Cold, Hard Proof?
Alumnus Documents Evidence of Global Warming
Andover Bids a Fond Farewell…

C. Yardley Chittick ’18, for years the enthusiastic leader of Reunion Weekend’s Alumni Parade, had long been heralded here at Phillips Academy. But it was on the occasion of his 90th Reunion this June—just weeks before his death in mid-July—that his fame spread nationwide: he was celebrated by media near and far as the country’s oldest known high school reunion attendee.

Mr. Chittick handled the ado with characteristic aplomb. After all, he had experienced much in his 107 years. Reporters had a field day with his stories—like his onetime fisticuffs with classmate Humphrey Bogart ’20 and how he once turned down a job offer from Thomas Edison. He also was believed to be the country’s oldest living patent attorney.

But Mr. Chittick was more than his storied past: he epitomized the dedication shown by so many of his fellow alumni. He was a cherished son of the Academy.

He was Mr. Andover.

Mr. Chittick’s obituary can be found on page 111.
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COMMENCEMENT 2008
In her final address to this year’s seniors, Head of School Barbara Landis Chase pondered Andover’s commencement circle—and the bond that unites the Academy’s alumni.

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EIGHT FROM ’08
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COLD, HARD PROOF?
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FROM THE PUBLISHER

In a small but meaningful way, this edition of the Bulletin is revolutionary—not in its features or photos, but in its very existence. Doing our part to support Andover’s ever-widening sustainability efforts, we have “greened” the Bulletin, producing a more eco-friendly publication. With this issue, the cover and inside page stock are both certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), whose seal of approval is the most highly regarded in the printing industry.

FSC is an international network whose mission is to promote responsible management of the world’s forests. Its logo identifies products that contain wood from well-managed forests certified in accordance with FSC’s rigorous standards, which ensure that people, wildlife, and the environment benefit from forestry practices. Organizations including Greenpeace, the National Wildlife Federation, the Nature Conservancy, the Sierra Club, and the World Wildlife Fund all support and encourage FSC certification.

Accepting responsibility as stewards of the environment and its natural resources, the Andover community is embracing sustainability as a moral imperative. Last winter Head of School Barbara Landis Chase appointed John Rogers, dean of studies and instructor in environmental science, as advisor on sustainability initiatives. Patricia Russell, chair of the science division, recently joined him as sustainability coordinator. Efforts to achieve the short- and long-term goal of adopting more sustainable policies and practices began with a campus-wide assessment of current initiatives. Working with an environmental consulting firm, Andover examined a number of areas, including energy and water use, air emissions, waste and recycling, food service, transportation, and master planning.

Paper use also figures into the mix. And short of publishing the Bulletin exclusively online (yes, the day may come...), we have made another small step toward a more sustainable existence.

At Andover, we may breathe, scream, and dream blue, but in this case, we are proud to be green.

—Tracy M. Sweet
Director of Academy Communications

Cover: A 2005 photo by David Arnold ’67 documents the retreat of the Nunatak Glacier in southeastern Alaska. An ice wall photographed 67 years earlier by famed mountaineer Bradford Washburn had vanished, replaced by a mud bank, which marked the forward limit of the glacier’s advance.
FROM THE EDITOR

One of my favorite parts of the Andover Bulletin is its last-page column, Tales out of School. Each issue, an alumnus or alumna offers details of a memorable Andover experience—sometimes of a relationship forged on campus. Often those connections are with a faculty member, as is the case this issue: author Julia Alvarez ’67 recounts her impressions of Abbot instructor Ruth Stevenson—“mythic Miss Stevenson.” Julia wrote to us after reading a Tales column in a previous edition; hopefully, her contribution this issue will prompt similar interest from others. Not that we don’t hear our share of tales here at the Bulletin. We hear plenty, though some of the stories we receive are not long enough to fill that entire back page.

Of course, that does not make them less worthy.

John Thorndike ’45 sent such a tale my way some time ago, and since then it has sat on the corner of my desk, then in my inbox, then back on the corner of my desk, silently begging for attention. For too long, those pleas went unanswered, but no more. As apology (insufficient though it may be) I now forfeit the rest of this column, making way for the words of John Thorndike:

In our time at Andover two track captains were elected annually, one to help with running events and the other to cover field events. At the annual celebratory banquet following the season in June of 1944, I was elected field captain for the next year. However, my birthday in the fall created problems, as my local draft board would defer me only until the end of the winter term in February 1945. With so many students facing similar difficulties, the school established “Plan A,” under which the first term took place in the summer with the third ending before spring vacation. (Actually, I got a PA diploma on a Friday and was in Camp Devens the following Monday.)

I had known the 1945 Exeter captain, Charles “Chuck” C. Harwood, meeting him somewhere socially in the Boston area. As is customary in the sport of crew, we decided to bet our letters on the one track meet to be held between the rival schools before I was drafted. Andover won and Chuck sent me his letter. This was framed and hung on my game room wall for 62 years.

After the war Chuck and I were on the Harvard track team together and became better friends. He moved to California and had a successful business career there. We kept in touch, as he visited family and others here in Boston occasionally, and we continued to follow track.

More than 60 years later, John Thorndike ’45 (left) returns the letter he won from Chuck Harwood in an Andover–Exeter track event.

A couple of years ago, he said, “John, do you remember the Exeter track letter….” And he again mentioned it this last year. So I thought that if it seemed to mean so much to him, I would return it the next time we met.

A lunch invitation to both of them from John’s friend and PA classmate Hans Estin ’45 produced the opportunity. One afternoon last year at the Harvard Club, what John titled “The Handback” took place.

Thank you, John, for sharing your story with me, and now—finally—with the Bulletin’s readers, as well.

Keep those memories coming, folks!

—Scott Aubrey

R.S.V.P.

Want to respond to something you read?
The Bulletin considers for publication all letters commenting on the content of articles in recent issues. Letters may be edited for length, grammar, and style. Disagreement with administrative policies will not eliminate a letter from consideration. However, letters characterized by personal invective will not be published.
DATELINE ANDOVER

PHILLIPS ACADEMY NAMES THREE NEW TRUSTEES

Oscar L. Tang ’56, chair of the Phillips Academy Board of Trustees, announced that three alumni have been named to the board that oversees the 230-year-old institution. George R. Ireland ’74 and Ronald W. Takvorian, MD ’66 were elected alumni trustees to serve a four-year term, during which time they will jointly serve on the Alumni Council Executive Committee. Louis G. Elson ’80 was named a charter trustee, taking on two eight-year terms.

IRELAND joins the board with a history of active involvement with Andover that stretches back to his graduation in 1974. He has served on the Alumni Council and the Andover Development Board, been active with regional associations in New York and Denver, recruited locally for the Office of Admission, and supported the Academy as a head class agent. He is also founder and president of the investment firm Geologic Resource Partners LLC, which invests in mineral and metal resources development companies, traveling the world to evaluate scientific, economic, environmental, and social issues spawned by its investments’ mining projects. He also has a long history with Outward Bound, which grew from his leadership of Andover’s Search & Rescue program. He and his wife, Lisa, live in Boston and have sent two of their three children to Andover. Kate graduated in 2005; Louise is a senior.

TAKVORIAN came to Andover as a scholarship student from Lawrence, Mass., in 1962, making his mark as a pianist and choir accompanist. Subsequently, he guest soloed with the Boston Pops under the batons of both Arthur Fiedler and Harry Ellis Dickson. After Harvard and Stanford Medical School, Takvorian went on to a distinguished career in oncology at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Massachusetts General Hospital, where he currently serves as clinical director of the Cancer Center’s Lymphoma Program. He also is a member of the Harvard faculty. His devotion to Andover is reflected in years of service to the Parent Fund, admission work, the Gelb Science Center Advisory Committee, the New England Special Gift Committee for Campaign Andover, and recently the focus group process that culminated in Andover’s Strategic Plan. A resident of Concord, Mass., Takvorian and his wife, Kathy, are the parents of three Andover graduates, Sam ’02, Kate ’03, and Sarah ’06.

ELSON moves from alumni trustee to charter trustee, continuing a distinguished record of service to his alma mater, where he has served as a member of the Andover Development Board and the Institute for Recruitment of Teachers (IRT) Advisory Board, director of the Andover-Abbot Association of London, and class agent. Elson attended Eton College in Great Britain and graduated from Harvard, and holds an MBA degree from the University of Virginia. Elson is cofounder and managing partner of Palamon Capital Partners, a private-equity firm that invests in service-oriented businesses in Europe. He and his wife, Sarah, live in London with their three children. His daughter Isabel ’12 will attend Andover this fall.
How Green Are We?

Consultants from Woodard & Curran, an environmental consulting and engineering firm, recently helped Phillips Academy develop and administer a sustainability audit that collected baseline information on initiatives across campus, from academic departments to the Office of Physical Plant.

“The goals of the audit, broadly speaking, are to understand more about the Academy’s impact on the environment, to learn how we can foster a more sustainable community, and to plan how we can better engage and educate our community about sustainability and the Academy’s work in this area,” says John Rogers, dean of studies and advisor to the head of school for sustainability.

Rogers and Patricia Russell, chair of the science division and PA’s new sustainability coordinator, continue to work with the consulting team, as well as colleagues and students, to advance the Academy’s efforts in both policy and practice. The audit examined a number of areas, including energy and water use, air emissions, waste and recycling, food service, transportation, and master planning. Based on the results of the report, the Academy will determine next steps.

Paresky Commons on Track for Sustainability Certification

A project team review in early July indicated the David S. Paresky Commons renovation is making excellent progress toward its goal of LEED–CI (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design–Commercial Interiors) certification. The LEED Green Building Rating System is the recognized standard in the United States and several other countries for measuring a building’s sustainability.

The Paresky Commons’ “green” construction accomplishments of note (from December 15, 2007, to June 15, 2008) include the following:

**Construction Waste Management:** The project recycled or diverted from landfill 98.1 percent of construction, demolition, and packaging debris. All materials, such as metal, cardboard, masonry waste, and debris, will continue to be source-separated as construction continues.

**Indoor Environmental Quality:** Most project materials incorporated into the new work in the building, including paints, sealants, and adhesives, have met predetermined VOC (volatile organic compound) limits.

**Purchase of Regional Materials:** By cost, just under 10 percent of materials used were manufactured within 500 miles of the project site; approximately 8 percent were extracted regionally.

**Purchase of Materials with Recycled Content:** By cost, approximately 10 percent of construction materials used on-site were made from recycled materials.

**Use of Forest Stewardship Council Wood:** Of all new wood used, 91.6 percent was FSC certified. The nonprofit FSC is devoted to encouraging the responsible management of the world’s forests. FSC-certified wood will continue to be specified, as appropriate, for numerous project components.

The new Paresky Commons is slated to begin serving meals to the PA community in late March 2009.
The Longest Novel Ever Taught

Clocking in at 2,948 pages, Anthony Powell’s epic novel A Dance to the Music of Time fills a dozen volumes and features more than 400 characters. It also holds a special place in the heart of recently retired English instructor John Gould, who in 2007–2008 taught The Longest Novel Ever Written, three courses that, when taken cumulatively, examined this portrait of 20th-century England in its entirety.

About half of the 15 students enrolled in Gould’s class this past spring had also signed on in the fall and winter, and therefore were exposed to all of Dance’s 12 sequential volumes. The spring’s final session took the form of a conference, complete with a visitor from the Anthony Powell Society, letters from interested parties (including the late author’s son), and students reading aloud essays they had prepared as a final assessment. A few of those papers reflected upon the book in a personal manner: one three-term student admitted she had become obsessed with Dance and likened reading it to breathing. Most of the student essays offered analysis of character and plot.

