

# columns

winter 2005



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## MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

Dear

Friends, Welcome to another edition of *Columns*, the online magazine for the friends and families of Forsyth Country Day School. Here in Lewisville, it's hard to believe that March is finally upon us, as we've seen little of the wintry weather we expect in, well, winter.

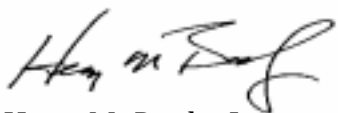
With the arrival of spring imminent, one major issue dominates our seniors' thoughts: college acceptances. The news is superb from the college counseling office. Those who didn't opt for early decision are just now hearing from their college choices, and we've already had many impressive acceptances and decisions. Upper School Director Joel Cordray will bring you up to speed on events in his division and share with you an article about the great community spirit we see from our students in grades nine through twelve. Lower School Director Norris Baker and Middle School Director/Associate Headmaster Chuck Jones will bring you the latest news from our younger students, and Upper School English Department Chair Tim Blackburn has written a great article about why children don't read anymore (and what we can do to reverse that trend). Also in this issue, Johnson Academic Center Director Joyce Henson discusses that critical program through the lens of a special moment at the recent Special Olympics.

You'll also hear about two recent "top secret" events held to honor current and former faculty members: the re-dedication of the Jeanette M. Smith Lower School Library in honor of our librarian emeritus and the re-naming of the Middle School after our own Master Fury, John Danforth. In *Alumni Notes*, you'll get all the news that's fit to print about our FCDS alumni, from new jobs to new spouses to new babies, and you'll hear from a number of fellow Furies to whom we are exceedingly grateful for their military service abroad. Finally, Director of Development Todd Hartung will update you on our capital projects, and David Johnson, Director of the Annual Fund, will bring you the latest update on this year's historic Annual Fund.

Speaking of making history (and the Annual Fund), if we met our admittedly high goal this year, we could really shake things up around here...in the most positive way. Not only would we be covering the operating budget gap that exists between tuition dollars and expenses, but we would raise enough money to fund three major capital projects - the Furr Field House, the Livengood Center, and the Lower School Dining Hall. If you haven't yet given to the 2004-2005 Annual Fund, I urge you to go online at [http://www.fcds.org/alumni/annual\\_fund.asp](http://www.fcds.org/alumni/annual_fund.asp), and watch a special and compelling video message from our own John Danforth.

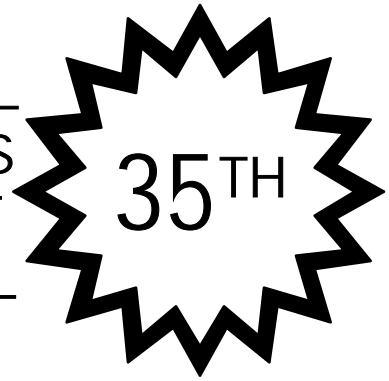
From all of us at Forsyth Country Day School, we hope you enjoy this magazine. We wish for you a wonderful year. And, most importantly, thanks for being part of our FCDS family.

Sincerely yours,



Henry M. Battle, Jr.  
Headmaster

# FORSYTH COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL COMMUNITY CELEBRATES ANNIVERSARY OF THE SCHOOL



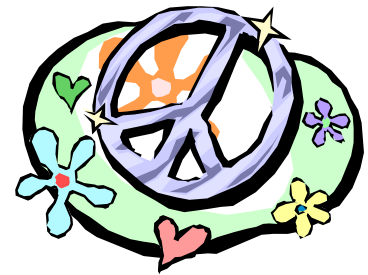
*by John Danforth*

**O**n Friday, February 25, FCDS celebrated the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding. It was a very special day in the history of the school.



Thanks to the efforts of the Parents' Association, led by President Kim Butler, everyone in the FCDS community was involved in the

Danforth led students and teachers in special games that were popular in the school's early years. On Friday evening, the adults continued the celebration at Forsyth Country Club, with a cocktail party, dinner, and dancing to the music of the renowned band, Liquid Pleasure. Thanks to Co-chairs Kathryn and Bruce Brown and Kate and Tim Cooper for coordinating a wonderful evening.



all-day celebration. Students dressed in school colors of blue and white or in fashionable clothes from the 1970s. All students and faculty were presented a special 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary t-shirt, courtesy of the Parents' Association. Blue and white balloons adorned the school, and students feasted on birthday cake. At an all-school assembly Friday afternoon, students and faculty were treated to a special celebration. There was a costume contest at each of the Lower, Middle, and Upper School levels, with prizes of "disco balls" awarded to the winners. John



So many current and past families, teachers, and students came out to celebrate this special occasion and honor our founders for their vision and hard work to make our school a reality. Our beginnings were humble, but thanks to our founding families' persistence and dedication, Forsyth Country Day School is fast becoming one of the best independent schools in the region.



# Points of Perspective

**T**he **LOWER SCHOOL** continues to be a busy, exciting place to work, learn, and play. We invite anyone who needs a lift to visit the Lower School for a classroom visit or to observe the children through the Pre-K and Kindergarten viewing windows.

As an ongoing theme this year, the Lower School faculty has focused on hope, optimism, and determination. As a tangible reminder, each faculty member received a starfish lapel pin along with a story explaining its significance.

In the Lower School's desire for continuing staff development, the Kindergarten teachers attended a Staff Development for Educators Conference in Greensboro on December 9 and 10. Also, Jacqui Chance, P.E. teacher for Pre-K through Grade 2, was a presenter at the N.C. State Conference of Athletics, Health, Physical Education, and Dance at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro on November 18. Several Lower School students, escorted by parents, joined her for a demonstration.

In October, the Kindergarten classes featured their annual Dads' visits, and this year Headmaster Hank Battle was among those fathers.

The Kindergarten students also completed a unit of study on Native Americans in November, held a feast featuring native dishes, and went on a field trip to the Museum of Anthropology at Wake Forest for a program about Native Americans.

On December 3, the second graders visited Old Salem to attend the Candle Tea, and the fourth graders performed a musical program for the shoppers at Hanes Mall on December 10. In

**N**ow that we're the **JOHN A. DANFORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL**, we know we have a lot to live up to, but with the great students and faculty we have in this division, life in the "middle" is a good thing.

