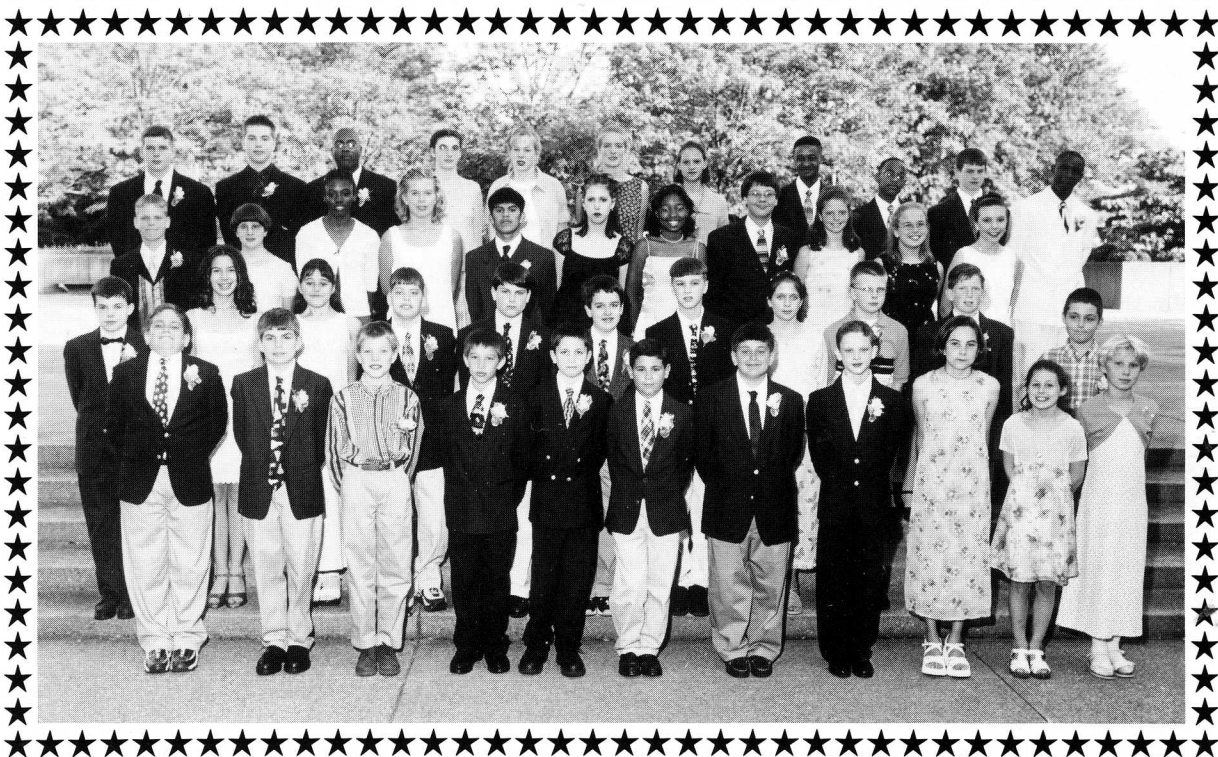


Summer  
2000

# News and Views

springer

## Springer Class of 2000



Arielle Bachrach  
Elizabeth Anne Bentz  
Marcus A. Bonner  
Cody James Breeden  
Eric Brinkmann  
Corey Buse  
Nathaniel B. Cain  
Paul David Cassady  
Emily Kathryn Curran  
J. Franklin Daugherty, IV  
Spencer Nathan Deutsch  
Brittany Edwards Langford  
Jennifer Ladd Fassler  
Caroline Kendall Feldhaus  
Peter James Friedman  
Brian J. Garretson

Leia K. Greathouse  
Cory William Hagaman  
Catherine Louise Heintz  
Mary Elizabeth Heintz  
Julio C. Heitkamp  
Andrew Honecker  
Sara Jane Honecker  
Edward Albert Hutchinson  
Damion Jackson  
Megan (Margaret-Ann) Lowe  
Aurora Rose Kern MacVeigh  
Maxwell Gibbs Kern MacVeigh  
Lauren Elyse Martin  
Brent A. Marx  
Patrick McGregor Maundrell  
Steven Harmon Middlemas

