

Summer 2010

GSA *Matters*

News for the Families and Friends of **GEORGE STEVENS ACADEMY**

SPOTLIGHT ON

GRADUATION 2010!

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COMMENCEMENT

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On the Cover

Happy graduates Sarah Brown and Pierre Dillon,
Class of 2010

from the Head of School



If I squinted carefully from the top of Bald Mountain in Ketchum, Idaho—which tops 9,000 feet—and looked 3,000 miles eastward on a clear blue day, I could just make out the tip of GSA's iconic steeple on the old Academy Building. Well, at least in my mind's eye! Last year the Board of Trustees granted me a leave of absence so that my family and I could return to Idaho for a year. It was a wonderful reunion with old friends, many of whom are former students—now parents and professionals—and a terrific chance to expose our two boys, who attended school in the Wood River Valley, to another part of this country's majestic landscape. The experience reaffirmed two absolutes for me and my family: that we live in a remarkable country blessed with extraordinary and diverse wonders; and that the Blue Hill Peninsula with its warm, caring communities, excellent schools, and so much more, is truly our home.

I got back to Blue Hill just in time to witness the graduation of the Class of 2010. The image of hundreds of family, friends, and alums, gathering in what looks like a Union Street block party, speaks volumes to how we revere our children, and cherish their education from kindergarten through high school—and beyond. I am proud of GSA's legacy and its place in all our lives, and am honored to have been asked to lead the school over the next year.

Mission

George Stevens Academy is an independent high school located on the coast of Maine. Grounded in its traditions and commitment to the area's small towns, the Academy is a caring educational community invested in meeting the needs of each student. The Academy offers a challenging, comprehensive program of studies that fosters intellectual inquiry and the pursuit of knowledge, inspires creativity, develops self-reliance, and prepares its graduates for a purposeful life in an ever-changing world.

(Approved by the Board of Trustees, July 2007)

As I look ahead to the coming year, two related priorities are clear: to complete the self-study for reaccreditation that we began this past winter, and to use what we have learned from that process of introspection and assessment to sharpen our programs and improve resources. The spring issue of *GSA Matters* described the reaccreditation process for the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC). This school-wide exercise is an important occasion not only to celebrate our excellence, but to identify areas for improvement, and to establish priorities and goals within a realistic fiscal framework for the coming years. We know what we want for all our students: challenging and engaging programs, personalized learning experiences, and opportunities to learn from the wider community and the world. For all this we need adequate facilities and the right learning technologies, and we need to provide our dedicated teaching staff opportunities for professional growth and development.

Achieving these objectives requires clarity about our priorities, and demands careful and clear-eyed planning. We are always working within the constraints of what is financially possible, and even with the extraordinary bequest from Jerold Hinckley's estate last winter, there will continue to be budgetary pressures on us and the need to make choices—but if we cannot do everything, we are committed to doing the most important things and doing them well. We have already developed a capital fundraising plan that identifies several major projects, including extensive renovation of the multipurpose facility —Phase I: “Floor Me!” is well underway and expected to be completed by late fall—, improvements to the science wing, as well as support for Professional Development. And we continue to depend on the Annual Fund to close the gap between our tuition revenue and the real costs of educating a GSA student.

The administrative team, faculty, staff, and I are excited about the year ahead. I am confident about our collective capabilities to meet the priorities that we have outlined. We always welcome your participation and ideas as we undertake these important efforts. Please do not hesitate to come in for a conversation with me or others members of the administrative team.

Have a wonderful summer! I look forward to greeting returning students, many of them old friends, as well as all the new students who will arrive with the opening of the school year.

Best regards,



Bayard “Bags” Brokaw
Interim Head of School



Graduation 2010 !



Graduation 2010 was held on Sunday, June 13th, on the front lawn, under cloudy skies that threatened—but never delivered—rain. The GSA Band played as families and friends arrived; then graduating seniors processed to the familiar strains of *Pomp and Circumstance*.