Before we went away for the holidays, our students put on two great concerts. The Middle School Band and Orchestra performed one night, and our chorus took the stage two days later. Both performances were excellent, energetic, and well-attended by parents. In athletics, the Middle School teams are doing well and having fun, moving quite successfully past the first cuts we've ever had to make in sports at this level because so many students went out for basketball.

We've changed our physical appearance, too. In keeping with the man we're named for, we've become extremely colorful, with the door frames in each hall painted a bright new color. This not only lightens up the hallways, but it helps visitors better understand where they are. Each hall is coded by a color (green for eighth, orange for seventh, yellow for sixth, and red for fifth)

in addition, all Lower School students participated in a Holiday Music Program, "Joy to the World," which was presented to parents, grandparents, and other visitors on December 17 in the Childress Activities Center.

Many of the Lower School classes have shown support for our troops in Iraq by sending letters and packages to Jessica and Jennifer Ryu, friends of the Sprinkle Family, and Andrew Turner, an FCDS alumnus. The students continue to remember these special people as well as others serving our country in foreign lands.

In another outreach effort, the Lower School students donated new, unwrapped toys to the Salvation Army to be distributed to children in Forsyth County. The response to this worthwhile effort – coordinated by Upper School student Pam Wiles – was incredible.

The Lower School also began an exciting after-school program, CyberKids Robotics, on November 16 for second, third, and fourth graders who were recommended by their teachers and who were able to commit to monthly meetings throughout the school year. The response was so positive that the program was expanded to three classes and all filled quickly.



**Norris Baker**  
*Lower School Director*

that designates where you are as you walk through any set of doors. Last, we've moved some lockers around, added hooks for bookbags, and even painted our ubiquitous grey silver the same shade everywhere. When you walk into the John A. Danforth Middle School, things look good!

Last, we tried something new this week, joining other schools around the country to participate in a "No Name-Calling Week." While our kids are smart, generally polite, and like a good laugh now and then, they still fall prey to crossing the line a bit. We're hoping that this program and others like it will allow our Middle School to be recognized as a well-integrated curriculum for every kind of mind!



**Chuck Jones**  
*Middle School Director*

**A**s **UPPER SCHOOL** Director, I never cease to marvel at the spirit of my division. A true sense of community prevails among our students and faculty, and it's become especially evident recently for two very different reasons. One is our seniors' college application process, and the other is the devastating tsunami in South Asia.

While the college application process begins early in the year and many of our students apply early decision (meaning they hear from their first-choice school before the holiday break), the majority of the seniors hear from schools in the winter and spring of the year. Needless to say, this is an especially stressful time for them. While each senior has hopes and fears of his or her own about colleges, they are also aware—and truly care about—their classmates' hopes and fears. When a student gets into the school he or she desires, the good news is shared immediately, and fellow students really embrace their classmates' successes. In turn, when the news isn't so good, our students comfort one another.

Our faculty and administrators are privileged to be included in this exciting time in our students' lives, even if it means writing hundreds of letters of recommendation. Our teachers have developed close relationships with the children they instruct, so they are often among the first to know (after Mom and Dad, sisters, brothers, friends, and anyone else they passed on the way to see us) when a student gets into his or her first-choice school. I've had the honor more than once, and few things are as gratifying as the arrival of a senior in my office, acceptance letter in hand, saying, "I got in!"

While our seniors are focused on colleges right now, they – along with the rest of our Upper School – were not so absorbed that the late December tsunami in South Asia didn't affect them profoundly. As soon as we returned to school, I was besieged by students and faculty with ideas for raising money for those who had lost everything in this terrible disaster.

To this end, students organized a dress-down day in early January, each paying at least \$3.00 or donating water purification tablets in exchange for a dress code-free day. But our kids didn't just give their three dollars. I saw so many drop five, ten, 20, or more dollars into the collection bowl just to help a bit more. Our faculty and students were extremely generous, raising \$1,354 in one day, which they donated to the Global Leadership Training Center (for which former FCDS Physics teacher Staci Kyle works). Staci and her multi-national students went directly to South Asia with the money we raised, so we know that the funds truly got to the people who need them the most.

Other groups are helping as well. The business club is selling Casanova's Coffee at school in the morning and during break, and it will donate a portion of its proceeds to tsunami relief. The Junior/Senior Girls' Service Club, which annually sells carnations for Valentine's Day, is donating its profits to the cause this year. In addition, we hope to establish ties with a school in South Asia, in essence "adopting" it and assisting that school with rebuilding and with purchasing supplies.

I am so impressed with the generosity and spirit of our Upper School community, whether it's by the small kindness of a heartfelt "Congratulations," to a senior who was accepted to college or by the serious efforts of different individuals and service clubs who are working together to make life a little bit better for people half a world away.



**Joel Cordray**  
*Upper School Director*

## LOWER SCHOOL LIBRARY NAMED IN HONOR OF NOTED TEACHER AND LIBRARIAN: THE JEANETTE M. SMITH LOWER SCHOOL LIBRARY

by Susan Ruch

In our last issue of *Columns*, we regretfully announced the retirement of Jeanette Smith from her role as Head Librarian and Director of the Williams Library Discovery Center. Upon her retirement, she was named FCDS's *librarian emeritus*, the first time such an honor has been bestowed upon a member of our faculty. During the summer, Jeanette oversaw the successful renovation of the library with her renowned zeal, enthusiasm, and efficiency, and on August 18, we celebrated the library's grand re-opening.

Though Jeanette had run the show all summer, little did she know that the event held a very special surprise for her. At the well-attended re-opening, which was held under a large tent in the Smith Library Glen (donated by Jeanette and her husband, Howell, only nine months earlier), Headmaster Henry M. Battle, Jr. announced the new name for the renovated Lower School library: The Jeanette M. Smith Lower School Library. The dedication of the library is commemorated with a large granite plaque with Jeanette's picture and a tribute to her contributions to FCDS.

