They might have called it saffron, but we know better. It was great to see Central Park turn Fieldston orange in February!

Ethical Culture teachers and students had been studying and anticipating *The Gates, Central Park: 1979–2005* long before the exhibit opened, and they were ready. Many of the classes worked on special projects, from artwork and poetry to a study of Christo and Jeanne-Claude's previous work. Danielle Neufeld's fifth grade class and Julianne Dow's first grade class have “buddies” time together each week; on this bright day, they all walked into Central Park to enjoy the art, draw pictures of *The Gates,* and write poems about it. (Asked one fifth grader, “Can I write that I don’t like them?” Answer: “Of course!”)

The chance to be a monitor or *Gates* keeper attracted volunteers all over the world, eager to participate in this temporary work of art. The monitors assisted the public, kept the fabric unfurled, and handed out small souvenir swatches. One of the monitors, shown here, Robby Rapoport ’97, just recently returned to the States after working in the arts for two years in Europe. After graduating from Brown, Rapoport taught creative writing at a university in Würzburg, Germany, for a year, then went on to Barcelona, directing an English theater company there. – G. C.
Oppenheimer and the Tradition of Science at Fieldston

THE STUDY OF SCIENCE is a cornerstone of a liberal education. In a sense the intertwining strands of science/mathematics and literature/history form the DNA of learning. Fieldston has had a strong program in the sciences from the very beginning, with extraordinary scientists and teachers among our faculty, and distinguished scientists, engineers, mathematicians, and physicians among our alumni. Their lives and work have been deeply influenced by the school and its values.

This issue of the ECF Reporter follows the lives of some of our alumni who have gone on to distinguished careers in science and reports on the current teaching of science at Fieldston. Our main biology lab and two ancillary labs have recently been transformed into a state-of-the-art biology lab, wet lab and cell culture lab, respectively. These renovations were the dream of our faculty, made possible by contributions from generous alumni and friends. In our campus expansion, the new buildings will be “green” and reflect the best thinking on sustainable environments; they will be living laboratories for ideas and programs. The reconstructed outdoor areas will be integrated into our curriculum as well.

One of the great teaching realities of science is that it is an intensely collaborative effort. In schools and colleges alike, students are brought immediately into the circle of learning and teaching, experimenting with ideas, and testing theories with their teachers as colleagues and fellow investigators. In science we also encounter the most difficult ethical issues in our culture. Cloning, artificial intelligence, nuclear energy, ecology and sustainability, medical research, the exploration of space, the nature of life are all the stuff of science and ethics as well.

It is no accident, I think, that one of the most famous graduates of the school, J. Robert Oppenheimer, was a scientist of global renown. His years at Fieldston were marked heavily by the influence of two teachers, Augustus Klock, who taught physics and chemistry, and Herbert Smith, who taught him English. In David Cassidy’s very fine new biography, *J. Robert Oppenheimer and the American Century*, the influence of these teachers, the school, and the ethical culture movement on Oppenheimer and his parents is thoughtfully explored. Oppenheimer embodies exactly that struggle for an ethical foundation of a life. He is remembered most for the Manhattan Project, but his life evolved from there. He had a deep and abiding concern for the moral implications of the work he had done. He wrote and worried at the political underpinnings for the use of a force so powerful that it could either destroy the entire human enterprise or advance it in marvelous and powerful ways.

As teachers, students, and citizens, we continue to grapple with these issues. The exploration of science and its ethical dimensions remains a central conversation at the Ethical Culture Fieldston School.

Joseph P. Healey, Ph.D.
Head of School
The Importance of Music

I very much enjoyed the Fall 2004 issue of the ECF Reporter, especially the way in which it highlighted the musical department, a department in which I had some great experiences while at Fieldston (1979–1984). I was most impressed by your inclusion of Randy Wanless’s name. Randy really was an outstanding teacher, and I’m glad he hasn’t been forgotten. I did, however, want to mention another teacher who, while not as central a player in the jazz program at Fieldston as Randy, played a huge role in my musical education.

Tim Kennedy was the drum teacher while I was a student, and I took classes with him both at Fieldston, and privately, in my home. He was a terrific teacher and a real character, too. Irascible when he wanted to be, inspirational at other times, he was the real deal, a teacher who had transcribed drum parts himself from recordings he liked so I and other students could learn to play along. When it was time for me to buy a set of drums, he didn’t tell me to go shopping. He took my father and me out and we bought the set together (I still have the same set).

Tim was a real presence in my life, and though I haven’t spoken with him in many years, I still think of him now and again, with great fondness.

Daniel R. Gerson ’84
Sherman Oaks, California

Send us your news, send us your thoughts. Send updates on your life to your class recorders or to Toby Himmel (thimmel@ecfs.org). Send suggestions for articles to Ginger Curwen (gcurwen@ecfs.org) and letters to reporterletters@ecfs.org.
We’ve been blessed with a number of familiar faces who have returned to campus in the past year to speak at Founder’s Day, Fieldston assemblies or MADs (Modified Awareness Days), or in classes in the lower schools.

Alumni: Have particular expertise in a subject or issue? Interested in a public appearance in the Riverdale section of the Bronx or on CPW? If you have an interest in sharing your expertise at Fieldston, please send an email to Toby Himmel (thimmel@ecfs.org), director of alumni relations, to be added to her alumni resource list.

### February 2004
- **David Stone ’84, Howard Wolfson ’85**
  - Modified Awareness Day: Elections 2004

### May 2004
- **Hilary Baum Stein ’65**
  - Assembly: Sustainable Agriculture

### October 2004
- **Darcy Frey ’79**
  - Summer Book Assembly: discussing his book, *The Last Shot: City Streets, Basketball Dreams*

### November 2004
- **Paula Lazrus ’76**
  - Ethical Culture third grade class: on archeology

### January 2005
- **Steve Blier ’68, Dee Michel ’70, Ken Shulman ’73, and Anna Sochynsky ’99**
  - Assembly: Panel on Growing up Gay/Lesbian at Fieldston

### February 2005
- **Douglas Bernstein ’76, Patricia E. Harris ’73**

  - Modified Awareness Day: Progressive Education
- **Deborah Meier ’49**
  - The Future of Progressive Education

### February 2005
- **Ken Barton, Mal Goodman, Barbara Rosen**
  - Panel: Fieldston in the 1970s

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**2004–2005**
Science at Fieldston

by Ginger Curwen

he Mighty Zeppelin, Jet Black, The Liger, Hot Mama, JAC, The Harry Pottermobile, and their competitors were ready to roll . . .

So were their 40 young creators. On went the boom box, and sounds from the themes from Peter Gunn, then Batman filled the air, courtesy of FM 105. About 100 Form II students and their teachers packed the bleachers in the upper gym to cheer their classmates along. You could barely hear the beginning of the race. This was the First Ever Mousetrap Car Race-stravaganza, the culmination of about a month’s work by 40 Form II physical science students in John Baglio’s science class, who built (and sometimes rebuilt) their balsa mousetrap-powered cars as a study of the physics of motion: force, friction, velocity, acceleration, torque, inertia, levers. Form II Science introduces students to physics and chemistry at an elementary level.

Like the Kentucky Derby, the races were over almost before they began. There were five heats of three to four cars each, with separate races for speed and distance, and a People’s Choice award for coolest car.

An event like this shows off middle school students at their most creative and exuberant. Said Bill Bertsche, middle school principal. “The kids are engaged, they’re having fun – and they’re learning physics.” Their teacher, John Baglio, reflected on the pedagogy behind the project. “The teams are encouraged to be creative, but within the laws of physics. I have found that middle school
The Mousetrap Car Race shows off middle school science at its interactive best. It starts with a month studying the physics of motion; homework assignments (opposite page, left) are posted on the teacher’s website. Here, teams prepare to compete in races for speed and distance, cheered on by their peers. Like the students themselves, every car is different.
students will dig in to a challenge that provides this combination of freedom within structure."

"Once a project begins, the students build momentum in their work," Baglio continued. "They come into class not having to ask, ‘What are we doing today?’ They know, and they are generally chomping at the bit to get started. Project work is filled with life lessons as well. Students have to work in groups over significant periods of time. They have to work out their differences and solve problems together. They have to make a plan and follow it. My challenge as a teacher is to continually bring the students back to the bigger concepts and principles. It is my job to make sure they don’t just build a mousetrap car, but they build their scientific understanding as well."

**These days at Fieldston,** science is more popular than ever, according to department chair Compton Mahase, judging by the number of classes and the number of students enrolled. There’s a lot of excitement about the renovations in the 400s building in the past few years – the advent of the Pasco interfaces and probes, the digital microscopes, the Smartboards for every classroom, and the renovation of the cell-culture lab last summer. This summer after the roofing on the science building is replaced, solar panels will be installed; they were awarded to Fieldston and the environmental club by NYSERDA two years ago. When the new middle school building opens in 2007, one of its star features will be a vegetative or “green” roof, and the roof will be partially accessible for teaching purposes.