Mitchell Morris, Jr.  
Nathan Mathew Munafo  
Amanda Olden  
Jason M. Radford  
Michael R. Randall  
Courtney Dawn Renner  
Eric M. Rugh  
Jacqueline J. Rusche  
David Smith  
Ian Smith  
Anne Elizabeth Sunderman  
Joseph M. Templin  
Jamie Wahl  
Robin Warshaw  
Peter Williams

**Congratulations  
Graduates!**

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**Executive  
Director's  
Column**

**Shelly  
Weisbacher**

**Springer's  
mission is to  
empower students  
with learning  
disabilities to lead  
successful lives.**

We accomplish this by teaching students the strategies and skills they will need to succeed in traditional school settings; to understand their individual learning profile; and to be a self-advocate.

The Outstanding Achiever Award recipients (profiled on page 4) exemplify attainment of our mission. These Springer graduates have experienced firsthand the success that comes from applying compensatory strategies, understanding their learning disabilities, and advocating for their needs throughout their educational careers. Ross Freshwater captures this well in a letter he sent to be read at the Annual Dinner. An excerpt from his letter follows:

*"I cannot tell you exactly what Springer did to help me discover my learning potential. It is also hard for me to put into words exactly how my teachers helped me develop the tools that have made me so successful in life. I'd say that they were so good at what they were doing, that as a fourth and fifth grader I simply DID NOT notice how they were teaching me to learn. What I do know is the curriculum was challenging but reachable. Most important, I felt that the faculty truly respected and believed in my abilities as a learner and that somewhere out there in society, was a meaningful place for Ross Freshwater. You all can probably do a much better job of analyzing what it was about my time at Springer that allowed me my success. You are all living the Springer experience now – and no doubt can see, hear, and breathe the many wonderful things about the place that I blindly took for granted. What I will say is this – my two years here at Springer were among the best of my 17 years of school."*

It is our goal that all graduates will take from Springer the belief they can achieve their personal dreams, as did Ross Freshwater...a belief based on their very real experiences of success while they were at Springer.

## **BOLAN SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS**

Congratulations to this year's Bolan Scholarship winners, *Brittany Edwards, Megan Lowe, and Brent Marx*. The Bolan Scholarship awarded to graduating students who have an understanding of their learning disability, a desire to strengthen weaknesses, demonstrate leadership among their peers, maintain a positive attitude, and apply strategies in everyday learning. The scholarship was established in memory of Springer parent Peter Bolan in 1988. Each winner will receive a scholarship to offset educational costs in their first year after Springer.



2000 Bolan Scholarship Winners Brittany Edwards, Brent Marx, and Megan Lowe.

## **SPRINGER SPIRIT AWARDS**

Springer handed out its annual Spirit Awards at the Awards Assembly on June 2nd. Spirit Award recipients are recommended by their teachers, and only one student from each class is nominated. Criteria for the Spirit Award are: demonstrate a spirit of cooperation with adults and peers on a consistent basis; provide a good role model for other students; and show pride in themselves as a learner and an individual. Recipients of the Springer Spirit Award were: *Elizabeth Bible, Ashley Dillion, Mac Edwards, Evan Groneman, Jack Hemmer, Travis Hodges, Adam Issacs, Meredith Kimbler, Megan Lowe, Coombs McCaslin, George Myatt, Amanda Olden, Jonathan Ryall, Michi Takahashi, Justin Tasset, Steven Turton, Nash Ward, and Ian Wheatley.*



# Magnolia Time Roast a Great Success!



"Queen for a Day", Laura Pulfer watches from her throne as she is roasted and toasted by her friends. L. to R.: Jim Knippenberg, Jim Tarbell, Kathy Wade, Roger Ach, and Ed Rigaud.

Springer's Magnolia Time Roast of Laura Pulfer was a huge success, raising **\$77,000** for financial aid and programs at Springer Center for Learning Disabilities. A crowd of 275 guests listened and laughed as Cincinnati Enquirer columnist Laura Pulfer was "roasted" by her friends and colleagues.

