Learning in a Connected World
Love it or hate it, there’s no question that we are living in a tidal wave of change that sometimes seems to sweep all before it. It is change that confronts us with challenge and opportunity.

Learning has always been about making meaning and building understanding with others. In today’s networked world it means dissolving schoolhouse walls and expanding the learning community far beyond the individual classroom. It means the potential to learn from—and with—all kinds of people out there—total strangers—who are more than willing to share what they know and reach out to help us.

This is the world of learning our children inhabit. Our job, then, is to inspire and nurture and support imaginative thinking and guide safely-made mistakes. And because the social web honors community and connection, we are living in a tidal wave of change that sometimes seems to sweep all before it. It is change that confronts us with challenge and opportunity.

Fortunately, we now have resources for learning and collaboration that earlier generations of educators could only dream about. The tools of social technology mean abundant access to learning, lifting the phrase “lifelong learner” out of the wishful thinking of mission statements and into reality.

And because the social web honors multiple intelligences and thrives on diversity, that learning can be for everyone. Across generational and physical boundaries learners are users, distributors and creators of knowledge. And we discover amazingly brilliant and accomplished people out there—total strangers—who are more than willing to share what they know and reach out to help us.

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How I Got Connected
My Journey into the Amazing World of Technology
by Shirley Rinaldi

My journey into a new world of learning began in 2008 when I attended a conference sponsored by Alan November, an international leader in education technology. It was a wonderful, eye-opening experience but also overwhelming, with so much going on and so many programs and terms alien to me.

I really enjoyed the keynote speaker, Ewan McIntosh, regarded as one of Europe’s foremost experts in digital media for public services, and whom I had met in Scotland the previous year. I agreed with all he had to say about Web 2.0 tools, social media, gaming and the power of technology. I just didn’t know how to implement all of this into my classroom curriculum.

I was so nervous and later embarrassed that I couldn’t even spell “sitting” correctly. I was hooked, though, and had to find out more.

During the next two years, I participated in a variety of interesting workshops, including a terrific k-12 Web 2.0 online course given by Shelley Paul. I had found my style of learning—online!—where I could complete tasks in my own time.

My personal learning network grew as I used my Google Reader to follow interesting blog posts and websites. I tried out several Web 2.0 tools with my students (e.g., Google Docs, Animoto, SlideShare, Voicethread and Voki) and used a class blog as a wiki as platforms for showcasing and sharing student work.

My technology journey continued alongside my students’. We tried new tools—and they loved all of them—but I wanted to go global. Although other students, parents, and friends were following us, it was time to branch out and get comments from other places. Head of school Josie Holford suggested I try Twitter, so I took the plunge and wrote a quick post, and received an unexpected reply:

That to me was POWERFUL! No contact with Ewan McIntosh in two years and presto! He responded.

I began to use Twitter regularly, following people I knew and then following their followers. That’s when I realized how small the world really is today. Some of the same educators whose blogs I had been following were now tweeting me!

Seemingly overnight, I had worldwide colleagues who were available 24 hours a day. I began to participate in chats, read more blogs and discover great conferences and workshops all through Twitter. I experienced firsthand the power of those 140 characters. My students began to receive many comments about their class blog from around the world and I began to plan a variety of projects with different teachers.

My humanities students Skyped with a great teacher, Kendra Gilmore from Missouri, and we learned a lot about each other as we compared our schools, classes and surroundings. Students blogged with Turkish peers learning English and really thought about the use of words. We took part in the World Read Aloud Day (through Twitter) last March and shared some Robert Burns poetry with Bill Boyd from Ayr in Scotland, who then read the first chapter of Treasure Island to us.

I had my first face-to-face meeting with Katy Gartside, a Twitter colleague from New York City, who gave me a wonderful tour of her school. We often tweet back and forth as we share ideas and information. Our students have blogged with each other and she shared my students’ Ancient Greek studies wiki with her fifth graders as part of their Greek studies. We plan to do more online sharing and working together.

My classroom is now truly open; it has no walls as we communicate with other learners from around the globe. My technology journey continues as I work with my colleagues, tweeps (people who tweet to me) and students to encourage, share and facilitate ways to become passionate, flexible and independent thinkers—true global learners.
New International Program Connects East & West

This fall, Poughkeepsie Day School opened its doors to nine international students (pictured at right)—six boys and three girls—entering grades 9, 10 and 11. Although PDS has enrolled students from other countries in the past, this is the school’s first group from China.

Hailing from Wenzhou, Jinan, Nanjing, Tianjin, Guangdong, Yuncheng and Qingdao, they are a “diverse group of students,” says international program director and PDS parent Kathleen Jennings. Kathleen has lived in China and brings a keen understanding of and appreciation for Chinese culture—as well as the ability to speak Mandarin—to her newly-created position.

Kathleen notes that all of the students are very capable of articulating the differences between Chinese and American educational systems, and are particularly looking forward to the interactive classrooms and the opportunity to learn with teachers and students in a globally connected high school.

Program reflects school’s global emphasis

Head of school Josie Holford announced the official launch of the international program last April as an extension of the school’s commitment to helping students develop the skills, outlook and cultural competence needed to learn, lead and thrive in a global community.

The school created informational materials for prospective students and host families, including an online international admission section on the website. Former director of admissions Jill Lunnquist and high school head Liz Vinogradov developed a careful screening process that included interviews via Skype. The school also began recruiting host families from within the PDS community.

Throughout the year, the international program director will oversee home-stays, assist with student orientation and serve as an interlocutor with the new students from around the globe for the 2012-2013 academic year.

Host families provide a home away from home

All current host families are members of the PDS community and live in Dutchess, Orange and Ulster counties. And all are excited about helping the new students feel welcome in their homes and comfortable at school. The connections began in the summer as families and students emailed each other and shared information before school opened. “In many ways, these kids are typical teenagers with much in common with their American peers, and it will be fun to see how they process all this newness,” said the program director.

Host families participated in a comprehensive orientation program prior to the students’ arrival that helped to increase their awareness of the cultural differences between China and the United States; gain a better sense of the culture shock that their students are likely to experience as a result; and gather tips for how best to cope with potentially difficult situations, like home-sickness. Kathleen notes that families can “expect to encounter bumps and misunderstandings along the way but also will gain a friend for life.”

To learn more about the program, contact Kathleen jip@poughkeepsieday.org or Liz Vinogradov, head of high school lvinogradov@poughkeepsieday.org.

Kevin Foley ’98 — China Expert

I came back to the US in 2005 for graduate school at Johns Hopkins (School of Advanced International Studies) and went back to Shanghai in 2007 to work as a research editor for an American brokerage firm. In 2009 I moved back to DC to start a job at the Brookings Institution as the assistant director of the John L. Thornton China Center (www.brookings.edu/china.aspx).

Part of my job at Brookings is overseeing international programs and partnerships that the China Center has with various organizations in China, including a center at Tsinghua University in Beijing and an annual graduate-level exchange program that brings Chinese college graduates to Washington for research internships and vice versa.

