Remembering, Reconnecting, Reflecting

Reunion/Homecoming 2008
Though the campus is not yet as green and leafy as this photo from last spring shows, the photograph is a harbinger of days to come after a long, and sometimes hard, winter. Photos of the picturesque Culver campus as well as Alumni Reunion Weekend in May, spring sports, Spring Parents Weekend, and other campus activities and events can be viewed online at www.culver.mycapture.com. Select the photos you like, order by credit card, and the photos will be shipped directly to your home.

Ready to mark time, Diego Velarde from Mexico City, a Gold C in the Woodcraft Drum and Bugle Corps, peers over the top of his bass drum.
Whitney Fund ensures Black Horse traditions
Spearheaded by the Class of 1958, the Col. Whitney Black Horse Fund will provide the resources to purchase quality horses for the Troop, Equestriennes, and Summer Cavalry.

Alumni Reunion & Homecoming 2008
Alumni from CMA, CGA, and Culver Summer Schools & Camps return to campus to relive their ‘Culver days,’ reconnect with friends and faculty, and show their ‘dedication.’

Australian businessman Terry Peabody ’58 – the 2008 Graduate of the Year – credits Culver for the skills behind his management style and international business success.

On our cover
An unidentified alumnus takes a break from the reunion activities in the Legion Memorial Building to read The Culver Covenant. The document, signed by the stockholders in June 1932, established The Culver Educational Foundation. Photo by Doug Haberland.
Enjoyable issue

I enjoyed your Winter/Spring 2008 issue of the Culver Alumni Magazine, in particular the obituary of Mr. Patterson, the circus hand, illusionist, private eye, Hollywood gossip author, etc.

B.B. Culver III ’58
St. Louis

Up a creek

I thoroughly enjoyed the Winter/Spring 2008 Culver Alumni Magazine and, in particular, the article on Dale Mangum. But I was surprised by the reference to “rowed” war canoes on page 48. As any Woodcrafter who has completed a “Tippy” trip will tell you, canoes are paddled, not rowed.

Bob Meek ’61
(Woodcraft Boating Director)
Granville, Ohio

Colleagues remembered

Back in the 1960s and ’70s, I was a friend and colleague of foreign language teachers Frank Walaitis and Russell Blair, now deceased. With this letter, I am enclosing two checks in their memory to help keep their names in print as long as possible and in honor of their service to the school.

Milton Hughes
Walkerton, Ind.

Up a creek

Editor’s note: I did a fair amount of canoeing in my younger days, but obviously not on the Tippecanoe River as a Woodcrafter. Had I learned to canoe at Culver, this error would have never occurred.

Corrections & Clarifications

In the obituary for Richard M. Venable Jr. ’46 (Co. D) in the Winter/Spring 2008 issue (page 42), he should have been listed as a graduate of Hampden-Sydney College.

The title and organization for David B. Newill W’64 was incorrect in the last magazine (page 29). He is the senior strategic marketing executive for Helicopter Engines with Rolls-Royce Corporation in Indianapolis, and the president of the Rolls-Royce Heritage Trust, Allison Branch, Inc., Rolls-Royce North America.

The obituary for Valerie G. Shepard SS’67 (page 45, Winter/Spring 2008 issue) failed to include her surviving sister, Vicki Shepard SS’68 of Rockledge, Fla.

It doesn’t seem possible – and I am sure many students and, perhaps, some faculty would agree – that the summer vacation is behind us and we are embarking on another school year at the Academies.

As I write, faculty and staff are involved in the orientation process in preparation for the 2008-2009 school year. Some athletes have been on campus for a couple of weeks, and they will all be on campus in a matter of days. By the time you read this, classes will have been in session since Aug. 28 and students and teachers will be setting in to routines that will carry them through the next 10 months.

There are many new faces on campus – students as well as adults – and several familiar faces have moved on (see page 11), as have the 207 members of the Class of 2008. With tradition there is always transition.

For someone who works year-round as I do, it is sometimes difficult to determine exactly when one phase of Culver ends and the next begins. For me, the change from the prep school to summer camps and from summer camps back to prep school is more an ebb and flow than a beginning and an end. Between Commencement 2008 and the Aug. 27 Opening Convocation for 2008-09, there were nearly 1,400 summer campers here, hundreds of summer instructors and counselors, about 300 Specialty Campers, and another 300 people at Family Camp. It was a noteworthy summer on several counts – not the least of which were the dedications of a number of renovated Woodcraft cabins and the dedications of donations to the Naval Fleet (see pages 18 and 31).

The summer of 2008 also brought with it the demise of the old stable on the north side of the riding hall. Once the interior materials were salvaged – including much of the rock-hard oak boards from the original stalls – decades of memories were reduced to piles of brick, concrete, and metal in a matter of days and carted away. It may be gone, but it will never be forgotten by those who spent so many hours there riding and working.

The good news is that nothing is razed at Culver without something better being raised in its place. Construction will begin soon on a new stable with box stalls, which will complement the renovated riding hall and the new outdoor paddocks along Indiana 10.

With the resumption of classes, the Horsemanship staff will also begin immediately to work with new riders and new horses in anticipation of an invitation to the January 2009 Presidential Inaugural Parade. The president-elect won’t be determined until November, and an invitation – assuming one is received – won’t be issued until sometime in December. But regardless of party affiliation or who will occupy the White House, the Black Horse Troop and Equestriennes will be ready to honor the Chief Executive by riding down Pennsylvania Avenue if and when the call comes.

– Doug Haberland, Editor
One of the benefits of being Head of Schools at Culver is the opportunity to listen in on conversations with students and campers to which the average person does not have access. Pam and I have the chance to sit with the students when they are on panels talking with 50th or 60th reunion classes. We meet with groups of students who are part of student-faculty discussion groups, who are in my office, or in our home talking about the challenges they have with leadership. We even have the privilege of sitting in on an occasional review board to determine a first make or an honor make for the Woodcraft Camp. Being a fly on the wall can be very helpful in understanding whether your schools – both summer camps and college prep – are generating the outcomes they seek. Are our students getting the right messages? Learning the right lessons? Internalizing the right values, so that they will indeed be “responsible citizens and leaders” for our world?

I wish I could share with you all the perspectives these young people share with us about their experiences at Culver, their sense of honor, the importance of integrity, and the challenges they face growing up in a very complex and sometimes dangerous world. Pam and I are amazed at how balanced they seem, how self-assured and grounded they are in the face of uncertainty and instability. Across the spectrum – from Woodcrafters to first-classmen, from freshman to seniors – these Culver students are learning something here that will serve them well anywhere they go in the future.

They are learning important lessons about service, respect, honesty, and hard work. There is nothing easy about Culver, but these young people apparently have chosen to focus on the value in the experience. They talk about the importance of putting others before themselves, of caring for younger cabin mates or people in their units and dorms. They know the importance of honor in their lives, even at age 10 or 11. They understand that the virtue of courage means doing the right thing, even when there is pressure from peers to do something else. This does not mean they always make the right decision. However, it does mean they are thinking about internalizing those values that will help them be the kind of leaders we need in our world.

