

news&views

DR. MARK HELMICK RETIRES AFTER 38 YEARS AT SPRINGER



Dr. Mark Helmick and his wife Martha (R) with son Kevin and his wife Page.

It's hard to imagine Springer without Dr. Mark Helmick; he was hired as a psychologist in 1975, just four years after the Springer Educational Foundation was established as an independent school focused solely on the education of children with learning disabilities.

Mark has seen much growth and change at Springer, and his own role has evolved from one largely concerned with

diagnostics and assessment to that of a therapist with a unique understanding of the social and emotional issues that often accompany a learning disability. During his time here, he served on various leadership teams and made numerous presentations for parent, professional and community groups.

"What defines Mark for me is his genuine, deep sense of caring," said Executive Director Shelly Weisbacher, "for the children, for parents and for his colleagues. He has an amazing capacity to reach out to others."

"Mark had the ability to connect with children who were distressed or struggling with an issue," recalled Assistant Principal Sandy Kohn. "He listened carefully for the angst and frustration behind their words. Seeing the children's problems through

their lens gave him the opportunity to take their distress and make it manageable for them. Children felt understood."

Springer's outdoor classroom is a tangible reminder of Mark's years here. At his 30th anniversary, he was asked how Springer could commemorate the milestone, and his suggestion was the outdoor space for learning, which was constructed in 2006.

Mark was celebrated at the May 21 Annual Dinner where he addressed the gathering of trustees, staff and parent association leaders. "I will always be grateful and humbled by having been able to be a part of this great organization," he said, "and to play a supportive role in the lives of so many children and adolescents for so many years."

McGrory Thanks Departing Trustees at Annual Dinner

Springer School and Center celebrated the 2012-13 year at the Annual Dinner on May 21. Board of Trustees President Sean McGrory recognized six trustees who concluded their service on the board this year.



L to R: Bob Rich, Mimi Gerwin, Phil Breen and Nancy Koglmeier. Not pictured are John Bullock and Tom Bentley.

Two trustees retired from their posts after nine years on the Board. Known and appreciated for his thoughtful, considered deliberations, Phil Breen served on the Committee on Trustees for five years, and on the Development Committee during his first two years and last two years on the Board. Phil will always be remembered as a strong advocate for Springer.

During his nine years as a trustee, Alumni Parent Bob Rich oversaw a full revision of Springer's personnel policies in his service to the Resource/Facilities Committee. He served on the Committee

on Trustees, chairing the Committee from 2008 to 2010, and was also a member of the Executive Committee. Bob was a proponent of tri-modal governance and strongly supported the board's efforts to adopt this style of governance.

In her five years on the board, alumni parent Nancy Koglmeier has been a member of both the Resource Committee and the Committee on Trustees. Nancy applied her marketing and branding expertise to the development of Springer's current tagline – The Springer Experience. Success Changes Everything. Nancy

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LETTER FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

This issue of News & Views is filled with celebrations; the photos and the stories capture an outstanding year for Springer School and Center. The All School Quest theme, Making Connections: Ourselves, Our Community, Our World, well speaks to the spirit of the year. We "Reached for the Stars" and welcomed Henry Winkler; we reconnected with many of our alumni through the dedicated efforts of the Alumni Committee; and we touched the lives of others through contributory activities, from simply visiting residents at St. Margaret Hall to raising funds so that children in developing countries could drink clean water. Art, music, theatre and movement were explored like never before, educators from China visited, and a host of zoo animals provided rich learning experiences. All the while, students were making tremendous strides and becoming capable and self-aware strategic learners.

Through the center, we provided opportunities for parents and professionals to deepen their understanding of learning disabilities, and held the ever-popular Adventures in Summer Learning four-week morning student program with numerous afternoon options as well.

As an organization, we prepared an extensive self-study document that is the cornerstone of our reaccreditation process through the Independent Schools Association of the Central States (ISACS). Through this rigorous process, faculty, staff, trustees, parents and alumni examined all aspects of the organization, identified strengths and challenges, and established plans and priorities. Next year, a team of educators and administrators from other ISACS schools will visit Springer to complete the reaccreditation process.

While there is indeed much to celebrate, the year was not without its sad and bittersweet moments. We will deeply miss our dear friend and former Board President, Chuck Yeiser, who through his longtime involvement and support played a critical role in helping Springer to provide financial aid to families, and to become an ever-stronger and more vibrant organization. Also, we are saddened at the loss of former teacher Lynn Rhatigan. In addition to the children's lives she influenced directly, Lynn's legacy continues through her contributions to Springer's reading and math curricula.

And, we experienced bittersweet feelings at year's end when we said farewell to the families and children who were transitioning, and to colleagues who were starting a new chapter. This year was especially challenging because we found ourselves saying goodbye to Dr. Mark Helmick. In his thirty-eight years, Mark touched the lives of countless children and their families. Along the way, he contributed to the life of the school in large and small ways – serving on leadership teams and task forces, presenting parent programs, providing counsel to others in difficult times, serving as a keeper of "Springer history," and always keenly attuned to the well-being of Springer and everyone involved.

We are grateful for all who have touched our lives this year – for those whose legacy is yet to be determined and for those whose legacy is permanently etched in our collective memory.



Shelly Weisbacher

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worked with parents and board members to refine the essential message and crystallize the wording of the tagline. Nancy also played a role in the selection of a web design firm and key considerations for Springer's 2010 website redesign.

Tom Bentley has served as a trustee for four years. He has been active on both the Development Committee and the Resource Committee, and is stepping down because of a growing business and increased responsibilities.

