## Calendar of Events

### NOVEMBER
- **21** Grandparents & Special Friends Day
- **21** Young Alumni Reunion (Classes 2003–2007)
- **23** Alumnae vs. Girls Varsity Basketball Game; Alumni vs. Boys Varsity Basketball Game

### DECEMBER
- **6** American Roots & World Music Concert
- **7, 8** Chorus/American Roots/World Music Concert

### JANUARY
- **16** Winter Art Show Opening
- **17, 18, 19** Rock/Jazz Concert
- **18** MA Lollapalooza Basketball Games
- **29-31** Literary Festival

### FEBRUARY
- **7, 8, 9** Winter Theater Production
- **13** Math Night

### MARCH
- **22** Participassion Party – Spring Fundraiser

### APRIL
- **17** American Roots & World Music Concert
- **18, 19** Chorus/American Roots/World Music Concert
- **24, 25, 26** Spring Theater Production

### MAY
- **1** Chamber Music & Dance Concert
- **2, 3** Dance Concert
- **18** Athletic Banquet
- **20** Cum Laude Induction Ceremony
- **22** Night of the Arts
- **22, 23, 24** Rock/Jazz Concert

### JUNE
- **7** Graduation
- **TBD** The Ninth Annual Thacher Lecture

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I am honored to be at Marin Academy as this active school moves forward and eventually selects its permanent leader. As a Head of School in California and Colorado for over 20 years, I appreciate how MA lives its mission daily and immeasurably contributes to and gains from the lives it touches.

Marin Academy fills its academic year with dazzling performances, games, lectures, and discussions that complement its regular program, and Nexus provides a comprehensive view of this school in full motion. At the center of last year’s calendar were the farewell celebrations that encouraged the MA community to shower Bodie with tributes. Especially significant was the naming of the renovated Administration Building, forever to be known as the Bodie Brizendine Leadership Center. Now as alumni and friends return to this transformed campus, they will see a bustling student body and faculty engaged within new spaces for classes and conversations as well as a cafeteria with extensive organic offerings.

This edition of Nexus offers a panorama of events and persons that added texture to this memorable year. Honoring its proud traditions dating back to 1971 when Jim Thacher founded this new school, Marin Academy celebrated its 35 years with several activities including a concert by the Doobie Brothers that was attended by the whole community. In the eighth Annual Thacher Lecture, alumni parent George Lucas revealed some of the inspiration and hard work behind his amazing career as he engaged in a public conversation with Bodie. Additionally, throughout this issue of Nexus, you will find features on the many contributions of retiring faculty and on the outstanding senior class that led significant achievements in academics, arts, sports, and community projects. Particularly impressive is the alumni news that describes the diverse ways that MA graduates are making their marks in the world.

I commend the MA community on your generous support of this school and am particularly pleased to highlight an Annual Report filled with good financial news. Through the inspired fundraising by and on behalf of Bodie, Marin Academy is now over $10 million in its endowment and, under a new Brizendine fund, will bring visiting scholars to the campus starting next year. The Annual Report shows an expanding MA family that appreciates an ambitious school and that desires to sustain this cherished environment into the future.

I am excited to be part of your community and hope to greet each of you during the year.

Richard A. Drew
Interim Head of School
Marin Academy Bids Farewell to Bodie Brizendine and Opens Building in Her Honor

On June 1, 2007, the Marin Academy community gathered to celebrate the Grand Re-Opening of the newly restored Administration Building and to say farewell to our indefatigable Head of School, Bodie Brizendine. The $8.3 million dollar restoration of the Administration Building became Bodie’s final construction project during a decade of tireless work to restore and re-build MA’s aging physical campus. During her tenure, a total of nine buildings were built or restored over the last 10 years. This is a remarkable achievement in the life of a Head of School. Bodie’s leadership—and her many accomplishments—advanced and strengthened the school in vitally important ways, while preserving the cords that bind us all together to make MA the school that it is. While the restoration of MA’s campus—and the raising of more than $35 million dollars to make it possible—offers the most visible measure of Bodie’s legacy, it will be the impact she had on so many of us that truly sets her apart. A master teacher, a generous mentor, a tireless advocate, and champion for us all . . . Bodie’s vision and heart brought out the best in MA. And that’s what a great school is all about. Thank you, Bodie, for 12 extraordinary years!

Anna Heidinger, Director of Institutional Advancement
Features of the Bodie Brizendine Leadership Center

Marin Academy’s completely remodeled administration building, now known as the Bodie Brizendine Leadership Center, includes features and 21st century technologies such as:

- 22,072 square feet of teaching, office, and common space
- SmartBox AV technology and dedicated video projectors in all teaching spaces
- Wireless access to the World Wide Web and MA network
- New kitchen facility and dining area with seating capacity of 170
- Intimate courtyard for student dining and school events
- Bridge over courtyard for convenient access to second floor of Library Building
- New lecture hall with Smartboard technology and fixed theater seating for 96
- Four hundred centrally located mailboxes for students
- Spacious lobby with new staircase and elevator

Bodie and the Bard:
A Student’s Perspective

When I was signing up for my senior year courses toward the end of junior year, I did something a good MA student is not supposed to do. Ignoring the well-reasoned advice of my adviser and of Jennifer Blake, Academic Dean, I chose a course based simply on the teacher, with little regard for the actual subject matter. Though nobody in the English department would either confirm or deny it, rumor on the street had it that Bodie would be teaching the Shakespeare elective course, and I had heard great things about Bodie as a teacher. So, despite my somewhat lackluster enthusiasm for past excursions with The Bard, I put Shakespeare down as my first choice. (Sorry, Jennifer). And, lucky for me, I got my first choice. (Thanks, Jennifer).

On the first day of class, we were all curious to see what it would be like to have Bodie as a teacher. She knew us all individually, of course, because she was Bodie, but still, there was a lot of uncertainty. As the Head of School, Bodie was the one who made all of those announcements at assemblies, who wrote all those letters home, who schmoozed with all of our parents at those events. What would she be like as a teacher? Would she be as easy to talk to, as widely available to help outside of class, as other teachers? Would she feel like an English teacher? Or just our Head of School teaching English?

In less than five minutes, as Bodie threw out quotes from almost every play, I realized this class was going to be a treat. Bodie came alive when she discussed Shakespeare. Her eyes twinkled when Antonio agreed to Shylock’s deal, she sighed dramatically as Othello turned
upon Desdemona, she got choked up at Kent’s loyalty and love for his king, she relished the word “bastard” whenever Edmund was mentioned. Her love and deep admiration for Shakespeare blazed underneath every line of dialogue.

And as many MA students know, a teacher’s passion for his or her subject is contagious. As fall turned to winter, I found myself sharing in her excitement and enthusiasm, agreeing that it would actually be quite fun to be able to hurl Shakespearean insults the next time I was in an argument. In a mere few months, Bodie had transformed me from someone who thought Shakespeare was a bit dry to someone whose new life ambition was to read every single one of his plays. And along the way, she had also found time to become one of the most dedicated, willing, and available teachers I had ever come across.

Though her days were packed, she was always eager to arrive at school fifteen minutes early in order to chat about our latest play. She opened her house to us, both for movie nights and for class time. Once, after arriving home from the airport in the middle of the day, she was too tired to get dressed up and come to school (and have to deal with the many issues that I’m sure awaited her), but not wanting to miss our afternoon class, she sent word to all of us to come to her house after lunch, where, clad in sweats, she led a discussion from her couch. As we ate popcorn and debated topics for our final papers, I marveled at the fact that Bodie had inspired a group of teenagers to fiercely argue about a bunch of 400 year-old manuscripts. The Bard would have been proud.

Davey Feder ’07 – Davey is a freshman at Stanford University.
Bodie Brizendine tended MA as if it were her garden. She noticed the tender shoots and nurtured them. She encouraged her students to seek truth, not simply be right. She acknowledged daily that thought has energy and that the life of each student’s mind is valued.

She clearly reveled in the pride students at MA take in their work. All one had to do was visit her office to see the student art she collected—what stronger message of value might one imagine? Did she miss a single performance in the theater? I doubt it. She cheered our teams enthusiastically. And then there were those hugs after each senior speech—much warmth in recognition of a rite of passage not so easy for many.