Many of Jeanette's friends and family (including her daughter, FCDS alumna Susan Dotson-Smith from Asheville) surprised her with their presence at the dedication. Following the program, guests enjoyed refreshments and a tour of the newly renovated facility. Despite the fact that it was 102 degrees in the shade, everyone enjoyed a very special afternoon and a memorable tribute to a very special person at FCDS.



# Is Reading in Peril?

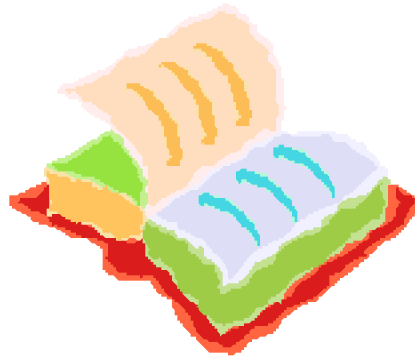
by *Tim Blackburn*  
*Chairman of the English Department*

**W**hen I came back to school in early January, I found myself answering the question “How was your break?” by saying it was good but that I didn’t read as much as I wanted. Although that’s my usual response, it was not simply an English teacher being a positive role model: I really did not get to read as much as I wanted. Why not? Too busy, too much driving, too many obligations, too many phone calls, too many people. In other words, all the reasons we need vacations in the first place.

In the past I might have been tempted to approach the topic of reading by pulling out the great quotations about reading or its value, focusing of course on *quality* reading. For instance, some 400 years ago, Sir Francis Bacon wrote “Some books are to be tasted; others swallowed; and some to be chewed and digested.” To this thought, the American Henry David Thoreau contributes a sense of urgency: “Read the best books first, or you may not have a chance to read them all.” And Mark Twain makes the reading of quality books a simple matter of competitive horse sense: “The man who does not read good books has no advantage over the man who can’t read them.”

As much as I admire those views and believe them, they do not seem the crucial focus right now. In 2005, the issue is not so much the quality of what we read as whether or not we read at all. According to the recent National Endowment for

the Arts report “Reading at Risk,” Americans—all Americans—are reading less than they used to. This is true for men and women, for all income groups, for every educational level, for all significant ethnic groupings, and for all ages, although the rate of decline in reading is steepest among people younger than 24. While various commentators have cautioned about overreacting to the report’s findings, the picture is simply too overwhelming to ignore. We read less than we used to, and there is no sign that we are going to change. In fact, the numbers suggest that the situation will only worsen.



English teachers, even at a school with the kind of good students Forsyth Country Day serves, are not surprised about the steep decline in reading among young people. From their frames of reference, their interests, their knowledge, their writing, and, most sadly, from their attitudes about reading, we can tell that our students are not readers. Like us, of course, they lead busy lives, and busy people have little time for reading. Furthermore, they were raised in TV-saturated homes and spend substantial amounts of time in the worlds of play and information that computers offer. It’s safe to say that a minute spent on TV or a computer means a minute less spent on reading.

Yet it’s a mistake to try to pinpoint any single cause. Something as large as the decline in reading says something about an entire culture, something

that seeps into our living rooms and what we all find “normal.” Suddenly, it seems, everyone has cell phones. Suddenly, it seems, tiny children watch TV. Suddenly, it seems, people read less. We are all sensitive to transitions within a culture, and this sensitivity is in fact a defining characteristic of American culture. For instance, throughout American history attitudes about alcohol reflect not actual per capita consumption but whether that consumption is going up or down. When per capita consumption is going up, attitudes are positive; when consumption is going down, temperance groups go after demon rum and drinking laws change. Marketing experts understand this sensitivity to transition, that is, to trends, and seek to exploit it. And they know that no one is more sensitive to such transitions than young people.

Our students sense the transition away from reading and thus devalue it. For them, quite simply, this is not a reading era. They certainly do not envision their leaders with a book. Closer to home, it would seem to them strangely out of place if Morning Meeting, which often feels like a local subsidiary of ESPN, routinely included something about books or reading that did not come from the Creative Writing teacher. To them, and perhaps to all of us, reading is something the English teachers get excited about because, well, that’s what Emerson would call “their thing.” And we English teachers do get excited about reading—or dismayed by the lack of it. As an English teacher, I have noticed the surprising difficulties many students have with American literature. I have noticed how poorly many students read aloud. And I have noticed resistance to assignments that involve reading, especially if there’s not an immediate, tangible reward. None of this is unique to our time, except that the incidents are more extensive and the attitudes more hostile than they used to be. There’s a subtle

shift from being non-intellectual to anti-intellectual. And that becomes a problem for more than English teachers.

A child who doesn’t read loses a connection to the past, a connection to great minds, and might in turn become a child hostile to the past or to great minds. A child who doesn’t read loses the awareness that language can be subtle or beautiful, and might in turn become a child hostile to subtlety or beauty. A child who *doesn’t* read becomes a child who, in the most important senses of the word, *can’t* read. Such a child has little chance of being well educated, no matter how many thousands of dollars parents spend on college.

It is difficult to resist large-scale changes in a culture. English teachers cannot and will not affect any change in reading trends. In a time when parents read less, and see their children less, parents’ impact will also be minimal unless they make a conscious, long-term effort to demonstrate literacy to their children and thus create a value for reading. Even though clicking [www.theliteracysite.com](http://www.theliteracysite.com) every day might help your conscience, there are no short cuts. Reading promotes reading. Less reading promotes less reading.



## Middle School Renamed *The John A. Danforth Middle School* in Honor of Veteran Teacher, Coach, and Advisor

by Susan Ruch

In a very special ceremony on October 15, 2004, the Middle School was named in honor of the school's only founding teacher remaining on staff, John Danforth. John started his career at the school in 1970 immediately after his graduation from Wake Forest University. Over the past 34 years at FCDS, John has deeply and positively affected the lives of literally thousands of people. Early last fall, two prominent local alumni, Hill Stockton and Tim Cooper, came up with the idea to honor John by raising money to name the Middle School after him. Their brainstorming led ultimately to asking alumni, alumni parents, current families, current and past faculty, and friends in the community to help support their efforts to create a meaningful tribute to John. The hardest part was keeping everything a secret.

