

## Blake Welcomes New Lower School Director

With the proverbial passing of the torch, which took place July 1, Blake is happy to introduce new Lower School Director Barry Wadsworth. Most recently a supervising teacher at the Smith College Campus School in Massachusetts, Wadsworth's experience, skills and talents promise to be a perfect fit with — and a great benefit to — Blake.

In his 11 years at Smith, Wadsworth impacted the lives and learning of innumerable children. He mentored aspiring teachers and conducted research on teaching and learning for understanding with the Smith College Department of Education and Child Study. "Being connected to a profession and being responsible for improving how we teach and how students learn is immensely rewarding," Wadsworth says.

## Thanks and Farewell to Beth Hower

It is with mixed emotions we bid a fond farewell to Beth Hower as she retires from Blake and begins the next chapter of her life. (Though "retirement" is not entirely accurate: Hower will be leading Blake's ISACS accreditation process through the 2009–10 school year.)

For 12 years, Hower's collaborative leadership of the Lower School's faculty and staff has fostered an environment where authentic learning and youthful curiosity have been encouraged and rewarded. During her tenure, Hower has overseen the expansion of the Highcroft campus, strengthened the alignment of the two Lower School campuses by helping craft a clearer articulation of the philosophy of teaching and learning in the division, and moved pluralism work forward in both curriculum and community. She is proud of some of her less publicized, though no less important, initiatives including building a more playful environment and a community better able to live in the moment as well as the mentorship and launching of many young teachers.

***"It is an exciting time for the Lower School and I look forward to reading and hearing about the wonderful changes that the division makes in the coming years."***

—Beth Hower, in a letter to Lower School families



Barry Wadsworth

Wadsworth, who has a master of arts in teaching in elementary education from Mount Holyoke College and an undergraduate degree from the University of Massachusetts, earned his Ed.M. degree in educational leadership from Teacher's College, Columbia University this May.

On his move west, Wadsworth is accompanied by wife Jennifer and their three children, Matt (17), Cam (4) and Camila (2). The family has been impressed with the "deep and powerful learning at Blake" and looks forward to exploring all that the Twin Cities — and Blake — have to offer. Please join us in welcoming the Wadsworth family.



Beth Hower (far left) is presented with a mural created by Lower School artists in her honor. The artwork is currently hanging in Highcroft's new arts wing.

Hower looks forward to exploring a myriad of opportunities with all her new-found time. More reading and writing, piano playing and singing in her community choir are all on the docket, in addition to unleashing some of her passion around service, spending time with family and friends and just letting her days unfold more organically.

Hower's inquiring mind, compassionate heart and infectious laugh will be greatly missed at Blake. Thank you, Beth, for all you have done for all of us at Blake.



Kevin O'Connor (pictured at left with Director of the U.S. Lacrosse Long Island Chapter John Phillips) was inducted into the Long Island Metropolitan Lacrosse Foundation's Hall of Fame.

Middle School counselor and PK-12 Student Services Department Chair **Kevin O'Connor** was inducted into the Long Island Metropolitan Lacrosse Foundation's Hall of Fame this January. O'Connor played lacrosse for the University of Massachusetts during which time he recorded 38 wins and five losses during his four years. Earning All-

American honors his junior and senior years, O'Connor went on to play in the North-South lacrosse classic at Johns Hopkins. He also coached at the collegiate level for three years (at Army and Cortland) before coaching at the high-school level in western Massachusetts. In 2005, he helped start a high school lacrosse team while working at the Asheville School in western North Carolina.

College Counseling liaison **Linda Barrows** had her essay "Golfing Lady" published in the online magazine *In the Mist* (inthemistmap.com). In addition, her essay "Family Reunion" was published in *Barnard Magazine's* spring issue. This essay can be found online at [www.barnard.edu](http://www.barnard.edu) (on the Alumnae/Barnard Magazine page).