John Bullock concluded three years on the board. John served on the Resource Committee and on the Alumni Committee,

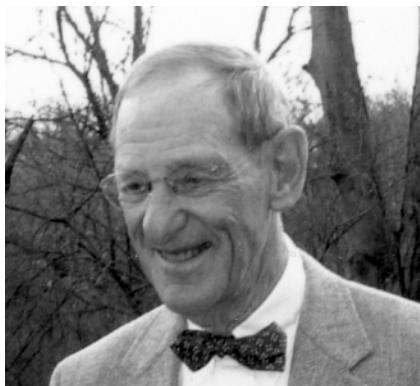
whose activities have been influenced by the information he gathered in conversations with several LD day schools about their efforts to maintain connection with alumni. Having dyslexia himself, John brought a unique and valuable perspective to board deliberations. He is stepping down because of his busy work and travel schedule.

After one year on the board, Springer alumna Mimi Gerwin made a family move to Knoxville, cutting short her time with Springer. Mimi's service on the Alumni Committee was a huge boost to our connections with alumni. The success of a November alumni event was largely due to

the connections she has maintained with fellow alums and her willingness to extend enthusiastic invitations.

Former Board President Randy Cooper announced the officers for next year's board. They remain the same as last year, with Sean McGrory serving as President, Matt Blickensderfer Vice President and Treasurer, and Secretary Nick Spadaccini. Randy also introduced four new trustees, Dora Anim, Lynwood Battle, Ann Munson Steines and Patti Towbin. Please see page 5 for more about these new additions to the board.

Charles F. Yeiser Was Ardent Supporter of Springer



The Springer community was saddened at the loss of dear friend and supporter Charles F. (Chuck) Yeiser, who passed away on March 6 at the age of 92. Chuck joined Springer's Board of Trustees at the encouragement of his brother Eric, whose son was attending the day school. "Chuck fell in love with Springer's mission, and was an ardent supporter thereafter" said Dr. Norita Aplin, Springer Executive Director from 1985-97.

President of the Board of Trustees at the time, Chuck was instrumental in the purchase of Springer's current Madison Rd. property. "Chuck was very influential in raising funds for the purchase," remembered Sr. Marianne Van Vurst, Springer Executive Director from 1978-85. "His efforts made it possible to retire the debt within just a few years."

Education was a passion for Chuck, who spent most of this career at the Cincinnati Country Day School as teacher

and headmaster. Russ Wilson, a Springer parent and a former President of Springer's Board of Trustees, had personal experience with Chuck, who had taught Russ' 8th grade English class at Cincinnati Country Day and was his college counselor during his senior year in 1975. "I will never forget all of his red-ink on my term paper on 'The Yearling,' which marked the beginning of my development as a writer," remembered Russ.

One of the highlights of Russ' time on the Springer board was a lunch he had with Chuck during the capital campaign in 2006. Although Russ had spent a lot of time with Chuck as a student at Country Day, the two had never spoken about learning disabilities until that lunch. "Mr. Yeiser told me that he got interested in LD when a few of his English students didn't perform up to his expectations," said Russ. Once Chuck learned about dyslexia, he didn't hesitate to act. "I connected the dots while we were talking," Russ recalled. "One of my best friends in high school had left Country Day's campus for specialized instruction in reading, and I realized that Mr. Yeiser had been behind it all along. This would have been in 1971 or 1972, so he was way ahead of his time."

Chuck's granddaughter, Emily Stahl, has a personal perspective of his work for Springer as an alumna of the day school. "I love that my grandfather had a relationship with Springer; it might be one of the things that gave us a unique bond," she

said. "Without my experience at Springer, I may have never become a college graduate. My college graduation was one of the best weekends I had with my Grandpa. I had never seen him so proud!"

Emily once captured her memories of her grandfather in a poem called "Paw Paw."

*A laugh that can be heard down the street.
Do not judge a man by the condition of his feet.*

He has eyes that sparkle and a nose made for honking.

He might be the hunter ready to shoot, with the lead

Of his four-legged pointer and a pair of boots.

Or maybe he is a fisherman casting and wading in rubber

.....Waiting to catch his supper.

Buttermilk pancakes are his specialty but he prefers

The women to cook.

*Old fashioned values, "No hats in the house,"
Only on the hook.*

*Stubborn but full of good stories,
A bottle of red wine for his glory.*

Who might this mystery man be?

It is my Grandpa, the only Paw Paw for me!

Chuck's involvement with Springer began in the 1970s. He was a member of the Board of Trustees from 1978 to 1989, and Board President in 1980. Springer extends deepest sympathy to Chuck's family and friends. He will be greatly missed.

In Memoriam Lynn Rhatigan

Lynn Rhatigan, Intermediate teacher at Springer 1983-96, passed away on May 23, 2013 at the age of 75. During her teaching career, Lynn also taught in Forest Hills Local School District, and continued to tutor students after leaving Springer to spend more time with her six children.

"What I remember best about Lynn was her ability to reach inside every child and find what made him or her tick," said

Springer Curriculum Director Gail Piraino, who was Principal when Lynn taught here. "Lynn was a hard-working team player who had high expectations of her students."

"Lynn wouldn't give up on a child," Gail remembered. "If one thing didn't work well, she would try something else." Gail especially remembers a particular student who experienced great difficulty in the Primary level at Springer and continued to struggle

as an Intermediate student. Gail assigned him to Lynn's class, where a strong partnership was soon formed. "Under Lynn's direction, that student was transformed," Gail said.

Springer remembers Lynn fondly and extends deepest sympathy to her family and friends.





Center Program Coordinator Eileen Schroeder works with area educators at a Springer program.

Activity doesn't slow for Springer's center in June, when day school students have begun their summer vacations. This year, the center added a third Professional Development program to its summer offerings.

In response to new legislation adopted in 45 of the 50 states including Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana, Center Program Coordinator Eileen Schroeder developed a class for educators that reframes Common Core Standards, making them easier to understand and apply for all kinds of learners.

