



# News & Views

of The Springer School

Summer 1995

## 1995 Graduates



- |                                       |                               |                                    |                                 |                                       |                                           |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| David Patrick Hendy Bowling . . . . . | Home schooled                 | Kyle Joseph Lauer . . . . .        | St. Martin's School             | Kathryn A. Rippe . . . . .            | Cincinnati Hills Christian Academy        |
| Nathan Chavez . . . . .               | Cure' of Ars School           | Alyson Nicole Leonard . . . . .    | Bethany School                  | David Rock . . . . .                  | South Laurel Middle School (KY)           |
| Patrick Coggins . . . . .             | Bethany School                | Chad Linz . . . . .                | Guardian Angels School          | Joseph Dennis Salyer . . . . .        | Villa Madonna Academy (KY)                |
| James Crilley . . . . .               | Indian Hill Middle School     | Michael Linz . . . . .             | Guardian Angels School          | Emily A. Elizabeth Sandfoss . . . . . | Simon Kenton High School (KY)             |
| Victoria Lynn Cunningham . . . . .    | Purcell Marian High School    | James Griffith Lyman . . . . .     | Indian Hill Elementary School   | Christian Schaefer . . . . .          | Indian Hill Elementary School             |
| Kimberly Ann Danner . . . . .         | Seton High School             | William T. Maguire . . . . .       | McNicholas High School          | Edward Joseph Schilderink . . . . .   | Summit Country Day School                 |
| Ashlyn Field . . . . .                | St. Ursula Academy            | Cathleen M. Mahin . . . . .        | Summit Country Day School       | James Eugene Sollars . . . . .        | Bracken County Middle School (KY)         |
| Miles A. Frasca . . . . .             | Purcell Marian High School    | Brandon Marshall . . . . .         | Princeton High School           | Eric Wolfgang Spindel . . . . .       | Winton Woods Middle School                |
| Vallie Kerrick Geier . . . . .        | St. Ursula Villa              | Amanda Beth Mayerson . . . . .     | Wyoming Middle School           | Douglas Stacy . . . . .               | Woodward Elementary School (Delaware, OH) |
| Thomas Georgetown . . . . .           | St. Catherine's School        | Ryan Anthony Menozzi . . . . .     | Kings Mills Elementary School   | John Stevenson . . . . .              | St. John the Evangelist School            |
| Stephanie Marie Gfroerer . . . . .    | McNicholas High School        | Michelle Miller . . . . .          | Purcell Marian High School      | Daniel Robert Swartzel . . . . .      | Scott High School (KY)                    |
| Lauren Haddix . . . . .               | Kings Mills Elementary School | Stephanie A. Mote . . . . .        | Cure' of Ars School             | Lauren Anne Terrizzi . . . . .        | Academy of Tucson (AZ)                    |
| Curtis J. Van Hudson . . . . .        | Purcell Marian High School    | Gregory Patrick O'Gorman . . . . . | The Gow School (NY)             | Eve A. Turner . . . . .               | Purcell Marian High School                |
| Benjamin Patrick Hue . . . . .        | Maple Dale Elementary School  | Kathryn R. Park . . . . .          | St. Ursula Academy              | Lindsey Heather Warm . . . . .        | Cincinnati Country Day School             |
| Evan Laurence Javosky . . . . .       | Summit Country Day School     | Andrew Joseph Pharo . . . . .      | Green Middle School             | Ashley Marie-Claire Warren . . . . .  | The Vanguard School (FL)                  |
| Jason Spencer Javosky . . . . .       | Undecided                     | Fares J. "Buddy" Radel . . . . .   | C.O. Harrison Elementary School | Jennifer M. Watson . . . . .          | St. Ursula Academy                        |
| Lauren Michelle Knisely . . . . .     | Summit Country Day School     | Jessica Lynn Reindl . . . . .      | Villa Madonna Academy (KY)      | Bradley Scott Wittrock . . . . .      | Purcell Marian High School                |
| Adam Patrick Koch . . . . .           | Roger Bacon High School       | Marie Elizabeth Rice . . . . .     | St. Ursula Academy              | Jason Robert Wolfzorn . . . . .       | Wilson Elementary School                  |
| Michael J. Kohls . . . . .            | Purcell Marian High School    | Sarah Marie Rich . . . . .         | Wyoming Middle School           |                                       |                                           |
| Joseph Landers . . . . .              | Summit Country Day School     | Seth John Ridder . . . . .         | The Hughes Center               |                                       |                                           |



## Executive Director's Message

Norita Aplin, Ed.D.

