

# Regional Reunions



**Chicago** January 31, 2006

Matt Eggemeyer '87 and Craig Kahler '97 organized the Chicago regional reunion, which was held at Jake Melnick's. Approximately 20 alumni from the Chicago area, along with Blake's Director of Advancement Bob Knuth and Trustee Beth Larson Traff '78, attended the event.



**Los Angeles** May 18, 2006

The Los Angeles Regional Reunion Committee (Ed Villaume '81, Laura Gabbert '85, Charlie Sipkins '91, Maris Allen '93 and Carolyn Moos '97) put together a great evening at Hollywood's historic Musso & Frank's. It was a festive event with many young alumni socializing, reminiscing and meeting new friends. Blake's Director of Advancement Bob Knuth shared highlights of this year at Blake. Being among the farthest in distance from their alma mater, alumni were excited to keep the connection to each other and Blake alive.



**San Francisco** May 11, 2006

Enthusiastic alumni gathered at the beautiful home of David Goldberg '85 and Sheryl Sandberg in the peaceful hills of Atherton, Calif. The event was a great success thanks to the time and energy put forth by the San Francisco Regional Reunion Committee (Bill Smith '56, David Golden '76, Chris Lindgren '79, James Student '81, Walter Barry '84, Anne MacMillan Pedrero '87, Rich Donaldson '88 and Ashley Hunter Riley '94). Attendees' ages and work experiences ranged broadly from biotech and dotcom industry veterans to current students at nearby Stanford University.

We are currently looking for alumni in **Washington D.C.** to help plan a regional reunion. If you are interested in helping out in Washington or in any other city, please contact Becky Ankeny, director of alumni and parent relations at (952) 988-3433 or [bankeny@blakeschool.org](mailto:bankeny@blakeschool.org).

**Naples** February 17, 2006

John Bean '37 and Ruth Leslie Bean '39 hosted a reunion in Naples, Fla. at the Naples Yacht Club. Director of Advancement Bob Knuth was lucky enough to make the warm trip down south to greet the guests and report on the wonderful things happening at Blake today.



**New York City** May 9, 2006

More than 35 alumni were on hand to greet old friends and meet new ones at the New York City regional reunion at Bogart's near Grand Central Station. Mary Moulton '92 and Andrew Mitchell '97 did an outstanding job planning the event. Laura Mark from Blake's Advancement Office joined the NYC alums and shared news of Blake's recent achievements and continued prominence in the Twin Cities and beyond.



**Boston** April 27, 2006

The Boston Regional Reunion Committee (Linda Thorpe Comstock '70, Sally Ankeny Reiley '77, Nick Winton '80, Katy Redmond '89, Dan Thorpe '99 and Charlie Engasser '01) organized a spectacular reunion event, which was held at the Union Club. More than 25 alumni and friends gathered on a beautiful spring New England evening to eat, drink and share Blake stories. Laura Mark of Blake's Advancement Office attended the Boston event and imparted news from the School, with particular emphasis on the newly released strategic plan (see pages 2 and 3) as well as the great achievements of Blake's athletic teams, arts department and its high-achieving student body.

# Breakfast at Blake

Breakfast at Blake continued to be a rousing success with events in January, February and April. In January, **Jim Dorsey '70**, a lawyer with the firm Fredrikson & Byron, spoke about his experience representing an Algerian detainee in Guantanamo Bay. February's speaker, in the spirit of the winter Olympics,



Jim Dorsey '70 talks about representing a Guantanamo Bay detainee at January's breakfast.



With the 2006 Winter Olympics underway, 1980 Olympic hockey gold medalist Rob McClanahan was a most appropriate speaker for February's Breakfast at Blake.



Although his business is helping people sleep, Select Comfort CEO Bill McLaughlin '74 had a wide-eyed and awake audience during his informative and entertaining talk in April.

was Rob McClanahan, a current Blake parent who played on the United States 1980 Olympic gold medal-winning hockey team, which inspired the movie "Miracle." In March, **Bill McLaughlin '74**, current Blake parent and CEO of Select Comfort, regaled his audience with the incredible story of Select Comfort's successful turn around. Everyone left dreaming of obtaining a personal sleep number!

Mark your 2006-07 calendar for the third Thursday in October, November, January, February, April and May! Join us for a hot breakfast and hear from more fascinating speakers as we resume our Breakfast at Blake series. We are excited to welcome as speakers for the upcoming year owner and head chef of Lucia's Restaurant and Wine Bar, **Lucia Watson '70**, Blake grandparent and Carlson Companies CEO and president Marilyn Nelson, and Siri Marshall, former parent and senior vice president and general counsel for General Mills.