This summer one of our CGA graduates returned to serve as the military director of the Woodcraft Camp. She saw an obvious connection between what was happening in Woodcraft and in the Academies and asked Pam and me to sit in on some of the Woodcraft Leadership Selection Board meetings. This is actually a daunting process, especially for a 10-, 11-, or 12-year-old camper. The camper enters the Woodcraft multi-purpose building, a rather cavernous area, and presents him or herself to a board of reviewers who are senior members of the Woodcraft staff. Once the camper has reported in and has demonstrated the ability to perform facing movements and command voice confidence, the youngster answers a series of questions from the members of the review board. Each question is constructed to allow the
panel to understand the level of confidence, the commitment to reflection, and the strength of the core values the young person has. Pam and I were absolutely inspired by what we heard.

The questions the members of the promotion panel asked are questions that any graduate of the Culver Summer Schools and Camps, CMA, or CGA would benefit from asking him or herself, even today. First, give a 30-second commercial or a 30-second elevator speech to the committee that will help us understand who and what you are. Next, of all the medals and badges and pins on your coat or your sashes, which are the most important and why? Third, how do you represent honor through your words and deeds? And finally, if someone asks you to describe Culver but requires that you do it in one sentence, what do you say to them to help them understand where you have spent your summers or school years?

Reflection is an important part of leadership. You need to think about and reflect on the experiences you have had to understand how they have affected you, shaped your values, and helped you become the person you are today. We all know that the unexamined life is not as rich a life as the one that you have thought about and examined carefully. We know that when young people are asked to think about their Culver experience, as opposed to simply “doing it,” they have the chance to put this challenging education into perspective.

Many campers said that their “C” pin is the most important symbol of success at Culver. Others said that the information about his cabin or division or her cabin or wing is most important because it is a reminder that he or she is a part of something larger than him or herself. Some say that honor is best reflected when you do the right thing, always, because that is the Culver way. And a number of students respond to the question at home of, “Where have you been and what have you been doing while you were away at school or camp?” that Culver is a place where you meet people from all over the world and learn to be respectful and to lead.

Who could not feel gratified listening to these responses? I remember when a member of the Board of Trustees of The Culver Educational Foundation was asked by students what it was that he carried from Culver with him in his heart always. He said it was the Honor Code. But it was not only the ideal of the code; it was the constant challenge to live up to the standards of honor set by Culver. He admitted that it was sometimes difficult in the world of fast-paced, high-stakes business to always be as true to the Honor Code as a Culver student should and would want to be. That is a powerful message, indeed.

I think everyone ought to put some perspective around what obviously was a significant and meaningful experience in his or her life. Some graduates understand Culver the minute they walk through the Iron Gate or the Arch or graduate from Summer School or Woodcraft. For others it takes years – maybe 10, 25, or even 50 – to come to terms with the full impact of the experience. Pam and I feel fortunate to have a window on the Culver experience that allows us to see the value and the power of the experience for the young people it serves. I am also pleased to have the opportunity to encourage you to do some reflection about Culver as you think about your school or your camp and as you read this wonderful Alumni Magazine and remember how much of a difference Culver made in your life.

We are still doing the good work that Culver has done for 115 years in the Academies and for 106 summers in the Summer Schools and Camps. That is a wonderful legacy of leadership, and you should be exceedingly proud of your school for having provided such a positive and solid foundation for so many young people.
By Example Campaign Update:
Celebrating the progress while continuing the effort

Dear Friend of Culver:

The success to date of the By Example: The Campaign for Culver is a testament to the dedication that you have put forth to secure Culver's financial future. We have come far and our Campaign commitments, in writing and verbally, total $251.4 million as of July 31, 2008. This is evidence that our board members, alumni, parents, faculty, staff, and friends believe in Culver's mission. You have led by example. We thank you for the amazing generosity of your time and your gifts to Culver.

In looking at our progress, we can celebrate reaching our original goal and the commitments we have to date, totaling 82 percent of our new goal. However, as CEF Board Chairman Jim Henderson '52 stated back in October at the Campaign celebration, “… as the coaches say after a big win, we’ll savor this one tonight, but tomorrow we have to get down to work for the rest of the Campaign.” To continue the tradition of excellence, we still have significant work to do to make sure we reach our goal of making Culver financially secure.

The more time I spend at Culver talking with faculty members and students, the more I can state without exception that Culver today is absolutely on the right course in educating our young people for responsible citizenship life. The priorities of this campaign are critical to Culver’s future and the achievement of the vision for the future.

In the new By Example: The Campaign for Culver DVD, included in this magazine and titled "A New Goal for Securing Culver’s Future,” you will hear from Head of Schools John Buxton, Jim Henderson, faculty members, alumni, parents, and students reminding us why this Campaign is so important to Culver. Viewers will learn more about the Campaign and the reasons why reaching our goal is vital for the future of Culver.

We ask all those who believe in our mission to take the lead. Reaching our $300 million goal will bring financial security to Culver, allowing us to continue the tradition of excellence. We ask that you lead by example and inspire others to give generously and support our goal of continuing Culver’s mission to educate young men and women to be the leaders of tomorrow.

Thank you,

Miles D. White ’73
Campaign Chair
Building on Tradition
Oct. 3 Foundations for the Future Auction will maintain Culver’s tradition of excellence

On Friday, Oct. 3, 2008, the Culver Parents Association will hold its Foundations for the Future Auction. The auction is a time for parents, alumni, alumn/i, friends, faculty, and staff to connect with each other and support Culver’s tradition of excellence. Money raised at the auction supports the Parents Annual Fund and Culver’s core foundations of distinctive academic offerings, an excellent faculty, financial aid, outstanding facilities and grounds, as well as strong programs in leadership, the arts, and athletics.

The Culver Parents Association held an Auction Preview Party during Spring Parents Weekend. There, guests viewed auction items, reconnected with each other, and made new friends while supporting Culver. Many placed successful bids on offerings such as firing the cannon, a lake cruise on the R.H. Ledbetter, a quilt, and unique unit and dorm projects.

While there were many successful bids at the Auction Preview Party, there will be many more opportunities to bid on items at the Foundations for the Future Auction in October. Guests can enjoy the auction while supporting the Parent Annual Fund and helping to continue Culver’s tradition of excellence. Donations for the auction are being added every day, with some exciting ones already finalized by our auction coordinator. Some auction items already donated include an air combat mission for two in Mesa, Ariz.; Mexican vacation getaways, a 1963 Culver Military Academy Cookbook, a weekend for two at the Biltmore Estates, tickets to professional and collegiate athletic events, such as Michigan vs. Ohio State football tickets; a set of Culver dinner plates, unique state and country gift baskets, a variety of artwork, and a one-of-a-kind, custom Culver Harley Davidson.

To view auction items, and for further details, go directly to the website at http://culver.maestroweb.com and follow the prompts. Once registered, you can access all areas of the website and even donate online. For more information on how to participate, please contact Auction Coordinator Judy Campbell at (574) 842-8495 or by e-mail at campbej@culver.org.

— Cathy Emmons
Development Campaign Coordinator
For many, the Black Horse Troop in one of the Presidential Inaugural Parades or a Garrison Parade at Culver is their first introduction to Culver Academies. The Black Horse Troop symbolizes the culmination of Culver's tradition of excellence, the commitment to whole person education – mind, body, and spirit – and the brotherhood of students, campers, alumni, alumnæ, faculty, and staff that ride and have ridden at Culver. T. Scott Hayden IV ’58, a former Trooper, said that the Black Horse Troop is “one of the major symbols of the school. We have a fantastic education, and I feel that nowhere else can you get as great an education. The Black Horse Troop is a symbol of that excellence.”