First Honor Essayist Grace Jackson

welcomed the audience and spoke about the importance of best friends.

Salutarian Molly McEntee channeled the wisdom of Dr. Seuss. **Valedictorian Michael Senter-Zapata** recalled how he disliked Maine when he moved here from California as a young child, and how deeply he came to appreciate and love his second home.

Senator Dennis Damon D-Hancock then addressed the graduating class. He recalled his own experience when, as a high school senior, his father challenged him to “Be more!” Senator Damon passed along this admonition to the new crop of graduates, counseling them to “Wake up, get up, dress up, and show up!”

Dean Libby Rosemeier announced more than sixty scholarships and awards.

Then Rob Clapp, **President of the Board**, and **Acting Head of School**, Jill Cohen, awarded diplomas to 84 newly-minted graduates. Concluding the ceremony, **Second Honor Essayist Hannah Van der Eb** bid adieu to her classmates, before **Class Marshal Brandon Gray '11** led the recessional.



VALEDICTORIAN

Michael Senter-Zapata (2006-2010)

Son of Kenneth Senter & Miriam Zapata, Sedgwick

National Honor Society (President); JV/Varsity soccer (4, Captain), JV/Varsity basketball (2), Varsity tennis (4, Captain); Math Team (3), Spanish Club (2, President), Model UN (2); Jazz Combo (3); Student Council (4, President); National Merit Commended Student; National Hispanic Scholarship Recognition Program Award; Rensselaer Award for Mathematics & Science (2009).

Harvard College

SALUTARIAN

Molly Fleck McEntee (2006-2010)

Daughter of Jarlath McEntee & Barbara Fleck, Castine

Drama (4), a capella (4), Math Team (3), International Cooking Club (3), Sailing Team (3); National Honor Society; National Merit Finalist. Recipient of Bausch & Lomb Science Award (2009).

Williams College



FIRST HONOR ESSAYIST

Grace Jackson (2006-2010)

Daughter of Melone Madix-Jackson & Bo Jackson, Brooksville

JV/Varsity soccer (4), JV/Varsity tennis (4), Penobscot Valley Conference First Team (Tennis); National Honor Society; Recipient of the Williams College Book Award (2009).

Wellesley College

SECOND HONOR ESSAYIST

Hannah Van der Eb (2006-2010)

Daughter of Joanne & Peter Van der Eb, Brooksville

JV/Varsity soccer (4); JV/Varsity basketball (4); JV/Varsity tennis (4); National Honor Society; Recipient of the Society of Women Engineers Award (2009).

Wellesley College





Dan Weinberg, Nick Carey & Elias Springer



At the Alumni Banquet, Dustin Piskura, Stevie Theoharidis, and Lacey Leach were presented Alumni Awards to support their future education.



Caroline Altman



Lydia Clapp & Adam DeLong



Dustin Piskura & Tynan Byrne



Rob Clapp and Amber Gray

JOSTEN'S YEARBOOK AWARD
for three people who have contributed immensely toward this year's "Mountain Echo"

YEARBOOK ADVISORS

Thank you **Jenny Bryant, Angi Lawson** and **Marilyn Lawson** for your hard work and dedication as yearbook advisors again this year, and for putting together the class night slide show.



Eric Burns



Alice Carriveau



Brandon Gray

CLASS NIGHT AWARDS

VALEDICTORIAN AWARD

Michael Senter-Zapata

SALUTATORIAN AWARD

Molly McEntee

ENGLISH AWARD

to the most improved English student

Melissa Allen

SPANISH AWARD

to the Spanish student with the highest academic achievement

Michael Senter-Zapata

SPANISH 5 YEARS

for completing 5 full years of study

Max Reiter

SPANISH "Woohoo! You made it, chicas!"

Erika Gray, Lacey Leach, Elisabeth Clifford, Charlene Farnsworth, Mary Bridges, Alex Osborne, and Helen Channell.