The center team also updated a week-long workshop designed to equip teachers

June a Busy Month for Center

to develop proficient readers. Meta-MARS: A Multisensory Approach to Reading Success trained educators in the value of a metacognitive (thinking about thinking) approach to reading instruction, an approach that encourages students to assess their own learning – does what I just read make sense? Are distractions interfering with my understanding?

Also in June, Center Program Coordinator Barbara Hunter presented a two-day seminar that guides teachers in developing a classroom culture that supports the development of executive function skills. Executive function skills are essential for planning, prioritizing, organizing, remembering and self-regulating. Deficits in those skills can greatly impact both learning and performance in school.

Now in its 20th year, the center's leading program for students, Adventures in Summer Learning, ran for four weeks from mid-June to mid-July. Designed for students who struggle in school, Adventures

offers a variety of programs suited for specific needs. The programs reinforce skills and teach strategies for managing academic difficulties. Feedback during conferences equips parents to support their child's learning during the upcoming school year.

During the summer, as all year long, members of the center's staff field calls from the community, many times parents seeking guidance on their child's school-related issues. Center staffers can recommend appropriate assessments and help parents to interpret the results.

"Many times parents rely on us to give them language for communicating with school personnel," said Barbara. "Planning out conversations ahead of meetings helps parents target areas of need and assure that essential interventions for school success are put in place."

Anniversary Marked by Donation to Library



Barbara Cassady Frey loved to help students with their reading.

In the early 1980s, Springer parent Barbara Cassady Frey began assembling a library for Springer students, and she served as the volunteer librarian for several years afterward.

Barbara passed away after a battle with cancer in 1988, and in her memory, husband John Frey established a memorial fund and launched the Barbara Cassady Frey Library, complete with new books, magazine racks and beanbag chairs. Springer friends and family combined efforts in 1997 to make possible renovations and technology upgrades, and the library was rededicated in Barbara's memory.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Barbara Cassady Frey Library. In honor of that milestone, the Frey and Cassady families are joining forces to raise funds for another update in the library's role in the lives of Springer students. A fundraising dinner, including silent auction, will be held at Springer on September 7, 2013.

Many students have language-based learning disabilities that make reading and

comprehending written text a challenge. Often these students can more readily absorb information presented in an auditory format. To better meet this need, funds raised at the dinner will be used to purchase Playaways, electronic devices on which books are stored in digital format.

"The Frey and Cassady families are excited to be partnering with Springer School and Center on this event to help continue the passion that Barbara Cassady Frey had for the library," said Dan Frey, Barbara's son. "We have been humbled and overwhelmed by the generous support of the community, our family and friends."

Springer Adds Four to Board of Trustees

Springer is pleased to welcome four new members to the Board of Trustees for the 2013-2014 school year.

Dora Anim currently serves as the Vice President of Strategic Initiatives for the Greater Cincinnati Health Council, Health Collaborative and HealthBridge where she leads efforts to define the implementation plan of large strategic initiatives. Previously, she served as the Vice President, Quality and Data, at the Greater Cincinnati Health Council where she managed the Data Services division and key quality improvement, patient safety and health transformation initiatives for Health Council hospital members. In addition, Dora plays an integral role in the management of the Southwest Ohio Community Care Transitions Collaborative. This collaboration brings together hospitals, physicians, health information technology, and community-based programs to address specific factors that contribute to hospital readmissions in the frail and elderly population.

Dora has a Masters of Public Administration from the University of Cincinnati and currently serves on the board of the Suzuki Cooperative of Cincinnati Public Schools and on the Women Excel Executive Advisory Board for the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber.

Lynwood Battle's career with Procter & Gamble spanned 28 years. At the time of his retirement from P&G, he was the Manager of Diversity. In that role he coordinated the company's affirmative action and equal employment policies. These programs were recognized by the U.S. Department of Labor's prestigious Opportunity 2000

Award, which is presented to only one company annually.

Prior to joining P&G, Lynwood was commissioned into the U.S. Army Field Artillery and served in the Panama Canal Zone and in Vietnam, for which he earned two Bronze Star Medals.

Lynwood has served on numerous boards locally and nationally. He currently serves as a trustee for Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens, and The Charter Committee. Previously, he served for 8 years as a member of the Cincinnati Board of Education, including 2 years as its President.

He is a third generation mortician in the family business, the J.C. Battle & Sons Funeral Home, and serves on the board of the Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science.

Lynwood is the grandfather of a current primary student.

Ann Munson Steines is the Senior Vice President, Deputy General Counsel and Assistant Secretary for Macy's, Inc. Her responsibilities include managing the Corporate, Credit, Retail Operations, Employment, and Benefits attorneys and legal professionals based in Macy's Atlanta, Cincinnati, New York, San Francisco, and St. Louis law offices.

Ann is active with various organizations focused on different aspects of diversity and inclusion. She presently serves on the Steering Committee of the Greater Cincinnati Minority Counsel Program and the President's Council of Cornell Women, and she chairs the Planning Subcommittee for the Leadership Council on Legal Diversity.

Ann is a past President and member of the Board of Trustees of Tender Mercies, Inc. and past board member of the Stepping Stones Center.

Ann received her law degree from the University of California at Los Angeles, School of Law. She and her husband Mike are alumni parents.

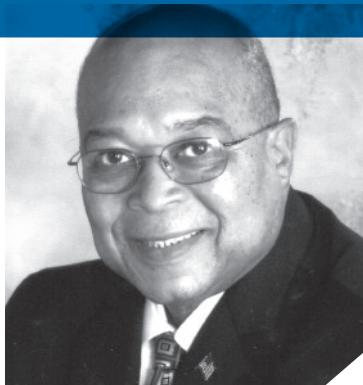
Patricia Towbin received her Master's Degree in Special Education from the University of Cincinnati. She is certified as an Educational Diagnostician and teacher in the area of Special Education and Elementary Education, specializing in working with students who have learning disabilities, chronic health conditions, and attention and behavioral difficulties.