I studied Chinese language as an undergraduate at Haverford and went to China in 2002 after graduation to teach English in Hangzhou. Following a year of teaching and another at a joint academic program run by Nanjing University and Johns Hopkins in Nanjing (nanjing.jhu.edu), I moved to Beijing to work for a Chinese financial magazine called Caijing (english.caijing.com.cn), where I helped reporters on the foreign desk line up interviews and helped translate and proofread stories for the English language edition of the magazine.

Editor’s Note

The innovative, year-long China Studies elective course, designed primarily online and accessible to students in all high school grades, culminated in a student trip to China. China Studies students—as well as middle schoolers studying China this year—are serving as ‘ambassadors’ for the new international students from China.
Carol Bahruth Named Enrollment & Marketing Director

Poughkeepsie resident and former PDS trustee Carol Bahruth (pictured at right) is the new director of enrollment and marketing. She succeeds Jill Lundquist, who retired on June 30 after 13 years as the director of admissions. (See photo on page 11 of the end-of-school-year retirement luncheon at which Jill and other employees were honored.)

Head of school Josie Holford, who announced the appointment in May, said, “The depth and breadth of Carol’s expertise in education, design, training and business serve as an exceptionally rich background for her work at PDS. Since 2002, she has been closely involved in the life of the school as a parent, volunteer and trustee, and with her daughter Lily and son Charlie entering first and seventh grades this fall, she truly understands how PDS connects joy to learning. I am excited to work with her as we continue to build and shape the school for the future.”

A former high school and college English teacher, Carol spent 25 years with IBM in such positions as program manager, lead designer and developer for global new hire orientation; multimedia designer and developer for large systems; education customer representative and planner; software designer and tester; and information developer for user and programmer guides. In addition to her volunteer service at Poughkeepsie Day School, she has sat on the boards of the YWCA and led educational programs at EXITE user and programmer guides. In addition to her volunteer service at Poughkeepsie Day School, she has sat on the boards of the YWCA and led educational programs at EXITE.

Walk In Wednesdays
Visit us for tours and information 9-11 every week this fall
Sponsored by the PDS admissions office
admissions@poughkeepsieday.org

PDS Teams Score!
The school’s co-ed Ultimate Frisbee team won the 2010 Hudson Valley Athletic League (HVAL) Valley Division Tournament; the girls’ varsity soccer team (pictured at left) was the HVAL Valley Division Tournament champion team; and the girls’ varsity softball team was named 2010 HVAL League co-champion. Kudos to team members and Joan Matheis, athletic director and Ultimate Frisbee and girls varsity soccer coach; Lisa McVey, physical education teacher and varsity softball coach; alumni parent and assistant softball coach Lissette Holmes and Meagan Leening, assistant soccer coach.

PDS Awarded E.E. Ford Challenge Grant
PDS has been awarded a $50,000 matching grant from the prestigious Edward E. Ford Foundation to develop a Digital Citizen Project: a mission driven approach to teaching, learning and ethical conduct in the digital era. To receive the full amount of this grant PDS must raise an additional $50,000 for this project by December 31, 2011.

Objectives of the Digital Citizen Project include:
• Faculty professional development to help them incorporate and integrate emerging technologies into the changing culture of teaching and learning
• Collaboration with local, regional and eventually national organizations to familiarize faculty and students with the tools of digital media and train them in the use of these tools inside and outside the classrooms
• Promoting digital fluency and an understanding of the implications and applications of the read-write web to ensure that our students go beyond information navigation and critical thinking to become engaged, ethical participants and knowledge generators
• Curriculum development to teach students how to be safe on the Internet, develop a positive digital footprint, manage their digital reputation and understand the social and ethical implications of the digital universe.

To make a gift or pledge to the 2011-2012 PDS Annual Fund and/or the E. E. Ford Foundation Challenge, please contact Bryan Maloney, director of development (bmaloney@poughkeepsieday.org; 845-462-7600 ext. 113).

In January, head of school Josie Holford was elected to the New York State Association of Independent Schools (NYSIAS) board of trustees. NYSIAS is a voluntary association of some 180 independent nursery, elementary and secondary schools enrolling approximately 78,000 students. It is affiliated with the National Association of Independent Schools and the New York State Coalition for Independent and Religious Schools.
Noteworthy

Remembering Sheila Sadler
Sheila Emerson Sadler, educator and life-long friend and colleague of Poughkeepsie Day School’s founding director, Elizabeth C. Gilkeson, passed away on December 24, 2010, in Fox Chapel, PA, at the age of 85. In 1970, Sheila founded Manhattan’s Village Community School (VCS), and oversaw its growth and development until her retirement in 1989. She delivered the Elizabeth C. Gilkeson Lecture at the PDS 65th anniversary celebration on September 25, 1999, when the former IBM Briefing Center, which the school had recently purchased and renovated, was officially named in Mrs. Gilkeson’s honor.

In her talk, “Angels with Dirty Feet: One Perspective on Progressive Education,” Sheila reminisced about her relationship with Ilby Gilkeson and the early, exciting days of PDS (see excerpt below). As a graduate student completing a master’s degree at Vassar College, Sheila first met Ilby in 1946, when Ilby served as her independent study supervisor. Soon thereafter, Ilby offered her a job as a third-grade teacher at PDS—and Sheila’s life as a teacher began. Years later, Sheila followed Ilby to the Bank Street School for Children, where Sheila taught for many years prior to founding VCS, and the two women remained close until Ilby’s death in 1998. We extend our sincerest condolences to Sheila’s two children, four grandchildren, two brothers and the members of her extended family.

I have often wondered over the years why we educators of the progressive persuasion have to spend so much time explaining and defending our vision of what a good school should be like… I think the American psyche inherited from the Puritans: the idea that if children enjoy something, it must be bad for them. It’s got to be ‘hard’ to be healthy! When our children seem to be… loving to learn, it makes people nervous… I started fighting for our side at a very early age. My mother kept threatening to take me out of Edgewood, the school I loved, and send me to a traditional boarding school. In the Christmas pageant the barefoot angels had dirty feet, a sure sign, according to my mother, of a sloppy education. I argued my way through 12 years of attendance and ended up the graduation speaker for my class. Guess what I talked about? The merits of progressive education. In one way or another, I’ve been talking about [those merits] ever since.

—Sheila Emerson Sadler
PDS Founders’ Day 1999

Faculty Engaged in Summer Institutes
Bernadette Condesso, history department chair and assistant director of college counseling, was accepted into the Pier European Studies Summer Institute at Yale.

Middle school science teacher Laura Graccefi was among the first cohort of faculty to be selected for the NYSAIS Emerging Leaders Institute, a two-year course that “nurture[s] and supports independent school leadership.” Middle school head George Swain, a member of the NYSAIS Think Tank 2010 (along with head of school Josie Holford and 22 other independent school leaders), created the professional development model which became the Emerging Leaders Institute.

Jonathan Heiles, high school science teacher, was one of only 10 teachers in New York State to be accepted into the NASA Astrobiology Teachers Academy in August.

