

Sem Snippets

Winter 2009-10

HARRY B. SCHOOLEY AND TONI SMITH WILSON TO RETIRE

What makes a school truly great? Dedicated teachers. The building and its classrooms, the books, computers, schedules, and curriculum are nothing without effective teachers. Outstanding educators inspire students to believe that they are capable of greatness. They make their students believe in themselves; and through their own love of learning, enable these students to find joy in learning.

This year two extraordinary Buffalo Seminary teachers, Harry B. Schooley and Toni Smith Wilson, will retire. Fresh from Williams College, Harry arrived in Buffalo in 1967, and, except for a five-year hiatus at Cleveland's Hathaway Brown School, has been a steadfast presence at our school ever since. Toni arrived at Sem with her master's degree in hand from Case Western University – more than ready to direct her first high-school production.

Given their combined tenure of more than 70 years, it is difficult to imagine opening school next fall without them. Who will lead the Hanging of the Greens, or read excerpts from *Letter from a Birmingham Jail* to remind us of the reason for our Martin Luther King Holiday? Who will interrupt a Morning Meeting announcement to insist on clarity of voice and proper posture? Who will teach girls how to use drills, saws, and other power tools to build a set? How many Sem alumnae have been shaped through Harry and Toni's teaching, guided by their advice, and awed by their passion for education over the years?

Mr. Schooley's classes are considered among the best at Sem, year after year. He is firm, clear, and demanding, yet always fair and encouraging. When sophomores finish his European History class, they know that they are prepared for the demands of any other history class at Sem or in college. They rise to his expectations and when they are finished, they feel a great sense of accomplishment. These girls are ready for the next academic challenge.



Having directed at least 75 distinctive and special productions at Sem, Mrs. Wilson has consistently brought out the best in every actor. The range of her work includes great drama, unique international genres, and high melodrama. The fall production of *Gaieties* highlighted her phenomenal ability to engage so many students (faculty and trustees, too) in her productions. For her final gift to the school, Mrs. Wilson will collaborate with Music Director Ron Martin on an original opera!

I find it impossible to express my own appreciation for the incredible contributions of Harry Schooley and Toni Wilson. Words seem inadequate. I hope that many of you will join me Saturday, June 5th, to celebrate their legacy to Sem. You will hear more about special events planned in their honor in the weeks and months to come. For now, all of us at Buffalo Seminary are grateful for their enduring influence, as we prepare to say the best wishes in retirement (but not goodbye) to both of these special teachers.

ALUMNA PROFILE: ANSIE SILVERMAN BAIRD '55 THE SOUL OF A POET, THE HEART OF A TEACHER



In the fall of 2009, award-winning poet Ansie Baird, a 1955 Sem graduate, released *In Advance of All Parting*, her first full collection of poetry. Dedicated to Ansie's parents and longtime friend, **Robin Simon Magavern '52**, the anthology is an honest, unrelenting look at love, grief, and loss. *In Advance of All Parting*, awarded the 14th annual White Pine Press Award for Poetry, has received much critical acclaim since its publication. Despite the accolades, the poet remains grateful to colleagues and friends for their support, including Gary Sutton, whose proofreading skills were invaluable.

Since 1981, Ansie has also been a part-time faculty member of our English Department, for which she serves as Poet-in-Residence. According to colleague Dr. Ben Joplin, department chair, Ansie shows Sem students that poetry is something you *do* and *feel*, while respecting both the infinite possibilities and structural boundaries of clear written expression. With gentle persistence, she teaches students how to revise, polish – even throw away – their work. This spring, as our Wilkinson Poet, Ansie will once again grace the Sem community with her vast knowledge of and passion for poetry. We are proud to have such a gifted alumna on our faculty.

Buffalo Seminary's spirit has helped shape Ansie's family of strong women. Her grandmother, **Clara More de Morinni**, was a Seminary graduate from 1900. Ansie's sister **Clare de Morinni Silverman '53** was a former trustee. Her daughters, **Cynthia**, a current trustee, and **Bridget**, graduated in 1981 and 1985, respectively. Ansie Baird is also the doting grandmother of **Abigail Stark '08**.

