

# Sem Snippets

March 2009

## GROWING OUR GLOBAL COMMUNITY



**T**oday's global challenges demand international competence and a clear understanding of the richness of our varied cultures. Buffalo Seminary has decided to grow its course offerings to increase international awareness and to expand its residential program to include more international students and residential students from other parts of the U.S.

This year, Sem had the opportunity to enroll nine young women from around the world. These students came from China, Israel, Korea, Mongolia, and Wales. The majority of these girls have had the unique experience of living with an American host family. These host families, who have a direct connection with Buffalo Seminary, have provided the girls with firsthand exposure to American culture.

Sem is a place of life-changing opportunities. During their time here, our students build relationships with some of the very best educators in the world - our faculty and staff - and through those relationships build lives of good character, inquiry, and community. Their lives are enriched as well through their interactions with their classmates - young women from around the world with diverse interests, abilities, and backgrounds.

Sem recognizes the invaluable experience that enrolling international students provides, not only for them but also for our Sem community. The school plans to enroll additional residential students next fall and will provide small residential settings for both international and domestic students. We have already had inquiries from interested Buffalo Seminary alumnae who have moved out of Buffalo but still want their daughters to experience the superior education that Sem provides. We have inquiries from Massachusetts and New Mexico to China and Vietnam. If you know of a young woman who would be a great match for Sem or if you would like to consider hosting a Sem student, please contact the Admissions Office at 716.885.6780.

## JAPANESE NOH THEATRE TAKES THE STAGE

### EAST MEETS WEST AT BUFFALO SEMINARY

*From the front page of Buffalo Rising, September 27, 2008, by Kate Sorice*

*Buffalo Seminary is in a league of their own and one of a kind. They're the only non denominational all girls college preparatory school in the area. The classes are smaller and they focus on academic excellence, creativity and giving each girl a voice.*

*Every year the Fine Arts and Music program calls upon a different artist to come in and work with the students to introduce them to a new kind of theatre. Last year they focused on Commedia*

*Del'Arte, which is the basis for a lot of improv and physical comedy today.*

*The Theatre of Yugen was chosen to come in and assist this year since there is a focus on East Asian Studies at the school. Theatre of Yugen is an ensemble based in San Francisco and dedicated to fostering intercultural understanding through their performances.*

*Toni Wilson, head of the Fine Arts Department, is incredibly excited to have this opportunity to have Yugen work with the girls on these performances. "Noh theatre is very much based on simplicity and there is a beauty and mystical element in it. This production is a fusion of East and West," Wilson said.*



**S**eminary was proud to host Theatre of Yugen, October 3, 2008, as part of the Marion McNulty Dillon '22 Drama Series, established in 2004 by the Dillon family in memory of their mother, Marion M. Dillon. This endowed fund seeks to enrich and enhance drama in the Arts Department. Theatre of Yugen is an experimental ensemble committed to the pursuit of the intangible essence called *yugen* through its exploration of dramatic and literary classics and the crafting of new works of world theatre.

Seminary students were fortunate to work with artist-in-residence Jublith Moore, Theatre of Yugen artistic director, from whom they learned Noh techniques - skills used for Sem's fall production of *At the Hawk's Well* by Irish poet William Butler Yeats (1916). This piece, the first English play to use Japanese Noh Theatre techniques, is based on the mythological Irish hero Cuchulain. The young Cuchulain searches for and finds a fountain of youth, guarded by a mysterious Hawk spirit.



*At the Hawk's Well, played to a full house November 20-22<sup>nd</sup>, was directed by Fine Arts Department Chair Toni Wilson. Thirty current and former students were involved in the various aspects of the production.*

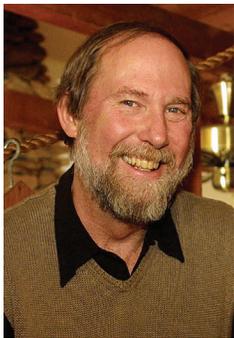
## SENIOR HONORED BY NFJC



Head of School Jody Douglass with NFJC honoree Sadie Baker '09

## WILKINSON POET

On Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup> the Buffalo Seminary community will welcome Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Stephen Dunn as this year's Wilkinson Poet.