Middle school history teacher Jake Lahay was among 80 educators selected as an NEH Summer Scholar from a national applicant pool and given a stipend to attend one of 20 summer study opportunities supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities in June. Learn more about faculty engagement online: www.poughkeepsieday.org/world/
Commencement

Twenty-six seniors, including accomplished artists, athletes and scholars—and two sets of twins—were honored at the school’s 2011 Commencement on June 8. This year’s ceremonies featured remarks by Rob Handel ’86, chair of the dramatic writing program at Carnegie Mellon University, whose latest work, A Maze, premiered at Powerhouse Theater on the Vassar College campus in July. Head of school Josie Hollford, high school head Lia Vinogradov and board president Stan Lichten awarded the graduates their diplomas as the entire school as well as family members and friends cheered.

Congratulations to our graduates! Bold indicates student choices; numbers indicate multiple admissions

COLLEGE ACCEPTANCES

Congratulations to our graduates! Bold indicates student choices; numbers indicate multiple admissions. ED=Early Decision.

Barnard College
Barry College
Bennington College 4/2
Brandeis University 5
Connecticut College
Cornell University 2
Drexel University 2
East Stroudsburg University
Emmanuel College
Endicott College
Eugene Lang College
George Washington University ED
Gettysburg College
Goucher College
Green Mountain College
Hampshire College 2
Hobart & William Smith Colleges 4/3-1 ED
Iona College
Keene University
Manhattan School of Music
Marlboro College
Maryland Institute College of Art
Mount Holyoke College 2/1
New England Conservatory of Music
New School University
New York University 3/2-1 ED
Northeastern University
Pomona College
Princeton University
Rice College
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute 2/1
Rutgers University
Sarah Lawrence College 4/1-ED
Skidmore College
Smith College 2
St. Lawrence University
School of the Museum of Fine Arts
SUNY University at Albany 3
SUNY College at New Paltz 3
SUNY College at Purchase 3/2
SUNY Stony Brook University
Suffolk University
Union College/Albany Medical College
University of Chicago
University of New Haven
University of Rochester
Vassar College
Washington University
Wellesley College
Wesleyan University 3/1-ED

“Poughkeepsie is the birthplace of the American Dream. It is a town with a small-town feel and a big-town spirit.”

—Rob Handel ’86

from remarks to the Class of 2011

SENIOR INTERNSHIPS*

Astor Headstart Poughkeepsie

The Bakery New Paltz

Bank Street School for Children NYC

Bardavon 1869 Opera House Poughkeepsie

CERN Large Hadron Collider Beauty Experiment Geneva, Switzerland

The Design Library Wappingers Falls

Dunow, Carlson & Lerner Literary Agency NYC

Ellenville Police Department Ellenville

Fuko Technologies, Inc. Kingston

Hoof and Paw Veterinary Service Rhinebeck

Hudson Beach Glass Beacon

Hudsonia Annandale-on-Hudson

iHollaBack.org, NYC

Illumination Foundation Irvine, CA

INS Department of Homeland Security NYC

KRUU-FM Fairfield, IA

Lennon, Weinberg, Inc. NYC

Jill Moser, Artist NYC

Mather House Mothers NYC

Mt. Sinai Brain Injury Research Center NYC

National Dance Institute NYC

National Minority Supplier Development NYC

The National Trust-Northern Ireland Rawaille House Northern Ireland

New Directions Publishing NYC

Wendy R. Pariah, M.D. Kingston

PATHWAYS TO HOUSING NYC

Press Office of the Mayor NYC

Professional Musicians and Luthiers Hudson Valley

St. Francis Hospital Special Needs Preschool Poughkeepsie

Ulster-Greene ARC Kingston

*Four seniors volunteered at dual sites

Senior Snapshots

Marisa Allis

hometown

Poughkeepsie

began POS

1997

interests

Sports, helping others

known for internship

Cheerfulness

The Bakery New Paltz

Ellenville Police Department

East Stroudsburg University

college

Amelia Biasiny

hometown

Olivebridge

began POS

2007

interests

Deliberateness

Jill Moser Artist

Lennon Weinberg Gallery NYC

Eugene Lang College

Rachel Campbell

hometown

Poughkeepsie

began POS

2007

interests

Art, dance, helping others

known for internship

Compassion

Ulster-Greene ARC Highland

Hampshire College

Fatima Hosain

hometown

Hopedale Junction

began POS

2006

interests

Music

known for internship

Intelligence

Wendy R. Pariah MD Kingston

University College/Albany Medical College combined program

Ian Ettinger

hometown

Rhinebeck

began POS

2009

interests

Literature

known for internship

Inscrutability

Hudsonia Annandale-on-Hudson

Purchase College

Maxwell Hegley

hometown

Staatsburg

began POS

2006

interests

Theater

known for internship

Effusiveness

Bardavon 1869 Opera House

Poughkeepsie

Sarah Lawrence College ED

Photo: Sandra Moore

Photo: Sandra Moore

Photo: Sandra Moore
Senior Snapshots

Cara Iacononi
hometown: Wappingers Falls
began PDS: 2007
interests: Art, Caring
known for: Internship
internship: Hudson Beach Glass; Beacon
college: Hampshire College

Olivia Lichens
hometown: Rhinebeck
began PDS: 2006
interests: Movies, writing
known for: Internship
internship: Bank Street School for Children, NYC
college: Mount Holyoke College

Brittany O’Halloran
hometown: Karhonus
began PDS: 2007
interests: Self-awareness
known for: Internship
internship: INS Dept. of Homeland Security, NYC
college: Hobart & William Smith Colleges

Emma Slade-Baxter
hometown: New Paltz
began PDS: 2002
interests: Riding
known for: Internship
internship: National Trust, Rowallane House, Saintfield, Northern Ireland
college: Wellesley College

Emily Judson
hometown: Poughkeepsie
began PDS: 2007
interests: Architecture, Good humor
known for: Internship
internship: National Dance Institute, NYC
college: Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Madeleine Owen-Dunow
hometown: Rhinebeck
began PDS: 2002
interests: Writing
known for: Internship
internship: Press Office of the Mayor, NYC
college: Wesleyan University ED

Jacob Slade-Baxter
hometown: New Paltz
began PDS: 2002
interests: Archeology, tech theater
known for: Internship
internship: Pola Technologies Kingston
college: Hobart & William Smith Colleges ED

Preston Kemeny
hometown: Garrison
began PDS: 2004
interests: Environmental issues
known for: Internship
internship: CERN-Large Hadron Collider, Experiment Geneva, Switzerland
college: Princeton University

Max Owen-Dunow
hometown: Rhinebeck
began PDS: 2002
interests: Politics, Theater
known for: Internship
internship: Press Office of the Mayor, NYC
college: Wesleyan University ED

Alex Tibbetts
hometown: Hyde Park
began PDS: 1999
interests: Animals
known for: Internship
internship: Hoof and Paw Veterinary Services
college: Gop Year 2011-2012