# Bettels Invitational

In his book, "The Team, The Team, The Team," Chub Bettels recalls the day in May 1990 when Blake's track was rededicated in his name. He notes that the day started with rain, but ended as the sun burst through, once again signaling that "the sun always shines on a Blake track team." There could not be a more fitting summary than this of the 17th annual Bettels Invitational, held at Blake's Chub Bettels Track on May 5, 2006. The rain and cold of the morning gave



Dedicated Chub Bettels fans gather for the 17th annual Bettels Invitational. Pictured, front row, L to R: Sherm Malkerson '62 and Athletic Director Rollie Johnson. Back row, L to R: Tom Owens '70, Joseph Doughty, Bayne Doughty '70, Stew Widdess '57, Laura Mark, Office of Institutional Advancement, Head of School John Gulla and Steve Arnold '63.

way to an afternoon filled with sunshine, spirited competition and the camaraderie of Blake track team members, both old and new.

Friends and spectators took in the competition, which included teams from Trinity at River Ridge, Mounds Park Academy, Providence Academy,

Southwest Christian and our own Blake. Although the meet was not scored, there were several exceptional performances such as Blake junior **Laura Komarek's** 131' 3" throw in the discus and 39' 9" throw in the shot put. Both throws were state-qualifying distances.

In addition to the excellent competition, spectators were treated to a spectacular fly-over of the missing man formation, arranged by **Tony Phillippi '64** in honor of **James "Jim" Johnson '65**, one of Blake's great track captains who passed away last November. **Stew Widdess '57** was also on hand to ensure that all the volunteers and friends of the Bettels Committee were dressed in the traditional brown and white jackets and baseball hats emblazoned with the Chub Bettels Invitational logo. This most memorable occasion was a fitting tribute to a man whose memory continues to shine brightly in the hearts of Blake track fans.



Alisha Reynolds '07 participates in one of the events. Reynolds was a 2007 Bettels Scholar nominee.

# Reunion & Homecoming 2006

## REUNION & HOMECOMING SCHEDULE 2006

*(This schedule is tentative as of June 2006.  
Times and events are subject to change.)*

### THURSDAY — 10/5

#### Greater Blake Open @ Rush Creek Golf Course

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Registration/box lunch  
1:00 – 5:00 p.m. Golf — shotgun start  
5:00 – 6:30 p.m. Social hour (cash bar)  
6:30 – 8:30 p.m. Dinner

#### Classes Without Quizzes — Northrop campus

8:30 a.m. – noon Continental breakfast and visits to classrooms

#### Golden Bears Luncheon — Northrop campus

Noon – 1:30 p.m. Lunch for classes celebrating 50th reunion and beyond

### FRIDAY — 10/6 (Blake/Hopkins & Northrop/Minneapolis campuses)

#### Legacy Day for students, faculty and alumni — Blake campus

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. Continental breakfast, all-school Convocation, service project #1, lunch with students, service project #2

#### Reunion events — Northrop campus

4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. Upper School tours  
5:30 – 7:00 p.m. Reunion Program (Juliet Nelson Auditorium)  
Author panel with Michael Phillips '80 and Arthur Phillips '86  
7:00 – 9:00 p.m. All-alumni Reunion reception  
7:30 p.m. 25th and 50th Reunion dinners hosted by the School  
Evening Individual class dinners (locations vary)

### SATURDAY — 10/7 (Blake/Hopkins campus)

#### Blake vs. Minneapolis Washburn High School

10:00 – 10:30 a.m. Alumni memorial service in Bovey Chapel  
10:00 a.m. Girls' JV volleyball  
11:00 a.m. Boys' varsity soccer, boys' JV soccer, boys' ninth grade soccer, girls' JV soccer, girls' ninth grade soccer  
11:30 a.m. Girls' varsity volleyball  
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. Children's activities & picnic lunch  
1:00 p.m. Girls' varsity soccer  
2:00 p.m. (approx.) Alumni Athlete of the Year Award at varsity girls' soccer halftime  
3:15 p.m. Varsity football vs. Minneapolis Washburn High School  
Evening Individual class dinners and activities

*The Alumni Art Exhibition will be on display in the Martha Bennett Gallery (Northrop campus) from September through Reunion & Homecoming Weekend 2006.*

## Reunion 2006 Keynote Event

Join us on Friday, October 6 for an insightful discussion with authors Michael '80 and Arthur '86 Phillips. The brothers will be discussing their books, "The Gift of Valor" (Michael Phillips) and "Prague" and "The Egyptologist" (Arthur Phillips). This panel presentation is the featured event of Reunion Program '06. The program will begin at 6:00 p.m. on the Northrop campus. So reserve the date, read the books and return to campus for this very special event!



## Legacy Day 2006

Join us on the Blake campus on Friday, October 6 to participate in the School's inaugural Convocation & Legacy Day. The event will bring together the various and diverse members of Blake's community to work toward a common purpose — strengthening commitments to lifelong learning, community service and world citizenship. Alumni, current students, teachers, staff and parents are invited to be part of legacy groups, which will spend the day working together on a service activity.

