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Annual magazine for the alumnae, friends, parents, and students of Buffalo Seminary

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Jiani Lu ’18 and Siaho Sheng ’16 volunteer to sell papers on The Buffalo News Kids’ Day.
Letter from the Head of School

Exciting and visible things are happening at SEM this summer! As soon as school closed, scaffolding went up on Bidwell Parkway, and the restoration of the façade of our magnificent building began. This summer we also begin to make a wonderful garden courtyard that will connect the five SEM houses on Potomac Avenue and Soldiers Circle, uniting our unique urban campus for day and residential students, staff, and faculty to enjoy.

Both of these projects begin because of a fundraising initiative launched this winter: REMARKABLE OPPORTUNITIES—CAMPAIGN FOR SEM. Based on the most recent strategic plan adopted by the Board of Trustees, this campaign will secure SEM’s leadership position in women’s education for years to come. REMARKABLE OPPORTUNITIES sets an ambitious goal of raising $9 million in three years. The comprehensive campaign will include annual fund and current use dollars, endowment funding, and resources for facilities and campus improvements.

We have been very fortunate to have leadership gifts in each of our fundraising categories to launch this campaign. Bill and Linda Robertson ’73 Magavern, trustee, have generously made it possible for us to begin the Magavern-Sutton Courtyard, designed by landscape architect Mary Magavern Worrell, ’60. Michal Wadsworth, trustee, and her husband Jim have made a leadership gift for facilities which enables us to begin the restoration work this summer. Margaret Brown ’72, Board Chair, has provided a leadership gift to unrestricted endowment. Additionally, we received early leadership gifts from honorary trustee Marritje VanArsdale Greene ’69 and life trustees Philip Niswander and Melanie Franco Nussdorf ’67. I am grateful for their generosity, and that of all of our trustees and committee thus far - details of which will be shared in our next campaign publication. In this nucleus phase of the campaign we are already halfway to our goal!

SEM is an outstanding school because we continue to hire and support excellent faculty who teach with passion and dedication. We continually update our dynamic academic program and make the best use of new technologies. We enroll talented young women and provide them with every opportunity to pursue excellence in academic classrooms, on the sports field, in music, technology, service and leadership. Each year SEM welcomes a new group of students and four years later it graduates confident, engaged, academically well prepared young women.

Thank you for your support for SEM! Every gift to SEM during these three years supports this campaign. REMARKABLE OPPORTUNITIES will help sustain SEM’s greatness and you will join other supporters who believe in the truly transformative potential of this campaign’s success. SEM is a vital force in the lives of the girls who attend the school today because of the vision of our founders, the collective wisdom and caring of our teachers, the dedication of our leadership, and the generosity of generations of alumnae, parents, and friends.

As a Trustee, I have seen how important any and all growth in SEM’s endowment is, and I can think of no better way to invest in and support SEM’s future leadership. Please join me and our Board of Trustees in celebrating our remarkable history and ensuring a vibrant future for SEM.

-Margaret Brown ’72, SEM Board Chair

(left) Jim and Michal Wadsworth, Jody Douglass, and Margaret Brown ’72 (right) Linda ’73 and Bill Magavern
Remarkable Opportunities
Campaign for SEM

Campaign Leadership
Chair
Margaret Brown ’72

Honorary Chairs
Linda (Robertson ’73) and William Magavern
Michal and James Wadsworth

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Shelley Cole Drake ’66
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David Knauss
Charles Kreiner
Madeline Ambrus Lillie ’68
Philip Niswander
Kevin O’Leary
Molly Love Quackenbush ’67
Amy Habib Rittling ’86
Josephine Siddiqui

The garages behind two of SEM’s five houses will be demolished to clear the way for the Magavern-Sutton Courtyard. The courtyard will unify the school and residences and offer a private, yet outdoor gathering space.

Photograph by Charlie Duffy, July 2, 2015.
June 9, 2015, SEM graduated 66 seniors, our biggest class ever. We were honored to have Dr. Katherine Conway-Turner, the president of Buffalo State College as the commencement speaker. She offered seven pieces of advice to our graduates:

**Be daring in how you approach life.** I am not advocating that you are inappropriately risky, but I am asking you to try novel things, dare to be different, and dare to try out new things as you move ahead. Sometimes in your quest to be “too” safe you may miss important and life changing events.

**Learn from all around you.** Teachers are all around you and lessons are more than those you will receive grades for – life lessons will serve you well in the future.

