

JUNE 2008

THE COURIER

The Newsletter for Alumni, Parents, Friends & Benefactors
of The Miquon Upper School and The Crefeld School

CREFELD CELEBRATES ITS 25 SENIORS

Under the Big Tent this year, 25 seniors participated in Crefeld's Graduation Ceremony on Friday, June 6th. It is with honor we present to you the Class of 2008:

El Afaro-Allah	Peter Gardner*	Sam Meketon
Lexi Attiani	Samantha Hartman	Dan Porter
Krissy Barnes-Meyers	Jesse Horwitz	Erin Marie Poulson
Toby Broido	Alex Hughes	Lyzzy Rondepierre
Ross Cohen	Patrick Hunter	Hannah Slipakoff
Jonathan Colvson	Rose Koslosky	Matt Symonette
Cory Comly	Jaimie Lastick	Brian Wiley*
Saul Dratman	Calvin Linder	
Nick Edwards	Jared Marsh	* Class Speakers

The morning couldn't have been more beautiful for all of the seniors, their advisors, teachers, family, friends and guests. Dotty Lahl, retiring after 20 years at the school, received a wonderful Crefeld rocking chair; Steve Benner, resigning this year as board chair, received many accolades; and the seniors received the most wonderful gift of all: the future which awaits them.

Class of 2008 graduates will attend the following colleges/universities in the fall:

Arcadia University
Cabryni College
Drexel University
Green Mountain College
Guilford College
Haverford College
Immaculata College
Knox College
Kutztown University
LaSalle University
Montgomery Co. Community College
Oberlin College
Temple University
Tennessee Tech University
The School of the Museum of Fine Arts
Warren Wilson College
West Chester University

More photos at www.Flickr.com/photos/Crefeld/sets/





From the Desk of Dr. Mark Piechota, HEAD OF SCHOOL

Academic Rigor at Crefeld

One question that parents often ask about progressive schools is whether they are rigorous enough academically. This begs the question of *what is meant by academic rigor?*

Education professionals debate the meaning of the term. One traditional viewpoint measures rigor in terms of volume. The more hours students spend completing assignments, the more rigorous they claim their program to be—regardless of how much intellectual effort is expended.

Another traditional view of rigor might measure the pace of a class. In other words, how much material is “covered” in a semester? Again, this viewpoint values the memorization of facts over the understanding of complex situations. A more progressive definition of academic rigor was put forth by Skidmore University in May 2006:

“Academic rigor is a process by which faculty use various pedagogical techniques to challenge continuously a student beyond his or her self-expectations.

These methods might include any number of traditional teaching tools—challenging reading and writing assignments, difficult exams, engaging discussions,

tougher grading standards—but what they all have in common is the goal of greater challenge.

We must nudge and, if necessary, push each student, even our very best, to discover hidden, untapped abilities where engagement, critical thinking, and boundless inquiry lead to intellectual transformation. (<http://www.skidmore.edu/academics/CEPP/documents/AcademicExcellenceandRigor-statement.doc>)

At Crefeld, our students have a diversity of talents, abilities, interests, and needs. Some students start at Crefeld ready for a new experience and excited to apply themselves. Others are bruised from a traditional school experience and resistant to academic work. Many are competent, creative thinkers who have yet to master the skills of being a successful student.

The goal is simple: to meet all students where they are and take them as far as they can go.

To accomplish these goals we gradually raise expectations over our six academic years. Our English, history and science classes are taught in three teams: 7/8, 9/10, and 11/12. Each successive team has increased academic expectations of students, and more homework is required at each stage. In the early years, we give

students opportunities to do much of their homework in school where we can support and guide them.

At the same time individual teachers give extension assignments to students who demonstrate interest, and we connect advanced students with tutors and community college courses.

Furthermore, in upper school English, history and science classes, students may opt for regular or intensive classes. The intensive classes require more reading and writing, and in the physical sciences they expect more advanced mathematical skills.

In the senior year we give students an additional challenge. They must take a full course load while completing 14 graduation exhibitions.

Does this philosophy prepare our students for the challenges that await them after Crefeld? We are convinced it does.

Our students are sought after by college recruiters because they find our students to be academically adept, articulate, self-aware, and self-advocating. They also recognize that our students are committed to learning, not just getting grades. Our students are accepted to good colleges and they report back to us that they feel well-prepared.