Calle Knight
hometown: Beacon
began PDS: 2003
interests: Politics, sports
known for: Internship
internship: National Minority Supplier Development Council, NYC
college: George Washington University ED

Gabriel Schnider
hometown: Accord
began PDS: 2003
interests: Music
known for: Internship
internship: Professional Musicians and Luthiers, Hudson Valley
college: Manhattan School of Music

Caroline Turner
hometown: Cold Spring
began PDS: 2007
interests: Fire fighting
known for: Internship
internship: HallieBack.org NYC
college: Gop Year 2011-2012

Joseph Krzyzewski
hometown: Pawling
began PDS: 2007
interests: Music, writing
known for: Internship
internship: Performance in Lost Highway, Illumination Foundation, Irvine, CA
college: Purchase College

Jaffer Naqvi
hometown: Hopperwell Junction
began PDS: 2007
interests: Neuroscience
known for: Internship
internship: Mt. Sinai Brain Injury Research Center, NYC
college: New York University

Meredith Self
hometown: Port Ewen
began PDS: 2002
interests: All things Japanese
known for: Internship
internship: The Design Library, Wappingers Falls, New York University ED

Sophia Wallach
hometown: Poughkeepsie
began PDS: 1999
interests: Violin
known for: Internship
internship: New Directions Publishing: Dunow, Carlson & Lerner Literary Agency, NYC
college: Vassar College

Photos: Courtesy of PDS yearbook 2009
Seniors Speak

Emily Preston Amelia Gabe Fatima Max Meredith

PDS graduates people who make a mission of making the world a better place. Whether through art, music, scientific study, political action, education, fire fighting … PDSers succeed…because we come from as strong a community, as strong a background, as strong a family as we do.”

—Max Owen-Dunow

“From [studying] quantum mechanics to independently producing full-scale dance and music benefit concerts to writing a thesis on Josep Broz Tito’s inability to resolve Balkan conflicts, it has been hard for me not to feel humbled by the amazing things we can learn here and the support we are given in pursuing our goals and ultimately finding our own voices.”

—Gabe Schnider

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“What makes PDS really special is that all of the students enjoy being here. We’re happy to come to school because incredible teachers have made us enjoy learning and incredible students have created a wonderful community in which to learn… I don’t know who I would be if I hadn’t attended PDS, but I probably wouldn’t have the same critical thinking skills and I definitely wouldn’t have the same fond memories.”

—Amelia Biasiny

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—Fatima Hosain
Class Notes

Tell us what you’re up to! Send your notes to snoise@poughkeepsieday.org or via the PDS Alumni Association Facebook page

www.facebook.com/PDSAlumniAssociation

30s

Eleanor (Vail) Capers ‘37 is “still beautiful” and living at a residential care facility in Kenwood, CA.

Eleanor’s sister-in-law, Margaret (Capers) Proctor ’42, of Ossego, OR, and the mother of five, celebrated her 60th wedding anniversary last summer with her husband. They have moved 26 times—including a 12-year stay in the Middle East! Congratulations to Grace Denby ‘43 and husband Francis Loud, of Troy, MI, on their 60th wedding anniversary this September 29th! Grace, 83, and the mother of four and grandparent of five, is suffering from Alzheimer’s, reports Francis. The couple met in NYC at a Junior League theater workshop that put on productions at nursing homes. In the play, they were cast as a married couple; they didn’t know each other previously but because they weren’t “on” until the second act, they chatted a lot and became interested in each other as a result. Originally from Highland, Grace is a graduate of Miss Porter’s School (Class of 1946) and Mt. Vernon Junior College (Class of 1948). Grace’s younger brother, Charles Denby ’45, lives with his wife, Joanne, in Ft. Worth.

William Smith ’49 is retired and living in Waterville, ME. A graduate of Fairleigh Dickinson University, with a degree in business, he fondly remembers tapping maple syrup from the maple trees in front of the “old school” on Hooker and Grand avenues, and his favorite teachers, Mrs. Gilkson and Mrs. Seymour.

40s

Eleanor’s classmate, Lois (Allendorph Schoonmaker) ”59, of Poughkeepsie, is retired and living in Waterville, ME. A gentle art, she says, is “still beautiful” and living at a residential care facility in Kenwood, CA.

We were sorry to learn of the passing of Elisabeth Denby ’54, a visiting PDS last spring. She’s in contact with Haj Ross ’54 (see note below) and others from her era.

Haj Ross ’54 is professor of linguistics at the University of Texas. A 1960 graduate of Yale, he received an M.A. in linguistics from Penn and an M.A. in linguistics from MIT. A student at PDS through 8th grade, Haj’s favorite teachers included Mrs. Strehlau, who “got me hooked on guitar.”

We were happy to see Peter Bock ’58, who dropped by to share stories of classmates and teachers from his years in the school’s original building on Hooker Avenue. After college and Vietnam he enjoyed a career in education and now lives in OR. Among those fondly recalled were David Bickart ’58, David Rittenhouse ’59, Allendorph Schoonmaker ’59, Judah Sommer ’59, Judith White Komor ’59 and members of the Stone family, including Debby Stone ’55. He remembers wonderful, creative projects, such as creating an imaginary country, Door-Dor, and Alice Smiley’s symphony played by typewriters. PDS director Henry Haskell taught him to clean a fish and other teachers he recalled included Bea Stone, Margarette Strehlau, Margaret Seymour, Wally Waldstrom, Olga and Julian Strehlau, Don Scott and Frieda Att.

50s

Wonderful to catch up with Ellie (Rubin) Charwat ’54, who visited PDS last spring. She’s in contact with Haj Ross ’54 (see note below) and others from her era.

Linda Buick ’74 is back in the area after living in Cairo, Egypt. She appears in A Gentle Art, which is being submitted to The Sundance Film Festival this year, and in touch with classmates Charlie Brain ’74, Vancee Carter ’74, Erin Kiley ’73, Ruth Cunningham ’74 and Jason Tomlin ’74. Linda says, “At the Day School I learned how to be flexible and creative in solving problems. This is a tremendous life tool that has gotten me through many different times.”

Traciann Rizzo-Kowalski, who left PDS after 5th grade in 1972, fondly remembers classmates Shari Mestman ’79, Patti Beckvermitt and Barnaby Rockwell ’79. She is a teacher in Wayne, NJ.

Listen to and buy solo CDs by Ruth Cunningham ’74, founding member of Anonymous 4, on CD Baby www.cdbaby.com/cd/ruthcunningham. Ruth reports that she and the group perform about 75 dates a year and have a new CD coming out next year. When not touring, doing her own improv and solo gigs, she is teaching sound healing workshops and singing professionally at St. Mary the Virgin in NYC.

We were sorry to learn of the passing of Daniel Gifford ’74 on May 2, 2011, in CA, from complications of muscular dystrophy. The son of former PDS teacher Alice Gifford, Dan was a musician who played the mandolin in blue grass bands, including The Silver Dollar Band in Poughkeepsie and The Thunder Mountain Band in WI.