Currently the Richard Stockton College of New Jersey Distinguished Professor of Creative Writing, Dunn's other honors include the Academy Award for Literature, the James Wright Prize, and fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the New Jersey State Council on the Arts. He has taught poetry and creative writing and held residencies at Wartburg College, Wichita State University, Columbia University, University of Washington, Syracuse University, Southwest Minnesota State College, Princeton University, and University of Michigan. Among Dunn's many books of poetry, *Different Hours* (2000), won him the 2001 Pulitzer Prize.

Born in New York City in 1939, Dunn earned a B.A. in history and English from Hofstra University, attended the New School Writing Workshops, and finished his M.A. in creative writing at Syracuse University. He has worked as a professional basketball player, an advertising copywriter, and an editor, as well as a professor of creative writing. He now resides in Port Republic, New Jersey.

Established in 1986 by family and friends of Elizabeth McNulty Wilkinson '25, the Wilkinson Poetry Chair further strengthens and broadens the scope of a Seminary education through poetry. Each year, Poet-in-Residence Ansie Silverman Baird '55 conducts an extensive poetry workshop for sophomores. At the conclusion of the workshop a renowned poet spends time with the students and then gives a reading of his or her works to the entire Seminary community.

Sadie Baker '09, was honored on Thursday, January 22, 2009, at the National Federation for Just Communities of Western New York's annual Community Leaders Awards Luncheon. The event pays tribute to individuals in various business and community sectors throughout Western New York who have, through special achievements in their volunteerism or professions, made contributions to the community. Sadie was among 13 area students to receive the 2009 Community Youth Leader Award.

Always leading by example as the driving force behind numerous campaigns, Sadie was cited for her commitment to community service. She is president of Writers' Club and a four-year member of Amnesty International, a club dedicated to recognizing human rights for all. Sadie is active in Buffalo Seminary's Spectrum Club, currently serving as President. In addition to her school activities, she is also a dedicated YMCA Camp Weona Counselor. In spring 2008, Sadie attended the NFJC's Diversity Conference, dedicated to diversity issues in today's society. Buffalo Seminary is proud to have such an active member within the student community.

Nancy E. Brock '74, vice president and program director for the M&T Charitable Foundation was also recognized at the luncheon. She was cited for helping shape M&T Bank's philanthropic activities in Western New York.

The National Federation for Just Communities is a coalition of like-minded organizations working across America to bring the values of diversity, inclusion and social justice to our communities, schools, workplaces and institutions.

## REUNION 2009 FESTIVITIES

Buffalo Seminary Alumnae Association  
is looking forward to seeing you  
June 5 - 6 for Reunion 2009

Reunions provide a wonderful opportunity for you to return to Buffalo Seminary to relive old times and create new memories. Begin making plans to be a part of this year's celebration!

All Buffalo Seminary alumnae are invited to attend Reunion Weekend festivities. This year special recognition will be given to classes ending in 4 and 9 and, especially, for the Classes of 1984 and 1959.

Plans are currently underway for the weekend's activities and we hope to see many of you back "here on thy crowded stair, and long, wide hallway" for what promises to be a memorable occasion. If you would like to be a part of the planning effort, please e-mail [development@buffaloseminary.org](mailto:development@buffaloseminary.org) to join in the fun.

Return to Buffalo Seminary. Join classmates and friends for a fun-filled weekend of reminiscing, catching up and sharing. We look forward to seeing you!