Every problem has multiple pathways to the solution. Life problems are like complex math problems; there are many ways to get a correct or acceptable solution. Learn to engage in problem solving along many lines.

**Develop a sense of community.** Successful and happy people are engaged members of their communities. Get and stay engaged with the communities you live in now and in the future.

**Build and refine your basic skills.** I encourage you to continue to refine your skills, no matter how developed you feel they are today and no matter how many A grades you have received in classes related to those skills.

**Develop the skill to take criticism.** Utilizing criticism as a gift toward advancing your skills is a useful practice to develop.

**Fight the tendency to be a perfectionist.** The enemy of greatness is perfection.

**Think globally.** You will find that we, as people, are linked in humanity and all people desire to have the best world we can imagine for ourselves, our children, and our future generations.

Dr. Conway-Turner closed her remarks with a wish for the future. “May you find the path you seek. May your path allow you to touch the world in your own unique way. May your personal dreams be fulfilled. And may this world embrace you and guide you to your personal greatness.”
Graduates (unless year noted)
1. Alex Trolli, Mary Kathleen Conboy, Zoe Martin
2. Xinxin (Nicole) Zhang, Sylvia Chen
3. Alyssa Ebeling, Morgan Aiken
4. Lisa Pritchard ’99, Alexa Rosen
5. Alison Gareis ’17, Samantha Burlow ’17, Tammy Burlow, Grace Gallagher ’17, Megan Gallagher
6. Nyamana Byaombe and family
7. Sydney Lee Mecca receives her diploma
8. Anya Roy ’17, Elissa Lipke
9. Julia Douglas, Madison Frank
11. Freshman Yixuan (Rebecca) Li and Sijia (Scarlett) Liu
1. Lipke family
2. Selfie stick: Graduates Alexis Wright, Jane Gold, Gina Sterman, Maia Morrison, Anna Magavern
3. Graduates Zhan (Esther) Zheng and Zhuoran (Shauna) Liu
4. Caywood Family: Madeline ’15, Sara ’17
5. Liza Marlette ’13, Clare von Simson ’17, Sarah Obletz ’14, Anna Fretz ’16, Kaitlin Hughes ’16
6. Kilby Bronstein ’10, Jennifer Prince Bronstein ’78, Ryan Bronstein ’15
Why am I so happy to be a SEM girl and a member of the class of 2015? First, opportunities. I arrived at SEM with no experience in extracurricular activities. Regardless, I showed up the first day stick in hand to try out for the field hockey team. I kept asking myself why I was putting myself through this painful embarrassment. To my rescue, Mrs. Marlette marched into the center of our circle and announced that we were all officially members of the 2011 SEM field hockey team. I was shocked. Everyone made the team? What kind of a place is this?! I don’t know of many other schools that would allow a true athletic amateur, like me, to show up to a practice and be greeted with open arms and encouragement. But that’s how it is, here, at SEM.

Second. My SEM sisters. Leaving SEM is hard, but leaving my SEM sisters is ten times harder. We have spent about six hours per day for about 225 days a year for four years, together. We share a bond like no other.

Next, the faculty and staff. It is rare to find such a passionate teaching staff. The accessibility of our teachers has provided the opportunity to be surrounded by mentors.

Finally, SEM’s traditions. My favorite traditions are those that connect us as fellow classmates: class trips. Freshman year, we spent the day mulching and weeding in Forest Lawn Cemetery. The traditional sophomore trip is a leisurely canoe trip down the Buffalo River. But, when it was our turn, Mother Nature spiced things up with a little wind, which kept half of us stuck in whirlpools and the other half waiting on the other side of the river. On our junior class trip to Washington we not only faced the government shutdown, but non-stop rain. Good things come to those who wait, because our senior class trip did work out and brought us closer together as a class than anything before.

To the freshmen: Although aspects of high school are difficult, don’t wish it away. The girls who sit all around you will be your closest friends; they are who you will turn to when you have hard times, and celebrate with in good times. And when times get tough remember what Bethenny Frankel says, “Life is an obstacle course. You succeed at one thing and then you move on to the next. When an obstacle is tough, you try harder. When an obstacle is insurmountable, you change course. But you never sit down and refuse to finish.”

To the sophomores: You have made it across the threshold from underclassmen to upperclassmen. Yes, junior year is a struggle; don’t succumb to its legendary stresses. Use everything you have been taught so far at SEM: time management, organizational skills, study skills and most importantly, your ability to know yourself and ask for help when you need it! No one expects you to do everything yourself, so use the fantastic resources SEM offers and I promise you, you will be fine. Don’t forget to have some fun as well. Don’t let high school get away from you; enjoy it while you can! I leave you with a quote from Kenya Moore, “You only have one life and when it gets difficult you just have to say to yourself, life twirls on.”