We believe The Crefeld School program prepares students for personal and academic success in life, and it does so through a program that is responsive, creative and, yes, rigorous.



Photo above: Student Malachi Floyd (L) shows some of work to parent John Haak during the Middle School's annual Portfolio Day.

Other great colleges and universities our seniors were accepted into:

- | | |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Albright College | Merrimack College |
| Berkeley College | Neuman College |
| Chestnut Hill College | Pace University |
| Clark University | Penn State-Abington |
| Clemson University | Penn State-Erie |
| Goucher College | St. Joseph's University |
| Gwynned Mercy College | Susquehanna University |
| Harcum College | University of Pittsburgh |
| Indiana University of PA | University of the Arts |
| Mass. College of Art | Virginia Commonwealth Univ. |
| McDaniel College | Widener University |

News & Notes

✦ A Few Fond Farewells: to Math teacher Lauren Yaeger, Glass teacher Scott Wolfson, Arts and Rock Climbing teacher Emily Elliott, and History teacher Bronwen Exter, all who are leaving to pursue other career opportunities.

✦ And let's not forget Office Manager Dotty Lahl (photo, right) who, after 20 years at the school, will enter her Official Retirement Years: cruising, cheering on the Phils and the Eagles, and keeping a watchful and caring eye on her own grandchildren!



✦ As usual at this time of year, we say goodbye and good luck to our 2008-2009 social work interns, who help Crefeld in so many ways: Angela Burcham, Danielle Jackson, Janessa Jeltema, Susan LoGiudice and Kristen Meyer.

✦ Congrats to Crefeld's Peter Capper, who was recently accepted into the American Family Therapy Academy (AFTA)—an organization of "leading family therapy teachers, clinicians, policy makers, researchers, and social scientists dedicated to advancing systemic thinking and practices for families in their social context."

Crefeld's Annual Day of Silence



On April 25th, Crefeld junior/Rising Senior Madeline Smith (photo, above) organized the school's "Day of Silence" as her Senior Leadership Project.

The annual Day of Silence draws attention to the bullying and harassment - the "silencing" - often experienced by LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans-

gender) students and allies. The Day culminated in a viewing of the film, But I'm a Cheerleader.

Crefeld had **record participation** in the Day of Silence this year—72 students, 13 teachers and 1 dog (Lucy)! Around the country, and estimated 7,500 schools participated in the 12th Annual Day of Silence.



Photo above: Students Brittany Price (L, 9th grade), Quinto Hyman (center, 8th grade) and Michel Young (R, 10th grade) enjoying themselves at the Prom—held this year at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Center City Philadelphia.

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LIST COMPLETE AS OF 6/12/2008



Photo above: Senior Jaimie Lastick at the Arts Show with some of the jewelry she handcrafted.



Photo, right: Students Hannah Slipakoff (bottom), Leah Eldridge (L), Alex Hughes (top) and Jen Cutler (R) perform their dance piece, "In Contact" at the Arts Show.

THANK YOU, RECENT IN-KIND DONORS:

DIANE COMLY ✦ STACEY CUNITZ ✦ ANDY DELONE
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✦

FROG COMMISSARY
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Many Thanks to the following Crefeld Parents who made donations towards the Faculty Luncheon, Graduation Reception, and Prom:

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	SHARON VANDEGRIFT
	MIA WILEY
	KATE LINDER ZAENGLE

ALUM REUNION ROCKS!

Over 100 people attended the Crefeld/Miquon Upper School Reunion held over the weekend of June 6-7, 2008 on Crefeld's campus. From alums and former students, to guests, parents, teachers and former teachers, to assorted kids and dogs, everyone seemed to have a great time.

Friday night saw Open Mike performances by alums Ryan Benner '05, Josh Beaver '07 and Morgan Everett '07; and Ian Wolf '95 and Frank Garrett '96 offered a few spoken word moments. And, yes, there were some karaoke moments, mostly involving Lady Miah Kane '06 and Nina Lankin '06.



Photo left: Dotty Lahl (L) tells teacher Leonor Prince (R) how surprised she was!

Despite hot temps and high humidity, Saturday's barbeque on the lawn was quite a success—thanks especially to the new grill donated to the school by our most recent alums: the Class of 2008.

Attendees ate, drank, socialized, perused many photographs and yearbooks from past years and generally enjoyed the afternoon under the Big Tent.

