

# Parkmont News

VOLUME 19, ISSUE 1

FALL/WINTER 2010



*Our paddling group at Rocky Gap State Park in Cumberland, MD.*

## Canoeing and Kayaking Club

BY RON MCCLAIN

After a number of students expressed interest in canoeing and kayaking during our first Choose-Your-Own-Adventure trips day in June, we decided to give them an opportunity to earn some physical education credit by doing a series of activities during the year. Our first trip took us to the Patuxent River where we spent some time on the water just upstream from Jug's Bay and also along Western creek.

For the first of our three day-long adventures, we drove out to Rocky Gap State Park which was having an unseasonably warm Columbus day (85 degrees). Rocky Gap is 5 miles east of Cumberland and has a large lake, championship golf course, and a number of outdoor recreation options (including biking and segway trails). We spent our time at the lake working on paddling skills, having one person canoe races, learning canoe portage, and figuring out how to deal with difficult head winds on our way back to the takeout.



*Paddling in Lake Habeeb, fed by Rocky Gap run, under the shadow of Evitt's Mountain.*

And in some cases swimming! Great progress made by all.

We finished up by visiting the start of the 184.5 mile C & O Canal in Cumberland, site of numerous Parkmont adventures in the distant past, and also the beginning of a relatively new bike trail of 160 plus miles to Pittsburgh along an old railroad bed. We'll continue our canoe/kayak class when the weather gets warmer come spring.

Dear Parkmont and Somerset Families and Friends,


Our 2009-10 Annual Report and Newsletter follow. Your many gifts to the school have never been more important. The last half decade has not been kind to a number of the smaller (and recently larger as well) independent schools, but we continue to be sustained by the generosity of our friends and the many services and other forms of support integral to our program. When we named our largest fundraising campaign five years ago "Creating Futures: Parkmont's Campaign for Today and Tomorrow," we had little notion of how profoundly accurate that name would be, and we are ever thankful for its success.

When I first arrived at Parkmont 30 years ago, there were a number of posters around our Wisconsin avenue building touting "when life gives you lemons, make lemonade." It was already a school experienced with challenge. We did our own version of lemonade making last summer when we found ourselves asking how to get more staff help with an economy-shrunk budget. Would someone work for free? Seemed crazy but with the job market crumbling for college grads we gave it a shot. The result, Julia Penn, a recent Blair High School and Wesleyan graduate, volunteered to work half time for us around her schedule waiting tables at Matchbox, and what a job she did. Tutor, teaching assistant, School ID maker, yearbook supervisor, Hannah's homework coach, get out the evaluations office worker, there's little she didn't contribute to at Parkmont during her time with us. After a year of such interning, what did Julia find for herself? A place in Math for America that includes a totally paid-for Masters at American University, a contract to work with DCPS, and a living stipend on top of the whole thing. Thank you Julia, for what you've done for Parkmont and our students, and congratulations on what you've accomplished for yourself.

Early in July, I attended a funeral in New Hampshire for George Blackman, a retired Episcopal priest who married Holly and me 26 years ago. I met George ten years before that when I first started attending the Northfield Conference at Northfield Mt. Hermon school, and his work leading the conference inspired much of the work at Parkmont that I've been proudest of during my now thirty years as head. The Conference had been a week-long bible-study camp for high schools girls for 80+ years, and evolved into a spiritual retreat for families in the early 1970's. George's contributions to that transformation were many. It became a place that accords great respect for the individual paths that we each follow and the challenges that mark the way. It teaches great confidence in our resiliency. It affirms the value in inviting folks to share their own stories (i.e. our petition process). It is a truly "encouraging" community. We've had a fine start to our own school year, in part because of great changes in spirit and intention among our older students during the past six months. They remind me of George's good work and reflect our own at Parkmont.

We're planning a new class trip to Panama this year (may Mexico recover from its current cancer). We are sending our students out to work around town as we have for 29 years. We are taking a number of local trips to get everyone biking, wall climbing, or canoeing, and are enjoying the theatre scene as much as we ever have. We are grateful for the way Facebook connects us with our alumni and are looking forward to the opportunity to display our work for the AIMS accreditation team that will visit us in March for our once-in-a-decade review. And we are always grateful for the opportunity we have here to help young people change their lives and aspirations.

Sincerely,



Ron McClain, Head of School



## Fall Soccer Team Competes with Nora School

Last spring we explored the possibility of sharing soccer and basketball teams with the Nora School in Silver Spring. When we started talking about it with our students this fall it turned out that we had enough soccer players at Parkmont to form our own team, which we did several weeks ago with uniforms and cleats and minimal practice. Our season will be a three game series with Nora. We were delighted to find that we had a number of experienced players in the mix and some very athletic foks newer to the game whose enthusiasm for competing is infectious.

### **ParkmontNews** Volume 19, Issue 1

**Ron McClain**  
Head of School

**Christy Halvorson Ross**, Editor  
cross@parkmont.org

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**Parkmont School**  
4842 Sixteenth Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20011  
[www.parkmont.org](http://www.parkmont.org)

**OFFICE**

(202) 726-0740

**DEVELOPMENT**

(202) 726-0740, ext. 210  
(202) 726-0748 (fax)

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Field Trip Spotlight:

## Button Farm Living History Center

BY WILLA REINHARD

I discovered the Menare Foundation’s Button Farm Living History Center while teaching a class on Race Relations in the fall. Donna Geraci, a Parkmont parent, had taken her son, Malik, to experience their hands-on program about the Underground Railroad, and she spoke highly of it. So in the spring, when teaching a middle school main lesson on the U.S. Civil Rights Movement, I decided to take my class to the Button Farm for a field trip.

On May 26, we drove just an hour outside of DC to Germantown, MD, to find ourselves on a winding country road that led us to the 60-acre historic farm, designed to look like an 1850s plantation. My class took part in their “Beyond the Big House” program. The day included an introduction to various tools used for work during that period, an hour of weeding and hoeing in the garden, and exercises designed to help students understand what it may have felt like to stand on an auction block or the many obstacles involved in trying to escape a plantation.

The afternoon concluded with a personal story from Anthony Cohen, our guide, and the founder of the Menare Foundation. In order to further his own understanding of slavery and the Underground Railroad, in 1996, Cohen walked 1,200 from Sandy Spring, Maryland to Ontario, Canada, a journey that took him two months. Two years later, he walked from what was known as the Deep South, from Mobile, Alabama to Ontario, Canada, this time traveling three months. While our students didn’t get that close to experiencing the challenges of slavery, they did come away with a more personal understanding of the physical and mental challenges of the work, of the uncertainty involved in slavery, and what it might feel like to have your humanity denied.

# Choose Your Own Adventure! Parkmont's New Field Trip Days

BY TREFOR EVANS

On Wednesday June 2nd and again in September, Parkmont had a field day. Ok so, it wasn't exactly a field day. We did not have competitive three-legged races or egg tosses, but we did go on trips that allowed us to get out and enjoy the beautiful weather. Students were able to choose what type of adventure they wanted.