In addition to the basics, the course of study includes numerous electives such as environmental biology, intensive chemistry, astronomy, meteorology, intensive physics, molecular biology, and science research. "Our curriculum is designed to give kids the opportunity to become scientists or act as a scientist would," said Mahase. The science department faculty includes a mix of veterans and newcomers: John Baglio, Susan Biancani, Robert Cairo, Robert Carrano, Robert Chuckrow, Paul Church, David Gardner, Compton Mahase, Peter Mott, Palma Repole, Cheryl Snyder, Kinne Stires, Howard Waldman, Kerri Willa, Grace Yun. "Ten years ago maybe three or four students went on to study science in college," said Mahase, "now it’s a much greater number." He is especially proud of Lev Sviridov ’00, one of 34 to win a Rhodes scholarship this year for his work in science.

Observe the students, all seniors, in Paul Church’s Advanced Topics in Biology...
elective, and you can easily see the excitement on an advanced level in the upper school. Church came to Fieldston in 2001 from Mount Sinai School of Medicine where, as assistant professor in physiology and biophysics, he taught graduate and med students. “There’s much more energy in the classroom here,” he said. The class has voted on its choice of 25 topics or units to study this semester, and they have ranked their top 12, including a lot of neurobiology, DNA technology, immune system, genetics, and origin of life on earth. (Last year, said Church, the students wanted to focus more on ecology and plant structure.) A typical unit runs for two weeks and covers three or four chapters in a text, a lab, and a primary paper; recently published; they meet six times a week.

On a day in February, the class is performing a gel electrophoresis lab, utilizing DNA technology. The labs are very much student-driven, explained Church. He gave them the concept of a lab on DNA technology; the students came up with a forensic medicine backstory -- a biology student alive and studying until he gets a pizza delivery; not long after he is found dead. Was it the disgruntled pizza deliveryman or the neighbor who hated the student’s loud music? The students review the crime scene, run the DNA found on the victim’s body against suspect 1 and suspect 2. The previous day the students have run the gels, stained the gels, rinsed the gels and they are now measuring the lengths of DNA in their samples against a standard marker to get the answer. They do their lab work in small teams, then a few take to the Smartboard to review their results for the class. The culmination of the lab is a short video made by four students depicting the hapless biology student. “I have a lot of fun every day,” said Church.

A word about the Smartboards: Picture a whiteboard you can project onto from a computer, from the Internet, from anything. But there’s more: You can write on the projection, mark it up (your handwriting will be converted to text), save it as a PDF, and email it to absent students, or email next week’s assignment to the whole class or post it on the teacher’s website. Church, technology coordinator for the department, is a big enthusiast: “It makes the class so much more interactive, and the kids are totally into it.” Thanks to a number of venture grants, Smartboards will be in all the science classrooms by year’s end.

**HOW ROOMS 410, 410A, AND 410B WERE TRANSFORMED INTO A STATE-OF-THE-ART HIGH SCHOOL BIOLOGY LAB**

Readers may be interested in how and when these transformations occurred and were funded, through a mix of grants for faculty development from endowed funds, gifts from anonymous donors, and budgeted expenses. The renovations of the annexes even included a makeover for the mural done in the ’40s, shown above.

**Spring 2002**

Former science teacher Damien Whelan receives ECF venture grant for Pasco probes.

**Summer 2002**

Room 410 receives 10 student PCs from technology budget.

**Fall 2003**

Paul Church receives ECF venture grant for digital microscopes.

**Spring 2003**

Compton Mahase receives Southwind Teaching Foundation grant, used for a number of things including projectors and laptops.

**Summer 2003**

Wet lab renovation is funded by anonymous donor.

**Spring 2004**

Paul Church receives ECF venture grant for three Smartboards.

**Summer 2004**

Cell culture lab renovation and 410 main lab renovation is funded by anonymous donor.

**Fall, 2004**

Paul Church receives ECF venture grant for four Smartboards

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**REMEMBER THE SCIENCE FAIR?**

The old Science Fair has now been transformed into the new Science Expo, and the second annual Science Expo will take place on the first Tuesday in May. This format provides all students in all lab sciences, not just intensive chemistry, with the opportunity to design and carry out experiments, and report their conclusions to the community, explained science department chair Compton Mahase.
Doing Science

Six Alumni Talk About Their Life’s Work

From nuclear physics to molecular biology, clinical research to meteorology, these graduates on the frontiers of science have been eyewitness to history, shaping our past, present, and future in the process.

THE GENE PROFILER: ON THE FRONTIERS OF NEUROSCIENCE

A Conversation with

John Ngai ’76

ECF Reporter: Tell us about your experience at ECF.

JN: I started Fieldston in high school (Form III, I think), transferring over from public school in Teaneck, New Jersey. I must have spent the first two years adjusting – Fieldston was such a small community of students, most of whom started in kindergarten together, and wow, the kids were so smart! But the intensity of the academic environment and the close friendships I made really set me on a good path for my future academic pursuits. I had some great teachers. Ray Darby (physics) was a great mentor and made learning science a joy. Barbara Silber taught me biology and AP biology – I think I learned from her in spite of my youth! Ken Hubner (English) inspired me to be a better student, and Renée Spodheim (French) once told me ruefully, “Jean, Jean, Jean, there is more to life than just science . . .” How right she was about that!

As for my interest in science, this is probably genetic. Both my parents were academic physician-scientists at Columbia University’s College of Physicians and Surgeons. Actually the “plan” was to go to medical school, but between my junior and senior years in college, I caught the research bug and decided to go to graduate school in biology.

ECF: Please tell us a bit about your college and graduate work.

JN: Well, I needed a change from commuting every day to the Bronx, so I decided to give California a try. I attended Pomona College in Claremont, California, majoring in chemistry and zoology. By the time I got to college I was a pretty good student, so while the going wasn’t always easy, I did manage to do well there.

I graduated from Pomona in 1980 and then went off to grad school at Caltech (California Institute of Technology) after spending a year at Harvard. This was a time when recombinant DNA techniques were just invented, and many great discoveries in molecular biology were being made using these new tools. In 1987 I received my Ph.D. from Caltech in biology after many years of studying in a cell biology lab.

I then left Caltech in 1988 to pursue my postdoctoral studies at Columbia University with Richard Axel (recipient of the 2004 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine). At Columbia I studied the molecular biology of the olfactory system – how animals detect and discriminate the myriad odors in their environments – and based on my work there I landed my first (and so far only) academic job at the University of California at Berkeley. I got to Berkeley in 1993 and have been here ever since. I am now professor of neurobiology, head up the graduate program, and direct the Functional Genomics Laboratory.

ECF: What is the work you’re doing now? What is its significance for the rest of us?

JN: Here at Berkeley my research group is working in two inter-related fields of study in neuroscience. First, extending from my postdoctoral research, we continue to work on the molecular biology of the olfactory system. This is a fascinating area in which we are striving to understand principles of molecular recognition (how receptors in your nose recognize different odorous chemicals) and neural encoding (how does the brain sort out THE GENE PROFILER: ON THE FRONTIERS OF NEUROSCIENCE

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Renée Spodheim once told me ruefully, “Jean, Jean, Jean, there is more to life than just science...” How right she was about that!

– MOLECULAR BIOLOGIST JOHN NGAI ’76

From nuclear physics to molecular biology, clinical research to meteorology, these graduates on the frontiers of science have been eyewitness to history, shaping our past, present, and future in the process.
the information coming from the nerve cells in your nose to tell your brain what you're smelling).

We are also very interested in developmental neurobiology, specifically the genes and molecules that are responsible for building the nervous system during development — and also repairing it after injuries such as stroke or trauma.

One of the major approaches we take to neural development employs the use of “large scale gene expression profiling.” In a nutshell, the human genome contains about 25,000 genes. What makes the various cells of our bodies different from one another (e.g., a nerve cell, a muscle cell, a liver cell, etc.) are the subsets of genes that each expresses. So, a “neuron” (nerve cell) will express one subset of these 25,000 genes, and a muscle cell will express another subset. This is what makes cells different from one another.

The challenge with the nervous system is enormous, since the human brain comprises tens of billions of neurons, and these cells can probably be sorted into thousands of different types.

We reason that the best way to identify a cell is by the genes it expresses; by measuring the expression of virtually every gene in the genome using “gene chips,” we can get a gene expression “fingerprint” to identify distinct types of neurons. Right now we are very interested in the gene expression fingerprints of progenitor cells in both the developing and adult nervous system. We’re hoping that this work will give us insight into which genes control the process of neurogenesis (i.e., the developmental process of making a mature neuron from an immature progenitor cell) and how such genes might be targeted therapeutically to address developmental defects and degenerative diseases such as Parkinson’s.

**JN:** Perhaps the biggest challenge is believing in oneself and one’s ideas, and then having the perseverance (and instinct) to follow them through. On a larger scale, it’s important that what we do as scientists have some benefit to society, so there’s always pressure on us to do what we think is “important” work. Of course, people in science always complain that there isn’t enough funding, which is true, but in general, I think that good ideas and good science usually get supported.