Beginning in 1913, the Black Horse Troop has represented Culver in 14 Inaugural parades, with the Equestriennes joining them in five. The black horses ridden are part of a tradition that began in 1897 when Commandant Maj. Leigh R. Gignilliat proposed, and Henry Harrison Culver and Superintendent Col. Fleet agreed, to purchase as many black horses as possible from the Cleveland Ohio National Guard Troop A. The Ohio contingent had ridden as President McKinley’s personal escort in his Inaugural Parade. The criteria given to H.E. Cook, the Academy’s first riding instructor, was that the horses be “perfectly sound, full of life, and all over 15 hands high.” He returned to Culver with 18 horses for the “Culver Cavalry” and the tradition and legacy of the Black Horse Troop of Culver began (Boots and Saddles, 14-15).

The institution of black horses at Culver is extremely important to troopers Hayden, Ralph E. DeYoung ’58, and Michael L. Kennedy ’58. As juniors in 1957, they rode in Eisenhower’s Inaugural Parade, the third time that Culver had participated in the event. Hayden believes that the Black Horse Troop puts Culver on a national level so that people can see the school. It is why black horses are necessary and why Culver must have “the right type of horse for the school.” Together, Hayden, DeYoung, and Kennedy worked with Head of Schools John Buxton, Director of Development Mike Hogan, Robert C. Morrison ’58, class president; and Edgar M. Little III, director of Horsemanship Operations to create a fund to give others the chance to participate in the tradition.

This past spring, the three troopers spearheaded the creation of the Class of 1958 Black Horse Fund for their 50th Reunion. They have named it the Colonel Whitney Black Horse Fund honoring Col. Clarence Alden “Jerry” Whitney. Whitney became Culver’s director of cavalry in 1928. As Bob Hartman wrote in Boots and Saddles, “During his tenure as Troop director, counselor, coach, assistant commandant, and

‘Troopers suffered the slings and arrows of their classmates; they smelled of horse sweat and manure; yet they endured – and kept going.’
supervisor of the Mess Hall, [Whitney] touched the lives of hundreds of troops and cadets." It is a fitting tribute that the fund to maintain the black horse herd be named to honor the legacy of Colonel Whitney.

With the dedication of the troopers from '58 and through donations from their classmates, the Class of '58 has purchased 18 black horses. Hayden, DeYoung, and Kennedy rode three of the new horses in the May 2008 Reunion Weekend Garrison Parade and presented them to Buxton. DeYoung said that many of the students came up afterward and thanked them for the gift. The students understand the importance of continuing the tradition.

"It took a lot to get it done," Hayden said. "Everyone put their heads together to create the fund. . . . The Black Horse Troop is a fraternity. Any amount to the fund helps. We are all members of this brotherhood, and if we want it to continue, this is what we need to do."

The Colonel Whitney Black Horse Fund provides resources to purchase the right color and the right quality of horses needed for the Black Horse Troop, the Equestriennes, and the Summer Mounted Drill Team. Little calls the type of horses needed "potentially productive." These horses are more expensive because there is a smaller percentage of black horses available and because the animals must be experienced, tolerant, patient, level-headed, and safe. With these characteristics, the horses fulfill the requirements for various skill levels of Culver students and campers.

The 2009 Inaugural Parade is fast approaching. While Culver has not received an invitation to participate, plans are being made to attend with both the Black Horse Troop and the Equestriennes. As part of the parade, they symbolize what Henry Harrison Culver envisioned for the school — a place where the youth of today become the leaders of tomorrow. The Black Horse Troop and Equestriennes personify this with horsemanship skills, academic success, and citizenship.

To ensure that Culver has the horses required for the parade, Little estimates that at least 23 additional black horses are needed to mount the Black Horse Troop.

With the Inaugural Parade, there is an immediate need to support this fund, but there also exists a long-term requirement. The herd’s turnover rate (due to age, soundness, or medical problems) is about 20 percent each year. Quality horses are also required to support our jumping and polo programs. Therefore, the requirement for black, multi-purpose horses continues each year.

This fund allows everyone to support Culver's enduring symbol of distinction — the Black Horse Troop, the Equestriennes, and the Summer Mounted Drill Team. Alumni making gifts to the fund will have it credited toward their class donation, as this is an Annual Fund gift.

If you are interested in contributing to the Colonel Whitney Black Horse Fund, please send your gift to Mike Hogan, Director of Development, 1300 Academy Road #153, Culver IN 46511, or call him at (574) 842-8233. Please note “Black Horse Fund #1424” in the memo line of your check.

‘somewhow they knew they were part of some mysterious brotherhood which transcended the reasoning of the average man.’

– Robert B.D. Hartman, Boots and Saddles
Davies, Danti, Yeager receive major faculty honors

R etiring Humanities instructor Richard Davies – with 42 years as a teacher, coach, and mentor – was honored at the May 31 Commencement Convocation as the recipient of the John R. Mars Faculty Merit Award.

Davies was one of three instructors honored at the convocation. Humanities instructor Kevin Danti received the Major General Delmar T. Spivey Award, while John Yeager, the director of Wellness Education, was named the 2008 Kaser Scholar.

Established in 1983 to honor the 10th superintendent, the Mars Award is presented annually to the faculty or staff member “who has established the most positive relationship with students and best exemplifies the ideals of Culver and Dean Mars.”

In making the presentation, Dean of Faculty Kathy Lintner said Davies was “one of Culver’s giants . . . It has been easy for you to forge positive and constructive relationships with students because this has been the dual nature of your career – you feel equally comfortable being a student and a teacher. You are the original teaching and learning model – in the flesh.”

Davies is a graduate of DePauw University and earned a master’s degree from the University of Wales in Great Britain. He received his doctorate in history and the philosophy of education from Indiana University, and later a second master’s degree from Teachers College, Columbia University, where he was a Klingenstein Fellow. During his varied Culver career, Davies served as Troop counselor, crew coach, coordinator of the Ninth Grade Program, director of the World Spirituality Series, and was holder of the W.A. Moncrief Jr. Chair of America’s Democratic Heritage.

The Spivey Award, named for Culver’s sixth superintendent, was established in 1967 and the recipient is selected by the Academic Department chairs. Its purpose is to recognize and encourage superior teaching among younger, promising members of the faculty.

Danti, whose grandfather was a longtime employee of Culver, joined the faculty in 2005. He is a graduate of Purdue University with a master’s degree from the University of Pennsylvania. He quickly became a great fit for the ninth-grade Humanities team, Lintner said. Plus, his passion and intensity in the classroom has carried over as an assistant coach in football, a speech team coach, and with his interest in religious life and spirituality.

The Kaser Scholar award was established in 1976 to recognize a faculty member whose scholarly interests, enthusiastic teaching, sympathetic understanding, and wise counsel combine to inspire students and kindle a zest for life and learning. Appropriately, the recipient is chosen by the top 30 students of the graduating class.

“We talk about having student-centered classrooms at Culver,” Linter said, “and John Yeager is the poster child for it.”