MATHEMATICS AWARDS

for excellence in Mathematics

Michael Senter-Zapata

SOCIAL STUDIES AWARD

Josh Sawyer, Pierre Dillon

TECHNOLOGY AWARD

for excellence in the field of technology

Erika Gray

ART AWARDS

Sarah Elliott

Sarah Brown

Carla Weed

FINE ARTS AWARDS

Tynan Byrne

DRAMA AWARDS

for outstanding contributions to GSA's Drama Program

Tynan Byrne, Alice Carriveau, Vesta Davis, Adam DeLong, Charlene Farnsworth, Taylor Paine, Gregory Fisher, Molly McEntee, Liam Russell

OUTSTANDING SENIOR MUSICIAN AWARDS

Alexandra Osborn, flute, Band

Tynan Byrne, tenor/baritone sax & bass clarinet, Band, Jazz Band & Jazz Disciples Jazz Combo

Vesta Davis, trombone & vocals

Band, Jazz Band & Jazz Disciples Jazz Combo

Eric Burns, tenor & alto sax

Band, Jazz Band & Dusk Jazz Combo

Adam DeLong, baritone & soprano sax

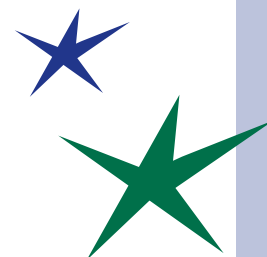
Band, Jazz Band & Eccentricity Jazz Combo

ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

Stevie Theoharidis

Pierre Dillon

★ *The* International Program



Graduation Day: Junkai Lu and Xiaoming Wang (both from China).

This year we celebrated our largest group of graduating international students. Ten students graduated, and four of their families traveled from China, France, Germany, and South Korea to attend the festivities. We introduced them to Downeast hospitality, local cuisine, and our beautiful community. Since many families were not able to travel the long distance for graduation, we honored students' achievements at an International Student Party the Thursday before graduation and at a Sunday brunch at the Blue Hill Inn.

This was also an opportunity for us to thank our host families and the many other volunteers who had supported the International Student Program throughout the year. Many students, host families, trustees, teachers, administrators, and friends attended our cookout at the Blue Hill Country Club on June 10th. A special thank you to Frank Bianco and Dwayne Carter for making the evening possible.

Sheryl Stearns
Director, International Student Program



Rob Clapp and Ngoc Bich Vu (Vietnam).



At Dennett's Wharf in Castine: Wan Hee Kim, Rob Starkey, Ki Jin Kwon, Jae Hoon Kim (Korea), Hippolyte Le Guay (France), Clotilde Le Guay, Sheryl Stearns, Mathieu Le Guay.



All-State Classical Music Festival

In May, junior **Anna Clapp**, violin, and senior **Tynan Byrne**, bass clarinet, performed in the 2010 All-State Classical Music Festival. Anna played in the All-State Orchestra—the third straight year she has been accepted to the festival. Tynan performed in the All-State Band. Both students played in a final concert at the Collins Center for the Arts at University of Maine in Orono.



Eleven juniors received book awards at the annual Book Award ceremony on May 26, 2010.

Pictured left to right, with name of award in parentheses:

Katherine Doyen, Surry (Middlebury Book Award);
Abby Bowden, Sedgwick (Seven Sisters Book Award);
Ariel Dauk, Sedgwick (American History Award);
Emily Lowell, Penobscot (Phi Beta Kappa Award);
Anna Clapp, Blue Hill (Smith Book Award);
Sam Eley, Blue Hill (Williams Book Award);
Nick Doolittle, Blue Hill (Dartmouth Book Award);
Sabrina Vivian, Blue Hill (Society of Women Engineers Certificate of Achievement);
Passage Crampton, East Orland (Colby Book Award);
Stephi Davis, Blue Hill (Society of Women Engineers Certificate of Achievement; Rensselaer Medal);
Anne Pert, Brooklin (Industrial Arts Award)



Athletic Director **Jim Murphy** has been named recipient of the Martin Ryan Award of Excellence presented by the Maine Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association. In a letter announcing this honor, Martin Ryan writes: “The dedication and work ethic displayed by Jim is at the highest level in our profession. He has worked extremely hard, not only for George Stevens Academy, but for the Penobscot Valley Conference, the Maine Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association, and the National Interscholastic Athletic Administrators Association. His accomplishments have not gone unnoticed by his colleagues, and he is held in high esteem in the state of Maine.”



