

Alumnus of the Year: Shep Harder '68

Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.

~ Margaret Mead

In 2008 we are proud to honor Shepard Harder '68 for a lifetime's work in non-profit and non-governmental organizations helping children around the globe. Harder's tireless devotion to his chosen mission has led him to work in North Africa, the Middle East, Switzerland and the United States.



After graduating from the University of Minnesota in 1973, Harder entered the Peace Corps where he spent two years in Fez, Morocco. He became fluent in Arabic, teaching students whose aspirations included teaching and other vocations in north central Morocco.

Harder earned a master of arts in teaching degree from Stanford University in 1977. He then joined the America Mideast Educational Training Services organization in Wash., D.C., where he served as a project coordinator administering scholarship programs in Egypt, Syria, Yemen and Gaza.

In 1981, he joined Save the Children Federation, Inc. As the assistant regional director to the Middle East/North Africa sector, Harder helped implement the foundation's programs devoted to health and nutrition, small-scale enterprise, agriculture, appropriate technology, education and training. In this capacity, he also served as field office director in Tunisia on an interim basis.

Harder returned to the United States in 1984, where he served as an executive officer in service to the president of the Save the Children Federation. He authored white papers and wrote reports for the president, and worked as a special assistant in the inter-governmental, governmental and NGO communities. Harder earned Save the Children's Distinguished Service Award in Management in 1986.

In 1987, Harder returned to school, this time to Harvard, where he earned a master's in public administration degree from the John F. Kennedy School of Government. After furthering his expertise in public administration

and international development, he returned to the Save the Children community as executive officer of the Save the Children Alliance in Geneva where he worked closely with United Nations and NGO bodies. He returned to the United States with his wife, Kate, (Katherine Callahan) and later became director of external relations and development with the Christian Children's Fund (CCF). Today, he serves as the administrator of ChildFund International, the confederation of 12 CCF organizations around the world.

Harder's gift to humanity is the selfless and tireless energy he has devoted to ensuring that efforts to help children around the globe are both effective and efficient. We honor him for being one of the thoughtful people who are changing the world for the better each and every day.

2008 Alumna Athlete of the Year: Hilary Cairns '88

Marathoner, track runner, road racer and triathlete, the 2008 Alumni Athlete of the Year recipient Hilary Cairns has excelled at numerous events. While at Blake she was an all-around athlete capturing the state tennis doubles championship twice and being named the state runner-up once, and earning three all-conference awards in softball. Cairns attended Williams and Wellesley Colleges and continued her athletic pursuits. She was an All-American in track in the 10,000-meter run her freshman year at Williams before shifting her focus to academics.



Several years later, while balancing her newly started family and a demanding career as an attorney in the Wash., D.C. Family Court for child abuse and neglect, she began new athletic pursuits. For the past ten years, Cairns has been a consistent top finisher in the District of Columbia's road-racing circuit. She has posted numerous wins and top finishes in 5K, 5 mile, 10K and other distances, been recognized as the district's Road Runner of the Year, and for the past several years is a highly ranked runner in her age group.

To add to this, Cairns began running marathons. Although more difficult and longer in distance than her earlier races, she continued to show mettle winning the

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Alumni Awards, continued

Marathon in the Parks race and placing in the top ten at both the Disney and Marine Corps Marathons.

Because of injuries, Cairns began cross-training, adding swimming and cycling to her regimen. She decided to compete in yet another sport — triathlons. It should come as no surprise that she excelled at that too. With finishes such as first place female at the Nation's Triathlon and first amateur at the Odyssey Half Ironman Triathlon, Cairns was named an All-American triathlete in 2005, 2006 and 2007.

Labeling Cairns is difficult given her range of accomplishments. When asked, she says she thinks of herself as an "athlete," not someone defined by one of her sports. Perhaps that is most fitting because it seems likely she would excel in any sport she pursues.