And she touched the lives of the adults at MA too—parents, staff, and faculty. From her first months on the campus there was intentional energy given to understanding the history of MA—of understanding the vision of those whose dedication gives rise to our community. The ways in which Bodie’s care was manifest were too many to count—so, let me just say, the card found in a mail box recognizing joyful work well done speaks volumes. The willingness to “hear colleagues” in honest speech—that is, to listen closely, also marks the work of this thoughtful leader. Encouragement to stretch and grow whether in the practice of our craft as teachers or in our knowledge of discipline flowed forth. We were tended to as were our students.

Thank you Bodie for all that you are and for your many contributions to Marin Academy.

Nancy Hoffman, History Department Chair and member of MA Board of Trustees
Marin Academy Celebrates 35 Years
On Friday, March 23, a magically perfect, spring-in-Marin evening, 2,000 people gathered for Marin Academy’s 35th Anniversary Celebration at the Marin Center in San Rafael. The celebrants enjoyed a private concert by the Doobie Brothers in the Marin Veterans’ Memorial Auditorium. By design, this whole-community event, “Listen to the Music,” brought together current parents, students, alumni, alumni parents, faculty, current and former trustees, and many friends of the school for a spirited and heartfelt celebration. The reception included a delicious, casual dinner catered by Jane Hammond Events (parent of Christina Skonberg ’07) as well as a phenomenal warm-up act performance by MA’s Soul Band (one of the many “not-to-be-missed” moments of the evening). By several accounts, the reception felt like a love-filled family reunion.

Bill McCluskey, the first Headmaster of Marin Academy, and his wife, Betsey, enjoyed the alumni reception at the adjacent Embassy Suites where more than 350 alumni reunited before the Doobie Brothers concert. Bill recalls the excitement of seeing “a great number of kids who were at MA in the early years and their parents.” Some were “involved in the school from the very beginning. It was absolutely wonderful to see all of these ‘old’ faces!”

An important element of the evening was the sense of community everyone felt. Derek Anderson, Head Librarian, history teacher and author of the fascinating MA timeline in the “Listen to the Music” program, recalls, “As I stepped into the auditorium, I was hit by the fact that this is the largest gathering for MA ever. Two thousand people were there and everyone had a connection and loyalty to MA; all from different eras and experiences.” In this case, “it wasn’t six degrees of separation, just one.”

The concert opened with a tribute video created by Brad Lakritz, Manager of Educational Technology Resources. Comprised of brief interviews with MA students, alumni, faculty, and trustees, the eight-minute “lump-in-your-throat” documentary captured that “special feeling” of the school as well as the great love so many feel for MA. After the video, Bodie Brizendine, Head of School, took the stage. With the huge wings of the Doobie Brothers logo soaring above her head, Bodie received a roaring welcome as she thanked all those who made the evening possible, acknowledged MA dignitaries, and introduced the Doobie Brothers to the energetic crowd.

In explaining how this incredible evening came together, Diane Johnston (wife of Tom Johnston, lead singer and founder of the Doobie Brothers and mother of Lara ’08) expressed that her family and the band were honored to be part of this event. “It was amazing that MA considered the Doobie Brothers to celebrate the school’s 35th year. When we found out that it would be Bodie’s last year, that made it even more meaningful. The way it pulled the whole community together gave me the greatest satisfaction of any project I could ever work on.” At the concert, Diane was excited to see parents, students, and alumni enjoying the show together. This heartfelt performance by Tom Johnston, highlighted by daughter Lara joining him on stage to sing “Respect” and Bodie playing harmonica on “Listen to the Music,” meant a lot to the whole band. Afterwards, they raved about the enthusiastic students who filled the front rows and the appreciative audience.

Reflecting on MA’s 35th Anniversary, Bodie describes the meaning of this milestone in the life of the school. “Thirty-five years means that we are out of our adolescence and into the maturation zone. We are deepening our history. It means having legacy children here; it means a continuum of fabulous alumni, who are now adults, and our wonderful students.” In planning the school’s celebration, it was important to Bodie that the events included “looking at where we came from; why, how, and what makes us MA. Looking back historically was the most important part.” She also felt it was critical to “honor alumni, the founding trustees, and the faculty who created the feeling of the school. And, by doing that, allowing all of our current students to realize MA’s rich history.”

Bodie’s favorite moments included introducing the Doobie Brothers and seeing everyone there, all with a connection to MA. “We had all of those ages in the same place; the first event that we’ve ever had quite like that. It was fabulous.” Another highlight came after the concert as Founding Board President, Jim Thacher, and his wife, Glady, were “holding court” with a large group of alumni. As Bodie recalls, “so many of the older alums came up to them, told them who they were, what they were doing now, and said thank you. And he remembered them.” Bodie was also thrilled to play harmonica with the Doobie Brothers. “I know I have to keep my day job, and I had a great time.” Marin Academy extends huge appreciation to the Johnston family and to the many individuals who contributed time and generous resources to make this event possible.
Alumni Profiles

Hope for the Future: Robyn Allen ’03

BY DAVID BRIN

In her determination to do something about global climate change, Robyn Allen ’03 has mobilized engineering students from around the world to design highly efficient cars. And what does “highly efficient” mean? Not just a car that gets 200 miles per gallon, but a car that is easy on the environment throughout its life cycle, from the manufacturing process until it is ultimately recycled.

Robyn’s vision, intelligence, and gift for organizing people were driving forces behind the Vehicle Design Summit (VDS) held at MIT during the summer of 2006. In April of that year Robyn and her friend Anna Jaffe got the idea of bringing students together to design prototypes of efficient cars, and a mere two months later students from around the country and around the world were converging on MIT for the design summit. They produced four prototypes: a car that runs on a combination of human and solar power, a fuel-cell vehicle, a vehicle that runs on biofuel, and an electric car for a single person. All four vehicles have been test driven, and two alums from VDS 1.0 have started a company in Belgium to develop a fuel-cell vehicle based on the prototype created at the first design summit.

Robyn took a break from her studies of aeronautical engineering at MIT during the 2006–2007 academic year to concentrate on the second phase of the vehicle design summit, which took place at MIT during the summer of 2007. The goal of VDS 2.0 was to design a lightweight sedan, getting 200 mpg and meeting other efficiency standards. The car has been named “VDS Vision 200.” Robyn explains that the Vision 200, which is not a direct descendant of any VDS 1.0 prototype, is powered by an electric motor. A modular auxiliary power unit charges the batteries and can be swapped out depending on locally available fuels. There are also different sizes of batteries depending on the needs of the driver. A group of students from the Netherlands, Cuba, Hong Kong, Mexico, and India worked on the core design of the vehicle, and a scale model was unveiled in August. Once perfected, Robyn would like to release the design to the public.

When Robyn entered Marin Academy as a ninth grader, it was evident even then that she was going to accomplish great things. “Robyn stood out as a provocative, innovative, environmentally conscientious individual even as a freshman here at MA,” writes Liz Gottlieb, her biology teacher and cross country coach. “She always signed her name ‘Robyn Earth Allen.’ Robyn didn’t just talk about ways to conserve and protect our community but showed us ways to do this (by turning off the van engines when idling, walking to locations vs. driving, working together to brainstorm new ways to look at things, etc). Robyn stood out also as being the one to ask questions that others didn’t even know how to ask,” notes Liz.

Robyn admires the “great culture of learning at Marin Academy.” She took calculus when she was in tenth grade. “I was fortunate that Anita Mattison let me take some advanced placement tests and do that [take calculus]. They wanted to meet me wherever I wanted to take some math. I did some independent study in the summers and took some placement tests; that was a statement to me that MA was really invested in helping me grow and expand,” Robyn says.

Of the 15 students in Robyn’s calculus class, there were only three girls; still, Robyn describes her experience at MA as “very equitable across the board. . . . Anita Mattison was our teacher. There weren’t many women in the class, but there was a woman in front of the class, so that was empowering.”