## Biking...

BY TREFOR EVANS

Nijole, Michelle, and I led one of the trips and took our kids down to Fletcher's on Canal Road. We rented bicycles and rode for a couple of hours on the Capital Crescent Trail. It was hot and sunny, but the tree-shaded trail was pleasant and we polished off about 6 miles before stopping at Bethesda Row for a bite to eat.

As a group we parked our bikes and went for lunch. AG and I treated ourselves to ice cream as we waited for the group to get back, it seemed a fair trade for watching the bikes. We chatted amicably about how AG was going to spend as much of his summer as possible riding around on a bicycle.

The trip back to the boathouse flew by. The kids were jazzed: Kien, AG, SaVaughn, and Colin played leapfrog, trying to outrace each other. SaVaughn cycled without his hands on the handlebars and kept trying to get us to look and be impressed. And he had a smile plastered on his face the entire time.

We got back to Fletcher's quicker than we expected, no one wanted to leave so we turned back around and got on the Canal toe path for a couple of miles. When we did finally turn in our bikes we were all tired and happy. So, while I cannot speak for sure about the trips, my group of Parkmont did have a field day.

## Climbing...

BY AMY WARD

The red van took a load full of upper school students and two teachers on an adventure to Sport Rock's Alexandria

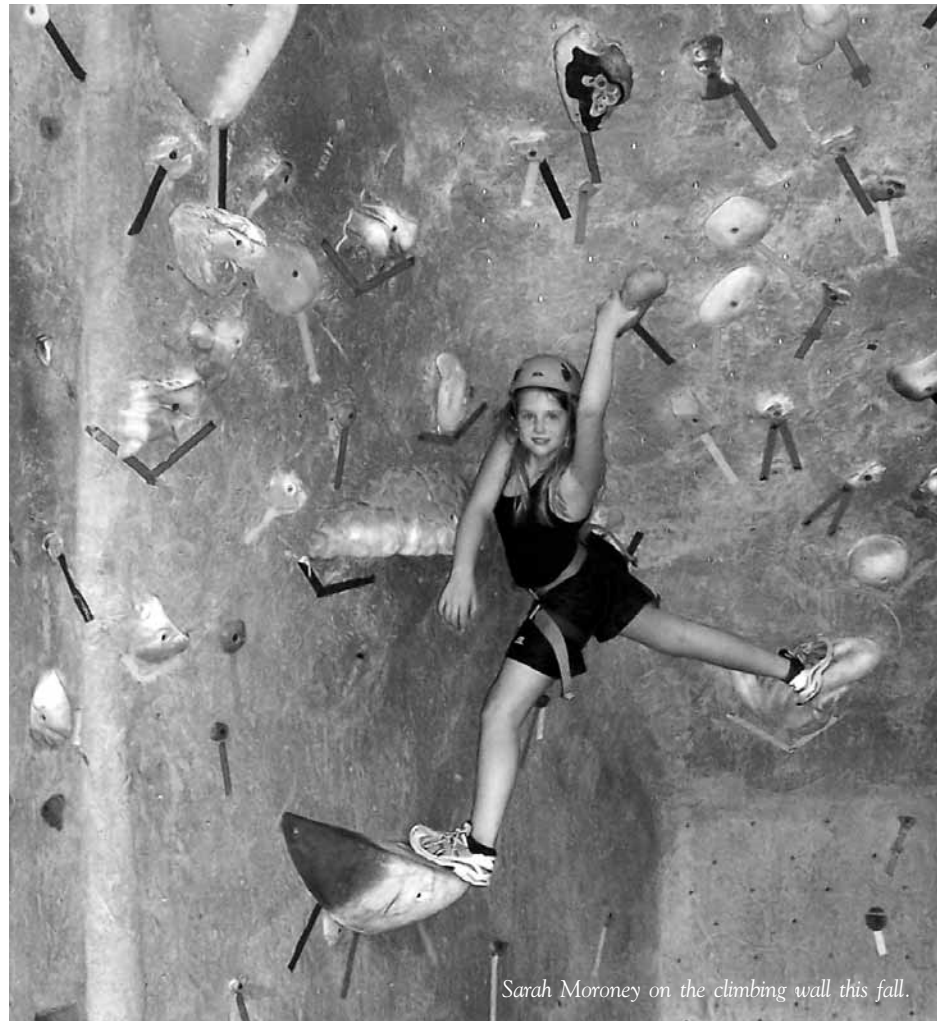
location on June 2nd. There was the usual awkward putting on of harnesses and adjusting them to fit. When our climbers were all ready they divided into groups and set out with the Sport Rock belayers (who hold the end of the safety rope attached to the climber) to gracefully scale the walls just like Spiderman! Or not! Some of the students had previous climbing experience and others hadn't climbed at all before. After her first route up to the top of a beginner wall, I asked Jordan Leach-Herndon, a 9th grader and first time climber, if this was her favorite new sport. She pondered for a few seconds and confessed with a sneaky mischievous smile, "Yeah... yeah, I think it is." Over ice cream from Rita's we talked about our day: everyone said they were worn out and planning on being sore

the next day, but that they had had a great time!

## Paddle Boating...

BY GINA DUFFIN

It was a hot and humid day when four students and I went paddle boating at the Tidal Basin during the upper school trip day this June. As other students were biking, rock climbing, or golfing, we paddled our way around the basin enjoying the peacefulness of the still water beneath us and the puffy clouds overhead. However, because there was not respite from the hot sun while paddling in the basin, we decided after about 30 minutes of sweaty exercise to make our way to the zoo where we could enjoy the water sprays that line the pathways; the animals, and some



*Sarah Moroney on the climbing wall this fall.*

Subway sandwiches on the way. Our fun filled day of exercise ended happily with some ice cream and sodas before heading back to school.

## Golfing...

BY RON MCCLAIN

Viitel, Julien, and Ben went golfing with me on our local outing day. We went down to the East Potomac Course just above Hains Point (from which the “Awakening” sculpture was recently “stolen” for National Harbor.) They have three nine-hole courses and a very large driving range that faces National Airport. There are practice putting greens and a mini-golf course next door. We spent most of our time on the driving range, occasional getting our balls airborne like the passenger planes we watched take off and land. We competed to see who could most accurately hit some of the flags on the range, then puttied for a while before taking on the mini-golf course. At the beginning, golf balls look very small when you're trying to hit them.

## Beaching (with the Middle School)...

BY SAM GRAUL

Matt McClain and I were asked to take the Middle School on a day trip up to Sandy Point Beach, a nice little state park over on the Chesapeake Bay. I had never been before, although after this trip, I can say I will definitely be back. We took our lunches and a cooler with some water over the (really hot!) sand, and laid out our towels and prepared for what would be a gorgeous day of relaxing and hanging out with each other on the beach. Honestly, these are the kinds of trips that make me so happy to get to hang out with these great kids. We joked around and played in the water and on the sand, threw Frisbees, footballs, and chilled out when we wanted to. I have to say, I had a great time with the middle school on that day, and I can't wait until we get to go back next year.