That said, our society is not always supportive of basic research. But we need to realize that most of the greatest discoveries in modern biomedical science — and by these, I mean ones with impact on how diseases are treated — came from basic or “undirected” research.

**Enter the Ngai Lab at Berkeley**
http://mcb.berkeley.edu/labs/ngai/

John Ngai directs the Functional Genomics Laboratory, University of California at Berkeley; he is also Coates Family Professor of neuroscience, professor and acting head, division of neurobiology; head, neuroscience graduate program.
Ernest D. Courant ’36

Courant’s father in Göttingen, arranged for a full scholarship at Fieldston for Ernest. (His brother, Hans, who graduated from Fieldston in 1943, also became a physicist and is now professor emeritus of physics at the University of Minnesota.) Courant remembers outstanding teachers at Fieldston, especially August Klock’s chemistry class and Margaret Koch’s American history class which “taught me about the structure and meaning of the way this country functions,” he wrote. “My political attitudes and interests were largely shaped by what I learned from her.”

He majored in physics at Swarthmore College, then went on to the University of Rochester in 1940 for graduate work. After earning his Ph.D., Courant joined the nascent Montreal Laboratory in Canada, established as part of the British atomic energy project. It was there he met a young technician, Sara Paul, who would become his wife in 1944.

After the war, Courant got academic work at Cornell as a member of the Institute of Nuclear Studies, where he shared an office with celebrated physicist Richard Feynman. It was there he began his first work in accelerator physics which led him to join the team at Brookhaven National Laboratory in the summer of 1947 which would become his professional home. At Brookhaven in those early years, he participated in building the first billion-volt accelerator, the Brookhaven Cosmotron, which sent protons hurtling along at almost the speed of light and crashing into fixed targets. “The resulting subatomic debris,” wrote Earl Lane in a Newsday article on Brookhaven this year, “offered clues about the fundamental structure of matter.”

Courant’s ongoing work in the physics of the acceleration of charged particles led
to his role in the invention of the “strong focusing” method used in large accelerators and colliders today. That work earned him the prestigious Enrico Fermi Award in 1986.

Officially, Courant retired in 1990, but he still commutes to Brookhaven from his home in Manhattan one day a week to work as a consultant. He and his wife moved into the city five years ago to be near the concerts at Lincoln Center. There’s bike riding in Central Park a few days a week. And last summer he and his wife went to Bangkok for his oldest grandson’s wedding, then on to Cambodia and Angor Wat for a “very stimulating” trip. – M.R.

THE PROBLEM-SOLVER: A LIFE AT LOS ALAMOS

Roger Lazarus ’42

In September 2002, physicist Roger Lazarus addressed a packed house at the Los Alamos National Laboratory, where he had worked since 1951. As the founder of its computing division in 1968, he had a lot to say about the history of computing at this world-famous laboratory and how the Manhattan Project calculations evolved into supercomputing.

Looking back, Lazarus told the ECF Reporter he was interested in science from a young age, but also, he was “pretty much interested in everything.” He has a clear recollection of his years at the Branch school, then Ethical Culture, including making Zuni cornmeal bread on a hot rock. “When it was time to do arithmetic, I felt a great relief that you didn’t have to think, you just had to give the answers – so clearly arithmetic came easily to me,” he said. At Fieldston, Lazarus took all three sciences (Kotlar for biology, Klock for physics and chemistry), a lot of math, and got involved in student government. Some of his classmates then are still good friends. (In fact, a group from the class of 1942 – Rosalind Schoenfeld Singer, Dick Siegel, Sam Florman, Elaine Wechsler Slater and a few others – enjoyed their 50th reunion so much that they get together for a mini-reunion every five years.) Deciding a major at Harvard turned out to be driven by world events. “My advisor told me I would never get a draft deferment for math, but might for physics, so I chose physics. And so was a life determined. In retrospect it was a lucky choice. My talents were more for using mathematics to solve problems rather than do research in mathematics.”

Landing at Los Alamos was another case of serendipity. After a stint in the war, mostly in the Pacific Basin, and graduate work at Harvard, Lazarus received his doctorate in theoretical physics with a specialization in quantum electrodynamics from Harvard University in 1951. He started job hunting, interviewing at Kodak in Rochester, Westinghouse in Pittsburgh, and Los Alamos. “Los Alamos just seemed wonderful to me – gorgeous scenery, relaxed people, and no one was wearing a tie. They were working a six-day week and paying a little more because of it. My wife and I came and fell in love with the place. Once we were here, there was no reason to go anywhere else.”

Since its origins as the lab for the Manhattan Project in 1943, Los Alamos attracted the best and the brightest. When Lazarus arrived, although J. Robert Oppenheimer was no longer there, Edward Teller was there full time; Nobel Prize winner Enrico Fermi came out in the summers. Hans Bethe, who won The Nobel Prize in 1967, assigned Lazarus his first job. “It was all very informal and social in the early days – there was shop talk during morning breaks, tea talks once a week, where someone gave a 30-minute talk with questions after. If you wanted to ask something, you just wandered over,” recalled Lazarus. In those days most of the work at Los Alamos revolved around weapon development and the first job was to make certain assumptions about space and constancy to continued
make the problem more easily solved by mathematics; Lazarus became the expert on predicting the yield or total energy of a future explosion.

As part of his work, Lazarus ran early codes on simple computers from IBM that used punch cards and worked with others on the design of MANIAC, the first stored memory computer. Most visitors, recalled Lazarus in his speech, were interested in the caption on the glass box near MANIAC, “In case of emergency, break glass.” Inside the box was an abacus. Lazarus was a prominent member of team that designed STRETCH, the first solid-state computer, and then headed up the lab’s first computing division, until he returned to research work.

These days Lazarus, fully retired since 1988, lives with his wife in Los Alamos, works on a PC, and is in the process of trying to relearn quantum field theory, a field that has changed considerably since his dissertation. – G. C.

THE PIONEER AND INVENTOR: COMBATING LEUKEMIA

Janice Gabrilove '69

For a woman who has become a world-renowned expert on leukemia and combating the life-threatening side effects of chemotherapy, it is hard to believe that science was not her first love. “In fact, I wanted to be an actress and I loved the performing arts, especially in high school,” said Janice Gabrilove, M.D., who attended Ethical Culture and then graduated from Fieldston in ’69.

But she was not immune to the call of science. “At Ethical, I loved science. I had Mr. Denslow, who taught us everything … the stars, the planets,” she said. “At Fieldston, I had Mr. Kotlar, who definitely had an influence on me. He felt that anything and everything was possible if you just applied yourself, and he encouraged me to pursue biology.”

After Fieldston, she went to Goucher College in Maryland, then a small women’s college. “I did well in high school academically, but did not have a lot of self-confidence,” she said. She admits that she was not a good tester and that her SAT scores did not allow for admission into some of the big coed universities that “were the rage” at that time. “Going to a small school where women focused on their intellectual capital was terrific for me,” said Gabrilove. “I believe my greatest personal growth took place in college as a result.”

Though she started out as a drama and creative writing major, it was in college that her scientific career began in earnest. “The war in Vietnam, social injustice, and the political scene made me want to do something more constructive with my life,” she said. “I became fascinated with chemistry and the principles underlying cell biology. I also enjoyed the process of tinkering and creating new things inherent in scientific pursuits. My father is a doctor and has always been a role model for me, and so I ultimately decided to pursue medicine.”

From there, it was on to the Mount Sinai School of Medicine where she graduated first in her class. She pursued an internship and residency in internal medicine at Columbia Presbyterian College for Physicians and Surgeons and subsequently went on to a fellowship at Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center (MSKCC) in hematology and oncology in 1980.

At MSKCC, Gabrilove began her pioneering work in the understanding and development of proteins that play a key role in combating infections and in promoting the growth and maturation of normal white blood cells. And she became an inventor: Her research with two other colleagues led to the discovery of human granulocyte colony stimulating factor (G-CSF), a natural regulator of special white blood cell production. They found that G-CSF could alleviate “the major life-threatening side effect of chemotherapy” – low white blood cell counts – and received a patent for their work. G-CSF is now produced commercially by Amgen, Inc., the world’s largest biotechnology company, under the trade name Neupogen/Neulasta and is used worldwide as a supplement to chemotherapy. “G-CSF has also revolutionized the manner and ease by when we perform stem cell transplantation for a variety of diseases,” she added.

In 1998, she was recruited back to Mount Sinai to be the chief of medical oncology. Today she is the vice chair for clinical research in the department of medicine at Mount Sinai. “My research focuses on drug discovery and applying new insights derived from scientific observations in the lab toward the development of new treatment strategies for specific malignant and non-malignant conditions,” she said. “I continue to build on the success of prior discoveries which have led to the development of successful therapeutics.
for the treatment of different benign and malignant blood cell conditions … I am also proud of the fact that I have played a key role in the development of two other curative treatments for acute promyelocytic leukemia: arsenic trioxide and all-trans retinoic acid (ATRA),” she said.