Roasters included: Roger Ach, Cammy Dierking, Jim Knippenberg, Ed Rigaud, Jim Tarbell, and Kathy Wade. As part of their "roast", Roger Ach and Kathy Wade serenaded Ms. Pulfer. Michael Flannery brought even more light-heartedness to Magnolia Time by serving as emcee and official jokester. City Councilman Jim Tarbell kicked off the evening by reading a Proclamation from Mayor

Charlie Luken declaring May 9th to be "Laura Pulfer Day" in Cincinnati.

Magnolia Time also served as the debut for a new informational video about Springer. The video, featuring Springer students, focuses on understanding learning disabilities and describing the services offered at the school and Center.

This year's Magnolia Time was one of the best ever, and it could not have happened without the hard work and dedication of its Committee members: Springer Parents Nathan Bachrach and Tami Blowers, Alumni Parent and Trustee Pam Gardner, Trustees Peter D. Gomsak and Donna Hartman, and Alumni Parents Tom and Carol McTernan. Alumni Parent and Trustee Paul Wenker served as Co-Chair for the event with his wife Joyce.

We'd also like to thank our Corporate Sponsors: *Cinergy, Comair, Federated Department Stores, The Financial Network Group, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Procter & Gamble, and The Western-Southern Enterprise.* Corporate Patrons were: *Acordia, Baker Concrete Construction, Carpetland/CarpetOne, Clear Channel Communications, Ernst & Young, Fifth Third Bank, Messer & Sons Construction, Mellott & Mellott, Miller-Valentine Group, and PNC Advisors.*



Roast Committee Members pose with Executive Director Shelly Weisbacher. L. to R.: Peter D. Gomsak, Jr., Pam Gardner, Tami Blowers, Paul Wenker, and Joyce Wenker. Not pictured: Nathan Bachrach, Donna Hartman, and Tom and Carol McTernan.

# Outstanding Achievers Honored

Three Springer grads were honored for their achievements with the 2000 Outstanding Achiever Award at the school's Annual Dinner and Meeting, held on May 15th.

The Outstanding Achiever Award honors Springer graduates who have demonstrated success in their professions, academics, community service, art, and athletics.

This year's recipients were *Ross Freshwater*, *Tom Holland*, and *Gretchen Langenderfer*.

**Ross Freshwater** graduated from Springer in 1983. He then attended St. Xavier High School, Ohio University, and Ohio State University. Ross recently graduated from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, where he received a Master's in Education. On the way to earning his Master's Degree, Ross benefited from varied work experiences. He was instrumental in the success of a start-up global toy company specializing in educational products. Ross also managed a \$3 million dollar fund raising campaign for the United Way of Seattle, and served as a team leader for the National Civilian Community Corps in Denver, Colorado. Now that he is entering the world of teaching, Ross feels his experiences at Springer taught him how to "look at all students as people with parallel respect, and to draw on my own experience of not being the straight-A student."

**Thomas Holland** graduated from Springer in 1986 and Summit Country Day in 1995. He is a 2000 graduate of Mt. St. Joseph College with a Bachelor's Degree in Health

and Physical Education. He is currently working towards his certification and plans to become a teacher. While a Springer, Tom discovered athletic skills that would help boost his self-esteem and focus on academics. He later ran track and played football for Summit, where he holds several school records. While at Mt. St. Joseph, Tom maintained a 3.5 GPA while playing football and serving as co-captain during his senior year. Involvement in sports led Tom to a desire to coach, as well as teach. He has served his community as a junior high football and basketball coach, and hopes to continue to so do after he becomes a teacher. Tom thanked Springer for "boosting my self-esteem" and for showing him he could do well in sports and achieve academically.

**Gretchen Langenderfer** is a 1992 Springer Graduate. She attended Summit Country Day, and recently graduated from Muskingum College with a Bachelor's Degree in Sociology and Early Childhood. Gretchen will be attending the University of Cincinnati in the Fall to begin Graduate studies in Social Work. Gretchen has demonstrated great commitment to community service. She has served as a Peer Educator; answered crisis hotline calls for a counseling center; provided mentoring to incoming freshman at Muskingum; and volunteered for Circle K, area nursing homes, and a battered women's shelter. Gretchen also coordinated a service providing free tutoring to students in the Muskingum College area. In her acceptance speech, Gretchen thanked her family "for their support," and Springer for showing her she can succeed.