Yeager came to the Academies in 2000 as the director for Wellness and director of the Center for Character Excellence. He is now interim department chair of the Wellness Department and has played a leading role in the integration of character-based and strength-based programs into the classroom, onto the athletic fields, and among the faculty and staff. Yeager has been instrumental in the creation of the senior portfolio projects in Health Issues, and has also lent his coaching expertise to the lacrosse teams.

He is a graduate of Boston State College, received a master’s from Worcester State College, and earned his doctoral degree from Boston University.

Humanities instructor Ed Kelley (left) and Science instructor Josh Pretzer (right) were named the Williamson Fellows for 2007-08. They are joined by J.D. Williamson II W’59, ’63 and his wife, Judy, who established the award, which includes an honorarium, to retain and motivate bright, young teachers.
Students select Corky Miller-Strong, John Oberwetter for Manuel Award

College Advising Director Corky Miller-Strong and Humanities instructor John Oberwetter were named the 2008 recipients of the Ralph N. Manuel Award at the May 21 awards convocation.

Named in honor of the former president of the Academies (1982-99), the Manuel Award is presented annually to a male and a female faculty or staff member who, by vote of the student body, best exemplify the ideals of Culver.

Miller-Strong came to Culver three years ago, having established a successful 32-year career as a college adviser in Ohio and Colorado schools.

“To say that she is energetic is an understatement,” Dean of Faculty Kathy Lintner said in her introduction. Miller-Strong has been at the center of reshaping the flow of the college advising process. Not only has she expanded sessions for parents on the college admissions process and getting prepared, but she also has spent countless hours helping families work through the complexities of applying for and receiving financial aid from colleges.

Miller-Strong earned both her bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Bowling Green State University.

Oberwetter came to Culver in 2001 after 18 years as an English instructor at Rumsey Hall School in Connecticut and 10 years as department chair. He received his undergraduate degree in history from Columbia University and his master’s degree in curriculum and teaching from the Teacher’s College of Columbia University.

He joined the ninth-grade program and went on to become the department chair of Lower Humanities for three and a half years.

“He is a thoughtful, intentional teacher who challenges his students but also supports them as they discover connections in Humanities,” Linter said. Oberwetter also founded a film club so students would have a chance to view a variety of classic and international films.

Trio of retirees honored with emeritus status

Larry and Joan Bess, Richard Davies serve a combined 96 years

Three retiring members of the Academies faculty/staff — with nearly a century of combined service to Culver — were conferred emeritus status at the May 31 Commencement Convocation.

Those honored were Head Librarian Joan Bess, who retires after 27 years of service; her husband, Larry Bess, who also completed 27 years — 13 as athletic director and the last 13 as the Associate Director of Admissions; and Humanities Instructor Richard Davies, Ph.D., who taught, mentored, and coached Culver students for 42 years.

A retired U.S. Army major, Larry Bess joined the Academies in 1981 as a tactical officer and instructor of Military Science. A year later, the Vietnam veteran was appointed Athletic Director. During his tenure as Athletic Director the school added girls’ golf and softball. Bess moved to Admissions in 1994 as the Director of Financial Aid, eventually becoming Associate Director. He is a graduate of Saginaw Valley College and received his master’s degree from Webster University.

Joan Bess accompanied her husband to Culver in 1981, assuming the role of assistant librarian. She is a graduate of Columbustus College and earned her master’s degree at the National College of Education. Joan Bess was appointed head librarian in 1990 and was deeply involved in the design of the Huffington Library, orchestrated the move, and has been involved in the continuing role of information literacy and library skills for students.

In addition to their many roles on campus, the Besses raised four Culver graduates, attended countless athletic events, and Larry Bess made Culver seem a little more like home for many students by sharing his delicious homemade cookies.

A graduate of DePauw University, Richard Davies began his Culver career in 1966-68 as an assistant counselor with the Troop and a history instructor. He left to earn his master’s degree at the University of Wales in Great Britain, returning in 1974 as Troop A counselor. He later earned his doctorate in education.
In Brief

School for Entrepreneur on the road
Twenty-five members of the GSI’s School for the Entrepreneur attended the April 18 Sebo Series in Entrepreneurship at Bowling Green State University in Ohio. The visit was underwritten by CEF trustee Mike Wilcox, a former Culver parent, and also a Bowling Green trustee. During spring break, students and their chaperones from the School for the Entrepreneur visited New York City and the Thunderbird School of Global Management in Arizona. In New York, five students interviewed two leading entrepreneurs and were hosted at Bloomberg’s world headquarters by Gregg Vier ’88, Dr. Robert Hisrich ’62, Thunderbird’s director for the Center of Global Entrepreneurship, hosted six students.

Band thanks Fire Department
In a fitting gesture, the Martin Uebel Friend of the Band award was presented to the Culver-Union Township Volunteer Fire Department for its response and containment of the Aug. 27 fire in South Barrack. Given annually by the Culver Band unit, the award recognizes exceptional service to instrumental music. The presentation to Chief Mike Grover was made during Spring Parents Weekend. The late Martin Uebel (his obituary appears on page 19) was a Master Instructor Emeritus in Language. He volunteered his musical gifts as clarinetist, bass clarinetist, music teacher, and conductor for many years to Culver musicians and musical groups.

History and the philosophy of education from Indiana University, writing his dissertation on Culver’s history and curriculum from 1894-1956.

Through the years Davies would earn a second master’s and take a leave of absence to teach and live in a Jesuit community. He has taught American history, government, philosophy, world religions, and developed the Myth and Lit course with Principal Kathy Lintner, which has garnered national recognition. He also coached crew, directed the Ninth-Grade Program, directed the World Spirituality Series, and authored “Swords at Culver,” a novel integrating European and Native American lore with the campus as a backdrop. In retirement, he plans a sequel.

In recognizing their long years of service, Head of Schools John Buxton said “All three remind me of the wise words of General Gignilliat, who described the best instructors in the following way:

‘A master in the art of living draws not sharp distinction between his work and his play, his labor and his leisure, his mind and his body, his education and his recreation – he scarcely knows the difference. He simply pursues his vision through whatever he is doing and leaves others to determine whether he is playing or working. To himself he is always doing both.’

“Our three retirees have spanned 96 years at Culver, have served in more capacities than we have time to list, and have, most importantly, changed lives,” Buxton said.

The Culver Educational Foundation Board of Trustees established emeritus status in 1983. Such status is conferred on individuals who are retiring and who have served at least 20 years at Culver.

Retiree Fred Hensel received a letter sweater bearing monograms from all Culver sports in recognition for his 13 years of service as a bus driver for the athletic teams. Hensel drove team buses to hundreds of athletic events, as well as bus trips for many other Culver activities, outings, and events. Athletic Director Al Clark (left) made the presentation at the March 16 Winter Athletic Banquet. Hensel, who also received a Culver ring, retired from the Motor Pool in December 2007.
Faculty, Staff & Retiree Notes

Former Academies President Ralph Manuel received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from his alma mater, Dartmouth College, at the June 8 commencement. In 1962, Manuel became Dartmouth’s assistant director of admissions, in which capacity he was responsible for the recruitment of minority students and served as a charter member of the Trustees’ Committee on Equal Opportunity. In 1971, he became director of Dartmouth’s counseling center and associate dean of freshmen. The following year he was appointed dean of freshmen and welcomed Dartmouth’s first co-educational class. Manuel became the seventh dean of the college in 1975. He was the Academies 11th head of schools, serving from 1982 until his retirement in 1999.