To the juniors: Take next year to hone your skills and lessons learned and to strengthen your friendships with your classmates. Be sure to represent yourselves and SEM well. It is up to you to set the path for future classes; show them how SEM operates, reach out and lend a hand, be a mentor, share your experiences, and ensure a bright future for all classes to come. I leave you too with a quote from Bethenny Frankel. “Make the most of every moment. Get excited about every little thing. Why not? Why not have your wonderful moment of excited anticipation? Why not be happy NOW?”

To my sisters, my best friends, the Class of 2015: Remember how we used to complain about our class being too large when we were only 49 girls? Today we sit, 66 strong, passionate and intelligent young women. I cannot imagine my life without you. I leave you with a quote from One Tree Hill, “It’s the oldest story in the world... One day you’re seventeen and planning for someday. Then quietly, without ever really noticing, someday is today. And then someday is yesterday. And this is your life.”
Since 1851 SEM has been a part of the fabric of Buffalo. Though that material has sometimes been worn, we have been warp and weave for each other for 164 years, from our first campus on Johnson Park to the one we’ve inhabited since 1909 on Bidwell Parkway.

As Buffalo is resurgent and vibrant, so is SEM. This issue of SEM Today celebrates our venerable and integral connection as SEM students and teachers use the city as a classroom, for community service, and for fun.

(left) SEM Sailors: Leah Trow ’15, Sydney Adams ’18, Caroline Dunbar ’17, Jacqueline Schanzlin ’18, Kyra Fogg ’17, Mackenzie Beck ’18, Molly Doyle ’18.

1. Sophomore SEM ensemble members Jiaan “Angela” Shi and Dabin Han were both awarded places in the prestigious Erie All-County Orchestra at UB on March 21, 2015. Angela was first chair oboe and Dabin was in the first violin section.

2. Seniors Ceci Bair, Zoe Martin and Nadine Abdellatif are some of the SEM students who enthusiastically embraced a 6:15 AM arrival at school to participate in the annual Buffalo News Kids’ Day, selling special newspapers to raise money for Women & Children’s Hospital. They had 200 newspapers to sell for $1.00 and collected more than twice that: $442.00.

3. Senior and SEMinist Christy Jiang shows the Buffalo and Erie County Public Library that SEM found Mark Twain too.

4. Urban studies visits Deronde Door and Frame; its president is alumna Grace Walsh Munschauer ’73.

5. Freshman WNY History Class at the Buffalo History Museum Resource Center.


7. SEMachords at Women’s History Month celebration at Buffalo and Erie County Public Library, main branch.

8. Fall 2014 freshman canoe trip on the Buffalo River led by Buffalo/Niagara Riverkeeper and WNY history class teacher Doug Hopkins.
Buffalo is called the City of Good Neighbors as a reflection of the spirited and kind community in which we live. Not only are we good neighbors to our fellow Buffalonians and visitors from around the country, we also lend a helping hand to the new residents who settle here in refuge from their native countries.

Refugees arrive knowing so little of our language, culture, and how to function in an often drastically different society from the ones in which they originated. As the daughter of a Cuban immigrant I am familiar with difficulty of that transition. To this day, my mother, who is now in her late fifties and fluent in English, cannot do fractions. When fractions were taught in fifth grade, she didn’t speak English yet. I can empathize with families who come from a foreign country and so helping refugees to become productive members of our community has become a passion of mine.

Junior year, I volunteered with SEM as an ENERGY tutor at Westminster Presbyterian Church. I loved working with the kids so much that I decided to find a similar opportunity when the ENERGY tutoring school year ended. In June 2014, I began volunteering for Jericho Road Community Health Center (JRCHC) which offers refugee services. Once a week, I babysit the children of adult English as a Second Language students during their class. Whether the children are from Myanmar, Congo, or Iraq, they all love to play games, use their imaginations, and need help with their school work. Being with them has enriched me just as immensely as the services they receive through JRCHC enrich them.