Gabrilove is articulate about the challenges of being in science today. Her list: “Balancing work and family; the crisis in healthcare and the inequities of resource allocation; the need for a complete overhaul of the insurance industry; the funding of the research enterprise as it relates to translational and clinical research; and the participation in clinical research to advance the outlook of patients suffering from disease.” – M.R.

Mr. Kotlar definitely had an influence on me.
He felt that anything and everything was possible if you just applied yourself, and he encouraged me to pursue biology.
– ONCOLOGIST AND INVENTOR, JANICE GABRILOVE ’69

THE MOLECULAR BIOLOGIST: SUPPORTING GENETIC RESEARCH

Jonathan Pollock ’74

Look at Jonathan Pollock’s CV, and you do not see what he calls “the usual straight shot” in a single area of science. Pollock’s B.A. was in psychology from Boston University, his M.A. in psychology from University of Pittsburgh, his Ph.D. was in physiology/neurobiology from Columbia, where he became interested in memory and worked with Eric Kandel, who shared the Nobel Prize in 2000 for his work in neuroscience. From there, Pollock describes himself as an “itinerant postdoc”; he studied ion channels as a research scientist at California Institute of Technology, learned gene targeting in Mario Capecchi’s lab at the University of Utah, worked on a mouse model of a human disorder, chronic granulomatous disease, at Indiana University, the prototype of an orphan disease that affects one in a million children. Then came an opportunity to lead a program on the molecular genetics of addiction and synaptic plasticity at the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), a division of the National Institutes of Health.

These days Pollock is chief, Genetics and Molecular Neurobiology Research Branch at NIDA. GMNRB leads NIDA efforts to support research on the genetic basis of addiction vulnerability, pharmacogenomics, proteomics, molecular neuroanatomy, and fundamental cellular and developmental mechanisms that underlie addiction and drug abuse. “Most people don’t know that most of the research is not done at NIH, but through grants to outside investigators,” Pollock explained. “I supervise three Ph.D. level program directors and oversee a portfolio of 140 grants, funded by about $50 million dollars.”

Two initiatives are particularly notewor-
If you had interviewed Pollock as a student at Ethical Culture, you probably could not have predicted his career. Science was an interest, to be sure, but not a passion. “I liked science, and I liked Mr. Denslow’s science class,” he recalls, “but when I went on to Fieldston, I became more interested in history and politics.” Pollock’s father was a clinical psychologist, his mother a psychiatric social worker, so it was natural that Pollock took a psychology course in Form VI. “But I wasn’t just interested in changing the environment; I wanted to know what went on inside the brain.” In addition to encouraging his interest in science, ECF was also instrumental in Pollock’s later life: When he moved to Washington, he was introduced to his future wife, Jean Freedman, by scientist and Fieldston classmate Sarah Durand. Freedman is a folklorist. Their daughter, Rachel, who is about to turn 5, likes ballet and art and likes to do experiments — but not listen to facts. The other weekend she isolated DNA from cow white cells at the Smithsonian Museum of American History. – G.C.

**THE FORECASTER: CONNECTING WEATHER AND BUSINESS**

**Michael Schlacter ’92**

President and chief meteorologist, Weather 2000

“Some are weatherwise, but most are otherwise.” – Benjamin Franklin

Most people just talk about the weather, but Michael Schlacter actually does something about it. As president, chief meteorologist, and one of the owners of Weather 2000, a medium- and long-range weather forecasting business, Schlacter provides weather information for the weather derivatives, weather insurance, and trading industries. “We started it full-time around the 97–98 winter,” he said. “El Niño triggered companies’ interest in longterm forecasting, and services like ours helps them hedge a bet — whether they need to do nothing or take out insurance or hedge themselves in the financial markets.”

The idea for the business went back to Schlacter’s college days at Cornell, where he majored in atmospheric science and took enough business courses to have qualified as a minor. In a second-semester futures and options course, the assignment was to pick a commodity in January and sell in May. “All the finance and business majors picked a financial paradigm, but I reverted back to agroeconomics,” Schlacter recalled. “I chose a crop that was very sensitive to drought, and based my choice on a preliminary forecast that there would be a drought in the area that would either reduce the crop or fear of drought would affect prices.” Schlacter came in second or third in a class of 70.

Schlacter was interested in nature and storms in particular from early days; interest in science didn’t develop until around fifth or sixth grade at Fieldston Lower. At Fieldston, he loved physics, chemistry, biology, but wished the Fieldston curriculum at the time had encouraged strong science students in the area of earth sciences. Happily, the Heidelberger Science Fair enabled him to do an earth science project on the formation of hurricanes and the elements that weaken and strengthen them. On his list of memorable teachers: Cheryl Snyder, Joe Algrant; Peter Mott, and Bill Bertsche. But it wasn’t just the teachers who stimulated him. “I was amazed to find out that I was working in the same physics lab that J. Robert Oppenheimer had used. It also inspired me that a Jewish-American had become such a towering figure in science.”

“To be honest, I started to appreciate Fieldston’s impact through my academic success at Cornell. At Fieldston there was always someone faster, stronger, brighter, and because of that, there was always a pursuit of excellence that raised expectations,” he recalled.

And, what about the weather these days: Is it more extreme or is that media hype? “You need to separate what is weather from what is the geology of the earth,” Schlacter explained. “Humans don’t affect volcanoes, or tsunamis. We prefer the term global climate change to global warming. It is real, and the consequences are more frequent and severe hurricanes, thunderstorms, rapid swings from drought to flood. The analogy I give is that of a human consuming alcohol: Your body can put up with a decent amount, but eventually it’s beyond the ability of your body to tolerate. The toxins to the earth are the greenhouse gases and pollutants.”

Looking ahead, Schlacter will also be doing some short-term forecasting for two big events: Fieldston graduation (June 9), which he forecasts every year, for the school, and his upcoming wedding in the fall. – G.C.
Class Notes

1930

Hortense Brill Dreier writes, “My husband Stuart and I were feted on our 64th wedding anniversary by the gathering of four generations of our entire family in Phoenix. Our two great-grandsons, August and Jacob, were the center of attraction to each other and to us all.”

1931

Lawrence I. Field says he is now 90 years old, retired, and enjoying seven grandchildren, though slowed down by diabetes.

1932

Talk about a small world. Andrew Khinoy says, “While visiting a retirement community, Quadrangle, near Philadelphia, I met a charming man, E. Kendall Landis, class of 1942, who was a classmate of my cousin, Ernest Kino ‘42! What a coincidence!”

1938

Please send your news to Edward D. Gottlieb
68830 Victoria Dr.
Cathedral City, CA 92234

Hazel Maxwell Haines writes: “When I compare my school experiences with those of my grandchildren, I am immensely grateful that I lived when I did and that I was given the opportunity to attend the Ethical Culture schools. It was a wonderful experience.”

1939

Please send your news to Alice Kahn Ladas
1020 Bishops Lodge Rd.
Santa Fe, NM 87501
aladas@aol.com

1942

Please send your news to Elaine Wechsler Slater
150 Heath St. West
Toronto, ON M4V 2Y4
Canada
e@slater.net

1944

Joan Feldman Kron won top journalism awards from two plastic surgery societies for articles in Allure magazine. The two societies were the American Society of Plastic Surgeons and the American Society for Aesthetic Plastic Surgery.

1946

Nathan M. Lubow reports that his granddaughter, and the daughter of Susan Lubow Russak ’77, was commissioned in the Israeli Navy at Latrun on January 20, 2005.

1947

Elza Mirsky Burton, a professional tour guide, has just been elected to the board of directors of the San Francisco Tour Guides Guild.

1948

Robert Burton, a former president of the San Francisco Estate Planning Council, has recently been elected to the board of directors of the National Association of Estate Planners and Councils. He is also a former mayor of Mill Valley, California.

1949

Hiller B. Zobel is “enjoying what passes for retirement. Still filled with ‘pride o’erwelling’ in our school; delighted to see it keeping pace with the tide of history.” Dan Isaacson and his wife, Marie, “spent three months on the sailing ship Star Flyer sailing from Athens, Greece, to Phuket, Thailand (and many ports in between). A wonderful trip!”

1950

Roger Meyer is “looking forward to our 55th reunion. Off to safari in Kenya and Tanzania, then to visit Paris and Charlie Schiff in March.”

1954: The 50th reunion class. From left to right: Lois Schwartz Zenkel, Joan Lewis, Elaine Gordon Weiler, Betty Rabkin Taller, Cynthia Friedman Levy.

1956

T. J. Weinman has just become a first-time grandparent. Richard Schlesinger is now the grandfather of four.

1958

Eaton Lattman has recently taken a new job at Johns Hopkins University as dean of research and graduate education in the School of Arts & Sciences. “So far it has been a lot of fun,” he says. Stephanie Hammerschlag Bernheim writes that “she spent a lovely evening with Nancy Mirkin Amiel and Joe Amiel ’55. Often see Lynn Gelfand Diamond at BAM. Wow! There seem to be a lot of classes after us in the alum notes. Happy holidays to all.”