Emilie (Radin) Smith ’76 reports that she, her husband, and 17-year-old daughter are well and living in beautiful Sonoma County, CA. Emilie studied fine arts at San Francisco State University before pursuing a second degree in nursing, and she has worked for Kaiser Permanente Hospital for oncology and orthopedics RN for the past 18 years. Emilie is happy to serve as a tour guide for PDSers wanting to visit Wine Country! Contact her at emilieradinth-sizglobal.net.

70s

We have a new addition to our family, a Great Saint (half Great Dane and half Saint Bernard)! He keeps me active, walking the trails and disciplining him with clicker and treats. Otherwise, I am making bowls on the lathe, teaching woodworking at our local children’s center and trying to pretend I won’t be 80 next year. I was lucky to have woodworking experience at PDS when Larry, the janitor, and Hugh McElhenny, the music man, taught us shop where I made a bicycle rack my family enjoyed for years. It was definitely the beginning of my fun hobby.

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80s

Peter MacKennan ’80 writes that he and his wife, Jennifer Puckett, enjoyed a special 20th wedding anniversary trip last spring to London, Belgium and Paris. As the senior artist/designer at Puppet Heap in Holobon, NJ, he worked in Los Angeles last summer on redos for the new Muppet movie, (be released this Thanksgiving), starring Jason Segel and Amy Adams. Peter enjoys painting and sculpting when time permits as well as seeing classmate and PDS parent Feza Oktay ’81 and family regularly.

We have just finished haying our fields, weeding the vegetable garden and watching the weeds grow in the perennial flower gardens. Each night, two young barn owls hoot to each other from our barn roof and a chosen branch, unafraid when we watch them in the light of my torch. I wonder when they will howl “who cooks for me?” in September, when [my husband] Pat had his 80th birthday, we hiked up Mt. Washington and spent the night in the Lakes of the Clouds Hut with 30 members of our family. It was a tough experience for some who want Grandpa to find a new hobby, maybe wine tasting? [instead of leading] our Our The Hill Hiking group!

—Nancy (Meyer) Russell ’47
Phil is a science teacher and 21st-century learning coach, using digital tools to support authentic student engagement.

The Poughkeepsie Journal story credits the musical education he received during his time at Poughkeepsie Day School as playing a big role in shaping the musician he has become, having performed with former Men At Work frontman Colin Hay, Machan Taylor, a former backup vocalist for Sting and Pink Floyd; and Taylor’s husband, Danny Louis, a member of Gov’t Mule who also performed with Gregg Allman, Joe Cocker and Cheap Trick. Check out the duo’s website: wemustbe.com/WebMustBe/Home.html.

90s

Gabe Fried ’92 spent a month last summer as a “director’s guest” at the Children’s Rainiers Foundation in Umbria, Italy, finishing a new collection of poems. Just for fun, Jason Berry ’93 drove 3,000 miles from his home in Dublin to Split, Croatia and back. Jason wrote, “Not married, no kids, but finally moving in with a girl at 36 years old! Who knows where this will go!”

Mika Dashman ’93 lives in Brooklyn and practices law at a non-profit serving the HIV/AIDS community. A graduate of Sarah Lawrence and the CUNY School of Law, she is the proud auntie of Mabel Pearl Winter, daughter of Johanna Berke ’90. Mika noted that “when the school magazine comes out I’ll be in the midst of a cross country road trip with my sweetheart on our motorcycle (BMW GS1150).”

From Samantha Grab ’95 we learned that friend and classmate Celeste Dupuy-Spencer ’98, a painter, had a well-reviewed show, “Ledy Celeste Nicole,” this past July at Museum 52 in the East Village. www.nytimes.com/2011/07/15/arts/design/ledy-celeste-nicole.html

Dr. Levi Chazen ’98, has completed his 3rd year of residency as a New York Presbyterian Hospital/Weill-Cornell Medical Center in Manhattan. A neuro-radiologist, Levi received his M.D. from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia and his undergraduate degree from Johns Hopkins, where he majored in bio-medical engineering. His sister, Caitlin Chazen ’00, a graduate of Smith College, and a recipient of a National Science Foundation (NSF) Fellowship, just received her Ph.D. in geology from Brown, after completing a master’s degree there. Cait lives in Washington, DC.

Read the profile of Monique Scott ’99, who is the founder of Freebook Academy in Brooklyn, on page 24.

QOOS

Congrats to Laura Hughes ’00 on receiving an M.A. in social science from the Environment and Community program at Humboldt State University. An Oberlin grad, Laura wrote her thesis on food justice issues in Poughkeepsie, and currently works at Food For People, Humboldt County’s food bank in Eureka, CA. She also manages a local farmers market in Arcata, CA.

Donna Marie Mike ‘00 is “queen of the household” and stay-at-home mom in Nanetch, MS. Donna writes, “I loved my time at PDS. Best learning environment I’ve ever been in.”

Freelance illustrator Sean Kelley ‘01 lives in Portland, OR. He holds a B.F.A. in animation from Savannah College of Art and Design.

PDS mourns the passing of Katherine (Kate) Blake ’02 on April 1, 2011, in Kingston Hospital, as the result of a tragic accident the previous fall. We will always remember her artistic talent and “what will you become” look of confidence. Her parents, Catherine and Whitney Blake, and brothers Sam, William and Teddy.

The Arnoff brothers are busy entrepreneurs. Daniel ‘03 joined the family business, Arnoff Moving & Storage, last fall as business development manager. Bryan ‘05 owns the gourmet food truck, CapMac in Washington, DC (www.capmacdc.com), which he began with the help of brother Craig ‘08, who wrote the business plan (Dan came up with the name!) Congrats!

Lance Keller ’03 has been teaching English at Woodstock Day School and is getting married as we go to press!

Bella Tschinkel ’03 lives in Manhattan and teaches at PS 279. She graduated from Wells in 2007 and Manhattanville (graduate school) in 2009.

Tyler Ackerman ’04 shared great news about the entrepreneurial Ackerman clan. He and sis Rachel ’94, Samantha ’01, Kelsey ’02 and Casey ’07, along with PDS classmate Jesse Rediker Corradi ’04, launched a daily deal website called QspotTree.com this past July. It’s similar to Groupon.com, but for online-only retailers. In 2009 Tyler and family created an online e-commerce business called TheHealthSource.com, which sells kitchen cabinets and flooring all across the country and expects to do over $5 million in sales this year. The company was featured in the magazine Internet Retailer’s Second 500 (#2) for fastest growing small online businesses. Kudos to all!

Sasha Pearl ’04 recently ended a stint as the keeper of the Saugerties light house (in the middle of the Hudson River!), overseeing the tiny B and B there.

Brown alumnus Colin Chazen ’05 has completed his first year of law school and made Law Review at Boston College Law School.

Riannon Marino-Sweeney ’05 is a video archive editor at the Jenny Holzer Studio in Manhattan, currently assisting with the preparation of an LED piece for the permanent collection at the Whitney Museum. She’s also done freelance fashion shoots with young designers like Mothe, and her work has been featured on the travel blog NahtWise.com as well as BrooklynVegan.com. Riannon recently served as videographer for the book trailer Heked, a young adult novel published by Random House. Visit her website: www.riannonmarino.com.