SEM SPORTS ROUNDUP



BASKETBALL

The Varsity Basketball team approaches the midway point of the 2009-2010 season with a record of 5 wins and 9 losses, having made significant improvements to its internal structure and style of play. Under the leadership of Captains **Olivia Knauss '11**, **Katy Melber '11**, and **Julia Schreck '11**, as well as **Julia Papiernik '10** and **Taylor Smith '10**, this year's squad is determined to shine in arguably the region's strongest league. Off the court, the girls represented Buffalo Seminary by attending a Niagara University women's basketball game in Niagara Falls, N.Y. They also served hot meals for Christmas at the Trinity Baptist Church on the East Side of Buffalo.

CREW

Our Varsity Crew team has been training hard during this winter season. The new Erg room has opened up new possibilities for comprehensive physical workouts. Team members have also incorporated the vigorous style of Ashtanga yoga into their regimen two days a week at East Meets West Yoga Studio. The girls are increasingly focused and ready for spring to arrive!



photo by KC Kratt

THE RIBBON HAS BEEN CUT . . . LET THE GAMES BEGIN BSSAC OPENS TO THE WNY COMMUNITY

Now that we have improved our athletic facilities, Buffalo Seminary would like you to be able to use our fitness rooms and our squash courts when they are not being used by students. You are invited to join the Buffalo Seminary Squash and Athletic Center through a membership for the rest of this year.

Now that the cold weather and snow have gripped Buffalo, the BSSAC may be just what you need for indoor exercise. For membership information, please call 716-885-6780.

FENCING

Members of our Varsity Fencing team have been working hard this season to improve their skills and become tough competitors. On January 9, they traveled to Chesterland, OH, for the Wolverine Snow Belt Challenge, where they placed second. Our standout performer, who overcame injury and finished third overall, was **Shade Douglas '12**. The team travels to Rochester at the end of January, and again to the Buckeye State in the beginning of February.



SQUASH

Our Varsity Squash players – divided into the Red and White teams – have had a good first half of the league season, with convincing wins against the Nardin teams and the Independent team. The girls have also competed admirably against the more experienced Nichols team. Strong play and exemplary leadership by Senior Captain **Maddie Friedman '10** and Junior Captain **Elizabeth Bassett '11** have certainly made a difference.

Both teams are very strong in the middle of the lineup, and our freshman and first-year players have shown great improvement. Practice on our two new squash courts has certainly paid off! The girls will end the season by traveling to the U.S. Squash High School Team Championships at Yale University in early February.



photo by KC Kratt

THINK GLOBALLY, HOST LOCALLY

Building upon a school tradition, Buffalo Seminary is offering three international exchange programs this year. Each is a significant opportunity for our girls to experience true "international bonding."

SPAIN

The first exchange of the 2009-2010 school year was a wonderful success, thanks to the hard work of faculty members Amber Zepper and Judy Kramer. Ten students from Colegio San Ignacio in Oviedo, Spain, stayed with Sem students and their families from December 2 to 17. Our host students were **Elizabeth Bassett '11, Annalee Burkley '11, Jennifer Cotto-Ecklund '11, Michela '10 and Madison '13 Gacloch, Jourdan Green '13, Liza Marlette '13, Julia Papiernik '10, Kendall Priebe '12, Julia '11 and Francesca '13 Schreck, Haley Stearns '11, and Cailin Walsh '11.** Director of Development **Janie Urban Constantine '66** hosted the girls' chaperone. **Jessica Phillips '13** will be traveling but was unable to host. Spanish teacher Amber Zepper will chaperone 14 Sem girls during a trip to Oviedo, Spain, along with students from Canisius High School.

FRANCE

Our French exchange students will arrive in Buffalo on the evening of January 29 and then stay with us until February 19. Our three girls will be hosted by **Corey Schoellkopf '11, Katie Melber '11, and Riley Featherston '11.** From March 28 to April 16, Sophie Michaud, chair of our Foreign Language Department, will chaperone these Sem girls during a trip to Normandy, France, along with students from Nichols School and City Honors.