1959

Ruth Neubauer has sent in her new website for photographs from various parts of the world – www.liminalspace.com. Enjoy!
1960

Peter Heiman has been elected president of the Bronx Opera Company board of directors, succeeding Eva Schulz, former faculty member at Ethical Culture. John Pittman Weber writes, “Delighted to read news [in the spring 2004 ECF Reporter] of Peter Rutkoff, Melanie Brown, and Richard Mandel, my classmates.” He is participating in a group of artists doing work about Israel and Palestine. “Our second show in Athens, Georgia, was terrific and we are looking for other venues. August began my 36th year at Elmhurst College Art Department.”

1962

Please send your news to Jim Kramon
2601 Old Court Rd.
Baltimore, MD 21208
jkramon@kg-law.com

Mary Fielding Edlow earned a Ph.D. from New York University in March 2004. Her daughter, Elizabeth, is an actor/writer in Los Angeles. Her son, Brian, is a second-year med student at University of Pennsylvania.

1965

Erica Schrauer Linthorst returned from 11 years in Asia as of 2001. She has three children, and her Dutch husband, Paul, is president of Linthorst Consulting. She is a tae kwon do and tennis enthusiast.

1966

Sandra Gabrilove Saltzman says she has been medically disabled with chronic fatigue syndrome and unable to work since 1997. “Prior to that I served for 18 years as an assistant district attorney in the office of Robert Morgenthau, both as deputy chief of the special prosecutions bureau and as assistant deputy chief of the investigation division, where I specialized in the investigation of complex white collar crimes. From 1995 to 1997, I was an instructor in the lawyering program at NYU School of Law. Would love to hear from classmates.”

1968

Please send your news to Katrin Belenky Colamarino
8231 Los Osos Rd.
Atascadero, CA 94322
katrin@nicholasconsulting.net

A ’63 West Coast reunion: Amy Chu Finkel, Kate (Kathy Freidenberg) Kaufman, Fan Eisen Albritton, Rena Sonshine, Joan Bobkoff and Amy Delon met at Fan’s house in Berkeley, shared stories from the 1960s, had a wonderful time, and decided to repeat the event annually. They welcome other classmates to join them for the next one.

1972

Please send your news to Richard Boylan
rboylan@yahoo.com

“...replaced Marsch’s former chief executive, was brought in to lead the overhauling of Marsh’s practices and corporate governance. Formerly chief executive officer of Marsh Kroll, MMC’s risk consulting subsidiary, Cherksky has a distinguished record as a manager, prosecutor, investigator, and trial attorney. Prior to joining Kroll, Mr. Cherksky spent 16 years in the criminal justice system, including serving as chief of the investigations division for the New York county district attorney’s office.”

Katrin Belenky Colamarino, your class recorder, is now officially living in California and reports: “Daniel Brown is a grandfather, joining me and Susan Solomon in the ranks of grandparents in our class of 1968. Wonder what other folks have become grandparents in our class? They should let us know so we can all share the joy. The class sends its hearty congratulations to Dan.” Rick Strong reports: “I have moved from Columbia to the Child Study Center at NYU School of Medicine where I am now project lead, developing an Internet-based software system for developing and administering psychiatric interviews. My wife, vocalist Louise Rogers, is writing a book on jazz education for kids, and she and I have released a CD as a voice/bass duo: Bass-ically Speaking, which can be seen (in short teasing snippets) and purchased at CD Baby http://www.cdbaby.com/cd/rogersstrong. It has received rave reviews from our almost 10-year-old son Alex, who is in 4th grade, studying cello at the Special Music School in Manhattan.”

This past fall Michael Cherksky was named president and chief executive of Marsh & McLennan Companies, the world’s biggest insurance broker. He and the company have been much in the news this winter, in the wake of a lawsuit brought by New York State attorney general Eliot Spitzer. Cherksky, who replaced Marsh’s former chief executive, was brought in to lead the overhauling of Marsh’s practices and corporate governance. Formerly chief executive officer of Marsh Kroll, MMC’s risk consulting subsidiary, Cherksky has a distinguished record as a manager, prosecutor, investigator, and trial attorney. Prior to joining Kroll, Mr. Cherksky spent 16 years in the criminal justice system, including serving as chief of the investigations division for the New York county district attorney’s office.”
Keith L. T. Wright is one of nine Democrats in a crowded field running for Manhattan borough president, according to The New York Times (1/16/05). He is currently a New York State assemblyman.

Please send your news to Scott Schiller
515 West End Ave., Apt. 3B
New York, NY 10024-3435
scottyschiller@aol.com

Ruth Colp-Haber is president of Wharton Property Advisors, Inc., a specialty office leasing firm. She serves on the boards of St. Mary’s Foundation for Children and The Wharton Business School Club of New York, where each year she runs its highly acclaimed real estate panel.

Jane Wang just performed in New York City at the Cherry Lane Theatre in Renita Martin’s Five Bottles in a Six Pack. She will be back in New York this spring for a show with performance artist Hanne Tierney and would love to hear from classmates. “I missed Fieldston when I moved to Boston.” Richard Tofel has been named president of the International Freedom Center, one of a handful of cultural institutions to be built at Ground Zero; he was the former assistant publisher of The Wall Street Journal. Tofel will steer the development and running of the center which will focus on the issues of tyranny and freedom with exhibits on oppressed people around the world and forums for public debate. “Like a lot of people,” said Tofel in a recent profile in Crain’s New York Business, “I’ve been trying to figure out for the last three years how I can make some contribution to the principal struggle of our age, the struggle between freedom and fear. This strikes me as a unique opportunity to try and do that.” The $250 million center will open in 2009.

Peter Roberts is teaching at an elementary school in Hartsdale, New York, and is an organist at a church in the Bronx. He is also a member of the Miannis River Morris Dancers in Greenwich, Connecticut.

Please send your news to William E. Beres
190 Newtown Ave.
Norwalk, CT 06851
william.beres@reuters.com
or
Martha Dorn
515 E. 85th St., PHB
New York, NY 10028
mdorn1@nyc.rr.com

Daniel Herron writes, “This past year my family and I moved from Manhattan to Port Washington, New York. We celebrated the move by adding two kittens to our family! I’m now ‘enjoying’ the commuting life, making the daily drive to Mount Sinai Hospital where I was recently appointed chief of bariatric surgery.” Hilary Hahn Jeffris lives in Mill Valley, California, with husband Rufus and children Hannah, 3½, and Isabelle, 2.

Ruth Roemer joined the Animal Care & Control of New York City this June as the Teach Love and Compassion Program.
Manager. As profiled in the Daily News (8/24), the program has been designed to help disadvantaged teens work with staff and animals in the agency’s Manhattan and Brooklyn shelters. Not only were the teens paid for their work, but they were encouraged by Roemer, a former teacher, to explore the experience of working with animals through a daily journal. “They left with a very big sense of how important each and every adoption was,” Roemer told the News.

1984

Please send your news to William W. Sahlman
40 W. 24th St. #9E
New York, NY 10010
wsahlman@lehman.com
or
Fred Moran
615 NW 12th St.
Delray Beach, FL 33444
freddymomania@hotmail.com

Laura Radel Cruz and her husband Albert are expecting their first baby in February. They will live in a penthouse apartment in Riverdale overlooking the Hudson River. Chris Tejirian is living in Tokyo with his wife Junko and enjoying life. They will be in Tokyo for a couple of years. Chris says, “Happy New Year to all. It was really nice to see so many people at reunion!” Mark Forte finds that things are good in Los Angeles. He’s been there for 20 years now, can you believe it? He serves as the director of the Learning Resource Center at Mount St. Mary’s College (a Catholic women’s institution), where he was voted staff member of the year for 2003-04. He has been at the college six years. His educational career has also included teaching in the Los Angeles Unified School District; running a gang intervention program through the Boy Scouts of America; and serving as a diversity trainer for A World of Difference Institute, an education division of the Anti-Defamation League. His professional focus has been an outgrowth of his high school passions, which were community involvement, empowerment and economic and political action. Mark considers himself very fortunate to use his enthusiasm for the community to spur the youth to achieve at higher levels. Mark maintains a close bond with fellow Fieldstonite David Butler, who lives two blocks away. Two years ago Mark met a wonderful woman to whom he is now engaged and will be marrying in July on the island of Kauai, Hawaii. Martin Lewison is working on Wall Street. He had lunch a few weeks ago with Johanna Gorelick who had traveled to Helsinki and St. Petersburg for two weeks.

1985

Please send your news to Jennifer Weiss Sobel
110 Greensboro Rd.
Hanover, NH 03755-3106
jsobel@vermontlaw.edu

1986

Please send your news to Lenora Ausbon-Odom
Deloitte & Touche, LLP
555 12th St. NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC 20004
lausbon@deloitte.com

Gregory Hahn is living in Manhattan and was nominated for an Emmy in 2004. Brooke Lor-ing, now known as Tsui Landau, is happy to report “the birth of our second daughter on September 1. I continue to be a rabbi here in Israel, serving a small congregation in the north.”