Gould says of the novel: “Its position in academia is fairly marginal.” Yet, he notes, that relative obscurity allows papers written by his students to contribute to Dance’s scholarship in a meaningful way. Cassidy Carpenter ’08, for instance, researched tarot cards revealed by a card reader in the second volume. That reading discloses narrator Nick Jenkins’s birthday as December 21, also Powell’s date of birth. Until Carpenter discovered this, says Gould, no one knew Dance was that closely based on its author’s life.

Powell started writing Dance in 1952 and completed volume 12 some 25 years later, according to Gould. The author decided about midway through that period on a length of 12 volumes.

Gould—who previously offered these courses in 2001–2002—says some people dive into Dance completely, while others find it difficult to dip a toe. He is most certainly in the former category. Following up on a suggestion made by a friend, he read the first of the then nine volumes in one day. Then the next eight in the next eight days. Before long, volume 10 was released—this back in the 1970s—and Gould snatched it up and devoured it; he had to wait four more years for the final two.

Well worth the wait, he says.

One-Card: A Singular Sensation

This fall Phillips Academy will implement a new system for student identification: multipurpose one-cards will replace Andover’s previous IDs, but also act as debit cards for certain transactions. The initial phase of implementation will enable cardholders to purchase items from the Academy’s art store, pro shop, and athletic equipment store and have the cost debited from the card’s balance. One-cards also will be accepted at select local businesses frequented by Academy students. Parents will be able to load funds on the cards online—and view activity reports to check balances and spending patterns. After an initial testing phase, it is expected the program will be expanded to include other aspects of campus life, such as vending machines and building access.
### Straight A’s, But Are They Creative and Ethical?

What’s a top-notch independent school to do when nearly 80 percent of its applicant pool is academically qualified for admission? How do you choose when so many candidates bring so much to the table: straight A’s, high SSAT scores, positive letters of recommendation, and impressive extracurricular involvement?

With the help of Robert J. Sternberg, dean of arts and sciences at Tufts University, and in an effort to help admission officers identify students with the personal qualities Andover values, PA changed its application this past year. Sternberg’s Theory of Successful Intelligence examines four skill areas that can be predictors of academic success and leadership ability. As Tufts applications dramatically increased, Sternberg’s approach helped the university’s admission staff distinguish among many qualified candidates.

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<th>Revised admission application</th>
<th>assesses more than academic ability</th>
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<td>Sternberg’s four areas of focus are creative skills, practical skills, wisdom/ethical reasoning skills, and analytical skills. While Andover’s previous admission application easily revealed an applicant’s analytical skills (whether they were weak or strong), it did not, in a systematic or consistent manner, assess the other three areas. For instance, a student with strong creative skills but slightly weaker analytical skills (demonstrated by their SSAT scores, for example) may not have had the chance to show his or her areas of strength in the same way as a student with stronger analytical skills and weaker creative skills. Therefore, with Sternberg’s help, the admission staff revised the Andover application’s short answer and essay questions with the hope of eliciting responses that would highlight a candidate’s strength in one or more of the skill areas. (Analytical skills were not included in this supplementary evaluation because they already played a significant role in Andover’s long-standing and continuing evaluation process.)</td>
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Here is an example of a new essay question designed to elicit creative responses: “Imagine you win a grant to design and invent a ‘must-have’ gadget or tool for a boarding school-bound student. What would your invention be and why would it be a ‘must-have’ item? You may describe your invention in words or illustrate an advertisement for this product on an 8.5 by 11-inch sheet of paper.” Admission officers found the best responses to this question came from free-spirited, imaginative students. One young man, admitted to the Class of 2012, wrote that he would invent “Shoemos,” a motorized pair of shoes that would travel 20 miles per hour and drastically cut the travel time between classes.

The admission office plans to keep track of students who were rated highly in creative, practical, and/or wisdom/ethical reasoning skills as they embark upon their Andover careers. In which areas will they succeed, in which will they struggle? The knowledge gained about these “Sternberg” students will better inform the admission office about how to further modify the application to assure selection of those best suited for Andover.

—Vivien Mallick

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**BRAVO!**—Recently retired music faculty member William Thomas, who for 18 years served as director of the Cambridge Community Chorus, now has a square in Cambridge named for him. Fittingly, the square—located along Massachusetts Avenue, near Central Square—is in a developing arts area: a new city theatre is across the street. Several Phillips Academy community members were on hand in May for the unveiling of the new sign; that same weekend, Thomas conducted his final concert with the chorus.
Emergency Notification Targets Cell Phones

Phillips Academy now utilizes a system that will send mass text and voice messages to student and faculty cell phones in the event of an emergency. The system, which was tested in late May and worked extremely well, is now being expanded to include all PA employees and parents of students; the Academy collected parent cell phone numbers in late summer. The decision to employ this new means of communication comes on the heels of last year’s review of campus security practices. Because the campus covers 500 acres and students and employees are frequently on the move, campus officials recognized the importance of being able to contact all members of the community on short notice.

CNN Gets the Scoop at Andover

A five-person CNN crew visited Andover in May to produce a segment in its ongoing series of reports on “The League of First Time Voters.” Emmy-winning correspondent Rick Sanchez interviewed students who contribute to Scoop08.com, the online political newspaper launched last fall by Alexander Heffner ’08 and Yale junior Andrew Mangino. Jack Dickey ’09, Jessica Cole ’08, and Harvard freshman Prateek Kumar ’07 were among those who joined Heffner for the interview.

When asked why so many first-time voters are passionate about the current presidential race, students chiefly credited technology—e.g., the Internet, BlackBerry, YouTube, MySpace—and the power it provides. Kumar said technology “has allowed youth not only to communicate on a variety of issues and to spread news quickly, but to organize effectively and actually make a difference on the ground.” As Scoop08’s international editor, he supervises reporters in Egypt, Japan, China, and other global locations.

CNN producer Jason Morris said this was the first time high school students had been interviewed for “The League of First Time Voters” segments. Both he and Sanchez said they were very impressed by the level of discourse they encountered at Andover.

—Sally Holm

Andover E-News Debuts

News from Andover, an electronic newsletter for alumni, parents, and friends of the Academy, launched this fall. Produced by the Office of Communication, this twice-monthly e-publication is designed to deliver news of interest to the PA community in a timely fashion.

Easy-to-navigate sections present different perspectives on PA people and current events. “Press Room” links to key PA news releases. “Andover in the News” links to media coverage that features Andover or quotes a member of the campus community.

If we don’t have your current e-mail address and you would like to receive News from Andover, please e-mail us at news@andover.edu.
Craig Thorn: “There Will Be a Written Exam in the Fall”

In the mid-1980s, faculty member Craig Thorn began asking colleagues in the English department for summer reading recommendations. By 1990, he was soliciting the entire faculty. Now dubbed “Craig’s List,” the tradition continues in memory of the beloved English instructor, who died in 2006.

This May, 45 members of the faculty and staff suggested 140 titles. Fiction and nonfiction, poetry and prose, heavy and light, for the beach or a hard chair, the books reflect the curiosity and eclecticism of the Andover community, as well as the man who began the tradition.

Here are 20 titles from this year’s list:

Sefi Atta, Everything Good Will Come
Sarah Chase, Perfectly Prep: Gender Extremes at a New England Prep School
William Sloane Coffin, Collected Sermons: The Riverside Years
Robert H. Dahl, On Political Equality
Junot Díaz, The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao
Jonathan Eig, Opening Day: The Story of Jackie Robinson’s First Season
Rebecca Goldstein, Betraying Spinoza: The Renegade Jew Who Gave Us Modernity
Nadine Gordimer, beethoven was one-sixteenth black: and other stories
Sara Gruen, Water for Elephants
Seamus Heaney, District and Circle
Barbara Kingsolver, Animal, Vegetable, Miracle: A Year of Food Life
Jhumpa Lahiri, Unaccustomed Earth: Stories
Irshad Manji, The Trouble with Islam Today: A Muslim’s Call for Reform in Her Faith
Michael Pollan, In Defense of Food: An Eater’s Manifesto
John Patrick Shanley, Doubt
Neil Shubin, Your Inner Fish: A Journey into the 3.5-Billion-Year History of the Human Body
John Williams, Stoner

As English instructor Seth Bardo notes, “Craig, alone, could have created a daunting list of titles that would have taken most of us several years to complete.”

—David Fox

New Leadership Roles on Campus

- Deborah Burdett Murphy ’86, formerly PA’s senior associate director of admission, has been named director of alumni affairs. (See page 37 for more on Murphy.)
- Bill Leahy, formerly a member of the Office of Academy Resources’ leadership gift team, has assumed Murphy’s former role, that of senior associate director of admission.
- Betsy Korn and Anne Burgess will team up to assume the registrar duties once handled by Herb Morton, who is on leave for a year. Korn, who will retain the duties and title of associate dean of studies, also will have the title of registrar: she will be in charge of generating reports and data needed by the faculty, as well as head up the Prize Committee. Burgess, the Academy’s recorder, will become assistant registrar and will maintain student records.
- Kate Dolan has accepted a six-year term as assistant dean for advising. In addition to her roles as assistant athletic director, physical education instructor, coach, and house counselor, she has been an advisor for 12 years. She will continue to coach and teach.
- Peter Neissa has replaced the recently retired Emilio Mozo as chair of the Department of Spanish.
- Dance instructor Erin Strong now leads the Department of Theatre and Dance, filling a spot vacated by faculty member Bruce Bacon.
- Asabe Poloma is the new director of the Institute for Recruitment of Teachers (IRT), replacing Chera Reid, who left to pursue a PhD degree. Poloma, fluent in both French and Hausa, has two master’s degrees: in international studies and in fund-raising management and nonprofit administration. Previously she provided administrative, logistical, and programmatic support to the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation’s Research Universities and Humanistic Scholarship program.
- Patricia Russell, chair of the science division, has taken on an additional role as sustainability coordinator. Russell’s responsibilities include coordination of planning in response to recommendations that emerge from the Academy’s sustainability audit (see article, page 5).
At the Spring Trustees’ Meeting...

- Board of Trustees President Oscar L. Tang ’56 and Head of School Barbara Landis Chase honored departing colleagues during a dinner with faculty. Trustees Louis Elson ’80 and Lucy Danziger ’78 were lauded for their service as alumni trustees from 2004 to 2008. (Elson is now a charter trustee. See page 4 for more.) Faculty members Don Abbott, Marlys Edwards, John Gould, Lynne Kelly, Emilio Mozo, and William Thomas each were thanked for their years of service, more than 140 combined. The board also took a moment during the weekend to honor Rabbi Neil Kominsky, formerly PA’s Jewish chaplain.

- Chase led a discussion of institutional priorities for consideration in the upcoming campaign. Her report was informed by the Strategic Plan and feedback gathered during several “dialogue” events over the last year. The board will further consider funding priorities at its October meeting.

- The board accepted a report from the Trustee Task Force on Outreach and Institutional Identity and acted on one of the report’s recommendations: to adopt an “umbrella” mission statement that will guide the future development of outreach programs. Andover’s outreach initiatives have evolved as distinctive programs in the advancement of education, yet their remarkable success and their connections to the Academy are not well known. An umbrella mission statement that connects these programs as integral parts of the larger Andover imperative to serve “youth from every quarter” is a meaningful next step in their evolution.

- Board members discussed a consultant’s report on possible business models for the Andover Inn and voted to authorize the start of the design phase for renovation.

- Amy Falls ’82, chief investment officer, reported on the Academy’s endowment, which, despite recent volatile market conditions, had maintained a positive performance and outperformed all major indexes.

- The board approved the FY09 operating budget, which includes several components: facilities improvement and renewal budgets, technology improvement and renewal budgets, and the equipment budget. Other components of the budget, such as faculty and staff compensation and the financial aid budget, were approved at the winter meeting.