Amie Rose Anderson ’06 just graduated from Sarah Lawrence (again!), this time with an M.S. Ed. She’s landed a fab job teaching third-year-olds at The Calhoun School in Manhattan, after completing her spring student teaching gig at PDS with Brian Reid’s 2-3. Coincidentally, Calhoun has taken on Freebrook Academy (see alumni profile of Monique Scott ’99, Freebrook’s founder, on page 24) as a sister school, and Amie’s volunteered to be a liaison between the two schools. What a connected world! Following the completion of her AmeriCorps term at the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy, where she served as the Land/Farmland Protection director, Ella Wise ’06 (UNC, Chapel Hill ’10) is back in Poulsbo working at Sprout Creek Farm. We look forward to seeing her!

Ian Crowisher ’06 writes that following his graduation from Cornell in 2010 (with a double major in English and Russian), he spent a year teaching and studying as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant at Omsk Law Institute in Omsk, Russia. He returned to Russia at the end of August for another academic year as a Fulbright ETA, this time at Kazan Federal University in Kazan and Yelabuga. Says Ian, “All thanks to PDS: If it weren’t for the school’s Russian language program, I might never have pursued and subsequently fallen in love with the country and its culture.”

Lukas McGowan ’06 writes that he’s making films and showing his still photography in NYC galleries. He’s also built an avocado smoothie machine (see photo below) with a bicycle-powered blender and when he’s not making and selling art, he’s making and selling smoothies as festivals and farmers markets. Check out his website: www.lucasmcgowan.com.

Evan Crane ’07 recently performed at Lincoln Center’s Midsummer Night Swing in Damrosch Park for over 6,000 people with a New Orleans traditional jazz-band, The Hot Sardines (hotsardines.com/; youtube.com/1OkDuAgH44k). Evan also brought his hip-hop/jazz trio, Stroye Stares, to The Falcon in Marlboro, as the opener for Travis Sullivan’s Bjoyskestra. Find out when Evan next will be playing his bass near you: www.evansrame.com.

Casey Knight ’07 graduated from NYU this past spring, with a major in communications and a minor in photography. Ashlee Reilly ‘07 graduated with honors from Johns Hopkins. A double major in psychology and French, she was involved in neuroscience research there, and is pursuing a masters in psychology at the Graduate Faculty of the New School with the intention of continuing work toward a Ph.D. there in clinical psychology.

Mara Strauss ’07 (Cooper Union, School of Art ’12) is “mostly focusing on painting and photography…creating eccentric still lifes to be painted and photographed.” A series of works, based on her grandmother’s armchair and living room, were shown with other drawings, paintings and photographs in a shared junior show last spring and she also exhibited at the college’s end-of-year show.

Lucia Berliner ’08 (William Smith ’12) worked on the college’s view book as an employee of the communications office over the summer, traveling to Baltimore to meet with DCSNO, the design firm on the project. She is excited about serving as a senior intern in the admissions office this fall. Luke wrote, “In my interview I talked a lot about helping out with info sessions as PDS.”

Hilary Fabrico ’08 (Goucher ’12) is a political science major with a minor in history and international relations. She is the president of the Goucher College Model Senate Club, for which she is organizing a model senate conference for Baltimore high school students in November. Hilary is also the secretary of her class and a member of the Goucher College Women’s Varsity Swim Team. Last summer she lived in DC and served as the program coordinator at the Global Women’s Network, learning about women’s issues and how NGOs are run.

Julie Henbeck ’08 (William Smith ’12) conducted on-campus physics research last summer with professor Steve Penn, as part of the LIGO (Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory) project. LIGO is a large-scale physics experiment aiming to directly detect gravitational waves. Cofounded in 1992 by scientists at Caltech and MIT, it is a collaborative endeavor among many colleges and universities and funded by the National Science Foundation.

Joshua Klein ’08 (Vassar ’12) worked at the college this past summer as a bioinformatics as well as a technical support provider for the Understanding Coral Symbiosis and Bleaching: Effects of Symbiosis and Thermal Stress on the Proteome and Lipidome of Symbiotic Cnidarians project. Josh explained, “So far, we’ve managed to get results that will break the ground for future researchers to enter the field and are currently working on providing scientists with public resources and databases to refer to for that purpose.” Wow! (See Josh on the cover of this magazine).

Research done by chemistry major Talia Steinman ’08 (Hamilton ’12) was the subject of a recent article on the college’s website. She and a classmate worked with associate professor Ian Rosenstein on a chemical synthesis that utilizes a unique method to simplify the process and cut down on waste.

Last summer, Eliza Reynolds ’09 (Brown ’14) journeyed to Bajakko, Mali, on a research-long Undergraduate Teaching and Research Award (UTRA), studying dance, music and language. She also helped to organize a conference on the “crucial collaboration of local artists with local NGOs working on issues of childhood malnutrition.” During her upcoming year “off” Eliza plans to finish Matching & Daughtering: Creating a Deep and Enduring Relationship During the Teen Years, the book that she and her mom, Syl Reynolds, began at PDS as part of an independent central study Eliza’s senior year. (And the mother-daughter team continues to teach workshops at the Omega and Esalen Institutes, including one this past summer at Big Sur.) During a stay in Vienna, Eliza will work with Women Without Borders, an international political NGO centered there. And she plans to top off her time abroad with a three-month stop in Provence, before heading back to Providence for her junior and senior years. Currently a declared gender studies concentrator with an independent track in global politics, Eliza says, “Who knows how this will change during my year away?”

Elizabeth Moulie ’09 (Smith ’13) is a Dean’s List student. Greg Shaheen ’09 (Wesleyan ’13) is an earth and environmental science major who recently completed a research project in the Catskills. Last summer he volunteered at an eco-center geared toward peace in the Palestinian Territories “to experience this culturally rich region of the world that is too often misunderstood,” followed by a fall semester in Beirut, Lebanon.

Denali Benner ’10 (Stanford ’14) made the Dean’s List freshman year.
Monique Scott ’99 Educator & Entrepreneur

Hometown: Poughkeepsie

Current Residence: Brooklyn, NY

Years at PDS: 7th grade – senior year

Transferred from St. George’s School when PDS absorbed it in 1993; former City of Poughkeepsie public school student.

Was a bit apprehensive coming to PDS but happily surprised by warm welcome from students and teachers. Immediately felt an emphasis on “student voice.” I was home!

Undergraduate college: Long Island University, B.A. ’03 (Brooklyn campus)

Double Major: Secondary Education and English Literature.

College activities: Fellow, Center for Urban Education – Received funds toward tuition while preparing to become a leader in urban education as student government president (two years); led campaign against student apathy; encouraged student empowerment and helped create a scholarship initiative for students by students; radio talk-show host. At LIU learned of the systemic issue in education – about which a radical teacher in one classroom could do very little—and in senior year, became determined to create a different kind of school.