Nine members of the Academies workforce were honored at the April 7 all-school meeting for 25 years of service. Each was presented a Culver class ring in appreciation of his/her loyalty and devotion. The 2008 honorees and their current position/department were: Jenny Dikeos, Office Manager, Head of Schools; Joe Horvath, Master Instructor and Personnel Chair, Humanities; Janet Kline, Associate Director, College Advising; Randy Sellers, Golf Course groundskeeper; Randy Thomas, Production Supervisor, Food Services; Jill Tulchinsky, Senior Instructor of Dance; Guy Weaser, Senior Instructor, Math; Laura Weaser, Dean of Girls; Jan Weaver, Senior Instructor, Science.

Retired chemistry instructor Darrell Beach and his wife, Darlene, were featured in the May 6, 2008, South Bend Tribune. The article detailed Beach’s career in education, the couple’s work with the Salvation Army, and the fact they feed and water about 15 stray cats. Beach and neighbor Phil Mallory, also a retired chemistry instructor, trap the homeless animals and cover the expense of having them neutered. Beach retired from the Academies in 2000, but continues to teach as an adjunct professor at Indiana University South Bend and as a substitute at Ancilla College.

Band Director Maj. Bill Browne authored an article for the May 2008 issue of The International Double Reed Society Journal based on his visit to Germany over the winter to a master’s class for double reed instruments. Browne visited William Borkenstein ’62, who is associated with the Moennig-Adler Instrument Company in Markneukirchen, Germany. From that association came an offer from Moennig to host either a competition or a master’s class similar to those offered in Markneukirchen. Borkenstein and Veit Schindler, the CEO of Moennig-Adler, came to the Academies in May to continue the conversation. That visit also resulted in the long-term loan to the Academies of three exceptional double reed instruments – an oboe, an English horn, and a bassoon. In return, Browne facilitated connections for the pair with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, the Indianapolis Symphony, and several music schools at universities in the Midwest.

John Buggeln, Ph.D., has been named the director of Culver’s Global Studies Institute, succeeding GSI founder Harry Frick. Frick will continue as director of the School for the Entrepreneur, founded in 2007, which will now operate independently of the GSI. A humanities instructor, Buggeln joined the faculty in 2004. Frick, holder of the Eugene C. Eppley Chair of History, has been with Culver since 1985.

In February, Coach Mike Chastain was selected as Class AA (the classification for medium-sized schools) Coach of the Year by the Indiana Association of Track and Cross Country Coaches. Chastain has coached Culver boys’ and girls’ track and cross country for more than 30 years.

in Brief

Model U.N. team successful
Culver’s Model United Nations team made its first visit to the Washington Area Model United Nations and came home with two awards. Rebecca Lewis ’10 was recognized for Outstanding Performance on the Human Rights Council. Bill Steckelberg ’08 received Honorable Mention for his work on a regional crisis. Culver sent eight students and was one of 48 schools and 750 students taking part.

Choir in St. Patrick’s concert
The Academies Choir appeared with the South Bend Chamber Singers and special guest Kennedy’s Kitchen for “The Singing o’ the Green” concert of Irish Music in Honor of St. Patrick’s Day on March 16 on the St. Mary’s College campus in South Bend, Ind.

Musicians bring home the gold
Each of the 29 Academies students who participated in the Indiana State School Music Association state contest in Indianapolis earned gold medals in February. Five musicians received gold for instrumental solos, three in gold ensembles, a saxophone quartet, and 17 in the large woodwind ensemble.
Commencement Convocation bestows highest honors on first-classmen, seniors

The most prestigious and most coveted of Culver Academies student awards were presented to four first-class cadets and four senior girls at the 2008 Commencement Convocation May 31 in Eppley Auditorium.

The YMCA Cup, the highest honor bestowed on a graduating Culver first-classman, was presented to Charles Phelps of Woodinville, Wash. The YMCA Cup is presented to the cadet, who, in the opinion of the faculty and staff, best exemplifies the ideals of Culver. Phelps served as regimental commander, earned honors in Global Studies, and lettered in football, lacrosse, and baseball. He will attend the U.S. Military Academy this fall.

For CGA, the top honor for a senior, the Superintendent’s Bowl, was awarded to Alexandra Banfich of Plymouth, Ind. The Superintendent’s Bowl is presented to the senior girl whose leadership, example, influence, and total record of achievement have brought honor to the Academies and to herself. Banfich will be attending Princeton University this fall. She served as a senior prefect, was a multiple state champion in girls’ cross country and track, a member of Cum Laude, and served on the Leadership Committee for Africa.

The Van Zandt Key is awarded to the cadet who, by virtue of his effort and example, has increased an awareness of moral and spiritual values among the Corps of Cadets. The 2008 recipient was Colin Lasko of Culver. He was a member of the Cum Laude and Blue Key academic honor societies, the Lancer Band, Greenlife, was a Catholic lector, and president of the Culver Youth Community Organization. An English-Speaking Union scholar, Lasko will attend The Culford School in Suffolk, England, for a year before enrolling at Case Western Reserve University.

Angela Solis (Burr Ridge, Ill.) received the Mary Frances England Humanitarian Award. The award singles out the graduating senior who, by her acts, has revealed an exemplary concern for others. The award is named for the founding director of Culver Academy for Girls/CGA and the dean of the girls school from 1971-84. Solis was a member of the Student Admissions Organization, Cordon Society, Honor Council Chair, Cum Laude, and lettered in soccer and crew. She also served as a senior prefect, and will be attending Davidson College.

Matt Edwards (LaPorte, Ind.) was the recipient of the McDonald Award, which recognizes the first-classman who exercised the greatest cultural influence on the Corps of Cadets during the year. Captain of the speech team and a sectional champion, Edwards also was president of the Campus Activities Board and a Writing Center Fellow. He lettered in golf and soccer, and was unit commander of Company A. Edwards will matriculate this fall at Indiana University.

The Hughes Award is presented in memory of Arthur G. Hughes, the first chairman of the Fine Arts Department, to the graduating senior girl who has revealed exceptional concern for cultural life on campus. The 2008 recipient was Samantha Fremer (Bedley, Ohio), who will be attending either Emerson College or Otterbein College this fall. The valedictorian of the Class of 2008, Fremer received honors in technical theater, was a member of the Fine Arts Honor Society, commander of the CGA Drill Team, a peer tutor, and recipient of the Josh Logan Musical Award.

Trevor Grywatch of Ashburn, Va., was the recipient of The Chambers Award, which recognizes the first-classman who has distinguished himself with a combination of excellence in scholarship and athletics. Grywatch received The President’s Education Award, was commander of Four-Gun Drill, and lettered in baseball, football, and hockey, receiving all-State and area honors for football. He is a student at the University of Virginia.