COLOMBIA

Ten students from Colombia will visit Sem from February 13 to 27. Their hosts will be **Leanora Karnath '12, Eliza Kaye '12, Anna Malkiewicz '10, Victoria Roney '13, and Ariel (Xu, Chunhui) '10,** who will travel to Colombia at a later date. The following girls will be hosting our guests during the stay in Buffalo but not traveling to Colombia: **Taylor Amico '11, Juliette Brown '12, Emily Cardullo '12, Donna Kimmins '12, and Ivey Spier '12.** The trip to Colombia will be led by Spanish teacher Linda Slingerland.

"I am honored to have been elected to serve as Alumna Trustee and give thanks to all those who made this happen. As I begin this journey I can tell you that I am impressed with the energy, talent, dedication, and 'can do' attitude that I see all around me at Sem, from Jody Douglass to the faculty and staff to the hardworking and talented trustee group I am getting to know.

From my observations, the students are involved and thriving. The new residential program is off to a great start and will surely enrich and broaden the Seminary experience. The improvements to the gym area including the beautiful new squash courts and the state-of-the-art exercise equipment are impressive. The overall school facilities retain their warmth and uniqueness, but they seem brighter and lighter than they did when I was a Seminary student and then teacher. I encourage all alums to 'drop in' occasionally and have a look around. It is a welcoming place that hums with activity. If you haven't already done so, take a minute to browse the school's Web site, www.buffaloseminary.org. It is very well done, always up to date, and gives an excellent glimpse of all that is happening at our Alma Mater. "

Luella "Ellie" Harder Johnson '57

"Everyone smiles in the same language."

~ Author unknown



Hasta luego! Oviedo students with their Sem hosts.

We extend a heartfelt thank you to all our host families, without whom these cultural exchanges would not be possible. Your openness and hospitality make all the difference!

If you are not receiving e-mail messages from Sem, please send your e-mail address to:
development@buffaloseminary.org

If you are the parent of a graduate who is no longer living at home, please send her current address to:

Buffalo Seminary
Development Office
205 Bidwell Parkway
Buffalo NY 14222

Thank you!

PRINCE LECTURE SERIES

ALLISON PRINCE '75



Allison with her "star" from the Silicon Valley satellite broadcast programming she produced and directed

This year the Prince Family Guest Lecture Series was proud to present **Allison Prince '75** as the featured speaker. A renowned and gifted independent producer, writer, and director of films and documentaries, Allison addressed the Seminary community on Thursday, January 14.

With an impressive list of clients including, among others, Goldman Sachs, New York Life, the Discovery Channel, and Smith Barney, Allison delivers a wide range of video programming to global clients for events, cultural and educational forums, and the Internet. With experience in over 50 countries, she specializes in international production using local crews and equipment.

Among the highlights of her career, Allison has:

- produced an award-winning, interactive CD-ROM, *Meet MediaBand*
- worked on award-winning documentaries such as *Great Wonders of the World*, *Great Splendors of the World*, girls education, and world hunger
- produced and directed a video news magazine series, *EMTV*
- created 34 films for the 9-11 Commission on the events of September 11, 2001

Allison attended Sem her freshman and sophomore years. In 1979, she graduated from Colgate University with a B.A. in Fine Arts and English with honors in Fine Arts Photography.



Forbidden City, Beijing, China

YOUNG ALUMNAE LUNCHEON WITH A TWIST

Holding to the tradition of feting our youngest alumnae, Buffalo Seminary ushered in this year's Young Alumnae Luncheon - but with a twist - mothers were also invited to attend!

On January 4, members of the Classes of '06, '07, '08 and '09 and their mothers were welcomed for a special luncheon with faculty and staff. This year we honored history teacher Harry B. Schooley and Drama and Fine Arts Department Chair Toni Smith Wilson, two Sem icons who will be retiring at the end of the school year.



SPRING COLBY-OISHEI ARTIST MARA HOFFMAN '95



Buffalo Seminary is pleased to announce that New York Fashion Designer, **Mara Hoffman '95** has accepted two invitations from the Seminary community. In the spring, she will join a talented field of female artists as she becomes the 43rd Colby-Oishei artist. In addition, the senior class is excited to have her serve as their commencement speaker, June 8.

Mara studied fashion design and graduated from Parsons School of Design in New York City and Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design in London.

She got her start on "Sex and the City" when the show's stylist approached her about using her designs – she was more than willing to oblige. Mara launched her fashion line, *Mara Hoffman*, in 2000.