The Maine Department of Education has awarded funds for innovative Open Educational Resources (OER) to be developed for dance, music, theater and visual art. OER aims to build the capacity of Maine educators to use technology along with teaching and learning strategies to prepare students for college, career, and meaningful lives in their communities. GSA dance teacher and Art Department member **Jennifer Trowbridge** has been selected to be one of the Visual and Performing Arts Teacher Researchers for the project which began in April and will end in October 2010.

Spring Sports Wrap-up



Girls Varsity Softball Class C Eastern Maine Champs!

Coach: Betsy Stevens '97

Assistant Coaches: Noddy Wessel '69

Rhoda Astbury-Clifford '89

The girls finished their regular season in 2nd place with a record of 11 wins and 5 losses. Their success continued into the post-season and on June 15th they traveled to Brewer to play Woodland, the 8th place team, for the Eastern Maine title. They held-off Woodland with a score of 9 to 6. On June 19th, they headed to St. Joseph's College in Standish to compete against Telstar for the state title. They lost by a score of 5 to 1, but despite the loss, the girls had their best post-season showing since the last time they played in the state championship game in 1999. The team was voted Class C-D Penobscot Valley Conference (PVC) Champions based on having the most heal points. Coach Stevens attributed much of their success to the strong leadership from seniors along with the team's understanding of the importance of staying focused on playing together as a team in order to win as a team.

Post-season notable individual achievements:

- **Lydia Clapp '10** was named PVC Player of the Year and First Team PVC pitcher.
- **Stevie Theoharidis '10** was named First Team PVC catcher.
- **Amber Gray '10** was named Second Team PVC 2nd baseman
- **Anna Clapp '11** was named Second Team PVC outfielder.
- **Lydia, Stevie and Amber** were all invited to play in the Class C-D East vs. West Senior All-Star game.

Best of luck to the members of the Class of 2010: Lydia Clapp, Amber Gray, and Stevie Theoharidis.



Boys Varsity Tennis Class C Eastern Maine Champs!

Coach: Mark Messer

Although planning for a "building year", the boys tennis team finished regular season play undefeated, shutting out each of their opponents 5-0 with the exception of Ellsworth. In the post-season, they traveled to Colby College in Waterville on June 9th to face the 2nd ranked Madawaska Owls. They came away with the Eastern Maine title and set their sights on the unbeaten Waynflete Flyers, who they would face for the state title on June 12th. Once again playing in Waterville, they could not hold off the Flyers, who would field three of the state's top singles players. Coach Messer anticipates "next year will be another building year, and if that means a repeat of this year, that will be great!"

Post-season notable individual achievements:

- **Johnny Xue '13** was named Penobscot Valley Conference (PVC) First Team singles player and was also awarded the conference Player of the Year award.
- **Michael Senter-Zapata '10** was named a PVC Second Team singles player.
- **Max Reiter '10** was named a PVC Third Team singles player.
- **Jasper Adam '13** and **Eric Kim '13** were named PVC First Team doubles players.
- **Liam Russell '10** and **Lucas Yoder '10** were named PVC Third Team doubles players.

Best of Luck to members of the Class of 2010: Jesus Henares, Sam Hodgkin, Max Reiter, Liam Russell, Michael Senter-Zapata, and Lucas Yoder.



Spring Sports Wrap-up



Girls Varsity Tennis Class C Eastern Maine Runners-up!