As the years pass, some basic themes and values become refined and form the essential core by which you live. The mother of one of this year's graduates shared the following poem, "Unity," with me. Written anonymously, I so liked it when I first read it that I included it in a parent letter six winters ago. She liked it, too, and saved it. In her recent good-bye letter, she sent me a copy. I think it is worth sharing again.

I hope your summer is full of love and fun.

### Unity

*I dreamed I stood in a studio and watched  
two sculptors there.  
The clay they used was a young child's mind  
and they fashioned it with care.  
One was a teacher, the tools being used were  
books and music and art;  
One was a parent with a guiding hand and a  
gentle loving heart.  
Day after day, the teacher toiled with a touch  
that was deft and sure,  
While the parent labored along beside and  
polished and smoothed it o'er.  
And when at last their task was done, they  
were proud of what they had wrought;  
For the things they had molded into the child  
could neither be sold or bought.  
And each agreed he would have failed if he  
had worked alone,  
For behind the parent stood the school, and  
behind the teacher, the home.*

## Leadership in Admissions Office Changes Hands

After ten years as Springer's Director of Admissions, Corrinne M. Thaler is returning to the classroom as the school's art teacher. Replacing her is Janet A. Annett, an educator who taught at Springer more than 15 years ago.

Corrinne's decision to leave the post she created was not an easy one, but her desire to shorten her workweek in order to spend more time with her own family (her daughter, Cathleen, graduated from Springer this June) was fulfilled when she learned that Barbara Purdy was moving with her family to California.

Corrinne started at Springer in 1977 shortly after she graduated from the College of Mt. St. Joseph with a double major in Special Education and Art Education for grades K-12. At that time, the school was located on Summit Road in Roselawn and had 50 students. For three years, Corrinne was a homeroom teacher. She "taught everything, including art," to children in grades 2-6. Then after helping to develop a program to provide evaluation services for children entering the school, Corrinne became director of Springer's Diagnostic Clinic. A child would spend two weeks at the Clinic, attending class while being evaluated in basic skills and academic potential by the classroom teacher and Corrinne and for speech-language, motor, and psychological services as needed. The Clinic was terminated after five years because other diagnostic services became available in the community and Springer wanted to focus on a direct admissions process. Corrinne estimates that during the past 10 years she has worked with over 1,000 families, helping them understand their child's learning disability and decide whether Springer would be an appropriate placement. It is this part of her work that she has found most satisfying. However, others credit her ability to promote the program while working to achieve the best diagnosis and placement as major factors in the school's overall success. Springer is lucky that Corrinne will continue to be part of the staff.

Jan Annett says she feels like she's coming home. She finds the same warmth and caring and valuing of the importance of each child she knew when she was a part time teacher in the Primary Department. "There's the same kind of spirit and it feels wonderful!" she said during a recent meeting. Her primary goal for her first year will be to continue Corrinne's excellent work. She will spend considerable time in the classrooms to get to know the teachers and students so she can respond properly to inquiries from parents and begin to present the program to the community.

Since 1981, after receiving a M.Ed. in Learning Disabilities and Behavior Disorders from the University of Cincinnati, Jan has been working as a private practice tutor, focusing on elementary and junior high school students.

Thanks for a great job, Corrinne, and welcome Jan!



Corrinne Thaler (r) has involved incoming Admissions Director Jan Annett in a wide variety of meetings in order to assure a smooth transition.