The World Comes to Andover

Andover community members note important messages delivered by recent guests on campus.

Sonia Weitz
Education Director, The Holocaust Center, Boston

“As a Holocaust survivor, Sonia Weitz’s experiences relate an unimaginable time when life and death were so transparently woven together. Through stories and poetry, she masterfully shared her memories, both the horrible and the inspiring, in a way that deeply impacted and empowered the students. Mrs. Weitz says, ‘There is no such thing as an innocent bystander. There is nothing lonelier for a victim than to feel abandoned.’ Her words are motivation for the next generation to examine genocide and to declare their intention to end it forever. It is important to heed the words of the wise and the experienced.”

—Daniel S. Glassberg ’09, President, STAND:
A Student Anti-Genocide Coalition; Vice President, Jewish Student Union

Randall Dottin
Academy Award–winning filmmaker

“In addition to visiting English, video, and film history classes, Randall Dottin screened two of his acclaimed short films, A-Alike and Lifted; had dinner with students and faculty; and held a reception in the Office of Community and Multicultural Development. Students and faculty were inspired by Dottin’s message about the value of art that engages the world and reflects one’s sense of responsibility in representing a community. Also inspiring were his thoughts on the value of ‘code switching’—the use of more than one language in a conversation—a practice he employed when, as a youth, he transitioned from the inner city to a prep school.”

—Thomas Kane, English Instructor

Frank Gohlke
American Landscape Photographer

“Frank Gohlke addressed approximately 75 guests at a gallery talk regarding his Addison Gallery exhibition Accommodating Nature, The Photographs of Frank Gohlke. Although he intended to become a writer when in graduate school, Gohlke found his voice with photographic images. He was encouraged to pursue photography by such notables as Walker Evans and Paul Caponigro. This exhibition of grand views of the landscape juxtaposed with awe-inspiring images of devastation caused by volcanic eruptions and tornadoes underscores one’s understanding of the fragility of life. Gohlke’s ‘after the aftermath’ photographs move beyond disaster to illustrate the perseverance of communities to rebuild after catastrophe strikes.”

—Peg Harrigan, Art Instructor

Valerie Dixon
Womanist Scholar, Assistant Professor, Andover Newton Theological School

“Valerie Dixon, whose writings appear online at JustPeaceTheory.com, lectured on the subject of privilege and peacemaking, using the hermeneutical method of juxtaposing meaning from seemingly dissimilar texts in order to gain new insights into the human condition. Employing Beowulf, W.E.B. Dubois’s “The Talented Tenth,” and an autobiography of Tupac Shakur, Dixon challenged the Andover Protestant community to question the notion of ontological evil, examine the warring effects of economic injustice in the world, and move from the profit motive of acquiring education to the prophetic motive of becoming educated so as to create a world ‘where the least among us is considered and cared for.’”

—Antonette DiPina, Protestant Chaplain
The most important element in a writing course, according to William Lychack, is the writing—obviously. But this Phillips Academy instructor expects more than that of the students enrolled in his Creative Writing: Poetry workshop. He aims for these novice bards to become more sensitive, less passive readers, as well. He also hopes they will join him in building a classroom community, one whose most basic tenet is this: truth should prevail.

Lychack, the Academy’s current writer-in-residence and author of the 2005 novel *The Wasp Eater*, encourages his students to offer honest (though constructive) opinions regarding their peers’ work. At the same time, he hopes these burgeoning poets reach a point where they transcend worrying whether their work is admired by their peers—or their teacher. Ultimately, he wants them to believe in their efforts.

“I don’t want them to write things they think will get them a good grade,” admits Lychack. “I want them to care about their work.”

Judging by the peer review sessions, students certainly care about the class. Each week they are required to craft one new poem, at least six of which they will choose to include in a final portfolio—after making necessary revisions based on teacher and peer feedback.

Early in the spring 2008 semester, some participants were hesitant to offer such input; criticism was prefaced by phrases like “I don’t know if this is important, but.....” Others in the class seemed anxious to explain their poems, something Lychack discouraged. “I’m worried about talking a poem into existence,” he explained. “If it doesn’t exist on the page, I’m not sure it exists for us at all here.”

Only a few weeks later, the class dynamic had shifted some; peer review of student work moved with more fluidity. Maura Tousignant ’08 read her villanelle “Stone and Clay.” No explanation followed. Such mystery did not, however, prevent her peers from offering feedback, much of it positive. Favorable reviews are not always the case, though: weeks into the term, classmates had become more forthcoming in offering honest criticism. Travis Wright ’08 was one of the more outspoken amongst this baker’s dozen of wordsmiths. He was not afraid to offer up his reflections, as he did for Tousignant.

“I don’t get it, but I don’t care that I don’t get it,” he said of her latest (reprinted here). Then he summarized his overall reaction, in poetic fashion: “There’s a lot of good music.”

Lychack’s class has its own soundtrack. Students quickly adopt the vernacular their instructor introduces early in the term. “WCDB,” one student might say to another in regard to a certain word choice. (Translated: “We can do better.”) Another student may note how a particular line “bumps” her out of a poem, breaking the work’s narrative spell.

Tousignant says she and her classmates learned to accept criticism well. “Before this course, I hadn’t participated in a peer-edit workshop, but many of the English classes at Andover use a similar form of peer editing,” she says. “The difference with Mr. Lychack’s class is that almost everyone participates, and discussion can be more heated because a poem’s meaning is more open to interpretation.”

Lychack is just fine if with those heated discussions comes a passion for writing.

As writer-in-residence, Lychack balances his own writing with his teaching—he leads two classes each term, the poetry workshop and another in fiction. He hopes his ability to publish demonstrates for students that it is indeed possible to live the life of a writer. “And that it’s worth doing,” adds Lychack. “I’d fail them if I didn’t continue to struggle alongside them, if I didn’t keep writing.”

**Stone and Clay**

When they looked at me, three birds of clay
Statues that I could not chase
I ran and swam through a thick stone bay
Their green eyes stared, they felt me play
I knew, I danced, I kept one pace
Their teeth, senses gone away
When they looked at me, three birds of clay
Their eyes, teeth, forced me still in place
I ran and swam through a thick stone bay
Next month, next year – I wait, I lay
They guessed but saw only my face
I ran and swam through a thick stone bay

—I.M. Tousignant ’08
First Class
Athletic Hall of Honor welcomes inaugural inductees

Class of 1891

Frank Hinkey
Honored posthumously
Despite a severe lung problem, he bucked medical advice to play football—with gusto and greatness. He was a three-time All-American at Yale and captained the Yale team in an infamous and contentious victory over Harvard in 1894. He was elected to the College Football Hall of Fame in 1951.

Class of 1938

Fred “Ted” H. Harrison
Honored posthumously
He was a three-sport superstar at Andover, then Yale. After decorated military service, the man for whom the Harrison Rink is named served PA as faculty for 31 years, 22 as athletic director. The founder of the town of Andover’s Pee-Wee Hockey Program, he is in the Massachusetts Hockey Coaches Hall of Fame.

Class of 1942

George H.W. Bush
Long before he became the United States’ 41st president, the man known to classmates as “Poppy” was one of Andover’s greatest soccer players. He captained both the varsity baseball and soccer teams at PA, later captained the baseball team at Yale, and played in the first two College World Series.

Class of 1943

Richard “Dick” Duden
Once described by PA’s legendary Steve Sorota as “the best I ever coached,” his play at the U.S. Naval Academy earned him a spot in the College Football Hall of Fame in 2001. He later played pro football with the New York Giants for one year before a knee injury ended his sports career.

1948 Swim Team

Richard “Dick” Phelps
A top pitcher, varsity football player, and the man for whom PA’s Phelps Park is named, this successful businessman is also a true philanthropist. A former PA alumni trustee, he created the Phelps Scholars program, which provides scholarships for talented and promising Andover student-athletes.

Photo caption information was excerpted from the induction ceremony program, which drew from various sources.
Andover celebrated the first inductees of its Athletic Hall of Honor during Reunion Weekend. These special alumni and faculty, selected from approximately 300 nominations, were recognized for accomplishments in athletics and for the exceptional ways in which they continued to lead lives that embody the values of Phillips and Abbot academies. Thanks to Peter T. Hetzler, MD ’72 and the Alumni Council, and to the hall’s principal organizers, John Kane ’63 and Abby Harris ’96, for their time and effort—and congratulations to this year’s honorees!

1948 Swim Team
Led by coach Roscoe Dake, the team broke five records on its way to a 7–2 season; the only losses came against Dartmouth and Yale. On March 13, 1948, the team won the first New England Interscholastic Meet at Amherst College by one point, with all nine members contributing to the victory. Team members included Henry Beatty ’49, Robert Brace ’48, Robert Brawner ’48, James Carroll ’48, Buckey Clemson ’49, Robert Denney ’48, John Geyman ’48, Austin Graff ’48, James McLane ’49, J.C. Miller ’50, Chris Pinkham ’48 (manager), Frank Rutan ’48, Alan Schwartz ’48, Edwin G. Smith ’49, Richard Thoman ’49, John Thompson ’50, John Turner ’48, and Chris Weeks ’48. Many pursued swimming in college, some winning championships and setting records at the university level. McLane participated in the 1948 and 1952 Olympics. At the London Games in 1948, between his upper and senior years, he won two gold medals. In 1952, he captained the U.S. team and won another gold.

Class of 1963

Becky Dowling Adams
The first female graduate of Top Gun, the U.S. Navy Strike Fighter Tactics Instructor program, she is currently a training officer on board the USS Harry S. Truman, supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom in the Arabian Gulf. During her four years on the PA basketball team, the team lost only three games.

Class of 1963

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Class of 1963

John “Jack” Morrison
In 1963, LIFE magazine featured this future investment banker and YMCA supporter as one of two outstanding U.S. secondary school hockey players. He was a first-team All-American hockey player at Yale and later a member of the U.S. hockey team that skated at the 1968 Olympics in Grenoble, France.

Class of 1963

Aisha Jorge Massengill
Recipient of numerous PA awards, she earned 12 varsity letters in four years—a first! She captained the volleyball and basketball teams, and played softball, as well. She continued with that sport at Boston College and, as a freshman, her team won the Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference Championship.

Faculty Emeriti

Class of 1963

Sarah Mleczko Kasten
In three years at PA, she collected nine varsity letters—then 10 more at Harvard, earning hall of fame recognition. At Andover she excelled at basketball, field hockey, and lacrosse, thrice earning Female Athlete of the Year honors. She competed at boys’ JV squash and later topped a new girls’ varsity team.

Class of 1976

Natalie Ware Ryherd
Honored posthumously
Though born without toes on one foot, her prowess on the tennis courts, ski slopes, and lacrosse field was astounding. Most sports at Abbot Academy were played at the intramural level; only the best competed interscholastically. This future fashion designer not only competed, she outshined her opponents.

Class of 1976

Becky Dowling Adams
The first female graduate of Top Gun, the U.S. Navy Strike Fighter Tactics Instructor program, she is currently a training officer on board the USS Harry S. Truman, supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom in the Arabian Gulf. During her four years on the PA basketball team, the team lost only three games.