# From the President of the Board

Behind the scenes and safeguarding the unique educational experience that our students and faculty are engaged with each school day, there exists a full range of management and governance activity.

This year in addition to the usual planning, fundraising, oversight and promotion in which the Board of Trustees is always engaged, an extensive self-assessment of the entire school is underway. The Board in conjunction with the staff is conducting a head to toe review and assessment of the school, which will make up the core of our ten-year accreditation renewal submission. This work is both exciting and challenging. While time consuming, it is essential to assure our school is positioned and structured most effectively to meet the needs and challenges of today's Parkmont student.

In May & October, the Board held half-day retreats to carefully review our mission and processes as well as to scrutinize our own board structures and mode of operation. We want to make sure we are honing in on the right issues, the ones most critical to our students and overall school. Each and every one of our ten board members is dedicated to assuring that our school performs effectively for our students and that Parkmont remains an available and much needed alternative for students (and their families) in this metropolitan area. Our target population is those students who have not found success in the more traditional school setting.

In addition to evaluating our mission and bylaws, the boards is also redoing our entire board manual, streamlining our board record keeping and refining our policies. This may sound dry and procedural but it will help us do our jobs better.

Our Board is also trying to assure that Parkmont remains agile financially. The Creating Futures campaign has significantly strengthened our financial base, but we must still contend with economic pressures and the resulting decrease in enrollment private schools as a whole are experiencing in this area. The need for Parkmont still exists but families more often are financially stressed and thus in greater need of financial aid. With our small size Parkmont can be flexible but it also means when student numbers drop, budget adjustments must be quickly made. The Finance committee has been very active this year, meeting at least bi-monthly. The group naturally has been active in monitoring the budget but has also developed key financial models that allow us to expand and contract our budget and spending when and where needed. Despite all of this, our commitment to financial aid remains strong, with upwards of 25% of our operating budget being used for such assistance.

As always, our financial supporters and “angels” are essential in keeping Parkmont financially viable. On behalf of the entire Board of Trustees – many thanks to each and every one of you for your contributions and commitment to this wonderful school. We as a Board are hard at work to make sure the dollars you have contributed are expended efficiently and effectively while keeping our education program vibrant and focused on each individual student and to the extent possible, to do that without regard to a family's financial status. We live in challenging times!

J. Cari Elliott Gradison  
President, Parkmont Board of Trustees

## Sheer Poetry

BY KIM SCHRAF

The reliable indicators that May is here – azaleas, SATs, Mother’s Day brunches — were joined by our own special end-of-the-school-year harbinger, the Parkmont Poetry Festival. On Saturday, May 8, for the 28<sup>th</sup> year running, young poets from every stripe of school in the District of Columbia met up at Parkmont to read their verse and be celebrated. A pool of nearly 350 middle-school and upper-school entrants had been winnowed down to 40 finalists by an esteemed trio of judges (Liz Rees, Regie Cabico, and Ed Skoog), whose backgrounds span inner-city schools, university instruction, and spoken-word slams. A record-breaking, capacity crowd showed up to affirm and applaud them on a mercifully mild, 75-degree afternoon following a scorching heat wave.

We were thrilled to include dozens of new schools in the process this year, reflecting the rapidly-changing landscape of DC public charter education, and to find five of our Parkmont students honored as finalists. Thirty-eight of the forty winners were on hand for the festival and reading, as was our



Sharan Strange, former Parkmont English teacher, is now the moderator of the Parkmont Poetry Festival.

mainstay mistress of ceremonies, former Parkmont teacher and published poet Sharan Strange. Students wrote of their families, their dreams, the images that sustain and disturb them as they attempt to make sense of the world they live in.

Mostly, though, their poetry sought to articulate themselves through lenses as diverse as they are. Here are Parkmont’s distinguished winning poems:

### FADING SUNLIGHT

The clouds split in the sky  
And the sun falls to the ground  
The flocks fly by  
Without making a sound  
The clouds fade to red  
As the day turns black  
Feathers lightly shed  
As the rain comes back  
The horizon gets dimmer  
As the clouds disappear  
The flocks from summer  
Begin to reappear

—Jack Hussey, Grade 12

### THERE IS A TANGERINE COLORED SKY

a (sunset) luncheon of the boating party  
—Pierre Auguste Renoir

There is a tangerine colored sky  
And as I open my eyes,  
I see a family,  
Together  
A mom,  
A dad,  
And a little baby.  
And myself,  
Sitting  
In a chair,  
Watching,  
Backwards,  
Like I’m glued there.  
They look happy.  
I take a closer look,  
And see,  
Me.  
I am that little baby.  
I look so innocent,  
Like a tiny dog.  
I don’t see the parents’ faces  
They are a blur,  
Like a sailboat in the distant waters.  
I reach out to touch them ...  
They disappear  
Like in the magic shows  
You always wake up.  
I did, and now,  
I’m alone.  
I look out my window  
There is a tangerine colored sky.  
—Hannah Kramer, Grade 9



Willa Reinhard teaches English at Parkmont and was honored for her story “Flight.”

## Larry Neal Writers Competition Honors Willa Reinhard

BY NIJOLE GEDUTIS

On May 7, 2010, Willa Reinhard, English Teacher, Administrator, and Admissions Coordinator, accepted 3rd place in the 30th Annual Larry Neal Writers Competition for her story, “Flight.” The contest, which is sponsored by the DC Commission on Arts and Humanities, is open to adult and teen writers throughout DC who can submit to any of three categories – poetry, short stories and dramatic writing. “Flight”, about an 11 year old boy from Washington, DC

who dreams of flying planes, is one that Willa has been working on for several years – what she submitted to the Larry Neal competition is part of a much longer story. During the summer of 2006, while working as an Academic Dean for the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth, she was intrigued by a student in the program who ended up serving as inspiration for this particular story. He was facing some difficulties fitting in, she says, despite being as capable as the other students there. In the summer of 2007, after completing her MFA at University of Miami, she began to write the story while on an artist’s retreat in Lake Forest, Illinois.

“Flight” is representative of Willa’s writing in the past few years. Her thesis at the University of Miami was a col-



The winners of the 2010 Parkmont Poetry Festival, from dozens of schools from across the city.



## UNTITLED

Don't get stuck between the rotting  
gray wooden boards.  
Ease your way and follow me.  
These people are like vines.  
Ready to stop you from growing and  
other things.  
Touch the velvet fabric on the table.  
It beats like a heart.  
Showing love.  
Pain.  
Happiness.  
Heartache.  
The warmth of a mother's and  
grandma's love.  
Keep the lantern in the child's soul  
burning.  
Everyone here has big dreams.  
At the brown table we come together.  
Sharing smiles and laughter.  
See, it's not as bad as you thought.  
You saw people like us on TV, but not  
up close.  
Now I guess you have a little sense  
Of what goes on.