Over the past 30 years, Patti has worked in public and private school programs. Prior to returning to Cincinnati in 2009, she was part of a Multi-Disciplinary private practice group consisting of Psychologists, Psychiatrists, Educators and Speech and Language Pathologists, addressing the educational needs of students between the ages of 4 and 21.

In her current position at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Patti consults with parents, school personnel, and medical professionals, and assists in developing and implementing individual education plans and teaching strategies.

Patti currently is a member of the Board of Trustees of 4C for Children, which focuses on high-quality early education and care.

L to R: Dora Anim, Lynwood Battle, Ann Munson Steines, Patricia Towbin



Winkler Wows Crowd at 2013 Celebration

Actor, producer, director and author Henry Winkler addressed a record-setting audience at Springer School and Center's fundraising event *A Springer Celebration! 2013* on April 24. Winkler shared with 470 attendees the story of his struggles in school as a youngster in New York City. Unaware that he was contending with dyslexia, Winkler suffered low self-esteem because of his poor scholastic performance, but persevered, ultimately earning a Master of Fine Arts degree from the Yale School of Drama.

Not until his stepson was diagnosed with dyslexia was Winkler's own diagnosis made, at age 30. Since then, Winkler has become a champion of children with learning disabilities and has co-written more than 20 children's books that convey his message to them: "no matter how you

learn, it has nothing to do with your brilliance. You have greatness inside you."

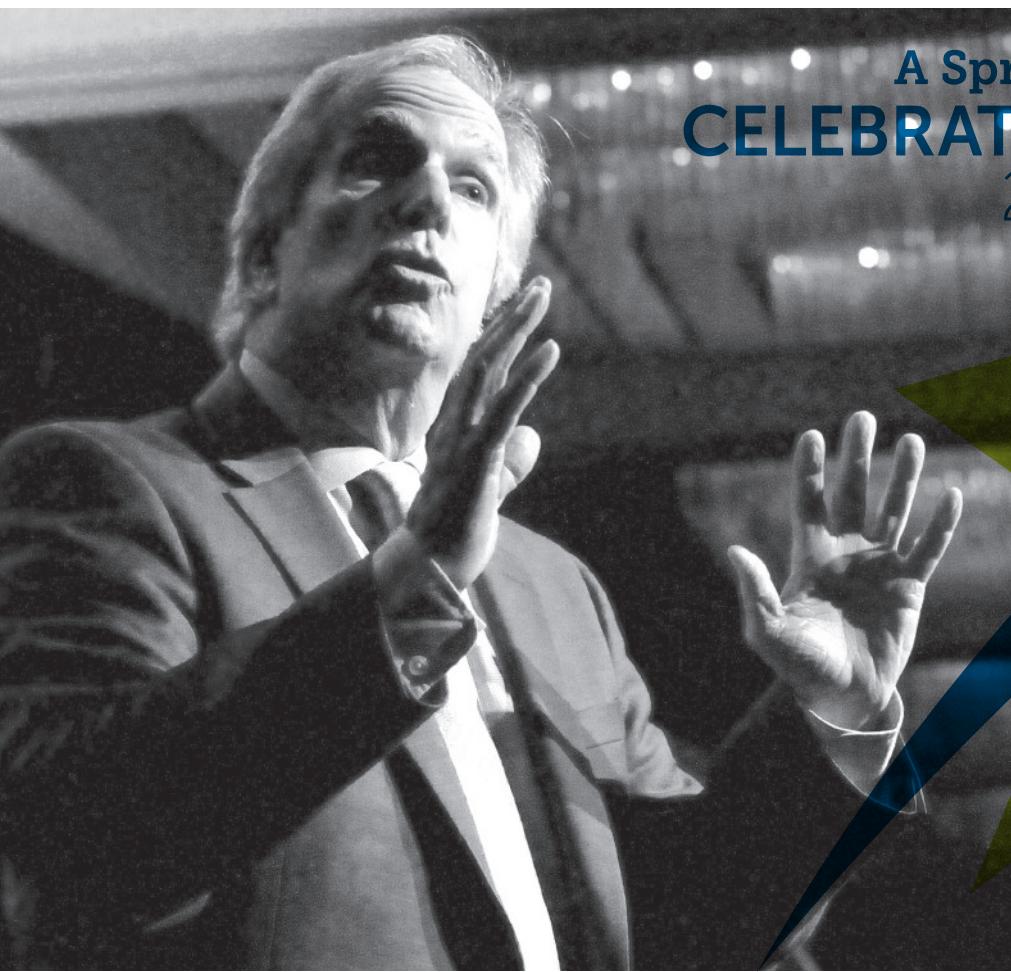
Tirelessly working the crowd at a VIP reception for event sponsors and their guests, Winkler posed for dozens of photos, bestowed plentiful hugs and listened with rapt attention to each guest with whom he spoke. After his keynote speech, Winkler graciously received a scrapbook filled with letters and drawings from Springer students.

Winkler's appearance marks his second visit to *A Springer Celebration!* The actor spoke at the event in 2004, where he was awarded the Spirit of Springer Award for his advocacy for children with learning disabilities.

Springer alumni parents David and Martha Millett chaired the 2013 Celebration. Martha is a member of

Springer's Board of Trustees. Local 12 WKRC TV Sports Director Brad Johansen was on hand as emcee and auctioneer for the evening's program, themed "Reach for the Stars: An Evening with Henry Winkler." The evening's activities garnered \$138,500 that will provide critical financial aid and outreach programs for the children and families affected by learning disabilities in our region.