The recipient of the Jane Metcalfe Culver Bowl, given to the senior girl who has distinguished herself in the classroom and on the athletic fields, was Romina Clemente of Flagstaff, Ariz. Clemente played No. 1 singles for the CGA tennis team, posting an 80-6 won-loss record for her career. She participated in Model United Nations, the Global Studies Institute, was a Batten Scholar, and recipient of The President’s Education Award. Clemente will matriculate at Davidson College.
Company A roommates Mike Coughlin and Conrad Chura head for the Iron Gate together after being congratulated by Acting Commandant Col. Kevin Scherer.

Zhaoheng Zheng of Battery B accepts his diploma from Head of Schools John Buxton. Zheng received The Scholarship Medal for having the highest grade-point average among cadets in his second- and first-class years.

Pam Flanagan, Jill Eelman, and Taylor Ebner (left to right) bask in the joy of their alumnae status.

Dancevision Director Cathy Duke poses for a photo with Alex Markle and Michael Jenkins during the Faculty Farewell Handshake.

Diploma in hand, Mary Saran walks to her seat.

Ariana Warr and Jonathan Watanabe share a moment before they part ways.

Haberland photos.
Artistic maneuvers

Acting on the recommendations generated by the 2006-07 Fine Arts Triennial Review, the Visual Arts faculty spent the better part of the last school year planning, testing, and redefining its curriculum for the 2008-09 school year. The Visual Arts, being uniquely accessible in enriching the teaching of many subject areas, is, in practice, understood to engage the visual and tactile senses in developing patterns of expression, thought, and inquiry. It, thus, orders the whole person toward the physical, intellectual, and spiritual dimensions of human endeavor.

The 2008-09 Visual Arts Curriculum will be structured in four tiers: Gateway Courses, Studio Courses, Studio Seminars, and Advanced Study. This begins with Visual Literacy, a short, quarter-credit course in visual thinking that will be required (beginning with this fall’s incoming freshmen/fourth-classmen), of all students interested in taking a studio course. This class may be viewed as an elective-parallel to Information Literacy, which is required of all first-year Culver students. Students with Visual Arts interests outside studio courses will be able to take one of three Art History courses: Ancient to Early Christian Art, Romanesque to Early Baroque, or Baroque to Post Modern.

The second tier will offer half-credit studio courses in one of five Visual Arts areas: Drawing, Painting, Sculpture, Ceramics, and chemistry-based Photography. Each of these is foundational in approach and also will address the critical and historical aspects of the subject. Students wanting to look deeper into a specific medium may select from a variety of half-credit Studio Seminars at the third tier level. Seminars for the 2008-09 school year include Ceramics Seminar: Terra Cotta Portraits; Drawing Seminar: Portrait and Figure Drawing; Painting Seminar: Oil Painting; and Photography Seminar: Advanced Black and White Processes.

The final tier in the Visual Arts course structure engages the advanced learner and is open to juniors and seniors with strong interest and creative drive. These courses include a Visual Arts Portfolio, for the student interested in building a working portfolio for either college admission or exhibition; Visual Arts Portfolio/Honors, designed for the student wishing to graduate with Honors in the Visual Arts; and Advanced Placement Art History, which prepares the student for the College Board’s Advanced Placement Exam in Art History.

Students have responded well to the revised Visual Arts curriculum. During the spring course registration process, a number of classes filled quickly and more are expected to close as the new student registration process is completed. Though our students may not all be fully aware of the capacity of the arts to integrate with the developing knowledge systems of a variety of academic subjects, it should come as no surprise that the arts at Culver provide a much-needed richness in our mission to develop and nurture the whole individual – mind, body, and spirit – while fostering the cultivation of character. Western wisdom tradition states that the hand governs the mind but, more importantly, is the teacher of the heart. The Visual Arts at Culver will continue to respond to the changing needs of our students, to open the door to discovery that entertains many right answers to singular questions, and to provide our students with an avenue to awakening the artist within all of us.

– Bob Nowalk
Visual Arts Coordinator

Artistic maneuvers
Student Notes

Joel Florek ’11 (Marquette, Mich.) was among 20 high school students from the Fort Wayne-South Bend (Indiana) Diocese to attend the Papal Mass celebrated by Pope Benedict XVI on April 20 at Yankee Stadium in New York City. The group also attended a youth rally with the Pope at St. Joseph’s Seminary in Yonkers. Florek was selected through a diocese-wide essay contest conducted last winter.

Melissa Schwenk ’08 (Rochester, Ind.) was named a Lilly Endowment Community Scholar for Fulton County. She received a four-year scholarship to the Indiana college of her choice – Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, where she will study chemical engineering. She participated in theater and dance, was a staff writer for The Vedette, and a dorm chairwoman. Schwenk also spent her junior year studying language and culture in Italy as part of the School Year Abroad program.

For superior scholastic achievement, the Blue Key Society at Culver formally inducted the following members of the Class of 2009 during the Commencement Convocation:

- Zachariah Al-Shafei (Dhahran, Saudi Arabia), Jennifer Babchuk (Kokomo, Ind.), Tao Bi (Beijing, China), Ashley Eberhart (Downers Grove, Ill.), Sarah Freymiller (Nappanee, Ind.), Caitlin Harrington (Werchester, N.Y.), Alexis Howard (Bourbon, Ind.), Laura Jantosikova (Sturovo, Slovenia), Hyoun Kwon (Bloomington, Ind.), Santiago Martinez (Mexico City), Thomas Ott (Palmrya, Pa.), Rachel Ridenour (Culver), Adam Spener (Hoffman Estates, Ind.), Frances Staadt (Rockville, Ind.), Iris Stone (East Lansing, Mich.), Robin Tripp (South Bend, Ind.), Ming-Chieh Wang (Taiwan), and Hao Wu (Beijing, China).

- Thirty seniors and first-classmen were formally inducted into the Culver Academies Chapter of the Cum Laude Society at the Commencement Convocation. Recognized for their dedication and focus in intellectual and leadership pursuits were: Andrew Allen (Lake Bluff, Ill.), Alexandra Banfich (Rochester, Ind.), John Bollman (St. Joseph, Mich.), Romina Clemente (Flagstaff, Ariz.), Wenting Duan (Guang Dong Province, China), Matthew Edwards (LaPorte, Ind.), Samantha Fremer (Bexley, Ohio), Ariane Grazian (Chicago), Trevor Grywatch (Ashburn, Va.), Allison Hoover (Fishers, Ind.), Min-Kyung Kim (Pohang, Korea), Tahee Kim (Cheong-Ju, Korea), Jocelyn Kinsey (Columbus, Ind.), Colin Lasko (Culver), Xiaojian Lou (Shanghai, China), Jiawen Lu (Shanghai, China), Anna Mahalak (Monroe, Mich.), Jung Jae Park (Seoul, Korea), Ana Pedrojo (Coral Gables, Fla.), Charlie Phelps (Woodinville, Wash.), Jennifer Putman (Remington, Ind.), Roxanne Reiter (Cincinnati), Carl Scherer (Wellington, Fla.), Melissa Schwenk (Rochester, Ind.), Angela Solis (Burr Ridge, Ill.), Erich Stuebgen (Bend, Ore.), Sean Tomaro (Las Vegas), Ana Tosi (Culver), Michael Vindiola (Tomball, Texas), and Zhaocheng Zheng (Shenzhen, China).