—Noelle Smith, Grade 9

## SONIC YOUTH, LIVE AT THE 9:30 CLUB

Silhouette figures leap to the stage,  
Beams of light blaring from  
the back wall.  
Ceiling-high loudspeakers,  
Taped-up drums.  
The crowd shifts and shuffles.  
  
Five first guitar notes shatter  
the suspense,  
Like a baseball through glass.  
Drums pound, bass notes pulsate.  
The guitar screeches and reverberates,  
overpowering the singer's voice.  
The crowd bounces and crashes.  
I look around the stage,  
the guitarist is using a drumstick,  
bowing the strings,  
The bass and drums drop out,  
the next song beckons.  
  
The borders of the songs blur,  
the guitar rarely stopping.  
The storm of music begins to  
mellow into light rain,

And suddenly, it's over.  
Ninety minutes, rushed  
by in an instant.  
I left with the crowd, feeling awesome.  
—Quentin Korn, Grade 8

## UNNAMED POEM

The tree dances in the wind like wind  
blows the tall blades of grass.  
The tree blowing is life in front of you.  
The tree liable to fall down.  
The Empire State Building-sized tree  
will soon perish.  
It blew with great alacrity; it should  
never look at the ground.  
The tree is gone now, an emptiness  
inside.  
For all we've been through, the people  
in the sky are thinking of the tree.  
Those furtive leaves keep getting on  
me, but I do not care.  
The one thing I cared about is now  
forever gone.  
I noticed something where the tree  
used to be.  
Well, that's the beginning of a whole  
new tree.  
Someone planted another tree. I guess  
I'm not the only one.  
Not the only one who thinks about the  
tree; it's such poetry.  
For all that it's worth, it is obscure  
outside now.  
It's time to go where humans go.  
Away from the outside world.  
—Michael Seidman, Grade 7

lection of short stories, *How to Lose an Accent*, about what she calls “the real DC.” She wanted the stories to reflect the “mixture of people who come together in a city like DC,” where she herself was born and raised. She's found inspiration in writers like her local idol, Edward P. Jones, as well as Jhumpa Lahiri, Junot Diaz and Daniel Alarcon.

Willa plans to spend some time this summer pulling together more stories for her collection. The process of writing is, for her, one that entails some work in advance – she says she is always observing and taking notes – as well as some faith that, even though she often starts a story without knowing exactly where the characters are going to take her, they have somewhere to go.

## Parkmont School Silent Auction 2010

BY AMY WARD

The Parkmont Silent Auction was a great success this spring! All told, we raised almost \$12,000 to support our school Computer Center and the Financial Aid Program. It was great to see so many members – new and old – of the Parkmont community in attendance. The bidders had fun bidding on everything from Nationals Tickets to Alaskan Crab Legs and Golf Vacation Packages to tickets to Folger Theatre's production of *Hamlet*. Parkmont students' advisory groups put together baskets to bid on. Gina's

advisory group made a yummy Wine and Cheese basket, which won first place for selling at the highest price. However, Trefor's advisory won the unofficial prize for best name: Death by Chocolate.

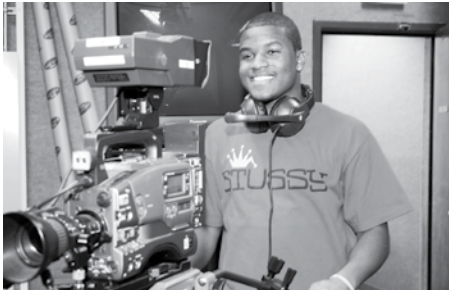
We raffled off a Vacation Package at Rehoboth Beach and when Parkmont alum Thomas Hailey pulled out the winning raffle ticket...he pulled his own mom's name! How exciting!

We had an absolutely amazing of parent volunteer staff. As Auction Coordinator, I would like to say a huge collective thank you to all those parents – you really made this event possible this year and did a great service to our school and our students! Cheers to the auction solicitors, volunteers, donors, attendees and staff!

# Parkmont's Internship Program

BY WILLA REINHARD

Each fall and spring, our upper school students spend six hours a week, and sometimes more, at internships around the DC metro area. The internship program is an integral component of the upper school curriculum. We see it as an opportunity for students to learn about the world of work through first



SaVaughn Thompson at his internship at DCTV.

hand experience, and we hope it will help them make more informed future choices about areas of study and careers they may want to pursue. The program also strengthens our ties with the diversity of the D.C. metropolitan community, and opens the eyes of our community to the potential of motivated and earnest high school students.

This year, our students participated in a wide range of jobs, from retail to day care to pet care, from homeless advocacy organizations to the offices of the DC City Council (please see the complete list in the attached Annual Report). They worked side by side with everyone from the Council Chairman to horse trainers to television producers. We thought you might enjoy hearing a bit about the experiences of some of our students in their own words:

## Takoma Park Library

On a typical day at my internship, I get off the bus, cross the street, walk across the lawn, jump over the wall walk up the sidewalk, open the first set of doors, walk through, open the second set of doors, walk through, say hello to whoever happens to be at the desk, walk into the staff room, walk past the kitchen, put my backpack and laptop behind Karen's desk (that's my

supervisor), look at any books that may be on the cart next to her desk, walk out of her office, say hello to Rebecca and Dave, walk out of the staff room, say hello to Karen, walk across the library into the kid's room, organize one or two sections of the nonfiction, read something, tutor Ethan, Akholom, and Isaak (Isaak is a girl) and then, probably go home.

—A.G. Abrams, 10th grade

## Nippon Kenpo Karatedo

I have been a part of my internship or organization for well over 10 years. Throughout those 10 years I have done quite a few things. Some things that I have done in the past which are not new include, learning how to build trophies, training students and adults (which I am still doing now), and being a camp counselor. The experience that I have gotten the most out would be training the adults and kids. I get so much out of that because at the end of the day I can think back to myself and say, "I just taught this adult or kid a new skill today and hopefully they remembered what I showed them or taught them." Besides, I get the most out teaching the kids and adults because I get to hold the responsibility that I know what I have learned enough to teach someone else.

—Angela Cole, 11th grade

## Council Youth Internship Program

I would choose to work in D.C. politics because I have enjoyed my internship at the Council Youth Internship Program. I learned about politics and the difficult situations the Chairman is put through. It's funny how he tries to ask us questions to help him with his own problems, but he does it in a discrete way. I would make sure my constituents' concerns are heard and solved. I would learn leadership skills and responsibility, but I know I would have to handle a lot of problems. The people of DC would have to trust me, and I would have to give them that comfort. I would like to be a Council member that everybody knows. I would try my best not to be arrogant but to be helpful to people. I have some doubts about how much time I would

have for my family since, from what I have seen, people in the Council have to dedicate their heart and soul to their jobs. I know it is a stressful job, but I would try my best to make it work because I love law and politics. I also like to dress professionally and the idea of working at a desk and keeping myself busy. This field is perfect for me because it involves everything I enjoy.