Springer extends heartfelt thanks to the Milletts, as well as Steering Committee members Nancy Cooper, Margie Tondow and Kim Vincent, Ann Small-Wills (Decorations), and Silent Auction Committee Tracy Adams (Chair), Ann McGee, Julie Morrow, Mary Pettway and Ann Small-Wills.



A Springer
CELEBRATION!
2013





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REACH FOR THE STARS

Springer Alumnus Honored by Government of the Philippines



Teacher Corrinne Thaler still remembers the day fourth grader Rafe Brown brought a dozen snakes to school. "Rafe was always bringing animals in to school," she said. "Then one day I pulled out my chair, and there was a gigantic rubber snake on it. I thought one of Rafe's had escaped!"

Rafe's passion for reptiles hasn't waned in the intervening decades. Now Associate Professor at the University of Kansas, Rafe Brown, PhD, was honored in December 2012, for his contribution to the world's knowledge of Philippine fauna. Rafe has been conducting research in the Philippines for 20 years, and, together with Filipino colleagues, has discovered 54 new animal species – 28 reptiles and

26 amphibians – that are found only in this island country.

"I'm very proud to be recognized in this way," stated Rafe, "The Philippines is my second home and I care deeply about the biodiversity and conservation biology of the country. If anything, I hope I'm leaving some of those forests a bit more diverse than I found them."

When 9-year old Rafe arrived at Springer in 1978, he was unable to read and was lagging several grades behind his peers in school. "Springer provided the environment for mastering the skills I needed," said Rafe. "Corrinne Thaler taught me to read. She and (psychologist) Mark Helmick are big heroes of mine."

In the two years Rafe attended Springer, he became a reader of books, learned to write and do math, and grew in hand-eye coordination through motor therapy. Testing at his next elementary school found him to be at or beyond grade level in academics; he maintained a B+ to A-grade point average. In his second year at his new school, Rafe won the President's Physical Fitness Award – something he would not have thought possible.

In college, Rafe didn't do well in the physics and chemistry courses he needed to realize his dream of studying evolutionary biology of reptiles and amphibians. But he applied what he'd learned at Springer, remained vigilant about eliminating

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Upper School student A. J. Burns chases down a competitor at the April 20 meet at Colerain High School.

EAGLES SPRINT TO THE FINISH!

The 2013 edition of the Springer Track Team had an outstanding season. This year's team was comprised of 74 students in grades 1 to 8. Students in grades 1 to 4 competed in four meets, and those in grades 5 to 8 participated in five meets.

Coach Mark Phelps expressed pride in the team. "Team members challenged themselves, taking risks to try new events this season, and with much success!" he said. The year's final meet was the CYO City Championship in which the team had plenty of heat winners and event placers.

The coaching staff, Kristy Ilg, Cari Kelly, Kristina Williams, and Mark Phelps congratulated all team members at the year-end Awards Assembly for their hard work and the fine efforts given!

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distractions in his environment and "powered through." "My experience at Springer was what got me through college," he said. "I would say to myself, 'If I can get through those challenging years, I can get through anything!'"

Rafe earned his Ph.D. at the University of Texas in Austin, and completed a post-doctoral fellowship at the University of California at Berkeley. Before completing his Ph.D., he was offered two of the country's most prized academic jobs for a lover of herpetology – his position on the faculty in the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology at the University of Kansas, and a position as Assistant Curator at the university's Biodiversity Institute.

Rafe is now Curator-in-Charge of the Herpetology Division at the Museum.

As a research biologist, Rafe has made many trips to island nations of Southeast Asia and the Pacific (Malaysia, Indonesia, the Philippines, and the Solomon Islands). His experience with international collaborators and local field assistants has given him a real appreciation for the contribution every individual can make. "I have been privileged to work with a wide variety of people over the years," he said. "Many are hunters, or farmers with little formal education, but they have much to teach me about natural history of animals, interesting biological questions, and even fundamentals of human nature—plus some

of my Filipino friends have the uncanny ability to find and catch frogs in the middle of the night in a downpour. The success of my research depends on their skill and intuition."

"Sometimes I think about my experiences at Springer as I work to convey complex ideas to college students in my classes," Rafe says. "The process is often very much the same as it was for me as a nine year old struggling to read. Somewhere along the way the student has a "Eureka" moment. In my case, it changed my life forever."

Alumni Connections

Nicholas Midei '11 completed his sophomore year at Cincinnati La Salle High School where he received 1st honors, plays football and runs track, and is involved in an international group called Key Club. He is using strategies and tricks he learned at Springer to help him be very successful.

Daniel Dolzhansky '09 graduated from Moeller High School in May, 2013. In the fall he will attend Xavier University, where he will study business.

Anna Kramig '09 graduated from Purcell Marian High School in 2013 and will attend Muskingum University in the fall.

Josh Kuebbing '09 graduated Cum Laude from Campbell County High School in 2013. He received a \$500 "runner-up" Anne Ford Scholarship, and a \$10,000 scholarship from the University of Dayton, where he will study engineering.

Erin Nordhill '08 graduated from Weber High School in Ogden, Utah, in 2013, having achieved the highest honor roll all four years. Erin was chosen to be an Academic All Utah State for swimming, and received a college scholarship from her high school. During her senior year, Erin earned a Certified Nurse Aide license. She'll be attending the Oregon Institute of Technology in the fall where she will study Respiration Therapy.

Grace Stein '07 graduated from St. Ursula Academy in 2013 and will attend the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD) in the fall.