Longtime Office Manager Dotty Lahl was honored for her 20 years of service with a surprise visit from her entire family, a very touching speech offered by alum Jessica Williamson '93, and the presentation of a quilt (handmade by alum parent Patty Smith Gardner) imprinted with the graduation photos of 19 years of Crefeld classes.



Photo above: Dave Ellis '06 (L), Lady Miah Kane '06 (center) and Eamon Tisdall '05 (R) catch up with each other at the Reunion.



Photo above: A group of **Miquon Upper School alums** (and a friend) gather for a photo (L to R): Ernest Carwise '74, Phyllis Kacher '74 and her daughter Rachel, Jane Gordon '75, Sam Gordon '77, Brian Fox '80, Brian Gordon '78 and Michael Hickey. Also attending the Reunion but not in photo: Bill Gordon '73, Marian Stevenson '75, Monica Moore Boyer '76 and, stopping by at the end after work, Mark Hartsfield '78.

And many thanks to the ad hoc "reunion committee" who helped plan and implement Reunion festivities: Nancy Deephouse '02, Julie (Cravetz) Gimmi '82, Lady Miah Kane, '06, former student Ben Halterman,

Jon Mast '01 and Becky Stern '06; and for general guidance from afar: Amira Gertz '97 and Bethany Wright Ides '97.

We hope to see you all in a few years to celebrate the school's 40th Birthday!

Alumni Updates

TSgt. Brian C. Smith, USMC, Class of 1982, was unable to attend the Alumni Reunion this year as he was in Arizona competing against 15 other soldiers in the Air Force Chess Championship. He qualified for the championship by winning both the Active Duty and Overall Winner categories in the Lackland Air Force Base Tournament in San Antonio, Texas, where he is stationed.

Debbie Tonsey, Class of 1982, recently wrote to tell us she has been a pastry chef for the last 20 years, lives in Wynnewood, and has a beautiful 5 year old daughter.

Kristi DellaBadia, Class of 1996, is finishing up a BS in Biology and getting ready to apply to Medical School, works at the vet hospital at Penn, and plays roller derby!

Amy Sara Holland, Class of 1996, recently graduated with a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree from LSU.

Alums: Please keep in touch! We also publish a monthly e-Newsletter and are **actively seeking email addresses!**

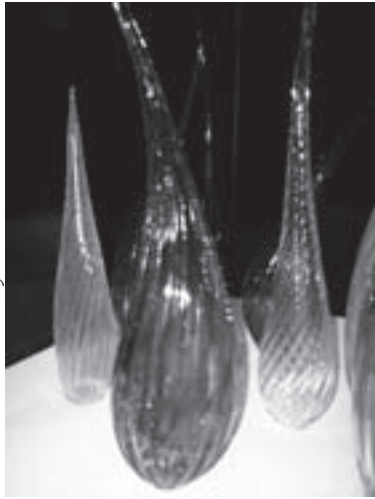
<http://www.crefeld.org/alumniupdateform.htm>

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JUNE 2008

The Crefeld School... Because Not All Great Minds Think Alike

Glasswork by Sam Mekeon '08



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SPRING ARTS EXPO A HUGE HIT !

The end of the spring semester culminated in the usual "arts show" but with a twist. Senior Jaimie Lastick created an Art Gallery in Crefeld's gymnasium (with thanks to parent Andy DeLone). The gallery's Opening Night was held on Tuesday, May 20th with live music and hors d'oeuvres for guests. Students in all of the semester's arts classes showcased their work to the praise of all who attended.

Then, on Thursday, May 22nd, the music, theatre and dance classes performed works they developed during the semester, including a group rendition of the Lennon/Ono tune, "Give Peace a Chance," complete with additional lyrics [printed below left] written by F & G Block music students.

EV'RYBODY'S TALKIN' 'BOUT . . .

Racism, sexism, **global warming**, nature's warning
Win or lose, got to choose; **woman or man**, 'cause you can
Legislation, **medication**, subjugation, Dubya's on vacation!
Israeli border, new world order, fallen towers, white power
Free Tibet, welfare check, **Iraqi oil**, bloody soil
Trust the media? They're **spoon feedin' ya wit'** 
Genocide, pesticide, suicide, homicide. . .



YOU DECIDE !

Photo below: Junior Bryan Wiggins (left) leads his fellow students and audience members in a Crefeld version of "Give Peace a Chance."