For more information on this exciting event, visit the [www.blakeschool.org](http://www.blakeschool.org) (further details in the online version of the "Bulletin" or contact Director of Alumni Relations Becky Ankeny at (952) 988-3433 or [bankeny@blakeschool.org](mailto:bankeny@blakeschool.org)).

# Alumni Award Recipients 2006

## 2006 Alumnus of the Year: Peter Gillette '52

Peter Gillette '52, once named Minneapolis' Outstanding Young Man of the Year, currently sits on the boards of Hormel Food Corporation, Marine Corps University Foundation, and Lakewood Cemetery. His former board associations include Norwest Corporation, Target Corporation, Citizens League, Minnesota Orchestral Association, Minneapolis United Way, Walker Art Center, and the Minnesota Business Partnership. He is a former trustee of Princeton University and Macalester College and was an executive fellow of the Graduate School of Business at the University of St. Thomas. An active leader in the Walker Art Center's and the Minneapolis Orchestra's fund-raising efforts, Gillette also successfully led the 1982 United Way campaign. In 1997, he received Piper Jaffray's James Snow Award for extraordinary community contributions.



At Blake, Gillette participated in the student council, publications, football, basketball, baseball (captain), Union, glee club and dramatics and was the recipient of the Harvard Book Prize and the Harvard and Yale Trophies. Gillette was a trustee of Northrop, Blake and the merged schools and served as chair of the Leadership Gift Committee during the Centennial Campaign. In 1993, Gillette and his sister, Anne Gillette Briggan '54, established the Gillette Family Fund, which provides financial aid to scholarship students. The siblings were both scholarship students themselves.

Gillette is a former president, CEO and, later, corporate vice chairman of Northwestern National Bank of Minneapolis, now Wells Fargo. He is currently a senior advisor to US Trust-MN. Gillette and his wife, Scotty, have three daughters — all Blake alumnae — and five grandchildren.

## 2006 Alumni Athlete of the Year: Alexandra Keats '80

Alexandra Keats '80 began her athletic lifestyle at Blake, where she played on the tennis, ski and golf teams. A summer Outward Bound mountaineering course launched Keats' lifelong passion for discovering diverse terrains throughout the world in the company of people of all ages and abilities while pursuing an outdoor educational experience. Her adventures have included whitewater paddling, sea kayaking, backpacking, dog sledding, rock and ice climbing, ski mountaineering, wilderness EMT/search and rescue, and canyoneering.



Keats grew up in New York City, Los Angeles and Minneapolis. She attended the University of New Hampshire, the University de Paul Valery in Montpelier, France

and completed a degree in international relations and international development from the University of Minnesota. In college, Keats worked as a wilderness instructor for several different organizations, including Outward Bound. After college, she worked full time as a wilderness instructor around the United States, Canada and northern Mexico, and eventually as director of the Voyageur Outward Bound School. She also pursued her interest in public education reform through work with the Harvard Outward Bound Project as an education consultant with participating public school systems around the country. In addition, she worked as an organization development consultant with both corporate and nonprofit organizations in the United States and overseas. In 1998, Keats, her husband, Rob, and their two daughters moved to Vermont from Indonesia, where she and Rob worked as consultants to help start an Indonesian corporate training center based on the Outward Bound model of experiential adventure education. Keats is currently an administrator of the Upper Valley Waldorf School, a private elementary school.

## 2006 Jenny Stephens Hagen Spirit Award: Sandy Donaldson '73

For more than three decades, Sandy Donaldson '73 has contributed in abundance his time, support and warm, positive spirit through his roles as a Blake alumnus, parent, trustee and volunteer. He is well known for his genuine passion for the School, and he has given his service to Blake in a multitude of capacities including helping to organize his class reunions since 1987, serving as a class representative and as a member of the Alumni Board for six years, including two years as president. Donaldson was involved in the very first Blake Classic event in 1995, as co-chair of the Acquisition (Auction) Committee with David Schall '72. He emceed the Classic's live auction for a number of years, and in 1999 he and his wife, Debbie, co-chaired the Blake Classic with John '71 and Betsy Massie.

For Blake's Centennial celebration, Donaldson helped organize the all-school Reunion. He has made countless phone calls for the Annual Fund and chaired a fund-raising committee for the five-year-long Centennial Campaign. Donaldson has served as a member of Blake's Board of Trustees for the past five years, chairing the Annual Fund, Advancement Committee and, most recently, the committee overseeing the Highcroft campus expansion and renovation project. He is the proud father of Ryan '04, Scott '05 and Jamie '08. Donaldson worked closely with Jenny Stephens Hagen during her years at Blake. Their close friendship and shared passion for the School make this award very meaningful for both of them.