1987

Please send your news to Natalie Ireland-Ward
429 Shortridge Dr.
Wynnewood, PA 19096
nattyi@aol.com

1988

Jon Brandon updates us: “My wife, Karen Kaufman, and I moved to Boulder, Colorado, in 2003 and welcomed our first child, a son named Alexander Joseph Brandon, into the world on April 20, 2004. I would love to hear from any of my fellow Fieldston alumni and can be reached at jbrandon@umich.edu.” Matthew Hochhauser is engaged to be married to Jaime Malor.

1989

Please send your news to Heather Abrahams-Gitlow
153 Gaskill St.
Woonsocket, RI 02895
dhpa@aol.com

Monifa Kelly-Hong, class of 1989, with her son Reed Nathaniel Hong, born May 6, 2004, and Allan Shedlin, class of 1959 and former principal at Ethical.
Michael Port continues to travel across the country giving seminars, keynote speeches and coaching programs for entrepreneurs, free agents and small business owners. He is working on two upcoming book projects: It’s All About You! Be Brave, Be Bold, Be Yourself for Profit and Fun! and The Think BIG Revolution, A Personal Manifesto to Help You Think Bigger About Who You Are and What You Offer the World.

1990
Please send your news to
Shali Ponti
10485 National Blvd.
West Los Angeles, CA 90034
shaliemory@yahoo.com

Renee Raker and her husband, Scott Colee, live in the West Village with their daughter, Devon.

1991
Please send your news to
Wendi Newman
220 E. 63rd St., #5C
New York, NY 10021
wendi@nyc.rr.com

Kristen Claeson is still based in London with Goldman Sachs but spending more and more time in the Czech Republic, both in Prague and South Bohemia. She would love to know if there are any alumni living there or connected with the region. If so, please get in touch at kclaeson@yahoo.com. Matthew Frank is in his second year of medical school at the University of Pittsburgh. He has a five-year-old son and a one-year-old daughter. He is also a lieutenant in the USAF reserve.

1992
Please send your news to
Justin Sher
245 E. 19th St. #2M
New York, NY 10003
jmsher2000@yahoo.com

James Weinberger writes that he and his wife Erica welcomed their son, Eli, on December 12, 2003.

1993
Please send your news to
Lauren Porosoff Mitchell
5500 Friendship Blvd., #1028
Chevy Chase, MD 20815
porosoff@yahoo.com

Justin Racz, fresh from the success of his book, 50 Jobs Worse Than Yours, has signed a two-book contract for the sequels – 50 Relatives Worse Than Yours (to come out around Thanksgiving) and 50 Boyfriends Worse Than Yours (to come out around Valentine’s Day). He is writing as fast as he can! Charles Imohiosen has returned to the law firm Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison, after finishing a one-year federal clerkship in the Southern District of New York.

1994
Please send your news to
Daryl S. Freimark
11 President St., #2
Brooklyn, NY 11231
dfreimark6@hotmail.com

Daryl Freimark, your class record keeper, writes: “Through what’s been a rainy winter (at least that’s the case as I write these notes), it’s always great to hear good news from our classmates. As always, it’d be great to hear from more and more of you, so if you always think you’ll let us know what’s going on in the next set of notes, now’s a great time to shoot me an email. I’m happy to report that Gus Ornstein got married to Lindsay Stern (now Lindsay Ornstein) on December 11, 2004. Gus reports, ‘The wedding was great. We had it at Pine Hollow Country Club in East Norwich, New York. Ross Rosenfelt, Ty Gold, Karen Weinberger, and Jamie Patricof were all there from Fieldston.’ Gus is now the director of athletic development for the Parisi Speed School in Closter, New Jersey, where they train athletes to get faster and stronger. Stephanie Fagenson is now a real estate agent and working at Brown Harris Stevens. Kara O’Leary is working at Junior Achievement, an education-based non-profit organization. Additionally, she just completed her master’s degree at Columbia University in organizational psychology. Kara adds, ‘Please send my regards to everyone who I saw at the 10th reunion and hi to all those who couldn’t make it.’” Dimitri Willett is heading back to school to pursue a career as a paramedic after serving as assistant technical director in the Fieldston Performing Arts Department. His work there included assemblies, the Studio Theatre series, special events like Band Day, and everything in between. Bravo Dimitri!

1995
Please send your news to
Ann Sharfstein
19 Wolf Rd.
Lebanon, NH 03766
ann.m.sharfstein.99@alum.dartmouth.org

Ann Sharfstein, your class recorder, reports: “On December 2, my husband Dan and I welcomed our first child, Sadie Eleanor Mielcarz. Sadie weighed 7 pounds, 7 ounces and was born after a fabulous unmedicated labor at Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center. She is healthy and beautiful, and we think she is just perfect. The three of us are happily living in Lebanon, New Hampshire, while Dan pursues his Ph.D. in immunology at Dartmouth. I’m currently on maternity leave from my job as a clinical instructor at the Stern Center for Language and Literacy in White River Junction, Vermont, and having fun spending my days with our daughter.” Sarah Varet is clerking in Los Angeles after graduating from Yale Law School.

1996
Mana Mann is now at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City, getting her medical degree.

1997
Please send your news to
Amy Sulds
240 W. 98th St., #4A
New York, NY 10025
amysulds@yahoo.com
1998

Please send your news to
Darren Martin
318 Island Dr., Apt 7
Madison, WI 53705
dmmartin@wisc.edu (new email)

Darren Martin, your class recorder, writes: “In July 2004, Ali Hargett became the alumni relations coordinator for the Albert G. Oliver Program. The Oliver Program places African and Latino/Hispanic American students from throughout New York City into selective independent schools in the Northeast and New England, including Fieldston. With the 20th anniversary of the Oliver Program coming next year, Ali is working to build and strengthen Oliver alumni participation in the program through new ventures as well as existing ones. Ten years ago this past September, along with Ali, I came to Fieldston in the 9th grade as a product of the Oliver Program and can attest to the importance that AGO and its staff played in various aspects of my life while at Fieldston and outside the classroom. If anyone is interested in learning more about the Oliver Program, please visit: www.theoliverprogram.org or contact Ali at 212-851-4223.”

Darren Martin continues, “Shortly after completing my master’s degree in June 2004, I was hired by the College of Letters & Science at the University of Wisconsin-Madison to coordinate a new program charged with being an initial point of contact for our incoming first-year African American student population while providing primary or secondary academic support services to all African American undergraduate students regardless of major, school or college. My role also includes administering a financial aid grant program for under-represented minority students in Letters & Science, as well serving as an academic advisor for all students in our liberal arts college. In November 2004, I met up with three Fieldston alumni here in Madison and on a trip to London. I ran into Katrina Becker on the campus where she is enrolled in graduate school at one of the top sociology graduate programs in the country. Kevin Chin and I hooked up for dinner and drinks in Madison while he was on one of his business trips. Over some T.G.I. Fridays, we reminisced about Fieldston, college and the joys of playing Marathon in the Fieldston computer room. Finally, on a much needed post-election vacation over to London, I met up with a number of friends studying abroad and also got to hang out with Megan Royle-Jacob ’97, who is a teacher in the London area. Megan and I and our significant others got to spend lots of time together over dinner and stuck in various forms of evening London traffic. Advice from Megan to me and anyone else visiting London for the first time: Don’t eat an English breakfast...especially out of a pub. Unfortunately, I had to find that lesson out the hard way.” From December 1–12, Megan Auster-Rosen, Ying-Grace Hernandez and Zach McGowan performed in Confused Circuses at the American Theater of Actors on West 54th Street. Confused Circuses by David Tianga is a story set in the circus-like atmosphere of NYC in the early ’90s. Prior to starting this past fall as an MFA acting candidate at the Yale School of Drama, Eliot Villar performed on August 24, 28, and 29 in Amor de Don Perlimplin con Belisa en Su Jardin. This was Elliot’s first performance in Spanish.

1999

Please send your news to
Aliss Steinfeld
1675 York Ave., #31B
New York, NY 10128
aliss@mail.com

Mariel Liebman writes, “After graduating from Vassar, I was accepted into the New York City Teaching Fellows program. I am currently teaching English as a second language at Louis D. Brandeis High School.”

2000

Please send your news to
Jenny Sharfstein
Box 2582 Hinman
Dartmouth College
Hanover, NH 03755
jensf@dartmouth.edu

Beau C. Shaw graduated from New York University in 2004 magna cum laude with a B.A. in philosophy. Since fall 2004, he is a faculty fellow in the doctoral program in philosophy at Columbia.

2001

Please send your news to
Patrick Monahan
3638 Oxford Ave.
Bronx, NY 10463
pm1014@aol.com

Jillian Lubarsky is working on Capitol Hill for Congressman Steve Rothman and is looking forward to her internship with New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer this summer. Morgan Arenson is in his second year at Harvard, concentrating on intellectual history.