Alvaro Prandini Johnson ’08 (Hermosillo, Mexico) of Troop A was the recipient in February of the MacArthur Award. Each year, the Gen. Douglas MacArthur Foundation presents the MacArthur Cadet Awards in recognition of the outstanding cadets of the Association of Military Colleges and Schools (of which Culver is a member). The award – which consists of MacArthur’s biography, a check, display medallion, and a uniform pin – encourages cadets to emulate and practice the leadership qualities exemplified by MacArthur as a cadet at the West Texas Military Institute, the U.S. Military Academy, and throughout his distinguished 52-year Army career.

Brandon Hexsel ’08 (Kingswood, Texas) had an essay titled “Spring Break in China” published in the February 2008 print edition of Teen Ink, a national teen magazine, book series, and website devoted entirely to teenage writing and art. Hexsel’s essay was written for during the first term for instructor David Sampson’s “Art of the Essay” class and submitted it for publication as part of the course requirements.

An unidentified student plays with a hula hoop as night falls on the Relay For Life at Oliver Field. The April 18 event, believed to be the first in the nation organized by high school students, raised $107,000. The allnight relay involved 62 teams and nearly 700 participants, including more than 80 cancer survivors.
The Naval Pier – Culver’s largest and busiest “classroom” – has received a major upgrade thanks to the generosity of two Naval School alumni.

The Orthwein-Anderson Naval Pier was dedicated July 4, though it has been in use since Culver Summer Schools and Camps began on June 20. The 506-foot floating dock system has capacity more than half of CSSC’s 148 watercraft, as well as providing two 400-square-foot teaching platforms. Made of synthetic material, the pier has a minimum life expectancy of 25 years.

The Naval Pier “is the beginning of all students’ experience in sailing, as they learn about launching a Day Sailer and practice their basic knots. It is also the finale of a student’s Culver experience, including the Ledbetter crew, varsity sailing, Moonlight Serenade, and the Communication Relay. The Naval Pier is a teaching platform that allows Culver to transform the lives of young men and women,” Head of Schools John Buxton said at the dedication.

Buxton called the gift “another wonderful gesture” by the Richard J. Orthwein family of Oklahoma City for Culver Summer Schools and Camps. Early in the By Example Campaign, Richard W’73, N’76 and Ellen Orthwein, along with their children, Joe N’05 and Emily, made the renovation of the Woodcraft Dining Hall possible. Richard Orthwein served many years on the CSSC’s Board of Directors.

“The Orthweins are pleased to be a part of the future development of Culver Summer Schools and Camps and are honored to contribute to the Culver mission,” Richard Orthwein said. “We feel it is vitally important to maintain the facilities and staff of this school so they can continue the tradition of teaching young men and women integrity, honesty, and the development of good values. There have been many lessons learned and memories made on this Naval Pier by me as well as other alumni.”

Co-donor Richard R. Anderson N’66, a former member of the Regimental staff, died in 2005. His estate was divided between the Humane Society and Culver. Mr. Anderson often referred to his time here as the happiest days of his life, Buxton said.

The Orthweins and Anderson each committed $375,000 to the project, which included more than $100,000 for a maintenance endowment.

In his remarks, Capt. Robert Stockwell, director of the Naval School for 10 years, described the Naval Pier as Culver’s largest and busiest “classroom” and a landmark on Lake Maxinkuckee. On a daily basis, over 500 sailors and staff use the Naval Pier for instructional purposes, and another 300 sailors and staff use it before and after classes, he said.

“Culver’s new Orthwein-Anderson Pier provides us with a safer, more stable teaching and learning platform on the water,” Stockwell said.

Summer Camps Director Tony Mayfield ’65 said the pier dedication was the culmination of a three- or four-year discussion about the future of the Naval School program. Improving the fleet and revising the curriculum were the first two parts of the process, and the third was having the right kind of pier docking system, he said.

– Doug Haberland
Deaths in the Family

Veteran educator Martin Uebel
A teacher, counselor, and musician for four decades, Col. Martin A. Uebel died April 16, 2008, at Miller’s Merry Manor in Culver. He was 96.

Col. Uebel was a member of the Culver faculty from 1941-42, returning after the war in 1946 and serving until his retirement in 1977. He worked for both the Academies and Culver Summer Schools and Camps. He was a former counselor of Battery A, taught German, Latin, and English, as well as ROTC. Col. Uebel also assisted in the Fine Arts Department as a part-time band director and regularly played clarinet in the concerts at the Academies and in South Bend. In retirement, he also was instrumental in organizing the Meals on Wheels Program of Culver.

He graduated from Dartmouth College and worked as a musician. He continued his education at the University of Cologne in Germany and at Indiana University in Bloomington, Ind.

Col. Uebel served in the Second Armored Division during World War II. He was wounded twice and received a Purple Heart with star.

He is survived by his wife Ruth, a resident of Miller’s Merry Manor; sons David of Colorado Springs, Colo., and Mark W’67, ’72 of Martinsville, Ind.; three grandchildren, among them Ryan Uebel W’84 of Granger, Ind., and two great-grandchildren.

Gifts in Col. Uebel’s memory may be made to the Culver Academies Scholarship Fund.

Registrar Vicky Russell
Longtime registrar and manager of the Academic Affairs office, Victoria “Vicky” Russell, 59, died April 5, 2008, at her Rochester, Ind., home after fighting a year-long illness. A celebration of her life was held April 9 in Memorial Chapel on the Culver Academies campus.

Mrs. Russell spent the last 29 years working at the Academies, where she was known by many as “Mother Russell.” Work was much more than a job for her. She was involved with a mentoring program, teen talk, helping students get into the college of their choice, and much more. She was an active and energetic member of the Red Hatters of Fulton County.

Surviving are her husband, Bill; a son, Scott W’81, ’85 of Plain City, Utah; two daughters, two sisters, and 13 grandchildren. The Russells also opened their home and hearts to a number of individuals they considered members of their extended family.

Facilities retiree John Plante
Services were held May 13 in Memorial Chapel for retiree John P. Plante Jr. of Culver, a longtime member of the Facilities Department, who died May 4, 2008.

Mr. Plante was a Marine veteran of the Korean War and served 27 years in the Navy Reserves until his retirement in 1989. He was a 42-year-employee of the Academies, serving as the building maintenance supervisor and as a bus driver for athletic events and other school functions.

John is survived by his wife, Joyce, of Culver; a son, Wayne of Deland, Fla.; three sisters, three grandchildren, including Peter Manzuk W’88, ’94 of Plymouth, Ind., and Andrea Manzuk W’90, ’95 of Phoenix, Ariz.; and six great-grandchildren.

Mr. Plante was preceded in death by a daughter, Gloria, who was married to Gary Hinton, a wellness instructor and the CMA’s head baseball coach.

Remembering also...
Rose C. Branaman, a seamstress in the Tailor Shop during the ’60s and 1970s, died June 8, 2008, in Mishawaka, Ind. A daughter and two grandchildren survive.

A former kitchen supervisor at the Culver Inn (1977-92), Geraldine Times died June 4, 2008, in Argos, Ind. She later became a Realtor in her 70s. Mrs. Times is survived by a daughter, two brothers, a granddaughter, two great-grandsons, and great-granddaughter.