Coach: Tim Farrar

The girls' tennis team was ranked number one as they headed into the Eastern Maine finals on June 8th to face recent post-season rival, Dexter. The Tigers came out on top 3-2, but not without a fight, as four of the five matches extended into a third set. Last year, the Eagles beat the Tigers in the same event. Coach Farrar credits the strength of the Junior Varsity squad in his prediction that the girls will be back in the Eastern Maine finals again next year.

Post-season notable individual achievements:

- **Caroline Altman '10** and **Hannah Van der Eb '10** named Penobscot Valley Conference First Team doubles players.

Best of luck to the members of the Class of 2010: Caroline Altman, Vesta Davis, Grace Jackson, and Hannah Van der Eb.



Sailing

Coach: Tom Gutow

Assistant Coach: Patrick Haugen

GSA's young sailing team had an ambitious schedule, competing in a number of regattas including the Bull Dog Classic, O'Day Trophy, Maine Maritime Academy Cup, Welles Cup and the highly competitive all-girls all New-England Herreshoff Cup, where **Courtney Koos '12** (skipper) and **Tess Lameyer '12** (crew) finished 4th overall. The Eagles competed against a broad range of New England teams as they continued to build on the improvement of the "B" boat throughout the season. Meredith Houghton '13 turned in a series of good races in the MDI regattas as Tess's crew and **Matt Ahern '12** and **Steven Bell '12** provided experienced sailing during the season. The Downeast Regatta and Maine High School Championship was hosted by GSA at the Maine Maritime Academy waterfront on May 22nd and 23rd, and drew a field of 15 teams from Maine, Massachusetts and Vermont. Courtney and Tess finished seventh overall as the "A" boat, and the "B" boat finished 16th. The "B" boat skipper, **Stephen Salois '13** and crew **Alex Witting '13** had a third place finish in one of the "B" fleet races! GSA finished 11th overall and 6th among the Maine competitors. Coach Gutow noted there were many outstanding performances this year, and with only one senior leaving the team, he feels confident that they will benefit from the maturity and experience gained this year to have a competitive season next year.

Best of luck to Moritz Berkelmann, Class of 2010.

continued on next page...

Spring Sports Wrap-up. continued



Outdoor Track

Coach: Erich Reed

Assistant Coach: Carol Plohr

Students came out in huge numbers for the outdoor track team this year, and were successful both as a team and as individual competitors. Of 18 teams, the boys team finished 4th overall at the Penobscot Valley Conference meet and the girls finished 5th. Twelve individual team members traveled to Dover-Foxcroft to compete in the State Class C Outdoor Track and Field Championships held at Foxcroft Academy, with the boys team finishing in 12th place overall. Coach Reed noted the dedication and accomplishments of this year's team and looks forward to next year with many strong returning team members.

Post-season notable individual achievements:

- **Ben Plohr '12:** State Champion in the 800m, with a time of 2:01.94; placed 6th in the 110m hurdles in the state meet and set school records in both the 110m and 300m hurdles; set a new school record in the 800m race at the New England Championship meet in New Britain, Connecticut.
- **Pierre Dillon '10:** runner up in the 800m at the state meet with a time of 2:03.00; captured first at the Penobscot Valley Conference (PVC) meet in the same event.
- **River Plouffe Vogel '12:** gold in the 3200m at the PVC meet.
- **Dan Weinberg '10:** placed in the 1600m at the state meet; during the regular season set school records in both the long jump and triple jump.
- **Plohr, Dillon, Weinberg and Plouffe Vogel** finished 5th in the 4-by-400m relay race in the state event.
- **Mary Bridges '10:** gold in the 100m race at the PVC meet; during the regular season set a new school record in the event.
- Others traveling to the state meet included: **Nicole Bakeman '12, Lakota Bowen '12, Harvard Bridges '11, Hannah Dietz '11, Vika Grindle '11, Lucy Jacob '13, and Amanda Moir '12.**

Best of luck to the members of the Class of 2010: Anna Berratto, Mary Bridges, Adam Delong, Pierre Dillon, Jacob Fox, John Ludlow, Ian McMillan, Kaolin Pitcher, and Dan Weinberg.