In his many roles at the school throughout the years, John (called the "Master Fury" for his enduring school spirit) has had an immeasurable impact on students, parents, and co-workers alike. That much is clear from the hundreds of letters that were received, sharing memories and recounting stories of

unforgettable moments with John. Countless former students say that John was and continues to be one of the most influential people in their lives. Having led FCDS soccer teams and track teams to many conference and state championships over the years, today John works at the school as the Director of Alumni Relations, keeping in touch with more than 1,000 alumni. (Don't miss John's article in this issue of *Columns* on page 2.)

In spite of the thousands of mailings sent all over the country and an ongoing flurry of activity in his own office, John knew nothing about the naming or the special event until it occurred. Timed to coincide with Homecoming Weekend, during which his two daughters, Ginnie and Carrie, celebrated their tenth and fifth FCDS reunions, John was surprised by family members and friends from afar as well as hundreds of other who turned out to honor him. More than 500 special six-inch buttons, bearing John's picture, were distributed and worn proudly by the attendees, and the whole evening was captured on a very special DVD, a copy of which was sent to everyone who donated to the Middle School naming effort. Most importantly, when John arrives every day at the job he loves and does with such passion, he enters the building through the entrance bearing the words "John A. Danforth Middle School" and knows just how much he means to the entire FCDS community.



## *The Furr Field House and More...!*

In November, we broke ground on the Furr Field House and, currently, we're projecting a completion date of late spring to early summer. Football, lacrosse, and tennis players, as well as their fans, really have something special to look forward to next season. The addition of the Furr Field House to our campus will serve as a much-needed upgrade to our school and will especially enhance our athletic programs.

The Furr Field House will provide both home and visiting teams with space for meeting rooms, locker rooms, and restrooms. It will also provide concessions for fans. Once the Field House is completed, we will schedule a grand opening event. Details about that celebration will be mailed out to you in the near future.

After the Furr Field House is complete, the next two building projects for the school are the Lower School Dining Hall and the Livengood Activities Center. Both of these facilities will benefit not only the Lower School but the entire school in alleviating space constraints. We will

begin the construction of these two projects as soon as the fundraising has been completed.



**Todd W. Hartung, Jr.**  
*Director of Development*

### *Furr Field House*



## *2004-2005 Annual Fund Update*

The Annual Fund goal for the 2004-2005 school year is \$1,000,000 – the most ambitious goal we have ever established. Each year the Annual Fund allows our families to give a gift to the school that – unlike tuition – is tax deductible. The impact of the Annual Fund is critical in helping us provide excellent programs and learning tools for our students. Our community's response to the Annual Fund so far this year has been outstanding. By the first week in March, our families' generous support had pushed the Annual Fund totals past \$550,000, eclipsing the highest totals for any Annual Fund in our history.

This year, we're funneling almost all fundraising – for capital expansion as well as for operating budget needs – through the Annual Fund so that the vast majority of our families receive only one fundraising request. Because each gift can impact critical capital projects as well as annual needs, we've increased the goal (and multiplied the impact). We also created the Family of Annual Funds,

which allows our generous supporters to direct their gifts to an area of the school that interests them the most. Those options include the Academics Fund, the Visual and Performing Arts Fund, the Student Financial Aid Fund, the Athletics Fund, the Technology and Library Fund, and the Headmaster's Discretionary Fund.

We are happy to report that, once again, 100 percent of our faculty, staff, administration, and Board of Trustees have already contributed to the Annual Fund. If you haven't yet responded to our campaign, please consider making a gift or pledge to the Annual Fund today.



**R. David Johnson**  
*Director of the Annual Fund*

# Helping Others Win

*by Joyce Henson  
Director of the JAC*

A few years ago at the Seattle Special Olympics, nine contestants, all physically and mentally disabled, assembled at the starting line for the 100-yard dash. They were all a little nervous and mesmerized by the huge crowd in the stadium. At the gun, they started out, not exactly in a dash, but with relish to run the race to the finish and win.



All of a sudden, one little boy stumbled on the asphalt track, tumbled over a couple of times, and began to cry. The other eight heard the boy's cry. They slowed down and looked back. Then, they all stopped, turned around, and went back... every one of them. One girl with Down's syndrome bent down and kissed the boy on the top of his head and said, "This will make it better." Then all nine linked arms and walked together to the finish line.

Everyone in the stadium stood. There was a brief moment of silence before the crowd erupted with thunderous applause, which continued nonstop for several minutes. People who were in the stadium to witness this event love to tell this story. Why? Because deep down inside, we know one thing: what really matters in this life is more than winning for ourselves. What really matters is helping others win, even if it means slowing down and changing our course.



This story illustrates the continuing story behind what happens on a daily basis in the Johnson Academic Center, which we have created and continued to grow. At the Johnson Academic Center, we believe that what really matters is helping others win, even if it means slowing down and changing our course.

Students are constantly challenged with learning issues and the JAC is a vital part of helping make our school's mission a reality for every student. The Schools Attuned program has helped take our school philosophy to a place where we know we can help each and every student achieve his or her best, and the JAC holds the banner high, making sure all students are moving to the finish line.

In the last few weeks, the Johnson Academic Center has assisted Upper School students who needed independent studies of course selections with the semester change, supported a family in transition from the Netherlands into FCDS, assigned academic coaches to students who were not meeting classroom challenges effectively, and improved a student's chance to continue learning when classroom performance was meager. There are very few schools capable of providing this extensive care for students, and FCDS continues to hold this core value high so all students can slow down and change the course of learning. Our desire to help others win, even if it means slowing down and changing the course, is a showcase for others and the JAC continues to assist in calling forth the academic potential in every student at FCDS!



If you need assistance with any level of learning, please call the Johnson Academic Center to gather the necessary information. Pam Stanley (extension 593) will connect you with the academic coach, tutor, or specialist to meet your need.