## Springer and Olympus Funded by Greater Cincinnati Foundation

It was recently announced that The Springer School and The Olympus Center, an agency whose focus is the diagnosis of learning and language problems, would share a grant from the Greater Cincinnati Foundation.

The \$4,000 award allows the two organizations to develop a pamphlet to be used by parents as a guide in monitoring their child's development. The focus is on the child from birth to three years of age and offers helpful hints for observing and encouraging age-appropriate behaviors. It also lists professionals throughout Greater Cincinnati who can be called for further assistance.

The pamphlet will be distributed to schools, health center and day care centers.

## Magnolia Time Adds \$65,000 To Scholarship Fund

When Laurie Maguire, Dawna Mayerson and Nancy Schwartzel accepted the co-chairmanship of Magnolia Time they dedicated their efforts to the school's scholarship fund. Their children were graduating from Springer this year and they felt strongly that the chance at academic success that their kids received from the program should be available for others.

**Magnolia Time at the Derby** was charged with the same kind of fun and excitement as the "big race" down in Louisville. Dawna asked fellow parent Mike Frasca to help develop the theme. He constructed eight race horse silhouettes, shown in a full gallop, which he hung from the ceiling looking as though they were charging down the home stretch toward the great Finish Line in the Sky. Glen Goodwin of Vincent Lighting placed spot lights over each table to highlight the golden winner's trophy centerpieces.

The Silent Auction assembled and displayed under Nancy Swartzel's experienced eye won praise as one of the biggest and best ever. Bids in the Restaurant and Class Basket booths exceeded estimated value by at least a couple of lengths while action for tickets for sporting events, hotel getaways, children's items and artwork proved there were no "also rans" in this event.



Springer trustee Seth Miller and his wife Sharon show off their winning "derby hats" during the Silent Auction. In keeping with the Derby theme, guests were invited to wear a hat. The Millers' were constructed out of "The Racing News."

Laurie asked Jeff Thomas to prepare an appropriate "feedbag" for the 300 guests and he responded with a tasty meal that started with Kentucky Burgoo and ended with Derby Pie.

Auctioneer Steve Early's coaxing produced many happy winners. Mike Halpin will enjoy a luxury weekend in New York at The Plaza and in VIP seats to two Broadway shows. Evelyn Laux looked great in her "Fabulous Fur" sable coat. Trustees Eileen Barrett and Lou George beat out the competition by a nose for an Italian Feast to be prepared by Paula Comisar and Vallie Geier. Donna and Dean Trindle loved their WEBN fireworks package so much last year that they got it again. Kurtzie Gonzalez showed great perseverance in her bidding for two tickets to next year's Super Bowl game in Phoenix. Bill Morgan's family will love him forever because he captured a week in Disney World.

Linda and Don Biehl succeeded in getting over 500 bettors to place their money on the Grand Raffle. It paid off big time for Holly Casper (a Magnolia Time regular) who walked off with the \$10,000 cash prize.

The evening was a real winner! Many thanks to all!

## Making Art Out of Anything

Shells, matches, broken dishes, and old scissors...discarded junk to some but art in transformation to artist Vicki Mansoor.

Using recycling and butterflies as the main themes during her two-week stay as Springer's Artist in Residence, Mansoor guided a group of Upper School students in finding creativity within themselves.

To illustrate these ideas, she encouraged students to first explore the materials sent in by Springer families and staff. They also saw slides of other artists' work and read books about butterflies. "I told them a little each day and let it unfold," added Vicki. While she didn't expect everything to look like butterflies, her hope was that their work would reflect them in some way.

She explained that "with butterflies, you deal with a metamorphosis and a transformation." According to Mansoor, art follows a similar pattern, "We can transform little pieces that are discarded and change them into something that can be meaningful."

Key to much of Mansoor's work is the practice of patient, repetitive steps like wrapping a ball with string or texturing a large surface with a pencil. "It is kind of a meditative process and then the images come," Mansoor said.