Anne Perring ‘98, the older sister of Robyn’s classmate Jess Perring, was a role model. “She was a few steps ahead of me, because she’s a few years older,” says Robyn. Anne is completing a PhD in atmospheric chemistry at UC Berkeley and writes, “Robyn has an amazing variety of interests and a completely unfathomable storage of energy with which to pursue them. . . . She is trying to solve one of the most pressing engineering problems of our time. Car companies and scientists alike have been struggling with this for years, and what Robyn and her colleagues lack in resources they more than make up for with enthusiasm, creativity, and innovation. Robyn is not only a source of great inspiration and motivation but also of hope for the future.”
“MA Is Where I Caught the Bug”
Peter Sinn Nachtrieb '92

The summer of 2007 was a busy one for Peter Sinn Nachtrieb '92. He finished a seven-minute play on nanotechnology, rewrote his award-winning play *Hunter Gatherers*, which was performed on Cape Cod, attended readings and performances of his play *Boom* in Providence, Rhode Island, worked on a new play, contributed to the blog on his website, and, well . . . you get the idea . . . it’s not easy to keep up with this energetic (and tall) 33-year-old actor and playwright.

Peter says modestly, “I kind of lucked out, winning some prizes that came with some money.” Those prizes include a $50,000 grant from the Gerbode and Hewlett Foundations for the creation and production of a play at San Francisco’s Encore Theatre in 2009 as well as other grants and awards (see sidebar). Funds from these awards are making it possible for Peter to concentrate on writing and acting, and he’s not having to take any jobs outside theater to get by (Previously he worked part-time as a graphic designer concentrating on websites. “HTML was the waiting tables of the late ‘90s,” says Peter.)

When asked if Marin Academy gave him a good start in theater, Peter replied, “Absolutely. I got a lot of experience in theater at MA. Phoebe Moyer [Marin Academy’s theater teacher at the time] was a huge inspiration. MA is where I caught the bug.” Peter directed a full-length play during his senior year at MA; he also had parts in several shows and took an independent study course with Phoebe.

“I’m delighted by and not at all surprised by Peter’s success,” Phoebe says. “You know it when you see it in the classroom and in rehearsal and then you just wait for the talent to fully blossom. I’m very proud of him.”

Peter was back at Marin Academy in February of this year to give a drama workshop as part of the 2007 Literary Festival. He read from *Hunter Gatherers* and gave the students a writing exercise. English and theater teacher Eugenie Chan invited Peter to participate because “I knew his play would inspire the students,” she says. “I knew he would engender love for theater and playwriting.”

And Peter was popular with the students. “Upon first seeing Peter Nachtrieb, I was immediately struck by his presence,” says Marc Bauthier ’08, who attended Peter’s workshop. “Not because his award-winning play *Hunter Gatherers* is one of the funniest scripts I’ve ever read,” he continues, “but because he seemed so down-to-earth and friendly. His dramatic reading of his play was hilarious, and the workshop was highly educational.”

Peter enjoyed his interaction with MA students and asked jokingly: “These are high school students? They are so thoughtful and intelligent! I think they’ve upped the smart level at Marin Academy since I was there.”

After graduating from MA, Peter went on to Brown University, where he majored in both theater and biology. He took a year off after his junior year at Brown and worked with a fish biologist in Panama. He also earned an MFA in Creative Writing with a focus on Playwriting from San Francisco State University. Biology is still an inspiration; one of the characters in *Boom* is a graduate student specializing in fish, and *Hunter Gatherers* is about the biological impulses and primal urges that reside just below the surface in all of us. “So naturally there’s sex and violence and battles for dominance,” Peter comments. “Everyone is devolving; the cultural veneer is getting stripped away.” These themes can also be seen in *Boom* and in the seven-minute play about nanotechnology. Peter describes the play as “quasi-educational”; it’s in rhymed couplets and concerns two battling scientists.

With his brother George Nachtrieb ’88, Peter is making a movie, part of which was shot on the Marin Academy campus in the summer of 1999. “We’re still finishing it,” says Peter. “It’s been very slow going. We’re almost done—I promise.”

MA
Paul Taylor Dance Company Performs at MA

On October 23, 2006, Marin Academy launched its 35th anniversary year with a sold out performance by the renowned Paul Taylor Dance Company. The program included *Esplanade*, Paul Taylor’s signature work, pictured here with Jamie Rae Walker and Jared Wootan. Marin Academy extends heartfelt thanks to Bob and Paula Reynolds, parents of Peter ’04, Julia ’07 and Charlie ’11, for making the performance possible. The school also extends special thanks to Norton Belknap, grandparent of Peter, Julia, and Charlie, and President of the Paul Taylor Board of Directors, for bringing the New York-based dance company to our campus.

Literary Festival

MA’s 15th Annual Literary Festival was a week-long celebration of the oral and written word presented by the English Department. The Festival’s highlights included a drama workshop with Peter Sinn Nachtrieb ’92 (see page 7), a poetry workshop with Albert Desilver, and a workshop on the spoken word with Josh Begley ’03. The Festival also featured an evening reading by Anne Lamott, whose latest collection of essays is *Grace (Eventually)*. Pulitzer-prize winning poet Natasha Trethewey read from her work, including the recently published *Native Guard*.

Math Night

The biggest math night ever took place on February 21 as students, parents, and faculty gathered to hear NPR’s “Math Guy,” Keith Devlin, debunk untruths about the famous Golden Ratio. Devlin, the author of 25 books on math, linguistics, and cognitive development, enlightened the audience about the Fibonacci series, while student speakers astounded parents and peers with their knowledge of math.
Legendary Filmmaker George Lucas Gives Eighth Thacher Lecture

On April 18, 2007, a capacity crowd of more than 700 gathered for the Eighth Annual Thacher Lecture: a rare evening with legendary filmmaker and producer George Lucas. Eschewing a formal lecture in favor of an onstage conversation with Bodie Brizendine, Mr. Lucas talked about his remarkable journey in the film industry, as well as his personal experiences as a parent of two daughters who graduated from Marin Academy.

Having both joined the MA community in the same year—1995—Bodie as Head of School, and George as a parent—it was entirely fitting that the two of them share the stage for an unforgettable evening.

Marin Academy extends deep appreciation to Mr. Lucas for generously giving his time to MA, and to Bodie for her success in getting him to accept our invitation.

New Approach to Food at MA

Along with the opening of the Bodie Brizendine Leadership Center, the MA Café made its debut at the beginning of the school year. A new consciousness of food and sustainability is evident in the café, which has been drawing students, faculty, and staff with its delicious, mostly local and organic food created by Acre Gourmet. MA’s Eco-Council is credited with helping MA change its awareness as the school moves toward a healthy, sustainable relationship with food. The Eco-Council’s web pages state: “Through integrating into the life of the school nutrition education, garden experiences, composting, and the purchase, preparation, and consumption of nutritious food, the MA Café, in partnership with the wider MA community, strives to help establish and sustain life-long healthy eating habits for every member of our community.”

Gold Key Awards

Seven students from MA have received 22 Gold Key Awards from the National Scholastic Art and Writing Association. Over 100,000 works of visual art were submitted by students in grades 7–12. Nationally renowned artists juried artwork regionally and Gold Keys were awarded to work which they considered the strongest in each medium. Gold Key pieces were sent to New York to be juried on the national level.

Hannah Oppenheim ’07, Olivia Godsey ’08, and Alex Bassett ’09 received gold key awards in ceramics; Kyle Hunter ’07 received an award for drawing and painting; and in photography, Spencer Scheidt ’07, Julian Jensen ’08, and Hannah Rich ’08 were recognized. Alex Bassett’s ceramic sculpture was selected as a finalist in the national competition, and she has been invited to display her work at the Corcoran Art Gallery in Washington, D.C. She also attended a National Scholastic Art and Writing Awards Ceremony at Carnegie Hall in New York City.