The *Mara Hoffman* line has evolved over the last 10 years from collections featuring hand-dyed couture pieces to her current collections which concentrate heavily on original silk prints. Her line, shown on the runway during NYC's Fashion Week, encompasses everything from swimwear to cashmere coats; she pulls her inspiration from nature, world travel and fantasy. Celebrity clients include Halle Berry, Naomi Campbell, Kate Hudson, Jessica Simpson, and Venus Williams, to name but a few.

ANNUAL FUND

WHAT IS THE ANNUAL FUND?

Gifts to the Annual Fund are unrestricted and have a direct impact on all aspects of Sem's outstanding programs — the students, the faculty, and the academic, athletic, artistic, technological and extracurricular life of the school.

WHY CONTRIBUTE?

Participation in the Annual Fund demonstrates confidence in a Seminary education. For nearly two decades, Sem has boasted 100% participation in the Annual Fund from both its Board of Trustees and its Faculty and Staff. Alumnae continue to give generously — between 40 - 50% of Alumnae give each year. More than half of our parents participated in the Annual Fund last year; many others provided support by volunteering time and talent. With ongoing support from all members of the Buffalo Seminary community, this legacy of support will continue.

Please mail your check payable to

Buffalo Seminary Annual Fund

• 205 Bidwell Parkway • Buffalo NY 14222 •
or for secure online giving visit our Web site:

www.buffaloseminary.org.

Thank you for your support!

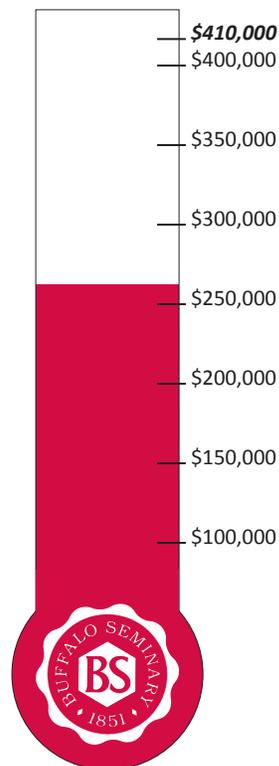
PARENT ASSOCIATION'S STAFF APPRECIATION DAY

is much appreciated by Seminary staff!



Once a month members of the Parent Association treat the Buffalo Seminary faculty and staff to something special *and* we wish to express our thanks!

Help Us Reach Our Goal!



SANDRA P. GILMOR SCIENTIST FOR LIFE SPEAKER SERIES DR. RICHARD LEE



On Wednesday, January 13, the Sem community welcomed Dr. Richard Lee as our third annual Sandra P. Gilmor Scientist for Life keynote speaker. Dr. Lee spoke to us about how global warming — which he prefers to call “global environmental change” — can affect human health and change the geographic patterns of disease.

A professor of medicine at the University at Buffalo School of Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, Dr. Lee specializes in both obstetric medicine and treatment of disease,

infection, and complications during pregnancy, and geographic medicine, which studies and treats diseases specific to certain areas of the world.

Dr. Lee's work has covered a broad range of issues, including international health, managing complications of pregnancy, and the unique health challenges of geographically isolated human populations. A world traveler, he has studied the health of the Rendille tribe of Northern Kenya; the Kayapo, Parakana, and Apalai tribes of Brazil; and the Ladakh people of northwestern Himalaya. Dr. Lee developed U.B.'s groundbreaking Medical Trek Program, which gives medical students the opportunity to participate in field work with native groups.

ADMISSIONS UPDATE

We're excited to report that Buffalo Seminary's Class of 2014 promises to be a vibrant and diverse group of students. These girls represent not only different parts of Western New York, but also the world! Read on to learn more about our local, national, and international recruitment efforts.

SCHOLARSHIPS STRENGTHEN LOCAL RECRUITMENT EFFORTS

To recruit as many bright young girls as possible, we expanded four of our named scholarships for the 2010-2011 academic year. "Scholarship opportunities are just one way to help bright young women from diverse socioeconomic backgrounds consider a superior education at Sem," said **Carrie Lyons Auwarter '96**, Director of Admissions.



photo by KC Kratt

The L. Gertrude Angell Leadership Scholarship:

Established in 1973 as willed to Buffalo Seminary by L. Gertrude Angell, this fund provides a four-year scholarship to honor a strong student who has demonstrated spirit, leadership, and citizenship in her school and community activities.

