

# Ruffing—Yesterday & Today

The Alumni Newsletter of Ruffing Montessori School



June 2007

Ruffing Montessori School 3380 Fairmount Boulevard Cleveland Heights, Ohio 44118 216.321.7571

## Hello from Ruffing



Ruffing Montessori School is just two years away from celebrating its 50th anniversary. This past year we paid tribute to Dr. Montessori's legacy by acknowledging the 100th anniversary of the opening of the first Montessori school in Rome. As the second-oldest Montessori school in the United States, we have a unique connection to this history and to leadership in the world-wide spread of her educational method.



As alumni of Ruffing, you are linked to both a proud continuum of global Montessori education and to a thriving school. Ruffing is the very special place where you learned to value knowledge and recognize the interdependencies of life and what it means to be a citizen of the world. I am a parent of two alumni – Ian, a member of the first 8th grade graduating class in 1984, and Zoe, who attended 6th and 7th grades. When they visit, they always want to come to the school, as many of you do when you are in the area or on break from the local high schools.



I hope this newsletter finds you well and that you will stay in touch, sharing your journeys with us. Our “Whole School for the Whole Child,” an 18-month “green” redevelopment project, is now complete and I would be delighted to show you Ruffing today. I hope to see you soon for a tour.

*Gordon L. Maas  
Head of School*

## Class Notes

1977

**Margaret Amer** lives in Orange Village and has two sons.

**Edward Teasdale** is a banker and lives in Scottsdale, AZ.

1979

**Meg Christie** lives in Portland, ME, and is a counselor for children. She has 4-year-old twins, a boy and a girl. Her husband runs a restoration company.

**Marie Amer Westmeyer** lives in Akron.

1981

**Edward Amer** is a lawyer in Boston with Edwards Angell Palmer & Dodge. Prior to becoming an attorney, he worked as a lighting technician in the motion picture industry. His wife is an artist and they have four children.

**Vishal (James) Makker** is a Neurosurgeon in Portland, OR, and was married in 2006.

1983

**John Marshall** lives in Danville, CA, where he is Vice President of Marketing and Business Development for SiBEAM, Inc.

1984

**Matthew Strauss** moved to France in November 2006.

**Katie McMenamain Sabo** (see Kelly McMenamain, '87).

1985

**Emily O'Neill Slater** lives in Brooklyn, is an associate with the New York law firm. Debevoise & Plimpton LLP and serves on the Board of her son's school, Brooklyn Heights Montessori School.

**Kabir Syed** is a disc jockey on the Cleveland State University radio station, WCSB 89.3 FM, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday evenings. He plays reggae and world music and the program is available by webstream.



1986

**Pam Provan** married Bryan Barragate on September 9, 2006, and they live in Shaker Heights. She works for AmTrust on Mortgage Process and Technology Projects.

**John Manley** and his wife, Katie, live in Lake Bluff, IL, where their 3-year-old daughter, Jane, attends Montessori school.

**Kirin Makker** is a Lecturer in Art (Architecture) at Smith College and is a Ph.D. student in Planning at U. Mass at Amherst.

**John Newman** and Liz Riordan are planning an August 2007 wedding. John works for Bear Stearns in New York City.

**Chris Pacini** and his wife moved from Charlotte to Raleigh in early 2007, when he assumed the position of district manager for SunBelt Rentals.

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## Class Notes

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1987

**Todd Lawrence** and his wife, Missy, have a son, Wade, and are expecting a daughter. Todd lives in New Jersey and works for Dun & Bradstreet.

**Brant Silvers**, now relocated to Cleveland, used his MA in International Relations in his work in Angola, Africa, on an Aids project for Population Services International. He and his wife Galea have a son, Abraham.

**Susan Connelly** and her husband Jon Thompson, had a son, Alexander Mowry, in March 2007.

**Kelly McMenamin** married Fred Wang in New York City on May 12, 2007. She and her sister, **Katie McMenamin Sabo ('84)**, have a time-management and professional organizing business.

**Katie Ebner** married George Goodno on August 26, 2006. She is an event planner for the international section of the American Bar Association in Washington, D.C., and they live in Alexandria, VA.

**Tony Doerr** is the author of three books and has received numerous awards for writing. *The Shell Collector*, a volume of eight short stories, won two O. Henry Prizes, the Rome Prize and the Ohioana Book Award, and was a *New York Times* Notable Book and an American Library Association Book of the Year.

His second book, *About Grace*, a novel, was named a Best Book of 2004 by the *Washington Post* and was a finalist for the PEN USA Fiction Award. In 2007, the British literary magazine *Granta* placed him on its list of 21 Best Young American novelists.