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Alumni Album

2008 Jenny Stephens Hagen Spirit Award: Allan Burdick '55

This year we honor Allan Burdick '55 with the Spirit Award. The genuine and unyielding support of all things Blake he exudes is contagious, and will be held up as the standard bearer for all current and future generations of alumni to emulate. From the countless years spent as class representative — including yearly calls on behalf of the Annual Fund, organizing his class reunions, and heading up the Class of '55 Speaker Fund — to the six years spent serving on the Alumni Board (2001–07) — including chairing the Reunion Committee and serving on the Annual Fund and Events Committees — he has been an unselfish contributor to the Blake community. Burdick's commitment as a volunteer to Blake can only be matched by his enthusiastic participation in the yearly alumni events. He is the first one with an outstretched hand and smile on his face, welcoming fellow alumni to events such as the Greater Blake Open, Homecoming/Reunion Weekend and the Annual Alumni Holiday Party. We sincerely appreciate the tireless contributions he has made and continues to make to the Blake community.



Class-hood

By Robert Wheeler, Class of 2001 Alumni Representative

In March of 2007 when I responded to Blake's plea for alumni representatives, I really did not think much of it. A couple of letters here, a few e-mails there, and a new section on my résumé would be born, I thought.

A little more than a year later, I can't believe how wrong I was. Being the alumni representative for the class of 2001 has proven to be a profoundly rewarding experience. Through a bi-monthly class newsletter, a BlakeNet registration drive and a Facebook group, our class has rekindled a spirit of "class-hood." Whether we are getting married, starting (or finishing) graduate school, rocking out in our own band, anchoring on CNNmoney.com, starting grassroots political organizations, teaching for America, or making our name in new cities and new fields, my class is absolutely amazing! As a class representative, I've had the opportunity to get back in touch with my classmates and hear their remarkable stories firsthand. It is awesome to keep up-to-date on what friends and peers are doing and how they are, oftentimes, literally changing the world.

While we are strewn about the world, I hope the newsletters I send out help the class connect and remind us of our days at School. I have been thanked many times and have connected with people whom I probably would have never again spoken, and that would have been a true shame!

The benefits of our rekindled class-hood are not just an abstract feeling of contentment and connection. Our class-hood manifests itself as action. We hosted an "unofficial reunion" over the holiday season and had upwards of 20 people show up. The number of members of the class of 2001 donating to Blake's Annual Fund has more than tripled in the past two years. Our class-hood benefits the School and it benefits us: that's a winning combination!

If you are considering becoming a class representative, I encourage you to contact Director of Alumni Relations Becky Ankeny or myself. It can be as large or small of a commitment as you would like, and you will make a big impact on the Blake alumni community. Consider joining the ranks of the alumni class representatives and bringing "class-hood" back to your class. You may just find that the one who benefits the most is you!



Al Franken '69: Alumnus Excepcional

By Caroline Evensen Lazo '47

"If you think you know the answer," the indomitable Miss Pease used to warn her students, "think twice." Quick assumptions about anything, she insisted, were usually wrong. And the immediate response from many Minnesotans to Al Franken's entrance into the current United States Senate race would prove the wisdom of her words.



Franken, current candidate for the U.S. Senate, spoke to a full house at Breakfast at Blake this past January (see also page 26).

Known as a first-class comedy writer and performer, Franken stunned many people when he decided to challenge incumbent Republican Senator Norm Coleman in the 2008 campaign. "Al Franken?" they said. "The comedian on 'Saturday Night Live' whose character Stuart Smalley is well-known for the catchphrase, 'I'm good enough, I'm smart enough, and doggone it, people like me?' A U.S. senator? No way!"



Franken began his career at Blake, providing leadership (and entertainment) at assemblies, in debate, wrestling and more. (From the 1969 Call O'Pan)

But on second thought, some asked, "Why not?"

"Comedy is serious business," Norman Panama (the late Hollywood screen writer) once said. "A good comedian possesses special insight into the human condition ... and a genuine desire to bring people together and to lift their spirits." Throughout his life, Franken has aimed to do just that — and much more.