—Joselyn Flores, 11th grade

## Drilling Tennis and Golf

I learned how to do a lot of things at my internship. It is the first job that I had ever done. The first thing that impressed me was the cash register. Eric taught me how to be a cashier, doing things such as voiding the bill and charging by credit card. He patiently corrected my mistakes and



Kien Han, as a Parkmont senior, writes, "I learned how to do a lot of things at my internship."

never got angry with me even though I made tons of errors. They sometimes entrusted me to be the cashier alone when they were busy explaining racquets to the customers. I always restocked the racquet grips and over grips whenever I came to the shop. It was hard at first because the store has a variety brands, but eventually, I became familiar with everything. The last thing that I learned that I had never done before was using the pricing gun. It was easy and fun. I could use that gun the whole day just because it made a funny noise every time I triggered it.

—Kien Han, 12th grade

# Annual Report

## 2009-2010

**Total Support**

**\$93,823.00**

### Dear Friends of Parkmont and Somerset,

We are so thankful for the support of our families and alumni always, but especially during more difficult economic times. You all showed us your loyalty in many ways this year, through our Annual Giving Campaign, by volunteering at our Poetry Festival, by donating to our Auction, and more.

We have much to show for your generosity. Each individual who goes through our program comes out more confident, smart, self-assured, skilled, happy. They move on to the next step in their lives able to feel successful, productive adults. They have learned biology, canoed, served at multiple internship sites and built a resume, made connections with adults, know their strengths and weaknesses. We are proud of the work we do with individuals, and your support makes it possible.

Our Board of Trustees has been especially involved this year, and we are grateful for their participation. Former Somerset teacher Monty Carlson helped us connect with Somerset alumni during this past academic year, and we appreciate her help! So many of our parents volunteered with our auction or at other events. So many local businesses sponsored our students for internships.

In 2011, we look forward to completing our Accreditation process with AIMS. We will be graduating more than 10 seniors. We are traveling to Panama. Your participation and support this year will undoubtedly have a positive impact on our programs. Thank you so much for all that you do.

Sincerely,



Christy Halvorson Ross  
Director of Institutional Advancement



*Upper school students at the Natural History Museum*

## THANK YOU!

### Gifts for Current Operations

Annual Giving, Unrestricted	\$51,984
Annual Giving, Restricted	\$2,850
The Somerset Fund	\$575
The Financial Aid Fund	\$7,500
Internships	\$2,000
Board Development	\$1,000
The Parkmont Poetry Festival	\$4,275
Auction	\$11,439
<b>Total Current Year Support</b>	<b>\$81,623</b>

### Gifts for Capital Purposes

Creating Futures Campaign	\$12,200
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**Total Voluntary Support** **\$93,823**

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## Ways to Give to The Parkmont School

### Cash or Check

- ▶ These gifts are immediately available for use at Parkmont.
- ▶ Gifts may be unrestricted or restricted to special projects or funds.
- ▶ Donations may be made with a Visa or MasterCard.

### Securities

Appreciated stocks or bonds can be donated to Parkmont and can be deducted at full market value on the date of transfer.

### Matching Gifts

More than 1,000 employers will match donations made to Parkmont. You can obtain matching gift forms from the personnel office of your employer.

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## Types of Gifts

### Unrestricted Annual Gifts

Annual gifts are used to support our continued needs. These funds become part of our operating budget.

Be sure to have your employer match your gift to Parkmont School, if applicable!

### Restricted Annual Gifts

In 2009-10, restricted gifts were made to several restricted annual giving funds. Restricted gifts can be made for any purpose decided upon by the donor and the school.

**The Popkin Fund** (Social Studies) in 2009-10 provided funds for theater experiences for our Upper School students. Among other things, a theater class attended “Around the World in 80 Days” at Round House, and “Metamorphosis” at Synthetic Theater. They also saw a series of monologues at the Arena Stage about identity and Race.

**The Randy Pellaton Fund** (Outdoor Education) for over two decades has supported our middle school adventures. Last year, the middle schoolers went to Greenbrier State Park to enjoy the lake, and Tuckahoe State Park Ropes Course, as well as iceskating, bowling, and more. **The Lentz Fund** (Financial Aid for Travel Classes) helped take students to an all-school ski trip to Whitetail, and upper schoolers to a corn maze in The Plains, VA.

### Creating Futures: Parkmont’s Campaign for Today and Tomorrow

We continue to bring in long-term pledged dollars to the Creating Futures Campaign, although the campaign officially was concluded in December

2008. Creating Futures raised monies to build a number of reserves for Parkmont. It created a more stable financial aid program; strengthened our faculty salaries, benefits and training programs; and reinforced our Signature Programs (internships, trips, computers, use of our special building, etc.) We raised over \$1 Million for this campaign.

### The Parkmont-Somerset Financial Aid Fund

Parkmont School raises funds to cover immediate financial aid costs, as well as to build a financial aid endowment. Many Parkmont families do not pay full tuition so the school gives out more financial aid, on a per capita basis, than any other school in the Washington area.

### The Parkmont Poetry Festival

Our 28th annual citywide Poetry Festival occurred in May 2010, celebrating the talents of many young D.C. poets. Funds for the Poetry Festival over the years have been raised primarily from foundations with generous in-kind donations from a number of local businesses as well.

### Support Services

Parkmont raises monies from foundations and individuals for our Support Services program. This program provides tutoring, study skills help, study hall, diagnostic testing, computer skills and counseling to students who need it.

### Events

Members of the Parkmont community donate their time, services and goods to several events each year to support the goals and mission of the school. These events promote a sense of community

and school spirit among students, parents, faculty, administration, trustees and friends. Included are:

- ▶ Back-to-School Picnic and International Dinner
- ▶ The Silent Auction
- ▶ Parkmont Poetry Festival

### Gifts in Kind

Gifts in kind include goods donated, which directly support our programs and enhance our facilities. Books, computers, art supplies, equipment, landscaping assistance etc. are listed here.

Parents, friends, trustees and businesses that offer their professional expertise or services free of charge to Parkmont provide a significant savings to the school. We appreciate your support and recognize your gifts of service under this category.

### Volunteers

Dozens of volunteers—current parents, parents of former students, and friends of the school—volunteer their time to help out the school each year. Volunteers make meals for school events, place phone calls at our Annual Giving Phonathon, organize our fundraising silent auction and work at our Poetry Festival.

### Internship Sponsors

Internship sponsors aid the Parkmont community by working with students in our Internship program. Upper School students work six hours per week all year. Middle Schoolers work three hours per week in the spring at internship sites where they get real-life work experience without pay to enhance their education and knowledge of the working world.