Graduate school: NYU, Gallatin; School of Individualized Study; MA ’12 (anticipated). Focus: Alternative Education and Community Development; Thesis: “Social Capital as a Path toward Academic Success of Youth of Color”

Current career focus: Founder, Freebrook Academy; Brooklyn, NY

Conceived as tuition-free grade 7-12 school in 2003; currently hosts after-school program and discussions for youths; opens officially as school in September 2011 with K-6 grades added after researching lower school options for own four-year-old daughter. Discovered parents from communities of color or low-income neighborhoods also looking for private, progressive school connected to community, reflective of own culture and affordable. Current enrollment clustered in K-2 grades, with additional students in grades 3-7. Long-term goal: acceptable focus: Founder, Freebrook Academy, Brooklyn, NY

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Favorite PDS courses: American History (with Jay Martin) – Discussed who writes history and why the things we know should be documented, but rarely are, and “power”—and the lack thereof—and how power relations dictate how we see the world.

Education (Central Study) – Lots of independent work; read A.S. Neill (founder of the Summerhill School, in the UK, which I visited post LIU), Dewey, Piaget and others.

CAFÉ (Cultural Awareness for Everyone) – Co-led innovative course designed to encourage cultural awareness and acceptance of others; talked about race relations (David Lamb, author of the novel, Do Platanos Go well with Collard Greens?) spoke at PDS), LGBTQ rights and more.

Planning the class and engaging with students through journaling, and facilitating discussion was so fun, years passed before I recognized how much I learned from co-leading the class.

At PDS, discovered what education can be and am truly grateful.

12th grade thesis, “The Oppression of Minority Students in the US Public Education System,” reflected on differences between my learning and that of my non-PDS city of Poughkeepsie peers; learned what is possible and became determined to work in field of education.

Favorite PDS experience(s): Planning and hostng school proms—the feeling of making them happen and not conforming to the prom traditions elsewhere—and dancing up a storm!.

Favorite PDS teachers/people: I love everyone!

Hobbies/Interests: Self-proclaimed education junkie; love reading various education texts and developing curriculum; dancing and trying new restaurants; creating abstract paintings.


Person who currently inspires you: My daughter, Nianga

Life goal(s): Five years: Freebrook doing well with high-quality program in all grades; second campus beginning operation in similar neighborhood outside of NY. Ten years: Author of book(s) on Freebrook experience; finishing Ph.D. program with focus on education reform in the United States.

End thoughts: Have worked on creating Freebrook Academy for a very long time; the journey was not easy and I could have given up but didn’t. Freebook will allow me to share my PDS educational experience and my desire to effect change within the Bedford-Stuyvesant community and the larger world.

The progressive independent school that Monique Scott ’99 founded, Freebrook Academy, opened this September

Monique Scott ’99 is seen with PDS high school English teacher and college counseling director Don Fried during the on-campus conference, Embracing Innovation in a Time of Disruptive Change, last April

PDS definitely prepared me for LIU. I was not overwhelmed, afraid or worried about what was to come. PDS taught me that I could take control of my learning and provided me the tools with which to do so. Within one year, I was known by the administration and students as a leader on campus, selected for the honors department and asked to chair the student activities board.

“I love working on creating Freebrook Academy for a very long time; the journey was not easy and I could have given up but didn’t. Freebrook will allow me to share my PDS educational experience and my desire to effect change within the Bed-Stuy community and the larger world.”

PDS supports individuality and promotes democratic spirit—while arming students with tools to be successful and providing rigor across the curriculum. The space it gives to students to find their true mission, interests and talents has led me to my goal of effecting change.”

Editor’s Note

Freebrook Academy, located at 375 Stuyvesant Avenue, in the Bedford-Stuyvesant neighborhood of Brooklyn, officially opened in September. Visit the school’s website (www.freebrook.org) to find out more.
This past year has been a very positive one, with increased enrollment following a few “tough-economy” years; continuing improvements to our physical plant and an ongoing strengthening of our outstanding program.

I’m pleased to provide a snapshot of just some of the work done and in process by our energetic board committees in support of the school’s strategic plan. Board committee chairs and members are listed in the volunteer leadership section of our Recognition of Giving.

**Executive**
- Revising bylaws and re-structuring committee model to better align with current practice.

**Enrollment**
- Created “ambassadors” program to assist our recruitment efforts and develop school-wide marketing plan.

**Finance**
- Building a dashboard model to evaluate school finances strategically
- Oversaw a successful audit.

**Buildings & Grounds**
- Supported last summer’s renovation of Gilke-son Center, including redesigned dining and Chapman rooms.

**Development**
- Supported the Annual Fund, the Diversity Challenge and the Speakeasy Gala & Auction.

**Committee on Trustees**
- Identified excellent new trustees (see page 9).

**Athletics Field Task Force**
- Laid the groundwork for the summer/fall 2012 renovation and expansion of our athletic fields (more on this later).

Under the leadership of school head Josie Holford, who inspires us with her visionary thinking about the future of education—and Poughkeepsie Day School’s important role in helping chart that future—the faculty, administration and staff continue to implement exciting changes, whether to the curriculum, related to technology or in admissions (see article about our new international program on page 6). I want to thank our departing trustees, publicly, for their hard work and dedication to PDS:
- **Carol Bahruth** (see article on page 8 about Carol’s appointment as the new PDS enrollment and marketing director);
- **Bruce Judson**, now the proud alumni parent of two PDS graduates; and
- **Feza Oktay ’81**, who will continue his involvement in the life of the school as a PDS parent.

I am honored to be continuing my role as board president in 2011-2012 as a community trustee, now that my daughter, **Livi ’11**, is moving on to college life at Mount Holyoke. As we continue to work together on new projects, your support of the school—as volunteers, boosters and donors—is so essential.

Thank you for all you’ve done.

Stan Lichens

---

**Revenue and Expenses 2010-2011**

![Revenue and Expenses Chart]

**Annual Giving and Fundraising Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Annual Giving</td>
<td>$125,727</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PDS Annual Fund</td>
<td>$125,727</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Restricted</strong></td>
<td><strong>$86,861</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class of 2011 Senior-Parent Gift</td>
<td>$4,058</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. E. Ford Challenge</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Restricted</td>
<td>$22,668</td>
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<tr>
<td>Diversity Grant and Challenge</td>
<td>$50,135</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fundraising Events</strong></td>
<td><strong>$40,029</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>PDS Parents Association Fundraisers (net)</td>
<td>$2,951</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speakeasy Gala &amp; Auction (net)</td>
<td>$37,078</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gifts-In-Kind</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,150</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>$254,767</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Unaudited figures. Audited figures were not yet available at press time but can be obtained from the Business Office.

---

**From the Development Director**

“Praise the bridge that carried you over.”
—George Colman (The Younger)
English Dramatist & Theater Manager
(1762 – 1836)

Dear Friends,

In the pages that follow, Poughkeepsie Day School is privileged to publicly thank and recognize each and every donor and volunteer who helped make the 2010-2011 school year a great one for our students. Their contributions of time, talent and treasure are truly the “bridge” that carries PDS over.