The Scholastic Art and Writing Awards are considered the most prestigious recognition program for creative young people in the United States. Established in 1923, the program has distributed more than $20 million in awards and scholarships.
Conference on Democracy
October 12 & 13, 2006

Marin Academy’s Mission Statement asks students to “think, question, and create in an environment of encouragement and compassion, and challenges each person to accept the responsibilities posed by education in a democratic society.” Marin Academy inaugurated the Conference on Democracy in 2004 in an effort to strengthen the connection between our mission and the everyday intellectual and social life of the school. The conference provides a wide array of perspectives on political, social, economic, and environmental issues that our communities face locally, nationally, and globally. The overarching goal of the Conference on Democracy is to provide a comprehensive view of the democratic concept and to examine the question: “What does it mean to prepare students for life in a democratic society?”

In 2006, the Conference on Democracy earned nationwide recognition for Marin Academy from the National Association of Independent Schools as one of 12 Leading Edge schools. Citing excellence in independent education in the category of Equity and Justice, the Leading Edge Award distinguishes the conference as a model that can be adapted and customized by other schools to build successful and sustainable learning environments.

Expanding on the spirit of the Leading Edge Award, the theme of the Fall 2006 Conference was global democracy, with a special emphasis on equity and social justice.

Anna Heldinger, Bill Meyer, and Mark Stefanski, 2006 Conference on Democracy Co-Chairs

Highlights from the 2006 Conference included:

- Screening of the film Soul of Justice, an award-winning documentary about the life and work of Justice Thelton Henderson, Senior Judge of the Federal District of Northern California, and an onstage conversation with Judge Henderson. The son of a domestic worker, Thelton Henderson has spent much of his life as the “first” or “only” African American in his field. He became the first black attorney in the Civil Rights Division of the Justice Department in 1962, the first black member of a prestigious California law firm, and, in 1980, only the second African American ever appointed to the Federal Bench in Northern California.

- Professor Orville Schell, Dean of the Graduate School of Journalism at UC Berkeley

- Reese Erlich, journalist, media critic, author, correspondent for National Public Radio, Marketplace Radio; radio documentary producer

- David Harris, political analyst, journalist, and world environmental correspondent for Rolling Stone magazine; author of The Crisis: The President, the Prophet, and the Shah—1979 and the Coming of Militant Islam

- Dr. Dariush Zahedi, Assistant Professor of International and Area Studies, UC Berkeley; author of The Iranian Revolution Then and Now: Indicators of Regime Instability

- Drs. Richard and Patricia Gibbs, Founders of the San Francisco Free Clinic

- Dr. William Dow, Associate Professor of Health Economics, UC Berkeley; Senior Economist, Council of Economic Advisers, the White House, 2005–2006

- Craig Kielburger, 23-year-old founder of Free the Children, an internationally recognized child rights organization which has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize three times

- Dr. Irene Bloemraad, Assistant Professor of Sociology, UC Berkeley, author of the forthcoming book Becoming a Citizen, which compares immigrants’ acquisition of citizenship and political participation in the United States and Canada

- Mariana Bustamante, Public Education Coordinator of the national ACLU Immigrants’ Rights Project

- Ray Haynes, California Assemblyman, District 66

- Professor Angela Davis, author, internationally acclaimed speaker, scholar, activist, and UC Santa Cruz professor

- John Freidah, award-winning photojournalist, Providence Journal-Bulletin and three-time Pulitzer Prize nominee discussed how photojournalists do their job and presented some of his work with a focus on his two trips to Iraq with the Rhode Island National Guard

- Mill Valley Film Festival at MA, screening of the film Have You Heard from Johannesburg, a ground-breaking documentary combining present-day interviews with historical footage that tells of millions of people around the world who influenced the actions of their governments and multi-national corporations toward the goal of ending apartheid. MA
1 A panel discusses perspectives on immigration policy.

2 Bodie and Bill Meyer speak with conference participants.

3 A panel of health care experts discusses access to health care.

4 Professor Angela Davis.

5 A panel moderated by Jason Rezaian ’94 discusses democracy in Iran.

6 Orville Schell, Dean of the Journalism School at UC Berkeley, discussing democracy and the media.

7 The Honorable Thelton Henderson speaking with a student.
J O’Malley: E.E. Ford Fellowship

Since 1991, the annual E.E. Ford Fellowship has enabled Marin Academy faculty members to pursue an in-depth project that they cannot undertake during the academic year. This year English teacher J O’Malley received the fellowship. Her proposal was to explore Irish culture, specifically Irish literature, to help in the development of an English department elective for the 2008–2009 academic year. Her plans included attending the Bloomsday Festival in Dublin on June 16. The festival commemorates the events in James Joyce’s famous novel Ulysses, all of which occur in Dublin on June 16, 1904. In preparation, J read and reread not only Joyce, but works by George Bernard Shaw, Oscar Wilde, Samuel Beckett, and Seamus Heaney.

“Once it was announced to the faculty that I had been given the E.E. Ford Fellowship and would be traveling to Ireland, the advice and suggestions and books and articles began to come in quickly,” writes J. “It seems many members of the MA community have toured the Emerald Isle and their enthusiasm to share their stories was a clear indication that Ireland is a favorite place to visit and explore. I prepared for my trip by listening to the experiences of my MA friends and became anxious to go so I could return with my own stories.

“I arrived in Dublin on a rainy Friday morning and what struck me most was its familiarity. Though seemingly small and perhaps slightly removed from its European counterparts, it was quite global in many ways. In Dublin, the capital city, I felt as if I could have been walking through any major city in the world.

“Heading west from Dublin I eventually found myself in Galway, on the coast of Ireland. It was here, and in places south such as Killarney, that I felt I was experiencing the Ireland that so many MA folks had discussed. Again, I was struck by the familiarity of it, however this time it was not the city and the sights that seemed to remind me of home, but instead it was the people I met. Walking along the coast of Galway Bay and biking through the Killarney National Park allowed me time to meet many people who were more than willing to talk with me and fill me in on a life very different from my own. It was along these paths that I started to understand, if only briefly, the Irish way of life. And it will be about these smaller towns that I share my own stories of Ireland.”

Katharine Boyd: McEvoy Faculty Sabbatical

The McEvoy Faculty Sabbatical Fund, established in 2005, provides sabbatical funding for faculty members who have served the Marin Academy community for at least seven years. The sabbatical is designed to be restorative and personal, and there are no restrictions or stipulations regarding its use.

Being part of students’ artistic development is inspiring to Katharine Boyd, MA’s beloved teacher of drawing and painting. Teaching also brings balance to her life as an artist. As she explains, “It’s great to get out of my internal process and work with students in their own process of making art.” The busy life of an MA faculty member allows Katharine little time to create her own art during the school year. Eager to focus exclusively on her own work after ten years at MA, Katharine was honored to receive the first McEvoy Faculty Sabbatical for spring 2007.

During the sabbatical, Katharine continued her classes at the School of Classical Realism in Oakland and prepared for her one-person show at the John Ben Snow Gallery in Reno, Nevada, where she grew up and completed her undergraduate studies at the University of Nevada, Reno. Without the MA Day Planner mapping out her days, Katharine transitioned back to “making the work full-time.” As she describes, “I was up at 8 and started making art.” Returning to this self-imposed schedule required great discipline and reminded her how long it takes to get into the artistic process, or “groove.” Katharine remembers, “Some days, it took me more than an hour to get started. I’m amazed how much the students get done when I think about their schedule.”

The sabbatical also provided Katharine time for a much dreamed of art tour of France and Italy; “just to spend time looking at art, looking at the paintings that I’ve always wanted to see.” She and her husband, Andy Somma, traveled for five and a half weeks; one week in Paris, including two days at the Louvre looking exclusively at paintings, then on to Venice and Florence. They finished their travels in the Southern part of Italy, where Andy’s family lives, visiting Pompeii and Naples. Katharine completed her sabbatical by working intensely on a group of drawings. To see her work, Katharine invites you to visit her studio in San Rafael and her website at katharineboyd.com.
Our dear friend and colleague John Petrovsky retired from full-time teaching at Marin Academy in June, but no one who knows John actually believes he will ever completely retire.

We all know John as a man of great intellect with an astounding capacity for life. I could never take on all the commitments that John shoulders. He has more energy than almost anyone I know, and he lives with gusto and true passion.