Middle School Choral Director **Dan LeJeune** was selected to be the guest conductor for the 2009 OAKE National Youth Honor Choir. LeJeune traveled to Washington D.C. to work with 170 of the country's finest middle school singers, preparing them to sing a program he chose for the final performance. LeJeune shared recordings of Blake's choirs so that members of the honor choir could hear the program music sung by other middle school students.



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Director of Forensics **Shane Stafford** had his article "Public Forum: In Search of the 'Holy Grail' in Debate" published in the November 2008 issue of the National Forensic League's magazine, *Rostrum*. In other news, **Stafford**, who is also Blake's debate coach, received the Tournament Host of the Year award from the National Debate Coaches Association for his coordination of the John Edie tournament, which was held this past December in Minneapolis. The award is granted to "a tournament that provides quality competition, judging and hospitality." Stafford credits the combined effort of the Blake community with making this tournament a nationally renowned event.

**Marlin Rothe**, Blake's director of donor relations, has spent his off-time working on several theatrical productions this past school year. In October, he played the role of conflicted priest Father McKuen in "A Plague of Angels" at Theatre in the Round in Minneapolis. The drama is based on the true story of Mary Mallon, better known as "Typhoid Mary," an Irish immigrant in turn-of-the-century New York. Then in November, Rothe portrayed Senator Joseph McCarthy in the Pillsbury House staging of "Are You Now or Have You Ever Been?" Rothe also directed "The Secret Garden" for Minneapolis Musical Theatre, which ran this March in the Illusion Theater space in downtown Minneapolis.



Marlin Rothe, Blake's director of donor relations, in his role of conflicted priest Father McKuen in "A Plague of Angels" at Theatre in the Round in Minneapolis.

Upper School English teacher **Jeff Hansen** has released a new novel, "and beefheart saved craig" (BlazeVox Press). He is also publishing a collection of his chapbooks, entitled "Jazz Forms." He also has had several reviews in "Rain Taxi Review of Books" and two stories published on the web journal Big Bridge.

Middle School English teacher **Stacy Swearingen** gave an interactive presentation at the Minnesota Council of Teachers of English in April. Her presentation focused on how she has adapted the philosophy and practice of Nancy Atwell's writing workshop method, as presented in "Writing in the Middle: New Understanding about

Reading, Writing, and Learning.” in her Blake sixth grade class curriculum.



Bill Colburn with Commodore Candace Porter of the Inland Lakes Yachting Association

Upper School visual arts teacher **Bill Colburn '88** was awarded the coveted Pillsbury Cup. The Inland Lakes Yachting Association (ILYA) bestows this annual honor on the best sailor of the year. At the award ceremony, an ILYA representative described Colburn as both a skilled sailor and a true gentleman.

dedicated her work to the advancement of service learning and who serves as a model to others in the field. She was honored during the Minnesota Service Learning Celebration at the state capitol this May. A \$100 mini-grant will be awarded to Blake to use for supplies, materials and/or transportation.

**Frank Sachs**, Blake's director of College Counseling, was recently awarded a Citation of Merit for Outstanding Achievement and Meritorious Service by his alma mater, the University of Missouri, as part of the school's 41st annual Recognition Awards. The awards program recognizes the achievements of students, faculty, alumni and friends who have made outstanding contributions to the MU College of Education and to the field of education and related fields. Sachs received his award at a ceremony in April in Columbia, Mo.

Middle School language arts teacher **Eric Hansen's** poem "Resurgence 2008" appeared in the online publication Flurry, an intermittent journal of wintry poetry from Minnesota and the Dakotas.

**Cindy Ohman**, Blake campus third grade teacher, is the 2009 recipient of Blake's Lyon History Award. The award provides opportunities for members of the Blake social studies department to experience places and cultures that will enhance their curriculum. Ohman is traveling to Japan this summer to explore the cities of Kyoto and Tokyo.