He is one of 20 contributors to the book *Good Roots: Writers Reflect on Growing Up in Ohio*.

Tony's new book, *Four Seasons in Rome: on Twins, Insomnia and the Biggest Funeral in the History of the World*, will come out in June 2007. Currently serving as the Writer-in-Residence for the State of Idaho, Tony is married and has two sons.

**Elizabeth Marshall** is married to Mark Roeda and lives in Ann Arbor, MI. She has a Master's in Art Education and teaches art in an Ann Arbor Montessori School.

**Beatriz Fontanive** lives in Shaker Heights with her husband Evan Bishop and three children. She teaches English at Bay Village High School.

**Xanthe Karp** lives in Hanover, NH, where she is working on a postdoc doing research in the Genetics Department at Dartmouth Medical School. She is married and has a daughter.

**Laura Christie** is married to John Dunne and her children attend a Montessori school in Allentown, PA.

1988

**Dan Provan** and his wife, Amy, live in Towson, MD. He has a son and daughter and works in database management for FTI, an international consulting company.

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## Alumni Activities

Last December, Ruffing held a gathering at the school for alumni aged 21 and older, and plans are in the works to repeat it in December 2007. (Photos from the 2006 party can be viewed on the school website – [www.ruffingeast.org](http://www.ruffingeast.org).) We would also like to initiate a winter social event for younger alumni. If you would like to help plan alumni activities, call or email me.

Ruffing relies on the U.S. Mail and email to stay in touch with you, so make sure we have good contact information – particularly an email address. When alumni move or change email addresses without notifying us and mail is returned, we have to remove the address from the record and the mail to that person stops. We have no good way to get the new address, except from you. We do not clutter your mailbox, but we send periodic alumni newsletters, invitations, *Ruffing Today* and announcements. Go to the website, email me or call 216-321-7571 with email and address changes.

Your news for the alumni newsletter is always welcome and you can either send it to me or use the alumni section of the website. By the way, the school's new website will be up and running by this fall and will devote more space to alumni. I will notify you when the change takes place.

Drop in when you are in town or call **216-321-7571** for a tour. You will love what is new and feel right at home with all that is familiar and unchanged!

*Carol Provan*  
*Director of Alumni and Development*  
*carolp@ruffingeast.org*

### *Class Notes*

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**Teresa Curto** lives in Watertown, MA where she is a Research Scientist for New England Research Institutes. She has a BA in Music, an MA in Social Work and a MA in Public Health.

1989

**Andrew Pimlott** is a software developer for Planning Systems, Inc., and lives in Seaside, CA.

1990

**Dr. Ja'Nitta Marbury** is a Supervising Professional Clinical Counselor with a private practice in Cleveland.

**Heather Connelly** lives in Chicago, where she is an actress.

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## Class Notes

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1991

**Diambu Smith** graduated from Cleveland State University in May 2007 with an MA in Public Administration and a graduate certificate in Economic Development.

1993

**Michael Ebner**, a graduate of Northwestern University, attended Loyola University Chicago Law School and is an Associate at Peck, Bloom, Austriaco & Mitchell, LLC.

**Jessica Bloomfield** lives in Denver, CO, and is in the fourth of a five-year doctoral program in clinical psychology. She spent the summer of 2006 in Sarajevo, Bosnia, doing field work in trauma.

**Sara Irie** is married to Scott King and lives in Cincinnati, where she is a Manager with Federated Department Stores.

**Mark Seidman**, a graduate of University of North Carolina and George Washington Law School, is an attorney in the antitrust division of the Federal Trade Commission.

1994

**Cara Segelin** married Scott Roll in April 2006. She works as a Private Nanny.

**Jeff Pacini** is finishing his second year in the Global Marketing Division of the Headquarters of the NBA. He and his wife live in Hoboken and enjoy frequent trips to Cleveland for Cavaliers (and Browns) games. He is looking forward to spending part of this

summer on business in Brazil (at a basketball camp sponsored by the NBA).

1995

**Felicia Noel Price** married Tharon Washington in Jamaica in December 2006. They reside in Montgomery Village, MD. She has an MA in International Politics and her husband is an assistant principal in the D.C. Public School System.



1996

**Kira Hennessey** is the Coordinator of Public Relations and Marketing for the YWCA Greater Cleveland.

**Ben Irie** is in the Ph.D. program in Musicology at Indiana University.

**Andy Stager** now lives in Washington D.C., where he is a Mechanical Engineer with Technikrom and is married to Taylor White.

**Rebecca Bloomfield** is living in Berkeley, CA, teaching organic gardening at the Middle School level through The Edible Schoolyard, an Americorps program. She is interested in food justice and environmental sustainability.