# Class Notes...

## 70's

**TODD JOHNSON ('75)** is going on 22 years living in Charlotte and is still in the hospital business. He is currently the CEO of Hospital Partners of America. He is busy with four kids, ages 11, 14, 17, and 19. They are all playing lots of sports, so he is going to lots of games (some even against FCDS)! He is still playing soccer, on an adult team aptly named "Old Men." [Todd.Johnson@hospitalpartners.com](mailto:Todd.Johnson@hospitalpartners.com)

**JULIE AND FRANK HANES ('76)** have just completed a most successful and satisfying first year as owners and innkeepers of the Inn at Manchester (Vermont). Be sure to plan on staying with them in the coming year. You will be glad you did!  
[PFrankHanesIII@aol.com](mailto:PFrankHanesIII@aol.com)  
[www.innatmanchester.com](http://www.innatmanchester.com)

**STUART DORSETT ('77)** is the 2004-2005 Chair of the North Carolina Bar Association's Estate Planning & Fiduciary Law Section. He is also President-Elect of the Davidson College Alumni Association and a new member of the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Community Foundation, Inc. (in other words, he has plenty of "non-billable" work now)! [SBD@wardandsmith.com](mailto:SBD@wardandsmith.com)

**ANDY PAXTON ('77)** is a singer-songwriter. He played Sunday, November 14, 2004, at Writers' Night at the famed Bluebird Cafe in Nashville, Tennessee.  
[andypaxton@comcast.net](mailto:andypaxton@comcast.net)

**GREG WESTBROOK ('79)** and his wife Anne just had their SIXTH daughter,

Caitlyn Marie. She comes in addition to Erin, Megan, Shannon, Kristen, and Lauren. Greg has another addition on the way...he just bought a 1954 Plymouth Belvedere 4-door Sedan off Ebay! He is the Compliance Officer for a small bank in West Jefferson, N.C. called AF Financial Group.  
[cgw4jesus@earthlink.net](mailto:cgw4jesus@earthlink.net)

## 80's

**RICHARD BRENNER ('81)**, CEO of Amarr Garage Doors, was named a finalist in the National Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year 2004 awards program in the Manufacturing/Distribution/Security Category during an awards banquet in Palm Springs, California on November 20. He was one of three finalists selected from 400 regional award recipients by an independent panel of judges. All of the finalists and award recipients were acknowledged at the awards gala, with Tonight Show host Jay Leno serving as emcee. "Richard Brenner is an entrepreneur and innovator in an old-line business," said Rick Wimmer, Greensboro (N.C.) Office Managing Partner. "What is amazing about Richard and Amarr is that he has been able to navigate a commodity business, garage doors, and make it fun and exciting for his people, his dealers, and profitable for his shareholders. Rewriting the rules of the game with products like the Classica, Amarr has become a remarkable success story." Brenner was at the banquet after having been named a recipient of the Ernst & Young Entrepreneur Of The Year® 2004 Award for the Retail and Consumer Products Division in the Carolina's Region. Amarr was established in 1951 by Abe, Morris,

and Herb Brenner in Winston-Salem, N.C. Quality products and loyal customers has allowed Amarr to expand steadily during the past 50 years, making it one of the top four garage door manufacturers in the country. Amarr manufactures a complete line of sectional overhead garage doors for both the residential and commercial market in its Lawrence, Kansas, Whitehouse, N.J., and Monterrey, Mexico manufacturing facilities. Its doors are sold worldwide by independent dealers and distributors who receive service from Amarr's 59 company-owned distribution centers located throughout the United States, Mexico, Canada, and Hungary.

**JOE HART ('81)** recently moved into his own place across the street from the exclusive Bent Tree neighborhood in Winston-Salem. For several years prior to the move, Joe lived with his sister (**Bess Hart Wagner**, class of '79). Joe, 42, seems to be adjusting well to living on his own except for a few minor mishaps in the kitchen. Not one to rest on his laurels, Joe has also broken new ground with car ownership. Ending a 26-year tradition of driving and wrecking his Dad's cars, Joe recently got his own set of wheels. Way to go, Joe, and good luck!

**MAJOR KARSON SNYDER ('81)** sent pictures from his military service. The one by the sign is in Jordan, and the one with people is in Pakistan.  
[snyderk@west-point.org](mailto:snyderk@west-point.org)





**LEA MILSTEAD CLEMENT ('82)** and her husband Tom live in beautiful Charleston, S.C. and would love to see any old Fury friends come their way. Lea and Tom have recently taken wonderful trips to San Miguel, Mexico, as well as to New England and Canada (Quebec City and Montreal).  
[leaclement@ls3p.com](mailto:leaclement@ls3p.com)

**SARAH GOSLEN KNIGHT ('83)** is working with classmate **Chris Patti ('83)** at PAVE Creative Group, located in Reynolda Village.  
[sara@paveways.com](mailto:sara@paveways.com)

**MOLLY BASS ('84)** has been named Director of the Parents' Fund at UVA in addition to her other duties as Director of Annual Giving and Director of Scholarships and Endowments for the UVA Fund. Molly was in a head-on car collision (luckily, not her fault) on November 1 and broke her neck, but she jokes that she received her first helicopter ride out of it. She is still breeding and competing with her Bernese Mountain Dogs. She just whelped a litter of fourteen December 2 -12, and the puppies are all alive and quite well. She earned a Novice agility title for one of her dogs this year, which she claims isn't very exciting—but she said she isn't quite 100 percent after the cancer, and the broken neck isn't helping any, either!  
[mcb7k@virginia.edu](mailto:mcb7k@virginia.edu)

**BARBARA COWAN SCOTT ('84)** and husband Joe's news from the last six months is the birth of their second son,

Samuel Haynes Scott, on June 28, 2004.

**ANNE PULLIAM TAMBLING ('84)** lives in Winston-Salem with her husband, David, and her three children: Caroline (12), Courtney (10), and Christopher (8), who attends FCDS. She is a principal in Metropolis Architecture, specializing in Sustainable Design in Commercial Structures as well as some Residential Design.  
[tambling@mail.metropolisarch.com](mailto:tambling@mail.metropolisarch.com)

**KARA KOOKEN COCHRAN ('85)** and Julian Cochran had a beautiful daughter, Elliot Parks Cochran, born December 14, 2004. She was six pounds, 14 ounces.  
[kkjc@mindspring.com](mailto:kkjc@mindspring.com)



**LT. COL. STAN COERR ('85)** of Marine Corps Reserve (see picture below).  
[stan.coerr@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stan.coerr@sbcglobal.net)



**ALI FARAHNAKIAN ('85)** and his wife Beth were married on September 11,

## Class Notes Continued...

2004 in New York. Beth is a native New Yorker. Ali co-founded and operates the People's Improv Theater ([www.thejit-nyc.com](http://www.thejit-nyc.com)) at 154 W 29TH Street., New York. Beth is a staff writer for Greta Van Susteren of FOXNews.