The process of creating is just as important as the finished piece to her. Mansoor compares this with a butterfly in that while its creating a cocoon may seem a tedious task a piece of art is generated in the end. This can follow the same pattern for people, in art and life in general, she believes.

While at Springer, Vicki worked with three groups for an hour each day and feels she really came to know the students in this short time. She saw them project their own personalities or hobbies into their work making the end products very diverse. "It was very interesting working with these kids," said Mansoor, "every piece really did mirror who that child was."

Mansoor received her masters degree from the University of Cincinnati and has headed-up similar residence programs at local galleries and schools. Her work has been displayed at the Contemporary Arts Center as well as in New York, Chicago and Washington, DC. Her future plans include an exhibition in October at the Machine Shop and a showing at the opening festivities for the Aronoff Center.

Mansoor's session was the result of an Artist in Residence program established by the Maureen Wenker Fund, an ongoing fund designed to provide many years of art experience. Wenker, the mother of three Springer graduates and a Contemporary Arts Center volunteer, died in a car accident in the Spring of 1991.



Springer Artist-in-Residence Vicki Mansoor poses in front of her gift to the school: a wall mural created out of 100 books.

"Right from the start I wanted to make a butterfly," Chris Wilson said. When he had difficulty figuring out how to achieve this with recycled material, Mansoor had him wrap an eggbeater with string. This gave him the time he needed to come up with the ideas of using guitar picks for wings and wax for the body of the butterfly pictured.



## Three Springer Alums Among First To Complete McNicholas Program

Little did *Gail Conti*, now Springer's Education Director, know when she worked four years ago developing a Learning Disabilities program at McNicholas High School that three Springer grads would be among the first to complete that program.

The program was started at the parochial high school in Mt. Washington in response to a need recognized by the school's administrators to provide structured services for students with special learning needs. Remedial reading, tutorial services, a quiet place away from distractions for study, and two instructors who manage and oversee the progress of each of the 20 participants are what make the program work. Their readiness to interact and communicate with other faculty members also plays a very important part in the students' success.

Enter Springer grads Dan Zuk, J.A. Nordman and Brian Burkhardt.

*Dan Zuk* left Springer realizing his classroom struggles would probably never end, but knowing that determination and hard work would pay off. Applying those principles to both his studies and extracurricular activities, Dan won praise and lead roles, for his acting ability. He now plans to enter college in the fall to pursue his interest in marine biology.

*J.A. Nordman*, who lives on the west side of town, travelled an hour to get to school. He found the program's climate of acceptance a big factor in his own comfort with McNick and the long drives every day. During his four years, he managed and played on the football team, joined the Chess Club, but found his calling in the school's theater program. He wants to become a set designer and builder. J.A. will enter U.C. this fall with hopes of moving into the College of Music.

"Studious," "competitive," "sense of commitment to society" are words often used to describe *Brian Burkhardt*. Volunteering at Stepping Stones Center for the Handicapped, working as a peer counselor at McNick are experiences that will serve him well as he prepares for a career in Social Work. He, too, is entering U.C. this fall.

Springer's Class of 1995 has two grads, *Tee Maguire* and *Stephanie Gfroerer*, entering McNicholas High School in the fall. We wish them the same kind of great high school experience, and hope to be reporting wonderful post-high school plans for them, too, four years from now.



Springer executive director *Norita Aplin* introduced *Jennifer Watson* and *Adam Koch* to the Commencement audience as this year's Bolan Scholarship winners. The award is given to those students who have displayed remarkable achievement in working with their learning disabilities. The funds are to be used to help defray costs incurred during the students' first year after Springer.



*Mrs. Barbara Purdy*, Springer's art teacher, and the school's ART ON THE SQUARE artists pose proudly in front of the Metro bus panel they designed for a rolling art exhibit which promoted the city's annual art festival held on Fountain Square in May.

The Springer School is chartered by the State of Ohio for grades 1-8. The school is accredited by the Independent Schools of the Central States (ISACS), and is a member of the Ohio Association of Independent Schools (OAIS). The Springer School admits students regardless of race, color, creed, sex or national origin.

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