Patrick Monahan, your class recorder, writes: “This time, instead of reporting the news of our many classmates, I’ve decided to focus on one happening that I think you’ll find entertaining. The place is Chicago, the time is a month ago, the people are Michele Krauthamer, Ben Sternberg, and me. A while ago, Michele sent me an instant message (yes, she’s on my buddy list…are you?) to say that she was coming to Chicago for a conference. I was thrilled and immediately phoned Ben to tell him the exciting news. Our conversation went something like this:

Me: ‘Listen, Suzy’s coming to Chicago!’
Ben: ‘Who?’
Me: ‘Michele.’
Ben: ‘You mean Kraut?’
Me: ‘Who else?’
Ben: ‘Cool. Let’s go out to dinner and order a drink now that we’re old, and she can’t stop us,’ Me: ‘I’ll make the reservation.’

Now, fast forward to two Saturdays ago. I was walking down Michigan Avenue with a friend from school on the day that I was supposed to meet Michele for dinner, and was telling a very vivid story about the party I had been to the night before. Suddenly, I heard an all too familiar voice behind me, ‘Patrick, what are you talking about?’ I turned around and there was Michele in all her Hermès scarf and pearl-clad glory. I jumped into her arms, and it was as if no time had passed between that day and the afternoon seven years ago when I came into her office to complain about being sent to the bench for passing notes in class. My friend had things to do, so she let Michele and me loose in Chicago for the afternoon. Michele said ‘I need socks; let’s go to Lord and Taylor.’ The Lord and Taylor store in Chicago is very large, and in no time we were lost in the lingerie department of all places. Surrounded by racks of women’s undergarments and Michele at my side, I just broke down and laughed hysterically. When Michele asked me what was wrong, I simply said ‘Who knew that four years later we’d be stuck in the lingerie department of Lord and Taylor together!’ Michele replied in the tone that she uses when she’s secretly amused about something but doesn’t want to admit it (like giving us a form-wide detention for our messy third form corridor) ‘Patrick, we’re here to buy SOCKS, now come on!’ Well, we bought our socks and that was that. Later that evening, Ben, Michele, and I met for dinner and the surreal day continued. Ben and I had our long-awaited drink in front of Michele, and we began to catch up on le temps perdu. The best part though was that it really felt like no time at all had passed. Ben and I were still asking Michele for life advice, alternately exasperating and charming her. By the end of the evening, I felt sincerely sorry to get up from the table. Life goes on, though, and we reluctantly dropped Michele off at her hotel…all three of us just a bit misty-eyed. I told Michele that I planned to write about our day in Chicago in the ECF Reporter…about the meeting her in the street, about the lingerie, and about the nostalgic dinner. Her only response was ‘SOCKS, PATRICK, SOCKS—WE WERE THERE TO BUY SOCKS!’ Ok, Suze, socks it is. Details aside, it’s comforting to know that we all belong to a community that is still present and accessible for us. Some people leave high school and get on with their lives. But not us, kids. Not with me as your class recorder to remind you quarterly of how much fun we had! Please send me news about yourselves for the next issue, or even send stories about your meetings with fellow classmates. I promise to faithfully record them and to exaggerate only in the direction of truth…even if you end up in the lingerie department.”

2002

Molly Kawachi was profiled in New London, Connecticut’s newspaper, The Day (10/5/04) about not only being a star on the volleyball court at Connecticut College but off the court as well. Not only has she worked as a “trendspotter” for Teen People and as a production assistant on the set of the Bill Clinton interview for 60 Minutes, she has traveled to Kenya as a part of V-Day, a non-profit organization fighting to end violence against girls and women. Classmates will remember her senior project, the first high school production ever of The Vagina Monologues.

2004

Reuben Cohen is a member of the Pennsylvania College Democrats. He worked in November’s presidential election on the phones and going door-to-door to get out the vote for Kerry. How many of you were watching women’s college volleyball on ESPN last fall? Stanford won its sixth NCAA Division-I Women’s volleyball championship, with the help of freshman Franci Girard, who hit .556 with five kills in the final victory over Minnesota.

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Each year nearly 7,500 companies nationwide support the philanthropic interests of their employees by matching their gifts. Is yours one of them? Check with your company and obtain a matching gift form. ECF receives approximately $30,000 in matching gifts to the Annual Fund each year.
Ralph de Toledano ’34 is having his 26th book published. Tentatively titled, *Prelude to Terror*, it notes the late Anna Gillingham (ECF psychologist) and her contribution to education. He is still working on his autobiography, *Exit, Pursued by a Bear.*

Norman F. Boas ’39 has authored a biography of his grandfather, Franz Boas, *Franz Boas, 1858–1942: An Illustrated Biography*. Boas was a noted anthropologist at Columbia.

David Black ’49 wrote and performed in *Falling Off Broadway*, a limited engagement at Playwrights Horizons. The play details his struggle with his father, Algernon Black ’19, and his life as a Broadway producer.

Michael Wertheimer ’44 is the author of a biography of his father, a founder of Gestalt psychology. The book: *Max Wertheimer and Gestalt Theory*.


Robert Jervis ’58 is the author of *American Foreign Policy in a New Era*, just published by Routledge.

Nicholas Delbanco ’59 has written *The Vagabonds: A Novel* (Warner Books). According to *Publishers Weekly*: “Delbanco’s saga … slips across generations to examine the bonds of inheritance, fiscal and otherwise, linking three siblings.”

Peter Rutkoff ’60 has just published a new book, *The Next Hedgerow: A Correspondence*, a collaboration of sorts with his late father, Harry Rutkoff, who died in 1949 from war wounds. The book includes three stories of Harry’s from the war and a story of Peter’s.

Gil Scott-Heron ’67 was featured as a part of the grand opening festival at Jazz at Lincoln Center in October 2004.

Robin Goodman Dash ’72 exhibited her work at The Bronx River Art Center in October 2004 as part of a group show called “Word.”

Kathryn Kaufmann ’76 received a New York Dance and Performance Award for her lighting design for the 2003-2004 season. “It was fun and an honor – and a surprise, since I

Lara Fox and Hilary Frankel

**Small World**

A few years ago, two students (now seniors) Lara Fox (daughter of Jan Abramson Fox ’73) and Hilary Frankel saw a school meeting notice for an expert coming to talk on parent-teen communication. That sparked a discussion about the true experts on the teenage thought process — teens! Their notion of doing a book on the topic was encouraged by their art teacher, Nancy Fried, who referred them to her sister (and current parent) Alice Martell, a literary agent. Fast forward to a finished proposal and a few prospective publishers including Tracy Bernstein, an executive editor at New American Library. When the students and their agent came for a meeting with that editor, Bernstein asked curiously where the girls went to school; it wasn’t in the proposal. Answer: Fieldston! At that point, the meeting veered way off course as Bernstein — class of ’79 — wanted to know if Lara and Hilary had Mr. Werner for English. Fast forward again to March 2005: publication date of *Breaking the Code: Two Teens Reveal the Secrets to Better Parent-Child Communication*. Fox and Frankel reveal how parents can deal with hot-button topics like personal privacy, school, or money and eliminate petty fights based on miscommunication. “The goal is to keep the bloodshed to a minimum,” they say.
was lighting the award show at the Joyce Theater and was on headset backstage right,” Kathy writes.

Andrew Litton ’77, the Dallas Symphony and the Dallas Symphony Chorus will appear at Carnegie Hall on Friday, April 8, 2005, to perform Richard Strauss’ Also Sprach Zarathustra and Carl Orff’s Carmina Burana. On April 9 they will perform a children’s concert, also at Carnegie Hall.

The White Rose, a novel by Jean Hanff Korelitz ’79, was published in January 2005 by Miramax Books.

Jesse Kalisher ’80 has traveled across five continents and 21 countries in his work as a photographer. His work is represented by The Stephen Cohen Gallery in Los Angeles and is in the permanent collections of both The Oakland Museum of California and The Walters Art Museum in Baltimore. You can see it at www.kalisher.com.

Judith Colp Rubin ’80 has co-authored Hating America: A History (Oxford Press) with Barry Rubin. The book explores the force of anti-Americanism since the founding of the country.

Jacqueline Reich ’83 is the author of Beyond the Latin Lover: Marcello Mastroianni, Masculinity and Italian Cinema (Indiana University Press). Publishers Weekly calls it a “fascinating study” of the actor’s work.

India Hixon Radfar ’85 is the author of Breathe, which was published in a limited edition in Nepal.

Eden Wurmfield ’87 is one of the producers of the just opened documentary drama Sunset Story, just opened in New York. Set against the backdrop of a retirement home for political progressives, it won the Tribeca Film Festival Jury Award among other honors.

Births and Adoptions

David Stone ’76 and his wife Robin Aronson welcomed twins, Helen Zipporah and Elliot Aaron, on October 21, 2004.

Jacqueline London ’83 and her husband Paul Koury announced the birth of a son, Jackson, on June 16, 2004. He is welcomed by big sister Rachel.