The Deborah Dann Reed Arts Scholarship:

Established in 1973 by the family and friends of Deborah Dann Reed '72, this award provides a four-year scholarship to a student possessing potential for creative and imaginative work in the field of visual art.

The Buffalo Seminary Math/Science Scholarship:

The Buffalo Seminary Math/Science Scholarship is a four-year award given to a student who has demonstrated a passion and aptitude for the study of math or science.

The Buffalo Seminary Outstanding Scholar Award:

The Buffalo Seminary Outstanding Scholar Award is a four-year scholarship given to a student who has demonstrated high academic achievement and a passion for learning throughout her middle-school years.

The Admissions Office has seen an increase in the number of applications from students hoping to join Sem in the fall of 2011, and this is due in part to our new scholarship opportunities. Girls from all over Western New York, including a strong concentration from the Southtowns, have submitted applications. These young women are talented artists, scholars, and leaders who will contribute significantly to the Sem community.

"artistic..." Deborah Reed's love for art was noted in her year-book quote. To honor that passion, the Deborah Dann Reed Art Scholarship was established.



SEM IS NOW A U.S. BOARDING SCHOOL OPTION

In December, Associate Director of Admissions Erin Ross Moses represented Sem at The Association of Boarding Schools (TABS) Conference in Chicago. She networked with administrators from boarding schools from all over the United States and gained valuable information about emerging North American markets. The conference has given our Admissions Team insights into best practices for domestic residential programs, which will definitely support our long-term recruitment strategy.

THE GLOBAL VIEW

We continue to tap into the growing international market, not only to achieve enrollment goals but also to enrich our school community through the cultural influences of an increasingly interdependent global community.

In November, Erin visited Jamaica to meet with educators and potential students. During her four-day trip, she conducted student interviews, met with school officials, and represented the school at our first Boarding School Fair. Sem's average class size of 11 and our all-girl advantage were both strong selling points for these Jamaican contacts. We're happy to report the trip garnered five applications.

On January 29, Erin and Alumnae Representative **Emily O'Leary '05** will head to Dubai, United Arab Emirates, for the ICEF (International Consultants for Education and Fairs) Middle East and Africa Workshop. Erin and Emily will

network with student recruitment agents from the Middle East, Africa, Turkey, and South Asia. All student recruitment agents attending the workshop undergo ICEF's selection and screening process, considered to be the most stringent in the industry.



photo by KC Kratt

Buffalo Seminary has joined the ranks of Emma Willard and Dana Hall, to name just two of the nation's prestigious boarding schools, through our online presence at BoardingSchoolReview.com and BoardingSchoolWizard.com

Check us out at:
http://www.boardingschoolreview.com/school_ov/school_id/496
<http://www.boardingschoolwizard.com/buffalo-seminary>

WALK FOR MELISSA

Passionate, dedicated, driven, loving, caring, and kind - these are but a few words that describe **Melissa Reed Chudy '78** - "Missy" to her Buffalo Seminary family. Missy's exuberance was palpable and, in fact, contagious. As a longtime Sem Class Agent, Missy happily gathered news from her classmates, which she would then copy, bind, and distribute along with her annual fund appeal. As Soiree Committee Chair in 1996, Missy single-handedly procured items for the silent and live auctions, while contriving a murder-mystery in keeping with her *Soiree Macabre* theme. Her parlour game sent guests in search of clues to solve the mystery. At the end of the evening, she still had enough energy to help wash the dishes — and with a smile!



Missy's desire to help people - young people, especially - was a driving force in her life. She was a longtime member of the Amherst Youth Board and later served as development director for the Amherst Youth Foundation. In 2006, Missy had a vision of opening an Amherst coffeehouse where local youth could come together in a safe, fun, and friendly environment. And, though battling breast cancer at the time, she continued her work with enthusiasm and determination. In March of that year, she made her community vision a reality. The coffeehouse, the only of its kind in the area, now bears her name: Melissa's Coffee House. In October 2006, Missy lost her 18-month battle, but her devotion to the community continues to inspire.