## Graduate Spotlight

### Check out what these Springer graduates are doing!

\*\*\*\*\*

**Emily Hawkins**, a 1991 Springer grad, recently received her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Elon College in North Carolina. After working in Charlotte this summer, she and several friends will be heading off to Australia on a four-month work permit.

**Joe Kropp** is a 1985 Springer grad. He is also an alum of St. Xavier High School and Denison University. While at Denison, Joe served as President of his fraternity, Alpha Gamma, Delta. He is currently enjoying a successful career with Flycast Communications in San Francisco, CA.

**Cathleen Mahin** graduated from Springer in 1995, and is currently enrolled at The Summit Middle School. Cathleen was recently chosen as a winner in the Earth Day 2000 Art and Poetry Contest. Her drawing was selected from over 100 entries, and will be reproduced as a greeting card commemorating the 30th anniversary of Earth Day. Cathleen's mother, Corrinne Thaler, is Springer's Art Instructor (see following page).

**Franco Munda**, a 1996 Springer graduate, recently received his diploma from McNicholas High School. He will be attending Muskingum College in the Fall, where he will be playing soccer for the school. Franco is currently involved with a local elite soccer team.



# Student News

## TRACK MEMBERS WIN HONORS

Members of Springer's Track Team were recently honored at the City Championships:

<i>Blake Bruns</i>	2nd place Shot Put
<i>Kate Hagadorn</i>	5th place Shot Put
<i>LeMara Higgins</i>	1st place 75m and 100m
<i>Adam Issacs</i>	3rd place 400m, 4th place Long Jump, 5th place 200m
<i>Max MacVeigh</i>	6th place 200m
<i>Lauren Martin</i>	1st place Shot Put, 4th place 100m
<i>Matt Molloy</i>	1st place Shot Put and 100m
<i>Kurt Raver</i>	1st place 75m
<i>Joe Rohm</i>	1st place Long Jump

Fifty-two students participated in Track this year. Track coaches were: *Amy Ault, Nikki Hildebrandt, Cari Kallaher, Mark Phelps, and Beth Smith.*



*Springer Track Team Members, L. to R.: Kurt Raver, Joe Rohm, Matt Molloy, Kate Hagadorn, Blake Bruns, and LeMara Higgins.*

## ALL SCHOOL OUTING

Springer held its All School Outing at the Cincinnati Sports Mall on May 26th. Students, parents, and staff all enjoyed a day of fun in the sun. Activities included: swimming, tennis, volleyball, soccer, and softball. Each year, Springer holds the All School Outing as a way to celebrate the end of the school year and the beginning of Summer.



*Leia Greathouse creates a face-painting masterpiece on Ashley Soldano at the All School Outing.*



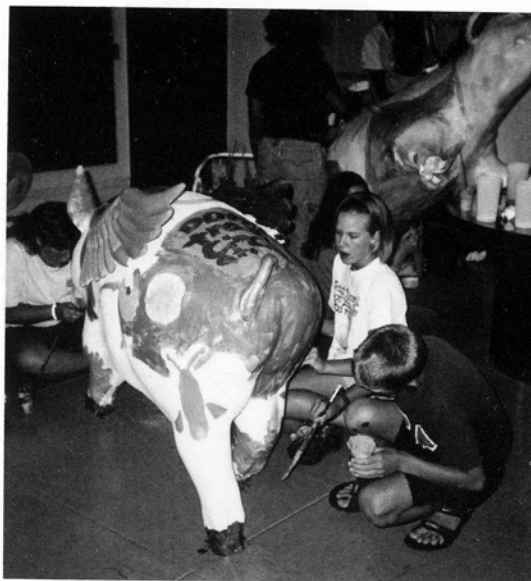
*1999-2000 Springer Student Council*

## STUDENT COUNCIL

Springer's Student Council finished out the year with Spirit Week. Springer students showed their school spirit through activities like Hat Day, Twin Day, and a Classroom Slogan contest. Other projects for the 1999-2000 school year included a Bake Sale, a Valentine Sale, a Spring Mixer and Dance, and a pop-top drive to raise funds for the Ronald McDonald House. Student Council activities raised over \$200. Student Council Officers were: *Megan Lowe*, President; *Jamie Welch*, Vice President; *Leia Greathouse*, Secretary; and *Jack Hemmer*, Treasurer. Springer Teachers *Tom Spotts* and *Carmen Mendoza* served as staff advisors to Student Council.