George Koglmeier '07 graduated from Mariemont High School in 2013, where

he received the Captain Tyler B. Swisher Award for demonstration of superior commitment and passion. The award is accompanied by a \$1,000 scholarship. George will attend Virginia Tech, where he will major in International Studies, and has been accepted into the Corps of Cadets, a leadership-building program. He recently completed requirements to attain the rank of Eagle Scout. For his Eagle Scout project, George designed and built a serenity garden on Springer's campus - a place for students to go for quiet time. A raised platform with a bench for sitting was constructed and put in place, along with landscaping around the area of the garden.

Larson Robinson '06 graduated from Summit Country Day School in 2013. Next year he will study business at DePaul University.

Cole Fuller '06 graduated from Mariemont High School in 2013, and will attend the University of Cincinnati in the fall.

Andrew Turnbull '06 will be a sophomore at the School for Creative and Performing Arts in the fall, majoring in Creative Writing and Technical Theater.

Benjamin Turnbull '05 graduated with honors in 2012 from Indian Hill High School. Ben completed his freshman year at the University of Colorado, Boulder, majoring in Molecular/Cellular/Developmental Biology - Pre-Med.

Brad Langford '04 recently graduated from the University of Cincinnati with a Bachelor's degree in Organizational Leadership. He swam competitively

throughout high school and college, and is currently seeking employment.

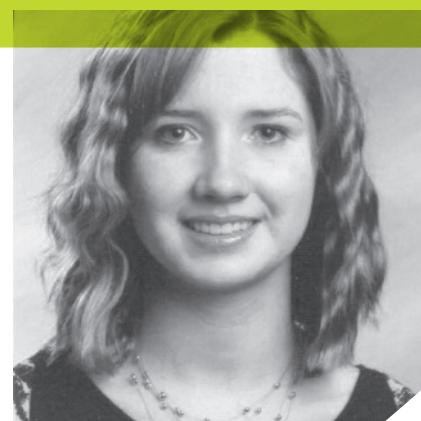
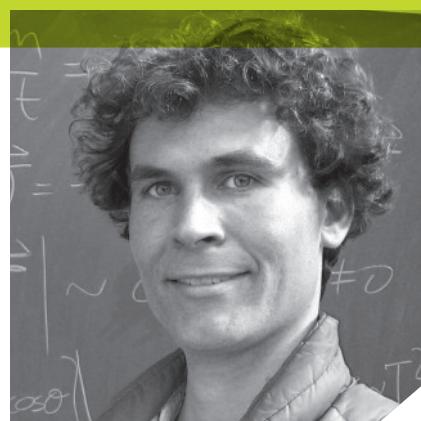
James Brendamour '03 graduated from Indian Hill High School in the spring of 2013 and will attend Ohio State University next fall.

Blake Dowlin '94 graduated from Wright State University with a bachelor's degree in psychology and a minor in management. He has interned with Senator Rob Portman in Washington, D.C., and until recently worked for Jeanne Schmidt in Cincinnati. Blake has been accepted to a master's program in special education at Xavier University.

J. Garrett Chunn '93 graduated from Mariemont High School in 2000 and earned a BS in Business Finance/Economics from the University of Dayton in 2004. He did some graduate work in Pre-medical Chemistry at the University of Cincinnati, and began a Doctorate in Medicine at A.T. Still University before deciding to pursue a different career path. Garrett is currently a broker with a financial corporation in Cincinnati.

John Frank '85 is a Ph.D. student at MIT, where he started in 1999 after graduating from Yale. John delayed his physics doctoral work to start a software company (MetaCarta), which Nokia acquired in 2010. John is now back at MIT and has a 3-year old daughter.

L to R: Brad Langford, John Frank, Erin Nordhill



Thirty Years

Terri Moorhead, Placement Director

Twenty-Five Years

Mary Lou Linley, Administrative Assistant

Mark Phelps, Physical Education Teacher

Twenty Years

Tony Barone, Psychologist

Carol Shumrick, Intermediate Team Leader
and Intermediate Green Teacher

Fifteen Years

Kathy McMillin, Assistant Intermediate Team

Leader and Intermediate
Language Therapist

Ten Years

Sandy Kohn, Assistant Principal

Five Years

Elizabeth Crellin, Upper School Assistant

Ginny Heitzman, Business Director

Kristina Williams, Upper School Teacher

Jamie Williamson, Principal

Staff Members Celebrate Milestones



Placement Director Terri Moorhead (R) was recognized for 30 years of service at the May 21 Annual Dinner. Administrative Assistant Mary Lou Linley (L) and Physical Education Teacher Mark Phelps were celebrated for 25 years with Springer.

MEMORIALS AND TRIBUTES

(as of 6/19/2013)

In memory of Margaret A. Bolan
Carole Albers

In memory of Mary F. Cook
Deborah Apparius

Angela and John Barnhorst

Joyce and Richard Barnhorst

Vernette Barnhorst

Stephanie and Daniel Geigle

Dianne and Brad Knapp

Donna and Jerry Kneipp

Alberta and Dick Tepe

In memory of Ruth Sawyer

Shelly and Ken Weisbacher

In memory of Carl E. Pratt

Carole Albers

In memory of Lynn Rhatigan

Norita Aplin and Stanley Ragle

Shelly and Ken Weisbacher

In memory of Dr. Donald Shumrick

Julie Pratt

In memory of Charles Yeiser

Norita Aplin and Stanley Ragle

Shelly and Ken Weisbacher

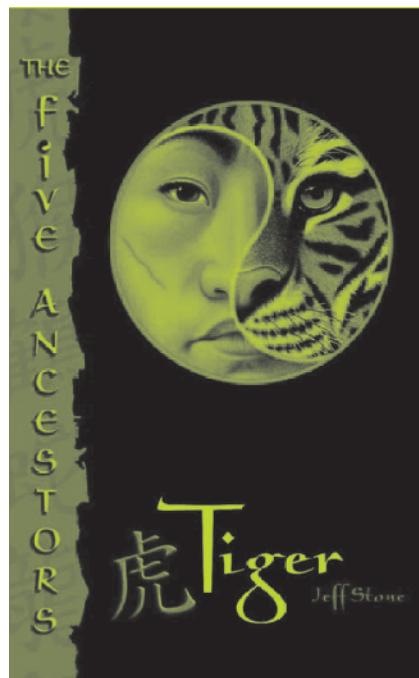
Julie and Russell Wilson

SFA Hosts Author Jeff Stone

The Springer Family Association wrapped up a successful year by welcoming visiting author Jeff Stone in May. Jeff shared with students the story of his award-winning series, *The Five Ancestors*.