John is a lifelong learner who leads by example, and this has made him a real master teacher. He loves languages, history, literature, theater, film, music, visual art, and travel abroad, and John infuses his Spanish classes with all these interests, creating a meaningful context for learning the language. His students excel. John’s approach is original, and he does not shy away from trying something new. During my years teaching in the room next door, I heard laughter and enthusiasm from almost each and every class because John brings education to life.

Besides teaching Advanced Placement and Honors classes, John makes time for lots of personal projects and interests. He is Chairman of the Board of the Latino Film Festival, he initiated and will continue to direct the International Studies Emphasis Program at Marin Academy, he guided the World Languages Department as Department Head for many years, he heads WASC committees for evaluations and accreditations of other schools, he has served as a reader for the College Board, he has been a presenter at National Association of Independent Schools conferences, he teaches evening Spanish classes for adults at College of Marin, he is actively involved in Spanish and French reading groups, and he attends plays, musicals, and concerts regularly. John started and continues the very popular tradition of Quiz Bowl in Assemblies at MA. What an appropriate way for students and teachers to celebrate academics and learning!

John is one of the most generous people I have ever known and he loves new adventures, and this, along with all his other attributes, makes John an excellent, wonderful, and loyal friend. He has a terrific sense of humor, and I remember times when we laughed so hard we cried. I’m so grateful that he will always be my dear friend. Thank you, John, for helping make MA and the world better places.

Madelon (DeLauff) Johnson

Craig Barton

The years removed from pre-calculus, I still sing the praises of Craig and tell the stories of class. I feel for future students who will never have the joy I did in being his pupil. Craig made school a true joy. What struck me most about Craig’s style was the thought he put into every decision. His teaching style was not a photocopy of someone else’s. He adopted policies not by asking, “What is everyone else doing?” but by asking, “What would be best and most fair to the students?”

Many teachers expound the value of homework and tests but fail to fully utilize them as teaching tools instead of just benchmarks. Craig knew that when you turn something in, you have many questions about how well you did, whether some part was done correctly, or if the technique you applied was the best one. If some part is not correct, you want to fix your method before it gets reinforced. As time passes, these questions fade along with the didactic value of the problem. Craig made it his priority to return quizzes, homework, and tests the very next day. We were all blown away by this.

It’s easy to get discouraged when you do poorly on an assignment. Craig’s answer was an incentive that maintained our motivation. Craig would raise any test by up to five points if we scored higher on the following test. This small incentive forced me to study harder and receive higher grades.

While Craig was not officially my history teacher, he took on that role one day to help me with an assignment that had a large naval component. With the same warm spirit he brought to the classroom, Craig eagerly shared stories and knowledge from his Navy days.

Far and above the funniest moment of class happened in the midst of learning about the Sine function. Out of the blue, Craig pointed out that “sinusoidal” was “kind of a sexy word.” I would never have noticed. Craig opened up the world of sexy math-words.

Outside of class, I enjoyed taking diver-certification with Craig. This led to fun dive trips to Monterey and Catalina while John Hicks was on sabbatical. Guiding a rowdy Minicourse group through five modes of transportation (including LAX) must compare with torture, but Craig made the experience utterly enjoyable. As in the classroom, Craig was not so much our guide as our friend.

I will always have an appreciation for Craig and the “sinusoidal” job he did.

Tim Conn ’99
The Year in Sports: Donning the Red and Black

By Joe Harvey
hat does it mean to don the red and black of the Wildcats? What do our teams commence when they take the field, or the floor, or the trail, or the pool to compete for Marin Academy? It means participating in something larger than oneself—something that stretches back into the past and out into the future of the school and Wildcat teams. Integral to this act is the distinction between strong teams and a strong program. While a team has the present—the assembled group of athletes and coaches facing a season’s worth of opponents—to draw on, a program has its past and the vision of its future in addition to the present. All those elements become sources of inspiration and strength, and the circle widens to include an entire community and the daily practice of the part athletics play in an education.

What does a strong program look like? How about Varsity Boys and Girls Swimming? Back-to-back Bay Counties League-West (BCL-West) Champions, the two teams have combined for 16 league championships over the past decade! The boys have been undefeated league champions for the past four years in a row—what an achievement!

Here’s another: Varsity Volleyball. Over the past four years, respectively, MA teams were BCL-West, North Coast Section (NCS) and Northern California finalists in 2003, BCL-West, NCS, NorCal, and California Interscholastic Foundation (CIF) State Champions in 2004, NCS 2nd round qualifiers in 2005, and this past year BCL-West finalists and NCS 2nd round qualifiers once more. Natalie Dunn ’07 played on all those teams, and her leadership has helped to provide the bridge between our 2004 state champions and the young team continuing to build the legacy of MA Volleyball.

Don’t forget Cross Country. Led by the fastest individuals in MA history, Alesandra Roger ’08 and T Bliska ’08, the program continues to forge ahead onto new ground. The girls’ team has qualified for the CIF State Championships as a team—an achievement limited to the top four teams at the NCS meet—for two of the past three years, establishing a new level for the school.

Speaking of standards rising, did you know that Dedrick Allen ’08 pushed MA’s high jump record from 5’2” up to 5’10” this spring?

What about our 2006 BCL-West and NCS Champions Boys Varsity Soccer? Ending the season ranked number one in the Far West Region and number seven nationally among schools of all sizes, the Wildcats finished the year 23-1 and were undefeated versus all Marin County schools, including the MCAL champions.

The final championship of the year was taken home by Wildcat Softball. It was the program’s second BCL-West title in four years; this year’s seniors were part of the championship squad as 9th graders, and led their team this year—including a healthy group of 9th graders—to the title. Look for more championship softball in the future as the legacy of remarkable classes resonates in the years ahead.

We are hanging an additional banner—one that we’ve all played a part in bringing home—on the New Gym wall: the 2006–07 BCL-West Sportsmanship Banner, voted by the athletic directors and Heads of School of the BCL-West and awarded by the North Coast Section. It is a testament to the way MA strives to compete: by honoring the game—honoring teammates, opponents, officials, and fans. We should all take pride in that banner, and also look to continue strengthening the legacy of MA’s mission-driven athletic program.
These results do not come by accident—our coaches and student-athletes drive the process. Over the year, MA’s team captains and I met to discuss leadership, team development, and other issues that were arising for them in captaining their teams. I’ve been so impressed with these young men and women; they have a highly defined sense of leadership and responsibility and consistently look to shoulder the most difficult tasks facing their teammates. Their influence will stretch on well beyond an individual season; in fact, it’s closer to six years. Think of the class of 2010, who this year have witnessed the modeling of our current crop of captains (many of them seniors). When they themselves are seniors—potentially captains but nonetheless leaders of their teams—the lessons taught by the class of 2007 will still resonate . . . and stretch out to another group of ninth graders, this time the class of 2013.

One of my favorite testaments to the program MA continues to build came in an outpouring of email messages to Coach Josh Kalkstein as the boys’ soccer team headed into a tough NCS semi-final up at the combination rodeo grounds/soccer field of Anderson Valley. Writing on the eve of the game, Ben Blake ’02 (former captain and part of two NCS champion teams) recalled trips his own teams had made to the same field years earlier as they sought MA’s first NCS title—not just in soccer, but in school history. He wrote: “I think it’s uncannily appropriate—maybe even fate—that you guys are going to Anderson Valley Wednesday to play a game that is essentially the gateway to the NCS championship. I don’t know if any of the current players are aware of the history, but that heart-breaking last-minute loss there my sophomore year was, at least in my mind, the catalyst for our success the following season in which we won NCS for the first time.

You are playing for something bigger than yourselves and more lasting than the current season. On behalf of the dozens of players from teams past, we wish you success in the coming week.”

What does it mean to don the red and black of MA? It means honoring the game, honoring the opponents who challenge you to be your very best. It means honoring the MA Wildcats who have come before you, establishing the strength of the program, and who continue to follow your progress today. All that history and support is there for you. Finally, it means that you are creating something that will stretch on beyond your time at MA, resonating through the seasons and years ahead. Go Wildcats! Go!