Class of 1976

Faculty Emeriti

Class of 1994

Class of 1988

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Class of 1994

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The first female graduate of Top Gun, the U.S. Navy Strike Fighter Tactics Instructor program, she is currently a training officer on board the USS Harry S. Truman, supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom in the Arabian Gulf. During her four years on the PA basketball team, the team lost only three games.
We are gathered here for the most dramatic of Andover’s rituals, commencement. Andover’s version of commencement has much to recommend it. First of all, it moves along at a good clip. If you seniors have not experienced enough graduation ceremonies to appreciate this brevity, I can guarantee that some day you will. Andover commencement is also beautiful. This historic campus provides a stunning backdrop for any ceremony. And finally, and most relevant to my talk today, we distribute diplomas in a most unusual way. Once we finish this part of the program, the bagpipes will lead us down the steps to the Great Lawn, where you will form the Andover commencement circle. You will stand shoulder to shoulder, flanked by the Bell Tower and the Chapel on the long axis. On the short axis, the steps of the Addison Gallery and a row of young elms (lifting their green branches along the great wall) will shelter you. I will read your names in random order. Mr. Tang, the president of the Board of Trustees, will pass out your diplomas. And you will hand them around the circle until the last blue leather folio reaches its recipient.

When did this ritual take root? From the archival record, we learn that until 1952, the graduates filed up these steps one by one to shake the headmaster’s hand and receive their diplomas. For commencement 1952, the circle was instituted. Why? We are not sure, but perhaps the commencement script (unchanged, as far as I know, from that time) offers a clue. It reads: “This final gathering of the class in a circle symbolizes the sharing of their lives together here.”

Human beings have imagined, constructed, and used circles in art and ritual for thousands of years. From Stonehenge to the Buddhist mandala, from kindergarten circle time (when you learned to listen to other’s stories for
the first time) to your commencement circle (when you will stand with your class for the last time), the circle holds profound and sacred meaning. It symbolizes unity and strength. When you leave this hill to scatter in many directions, you will need that unity and strength as you confront a world far more complex and rapidly changing than the world those 1952 graduates faced. Like them, however, you will find opportunity and confront obstacles; come upon joys and sorrows, expected and unexpected. And just as they have, you will always be able to rely on the strength of your Andover commencement circle when you need it.

So, I am going to ask you to consider the circle, the Andover circle, in three ways: First, as your class circle—one circle on one plane on a great expanse of lawn at one point in time. Second, the idea of concentric circles—like the circles of water that pulse out from a stone thrown into the calm water of, say, Rabbit Pond. And third and finally, I am going to ask you to consider a sphere—to imagine a circle standing on edge and spinning around like a hoop to create the shape of a sphere.

First, the singular circle on one plane: your 2008 commencement circle. It is large—606 feet in circumference. It will last but a fleeting moment, and there is real sadness in that for your band of 303 sisters and brothers. You mean so much to one another! Each of you was chosen to come here for some combination of traits: sharpness of intellect, breadth of imagination, kindness of heart. All these things and more form what Martin Luther King Jr. called the “content of your character.” Unique combinations of these things in each of you have made you great classmates and precious friends. You played off one another’s talents and differences. You developed your own talents (with humility, we urged) while gladly celebrating the talents of others. And your diversity mattered, as well. As University of Michigan economist Scott Page argued in his recent book, The Difference, diverse groups solve the complex problems of today’s world more effectively than groups whose members come from similar backgrounds and hold a similar point of view. We see this in action every day at Andover, a community like no other.

Now, on to the idea of concentric circles: This is the idea that your class alone, remarkable as it is, is only one among many that have gone before and many others that will follow. The Andover community extends beyond you to thousands of other graduates who share your passion for excellence, service, and leadership. Often I hear stories of Andover alumni who have come to know and respect one another, only later to discover that they both attended this school.

Last month, PBS aired a remarkable documentary called CARRIER. With surprising candor and an intensely human touch, the film depicts the lives of sailors and pilots aboard an aircraft carrier, the USS Nimitz. One of those pilots is Lt. Laurie Coffey, Andover Class of ’95 (who was a stunningly good basketball player and all-around good

“The circle holds profound and sacred meaning. It symbolizes unity and strength.”
citizen in her days at Andover). In a recent interview, Laurie said that a strong desire to serve her country led her to attend the Naval Academy. Andover gave students a consistent message that service was important, Laurie remembers. And Andover prepared her for hard work, as well as service. “Everything was easy after Andover,” is how she puts it. She learned here, as you have, that persistent hard work is more important than an isolated flash of brilliance.

But back to the idea of concentric circles: As it turns out, the creator, executive producer, and director of the documentary CARRIER was Andover Class of ’80, Maro Chermayeff, whose dream was always to be a filmmaker and who, by her own description, went through Andover “with a Super 8 camera in her hand.” She learned how to crystalize the world through a lens so that her viewer sees a truth in life that escapes the naked eye. I try to imagine the conversation when these two—the flier and the filmmaker—discovered they had both stood in the same commencement circle 14 years apart! They share a bond, strong and true—just as you, about to become the youngest graduates, share a bond with the oldest living graduate of Andover, who will celebrate his 90th Reunion next weekend!

Fanning out, one after another, these Andover concentric circles have the power to make a great impact on the world.

That brings me to the sphere and Andover’s beautiful exemplar of that shape, a monumental bronze sculpture, one you saw every time you crossed campus: the Armillary Sphere.

As your class circle gathers on the north end of the lawn, the Armillary Sphere will balance it on the south end. But after your circle disbands, the Armillary Sphere will remain—a timeless image of the world and humanity at the center of the celestial universe, by American sculptor Paul Manship. You know what it looks like, but perhaps, seeing it every day as you have, you’ve never really thought about it. Surrounded by massive bronze bands sits a family, child raised up in the arms of a mother and father. Sculpted on the bands themselves are signs of the elements—earth, wind, fire, and water—as well as the astrological signs representing the heavens.

When the sculpture was installed in the early 1930s, the Great Depression held the world in its clutch. For the second time that century (World War I being the first), calamitous events in one part of the globe spun out of control to affect virtually every other part. In the 21st century, that global interconnectedness is even more evident, as weather catastrophes, food shortages, and wars wreak havoc on millions around the globe and touch us all. Your generation, perhaps more than any other, will be called upon to understand and engage these global challenges.

We have done our best to help you understand and engage the world. Each of you has been required to study at least one of eight world languages taught here. Just this spring, we added Arabic to the curriculum. It might seem surprising to some that those Arabic sections were instantly oversubscribed, largely due to the number of seniors who enrolled. Did you, with your college acceptances in hand, shrug off your backpacks, power down your laptops, and slide into a classic senior slump? Hardly! Your voracious appetite for learning remained unabated. But this is no surprise to those of us who have watched as your interest in learning about and serving in the world has grown. You studied the intricacies of global economics, participated in micro-lending projects, and raised funds for China earthquake relief. Some of you have deferred college for a year to work and study in far-flung places like Jordan, China, and South Africa. One of you will accompany this summer’s service learning trip to Mumbai to make a documentary of the program, in which students will study and practice solutions to the injustices of child labor. You have shown a remarkable commitment to changing the world for the better—from your close network of family and friends, to the Boys and Girls Club in Lawrence, Mass., to the wider world, represented by the Armillary Sphere.

One last thing about the Andover Armillary Sphere, “Its axis is fixed at 42 degrees, 30 minutes—the angle of the
earth at Andover. It points due north.”

And due north, the fixed point for all Andover graduates, as for you, is a spirit of non sibi, or, in the words of our constitution, “usefulness to mankind.” Always take your bearings on that point. The chance to do just that will come to you over and over again, sometimes in small ways, sometimes in crises. I am thinking of one of my favorite stories, of a graduate of the ‘80s, an investment banker. He led the effort to help the surviving members of a bond-trading firm, most of whose colleagues had been killed in the World Trade Center tragedy. As if in an “old-fashioned barn raising,” this graduate and his colleagues worked around the clock to set up their competitors in vacant office space in their own building. After several months, some of his coworkers felt it was time for the outreach to end. These were competitors, after all! But our alumnus could not bring himself to end their hospitality so soon. He just knew it wasn’t the right thing to do. And he prevailed. Later, when he told me this story at an Andover gathering, he said something I will never forget. He told me that one night, in the midst of it all, he had awakened in the wee hours with a seemingly random, but powerful thought in his mind. “It was Andover inside me telling me to do this,” he told me. “It was Andover.” The fixed point. True north.

So, as you take your leave, consider the circle—your strong and united 2008 commencement circle. Consider the concentric circles of your Andover schoolmates of all generations and your collective potential for good. And finally, consider the Armillary Sphere, its axis fixed at 42 degrees, 30 minutes—the angle of the earth at Andover, pointing due north.

Dear friends of the Class of 2008, we have come to the moment of parting. Take our blessing as you go. Go in peace. Go with our love. Godspeed.
Eight from ’08

The Class of 2008 was a uniquely well-rounded group of 300-plus students whose talents extended from the classroom (eight National Merit Scholarships) to the athletic fields (137 varsity letters) to the stage, where some of the most talented singers, actors, dancers, and musicians the Academy has ever seen performed on a weekly basis.

Their individual gifts were varied, and thus the class as a whole was heavily involved in all aspects of student life—leading the way, setting an example, and sharing the fun. From community service to student activities to international summer learning programs, Andover’s most recent graduates participated enthusiastically in just about everything the Academy had to offer.

As always, dozens stand worthy of being featured in our senior profiles. This year just eight were chosen to represent the Class of 2008.
Early in his eighth-grade year, Hector Cintron had it all figured out: he planned to attend a Catholic high school in his hometown of Lawrence, Mass., and make a name for himself on the gridiron. Of course, that was before he got some sage advice.

“After seeing my grades, my friends told me I should apply to prep school,” says Cintron, who thought such places were reserved for only hockey players and troublemakers. “They said, ‘No, no, Andover is cool. If you get in, they’ll pay for your education if you need it.’ And that was what really caught my eye.” Financial aid would cover only half his Catholic school tuition, so the thought of greater savings appealed to Cintron, the eldest child in a working-class family.

He speaks highly of his parents. From his mother he gets his determination and people skills, he says. From his father, solid morals and athletic drive. Those traits have served him well at Andover.

His football dreams dried up as a lower, when he failed to make varsity, so he refocused on wrestling. He had taken up the sport in eighth grade and liked it from the start. “I was no good at first, but I would come in every day fired up for practice,” he reports. “I’m still on the up—getting better every week.”

This year, while at Johns Hopkins, he aims to be a national champion.

Cintron purposely sets the bar at heights that are likely a stretch. “I feel if you set goals high you should always expect failure, no matter what you’re trying to do. It’s not how hard you work, it’s what you do when you fail.”

Cintron does quite well. Although not a national champ his senior year (his goal), he did earn All-American status and an impressive seventh-place finish at the U.S. prep school tournament. He lost only one regular-season match all year, in week one, but refused to let it deter him. The next time, he prepared that much harder.

He applies the same philosophy to academics. Though top of the class when an eighth-grader, his PA studies taught this future electrical engineering major humility. It was tough going as a junior, but he settled in—so much so he has plans next year beyond the wrestling mat: “In terms of academics, I want to be that kid who gets a 4.0 average...who’s an All-American, the one everyone looks up to and says, ‘Wow, I wish I could do that.’”

—Scott Aubrey
Don’t pigeonhole Jessica Cole. She’s an immensely versatile and talented writer whose spirited one-woman poetry slam brought a capacity crowd in Kemper Auditorium to its feet. She was a serious-minded cohead of Interfaith Council and Women’s Forum and a hand-clapping, hip-swaying member of the Gospel Choir. She is interested in...everything.

If anything comes close to defining the Windham, N.H., native, it’s her enthusiasm for community service—from planning to participation to the celebration of a job well done. Cole and Mary Doyle ’08 were the two general coordinators of PA’s 2007–2008 Community Service program. Together they oversaw 24 student project coordinators and acted as liaisons to the program’s three faculty advisors. Cole’s biggest challenge: too many ideas, too little time. “I would sometimes complain that my classes were getting in the way of community service,” she laughs, quickly adding how much she loved her coursework, too.