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## Annual Giving (Unrestricted) **\$51,984**

### Current Families 2009-10

Lynn and Bill Brownell  
Mary Cole  
Colleen Coughlin  
Diane and Alex Dabney  
Elizabeth and Robert Doherty  
Debbie DuSault  
Diane and Melvin Heath  
Michael Hussey  
Karen and Steve Korn  
Sara and Michael Landy  
Ernesto Grijalva and Kate Lasso  
Laura Lester  
Sydney Jacobs and Mark Otto  
Susan Richardson  
Leslie Saunders  
Susan Silverstein and Ken Shiotani  
Susan Schwartz and Howard Stanislawski  
Sherrie Stephens  
Kerry and Howard Tripp  
Gina and Gerard Winstanley

### Alumni and Parents of Alumni

Susan and Robert Avjian  
Patricia Jayne and Chris Barr  
Patricia and Theodore Bell  
Betsy Vieth and Phillip Brenner  
Shannon Burkart Morris  
Sally Pfund and William Bush  
David Cowey  
Elisa Braver and Austin Doyle  
Debbie DuSault  
William Eby  
Carl Engelhardt  
Brian Fassl  
John and Terry Fassl  
Jan and Bruce Ferguson  
Whitney and Irving Fuller  
Mary and Richard Gathercole  
Lucy and Tom Gies  
Patricia and Francis Glowacki  
Cari and Bill Gradison  
Alison Gray  
Stephen Cohn and Christina Guidorizzi  
Ezra Hausman  
Sharon Hess  
Peter and Kathleen Higgins  
Cille Kennedy

Elias Kennedy  
Mary Jordan  
Al and Ann La Porta  
Jeannine Ladd  
Judy Lentz  
Judy and Larry Lorber  
William McInturff  
Jacqueline Parker and Paul Meagher  
Mike Jones and Leah Noonan  
Nancy Coleman and Paul Pitkoff  
Lisa Nickerson and Rimensnyder  
Julia and Thomas Rogers  
Peter and Beatrice van Roijen  
Elsa Silverman  
Penny Mills and Peter Simpson  
Shanna Smith  
Susan Chinn and Tom Snyder  
Shirley Thompson and Solomon  
Barbara and Randy Stewart  
Ralph and Suzanne Tarica  
Thelma Thompson- Deloatch  
Lee and Fred Tyner  
John and Kathleen Volpe  
Nancy and Dr. George Watson  
David Weisman  
Mavis and Hal Wylie

### Board of Trustees, Faculty and Friends of Parkmont

Walter Ailes  
Shannon Burkart Morris  
Cari and Bill Gradison  
Sam Graul  
Sally and Thor Halvorson  
Christy Halvorson Ross  
Cille Kennedy  
Judy Lentz  
Andrew and Dorothy Mason  
Ron McClain  
Ginger and Jim Newmyer  
Paul Penniman  
Stephen and Ruth Pollak  
Dick Roth  
Kim Schraf  
Kim Tanner  
Amy Ward  
David Weisman  
Tom and Linda Yoder

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## Annual Giving (Restricted) **\$3,425**

### The Lentz Fund

Ron McClain  
Barbara Clarke and Douglass Leslie

### Faculty Development Fund

Ron McClain

### The Somerset Fund

Laurie Anderson  
Bob and Rhoda Chanin  
Charles and Barbara Gholz  
Bette Lemperle  
Kenneth MacClune  
Kate Meade  
Llyn Peabody  
Robert Peabody

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## Creating Futures: Parkmont's Campaign for Today and Tomorrow

**Total Pledged in Campaign, 2005-8 \$1,016,438**

**Creating Futures Income Received in 2009-10 \$12,200**

Annick and Lowell Abrams  
Deborah Archer  
Patricia Jayne and Chris Barr  
Ann Breen  
Laurel Bryant  
Shannon Burkart Morris  
The Cafritz Foundation  
Diane and Alex Dabney  
Elisa Braver and Austin Doyle  
Debbie DuSault  
William Eby  
The E.E. Ford Foundation  
Ben Elliott  
Brian Fassl  
The Frelinghuysen Foundation  
John and Kiendl Gordon  
Cari and Bill Gradison  
Lee Goldman and Wendy Gradison  
Alison Gray  
Jo Ann Albert and Timothy Greene  
Stephen Cohn and Christina Guidorizzi  
Kaifa and Tyrone Hall  
Sally and Thor Halvorson  
Diane and Melvin Heath  
Sharon Hess  
John Kanwit  
Cille Kennedy  
Elias Kennedy

Wendel Landes  
Jude Landis  
Sara and Michael Landy  
Judy Lentz  
Laura Lester  
Steven Ludwig  
Andrew and Dorothy Mason  
Ernest McClain  
Mignon McClain  
Ron McClain  
William McInturff  
Mike Moyer  
Jane Perkins  
Nancy Coleman and Paul Pitkoff  
Jocelyn and Erna Radifera  
Lisa Nickerson and Nelson Rimensnyder  
Marcy Marx and Steven  
Christy Halvorson Ross  
Dick Roth  
Elsa Silverman  
Lee and Fred Tyner  
Peter and Beatrice van Roijen  
Jacqueline Wallen  
David Weisman  
Susan Willens  
Mavis and Hal Wylie  
Tom and Linda Yoder

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## The Financial Aid Fund **\$7,500**

The Clark-Winchcole Foundation

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## Board Development **\$1,000**

Cari and Bill Gradison

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## 2010 Auction Donors **\$11,439**

Alexandra Beyda	Arena Stage	Dr. Michael G. Landy, D.D.S.	Paat Itz'at
Julien Clarke	Artful Framing and Gallery	Eggspectation	Panera Bread
Diane Dabney	Arucola Osteria Italiana	Fallon Fine Art Photography	Park Florist
Gina Duffin	Austin Grill Stepha	First Financial Group	Parkway Custom DryCleaning
Debbie DuSault	bd's Mongolian Barbeque	Folger Theatre	Regal Entertainment Group
Alison and Pete Duvall	Bear Trap Dunes Golf Club	Friends of the National Zoo	Ridgewells Caterers
Nijole Gedutis	Bethesda MRI	Giant Foods LLC	Robeks
Cari and Bill Gradison	Big Fish Grill	Gina's Advisory	Rock Creek Sport & Health
Sam Graul	Blair Mansion Inn	Giuseppi's Pizza Plus	Round House Theatre
Teresa Gruber	Bowie Baysox	Great American Restaurants	Seth Krauss
Sally Halvorson	Bread & Chocolate	Gruen and Wichansky, P.C.	Shopper's Food
Christy Halvorson Ross	Cactus Cantina Cindy	Guttman & Pearl Associates	Starbucks Coffee Co.
Michael Hussey	California Tortilla	Hillwood Museum	Strathmore Hall
Cille Kennedy	Candy Kitchen Shoppes	Hot Yoga	Suzie Ward, Massage Therapist
Sara Landy	Capitol Steps	House of Musical Traditions	Tabard Inn
Judy Lentz	Catch Can	Imagination Stage, INC	The Artisans Am
Laurie Lester	Child's Play	Jeff Goldman & Associates	The Theatre Lab
Dorothy Miller	Circle Yoga	Johnson's Florist & Garden Centers	The Tripp Family
Mike Moyer	Clarice Smith Performing Arts Center	Kendall's Cakes	Tonic
Susan Richardson	Color Me Mine	Lebanese Taverna Café	Trefor's advisory
Rachel Schmidt	Computer Geeks	Magic Carpet	Tweddell Goldberg Investment Mgmt
Kim Schraf	Creative Cakes	Mark's Kitchen	Washington Mystics
Lisa Schumacher	Dance Place	Marrakesh Restaurant	Washington Reiki
Amy Ward	Destination Fitness	Middle Eastern Cuisine	Willa's Advisory
A Fair Day's Play	Doggie Style	Mobile One Detailing Services	Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company
AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center	Dominion Electric	Nijole's Advisory	zpizza
Amano	Dominoes Pizza	Opera Lafayette	