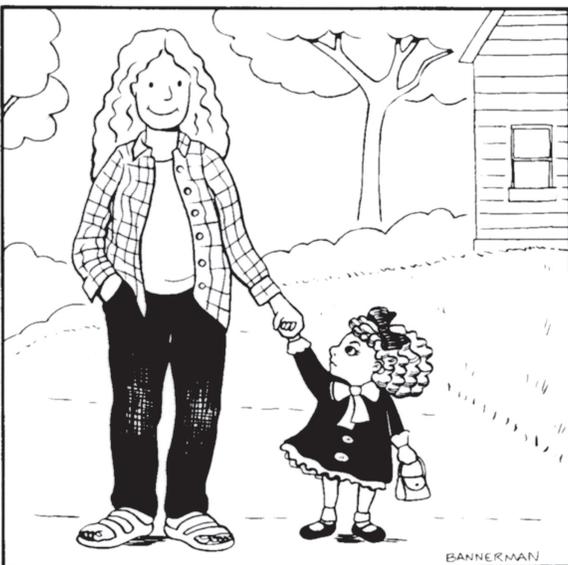
## WINTER COLBY ARTIST

Buffalo Seminary rang in 2009 with a sense of humor and style when, on Monday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, nationally syndicated cartoonist, Isabella Bannerman, Seminary Class of '78, was celebrated as the school's 40<sup>th</sup> Colby Artist. Isabella, who lives with her family in Westchester County, NY, has been a cartoonist since 1987 when she won first prize in *The San Francisco Bay Guardian* Cartoon Contest. Since then, her work has appeared in many newspapers, books, and magazines, including *Glamour*, *Good Housekeeping*, *The Funny Times*, and *World War 3 Illustrated*. A collection of her work, *Pacifists in Bomber Jackets*, was published in 1999. Isabella has also worked as an animator, contributing to MTV, Pee Wee's Playhouse, and the children's television show *Doug*.

She is currently one-sixth of SIX CHIX, an all-woman daily comic strip syndicated by King Features. An innovative and contemporary comic strip offering an offbeat and satirical look at the world, SIX CHIX is carried by about 80 papers worldwide. Isabella's work appears on Mondays.

As the Winter Colby Artist at Buffalo Seminary, Isabella treated students, faculty, staff, and guests to a retrospective of her work in the Wendt Performing Arts Center and, in keeping with Colby tradition, she met with Seminary students to provide insight into how her style and technique have evolved throughout the years. In recounting her day-long visit with students, Isabella said, "It was wonderful to get a chance to meet with the students. I was happy to see that a few students in the studio art class keep a journal to record their thoughts and sketches. A few girls even produce and publish web comics. I recognized some kindred spirits and was reminded of myself from those days.

A child of the 60's,



and her little daughter, Backlash.



Visiting the computer art class, Isabella Bannerman '78 with sophomores Journée Robinson and Riley Featherston

"I was especially impressed with how fluidly the computer art class students moved through their various graphics programs. The programs they are using are complex enough that they can create projects exactly suited to their personalities. I was amazed by how technically proficient and visually sophisticated the students were.

"In the graphic novel class, it was clear that the girls were very well read in their subject - easily comparing the merits of contemporary graphic novels to their classic literature counterparts. They even produced their own graphic stories - aided, of course, by their skill sets from their digital arts and studio arts classes. The graphic novel class also filled me in on manga\*, and presented me with a gift - *Fruits Basket* - my first

Japanese graphic novel. The whole class signed the inside cover!"

Following classroom visits, Isabella addressed the entire student body. "Throughout the day, and through my presentation at the end of the school day, the students were attentive and engaged; a few even ventured questions during the question and answer period - a much appreciated gesture to this beginner speech writer!"

As evening brought to a close this very full day of sharing and learning - by artist, teachers and students alike, a reception was held where members of the broader Seminary community gathered to chat with Isabella Bannerman and enjoy her show.

\* currently the most popular literature form in several Asian cultures



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# BLOOD DRIVE

**BUFFALO SEMINARY**

Thursday, March 19th  
8:00 am - 4:00 pm  
Location: Gymnasium

To schedule an appointment please call: 716-885-6780

Walk-ins Always Welcome!