"Write what you know," Jeff advised the students. His books have a martial arts theme, illustrating his philosophy. Jeff earned a black belt in Shaolin Do Kung Fu, traveling to China in 2005 with the Shaolin Do grandmaster to take his black belt test at the legendary Shaolin Temple. A main character in his books is an orphan, as Jeff is himself.

Jeff engaged the students in his presentation by demonstrating some Kung Fu moves, and encouraging students to try them out under his supervision. Jeff's visit was sponsored through SFA's Visiting Author series.



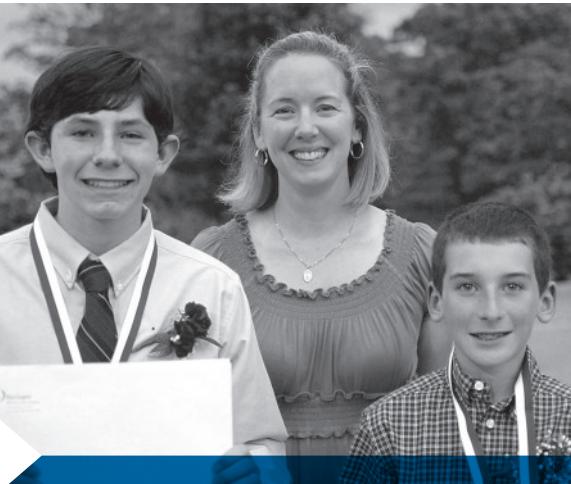
Class of 2013

Congratulations to the 41 students who will be transitioning to new schools in the fall. At Springer's June 5 Commencement ceremony, many of the students spoke, sharing their reflections on the time they've spent here, and the ways in which they've learned and grown.

The students are looking forward to applying the strategies they learned at Springer to success in school next year.

Joshua Bell	Malakai Greenberg	Noah Alexander Reisenfeld
Alexander Paul Betz	Ellis Hummel	Emilie K. Renner
Nancy Elizabeth Bowman	Cece Jones	Andrew Rudy
Mabel Coyne	Michael Kasper	Katherine Schaefer
Timothy Coyne	Jackson Mills Krejsa	John Frederick Schaller, Jr.
Thomas Coyne	Brynn S. Kuhnell	Allison Schoster
Cecelia Brand Creviston	Nicholas Limardi	Eleanor E. Schwarting
Lily Elfner	Gavin S. Luckenbach	Alex Joseph Sharbell
Matthew Evans	Andrew Mashny	Sami Siegrist
Lauren Elizabeth Faust	Keagan Christian James Noll	Kadin A. Siemer
Emily Kathleen Finkenstead	Shane Plymire	P. Blake Stephens
Kathleen Healy Finn	Conor Rahiya	Thomas Thompson
Candyce Kathleen Garcia	Morgan Nichole Reifsteck	José Ventura
Georgia Emilie Goering		

Two Students Awarded Bolan Scholarship



The Bolan Scholarship was awarded to two students this year. Eighth grader Malakai Greenberg and fifth grader Tim Coyne were chosen to receive the award recognizing a graduating student who demonstrates an understanding of his or her learning disability, applies the strategies learned at Springer, displays a positive attitude, demonstrates leadership and shows concern for others.

The students were presented the award by Executive Director Shelly Weisbacher and Margaret Bolan Dunn. The award was established in memory of Margaret's

father, Mr. Peter Bolan, Sr., by his family in 1988. Mr. Bolan, parent of a Springer alumnus, believed deeply in the importance of the work we do, and he was a great supporter of the school.

For many years, Peter's wife Momi Bolan continued to support the fund, took a genuine interest in who was receiving the award and often attended commencement to present the award. As Mrs. Bolan passed away in 2010, the award is now presented in her memory as well as that of her beloved husband.

Upper School student Malakai Greenberg (L) and Intermediate student Tim Coyne with Margaret Bolan Dunn.

MAKING CONNECTIONS: Ourselves, Our Community, Our World

Each year, Springer students pursue an All School Quest in which students at every grade level consider a common theme and create multi-media presentations that display their learning.

This year's theme, Making Connections: Ourselves, Our Community, Our World, challenged students to think about how they relate to themselves, and how they interact with and influence others both close by and far away.

Students learned about themselves by considering how they define success, and by creating displays in which backpacks were filled with the strategies that help them to achieve success.

Intermediate students explored the issue of homelessness, welcoming a guest from the Greater Cincinnati Homeless Coalition who shared with them her personal experience. A display at the All School Quest prompted students to imagine living in a shelter made of cardboard.