Blake's PK-12 Service Learning Director **Nan Peterson** was selected for a 2009 Outstanding Contributions to Service Learning Award by the Minnesota Department of Education. Peterson was the sole winner in the passion category, being recognized as an individual who has

Upper School visual arts teacher **Bill Colburn '88** recently had one of his paintings on display at the Shoebox Gallery in Minneapolis. "Avenue Street" (oil on canvas) features "fantastic textures, abstractions and scale shifts ... The viewer need be prepared to be drawn into a tide pool of colors à la Bonnard, late Monet and high Rothko. These colors will wash away the effects of the grime that inspired them," according to the Shoebox Gallery announcement.



Nan Peterson (front row, second from left) and fellow service learning award winners at the state capitol with Gov. Tim Pawlenty

**Online extra!**

Find out which teachers have received a 2009 grant or sabbatical and how they plan to use them. Visit the Bulletin online at [www.blakeschool.org](http://www.blakeschool.org).

# Faculty Focus

## Nancy Hughes Drops Clues about Life after Blake, No Mystery Why She'll Be Missed

When it comes to books, Nancy Hughes will take a suspense-filled mystery set in an exotic locale, thank you very much. "I love to read mysteries set in interesting places because the clues are really in the setting," explains the Middle School English teacher, who as a new retiree is likely to have a little extra reading time.

Though the locale's not so exotic, Nancy gives a big clue as to why she has spent the last 17 years of her career here at Blake: "the kids." In 1992, Nancy started at Blake as a Middle School learning specialist, a position she actively sought because she "felt Blake had the best middle school in the Twin Cities and I wanted to work here." Her instincts about Blake proved to be spot on (must be all the off-hours sleuthing), and the result has been a most fulfilling career.

"I remember about three years ago standing in the hallway watching students pass from one class to the next and thinking how lucky I was to be spending my day doing this," she reflects. "What a cool way to spend one's day — working with middle school students. There is such a great energy."

Nancy has particularly fond memories of the years she led the Middle School knitting club. The club hit its peak of 100 participants in the 2001–02 school year, which Nancy attributes to the events of September 11. "There was a need for something tactile, something to hold on to," she explains. The knitters would gather in the Pillsbury Conference Room to work on their creations.



*Nancy Hughes, center, gathers with Blake colleagues (R to L) Marilyn Marn-Kaufman, Maelene Krig, Bob Zelle and Lynn Baete before this year's Commencement ceremony.*

Nancy had to enlist parent volunteers to keep up with the club's demand.

This sense of community, especially with the kids, is something Nancy says she will most miss in her retirement. She also mentions her colleagues in the Middle School English department for whom she has great respect. Nancy will have plenty to keep her busy, though, and she plans to dig right in. She will continue to lead (with the help of former Blake Middle School librarian Carol Lundholm) the mystery book club at the Bookcase in Wayzata, where she works part time, and to teach and practice yoga, write, garden, knit and read.

Nancy and her husband, John, have a home in Brasstown, N.C., which has a vibrant arts community and is where they intend to spend their winters. You can also bet that Nancy will be spending some time on the East Coast. An exotic locale? Perhaps. And here's the clue: she's knitting a pair of pink baby socks. If the suspense is killing you, just ask Nancy about her new granddaughter, who was born in June and lives with her son and his wife in New York!

### Fond Farewells

The following is a list of Blake faculty members who left either during or at the end of the 2008–09 school year. Thank you for your service and keep in touch!

**Rod Anderson**  
**Kelli Beitlich**  
**Amy Fredrickson**  
**Nils Heymann**

**Kim Knuttila**  
**Gary Kollofski**  
**Allison Lorenzen**  
**Dan McKay**

**John McKeand**  
**Avram Penner**  
**Nancy Rodman**  
**John Sessler**

**Bill Sherfey**  
**Kat Stankiewicz**  
**Kim Sy**  
**Amy Williams**