*\* Photo Identification Required \**

Donors must be at least 17 years old (16 with a signed parental consent form), weigh a minimum of 110 pounds, and be in good health the day of the drive.

## SPORTS SHORTS

### BASKETBALL

by Alex Ruh '09

Our basketball team has had a great season so far. This year, not only are we playing smaller schools such as O'Hara and Niagara Catholic, but we are challenging ourselves by playing larger schools, Nardin and Nichols for example. We hope to see a lot of Sem supporters at our games!

### CREW

by Tracy Kreppel '11

The crew team has worked long and hard during the winter season, and is preparing for an eventful spring season. As the coaches Bob Becht and Erin Becht come up with exciting workouts, the girls are also doing kickboxing at KC's fitness. The crew team is extremely excited to start off the spring season with the Canisius Ergatta. As a member of the crew team states, "I can't wait to go to the Canisius Ergatta to show the other teams how hard we have worked in our winter season. With our winter workouts, we feel very prepared for our first regatta, and the girls and I hope for a successful spring."

### FENCING

by Mary Koessler '10

As the season goes on, the fencing team is focusing on competitions, particularly travel competitions. We went to Chesterville, Ohio, on Saturday, January 24, and then off to Connecticut and New York City at the end of February. We're pretty nervous about the competition itself, but also pretty excited to travel (despite having to get up early and getting back late). When we go on these competitions, Coach will probably tell us the "three rules of fencing": 1. Don't get hit, 2. Wait for an opening, and 3. WIN!!! Be sure to wish the members of the fencing team luck if you see them in the halls, but please don't re-enforce the "three rules of fencing"!

### SQUASH

by Rebekah Farrar '09

The squash team continues its last few weeks of the season at the Saturn Club, Monday–Thursday, and Saturday. The team is divided into two competition teams; the white and the red team. The white team is made up of Maddie Friedman, Sarah Miller, Joelle Luongo, Rebekah Farrar, Da Som Kang, and Sukie Cleary. The red team is made up of Elizabeth Bassett, Tory Dann, Farah Ashraf, Sarah Abell, Victoria Lester, and Catherine Sanderson. The entire team continues to work hard hoping to squash their opponents before the season ends!



*Friends of Holly Hahn-Baker '77 (standing, center) outfitted the squash team with new jerseys in celebration of Holly's 50th Birthday*

## SPRING COLBY ARTIST

As the 41<sup>st</sup> Colby Artist, up-and-coming local talent Katie Sehr will spend three weeks in April at Seminary working, with student assistance, on a unique work of art. The a two-dimensional piece will be created specifically for the art wall in the Margaret Smith Mugel '38 Atrium.

Since 1998, Katie Sehr's art forms have included books, prints, drawings, etchings, paintings and mixed-media pieces. Her work recently entered the collection of the Albright-Knox Art Gallery following an exhibition at the Carnegie Art Center during

last summer's city-wide "Beyond/In Western New York" show.

Sehr's more recent drawings feature large sheets of paper drawn with a network of minute, deliberate marks meant to cause the viewer to think about the intense time and meditation that went into their creation. In her website statement she explains her current art form and function, "I record small rhythmic movements on paper. The time invested results in an animated landscape. In the private act of drawing, one gesture leads to another. Choreography uses the mind, the body and the grid. Writing uses the mind, the hand and the grid. It was through this performative relationship that I began to translate improvisational move-

ment through line. An accumulation of psychological traces slowly crawls across the surface creating its own territory. Through this persistent meditation, I am delineating space on an intimate level. I wish to illustrate time through process."

Sehr holds a Master of Fine Arts degree from The Art Institute of Chicago in Print Media and a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from SUNY at Buffalo in Painting. In 2008, she was awarded Most Interesting Artist Under 30, Best of WNY, by *Buffalo Spree* magazine. In addition, she has received The Sheila Whalen Memorial Award for Best Drawing by The Kenan Center, Lockport, NY, and the Philip and Virginia Cuthbert Award for Painting, awarded by UB Department of Art.