Frances Craig, the widow of Addison B. “Brad” Craig, Academic Dean at the Academies from 1961-75, died April 6, 2008, in San Antonio. She is survived by two sons, including James ’63 of Deerfield, Ill.; six grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren.

Banfich, both lacrosse teams repeat as state champions

Girls Lacrosse

Girls lacrosse continued its winning traditions, repeating as state champion and capturing its fifth state title in seven years. CGA defeated Park Tudor, 14-7, in the title game.

Senior Pam Flanagan (North Barrington, Ill.) scored four goals and Angela Carlson ’08 (St. Charles, Ill.) added three to lead CGA to the title. Juniors Lauren Fields (Centerville, Ohio) and Frances Staadt (Rockville, Ind.) each scored twice. The Eagles led 9-7 in the second half before going on a 5-0 streak. Senior goalie Mary Saran (Naperville, Ill.) had 25 saves for the game.

The Eagles finished the season 23-2 and 16-0 in Indiana. Several members of the team also received post-season honors. Carlson, Flanagan, Saran, and Kristen Stafford ’09 (London, Ontario) were named first team All-State selections. Fields, Carlson, Saran, and Stafford were named to the all-tournament team. Coach Kristen Corrigan was named the coach of the year for the second straight year.

Track & Field

Banfich (Plymouth, Ind.) became the most decorated runner in Indiana high school history – boy or girl – with her first-place finishes in the 1600- and 3200-meter races at the state track meet in Bloomington.

Banfich holds the state meet record in cross country since the race was extended from 4,000 to 5,000 meters last fall. She is one of two three-time state cross country champions, and the only girl to win both the 1600 and 3200 titles more than once.

She finished her career with eight gold medals, one better than anyone else in the state’s history. Banfich won five gold medals in track and field and three in cross country. She medaled in every state track and cross country event during her career, giving her a total of 12.

She also owns the sectional and regional records in cross country and the 3200, and the sectional record in the 1600. Banfich will be attending Princeton University in the fall, becoming a member of that college’s nationally-ranked women’s cross country team.

Senior Lauren Johnson (Chicago) also qualified for the state meet in the 300-meter hurdles and finished 16th at Bloomington. CGA finished eighth, with Banfich scoring all the team’s 20 points.

The boys’ team advanced six individual athletes and all three relay teams out of the Plymouth Sectional. But competition at the Kokomo Regional stopped the Eagles from advancing any further.

It was a spring of repeats for Culver Academies’ athletics. Senior Alexandra Banfich capped off her career with two more gold medals at the state track meet, while the girls and boys lacrosse teams successfully defended their state championships.

Alexandra Banfich (left) has dominated her sport during her time at Culver. The girls lacrosse team continued its winning ways by beating Park Tudor for their fifth title in seven years.
Boys Lacrosse

CMA avenged an earlier loss by beating South Bend St. Joseph’s, 18-8, in the state championship game for its second straight title. Brandon Benn ’10 (Orangeville, Ontario) led the CMA attack with nine goals. The Eagles finished the season with the most wins (17) in team history.

Benn also contributed an assist and was named the offensive player of the game. Steven Hoshaw ’08 (Vista, Calif.) was the defensive player of the game. Long-stick midfielder Greg Miceli ’08 (King City, Ontario) was named one of Indiana’s four All-American candidates.

Cory Hibbeler ’08 (St. Charles, Mo.) had three goals and had three assists. Pierce Leonard ’09 (Cornelius, Mo.) scored two goals with two assists, and Alex Niestrom ’08 (Darien, Ill.) added three goals in the championship game. Goalie Key McKinley ’08 (Dallas) picked up 10 saves for CMA, and Robb Harrison ’09 (Memphis, Tenn.) made four stops.

Benn, Hibbeler, Leonard, Hoshaw, McKinley, Miceli, Tommy Ott ’09 (Palmyra, Pa.), and Jesse Rabishaw ’10 (Sharon, Ontario) were honored as all-state team members.

Girls Tennis

Romina Clemente finished her career as co-captain of the 14-3 girls’ tennis team. The team rolled through the sectional tournament before losing to Penn in the first round of the regional, 4-1.

Baseball

CMA baseball defeated Rochester, 3-2, in the first round of sectional play, and then lost a heartbreaker to John Glenn, 3-2. The Eagles finished the season 15-8.

Offensively, Max Terhar ’11 (Cincinnati) led the team with a .571 batting average and .857 slugging percentage. David Gerths ’08 (Ankeny, Iowa) batted .500 with a slugging percentage of .742. On the mound, Gerths led the team with a 2.75 earned run average.

Catcher Tyler “Moe” Weddington ’08 (Culver) and Gerths were honored as the team’s Most Valuable Players.

Softball

CGA softball team finished 15-7 after losing in the first round of the sectional to Mishawaka Marian, 2-1. The Knights were ranked No. 1 in Class 3A and advanced to the state’s final four.

Pitcher Holly Johnson (Buffalo, N.Y.) finished her senior year by signing a letter of intent to play at Rutgers University in New Jersey. Johnson was also named third team all-state Indiana Coaches of Girls Coaches Association (ICGSA) and will play in the Indiana All-Star game.

Kyle Hermanson ’08 (Culver) received all-district honors from the ICGSA. Senior Jenna Albers (New Bremen, Ohio) was named the Most Improved Player and Tess Strang ’09 (Urbana, Ill.) won the Coaches’ Choice Award. The Mental Attitude award went to senior Emma Clark (East Barre, Vt.).

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The boys’ golf team advanced to the regional after finishing third at the Warsaw Sectional. Randall Award winner Kyler Scott ’08 (Culver) led the team with an 18-hole average of 82.1 strokes. Captain Matt Edwards ’08 (LaPorte, Ind.) received the Coaches’ Award, and Michael Yaeger ’10 (Monroe, Mich.) received the outstanding underclassman award. The team finished the season at 16-4.

Just getting on Lake Maxinkuckee was a major challenge for the crew team this year. The combination of wind and rain made it nearly impossible to practice, but the team performed well at the Culver Regatta, the Indianapolis High School Invitational, and the Midwest Scholastic Rowing Championship.

At the Midwest, where 51 teams participated, four Culver teams advanced to the finals. Captain Chris Miclot ’08 (Austin, Texas) qualified for the national competition in the Men’s High School 1X, making it the third straight year someone from CMA has qualified for the event.

The CGA Crew Award was presented to Katherine Lewis ’08 (St. Louis).

With an 80-6 career record, mostly at No. 1 singles, Clemente helped the Eagles win four sectional titles, two regionals, one semistate, and make one final four appearance. She was the winner of the Elizabeth Warner Cup. The Eagle Award went to Brady Banks ’08 (White Pigeon, Mich.), and Jessica Kutch ’08 (LaPorte, Ind.) received the Coaches’ Award.

The boys’ golf team advanced to the regional after finishing third at the Warsaw Sectional. Randall Award winner Kyler Scott ’08 (Culver) led the team with an 18-hole average of 82.1 strokes. Captain Matt Edwards ’08 (LaPorte, Ind.) received the Coaches’ Award, and Michael Yaeger ’10 (Monroe, Mich.) received the outstanding underclassman award. The team finished the season at 16-4.

The rugby team played a nine-game schedule that included some of the top teams in the state and, in the case of Penn High School, one of the top five in the nation.

– Jan Garrison