Helping to revamp the program’s two-hour student orientation was one of her many goals. “It used to be a pretty dull safety and logistics lecture,” she explains. “The new format includes reflections by PA faculty and community partners about their personal service experiences, plus fun activities to get students thinking about how to make service meaningful—not just drudgery.”

Non Sibi Day 2007, PA’s inaugural worldwide day of service, was an eye-opener for Cole: “To be honest, I wasn’t too excited when I heard I’d be coordinating a project that dealt with moving materials around a warehouse. Where were the people? But it turned out to be an amazing day. I learned a ton about the need for medical supplies in rural clinics around the world, packed pallets to send to those clinics, and later led reflection for all of the project participants. It’s rare to feel so connected.”

There were plenty of people at the Bread & Roses picnic she organized on campus last fall—about 150 children and adults from a community kitchen in nearby Lawrence joined dozens of PA student and faculty hosts. “It was a blast!” she says. “It was amazing how well everyone bonded over sports, games, karaoke, and food.”

Some might be overwhelmed by so many responsibilities piled on top of a heavy academic load, but not Cole, a go-getter who thrives on being busy.

The former student writer for the Eagle-Tribune daily newspaper plans to continue with journalism and creative writing—and Arabic—at Yale. “I’ve heard that a lot of nonprofits are moving to the Middle East,” she says. “There’s nothing I would find more interesting than jumping headfirst into a new culture.”

—Jill Clerkin
The summer before entering Andover in 2004, Nayab Khan and her older sister, Faiza, convinced their parents they needed a dose of their culture. The two flew from their hometown of Missouri City, Texas, to Pakistan—not just to sip black tea and nibble samosas with relatives for two months, but also to volunteer at the SOS Children’s Village, an orphanage in Lahore.

“We taught English, Urdu, and math for four hours each morning, and in the evenings we played cricket or just talked with the children,” explains Khan. “It gave me a lot of perspective on education in Pakistan, the structure of social welfare programs, and how political struggles impact day-to-day life.”

Most of the orphans, she says, were children of Kashmiri refugees simply too poor to support their offspring. That heart-wrenching reality was a big reason Khan was drawn to the Center for Global Justice, a popular PA student organization that helps raise awareness of the scope and complexity of the injustices in our world. As coordinator her upper and senior years, Khan helped plan weekly meetings, off-campus community service, big events like the annual coffeehouse, and fund-raisers to benefit groups such as the Genocide Intervention Network.

“The best thing about the club was the members,” claims Khan. “These were kids who read the newspaper every day, who were engaged in international issues, who really cared what was happening. They did research and came to meetings ready to discuss meaningful things.”

Along with being actively involved in numerous sports and extracurriculars, Khan maintained a full academic load and was a dorm proctor for two years. “I have a lot of teachers, coaches, and house counselors to thank for helping me ‘do it all,'” she says.

When Khan matriculates at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 2009 on a full four-year Morehead-Cain Scholarship, she plans to double major in Arabic and…something else. To get a jump on her Middle Eastern studies, she’ll be spending a gap year as a junior fellow at King’s Academy in Jordan, an independent secondary boarding school for talented youth from all religions and backgrounds.

“At 18 years old, I’ll be a teacher, a track and field or volleyball coach, and a house counselor–prefect at a progressive new school that is bound to become highly influential in the world,” says Khan with an appropriate mix of pride and awe. She still harbors a “someday” fantasy of creating an Andover-like boarding school in rural Pakistan, where educational opportunities are abysmally scarce.

—Jill Clerkin
By age 3, Benjamin Niedzielski could count to 1,000. By kindergarten, he had taught himself multiplication and division. As an eighth-grader, he enrolled in a computer programming course at an area community college, perhaps reward for enduring a K-8 public school math curriculum that failed to challenge him. It was not until Andover that this natural-born mathematician felt he was learning at the right level: he took *Geometry* and *Precalculus* as a junior, tested out of courses the next fall, and settled into *Accelerated BC Calculus* as a lower. Within time, he had exhausted PA’s math and computer science offerings.

“I like the logical structure of how everything works out in math,” explains Niedzielski, a day student from nearby Methuen, Mass. “Pretty much always there is only one right answer, and that definitiveness is something I enjoy.”

That said, it comes as something of a surprise when Niedzielski admits he doesn’t necessarily envision a future in math. Not a professional one, anyway. Don’t get him wrong: he plans to continue with his arithmetical studies this fall when a student at Brown. But there is more to him than numbers.

“Mathematics is fun as a hobby,” he says in his calm, even-toned manner, “but I’m not sure how much I would enjoy doing math—and more or less only math—all the time.”

Instead, Niedzielski may pursue his love of languages. He signed up for Latin when he first arrived at Andover—it came extremely easily to him, he admits—and has since studied Greek at PA and Italian on his own.

One career option is computational linguistics. Drawing on more than one of his academic loves, he would be charged with writing programs that translate languages or run grammar checks à la Microsoft Word. (He’s not without experience: as a senior he placed 12th in a competition that determined the North American Computational Linguistics Olympiad team.)

Another option is a return to the classroom: “I’ve given a lot of thought to teaching at a secondary school such as Andover. I’m not sure in what topic yet, though I’m inclined to say I’d prefer to teach in classical languages.”

Amidst a busy Andover schedule that included Math Club and the computer science team, Niedzielski tutored for a year in Latin and for three years in math; he aided peers with computer science in an unofficial capacity. “I enjoy helping others to understand the subjects at which I excel,” he says.

Of those, he has choices.

—Scott Aubrey
Tessa Pompa watched intently as smiling middle schoolers at Lawrence’s Esperanza Academy tackled an improv exercise. An Andover-sponsored community service project, Theatre Troupe! provides fifth-, sixth-, and seventh-graders an hour-long, weekly respite from academics. Her senior year, Pompa directed the fun and the kids: when a particular on-stage activity devolved to mere chatter, she called, “Cut!” Her ensuing instruction drew on a lesson she learned in a PA film class: “You have to find the story.”

Pompa’s own tale—her Andover story—began back home, near Los Angeles. There, she came to know Graeme Henderson ’52, a longtime family friend who saw in the girl something special. He repeatedly told her she was PA material.


But with time, Pompa was ready to hear more: “After freshman year back home, I was so bored. I wasn’t being challenged enough. There wasn’t any community service there, either. So my father and I sat down with Graeme, and he said, ‘Really, I think you should consider this.’” Henderson and his wife, Rebecca Carr, a former PA admission counselor, suggested a few independent schools for Pompa. Though humbly skeptical of her chances for admission, her clear preference was Andover.

She has not looked back since she got the good word.

Here, Pompa challenged herself academically. She also thrived in the arts and excelled in community service—often integrating the two. This summer, she participated in Andover’s Niswarth trip to India. Video camera in tow, she shot footage for a documentary to entice future Andover students interested in the service trip.

As a senior, Pompa codirected a short film, a suspenseful yarn about an on-campus cheating business. She also sang at PA—in formal productions, with student musical groups, and for variety shows like Grasshopper Night. “At my old school, I would only sing once a year in the musical,” she says, “but here I’ve gotten so many more opportunities to perform.” And to collaborate with friends. “When you’re on stage, you’re playing someone else. But when you’re composing songs with friends, that’s much more personal.”

Pompa intends to continue with music this fall while a student at Stanford. The first in her family to attend college, she plans to take business courses initially, with a possible long-term goal of becoming a music producer.

For all she has accomplished at Andover, she thanks the Hendersons. “I really do feel indebted to them,” she says. “I owe them everything.”

—Scott Aubrey
As a new upper in 2006, Southerner Thomas Smyth acclimated quickly to life at a New England boarding school. He came to PA after two years at Davidson Fine Arts, a highly respected magnet school in his hometown of Augusta, Ga. “I took an AP world history class there, but it just wasn’t challenging,” he says, “so I Googled ‘top 10 boarding schools’ and was hooked by Andover’s promise of a ‘rigorous academic program.’”

He relished his coursework from the get-go and within weeks became involved with intramural sports and assorted student clubs—including Model UN and the Philomathean Society. He also volunteered as copy editor for the Phillipian.

“As I read through the galleys looking for typos, I couldn’t help forming an opinion on content,” he says, “and eventually writing a commentary or two.” His savvy editorial insights earned Smyth the student newspaper’s number two position—executive editor—in January 2007.

Smyth fondly recalls his weekly exchanges with editor James Sawabini ’08. “We’d have tense discussions, real arguments about a headline or how to play a story,” he says, “but after the paper came out we’d feel this great camaraderie.” He is particularly proud of the Phillipian’s page-one coverage of a fire in nearby South Lawrence last winter that left 40 families homeless. The dramatic photos and accompanying story are credited with helping to mobilize campus-wide efforts to aid the afflicted families.

Smyth also felt a personal connection to those living in the sprawling urban area: each week, as part of the Eagle-Tribune Jr. community service project, he helped a boisterous group of Lawrence eighth-graders write and publish a newspaper for their peers.

Easy going and unpretentious, Smyth is described by history and social science instructor Peter Drench as “a sponge for news from around the world, one of the best writers I have ever taught, and a natural interviewer whose succinct questioning and strong listening skills [PBS TV interviewer] Charlie Rose should emulate.”

The three people whom Smyth would most like to interview? British artist Damien Hirst; Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, president of Iran; and David Remnick, editor of the New Yorker.

As a writer, Smyth eschews today’s thinking that anything aimed at the mass market must be made crass because that’s what “ordinary people” want. “Writing can be made accessible without dumbing it down,” he asserts.

Now at Yale, Smyth is in no hurry to decide his major. Possibilities include international studies, art history, and Arabic.

—Jill Clerkin
Mercy Bell has had folks sitting up and taking notice since she was a child. Her intelligence, talent, and pluck earned her an eight-year scholarship to the Park School, a private primary school in Brookline, Mass.; entering as a lower, Bell received a full scholarship to Phillips Academy; and this September, she matriculated at Stanford University, again, on full academic scholarship.

Bell’s achievements are even more impressive, considering she was raised by a single mother who is physically disabled. Her mother suffers from fibromyalgia, a chronic disease that causes severe pain and fatigue. Bell says, “Her disability forced me to be independent.... When you have a mother who can’t get up in the morning and get you ready for school, you do it yourself.”

Nonetheless, Bell says her mother’s perseverance and ability to raise her despite her physical condition was a huge influence in her life: “My greatest source of strength and inspiration is my mother.”

Bell, who was born in Tennessee, is biracial. Her father, who has never been a part of her life, is Bahamian. Her mother is of German heritage. In the 1970s her mother participated in a summer program that brought inner-city children to the suburbs. She stayed with then-PA history teacher Tom Lyons and his family. That’s when, Bell says, her mother first had a vision that her child might someday attend Phillips Academy.

Even though her mother lives in Boston, Bell found the separation hard because she couldn’t be home to help her. But the time spent apart contributed to Bell’s work ethic. “I needed something I could have some control over,” she says. “If you can’t be there to be sure your mom’s OK, how about doing your homework and getting good marks?”

And that’s what she did. “My religion and philosophy class was absolutely mind blowing,” says Bell. Philosophy is now something she’s interested in for future study. A writer since childhood, she was a tour de force in the English department. “The class I will never forget is Mr. Lychack’s poetry class,” Bell says, her eyes filling up. Likewise William Lychack speaks fondly of her: “Mercy Bell is one of the most affecting writers I’ve ever read—anywhere, anytime. I simply love her work, love her honesty, love her ability to stare at a thing until it reveals its beauty.”

Bell says of her future: “I want to have a career that encompasses as much humanitarian work as possible, and whatever I do, I want to make sure I do it right and do it well.”