**TOM CLINGMAN ('86)** and wife Maggie are pleased to announce the recent arrival of their son Samuel Santiago Clingman, born in Guatemala on August 13, 2003.  
[tclingman@lareynolds.com](mailto:tclingman@lareynolds.com)

**BEVERLY MARKLE ('86)** and her husband David have two children, Lea (2) and Sam (5). They live in Atlanta.

**ROB MORGAN ('86)** (formerly Morganelli) and wife Lynn had a son on July 27, 2004. He was almost exactly seven pounds at birth. He was 19 inches long, healthy, and is doing well. His name is Afon (pronounced AH-vuhn - like Evan, but with an AH instead of an EH). Rob has also been a software engineer at IBM in RTP for 10 years as of this past March.

**CAROLINE WILKERSON ('86)** married Frank Wilder of Cashiers, N.C. in September 2004. Classmate and close friend Beverly Milstead Markle served as a bridesmaid in the wedding ceremony.

**LYNN PATTERSON GARGIS ('87)** and husband Neil announced the birth of Mary Katherine Gargis, born on July 28, 2004. Big brother Jesse is jumping for joy to have a little playmate.

**JERRY STOLTZ ('87)** and wife Kari were blessed with the arrival of Haley Chastain Stoltz on August 21, 2004. She weighed in at 7 pounds, 7 ounces, and was 20 inches long. Both Kari and Haley are healthy and happy. From

Jerry and Kari, "We appreciate dearly the support that we have received from all of you, and we look forward to your being able to meet the newest addition to our family."

**SPENCE RUNGE ('88) and wife Marilee** have three children now—Hannah, 6, Mollie Grace, 3 and Zac, 1.

[spencer.runge@salemgrou.com](mailto:spencer.runge@salemgrou.com)



**SUSAN MARIE SMITH ('88)** was recently re-elected to the board for the North Carolina Association of Women Attorneys. As Outreach chair, she is interested in making sure that N.C. non-profits that are interested in the rights of women connect to women lawyers who share that same passion. If you are on the board or serve a women's organization and would like to know more about how to network, please contact her at [smittyd@cccsofwnc.org](mailto:smittyd@cccsofwnc.org). If you're an attorney interested in advancing the rights of women under the law and not familiar with NCAWA, please contact her as well. She currently has a small private practice which focuses on guardianships and mediations, but she works primarily using her bankruptcy knowledge as a fund developer for Consumer Credit Counseling Service of WNC which serves the 18 westernmost counties of NC. Her two little girls are enjoying spending more time with their grandmother now that

she has retired from FCDS. It's great to see her volunteering her expertise in their schools.

**BETSY COCKS ADAMS ('89)** and husband are the proud adoptive parents of Mia Adams, who is now 14 months old (see picture below).



**CYNTHIA TUTTLE DAVIS ('89)** has a year with a few milestones for her and her family. In January, her husband Jeff became a full partner in his structural engineering firm, Dunbar, Milby, Williams, Pittman & Vaughan (in Richmond). Jeff and Cynthia also celebrated their 10-year wedding anniversary in January with a 10-day cruise to the Eastern Caribbean. Their kids are growing up: Alex is 5, and Elizabeth is 3.

**HILARY VINING GARNER ('89)** has lived in Atlanta and Dallas since graduating from college. Before marriage, she worked for a staffing company in sales and recruiting. Now she has two little boys and is a stay-at-home mom. Austin turned 2 this past October, and Aaron is 5 months. Her husband is in the billboard industry and currently works for Clear Channel Outdoor.

[hvgarner@belsouth.net](mailto:hvgarner@belsouth.net)

**DAVID ('89) AND NATALIE ('89) HOMESLEY** are living in Charlotte. Dave is doing joint replacements for Perry Barron Orthopaedics. They have renovated their home and are happy

## Class Notes Continued...

there with their two boys, Jack (4 ½) and Alex (18 months), and their dog. [davidhomesley@earthlink.net](mailto:davidhomesley@earthlink.net)

**CAM MARSHALL ('89)** and wife Perry are proud parents of Anderson McClain Marshal, born October 11, 2004.

**JEFFREY W. MEYER ('89)** of Chesapeake, Virginia, received a Doctor of Ministry (DMin) degree from the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas on December 10, 2004. He and his wife, Elizabeth Stuart Parker Meyer (speech pathologist) have three children: Drew, Elizabeth, and Julia. Visit the family website at [www.MeyerHouse.net](http://www.MeyerHouse.net).

**FLETCHER WILSON ('89)**, President of Wilson Insurance Services, Inc. for the past six years, was featured on the front page of the November 5 issue of *The Business Journal*. Fletcher was interviewed by reporter Paul Davis and praised for his leadership role in the rapid growth of his company. "W-S entrepreneur has lofty goals for his young insurance firm," Mr. Davis wrote. See the following link to the article.

<http://www.bizjournals.com/triad/stories/2004/11/08/smallb1.html?page=1> FCDS is very proud of you, Fletcher!

## 90's

**BRIAN PATTERSON ('90)** married wife Lori on September 25, 2004. Their honeymoon to the Caribbean was cancelled by Hurricane Jeanne, but they were able to make alternate plans to spend a week in "cloudless" Palm Springs. They are living in Winston-Salem and building a house in

Pfafftown. [BKPatterson@shdr.com](mailto:BKPatterson@shdr.com)

**JENNIFER CHIPMAN ('91)** is a special education teacher, but she works with students with severe disabilities, most often multiple disabilities. Her favorite students to work with (OK, she knows they're not supposed to have favorites, but...) are those with autism. However, this year she will have a classroom of students who are medically fragile. It's going to be a new classroom for her school and it looks like she will have really great support. If you ever get the chance to plan a trip out West, Santa Fe should definitely be a destination. It is wonderful out there! She and Craig love to backpack and rock climb, so they are in a fantastic spot. The history, sight-seeing, and food are all great as well. They welcome visitors all the time because they enjoy any chance to show off the town.