Joe Harvey was Marin Academy’s Athletic Director for three years, from 2004 through 2007. He has taught English at MA for seven years and is currently Academic Dean.
College Choices for the Class of 2007

American University
Bard College (6)
Beloit College
Boston College
Bowdoin College (3)
Brandeis University
Brown University
Bucknell University (2)
University of California at Berkeley (2)
University of California at Davis (3)
University of California at Los Angeles (2)
University of California at Riverside (2)
University of California at Santa Barbara (3)
University of California at Santa Cruz (2)
California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo
University of Chicago
Colby College
Colorado College (2)
Cornell University
Dickinson College
Emerson College
Georgetown University
Goucher College
Johns Hopkins University
Lake Forest College
Macalester College
McGill University
Middlebury College (2)
New York University (6)
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Northwestern University (2)
Oberlin College (5)
Occidental College (2)
Parsons School of Design, New School University
Pitzer College
University of Puget Sound (3)
Rhode Island School of Design
University of Rochester
Santa Clara University
Scripps College (2)
Skidmore College (2)
University of Southern California (4)
Stanford University (7)
Trinity College Dublin
Tufts University (2)
Vassar College (2)
University of Vermont
Wellesley College
Wesleyan University (2)
Whitman College (2)
Yale University
The Headmaster’s Cup was established in 1987 by James Thacher, founding Board President, to honor the centering values of Marin Academy inspired by the school’s first Headmaster, William McCluskey. The graduate receiving this cup best exemplifies the ideals of the school, while nurturing and demonstrating a deep moral commitment in all that he or she does. In his or her relationship with peers, the faculty, and the administration, this student has demonstrated strong mind and character.

Eva Orbuch received the Headmaster’s Cup for 2007. Head of School Bodie Brizendine had these words to share about Eva when presenting the award at graduation: “This year’s recipient is a young woman who has about her the hope for the future. With a quiet radiance and with an equally fierce determination, she finds that good space between invitation and imperative and makes us all pay attention to the call of what it means to be part of this world. She is, to put it simply, a seeker of a better social order, and in that quest will never accept no, or not now, or never, words virtually non-existent in her lexicon. Throughout her years at MA she has not only been a leader in the Peace and Justice Coalition and a stalwart member of our Eco-Council, but also an absolutely top and industrious scholar who loves nothing more than to grapple with the unanswerable, the difficult, and the unknown.” Eva Orbuch is currently a freshman at Stanford University.

Founded in 1906, the Cum Laude Society is dedicated to honoring scholastic achievement in secondary schools. Selection for Cum Laude at Marin Academy is not simply a calculation of the academic grade point average; requirements for membership include intellectual engagement and generosity of spirit. In May, twenty members of the Class of 2007 were inducted into the Cum Laude Society. Arthur Chan ’03 spoke at the induction ceremony.

Left to right: Eric Wolff, Sam Zimmerman, Stephanie Mariani, Alex Crane, Spencer Scheidt, Elena Smith, Rachel Schrier, Megan Snyder, Elsinore Smiss Carabetta, Sheilan Kazzaz, Sylvia Linsteadt, Cooper Rogers, Kyle Lemie, Kyle Hunter, Alison Jebrock, Woods Buckley, David Feder, Ben Denton-Schneider, Philip Balliet.

Not pictured: Julia Leonard.
Spencer Scheidt ’07 Named Morehead Scholar

Spencer Scheidt ’07 is the first Marin Academy graduate to receive the prestigious Morehead-Cain Scholarship, the oldest and one of the most competitive merit scholarship programs in the United States. The Morehead Scholarship pays all expenses for four years of undergraduate study at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, and includes four summer enrichment programs. Forty scholars are chosen from North Carolina and forty additional scholars come from around the country. Spencer is one of only two Morehead Scholars from California.

Spencer will begin his studies at UNC in the fall of 2008; this academic year, the Morehead-Cain Foundation is funding study and travel for Spencer in Thailand, India, and Vietnam. “You have to submit a proposal and convince them you are not wasting their money,” Spencer says.

Once at UNC, Spencer will participate in an honors program that features small seminar-style classes. Expectations are high for the Morehead Scholars: they need to keep up their grade point average and most take leadership roles at UNC or in the community.

Each summer has a different flavor. The time between the first two years of college focuses on outdoor leadership; the second summer has a community service component. “My romantic fantasy is going to the Amazon for environmental work,” says Spencer.

Besides a top-quality education with summer enrichment programs and travel, Morehead also offers scholars a network of alumni and peers. “They have alums everywhere—they and they all look out for the current crop of scholars,” Spencer says. To date, 41 Morehead Scholars have been awarded Rhodes Scholarships to study at Oxford University in England.

Spencer explains that Bill Henley, Marin Academy’s Co-Director of College Counseling, was the driving force behind his getting the scholarship. Bill writes, “Spencer emerged as our clear choice for the Morehead Scholarship based on his academic record (superb!), his physical vigor (two-sport athlete), and his leadership skills (both in the classroom and out). We knew that he had that special enthusiasm for learning and a willingness to stretch his boundaries, and I’m just thrilled that the Morehead folks saw the same qualities in Spencer that we did.”

After his nomination, Spencer went to a three-day meeting in Chapel Hill for the final selection process; it was his first trip to the South. Spencer explains, “North Carolina was not on my college radar before I was nominated, but it certainly was after.”

Kai Hinson ’07: Traveling the World with the Discovery Channel

Kai Hinson ’07 is one of three teenagers selected from more than 1,000 applicants to take part in a remarkable adventure: an around-the-world journey seeking answers to serious environmental problems.

During the first three months of the expedition, Kai and her companions traveled to Belize, where they studied over-fishing; to Antarctica, where they investigated global warming; and to Inner Mongolia, where they learned about desertification. Their adventures are being filmed for a 13-part documentary series, Generation Earth, which will air on the Discovery Kids channel. “Their mission is not simply to learn about these problems but also to find solutions that young people everywhere can be a part of,” according to the project’s website.

Kai wrote essays on her application that showed her commitment to improving the global environment. “You can be a role model in your own community or school,” Kai says. “Start a recycling system, or compost at home or at school. Print on both sides of paper.”

In May the group was in Virginia’s Shenandoah Valley studying agricultural runoff and in New York investigating air pollution. Kai then returned to San Rafael to march in MA’s graduation ceremonies. Next summer the group will travel to Africa to investigate species preservation and competition for resources while they work with elephants in Kenya.

“In addition to being very smart and thoughtful, Kai is passionate about the natural world and environmental issues,” writes Mark Stefanski, Henry David Thoreau Faculty Chair, who taught Kai in his Advanced Biology Honors class. “She’s participating in a biologist’s dream. I am really happy for her, and maybe just a tad envious!”

Kai’s experiences while traveling and studying the environment had an impact on how she views the world. “Each place taught me a new lesson about the environment and the way people interact with their resources;” she says. “Before I began traveling I believed that everyone, no matter what, should make choices that have a positive effect on our world. However, after traveling to Belize and speaking to some illegal fisherman, I realized that some people do not have the privilege of making environmentally conscious decisions . . . they struggle everyday just to feed their families. Now that I am home, hardly a day has passed when I don’t think about the people I met on my travels who were so affected by a crumbling world . . . When I shower I think of the farmer and his family that I met in China, who have only have a small supply of polluted drinking water . . . I believe that small actions and a big perspective can have a great and positive impact on our world,” she states. “As someone who has the privilege of making environmentally conscious decisions, I plan to do my part.”

MA
Upcoming Events

Wednesday, November 21, 2007
Young Alumni Reunion at noon.
Alumni Cross Country Run at 1:30 p.m.