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## Auction Volunteers

Michelle Banks	Theresa Gruber	Mark Otto
Taylor Barnes	Barbara Hough	Marcus Pettus
Janet Batlan	Reggie Hough	Willa Reinhard
Marcia Burke	Pat Hurley	Susan Richardson
Liz Doherty	Edward Hurley	Jon Rothbaum
Gina Duffin	Phillippa Jackson	Adrian Schmidt
Debbie DuSault	Sydney Jacobs	Rachel Schmidt
Pete Duvall	Cille Kennedy	Naomi Steinberg
Allison Duvall	Sara Landy	Kerry Tripp
Trefor Evans	Lisa Leach	Suzie Ward
Nijole Gedutis	Judy Lentz	Gina Winstanley
Sam Graul	Laurie Lester	

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## Parkmont School Volunteers, 2009-10

Taylor Barnes	Sydney Jacobs	Naomi Steinberg
Janet Batlan	Cille Kennedy	Kerry Tripp
Marcia Burke	Sara Landy	Suzie Ward
Liz Doherty	Kate Lasso	Gina Winstanley
Debbie DuSault	Lisa Leach	
Pete Duvall	Judy Lentz	
Theresa Gruber	Laurie Lester	
Barbara Hough	Mark Otto	
Reggie Hough	Marcus Pettus	
Pat Hurley	Susan Richardson	
Edward Hurley	Jon Rothbaum	
Phillippa Jackson	Adrian Schmidt	

## The Internship Fund \$2,000

The Lucas-Spindletop Foundation

## Internship Sponsors

2 Amys	Graffiti Audio/Visual
Advanced Computer Center	Green Pets
Bethesda Pet Shoppe	Hillwood Museum and Gardens
Calomiris YMCA	John Robert Powers
CD/Game Exchange	Little Flower Montessori
Centro Nia	Little Rascals
City Council Youth Internship Progra	Meadowbrook Stables
Commander Salamander	Montgomery County Parks
Community Council for the Homeless	Morgan Day Care
Community for Creative Non-Violence	National Geographic Society
CREATE Arts Center	New School of Dance & Arts
Dance Place	Nippon Kenpo Karatedo
DCTV	Old Takoma Park Business Ass
Doggie Style	Rock Creek Horse Center
Drilling Tennis and Golf	Shephard Park Library
Exent Technologies	Silver Spring Public Library
Fillmore Arts Center	SOME
Foot Locker on 14th	Sullivan's Toy Store
Furin's	Takoma Park Library
G & T Sportscenter	The Bike Rack
Gandhi Brigade Youth Media	The Washington Home
GAP Community Day Care Center	Third and Eats
Garnet Group	Total Geek Solutions

## The Parkmont Poetry Festival \$4,275

The D.C. Commission on the Arts and Humanities

## Gifts in Kind

Black Student Fund	Barbara Hough
Hogan and Hartson, LLP	SEIU

The Parkmont School Annual Report is published by The Development Office after each fiscal year.

We have attempted to make these lists as correct as possible. If any inaccuracies are found, please notify the Development Office and accept our sincere apologies.

For more information on Parkmont School's development efforts, please contact Christy Halvorson Ross, Director of Institutional Advancement, at (202) 726-0740, ext. 210.

## Fiscal Year 2009-10\*

### Revenue

Tuition	\$1,233,722
School Programs	\$10,849
Fundraising**	\$81,623
Financial Income & Capital Transfers	\$82,413
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,408,607</b>

### Expenses

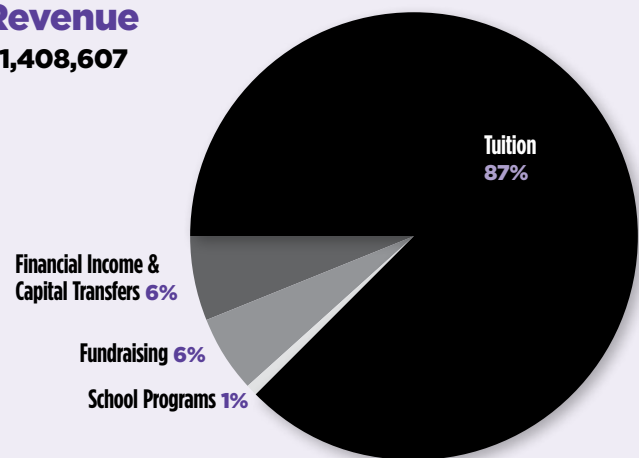
Administration & Instructional	\$765,422
Financial Aid	\$292,215
Program & Student Activities	\$69,901
Property, Other Expenses	\$109,406
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,236,944</b>

\*These numbers have not been finalized in the school audit, which is completed winter 2010-11.

\*\*Does not include incoming funds (\$12,200.00) to Major Giving Campaign, which are not for operating income.

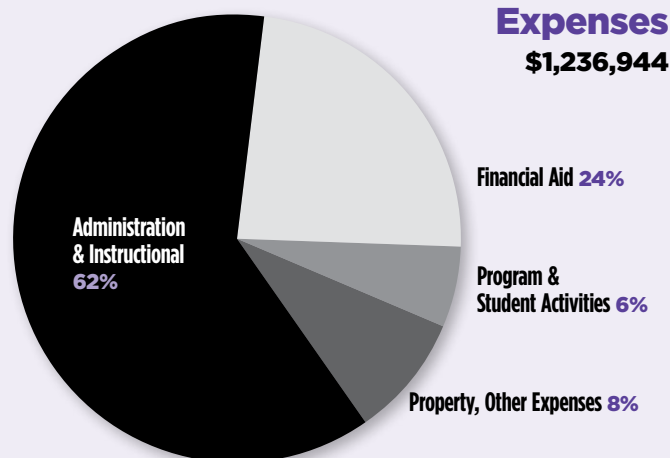
### Revenue

\$1,408,607



### Expenses

\$1,236,944



# ALUMNI NEWS

## Parkmont Alumni

**Brian Huth** (1983) sent us a great email with lots of interesting updates on classmates. He fondly remembers the Shenandoah class. He says "After I left Parkmont, my family moved to NYC for a year. I attended HS for the humanities in Chelsea. We then moved out to Micronesia. I finished HS at Xavier, a Jesuit boarding school on the island of Weno in the state of Turk. Did a lot of diving out there. After that my family moved to Saipan for a few years. I stayed there for a year and then went backpacking through Europe before attending my first year of college at Eastern Oregon State College. I finished out college at the University of Maryland and after a short stint as a laboratory chemist have been working for the National Library of Medicine ever since. I am an indexer there, and lived down in Shaw with a wife and

## FACEBOOK!

### Become a fan of Parkmont School on Facebook!

In your "search" box at the top of the screen, type in "The Parkmont School," when you see our school pop up, click on "Become a Fan" on the right side of the screen.