—Paula Trespas

MERCY BELL
A Chinese proverb says, *A child's life is like a piece of paper on which every person leaves a mark*. Michael Zhan has had many marks left upon his life, and he intends to leave them on the lives of others.

When Zhan was 5, his family emigrated from China to New York City. About a year later, the family moved to Toronto and became Canadian citizens.

*A man is good for nothing until he is educated.* One of the primary reasons Zhan’s parents’ came to the West—with all the sacrifices the move entailed—was to obtain the best education for their sons. Zhan says his parents struggled to make a living in Canada; neither one spoke English very well. His father, who owns an electronic components brokerage business in Shenzhen, returned to China, leaving Zhan, then in the sixth grade, and his older brother in his mother’s care. His mother returned to China as well in 2004.

*A jade stone is useless before it is polished.* Zhan applied to eight different independent schools in New England and was admitted to all. An honors student, he speaks Chinese, English, and French, and he has studied Japanese. Carroll Perry’s economics course was, he says, an eye-opener. So much so, he is considering an economics major at Yale, where he was admitted early decision. As president of the International Club, he mentored students from foreign countries, and as head of the Andover Chinese Cultural Outreach program, he taught local adopted Chinese children all things Chinese. The liberal arts education he received at Andover, Zhan says, gave him a heightened sense of citizenship, duty, and awareness of his responsibility to improve the world as a future leader.

*A nation’s treasures are in its scholars.* Zhan says his Canadian and Andover education “pretty much define who I am.” But he is emphatically loyal to China and plans to return there eventually. Over the summer Zhan was an intern at CITIC Capital Holdings Limited, a leading China-focused investment management and advisory firm in Hong Kong. His boss, the CEO of the firm, was Andover alum Zhang Yi-Chen ’82.

“China feels like home—a prosperous home with a lot of opportunities,” he says. He hopes to help improve China-U.S. relations and to play a role in making China a “better country, a more liberal country, a more developed and prosperous country for all its citizens. China has responsibilities,” he notes, “whether they be toward human rights or environmental concerns. These are things that eventually China will have to tackle.”

—Paula Trespas
Most everyone knows the name Harriet Beecher Stowe, and most everyone in Andover fondly points out her Andover connection, her tombstone, the dormitory named after her. But few remember Elizabeth Stuart Phelps Ward, who grew up in Phelps House and who walks in the shadow of Stowe’s literary accomplishments. But while Stowe explored the causes of the Civil War in her best-selling novel of the 19th century, Uncle Tom’s Cabin, Ward handled the task of explaining the emotional consequences of that same war in The Gates Ajar, a novel that followed closely behind Uncle Tom’s Cabin in sales in its first few years.

Born in Boston on April 31, 1844, Ward was the oldest child and the only daughter of Rev. Austin Phelps, a professor of homiletics at Andover Theological Seminary. Ward attended Abbot Academy until 1863, leaving school at age 19 to do mission and social work and to write. Her father, a somber and distant man whose wife died in 1852, gave her a thorough religious education, and she inherited her talent for writing from him; his family had a long literary tradition. As Ward grew older she became removed, spiritual, and—in the words of her own teacher—“morbidly conscientious.” She grew up feeling that her mission in life was to set right the wrongs in the world.

While in school, Ward fell in love with Samuel Hopkins Thompson, a student at Phillips Academy. Little was known about the fairly secret relationship, but she was devastated upon hearing of his death from wounds incurred at the battle of Antietam and never recovered from the loss. It was said that she even hung a life-sized portrait of Thompson in her house until her death. After the tragedy, Ward became a recluse, hiding from her family and the world and writing in the gazebo behind Phelps House. It was out of this period of mourning that The Gates Ajar arose; the novel addressed the loss of loved ones in war, and in it Ward expressed her strong belief in the enduring connection between herself and her dead lover. She portrayed the afterworld in human terms, as a place where human desires would be met, saying, “I believe in the Life Everlasting, which is sure to be; and that it is the first duty of Christian faith to present that life in a form more attractive to the majority of men than the life that now is.” In presenting in an attractive way the bleak Calvinist religion she learned from her father, she made the religion of Andover Hill accessible to thousands of Americans, helped them cope with their own personal losses, and met with almost instant success.
Despite the flowery, wordy style of *The Gates Ajar*, it sold more than 100,000 copies in the United States and England and was translated into several languages. It spawned a series of popular songs and even a brand of cigars and was so well known all over the world that a Prussian army officer was quoted as saying of the book, “I understand that it has made more Christians than all the preachers.” This immense popularity was due to excellent timing: what Ward thought the country needed to hear and what it actually wanted to hear coincided.

The publishing of *The Gates Ajar* was the high point of Ward's literary career. Her heavy style and predominantly unpopular subject choices finally caught up with her later in life, and her attempts to popularize her own beliefs never approached the level of success achieved by *The Gates Ajar*. She moved to Gloucester, Mass., with her husband, Herbert S. Ward, a man almost 20 years her junior, and wrote novels and short stories to raise awareness about reform movements, such as temperance and women's dress reform. However, her readers weren’t interested. As Ward became more and more of a recluse, losing touch with the needs of the country, her writing also became more separated from those needs, and Ward slowly faded from the literary spotlight.

Even *The Gates Ajar*, her greatest achievement, lost popularity over time as Ward's flowery writing style became less popular and the Civil War wounds of the country healed. Ward was not needed any more. However, she was an important social and literary figure, and in her old age she made strides for women’s rights and other reform causes. And although few remembered Ward at her death in 1911, during her lifetime she made Andover Hill’s brand of Calvinism accessible to millions and delivered comfort to the masses after the Civil War.

Stephanie Schuyler of North Reading, Mass., is the fourth recipient of the Thorndike Internship in Historical Biography. The program annually supports the work of an upper selected by the chair of the history department for the purpose of researching and writing a short biographical sketch of an alumnus or alumna of Phillips or Abbot academies. Funded by John L. Thorndike ’45 and W. Nicholas Thorndike ’51, the internship is a memorial to their brother Augustus “Gus” Thorndike Jr. ’37, honoring his lifelong passion for history. It also promotes history as a literary art and serves to help the Phillips Academy community develop a renewed appreciation for its rich and diverse heritage. Schuyler, a four-year PA student, is pursuing her interests in biology and history at Yale.
Mark Twain famously said, “Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it.” He did not know David Arnold.

Using his skills as a journalist and photographer—and combining them with a nature that is curious and some might say a little reckless—Arnold has found a way to address what he considers the great issue of our time: global warming. He created a visual record of climate change by pairing his own dramatic aerial photographs of Alaskan and European glaciers with photos of the same scenes taken 50–70 years ago by famous mountaineer Bradford Washburn. And, with collaborator Gabriela Romanow (the parent of a PA upper), he has turned those photos, new and old, into an exhibit he hopes will “educate, alarm, and inspire.”

*Double Exposure* debuted at Boston’s Museum of Science in April and is at the Bruce Museum in Greenwich, Conn., through October 6, the second stop of a nationwide tour. More than two years of flying, photographing, researching,
and organizing are distilled into 14 pairs of 2-by-3-foot photographic panels with explanatory text.

“It’s amazing to see it reduced to this clean little presentation,” the Boston-based photographer says. “The many steps, changes, additions….”

The wonder of what Arnold saw as he leaned out of helicopters at altitudes as high as 3,000 feet is still fresh for him. He describes approaching Guyot Glacier in southeastern Alaska with a copy of Washburn’s 1938 photo. “If I didn’t know where I was going, I would not have recognized it,” he says. The glacier’s winding terminus had retreated 14 miles. Arnold says he was dumbstruck: “The scale of it just knocks your socks off.” According to the National Ice Data Center, the Guyot has lost 26 trillion gallons of fresh water, an amount equal to New York City’s water demand for 47 years.

Pointing to images of Alaska’s Valdez Glacier, he explains, “When Washburn flew over it, it was still advancing. Now….” He points to the educational panel next to the photographs—each taken at 2,900 feet, one on August 5, at 11:18 a.m., and one on August 10, at 9:45 a.m., almost 70 years later. “The Valdez Glacier has retreated two miles and thinned by the equivalent of 34 stories.”

Each of Arnold’s photos tells a similarly frightening tale. Ice sheets have shrunk; glaciers have withered; vast expanses of snow are dark with scrub and trees, which absorb sunlight and further speed up the melting process.

Arnold is not a scientist or activist, and had not heard the term political art or seen An Inconvenient Truth when he began the project. His introduction to photography came in Gus Jacacci’s class at PA. With a fine arts degree from Harvard, Arnold started out in the journalism field as a
designer, then reporter, at the *Boston Globe*. He became a successful freelance travel writer, mostly focusing on adventure of the nail-biting kind (swinging over Manhattan on a trapeze, rafting a Nova Scotia tidal bore, kite boarding in Belize, snow kiting in Utah, and diving for Prohibition-era rum bottles off Cuttyhunk Island in Massachusetts).

In 2005, he bought a copy of a photograph he had seen in the Museum of Science years before: Bradford Washburn’s July 1960 photo of climbers on the northeast ridge of the Doldenhorn, in the Bernese Oberland of Switzerland. “I wondered if global warming had changed that scene,” he recalls.

He flew to Europe to photograph the mountain, but got flooded out by 12 days of rain. Two years later, after a major summer snowstorm, he got the shot that duplicates Washburn’s altitude, vantage point, and camera angle. He also matched Washburn’s view of the Matterhorn, because it is instantly recognizable. “A lot of people don’t believe global warming is occurring. But if they see it resculpting an icon, it has more credibility,” Arnold explains. “The ice has been shed off the north face because of thawing and freezing cycles that never used to happen.”

Washburn, an alpinist, cartographer, and 41-year director of Boston’s Museum of Science, was a contemporary of Ansel Adams. His photos are equally stunning. When he took them (while tethered into a seaplane, holding a 53-pound camera with 8-inch roll film), he had no idea his work would provide benchmarks for charting a changing climate. Meeting Arnold in 2005, Washburn shared his flight logs so the younger photographer could retrace his steps (with a 7-pound sheet-fed 4- by 5-inch camera). He described the exact tilt of the plane’s wing for a particular shot. “But,” he added, “you won’t see much change.”

Arnold saw change, and he was changed. “To me, the biggest hurdle wasn’t leaning out of flying machines, it was squaring off with the subject of global warming,” he says. He could have denied what he had seen and not done anything about it.

Romanow had other ideas. Seeing some of Arnold’s
photos in Harvard Magazine, she contacted him in 2006 with the idea of an exhibit that would blend art, science, and politics. The two secured funding from the Oak and Kendall foundations, with the Museum of Science as fiscal sponsor. Now, as they observe the exhibit’s visitors, Arnold and Romanow don’t just want people to see the work, they want people to take it to heart.

Touring the exhibit at the Museum of Science last spring, Arnold takes note of a couple leaning toward his photographs, pointing things out to each other. “These people are voters,” he says. “My hope is to have somebody use this show to influence their friends. I hope that they leave here changed in some way.” As though on cue, a visitor with a camera wanders in and Arnold watches with delight as he illegally photographs the exhibit’s images. Questioned by Romanow, the man says, “This is amazing physical evidence of what’s happening to our world. I want to show these to my friends in California.”

Arnold plans to promote and shepherd the exhibit, giving talks about climate change at openings and other events. He plans to continue travel writing, with a conscience. “I don’t think it’s enough to return to some beautiful island just to tell people to spend a lot of money there,” he says.

Unfortunately, Double Exposure’s visual record is likely not complete. Arnold says, “Oddly—disconcertingly—the idea came to us that if things are changing so quickly, we probably have to revisit these places in five years.”