Friday, November 23, 2007
Alumnae vs. Girls Varsity Basketball Game at 5 p.m.
Alumni vs. Boys Varsity Basketball Game at 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, February 7, 2008 at 7 p.m.
Club7 Book Club in Marin Academy Library
*Nickel and Dimed: on (Not) Getting by in America*
by Barbara Ehrenreich

Thursday, February 28, 2008
New York City Reunion

Friday, March 7, 2008 at 7 p.m.
Club7 Book Club in Marin Academy Library
*The Plot Against America*
by Philip Roth

Monday, April 7, 2008 at 7 p.m.
Club7 Book Club in Marin Academy Library
*The Omnivore's Dilemma: a Natural History in Four Meals*
by Michael Pollan

Wednesday, May 7, 2008 at 7 p.m.
Club7 Book Club in Marin Academy Library
*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*
by Mark Haddon

Tuesday, May 20 at 3:30 p.m.
Cum Laude Induction Ceremony

Friday, June 6 at 12 noon
Alumni/Senior Lunch

Saturday, June 7, 2008 at 4 p.m.
Graduation on MA Field

MA Receives $1 Million Gift for Alumni Challenge

It is with tremendous excitement that Marin Academy announces a landmark challenge gift of $1 million dollars from an alumni family to encourage alumni investment in MA’s future. The Alumni Challenge will generously match new or increased gifts from MA’s largest and most enduring constituency—it’s alumni.

This gift is an extraordinary vote of confidence in Marin Academy as an educational resource that matters, and the 2500 men and women who grew up at 1600 Mission Avenue.

In the coming weeks, we will bring you more information about this dynamic initiative. We gratefully acknowledge the inspired philanthropy and vision in creating an unprecedented partnership with alumni—a partnership that will expand access to an MA education for future students from throughout the Bay Area.
Alumni Profile in Brief

Arthur Chan ’03 graduated from Georgetown University in 2007. He is one of 12 students selected from more than 230 applicants nationwide to receive a George J. Mitchell Scholarship for the 2007-2008 academic year. The annual scholarship, created in 1998 to honor the former Maine senator’s role in the Northern Ireland peace process, finances a year of graduate studies at one of Ireland’s academic institutions. Arthur will use his scholarship to pursue a master’s degree in migration and diaspora studies at University College Cork in southern Ireland.

Two things drove him to study immigration: Arthur’s parents immigrating to the United States and growing up as a second-generation Asian-American. During his college summer vacations, he worked as a social work volunteer in San Francisco’s public defenders office and taught middle school students at Marin Academy’s Crossroads program. It was a Crossroads video production class where he helped the students to understand that they had a story—that everyone did—that set him on his path of making films.

“I became fascinated with the individual stories of risk and innovation. Immigrants are not victims, but rather the most resourceful members of our society. Now, I see immigration as the most contemporary force of change in our world. So I look at it not as a ‘random’ course of study, but rather a field that prepares me to be knowledgeable with what drives our world now and more importantly, in the future.”

Why Ireland? Its history as a country where people emigrated from and its new identity as a country that people are immigrating to makes it a perfect place to study these issues. He hopes that going abroad is a way to make sense of what is going on at home in the United States.

In Cork, Arthur will continue to pursue film by volunteering at the city’s International Film Festival, known around the world for its support of the short film. In fact, he submitted the film he made his senior year. In the future, as he pursues his love of film, he will be blending his studies with his work experience and knows that it will add up to helping immigrants to tell their story.

Wendy Levine
Violinist Owen Dalby ’02 has been awarded a fellowship in an exciting new program that has him performing 25 concerts at Carnegie Hall and the Juilliard School, as well as at other New York City venues.

Owen will be playing in groups made up of the 30 young musicians in the program, all of whom are beginning professional careers. Since playing chamber music is his favorite thing, this program is perfect for Owen. “It’s an interesting entrée into the New York music world,” he adds.

The program, known as The Academy, gives fellows access to Juilliard’s rehearsal space, library, and faculty; it also affords them the opportunity to teach music in the New York City public schools.

“Our joint goal is to help define and create the musician of the future, for whom engagement with community and education is as central to their lives as is the highest level of performance,” says Clive Gillinson, Carnegie Hall’s Executive and Artistic Director.

Owen is looking forward to lessons with members of Juilliard’s faculty over the course of the year. “I don’t have to tie myself to one teacher,” he explains. “I can go for specific needs.”

Before coming to Marin Academy, Owen studied in Berkeley at the Crowden School, which emphasizes musical training along with academics. Owen found that “MA was great” for a young musician. “Chamber Gladiators [MA’s chamber music program] was going strong, with some particularly good players” during his years at MA. Chamber music coach Julie Feldman “was open-minded and supportive, and let me do what I needed to,” says Owen. “We put on some really great concerts.” Many in the MA community remember those concerts, particularly one in June 2002, when Sir Simon Rattle conducted the New Century Chamber Orchestra in a benefit for MA at Herbst Theatre in San Francisco. Owen and clarinetist Sacha Rattle ’02, joined Sir Simon on piano for Mozart’s “Kegelstatt” Trio. That performance demonstrated the particularly high level chamber music has reached at Marin Academy.

Owen continued his education at Yale, where he earned both bachelor’s and master’s degrees. While a student at Yale, Owen served as concertmaster of both the Yale Symphony Orchestra and the Philharmonia Orchestra of Yale. He also toured as soloist with the Yale Symphony, performing concertos by Mendelssohn and Bartók. With pianist Alexander Rabin, Owen was a top prizewinner at the 2007 Lyon International Chamber Music Competition for violin and piano duo. Owen has premiered over 30 chamber and solo works by emerging composers, and he performs early music on the Baroque violin as well.

Owen spent part of last summer at the Kneisel Hall Chamber Music Festival in Blue Hill, Maine, studying with a member of the Juilliard String Quartet and playing chamber music, including lots of Brahms. Later he settled in Queens, New York, where he is teaching in the New York City public schools as part of his fellowship.

Owen is especially looking forward to the concerts in Carnegie Hall with different combinations of the 30 fellows, who include pianists and wind players as well as string players. “We’ll all perform together in various combinations,” explains Owen, who will also have the opportunity to make music with guest artists appearing at Carnegie Hall. “Simon Rattle will be at Carnegie in November with the Berlin Philharmonic,” Owen says. “I haven’t seen him since we did the gala concert.” Owen will also participate in encore presentations of new works commissioned for Carnegie Hall’s current season at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, New York.
In Memoriam

Jay Schlendorf ’75
Jay Schlendorf of Tahoe City, California, passed away on June 2, 2007. Born in Hillsborough, California, he attended North Hillsborough School. After moving to San Francisco with his family, Jay attended San Rafael Military Academy and then Marin Academy. He attended College of the Redwoods before joining the Navy and travelling the world for six years. He chose the most beautiful spot in all his travels in which to live—Lake Tahoe—and never left. Jay was an avid fisherman and hunter from Alaska to the southern tip of Baja California.

During his senior year at Marin Academy, Jay commuted to school every day with his classmate Mark Redor. “I remember Jay as a very loyal and trusting friend with a unique sense of humor,” writes Mark. Jay is survived by his brothers Lee Schlendorf of San Diego and Scott Schlendorf of Harvard, Illinois.

David Untermeyer ’77
David Untermeyer of Lynnwood, Washington, died August 17, 2006, from complications related to leukemia. David was born and raised in San Francisco and was educated at Town School for Boys, Marin Academy, and Lewis & Clark College in Portland.

David was in the food and beverage business for many years including stints with the St. Francis Hotel and the Westin and Hilton chains. He enjoyed fishing, riding horses, and was a huge fan of the San Francisco 49’ers and Giants. He is survived by his wife, Anne, and his brother Andrew ’79 of Bend, Oregon.

Andrew shares that he “and the rest of David’s family were glad to see fellow Marin Academy alums Peter Getler, Mike Rhein, and Hugh Westermeyer at his service in September 2006 in Seattle. David had nothing but positive memories of his days at MA, including but not limited to a minicourse in Alaska and soccer games. . . . David also participated in wrestling at MA. I was never quite sure what to think when he would try to make weight by spitting for hours on end into a cup or react to his ‘oh so tight’ uniform and what he did to me in it, as I was often the unwilling recipient of a new move or technique that he picked up at practice.”

Mark Dayton ’78 writes, “In the book of my life, Barbara merits special mention. . . . She gave me what few others have: appreciation for insight; for dreaming; for the inner voice. She was for me, and others at the Art Barn [Marin Academy’s present-day maintenance shed], a true teacher. Barbara made all of us feel that we could be artists.”