Boys Varsity Baseball

Coach: Dan Kane

Assistant Coach: Bill Gray '83

The boys finished the regular season with a record of 5-10-1, placing them 11th in the standings, just out of the playoffs. With just one senior leaving the team, Coach Kane is looking forward to a competitive season next year, with many strong returning veteran players and hopes to be back in the playoffs once again.

Best of luck to Josh Jones, member of the Class of 2010.



Summer Speaker Series: the Alumni Connection

For more than twenty years GSA has presented a Speaker Series on Tuesday evenings throughout the summer months. The talks are always free to the public and have featured speakers on a whole range of topics and subjects: literature, fine arts, history, science, philosophy, nature studies, law, music, education, and more. This year the Speaker Series is presenting an All-Alumni roster of guest speakers.



JENNIFER BOWEN GSA '90

Jennifer received her BA in Biology from Colby College and her PhD in Biology from Boston University. She was awarded a National Science Foundation postdoctoral fellowship to work at The Ecosystems Center at the Marine Biological Laboratory in Woods Hole, MA. Jennifer teaches biology at University of Massachusetts at Boston. Jennifer spoke on June 29 to an enthusiastic audience.



LESLIE CLAPP GSA '82

Last winter Leslie Clapp and Blaise deSibour spent four weeks traveling by Land Cruiser through Namibia—one of the world's wildest, driest, least populated places—and will present a slideshow about their adventures. Leslie is a staple speaker in the Speaker Series, and always packs the house; she will speak on Tuesday, July 27 and then offer a repeat on Wednesday, August 11.



DAN WALKER GSA '87

Daniel Walker is a partner with Preti Flaherty's Legislative, Regulatory and Governmental Services Practice Group in Portland, Maine. He focuses his practice on advocating for clients before the Maine Legislature, the Executive Branch and other state and federal governmental agencies. Daniel's other major focus is on election law, currently representing the Maine Democratic Party and the Oxford County Casino Initiative. Dan will be speaking about Maine Citizens' Initiatives on Tuesday, August 2.



LEVI BRIDGES GSA '01

A. Levi Bridges has been employed as a social worker, a deckhand on a cargo ship, a freelance writer, and a house painter. He holds a BA in English Literature and Spanish from Alfred University. In April 2009, Levi and a friend, Ellery Althaus, embarked on a 9,500 mile bicycle trip across Asia and Europe. Levi will recount highlights of the trip on Tuesday, August 10.

Talks begin at 7:30.

This season's series is being held in the cafeteria of the Consolidated School (while the gymnasium floor is being rebuilt), just across from GSA on High Street.

Excitement is Building!

FLOOR ME!



Board president Rob Clapp with architect Rick Malm, trustees Mike Astbury, Dan McGraw, and builder Rob Shea.

replaced, and a new, wood floor—this, thanks to the extraordinary generosity of Chuck & Belinda Lawrence and **TradeWinds Marketplace**—will be installed. Completion is expected by November 1st.

The day after graduation, E. L. Shea construction crews began **Floor Me!**, Phase 1 of a capital project to renovate and remodel GSA's multipurpose facility. In this phase, the gymnasium foundation will undergo structural repairs, the old bleachers will be

Since it was built in 1973, the gymnasium has become a hub of GSA activities: theatre productions, Rec Center, concerts, Back to School Night, Arts Festival workshops, dance classes, proms, awards ceremonies, all-school assemblies, college fairs, class advisory meetings, graduation and commencement events, and, of course, gym classes, basketball games, and wrestling matches. But the facility is also used by many other members of the Blue Hill community: the **Blue Marlins Basketball Club** for local middle schoolers; **Sunday Adult Recreation** in the winter and spring; **Youth Pee Wee Basketball**; the **Sheriff's Cup Charities Basketball** events; **Blue Hill Youth Baseball**, and the **Blue Hill Pops Concert**, among others.

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