[chipandflu@earthlink.net](mailto:chipandflu@earthlink.net)

**ELI FRANKEL ('91)** is living in Los Angeles. He's had a few different lives in the film and television industry, and things continue to change rapidly. He is currently executive producing three television shows and preparing a few others to take to the networks with other producers. A lot of this business is "pitching" or selling ideas and getting them to the point where they are ready to go into production. He has a lot of war stories at this point. He may be 30, but sometimes he feels like he's 60. Don't get him wrong - it's been a great ride so far, but a wild one for sure. [efrankel@att.net](mailto:efrankel@att.net)

**HEATHER ENGLER BORS ('92)** and E Daniel Bors, III were married on October 16, 2004 in Huntington Beach, California in a Catholic church. She is a teacher (sixth grade), and Dan will be a lawyer soon. He takes the

bar in February.  
[ungrounded@hotmail.com](mailto:ungrounded@hotmail.com)



**MICHAEL MILLER ('92)** and wife Tonya live in Roswell, Georgia with their daughter Abbey (below). Michael is a Project Manager for Metavante Corporation, in their eBanking division, and Tonya is the Director of Financial Policy & Compliance for the National Accounts division of ADP. Abbey was born April 22, 2003.

[Michael.Miller@Metavante.com](mailto:Michael.Miller@Metavante.com)



**KIMBERLY GUNTER ('93)** and Jason Layton are engaged to be married on August 13, 2005. Kimberly is currently living in Charlotte and is serving as an assistant district attorney in Roy Cooper's office in the citizen and victim's rights division.

**KEN HERBST ('93)** provides expert advice in an article in *Woman's Day* at the following link.

[http://womansday.com/article.asp?article\\_id=9051&section\\_id=4](http://womansday.com/article.asp?article_id=9051&section_id=4)

## Class Notes Continued...

**BLAKE RUSSELL ('93)** did an interview on *Runner's World* online at the following link.

<http://www.runnersworld.com/home/0,,s6-0-0-0-00.html>.

**ADAM SCHWARTZ ('93)** with the caption: Mr. Danforth with Mikey Schwartz, fellow Red Sox fans!  
[adamswartz@westchesteracademy.com](mailto:adamswartz@westchesteracademy.com)



**ADAM ('93) AND HEATHER ('94) SCHWARTZ** announce their new arrival, Aliana Grace Schwartz, born February 28, 2005. Aliana joins Mikey in the Schwartz family. Congratulations!

**BRADLEY HARDIN FOWLER ('94)** and Kathryn Denise Foster, both of Winston-Salem, were married at 3:00 p.m. on August 14 in Wake Forest Baptist Church in Winston-Salem. Richard Groves and Elizabeth Ayscue officiated. Members of the wedding party included Aaron Michalove, who served as a groomsman. The reception was held at Old Town Club, and the couple took a honeymoon trip to the Bahamas.

**WOOD CHATHAM ('95)** recently attained the title of Certified Financial Analyst after successfully completing the three year CFA course. Wood works as a Senior Analyst with Maverick Capital in New York, one of the nation's leading hedge funds.

**KALINA VAN EVERY ('95)** married Jason Minnich on September 18, 2004 in Cincinnati, Ohio. She now goes by the name Kalina Minnich. [krve@hotmail.com](mailto:krve@hotmail.com)

**SUSAN BOYER MILLER ('95)** is still living in Abilene Texas, although they moved off base this past summer. Brandon left for a five-month deployment with his B-1 squadron. He is greatly missed, especially at the holidays. Zachary will turn 1 a few weeks after his return. She quit her job in September and decided to stay home full-time for now. They are hoping to get news of a new assignment: Brandon applied to test pilot school at Edwards AFB. Here is a picture of them taken over Thanksgiving. [Susanbm8@aol.com](mailto:Susanbm8@aol.com)



**JOSH SCHWARTZ ('95)** got married and went back to school.

**LINDSAY BLOODWORTH THOMPSON ('95)** and her husband Ken had a baby boy, Charles Martin Thompson, nicknamed Charlie, on July 27, 2004.

**CAPT. ANDREW TURNER, USMC ('95)** survived the big fight that took place in Falluja. He has been at the Forward Operating Base (FOB) near Najaf, but will be going back to Al Asad to start training again soon. He

states that the next month will be incredibly difficult as they prepare several as possible candidates for the Weapons and Tactics Instructor (WTI) spring class. He reports that the situation is like the Marine Corps version of Top Gun, in which aviators from all Marine Helo and Fixed Wing communities come together for a month and a half of intense training in wonderful Yuma, Arizona. He can't wait to spend March and April in a different sandbox. If they do send them to the training class, hopefully they will be coming back to California on advanced party so they can have some time off.

[TumerAM@11MEU.usmc.mil](mailto:TumerAM@11MEU.usmc.mil)

**DAVID BOYER ('96)** spoke to the eighth grade on September 15, 2004 about his experience as Richard Burr's campaign advisor. David did a superb job of answering tough questions put to him by the politically savvy eighth graders. Pat Rimron, eighth grade civics teacher, and colleague of Susan Boyer, our distinguished science teacher, invited David to speak to the class.

**DANIEL GUNTER ('96)** graduated from UNC law school in May and passed the N.C. bar exam in July. He is working for the Drug Enforcement Administration in Washington, D.C., as a Presidential Management Fellow (don't ask what that means, none of them really know, either, but a group of 400-700 people with graduate degrees are selected each year from across the country to work in different government agencies for two years). He is having a blast in D.C., but he is going to be back in N.C. inside of five years.

[Daniel.C.Gunter@usdoj.gov](mailto:Daniel.C.Gunter@usdoj.gov)

**LESLIE ANN MACKEEN ('96)** is

## Class Notes Continued...

engaged to Manny Kevin Garcia, formerly of San Ramon, California. Leslie is currently pursuing a master's degree at Columbia University in New York. Her fiancé is vice president and co-founder of pictureBio in Winston-Salem. A May 28 wedding is planned at the Brookstown Inn in Winston-Salem.