*A segment of a recent Katie Sehr work of art*

## ADSIT LECTURE SERIES



The Harriet [McNulty '26] and Willcox Adsit Lecture Series was established in 1999 to complement and enrich the curriculum offered to Buffalo Seminary students. The lecture series provides the opportunity for the girls to come together as a community to learn directly from speakers who share with them their interests and life-experiences. Ji-li Jiang, Chinese-American author of the award-winning book, *Red Scarf Girl: A memoir of the Cultural Revolution*, will share her life experiences when she visits Seminary, Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, as the 2009 Adsit Lecturer.

*Red Scarf Girl* tells the true story of a twelve-year-old girl in 1966 who is at the top of her class and has a very bright future in Communist China. But then the People's Republic of China becomes embroiled in the Cultural Revolution, and Ji-li's world begins to fall apart. Over the next few years, former friends and neighbors persecute Ji-li and her family, and they live in constant fear of arrest. When Ji-li's father is imprisoned, she faces the stark choice of remaining loyal to her family or rejecting her family to show her commitment to Mao and the Communist Revolution.

Ji-li Jiang was born in Shanghai, China, in 1954. She graduated from Shanghai Teachers' College and Shanghai University, and was a science teacher before she immigrated in 1984 to the United States. In 1992 she started her own company, East West Exchange, to promote cultural exchange between Western countries and China. She is also the author of *The Magical Monkey King* and editor of *In My Grandmother's House*.

## SOIREE XXII

This fall we assembled a sage group of advisors and brainstormed alternative ways for fundraising. We decided to make significant changes in the Soiree. We knew it was important not only to cut costs but to increase revenue up front to underwrite any costs of the event. Our purveyors supported us our new goal by donating all printing costs for the event. The other bit of good news was that corporations and companies agreed with our premise, and seventeen of them became major sponsors, most of them for the first time.

With the downturn in the economy, we thought how nice it would be not to solicit small stores who had supported us year after year and that it was time to give them a reprieve. We achieved that goal and are in the process of letting them know what their support has meant to us over the years. Sixty major donors came forward and contributed some amazing items as they believed strongly in our new fundraising endeavor.

At the meeting we knew we needed to generate excitement for the event. We decided on a new and exciting venue, the Burchfield Penney Art Center. They have been wonderful to work with and even helped us achieve another goal, free admission to the museum for all of our students and faculty as well as their families on the day of the event.



We can't educate our wonderful students without all of your help, and we are trying hard to eliminate any unnecessary costs and to spend wisely and carefully the dollars you have entrusted to us through your donations to the school.

# COMING SOON

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205 Bidwell Parkway  
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716-885-6780      FAX 716-885-6785  
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# Sem Post-Its



SOIREE XXII  
March 7  
Burchfield Penney  
Art Center  
7 pm

Adsit Lecturer  
Ji-li Jiang  
March 10  
Wilkinson Poet  
Stephen Dunn  
March 18

Annual Fund  
contributions must  
be made before  
June 30, 2009 to be  
listed in the  
2008-2009  
Annual Report.

UNYTS  
Blood Drive  
March 18  
Buffalo Seminary  
Gymnasium



elmwood franklin school

Thinking beyond.



You are cordially invited by the  
Elmwood Franklin Alumni Council  
and the  
Buffalo Seminary Alumnae Association  
to attend a  
Young Alum Gathering

March 12, 2009  
6 pm - 9 pm

Founding Fathers  
75 Edward Street  
Buffalo NY 14202

Light hors d'oeuvres will be served  
Cash Bar

1979 - 2001 EFS Alumni  
1980 - 2006 Buffalo Seminary Alumnae

RSVP - Development Office  
716-885-6781, ext. 210