Support of the PDS Annual Fund, which forms the foundation of the school’s fundraising efforts, as well as the Diversity Challenge, the Spring Benefit Auction and other fundraising initiatives, makes it possible to create the opportunities that provide our students with such an exceptional educational experience.

On behalf of the entire PDS community, and especially the students, I extend heartfelt thanks to all who became part of the “bridge that carries PDS over.”

Sincerely,

Bryan M. Maloney

---

**From the Board President**

Board president Stan Lichens, with daughter Olivia ’11 and wife Lois Guarino, at Commencement ceremonies in June
The following listings recognize donors of gifts, resources, talent and time to Poughkeepsie Day School during the 2010-2011 fiscal year from July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011.

We are deeply grateful to our community of donors for all of their contributions to support the educational experience at PDS. While every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of these lists, please don’t hesitate to contact the development office at 845.462.7600, ext.109 if an error has been made.

Recognition of Giving
2010-2011

LEADERSHIP GIVING

THE SPAULDING SOCIETY
$25,000 or more

Spaulding House, Poughkeepsie Day School’s original home from 1934 to 1963, was located on the corner of Grand and Hooker avenues in the City of Poughkeepsie. The large center-hall colonial had a warm and inviting atmosphere and an adjacent barn where “magical” drama productions were staged. Through their thoughtful philanthropy, members of the Spaulding Society sustain the school’s legacy as a pioneer in innovative education.

Anonymous

THE “39” SOCIETY
$10,000 - $24,999

To accommodate its growing enrollment the school raised funds to build a new modern facility at 39 New Hackensack Road on the Vassar College campus. In 1963 the school moved into this new home, a 20,000 square-foot structure designed by parent architects William Gindele and Jeh Johnson. Through their generosity, members of the “39” Society exemplify the dedication and drive necessary to meet new challenges in a rapidly changing world.

JRS Dryfoos Charitable Lead Trust
David & Mary Ann Silver

THE KENYON SOCIETY
$5,000 - $9,999

Kenyon House, built in 1913, was once the mansion on the “Cliffrdale” estate of industrialist Clarence Kenyon, known for establishing factories to take workers out of home sweatshops. His daughter, Helen Kenyon, a Vassar College alumna, was a vigorous fundraiser for her alma mater and the first woman elected chair of the Vassar College board of trustees. She was active in the community and a fighter for the underprivileged with interests in education, religion, politics, public welfare and community progress. The estate was bought by IBM in 1944. The mansion served IBM as a research laboratory and later as a guest house and education center. Purchased by PDS in 1995, Kenyon House is home to the high school and administrative offices. Through their generous gifts to advance Poughkeepsie Day School, members of the Kenyon Society epitomize the activism and commitment of the Kenyons.

Mary M. Gesek
Louise Hayward
David Kaminski & Jennifer Berlind

Mr. & Mrs. Michael J. Poulos
Schoolbell Foundation

THE BIG ROOM CLUB
$2,500 - $4,999

The large, open multi-purpose space called the Big Room was the center of community life at “39,” PDS’s New Hackensack Road home from 1963 to 1995. The Big Room served as cafeteria, library, theater, classroom and meeting area, often at the same time! It was where younger and older PDS students interacted and was the setting for four-square games, Renaissance festivals, all-school dinners and the birthplace of the original musical. Through their generous gifts, members of the Big Room Club strengthen the educational experience of the community of learners at PDS.

Dan Greenberg & Joann Alvis
Josie Halford
Julie Kroloff

Mr. & Mrs. Louis Mazzella
David & Donna O’Holloran
John Wallach & Amanda Thornton

GIFTS TO THE ANNUAL FUND

Gifts to the Annual Fund support our vibrant athletic program— including the return of varsity baseball to PDS last spring— which welcomes athletes of all ability and experience levels and promotes such PDS core values as teamwork and fair play.
Theater has been an essential component of the PDS experience since students in the 30s first performed plays in the barn at the “old school” on Hooker and Grand avenues. A gift to the PDS Annual Fund helps us continue this beloved PDS tradition. Scenes pictured (clockwise from top): Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland (middle school); Dracula (high school) and This Wonderful World (lower school).

THE COMPASS CLUB
$1,000 - $2,499
Adopted as the official school logo when PDS moved to 39 New Hackensack Road, the compass symbolizes the value of a PDS education: a useful and enduring tool for finding one’s calling or path in life. In 2008 the design of the compass logo was updated to emphasize the global nature of a PDS education and underscore the school’s motto: many minds, one world. The vital support of Compass Club members helps to ensure the relevancy and value of a PDS education.

THE EAGLES CLUB
$500 - $999
Becoming a member of The Eagle Society is a longstanding rite of passage for PDS lower school students, achieved by reciting their favorite poems, including The Eagle by Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1851) and the much beloved Jabberwocky, by Lewis Carroll (1872). Through their gifts members of the Eagles Club recognize that giving is a vital expression of community that enables the school to keep moving forward.

THE NAVIGATORS CLUB
$250-$499
By a student vote in 2009, Navigators was selected as the name for PDS athletic teams. The name relates to the school logo, the compass, and testifies to how PDS students see themselves: smart, thoughtful, resourceful individuals with the ability and courage to forge a unique identity and discover their place in the larger world. Through their gifts, members of the Navigators Club enable our students to fully realize their passion and potential.

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PDS helps students become thoughtful and responsible digital citizens. Technology is incorporated into the academic program of all three divisions in age-appropriate ways. Contributions to the E.E. Ford Challenge Grant will enable PDS to take its use of technology as an essential learning tool to a higher level and to share its innovative approaches with the larger community.

Recognition of Giving
Recognition of Giving

SPECIAL GIVING

THE DIVERSITY CHALLENGE
The Diversity Challenge was established by an anonymous donor to further enrich the PDS educational experience by increasing the diversity of the student body. The PDS community was challenged to raise $25,000 for this effort, to be matched by another $25,000 from the donor if successful. Since its inception in 2004, the Diversity Challenge has raised more than $370,000 to fund 110 scholarship awards.

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Last spring’s Speakeasy Gala and Benefit Auction was the brainchild of parents Andrew and Jodi Liston, who chaired the event.

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Editor’s Note
The following conventions were used in assembling lists of donors and volunteers:
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PDS is grateful to all of our parents, faculty and students who helped ensure the success of last fall’s spectacular Fall Festival Reimagined. A special thanks to the creators and organizers of the event, including (from left): Mary Louise Ball, Debbie Bramwell, Catherine Harris and Elizabeth Gundeck.
A day of fun and learning for the whole family focused on creative and innovative expression in art, science, music and technology

iPad® Portraits
Virtual Pollock
Karaoke Lounge
PDS Think Tank
Bouncy House
PlayLab Interactives
Fun Run—& Walk—8am
Hair Innovation Salon

Hands-on Japanese and Chinese Design Innovation
Instrument Making and Stomp Collective
Canstruction® Preliminary Sneak Peak
Food by Twisted Soul and Smart Café
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