Double Exposure will be on exhibit at Springs Preserve in Las Vegas, from January 1 through March 26, 2009, and in Salt Lake City in summer 2009.
A Return to Andover

Reunion Weekend 2008 was a grand affair. On June 13–15, old friends warmly reunited on the Hill and new friendships were forged amongst the record-breaking 1,659 in attendance. From “Back to the Classroom” offerings to late-night partying, there was something for all to enjoy.
On behalf of the Class of ’58, reunion leaders Gil Bamford and Jane Christie happily accept the Class of 1891 Bowl from Trustee President Oscar Tang ’56. The honor is presented annually to the class with the highest percentage of reunion attendance.

Class of ’73 friends Dan Miner, left, and Tim McChristian chat Friday at a party in the West Quad tent.

On Saturday morning seven “Back to the Classroom” sessions were offered. Here, reunion attendees spot a rarely seen baby goshawk in its nest with its parent nearby during the bird walk led by biology instructor Tom Cone, left. Biology department chair Marc Koolen also led a group to the campus’s recently constructed bird blind.

On behalf of the Class of ’58, reunion leaders Gil Bamford and Jane Christie happily accept the Class of 1891 Bowl from Trustee President Oscar Tang ’56. The honor is presented annually to the class with the highest percentage of reunion attendance.

History instructor Tony Rotundo, center, welcomes visitors, from left, Tom Lenagh ’37, Cori Field ’83, Alison Armstrong ’03, and Matthew Kane ’03, at the Brace Center for Gender Studies open house. Rotundo and his wife, history instructor Kathleen Dalton, are codirectors of the center.

Renee Kellan Page ’83 and husband Tom, left, get together with PA math instructors Nancy Trepanier Lang ’83 and husband Corbin at a cocktail reception Friday evening.

During lunch on Saturday, George Bundy Smith Jr. ’83 and his guest, Beth Becker, couldn’t keep from dancing to the familiar tunes that filled the air in front of SamPhil. The music was courtesy of the Old Guard Aces, which featured alumni talent from a wide range of classes.
A featured speaker at this year’s Reunion Weekend, presidential historian Michael Beschloss ’73 is the author of several best-selling books, including Presidential Courage (2007) and The Conquerors (2002). “I had wanted to write history since I was 10 years old,” Beschloss says. That interest was “hugely nourished” at PA by Headmaster Ted Sizer and history teachers Wayne Frederick, Tom Lyons, and Scottie Royce ’41.

As the nation clamors to discern what history will tell us from this election cycle—which includes the first African American candidate on a major-party ticket—Beschloss reminds us it will be 20 to 30 years before we are able to take a historical look at 2008. “There are two things we need to look at—something from a historical perspective: inside information of the kind you don’t get in real time, and hindsight.”

Beschloss notes almost every presidential election is called the most important in history, but that 2008 comes closer than most: “You have a fork in the road on basic, crucial issues—foreign policy, economics, social questions—and two nominees with very different views on most of them.”

He marvels at the fact that this will be the first national election in 80 years without an incumbent running: “That increases the sense that this will be a genuine turning point. Every vice president since Charles Curtis [who served Herbert Hoover] has aspired to run for president. But not this time.”

Beschloss also reminds us how hard it is for a political party to keep the White House for more than two consecutive terms: “In the past half-century, the only time this has happened was with the election of George H.W. Bush in 1988. People usually want a change—even when the incumbent president is popular and things seem to be going well.”

He agrees with poll findings that 2008 is likely to be a Democratic year, but warns us not to presume that the next president will be a Democrat: “There is ample evidence in history that people like divided government. Some may vote Democratic for Congress and also support John McCain.” In June, Beschloss considered Barack Obama the likely winner. “But Americans sometimes are nervous about too much change. Jimmy Carter was 33 percent ahead of Gerald Ford after the conventions of 1976, but barely won in November.”

Beschloss says he is grateful, especially as a historian, for his Andover experience—“not only the spectacular history department and other teachers, but also a community that turned out to be surprisingly linked to the political history of the future.” Lincoln Chafee ’71, future senator from Rhode Island, lived in the same dorm. Jeb Bush, future governor of Florida, was also in that class. “And in West Quad South,” says Beschloss, “we had a speakers program and invited future senator and presidential candidate John Kerry to speak to about a dozen of us in the common room of Bishop Hall.”

Even as a lower in 1970, Beschloss pondered Andover’s early history: “Almost every time I walked into George Washington Hall, I wondered what it would have been like to have been a student who was able to meet General Washington when he made his famous visit here. And I rued the fact that my fellow Illinoisan Abraham Lincoln had the bad taste to send his eldest son to Exeter.”

Michael Beschloss lives in Washington, D.C., with his wife and two sons. He is a presidential historian for NBC, a regular on The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer, a trustee of the White House Historical Association and the National Archives Foundation, and a former trustee of the Thomas Jefferson Foundation (Monticello).
Murphy Is New Director of Alumni Affairs

Deborah Burdett Murphy '86 has been named director of alumni affairs at Phillips Academy. Formerly senior associate director of admission, Murphy joined the Office of Academy Resources (OAR) this summer.

She follows outgoing director Michael Ebner '70, who has taken on a new role as a principal gift officer for the Academy.

Murphy will work with an Alumni Council of more than 100 volunteers and oversee an annual agenda of educational programs, events, and networking opportunities that serve more than 20,000 alumni, parents, and friends of the Academy. She also will help develop a visionary approach to alumni communications, seeking new ways to deliver information and keep alumni engaged with their alma mater. Part of this charge will be to develop a robust online presence for Andover’s alumni community.

“Andover and Abbot have had profound impacts on the lives of so many,” says Murphy. “I am fascinated by these stories and look forward to reaching out to alumni, learning more about their experiences, and connecting them to Andover as it exists today.”

Throughout her 17 years of professional service in the Office of Admission, during which she took on increasing responsibilities, Murphy was a passionate advocate for Andover's mission of academic excellence, diversity, leadership, and service. She traveled extensively on behalf of Andover, recruiting the most talented and promising “youth from every quarter,” many of whom have since joined a dedicated alumni population.

“Debby’s firsthand knowledge of thousands of alumni and their families will serve the Academy extremely well, as will her highly respected presence among faculty, staff, and students,” says Secretary of the Academy Peter Ramsey, who oversees OAR. “With these qualities, Debby brings an exceptional ability to integrate the internal and external communities of Phillips Academy.”

A native of Palm Beach, Fla., Murphy holds a BA degree from the University of Virginia and an MEd degree from Boston University. She lives on campus with her husband, Dean of Students Paul Murphy ’84, and their three children.
**RECONNECTING**

Class of 1978 Alumni Offer New Grads a Few Words of Advice

Way back in March 1978, seven seniors shared with *Bulletin* editor Helen Eccles their thoughts about Andover, graduation, and life beyond. Below, four of those classmates provide updates on their lives and, thanks to 30 years of hindsight, offer some advice to new PA graduates.

**Peter Frisch,**
Marblehead, Mass.

After graduating from Wesleyan, Frisch taught middle school history for five years. Today, he works as a financial advisor at Wachovia Securities in Boston. He and his wife, Wendy, have three sons and a daughter.

An accomplished sailor, Frisch has, for many years, raced sailboats with blind sailors at Courageous Sailing Center in Boston Harbor. In March he will travel to New Zealand to sail—for the fifth time—in the SailBlind World Championship.

*His advice:* “First, acknowledge that you have received a superb education at Andover and give yourself an opportunity to enjoy all that has been achieved. Second, spend time resetting your academic goals for college and realize you have entered a new phase in your life. Third, embrace the idea that you are now an adult, which comes with both rights and privileges. Finally, continue to be intellectually curious and enjoy your lifelong love of learning that Andover fostered and nurtured.”

**Myrna Santiago,**
El Cerrito, Calif.

Santiago is a professor of Latin American and world history at Saint Mary’s College of California, a small Catholic liberal arts school near San Francisco; she also directs the Women’s Studies program there.

“I have a wonderful husband in the public health field who is not an academic, and thus keeps me sane, and I have a son who plays in a punk rock band and will be taking his drum kit to the University of California–Davis in the fall,” says Santiago.

*Her advice:* “Go to a college where you think you will be happiest intellectually and emotionally; the name brand is secondary. While there, cultivate your imagination just as much as your critical thinking; it will take both to confront what is ahead for the entire planet. And for the rest of your lives, make it a habit to constantly reexamine your values and priorities. Abandon that comfort zone and become citizens of the world.”

**Georges St. Laurent,**
Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.

After “starting out right” as the first Yale undergraduate to author a discovery—one of the genes activated by interferon during the defense against viral infections—in the biology journal *Cell*, St. Laurent admits he was detoured by the lure of fame and fortune. Today, he is back doing what he loves: running the only global research institute focused on herbal genomics.

“Our work involves using the latest genomic technologies to discover the molecular secrets of the ancient herbal medicines—Ayurveda, traditional Chinese, and Amazonian—and their power to cure life-threatening chronic diseases.

*His advice:* “Get excited about academics! As Dr. Quattlebaum would say, ‘For the sake of learning, an all-nighter or two won’t hurt....’ Then pursue a career that you love—as long as it involves the greater good for society—and avoid distractions. If you really love what you do, and if what you do brings joy or benefit to others, then all the wealth and recognition will follow.”
Asian and Asian American Alumni Return to Campus

Approximately 35 alumni—some visiting from the West Coast and as far away as Indonesia—joined 50 current students and a handful of faculty in April for Andover’s first-ever Asian and Asian American Alumni Reunion and Student Gathering. Phillips Academy’s Asian Society, the Office of Community and Multicultural Development, and the Office of Alumni Affairs sponsored the special occasion, which was based on a successful black and Latino alumni event in 2006.

The objective of this newest reunion was three-fold:

- provide alumni the opportunity to meet and reconnect;
- give current Asian and Asian American students the opportunity to meet and interact with alumni for the purposes of mentoring and networking; and
- offer Asian and Asian American alumni the opportunity to discuss their collective role in the larger PA alumni community.

The day also included roundtable discussion groups and an alumni career panel for current students.

“It was very interesting to hear about the alumni’s experiences at PA and all the different paths they took after graduating,” says attendee Jennifer Chew ’10. “It really opened my eyes to the endless possibilities out there.”

Eunice Lee ’86, another attendee, says she saw herself in the students she met that day: “I recognized their worries and concerns. I understood what they loved and hated about life at Andover. I perceived their maturity and confidence, but also their innocence and optimism. It was immensely rewarding to interact with them directly.”

Also rewarding for Lee: a reunion with one of the very few Asian American teachers and role models she had as a student. “It made my day when Ada Fan told me that she actually remembered me!” says Lee.

Andover aims to host an on-campus event such as the Asian and Asian American Alumni Reunion and Student Gathering once every three to four years, with regional events interspersed. The first such event is planned for October 2008 in New York City.

—Aya S. Murata

Regional Associations Are Going Digital

In an effort to conserve paper—but still keep in touch—Regional Associations are aiming to increase e-mail communication with alumni and parents. Members of the greater Andover community are encouraged to log on to www.andover.edu/bluelink to update their e-mail information and mailing address (so we know which region you live in). New England has kicked off this initiative, with New York next in line. Other regions soon will follow suit, so please update your information today! Questions? Please contact Jenny Savino in the Office of Alumni Affairs at 978-749-4278 or jsavino@andover.edu.
Class Wars:  
2001 and 1981 Compete in Andover Fund Challenge

Sometimes a rainy Reunion Weekend can prompt a sunny outcome. If it weren’t for the puddles, the Class of 1981 and the Class of 2001 might never have enjoyed each other’s company in June 2006. Forced to take shelter together inside the hockey rink, the two groups mingled and shared Andover memories.