My passion for other cultures and helping people to achieve the American Dream has translated into my endeavors in pageantry. On March 7, 2015, in Albany, after three attempts to win a local title in the Miss America Organization (MAO) had fallen short, I was crowned Miss Empire Star. I am ecstatic to have the opportunity to advance to the Miss New York State pageant in June with the possibility of representing New York State at the Miss America Pageant. Each contestant and titleholder in MAO is required to have a platform, or social issue to raise awareness around and to combat. My platform, “Lady Liberty’s Lamp: Lighting the Way to the American Dream,” promotes services for refugees and immigrants and intercultural education and acceptance. If SEM had not taught me to believe I can achieve anything and to eagerly offer my talents to the community, I would not be where I am today.
In 1997, a group of volunteers, with City Hall’s permission, drove a bus down to Ferguson Avenue in downtown Buffalo and invited kids to come to their newly-founded after school program, christened ENERGY. Standing for “Education, Nurture, Encouragement, Readiness, and Growth for Youth,” this program sponsored by Westminster Economic Development Initiative (WEDI) has not only altered the lives of the student-members, but also those of the tutoring volunteers, a substantial portion of whom come from Buffalo Seminary. SEM is one of the most involved high schools, having had a relationship with the program for many years.

“ENERGY has changed my outlook on life,” said Kaitlin Hughes ’16, who has been volunteering at ENERGY in Westminster Presbyterian Church on Delaware Avenue, for three years. “It has inspired me to do more for the community and be more understanding of people’s situations and backgrounds.”

With most of the children at ENERGY from first or second generation immigrant families it is common to be surrounded by multiple conversations, each a different language, at the meal students and tutors share. Carol Greetham, the ENERGY program director, said the children and their families are originally from Burma, Congo, Tanzania, Nepal, South Sudan, Thailand, Rwanda, and Kenya.

Tutoring these children gives the volunteers a firsthand impact as they help them overcome language and adjustment challenges. Some come to Buffalo from refugee camps speaking absolutely no English. Others, upon arriving to the United States, are assigned a January 1st birthday because they have no official birth papers. “People come from all different backgrounds,” Kaitlin said, “and they all deserve respect.”

The children in turn have an impact on their tutors. Anabel Cornacchio ’16, has been tutoring for two years and explained the profound effect ENERGY has had on her. “ENERGY always leaves me with gratitude in my heart,” she said. “It has been, by far, the most important volunteer work I have ever participated in.”

With ENERGY bringing a strong focus on teaching the children how to read, the volunteers are thrown into teacher positions with little experience. And yet, this seems to be the most effective way, as it keeps both the volunteers and the children learning from each other. “Tutoring is a two-way process,” said Anabel. “Just as we are teaching them about math and reading, they teach us about their cultures.”

For Kaitlin, volunteering in her community is second nature, and yet of all the community service work she has done, ENERGY remains one of the most rewarding. “Watching the children put so much hard work into learning and improving their reading and math skills keeps me coming back to ENERGY. I love to see their hard work pay off.”

Abigail Hopkins is an ENERGY tutor and the 2015-16 School Government president. A version of this story appeared in the April 8, 2015 edition of The Buffalo News.
#endthedivide
By Jane Gold ’15, 2014-15 SGA president

After having an eye opening experience that changes life as you knew it, it is nice to know that there is a place you can go to share in riveting discussions with people who are different than you, yet accept you and share similar beliefs and insights with regard to social inequalities in schools and communities around Western New York, and the world. The National Federation for Just Communities of Western New York (NFJC) does just that.

NFJC is a local chapter of a national organization that strives to overcome discrimination and other social injustices by promoting understanding and trust through education and community involvement.

Since students are only permitted to attend each NFJC program as a participant once, to stay involved and to continue the conversation, they host a monthly meeting where student program alumni are invited to get together, complete a project or activity, listen to speakers and talk about social injustices that we face here in Western New York.

Community Builders is one of my favorite NFJC programs. Not only did I learn about different areas of Buffalo, but I got to keep in touch with the friends I have made through the programs. I have had the chance to meet people who live all around the city and come from a multitude of backgrounds.

The 2014 project was a series of “Start the Conversation,” public service announcements (PSAs), where students divided into small groups and were asked to address a topic related to socio-economic status. We created outlines, had local professionals help us with our topics, recorded them, and lastly, watched them. Creating the PSAs was a unique experience. I heard and researched a local social injustice problem and even got to tell a story about it.

My group, assigned “opportunities,” focused on education and materialistic goods, as well as friendships and relationships. My fellow SEM classmate, Afua Kawkye-Berko ’15, was in my group. Together we created storylines to explain the difficulties and feelings Western New Yorkers from different socioeconomic classes have when trying to befriend someone. My eyes were opened. Even though our community has come far in terms of discrimination and social inequality, I learned that we still have a way to go.