## BIG PIG GIG

Springer students got into the act and helped paint pigs for the Big Pig Gig. Tom Bacher, an artist known for his use of luminescent paints, and Springer's 1999 Artist-In-Residence, was chosen to paint three pigs for the celebration.



*Springer students paint a pig for the Big Pig Gig.*

He invited Springer students to help him at his studio on June 17th. When completed, two of these pigs will glow in the window of Kaldi's coffeehouse on Main Street.

# Take a Closer Look....at Art

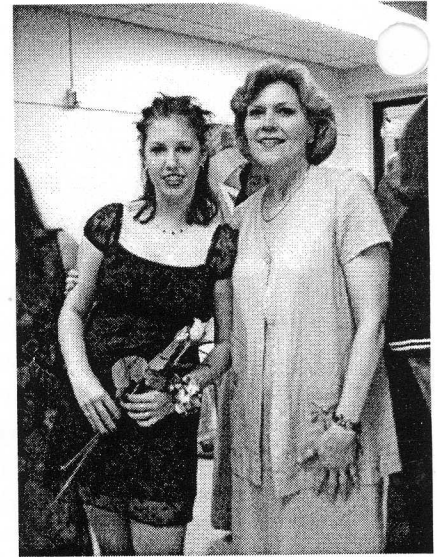
In this issue of *News & Views*, we take a closer look at Springer's Art Program.

*Corrinne Thaler* has been with Springer for 23 years, and for the past five years she has served as Springer's Art Instructor.

As with all aspects of Springer's program, art instruction approaches each student's learning disability on an individual basis. Ms. Thaler uses a multi-sensory approach to teaching art. Presenting lessons visually, auditorally, and kinesthetically allows students to learn in whichever way works best for them. Furthermore, each project is broken down into steps to give students a better understanding of how it can be completed. Other issues, such as fine motor skills, organization, planning, and spacial awareness are also addressed during art classes.

The curriculum is flexible to allow for age-appropriate assignments. This means that while all students learn about the same artist or style, lessons and projects are adjusted to reflect each student's grade and skill level. Students are encouraged to achieve their potential, and to be proud of their work. "Many students with learning disabilities enjoy success in art, and because of that success, they develop self-confidence," states Ms. Thaler. "Students feel good about art, and about themselves."

Ms. Thaler was recently recognized for excellence in her field by the Robert Rauschenberg Foundation. Robert Rauschenberg is an abstract artist committed to learning disabilities issues. The Foundation is sponsored by The Lab School in Washington, D.C., a school specializing in learning disabilities. She was one of only thirty art teachers from across the country selected to participate in a workshop entitled "The Power of Art: Teaching Students with Learning Disabilities." The workshop focused on teaching students with learning disabilities; ways of using art to teach academic skills; and developing curricula with other art instructors. As part of the workshop, Ms. Thaler was presented with an award from Mr. Rauschenberg recognizing her achievement. She also received \$500 in materials to use in her classroom.



Springer Art Teacher Corrinne Thaler poses with Upper School Student Libby Bentz at graduation on June 7.



Upper School student Craig Meiman displays the papier mache mask he made with Artist-In-Residence, Debbie Brod.

## **ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM**

Through the generosity of the Maureen Wenker Fund, Springer was again able to host an Artist-In-Residence this past April. For two weeks, Debbie Brod worked with Springer Upper School students to make papier mache masks.

Students were encouraged to create multi-media masks, using everything from newspapers to pipe cleaners. Each mask was truly a one-of-a-kind piece because students used their own faces as molds for their masks. Furthermore, all Springer students got involved by creating papier mache vines and wreaths to complement the masks. At the gallery showing, students explained how the masks were made and described their creations for visitors.

Ms. Brod, a visual artist from Cincinnati, has served as an Artist-In-Residence for many schools in Ohio and was recently a featured artist at the University of Cincinnati Health Sciences Library.