That connection spurred a friendly rivalry—which developed this spring into a fierce competition spearheaded by Class of 2001 co-agent Joe Maliekel. An enthusiastic anonymous donor from the Class of 1981 pledged $5,000 to the Andover Fund in honor of the class that secured the highest percentage of donors by the June 30 fiscal year deadline.

“Participation represents our class’s appreciation and loyalty to the Academy and allows us to give back to a place that impacted our lives more than we ever thought imaginable,” says class secretary Misty Muscatel ’01.

The Class of 2001 shot out of the gate, securing in the first two weeks three times as many donors as did their 1981 counterparts. The Class of 1981 took the long-distance approach, displaying an impressive surge in the final leg of the competition.

The contest even created a lighthearted battle in the Andover Fund office. Impassioned 2001 assistant director Diane Glynn and diligent 1981 assistant director Megan Connor teased each other in the hallways. “The competition produced terrific energy both inside and outside our office,” says Ann Harris, Andover Fund director. “To have this level of competition between nonreunion classes was really fun for us.”

On June 30, an extra $5,000 was credited to the Class of 2001, thanks to the participation of 152 classmates—and the non sibi gesture of the 1981 alumnus. With 52 percent participation, 2001 not only outpaced 1981, a worthy opponent in its own right, they also surpassed the 10 youngest classes, resulting in the highest participation rate ever recorded in that class segment.

“Misty has an incredible connection with all of her classmates. That, coupled with her infectious energy and Joe’s entrepreneurship and dedication, helped 2001 to soar,” says Glynn. “We hope to have the opportunity to try something like this again.”

—Victoria A. Harnish

It all began at a rainy Reunion 2006: Above: Karen Woods, Annie Yates, and Fran Barnes were amongst the ’81 reunion-goers to participate in the recent fund-raising challenge with the Class of 2001. Below: Class Secretary Misty Muscatel ’01, seen here with classmate Nate Beck at reunion, helped rally her class for the challenge.
Phonathon Phenomenon

Student callers reconnect alumni with Andover

Three times each year, in March, June, and December, Andover students and recent graduates serve as ambassadors for the Office of Academy Resources and, specifically, the annual giving office. Sitting at desks in McKeen Hall, phones in hand, the eager Academy representatives transform into alumni connectors. They chat away the hours, talking about recent happenings on the Hill and sharing pieces of daily life with alumni—some of whom have never returned to their alma mater.

“Our phone calls help to tie alumni back to the school,” says Molly Ozimek-Maier ’07, a phonathon caller the past three years. “I have a great conversation with each person I reach; the size of the donation doesn’t matter.”

Coordinated by the annual giving office, phonathons also help increase participation; many alumni are surprised that smaller donations can really add up. During the 2007–2008 fiscal year, more than 3,500 gifts of $100 or less combined to provide $210,926 to support the Academy. With examples like this, the value of gifts of all sizes is quickly impressed upon the callers.

An added benefit of the phonathons is the fund-raising education the students receive. “Before I started calling, I knew very little about the Andover Fund, OAR, or the phonathons,” explains Ozimek-Maier. “Now I am aware of the value of participation and the significance of the Andover Fund—and I’ve met some great people in OAR.”

Tori Wilmarth ’09 participated in the spring phonathon. “I was nervous when I first began to make the calls,” she says, “but most alumni are very interested in speaking with students and want to know more about our lives.”

It was halfway through her week of calls in March that Wilmarth spoke with one alumnus for nearly 45 minutes. “When I called him, I felt terrible because I was interrupting his son’s bedtime story. But he said he wanted to learn more about my interests and the school’s current initiatives, and we just kept talking.” It was several minutes into the call when the alumnus told Wilmarth he would be making a significant contribution to the Andover Fund.

“My goal was to give him a sense of what Andover is like today,” says Wilmarth. That evening, she sent a thank-you letter to the alumnus, who very generously pledged $10,000 to the Andover Fund. The March phonathon resulted in gifts and pledges totalling $47,967.

During the June phonathons, which lasted two weeks, 20 students and young graduates called more than 200 alumni, resulting in nearly $11,000 in gifts and pledges to the Andover Fund. “For me, the entire experience is about reconnecting people and sharing common traditions like community service projects and Andover-Exeter weekends,” says Ozimek-Maier.

Both Ozimek-Maier and Wilmarth plan to call alumni again at a future phonathon. This fall, Ozimek-Maier enters her sophomore year at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, where she studies education. “At some point in my career, I hope to teach Spanish at Andover,” says the daughter of Andover Spanish instructor John Maier.

After completing a summer Non Sibi Day student internship with the alumni office, Wilmarth will enjoy her final year at Andover. She is currently researching colleges and wondering about future career options. One thing she does not question is the way she will respond when she is on the receiving end of a phonathon call. “Those of us who have made the calls understand the value of participation,” Wilmarth explains. “When a student calls me, I plan to listen well and support PA as much as possible.”

—Victoria A. Harnish

Grandparent Society Created

Andover welcomed more than 300 visitors to campus in mid-May for Grandparents’ Day. Guests toured campus with their grandchildren and later celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Grandparent Fund. During a reception at the Addison Gallery of American Art, Grandparent Fund cochairs John and Barbara Robinson (pictured with granddaughter Lily Bowers ’08) presented Head of School Barbara Landis Chase with a $144,110 check for the fund. In recognition of the significant commitment grandparents make to the Phillips Academy community, the Grandparent Fund—which is comprised of hundreds of grandparents who support Andover each year by contributing to the Andover Fund—will be renamed the Grandparent Society.
**The Headmaster Ritual**

Mariner Books
by Taylor Antrim ’92

Drawing on personal experience, Taylor Antrim has penned a tale of a student and young teacher at a prestigious New England prep school, whose lives are complicated by the same man. James is a senior set upon avoiding the harassment of his peers and the unforgiving treatment of his father, the headmaster. Dyer is an inexperienced first-year teacher instructed to form a Model UN team with his new boss. With impending conflict with North Korea as a backdrop, The Headmaster Ritual probes the headmaster’s political motives and their effects on others. A New York resident, Antrim is an editor at ForbesLife.

**The Ecology of Oil**

Cambridge University Press
by Myrna I. Santiago ’78

The Ecology of Oil traces how oil production in Veracruz, Mexico, impacted society and the environment during the first four decades of the 20th century. Author Myrna Santiago contends workers’ response to oil development prompted class conflict and ultimately led, in part, to the nationalization of the industry in 1938. This volume secured two awards for books about Latin America: the inaugural Elinor Melville Prize for Latin American Environmental History and the Bryce Wood Book Award. Santiago is professor of history at Saint Mary’s College of California.

**Comfortably Numb**

Pantheon Books
by Charles Barber ’80

A lecturer in psychiatry at the Yale School of Medicine, Charles Barber writes of a nation in search of a quick fix via a little pill. He offers an explanation as to why two-thirds of global antidepressant sales in 2006 occurred within the United States: drug companies create a need for a drug, meet that need, then pressure Americans to medicate themselves. Barber also notes how non-pharmaceutical means of healing are overlooked in favor of an “instant cure.” Drawing on experience working with the homeless mentally ill in New York City, Barber previously authored Songs from the Black Chair, which won a 2006 Pushcart Prize.

**American Transcendentalism**

Hill and Wang
by Philip F. Gura ’68

Claiming inspiration from a History 4 class taught by Frederick Allis ’31, Philip Gura has crafted a comprehensive history of transcendentalism—from the movement’s roots in Europe, through its greatest popularity in mid-1800s America, to its eventual obscurant later that century, when its philosophies clashed with those then dominant in the United States. American Transcendentalism was a finalist for the 2007 National Book Critics Circle Award (General Nonfiction). Its author is the William S. Newman Distinguished Professor of American Literature and Culture at the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill.

**Today I Wrote Nothing**

Overlook Press
edited by Matvei Yankelevich ’91

Matvei Yankelevich has edited and translated for readers a comprehensive collection of the deadpan-style poetry and prose of Daniil Kharms. An important member of the early Soviet literary scene, Kharms gained popularity despite his government’s attempts to counter his rise; in 1942, he died of starvation at age 36, a prisoner of the state for suspected anti-Soviet activities. Today I Wrote Nothing includes an introduction to Kharms’s life authored by Yankelevich, whose work has appeared in many publications and anthologies. A New Yorker, he is the founder of Ugly Duckling Presse.

**Flying Close to the Sun**

Seven Stories Press
by Cathy Wilkerson ’62

Cathy Wilkerson’s memoir frankly reports her participation in the radical Weather Underground group during the 1960s and 1970s—including the explosion that killed three comrades who were manufacturing pipe bombs in her father’s townhouse. Wilkerson’s total yet naïve dedication to human rights involved her in the civil rights movement, Vietnam War protests, and increasingly violent activities. Her honest account of that era presents a logical progression from innocence to upheaval. Eventually, she turned herself in and served time in jail, and now teaches mathematics in New York City.

**The Oldest We’ve Ever Been**

University of Arizona Press
edited by Maud Lavin ’72

Maud Lavin enlisted six writers to provide autobiographical essays about their experiences of middle age. Lavin also offers up her story—about reconnecting in her 40s with her former college sweetheart—told alternately by each of the (now married) couple. Together, the seven stories “reveal confusing, emotional, sometimes humorous, sometimes sad, engaging transitions” and offer a window into the under-explored territory of being baby boomers in America. Lavin is a professor of visual and critical studies and art history, theory, and criticism at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

**Old School Bones**

Bleak House Books
by Randall Peffer

Phillips Academy English instructor Randall Peffer’s third novel in the Cape Islands Mystery Series is a whodunit fueled by rumors of secret societies and a diverse and colorful cast of characters. Although set primarily at an elite historic boarding school in a wealthy Boston suburb, the murder investigation quickly consumes the lives of fishermen, police, and Wampanoag Indians on Cape Cod and the islands, where Peffer has spent his summers for 40 years. Peffer has been an Andover faculty member since 1978.

These capsule notices were prepared by Scott Aubrey, Sally Holm, and Sharon Magnuson.
Gerry Snyder’s start at Andover literally began as an uphill climb. “I arrived 58 years ago from Ponca City, Okla., and had to lug my trunk up the hill from the railway station, all the way to my new room on the second floor of Andover Cottage!” Gerry, a graduate of the Class of 1953, went on to Yale and Harvard Business School. He worked in both the public and private sectors: he was selected as one of the original White House Fellows and later was tapped to look into preservation of the Florida Everglades—a wonderful match, given Gerry’s commitment to safeguarding natural resources.

Now in retirement, Gerry, along with his wife, Nan, continues to focus his energy on the environment. Together, they immerse themselves in the earth’s natural habitats, joining their children and grandchildren on hiking, skiing, kayaking, and dog-sledding trips. Given their appreciation for natural resources, Gerry and Nan fittingly decided to support Andover through a gift of land.

“Though we’d given securities to fund our first Andover remainder trust, we decided to use real estate more recently. We worked with the school to sell the land and establish the trust, which prompted an immediate income tax deduction and the beginning of quarterly payments to us for life,” explains Gerry. “Equally important, our trust will ultimately support programs at PA that encourage students’ awareness of environmental issues and motivate them to participate in the preservation of our natural environment.”
Beijing Gold!

Caroline Lind ’02 (pictured back row, second from right) is an Olympic champion! She and her fellow U.S. rowers dominated the final of the women’s eight event in August, outracing the Netherlands and Romania by nearly two seconds to secure the gold medal. Lind and company clocked in at 6:05.34.

It was the first time an American women’s eight had grabbed the gold since 1984.

A standout athlete at PA, Lind not only rowed, but captained the water polo team and played varsity basketball. A Phelps Scholar, she graduated from Princeton in 2006 with a degree in cultural anthropology.