Franken was born in New York on May 21, 1951, but his father's business ventures brought the family to Minnesota four years later. His father was a printing salesman and his mother, a real estate agent. Eventually the family settled in St. Louis Park where he attended St. Louis Park

Public Schools through his sophomore year. Al entered Blake in 1966. He teamed up with fellow Blake student Tom Davis to develop comedy routines at school and at the Dudley Riggs Brave New Workshop in Minneapolis. After graduation in 1969, he entered Harvard — not known for courses in comedy! Yet the joy of bringing people together and using satire to comment on the issues that concerned them was always on his mind. And after graduating from college, he and Davis started writing for "Saturday Night" — later known as "Saturday Night Live."

Hugely successful in his various roles on SNL, Franken seemed to have found his life's work. Encouraged by his wife, Franni, whom he met while at Harvard, he went on to win five Emmys, write best-selling books, and to perform on television and in movies, and win over audiences with his natural, easygoing manner.

But the more he conversed with people wherever he went, the more concerned he became about fundamental problems facing the country at large — the growing gap between the rich and poor, the inequities imbedded in the health care system, the failure to educate all of the country's children, and the lack of adequate attention to the poor. He would quote Dr. Martin Luther King: "How can people pull themselves up by their own bootstraps if they have no boots?"

And the more he traveled around the world — including USO visits with troops in Iraq — the more aware he became of America's role on the world stage and the importance of knowing when to exit a tragic scene.

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Reunion & Homecoming Schedule 2008

*(This schedule is tentative as of June 2008.
Times and events are subject to change.)*

THURSDAY – 9/25

Greater Blake Open @ Rush Creek Golf Course

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Registration/lunch
1:00 – 6:00 p.m.	Golf — shotgun start
6:00 – 7:00 p.m.	Social hour
7:00 p.m.	Dinner

Golden Bears Luncheon — Northrop campus

11:30 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.	Lunch for classes celebrating 50th reunion and beyond
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Classes Without Quizzes — Northrop campus

12:45 – 3:00 p.m.	Visit Upper School classes
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FRIDAY – 9/26 (Blake/Hopkins Campus)

Breakfast at Blake: The Reunion Edition

7:30 a.m.	Featured speaker is 2008 Alumnus of the Year Shep Harder '68
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Legacy Day for students, faculty and alumni

9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.	All-school Convocation, service projects, lunch
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Homecoming Football Game

5:30 p.m.	Blake Bears vs. Minnehaha Red Hawks
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The Great Blake Get-Together — Blake Ice Arena

7:00 – 10:00 p.m.	Dinner and alumni awards
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SATURDAY – 9/27 (Blake/Hopkins Campus)

9:00 a.m.	Dan Danielson Memorial Run (starts at Northrop campus)
10:30 – 11:00 a.m.	Alumni memorial service in Bovey Chapel
10:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Homecoming athletic events (volleyball, soccer, football)
11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.	Children's activities & picnic lunch
Evening	Individual class dinners and activities (locations and times vary by class)

The Alumni Art Exhibition will be on display in the Martha Bennett Gallery (Northrop campus) through September 2008.

The Great Blake Get-Together

Be sure to mark your calendar for the second annual all-alumni reunion! The Blake School Alumni Association is once again hosting the Great Blake Get-Together, and alumni from all classes are invited to join in the fun. The event will take place in the Blake Ice Arena on Friday, September 26 from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. Mingle with your friends and former teachers while enjoying food, drink and merriment. The ice arena will be filled with areas specific to each decade — browse through old yearbooks and enjoy popular music from each decade. There will also be a special area honoring this year's alumni award recipients and plenty of opportunities to reconnect with your classmates and friends. All alumni are invited and encouraged to attend this special event. More details to follow, but make plans now to attend this exciting all-alumni event.