# Springer Center Provides Summer Learning

Springer Center is offering a variety of programs to address children's summer academic needs. From strengthening skills in reading and language arts, to providing small group tutoring, these summer programs will broaden the services Springer Center provides to children in Greater Cincinnati.

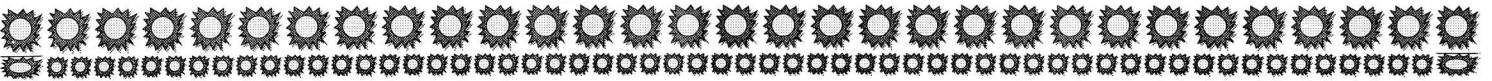
The "Adventures in Summer Learning" program, currently in its seventh year, will be offered during the month of July. This half-day program provides instruction in reading and language arts, as well as math, computer, and "Challenge by Choice." Since 1992 "Adventures in Summer Learning" has been helping children entering grades 1-7 strengthen skills and improve self-esteem. The program has been so successful that it has grown to serve 64 children this summer.

Mini camps are a new addition to the summer program offerings. Designed at the recommendation of

current Springer parents, the camps will provide one hour of tutoring, plus two hours of enrichment activities. These classes will meet three times a week for two weeks.

We are also pleased to offer our successful handwriting program again this summer. Instructed by Springer motor therapist Amy Ford, these camps have helped children improve their handwriting through individualized small group instruction.

While Springer Center's summer offerings provide a variety of programs to serve the academic needs of students, you can look for our fall brochures that outline programs for parents and teacher courses as well. For more information or to be placed on the Springer Center mailing list, please call 871-9174.



## Parent Association Concludes Successful Year

### *Reflections on the year by Linda Lovett*

The Springer Parent Association (SPA) has completed another busy and fulfilling year. Our fundraisers, which included the Bike Hike, SCRIP program, Order Out Day, Spiritwear, and the Plant Sale raised approximately \$14,000. Through the wonderful support and generosity of our families, along with our fundraisers, we were able to support: Girls' Club, Athletics, Staff Appreciation, Teacher Classroom, Hospitality, Upper School, Everybody Counts, and Parent Education. We were also able to provide the Intermediate Department with more Franklin Spellers and the Primary Department with a CD player and classroom shelving. Finally, the playground took on a look this year and our children love it!

As you can see, SPA is an integral part of Springer. We wouldn't be able to do it without your support. We

applaud our chairpersons, volunteers, and families for all their time and effort. We also thank the Springer Staff for their support. We make a great team! Finally, we'd like to thank our children for giving us the chance to make their school days as memorable as possible.

### **1999-2000 SPA Officers**

*Presidents:* Linda Lovett, Kathy Dober, Kim Haaff

*VP of Fundraising:* Julie Lehr

*VP of Schoolwide Programs:* Sherry Curran

*VP of Classroom Programs:* Michele Moore

*Recording Secretary:* Dian Deutsch

*Treasurer:* Mary Beth Lucian

*Immediate Past President:* Carol Igoe

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## Staff Members Honored

Several Springer Staff Members were honored for years of service to the school at the Annual Dinner and Meeting on May 15th.

*Shelley Burkhardt, Fran Cohen, Judy McMahon, and Steve Ploetz* all received recognition for their ten years of service to Springer. Additionally, Springer Psychologist *Dr. Mark Helmick* was honored for his 25 years with the organization. Congratulations and thanks!

L. to R.: Judy McMahon, Fran Cohen, Mark Helmick, and Shelley Burkhardt



Congratulations to *Dr. Mark Helmick*, who recently celebrated his 25th year as a psychologist at Springer. He was recognized for his service to Springer at the Annual Dinner and Meeting on May 15th.

Mark Helmick, Ed.D. began in 1975, when Springer was known as the Springer Educational Foundation. Over the years, he has been involved with many aspects of Springer's program, helping it grow into the unique community resource Springer is today. Throughout his tenure at Springer, he has helped hundreds of children manage their learning disabilities, gain self-confidence, and become advocates for themselves. Mark has also been a resource for staff members and parents, and conducted numerous parent education sessions.

Springer would not be the same without Mark Helmick, and we all wish him a hearty congratulations on this great achievement!