**KATHERINE POLYCHRON NELSON ('96)** just received her teaching license (which she is thrilled about!) and is teaching second grade. She loves it! She is sharing a few pictures from Colorado when her brother Chris and Adam Schwartz came skiing in Vail last year with her and Mark. She thought a few Fury faces in one picture was a good idea.

[katherinepolychron@earthlink.net](mailto:katherinepolychron@earthlink.net)



**JIM ARGENTA ('97)** is graduating again! He has been at the NC State School of Design for the past three and a half years working on his master's degree in architecture. He will graduate on December 15, 2005. He is going to be all over the place for the next few weeks, but will let us know where he settles down.

[jparent@ncsu.edu](mailto:jparent@ncsu.edu)

**ROSS BOYCE ('97)** is with the 1st Cavalry in Baghdad (near the Green Zone). His unit is scheduled to rotate back to the U.S. in early March. He will be returning to Ft. Carson in Colorado Springs. He is currently an infantry 1st Lt and should be promoted to captain in April. He will be executive to the division surgeon when

he returns. His plans are to start medical school in 2006.

**JASON ('97) AND JEANNIE ('97) FELTEN** are expecting their first child on March 14, 2005!

**CANDACE DEANN MILLER ('97)** and Matthew Allen Whisenant, both of Raleigh, were married at 6 p.m. October 23 in an outdoor ceremony in Bryan Courtyard at The Carolina Inn in Chapel Hill. Michael Miller ('92) of Atlanta served as a groomsman. Ruth Vann ('97) was a reader in the ceremony. Harpist Julie Hammarback (former FCDS staff) and her husband, John, provided the wedding music. Candace and Matthew celebrated with a honeymoon trip to Aruba and upon their return will live in Raleigh.

**ANN FLEMING TAFT ('97)** graduated from The University of Georgia in 2001 with a bachelor's degree in journalism and then lived in Atlanta for more than three years. The time came for her to return to her N.C. roots! She moved to Charlotte about a month ago and is presently working for the Echo Foundation whose mission is "...to sponsor and facilitate those voices that speak of human dignity, justice, and moral courage in a way that will lead to positive action for humankind." She is the Events and Marketing Associate in charge of coordinating events surrounding the Echo Foundation's 2005 educational initiative: A Gathering of Nobel Laureates: Science for the 21st Century. At the end of February, they welcomed five Nobel Laureates of Science and the Senior Curator of the Nobel Museum in Stockholm to the Charlotte area to meet with public and private high school students, post-doctoral students, community leaders, and the general public. The finale of

this event was the Sixth Annual Award Dinner where they presented Hugh L. McColl, Jr. with their Award Against Indifference. She would love to see some Furies! For more information, please visit the Foundation's website: [www.echofoundation.org](http://www.echofoundation.org)

**HEATHER ANGELL ('98)** earned a Master's degree in Sport Management from High Point University. She is currently playing golf on the LPGA Futures Tour.

**ELIZABETH FULK ('98)** is working as a staff reporter for *The Hill* newspaper in Washington, D.C. It is a small newspaper that solely covers Capitol Hill and Congress. She started out covering campaigns for the paper back in September. Now that the election is over, she is covering the Capitol Hill Campus beat. She is still an avid runner these days, having completed the Marine Corps marathon last fall, and is still trying to run an occasional half marathon when she can. [elizabeth\\_fulk@yahoo.com](mailto:elizabeth_fulk@yahoo.com)

**ABE SCHWARTZ ('98)** started his own company. For more info, check [www.apartmentsforatlanta.com](http://www.apartmentsforatlanta.com).

**MICHAEL STRICKLAND ('98)** completed his Master of Business Administration degree at Ohio University at the end of last summer. He will finish a master's degree in sports administration in June. Last summer he was in Indianapolis working with the Horizon League. He has recently started work with Florida Citrus Sports, located in Orlando. FC Sports produces seven marquee events each year, featuring the Capital One Bowl and the Tangerine Bowl. He works in the Properties department which handles all of the sponsorship efforts for FC Sports. He is a

## Class Notes Continued...

Properties Account Manager and has responsibilities for sponsorship sales, developing new contacts, etc. It is an exciting opportunity. He also got engaged (June 10) to Ashley McKay of Dallas, Texas. They are planning a May/June 2005 wedding in Dallas. [mgstrickland@hotmail.com](mailto:mgstrickland@hotmail.com)

**CARRIE DANFORTH ('99)** is teaching special education in the fifth grade at Spring Run Elementary in Midlothian, Virginia.

**MARGARET HOLT ('99)** is a part-time art teacher for the ninth grade and coaches the JV Field Hockey team.

**HOLLY ISBISTER ('99)** has been doing some freelance writing for *Relix*, a music magazine that focuses on improvisational rock, jazz, reggae, and blues. She had published reviews in their August, September, October, and November issues. *Relix* is distributed nationally at stores including Borders, Barnes and Noble, and Tower Records. [holly.isbister@blueair.com](mailto:holly.isbister@blueair.com)

**BLAKE MACKEEN ('99)** served as the coach of the JV Soccer Team for the Furies last fall.

## 00's

**ASHLEY JOYCE ('00)** has been teaching English to law students at the Universite de Paris X in Paris and will be in Paris until July.

**ANDREW BOYCE'S ('01)** National Guard unit was activated the end of October, and he is at Ft. Bragg in Fayetteville. He is a Blackhawk helicopter crewchief/door gunner and holds rank of Specialist. After completing his training at Bragg, he



Class Notes Continued...



*Jeff Clark ('82), Greg Wilson, Dunlop White III ('83), David Eagan ('83), and David Gwyn ('83) playing Golf at the Roaring Gap Invitational at Roaring Gap, NC in September of 2004.*



*This photo was taken from the twenty year Class reunion (1983) which Ashley Carros and W. Dunlop White, III hosted at Forsyth Country Club. Pictured are David Eagan, Karen Amidon, Andrea Crumpler, Cab Barkley, and Joan Brodish.*



*From Joel Yancey's ('00) engagement party. Alex Jenkins ('00), Pattie Stoltz and John Danforth.*



*From Joel Yancey's ('00) engagement party. Joel, Alex Jenkins ('00), John Danforth, and Mark Postlethwaite ('00).*