In Missy's memory, the Amherst Youth Foundation, in partnership with the Breast Cancer Network of Western New York, held its first Walk for Melissa Fundraiser on Sunday, January 17, at the Boulevard Mall, Amherst, NY. Three hundred fifty people walked for Missy, raising over \$8,500. All proceeds benefit Melissa's Coffee House and the Breast Cancer Network of Western New York, a local non-profit organization providing education and support to women who are living with breast cancer.

“When I came back for my first Board of Trustees meeting in September, I was in awe at the energy and enthusiasm coming from every part of the school. From reunions with older faculty to introductions to new teachers, I saw the ongoing commitment of faculty to the girls that has been a Sem hallmark from the beginning. Sitting in the Library during a quiet moment, I thought 'this could be 1975' as I overheard whispered conversations about volleyball practice and an upcoming math test... except the faces and accents are diverse, representing the world we live in today. I'm so proud that nearly 35 years later, Sem has made the transition to this global world and stands as a clear leader in girls education in Buffalo! Hope to see you at Reunion!”

Jane Hopkins Carey '75



50% recycled paper

Find us on
Facebook

twitter

BRIDGING GENERATIONS ON GRANDPARENTS' DAY

On Tuesday, Nov. 24, more than 60 grandmothers and grandfathers joined us for Grandparents' Day at Sem. After attending Morning Meeting with the entire school, our guests were welcomed during a brief presentation in the chapel. Head of School Jody Douglass emphasized the unique advantages of an all-girl environment and thanked them all for entrusting Sem with their granddaughters. **Cailin Walsh**, junior class vice president, also spoke. With eloquence and passion, she described the important role a Sem education has played in her life. Members of the Red Key Society then gave tours of the school. The morning concluded with a continental breakfast and social hour in Upper West-Chester Hall.



Red Key Society member Isabella Dixon '12 gave her grandparents Judith and James (not pictured) Anderson a grand tour

Among our guests, Georgia Johnson Pooley '47 (left), grandmother of Tess Helliwell '11 (not pictured), and Susan Kellogg (right), grandmother of Madeline McDonnell '13 (not pictured) here with Junior Class Vice President Cailin Walsh



OPEN HOUSE

YOU AND YOUR DAUGHTER ARE INVITED

Please join us for an Open House at Buffalo Seminary, Western New York's only independent college preparatory school for girls.

**Sunday, February 28
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.**

Tours and refreshments

205 Bidwell Parkway
Buffalo, NY 14222

Discover how Sem can make a lifelong difference for your daughter!

To learn more, call 716.885.6780 or visit www.buffaloseminary.org.



Buffalo Seminary
205 Bidwell Parkway
Buffalo, NY 14222-1295



716-885-6780 FAX 716-885-6785
www.buffaloseminary.org
development@buffaloseminary.org

Non-Profit Organization
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 3426
Buffalo, NY

GALA DINNER AND AUCTION



Buffalo Seminary is celebrating the spirit and possibility of flight at

Come FLY with Us!

- Avant, 200 Delaware Ave., Buffalo
- 7:00 p.m., Saturday, March 6, 2010

Money raised from this annual fundraiser will benefit both the school's *Scholarship Fund* and operating budget, enabling us to continue to provide an outstanding education for young women.

Ways you can help:

- donate an auction item
- volunteer for a committee
- place an advertisement
- attend the gala

If you are interested in participating or have questions, please contact Rebecca Collins in the Development Office at 716-885-6780 or send an e-mail to rcollins@buffaloseminary.org. To view our growing list of corporate sponsors, visit Soiree 2010 at www.buffaloseminary.org/fly.

REUNION

JUNE 4 - 5

2010

- ◉ Welcoming All Alums
- ◉ Special Tribute To Those With Class Years Ending In 0 and 5
- ◉ Save the Date

Check details at www.buffaloseminary.org under the Alumnae News and Events tab.

“I shall always be most grateful for the way Buffalo Seminary influenced my life. Such a fine education – and such wonderful lifelong friends. Looking forward to our 70th Reunion. Wow!”
Arlene Betz Eckis '40