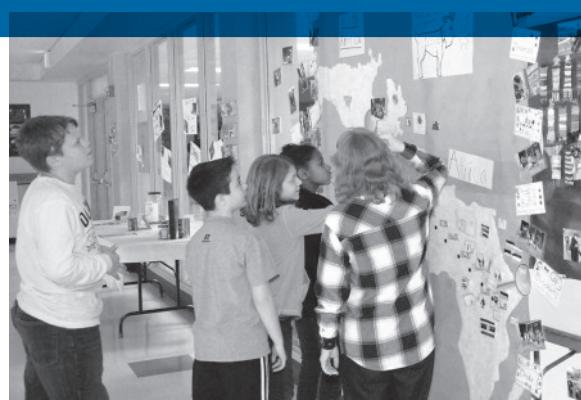
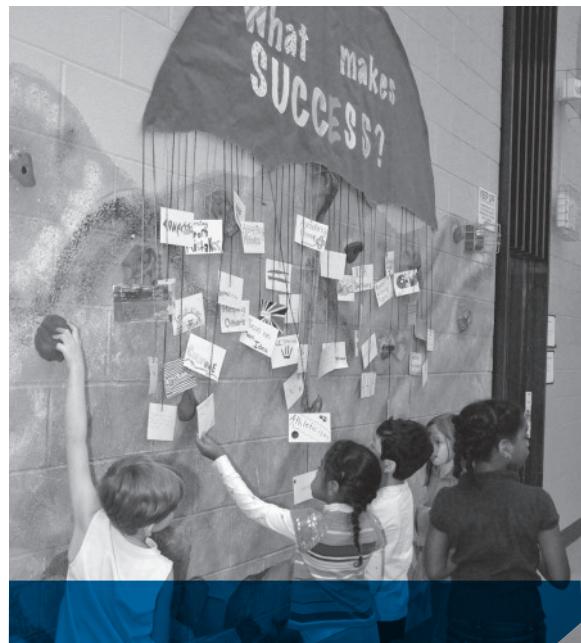
Students in the Primary Department hosted a representative of the Walnut Hills Kitchen, who shared with them the ways in which the Kitchen is able to help people in need. The children then earned canned and boxed goods as rewards for good deeds, and made a donation to the Kitchen.

Issues facing our world prompted an outpouring of creativity and energy. Upper School students researched various issues and decided to hold a walk-a-thon supporting Procter & Gamble's Children's Safe Drinking Water Program. The project raised \$2,541 that will be used to supply water purification packets to people across the globe.

In the Intermediate Department, students made a collection of discarded cell phones for the Cincinnati Zoo and Botanical Gardens' Project Saving Species. Recycling cell phones both reduces the

amount of hazardous materials that may be released into our environment and reduces the need for more mining of minerals such as coltan, used in cell phone production and mined largely in gorilla habitat in Africa. The students collected 140 phones.

Primary students went into animal husbandry, raising enough money to purchase two goats and a flock of hens through Heifer International. The students raised money by making animal pins and selling them to parents, staff and students. They also earned a nickel for each book they read to a parent, peer or teacher. The animals will be given to families in need in a developing country, and will be accompanied by training that will help families to become self-sufficient.



Year-End Activities

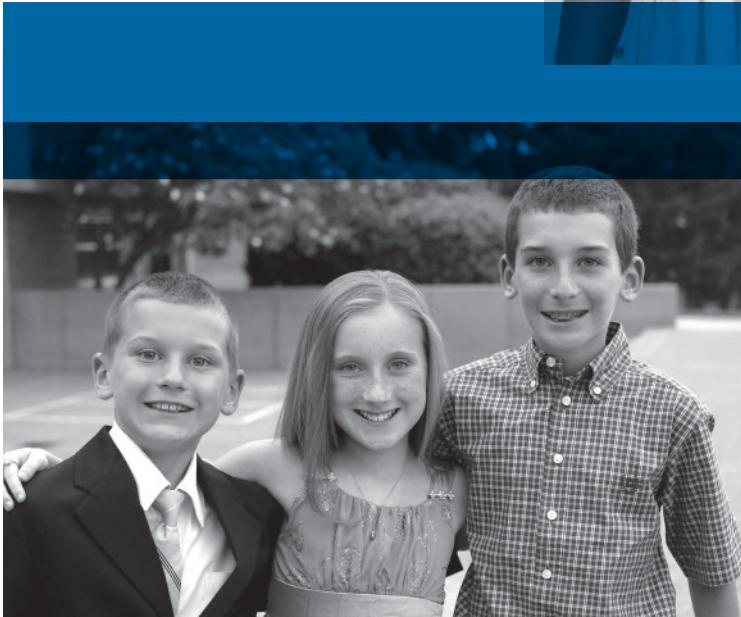


Springer's Autograph Party is a year-end tradition. Students and staff enjoy lunch on the piazza and then collect autographs from friends and teachers.



Students look forward to a day in the sun at the annual All School Outing. Staff members join the students for swimming, tennis, soccer and other activities at the Cincinnati Sports Club.





Commencement is an evening for reflection and for looking ahead to new adventures.



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Making Connections with Henry Winkler

The theme of Springer's All School Quest this year was Making Connections: Ourselves, Our Community, Our World (see page 13). Springer students applied that theme to Henry Winkler's visit for *A Springer Celebration! 2013* in a creative way.

The Primary, Intermediate and Upper Schools were each given a quote from a speech Winkler had given to students with learning disabilities and were asked to respond to the quote in words or pictures. Many classes spent time learning about Winkler's life as an actor and as the author of some of their favorite books, the Hank Zipzer series.

Primary students were asked to draw or write about a person who helps them with the things that are hard. Intermediate students were asked what is the gift that they have to offer to the world, and Upper School students to reflect on ways in which they have "made friends" with their learning disability.

A scrapbook was assembled from the students' submissions, and was presented to Winkler by Springer student Kathleen Finn at the Celebration.

In a voicemail a few weeks later, Winkler expressed how touched he had been by the students' words and pictures. He said he had taken his time to read each letter, and he described what he read as "unbelievable!" "I guess you'll have to wait until September to tell everyone how incredible the book is," he said. "Give everyone my best. I loved being there!"