Polly Becker ’81 writes, “I feel lucky when I remember many hours spent in the Art Barn. Barbara created such a pleasant, comfortable, emotional atmosphere. I really felt it was my place, my base within the school. Barbara was loving, affirmative, and accepting as she ushered us along in our artistic pursuits. The suggestion was clear: if you free your mind and relax, good things will come of it.”

When Barbara retired from teaching, she returned to Chicago. Her son Jim Montague tells us that when asked about her retirement, Barbara’s reply was to say her job “is to be a joyful presence.” Barbara Gardener certainly lived up to that calling.

Barbara Gardener
Marin Academy’s extraordinary founding art teacher, Barbara (Montague) Gardener, passed away at her home in Geneva, Illinois, on February 11, 2007, surrounded by her family. She was our friend and mentor. Students, teachers, and administrators alike sought her out for her artful listening, exquisite intellect, vast life experience, and courageous integrity. She was a tall woman of Scottish descent whose soft-spoken words drew us in. Her insights left us with a sense of understanding our lives a little bit better.

Leonard Kingsley’
Leonard Kingsley, a friend of Marin Academy, died on August 11, 2007, at the age of 78. He was committed to social causes such as civil rights and social responsibility and also served in leadership positions with major arts organizations including the San Francisco Symphony and the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco. Mr. Kingsley earned an MBA from Harvard and moved to San Francisco in 1957. He formed a real estate investment group that was eventually known as KSW Properties. He was also a part-time faculty member at San Francisco State University, where he taught Corporate Social Responsibility.

Mr. Kingsley is survived by his wife, Sylvia Morton Hunter Kingsley, one of the original founders of Marin Academy; two children, Stephen Kingsley and Andrea Kingsley Rippee; and four grandchildren. His nephews, Dan Kingsley, is the father of Danielle Kingsley ’05, Tyler Kingsley ’08, and Blaire Kingsley ’11. MA
Ways of Giving

Marin Academy wishes to acknowledge the generosity of its school community. Ongoing support is essential for the school to grow and flourish.

There are numerous ways to give:

**Annual Fund**
Gifts of cash, securities, or property supplement the operating budget and provide funding for special programs. A gift of securities also brings the donor two significant advantages: The donor avoids paying capital gains tax on the increased value of the stock or property and receives a charitable deduction for the full fair market value of the gift when the gift is made. Some employers offer matching gift programs, which increase the value of the gifts to the school.

**Special Gifts**
Honor/Memorial Gifts: These are gifts of cash, securities, or property made in honor or memory of an individual or group. These gifts may be restricted for scholarship, endowment, or special interest of the donor.

Scholarship and Endowment Funds: These funds support the financial aid and student life programs of the school. Marin Academy welcomes support of existing funds as well as new funds and endowments initiated by the donor.

Professional Development: These gifts support faculty professional development opportunities.

**Planned Giving**
Bequests: These include gifts of cash, securities, or property provided in the donor’s will. A bequest is not subject to estate taxes and may provide tax benefits. This is a wonderful way to remember the school.

Designated Beneficiary of Retirement Plans: Significant savings of both income and estate taxes can be achieved by naming Marin Academy as a beneficiary of your IRA, Keogh, or 401(k) retirement plan.

Other Deferred Gifts: It is possible to make gifts of property that may allow tax benefits for the donor during his or her lifetime, may be used during the lifetime of the donor, and which would revert to Marin Academy, with possible estate savings.

Institutions can achieve stability and growth through planned giving. Contact your tax advisor for specific advice that relates to your particular circumstances.

Please contact Director of Institutional Advancement Anna Heidinger if you have any questions about ways of giving to Marin Academy.

415.453.3616 ext. 224
aheidinger@ma.org
Board of Trustees

Retiring Board Members

Jim Thacher
It is difficult to think of our Board of Trustees without Jim Thacher’s presence. Founding Board member and veteran of several terms, Jim, above all others, has lead, served, counseled, and shaped the MA Board of Trustees with an endearing and enduring quality of high-minded thinking and moral rectitude. He has been and will always remain the epitome of the word stewardship. With deep humanity and extraordinary faith in both an idea and an ideal, Jim grew our school and has made a veritable lifework out of it since. For 35 years Jim and his effervescent wife, Gladys, have been in tireless service to our school, be it watching from afar or working at the table, be it in support of faculty or in deep appreciation of our students. They both have been an ineffable presence at MA for which we remain forever thankful.

There is a special and indissoluble bond between MA and Jim Thacher, and he will always be, simply put, our leader. Thank you, Jim.

Terry Hodel
After ten years of service, Terry Hodel, our fearless Chair of the Finance Committee and stalwart, long-term member, will be retiring from the Board of Trustees. A plain-speaker of clear truths, Terry has seen us through every construction project, two bond services, and twelve years of budget-making, every year in the black! With a fierce attachment to the growth of our school, Terry’s remarkable service has extended far beyond his second daughter’s, Alexa’s, graduation, putting in hours and hours of volunteer service in a multitude of meetings.

With a warm heart and a cool head, Terry has secured the school’s finances into a position of strength and security not only for today, but for tomorrow as well. Intelligent, highly responsible, and generous, Terry Hodel has been an invaluable partner to this school and will be sorely, sorely missed by us all.

Bodie Brizendine

New Board Members

Gray Boyce has volunteered extensively in a variety of capacities at Marin Academy, Marin Country Day School, and Marin Horizon School. Her most recent experience focuses on fundraising and development. She co-chaired Marin Academy’s 2005–2006 and 2006–2007 Annual Fund drives and will continue in this capacity during the upcoming school year. Gray worked in corporate finance after earning her BA and MBA degrees from Stanford University. She lives in Mill Valley with her husband, Tom Bliska, and their children, Thomas ’08 and Bryn ’10.

A well-known and respected educational leader, Dick Drew recently retired after 15 years as the beloved Head of School at Crystal Springs Uplands School in Hillsborough. Dick earned a bachelor’s degree in American Studies from Amherst College and a master’s degree in History from Stanford University. He did additional post-graduate work at the University of Colorado at Boulder and at Harvard’s Graduate School of Education. Dick spent 23 years at Kent Denver School in Englewood, Colorado, where he taught history and was Head of School. Most recently, Dick was Interim President of Oxbow School in Napa. He has served as a board member of the California Association of Independent Schools and as chair of the Board of Directors of the National Association of Independent Schools. Dick Drew is currently Marin Academy’s Interim Head of School.

Christine Thompson Lee earned degrees from the University of California, Santa Barbara, and Harvard University. Her varied career has included teaching, television production and writing, financial management, and business and educational administration. She is married to Chris Lee and is the mother of Kathryn and Eric ’08. Christine was a founding member and President of the Kenwood Education Foundation in the Sonoma Valley, and is this year’s President of Marin Academy Parents’ Association.

Michael Parish earned an MBA from the University of Colorado and is a partner and managing member at Lone Tree Properties, a real estate investment firm. Michael is past President of the Board and a current Trustee at the Katherine Delmar Burke School in San Francisco and is actively involved with the Natural Resources Defense Council. He is a devoted bicyclist, cross-country skier, and scuba diver. Michael lives in San Francisco with his wife, Anne, and two daughters, Meredith and Chelsea ’10.
2007–2008
Board of Trustees

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Paula Reynolds
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Seth Barad
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Gray Boyce
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Dick Drew
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Peter Michael
Braden More ’91
Lawrie Mott
Al Oppenheim
Philip Ouyang
Michael Parish
Jenny Rosenberg
Faculty Representative
Paul Simpson ’97

Board of Trustees
Front row, left to right: Braden More ’91, Sarah Godsey, Damon Kerby, Paula Reynolds.
Second row: Juan Carlos Arauz, Stuart Lum, Jenny Rosenberg, Gray Boyce. Third row:
Christine Lee, Donna Clay-Conti, Pam Keon, Nancy Hoffman, Al Oppenheim, M.D.
Fourth row: Lawrie Mott, Nick Boodrookas, Philip Ouyang, Barry Neal, Paul Simpson 
Not pictured: John DeShano, Ann Mathieson, Peter Michael.
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Questions? Email alumni@ma.org