1997

**Meredith Exline** completed Montessori Directress Training and lives in Columbus, OH, where she is employed as a Montessori

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## Class Notes

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Elementary Teacher.

1998

**Susan Ipavec** is married to Nathaniel Sturgill, lives in Athens, OH, and had a son, Charles, on July 15, 2006.

**Jacob Kuenzel** lives in Oakland, CA, where he works as a Technical Director at Pixar Animation Studios.

1999

**Ben Winger** recently delivered his Honors Thesis at Cornell, where he was a member of the first Student Team in the World Series of Birding. He designed his own major at Cornell, combining Ecology, Evolutionary Biology, Natural Resources and Plant Science.

2000

**Eliza Bloomfield** attends Ohio State University, where she is majoring in Child Development and is interested in the Reggio Emilia approach to preschool education.

2002

**Peter Hedman** completed his first year of studies at Harvard in astrophysics and will return home to Cleveland this summer to conduct a project at the observatory and planetarium at the Museum of Natural History. His work will involve sunspot re-

search and a public outreach component.

2003

**Max Stern** let us know that he graduated from Cleveland Heights High School and was accepted at and offered merit scholarships by UVM and CWRU and accepted at NYU. "If it weren't for Ruffing, I would not have been able to write good college essays ... and be well prepared for high school. In a nutshell, thanks so much for everything."



**Martha Wolf** delivered her Hathaway Brown Senior Speech on her experience as a Ruffing student. "...this liberating environment developed my love for learning and nurtured my sensitivity towards others. ...Montessori School was the creator of these offbeat qualities of mine because it gave me the freedom, opportunity and resources to tap into my potential, and accommodate for and celebrate my differences as an individual." She will attend Cornell University.

**Jeremy Herrmann** graduated from University School and plans to attend Williams College.

**Hannah Whitehead** (headed for the University of Chicago) was selected the outstanding senior English student at Hawken, where she delivered one of the commencement speeches on June 3.

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# Class of 2007

## HIGH SCHOOL PLANS FOR THE CLASS OF 2007

Leah Adams	Beaumont School
Alec Aldrich	Hawken School
Abbey Clough	Beaumont School
Ellen Drake	Hawken School
Erica Duff	Hawken School
Sam Huffman	Hawken School
Addie Jensen	Shaker Heights High School
Heidi Klieber	Laurel School
David Kloos	St. Ignatius High School
Margaret Landefeld	Hathaway Brown School
Jason Lee	St. Ignatius High School
Corinne Mann	Orange High School
Sonja Postak	Laurel School
Alex Ritchey	Cleveland Heights High School
Ainslee Robson	Laurel School
Carly Schade	Beaumont School
Jack Schmitt	St. Edward High School
Wil Sharon	Cleveland Heights High School
Leah Stern	Laurel School
Maria van Heeckeren	Beaumont School
Nick Witchey	University School



## Class Notes

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**Matt Dahlhausen**, who will attend Dartmouth, received awards as Hawken's top senior in both math and science.

**Natty Maund** and **Cameron Needle** will both attend the Scripps School of Journalism at Ohio University.

**Emily Ruff**, a four-year starter in softball at Hawken, finished third in batting average (.550) in the final *Plain Dealer* seven-county statistics for the 2007 season. Emily will attend Tufts University in the fall.

**Clay Javid**, who attended St. Edward High School, will attend Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology.

**Justin Mauter** graduated from Cleveland Heights High School and is headed to Ohio State.

**Jordan Blumenthal** attended Shaker Heights High School and will go to Indiana University, Bloomington, Ind.

2004

**Laney Kuenzel**, a junior at Hathaway Brown, received the highest possible scores on both the ACT and SAT tests for college. The SAT score included perfect scores on the math, verbal and writing portions of the test. She also received perfect scores on two SAT II subject tests in math and chemistry.

**Chris Gellert**, who attends Phillips Exeter Academy in Exeter, NH, has been accepted into the School Year Abroad in Rennes, France, for 2007-2008. He has been accepted by the British Academy of Dramatic Arts in Oxford, England, for the Summer 2007 program.

**Bryn Adams** received recognition as Hawken's top English student in the junior class. Bryn and her father, Jon, were featured in the May 31 issue of the *Sun Press* in an article describing their impending bicycle trip across the United States from coast to coast.

2005

**Simone Quartell** attends Cleveland Heights High School, where she is a reporter on *The Black and Gold*, the student newspaper, and has had numerous front-page stories; she has also been published in the *Sun Press*.

## Staying in Touch

Drop us a line or stop by for a visit whenever you are in the area...  
we'd love to see you and hear what you're up to!

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In case your friends are not on our email list, we encourage you to forward this newsletter to former classmates.