Paul Schiff Berman ’84 and his wife Laura Dickinson celebrated the birth of their son, Julien, on January 15, 2004.

Alan Gilbert ’85 and wife Kajsa became the parents of Noemi Sofia on April 10, 2004.


Shersten Killip ’89 married Andrew Leonard in August 2002.

Lori Ades ’93 married Seth Horowitz on December 29, 2004.

Mishara Canino Alvarez ’93 married William Hussing on February 4, 2005.

Joshua Epstein ’94 married Abigail Coleman on October 9, 2004.

Gus Ornstein ’94 married Lindsay Stern on December 11, 2004.

Marriages


Cara Villency ’87 married Joshua Sacks on December 12, 2004.

Deaths

Madeleine R. Samuels ’24; January 5, 2005. She is survived by her son, Alan Samuels.

Herman Jervis, ’26; November 24, 2004. He was 94. A lawyer and educator, Jervis was a former chair of the board of trustees at ECFS. He was predeceased by his first wife, Dorothy Bing Jervis ’27, and his second wife, Eleanor Dudley as well as his sister, Helen Jersawit Coles ’32. He is survived by his sons, Steven ’55 and Robert ’58, and granddaughters, Alex ’89 and Lisa ’90.

Two new Philadelphia Democrats – Helen Zipporah and Elliot Aaron Stone

Fred Moran ’84: his wife, Julie, and their children, Amelia and baby Ava.


James Weinberger ’92 and his wife Erica welcomed a son, Eli, on December 12, 2003.

Five from ’89: Alex Ruttenberg, Alex Wolfman, Jason Barbara, Tony Rossabi, and Alec Appelbaum, at the wedding reception for Jason and his new wife, Beth.


James Weinberger ’92 and his wife Erica welcomed a son, Eli, on December 12, 2003.
Bresci Thompson '26; October 2, 2004. He was 96. A painter, storyteller, and lifelong Chelsea resident, he was a former trustee of the Hudson Guild. He was predeceased by his wife, Mary Fox Thompson and is survived by a daughter, Nancy Cooper, grandsons Michael and Edward, and great-granddaughter, Sophie.

Jeanne Goodman Michael '29; August 14, 2004. She was 92. She was a lifelong supporter of Fieldston, according to her daughter, Mary Lou Michael, and “always spoke with deep appreciation of her education and pride in being a member of the first graduating class of the then ‘new’ campus.” She is also survived by two grandchildren, Dana Anderson and Josh Michael.

Rose Susan Hirschhorn Behrend '31; December 9, 2004. She was 91. Predeceased by her husband Bernard, she is survived her three children, Catherine, Daniel and David; grandchildren, Robert, Andrew, Benjamin, and Sophie; and her brother Fred Hirschhorn '37. She was a devoted guide at the Philadelphia Museum of Art for over 35 years, specializing in Brancusi and tours of sculpture along the Schuylkill River. In her later years she was involved in creating and conducting tours for the blind at the museum. She was also a docent at the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts and one of the original students at The Barnes Foundation near Philadelphia.

Frances Field '33; October 24, 2004. She had a 50-year career in international economics, first at General Motors Overseas Operations and then at Citibank. She is survived by her brother, Lawrence Field '31.

Dr. Stanford Wessler '34; January 14, 2005. He was 87. Dr. Wessler was associate dean for post-graduate programs, New York University School of Medicine. He was predeceased by his wife, Margaret Muhlfelder Wessler. He is survived by three sons, John, Steve, and Jim.

Jane Schaap Leitzer '35; January 6, 2005. She was 86. She is survived by her daughters, Joan Leitzer and Ellen Leitzer; grandchildren, Kathryn, William, and Lauren Spier, and Sara Silverstein. Her passion was travel, and she began her own program placing American teenagers with French families in Aix-en-Provence. She remained a travel agent for many years. Her other passions included cooking, reading and supporting Democratic candidates.

Richard L. Seidman '35; June 20, 2004. He is survived by a son, William Seidman.

Rita Brand Friedman '36; November 10, 2004. She is survived by her husband, Jules, two sons, and five grandchildren as well as her sister, Evelyn Brand Boxer '44.

Frederic A. Bierhoff '44; September 6, 2004. He was a Navy veteran of World War II. He attended MIT and was a graduate of New England College as a civil engineer. He is survived by his wife, Ruth; children, Alan and Alison; and granddaughter Rebecca.

Gertrude Moore Rosenstein '44; October 6, 2004. She was 77. A devotee of theater and opera, she worked with Gian-Carlo Menotti in Italy and was an assistant to George Balanchine at the New York City Ballet. She became a television director both as an independent and at NBC where she was the first woman to direct a network television series, the game show Concentration. She was associate director of NBC’s Opera Company Presentations. She was a governor of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences and a member of its Emmy Awards Committee.

Tim Schmiderer '57; October 22, 2004. He was 65. An architect at Gruzen Samton, his work included numerous residential projects as well as the Council on Foreign Relations, Lerner Hall Student Center and Lenfest Hall at Columbia University, the new Stuyvesant High School, Kingsborough Community College, Long Dock Beacon and the Cooper Union. A great grandson of Louis Comfort Tiffany, he is survived by his wife, Nancy; his children, Emily Schmiderer-Ford (who teaches at EC) and Anthony Schmiderer; grandchildren, Jason, Brianna, Corinne, and Taylor; and his sister, Dorothy Schmiderer Baker '59.

Kenneth D. Newborg '60; December 24, 2004. He is survived by his wife, Margaret, and daughter, Julie Vomaskas as well as granddaughter, Emily Vomaskas. He was the son of Betty N. Newborg '27 and the late Donald L. Newborg; brother of Constance Kaufmann Berman '48 and Dr. Herbert J. Kaufmann '51.

Carol Bernstein Weinstein, '66; Nov. 3, 2004. She is survived by her sister, Geri Bernstein Freund '68.

ECF notes with sadness the deaths of former faculty and staff:

Keay Arrowsmith; November 3, 2004. She worked in the college office at Fieldston for many years and is survived by three daughters, Joan '76, librarian at Fieldston Lower; Anne '78; Alexandra '81; and three grandsons at ECF.

Margaret A. Hinkson; November 8, 2004. She was 87. Known as “Magi,” she came to New York in the early ’50s where she worked with Martha Graham and Merce Cunningham on musical arrangements. As a vocal coach and voice teacher, she worked at Fieldston and with a number of other New York City cultural institutions. She is survived by her daughter, Susan Hinkson '76.

From the class of 1944, taken in 2001: Wally Neumann, Paul Santich (a friend from MIT), Fred Bierhoff and Dick “Rosie” Rosenberg.
Fieldston Reunion Weekends 2005—
Save the Dates!

June 4–5, 2005, at Fieldston

June 11, 2005, Lion’s Head Tavern
Class of 2000

- Check the alumni events section of the website – www.ecfs.org – for reunion news by class.
- Help us find the “lost” alumni in your class (listed on the website under your class year).

Alumni Survey Coming Your Way

Sometime this month, you’ll be receiving a comprehensive survey of alumni. The questionnaire will be designed to learn more about your relationship to ECF, as a student, and an alumnus/na, now and in the future. We want to have as many as alumni participating in this survey as possible, so the results will give us a true picture and can become an important part of our long-range planning process. The survey will be sent by regular mail and by email (for those alumni with emails in our database).

Wanted! Fieldston Alumni Class Recorders

If your class does not yet have a Recorder, you could be the one! Be the first to find out what your classmates have been up to and report the news. To volunteer, contact Toby Himmel at alumni@ecfs.org.

Changed Your Career More Than Once?

For an upcoming issue of the ECF Reporter, we would like to talk to career-changers at any stage of life on their choices, their changes, and their resulting satisfaction (or not!). If you’re interested, please email Ginger Curwen at gcurwen@ecfs.org.

Summer Jobs for Fieldston Students?

Please be part of the Fieldston Summer Jobs Placement Exchange – a network of summer job opportunities provided by ECF parents and alumni. The exchange is being coordinated by the school and the Fieldston P&T. Students ages 16 and up are looking for summer jobs – either paying or volunteer. Opportunities should be within a reasonable commuting area, can be for one week up to three months, and should provide a worthwhile learning experience for our students. Contact us at summerjobs@ecfs.org for applications or questions.
Take a Look at Our Future

Imagining the future campus is easier with the help of these watercolor renderings by Michael McCann. In 2007 the Fieldston campus will include a new athletic facility (a fieldhouse housing a double gymnasium and fitness room, linked to a smaller building with a six-lane, competition-length pool); a middle school academic building for grades 6-8, complete with a “green” or vegetative roof; and renovations to 34,000 square feet in the older buildings, resulting in a new music and performing arts center, new dining hall, and new student commons. These exciting additions will benefit every student and teacher in the school for years to come. For more background and details, go to www.ecfs.org/campus plan.

View of the future Fieldston campus in 2007.

View of the future middle school in 2007.


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Parents of alumni: If your children are no longer living with you, please notify the alumni office of their correct addresses. Thank you.