Golden Bears Luncheon

Blake and Northrop alumni celebrating reunions of 50 years or greater are invited to a special luncheon in their honor. The Golden Bears Luncheon will be held on Thursday, September 25 on the Northrop campus from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. All members of the classes of 1958 and earlier are encouraged to attend this event. We hope that you will join us for a lovely lunch and lively student entertainment. Following lunch, you will have the opportunity to visit classrooms (Classes Without Quizzes) to see today's teachers and students sharing their knowledge and love of learning. Both the lunch and classroom visits provide a great opportunity to reconnect with your classmates and other friends from your time at Northrop or Blake.



Breakfast at Blake: The Reunion Edition

Join us for a special Reunion edition of Breakfast at Blake on Friday, September 26 at 7:30 a.m. on the Blake campus in Hopkins. Shep Harder '68, this year's recipient of the Alumnus of the Year award (see page 31), will be our speaker and answer questions. Come for breakfast and stay for the School's third annual Convocation & Legacy Day. This event brings together members of Blake's community for a service-oriented day. We welcome all the School's alumni to participate.

For more information contact Director of Alumni Relations Becky Ankeny at (952) 988-3433 or bankeny@blakeschool.org.

Alumni College Fair 2008

The Blake College Fair: Another Huge Success for Students as Well as Alumni

By Moe Zeidan '03

On Monday, January 14 and as pre-planned, I arrived at the Upper School and made my way to the gym to play my role in this year's Alumni College Fair, representing Amherst College. Upon arriving in the gymnasium (the same one in which I had once practiced basketball), I was struck by the numerous tables and the many alumni milling about, all carrying information about the colleges from all over the country that they were representing. What a terrific way to give the juniors first-hand information about the possibilities that lie before them! Before the students entered, the alums munched on complimentary lunches while reminiscing of the good times and catching up on recent movements. The Blake connection was still strong and it wasn't more than a few minutes before we were offering each other leads on jobs, internships, and volunteer opportunities.

Then, seemingly all at once, the juniors walked in, and their spirit was felt by all. I felt myself getting excited for them. I was reminded of how lucky I was to attend Blake, and was thankful for the opportunity to give back. As time passed, I was amazed by the enthusiasm and curiosity of the students, and had the opportunity



Alumni Andrew Rosen '86 and Kate Gordon Cohen '97 (Tufts) and Kate Urbanic '99 (Harvard) share their experiences with members of the junior class at this year's Alumni College Fair.



to get updates on the sports teams, the new facilities, and of course, the quality of cafeteria food (which got great reviews). The experience was a joy and I encourage any alumni in town to take part in the event. The food

Blake provided was delicious, the students appreciated the information, and it was a wonderful occasion to give back to the school that had given me so much.

Hope to see you next year!

If you are interested in representing your college on Monday, Jan. 12, 2009, please contact Director of Alumni and Parent Relations Becky Ankeny at bankeny@blakeschool.org or (952) 988-3433.

2008 Regional Gatherings Recap

Washington D.C.

February 21, 2008

The 2008 Wash., D.C. annual gathering was a great success. Despite some Minnesota-esque weather, alumni from five decades came to the Hotel Tabard Inn for an evening of appetizers, drinks and friendly conversation. Ben Coopridner from the Advancement office updated the alumni on current Blake news such as service projects in the global community, the foreign countries Blake students are studying in, and the successes of the Bear athletic teams.

Many thanks to Eve Konstantine '66, Mark Segal '87, Sherrie Bearson Hartzell '88, Steve Ritchie '93, Amy Brokl '99, Courtney Snyder '00, and Laura Heffelfinger '01 for chairing the event.

New York City, NY

February 28, 2008

The New York City Regional Gathering was honored with the presence of Head of School John Gulla, Assistant Head of School Lucretia Wells, Board of Trustees Chair Kent Adams '81 and Laura Mark from the Advancement Office. The day started with a small breakfast gathering where John Gulla spoke about current Blake happenings and responded to questions. The evening event took place at the Yale Club, with nearly 40 alumni and guests gathering to meet, mingle and enjoy each other's company. Thanks to Andy Mitchell '97 for his help in organizing the event.