You'll get to hear of some of the interesting things going on here, and you can reconnect with alumni as well. Thanks!



baby girl (Madeleine.) My parents live in Takoma Park." Brian reports that **Andrew Budnyj** (1983) is an executive chef in San Francisco.

**Rachel Schlank Bailey** (1985) is living in Glen Allen, VA. She is still in very close touch with **Meghan Chrisney** (1985). Rachel is working at Sun Trust Mortgage.

**Scott Parsons** (1999) and **Angela (Engelhardt) Parsons** (1998) had a baby boy this September.

**Philip Barr** (2005) is a civil engineer graduate from Penn State. He just started working for the FAA on 7 state airport projects.

**Dana Ferguson** (2006) is an audio engineer and his company, Back @ the Lab Productions, provides sound recording and PA systems to musicians and live festivals in Southern California.

**Martin Gathercole** (2007) is studying at Montgomery College and also working.

**Sarah Gordon** (2007) just finished an internship at Disney and has been offered a job in Orlando.

**Peter Ferguson** (2008) is in his junior year at Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. Peter is in the LMU Honors Program, on the Dean's List, majoring in Electrical Engineering. He was inducted into the National Society of Collegiate Scholars on Nov. 6, 2010.

**Kindred Crane** (2008) was in the Navy for a short tie. He then attended Culi-

## WHAT'S NEW?

Please send us your news! We love to hear from Parkmont and Somerset alumni. Email **Christy** at [cross@parkmont.org](mailto:cross@parkmont.org) or call at **202.726.0740, ext. 210.**

nary School in Canada and is now working on the Hill at a restaurant.

**Cece Bell** (2008) is attending Anne Arundel Community College and is planning on transferring next fall to University of Maryland to study communications and sports medicine.

## Somerset Alumni

**Sue Peabody** (1977) teaches history at Washington State University Vancouver, "which is neither in Canada nor hosted the Olympics." She gives a shout out to **Margie McClune** "Somerset '75!"

**Llyn Peabody** (1980) married Chris Burns in 2007. She reports "He and I live a very simple life in the country (near Eugene, OR) and we dedicate much of our time as volunteers to our project: Alpine's Food-Sharing garden, which grows food for those in need. 2010 will be our second year." She continues, "Keep up the good work! I draw on my Somerset education all the time."

**Ken MacClune** (1982) has moved with his family to Bangkok, Thailand for a 1-4 year stint!



Alumni Brian Fassl (2006) and Rachel Hatcher (2005)

## Parkmont Reunion, Fall 2010

It was wonderful to see so many familiar faces at the Parkmont Reunion on September 3rd. There was a big contingent especially from the 1990's, and fun for everyone to catch up. Thank you so much for attending and re-connecting.

Please make sure you join our Facebook group and send us your latest email address and information so that we can stay in touch with you!



left to right: Raquel Ortiz (1996), Nikka Garcia (1997), Ayana Simms (1999), Madalyn Renee Evans (1988), Tony Batten (1998), Zitaqwa Muhammad (2001).



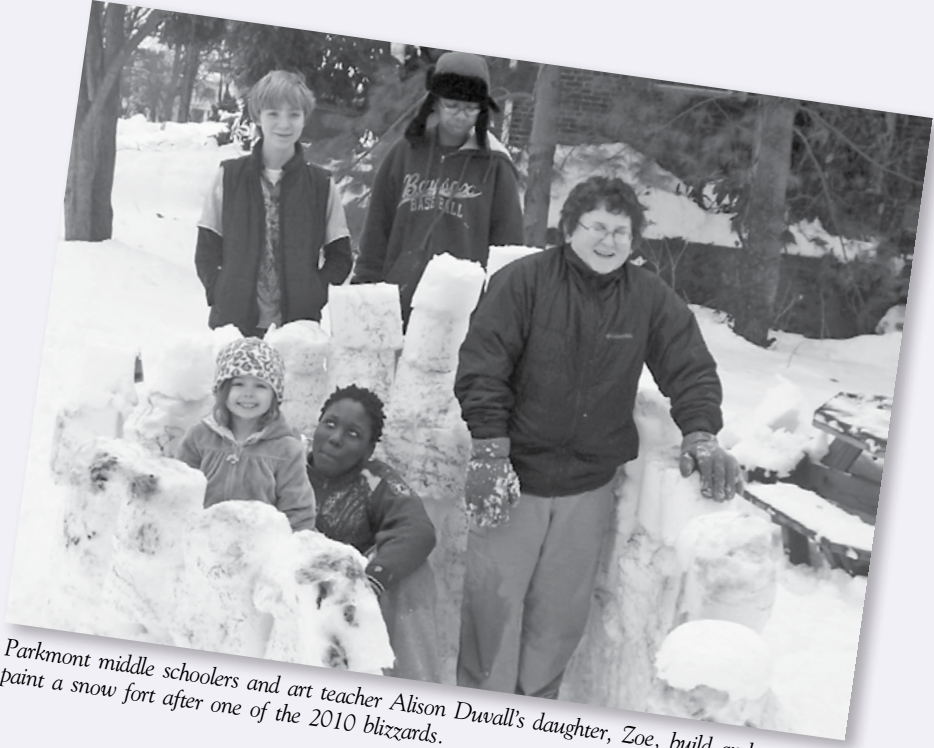
left to right: Aaron Wiseman (2000), Ayana Simms (1999), Olivia Soileau (2000), Madalyn Renee Evans (1988), Tony Batten (1998), Zitaqwa Muhammad (2001).



Raquel Ortiz and Nikka Garcia.

## Inside this Issue

- 1 Canoeing and Kayaking Club**
- 2 Director's Letter**
- 3 Fall Soccer Team Competes with Nora School**
- 3 Field Trip Spotlight**
- 4 Choose Your Own Adventure! Parkmont's New Field Trip Days**
- 6 From the President of the Board**
- 8 Parkmont's Internship Program**
- 9 Annual Report**
- 14 Alumni News**



*Parkmont middle schoolers and art teacher Alison Duvall's daughter, Zoe, build and artfully paint a snow fort after one of the 2010 blizzards.*

# Parkmont School

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**Parkmont School**