This process manifested into something bigger when NFJC was approached by WGRZ to film a segment with the students of Community Build. As so, on a June evening in 2014, a group of Community Builders gathered at the Say Yes to Education Buffalo location to film a discussion about racism in our schools. Among this group were SEM students, Abby Hopkins ’16, Danielle Little ’16 and myself. Facilitated by WGRZ anchors Maryalice Demler and Claudine Ewing, we answered a series of questions that ultimately led to a slot on the primetime news! This filming experience exemplified the NFJC’s mission by publicizing racism in the schools and hopefully contributing to a bigger conversation that would ultimately, “end the divide.”

You can play a part - start the conversation by using the hashtag, #endthedivide.

To watch the segment visit: http://www.wgrz.com/story/news/local/wny/2014/10/30/end-the-divide/18161367/

Chinglish

When Henry David Hwang appeared for one night of Just Buffalo’s “Babel” series SEM students and faculty turned out in force. The Chinese-American author is best known for writing about the lives of Chinese, Asians, and Americans and what happens when they meet. He won a TONY award in 1988 for his play M. Butterfly.

At Just Buffalo’s official book club which met at Betty’s restaurant to discuss Chinglish, the play, Weiyi Li ’15 led a public discussion on Chinglish, the dialect.

“Playwright Henry David Hwang was warm, accessible and genuinely interested in our students,” said Susan Drozd, who organized the Chinglish experience. “Under the auspices of the Babel series our students connected with each other, with other Buffalonians, and with art.”
“SEMinists? SEMinists are you here?” Tina’s excited voice rang across the hallway. Tina Zigon was a PhD student and our contact within the University of Buffalo’s Gender Institute. She was full of energy and beyond excited that high school girls (we) had enough interest to create and form a club this year to discuss female issues and rights — the SEMinists.

After having her speak to our club this winter, she invited us to volunteer and attend the “Culture and Control of Women: Remedies and Resources” conference, held by The Coalition for the Advancement of Moslem Women, sponsored by the UB School of Law’s Institute for Research & Education on Women & Gender, on March 7, 2015. Not only was it important for us to build a relationship with such a great and important organization, but it served as a great opportunity to listen to issues and learn more topics to bring back to the club.

Morgan Aiken ’15 (SEMinists co-president), Christy Jiang ’15, Anna Fretz ’16, and I arrived early at UB’s North Campus. We watched “Honor Diaries,” a recent documentary about culture and abuse and honor killings, and listened to many impressive speakers including Coline Jenkins, the great-granddaughter of Elizabeth C. Stanton.

We participated in discussions and commentary with women and men of all ages, social classes, and religions as they debated the issues that women face and what can be done to solve them.

It was truly incredible and eye-opening. We even got a thank you shout-out from the host, Nadia Shahram, and a compliment for our creative club name. It felt nice to see how impressed people were that high school students from SEM would be interested in what are considered mature topics. Being surrounded by people who are equally as driven as our 17- and 18-year-old selves left us hopeful and inspired. We could not wait to bring these new connections and new information back to SEMinists.

Claire is the SEMinists co-president. Excited to graduate and hopeful that the SEMinists club continues to grow and become even more involved in our community.
I am thrilled and humbled by the deep and lasting connections the SEM community has made with organizations in Buffalo.

As the faculty advisor to the community service board I have seen a lot of changes since 2011. There was no such thing as Giving Week; we hadn’t made any connection with Buffalo Niagara Riverkeeper, nor St. Luke’s Mission of Mercy, nor Unyts or Red Cross; our work with Vive la Casa was occasional; and the Energy volunteer program at Westminster was under transition and not even open. That year SEM students accrued close to 3,000 hours for the year.

Now we truly are partners with Riverkeeper, where we are site captains twice a year; St. Luke’s, where we work in the Mission Mall and Soup Kitchen and collect donations; we have blood drives for Unyts and Red Cross; we work every Tuesday afternoon at Vive la Casa babysitting refugee kids – some who have just arrived in America, and others who have been here for many months (props to Ruby for making her announcements every week!); and every week after school dedicated SEM students spend two and a half hours at the Energy volunteer program at Westminster Church for a full trimester, committing themselves like an athlete or a performer.

These organizations rely on us and truly, we rely on them to open our hearts to the world of serving others. And these are just examples of the partnerships that we have established in four years. Thank you to the Community Service board for its excellent work this year. The students worked hard and created informative Morning Meeting presentations, organized a myriad of successful events, and site-captained many activities. Thanks to freshmen – Katie Gibbons and Brooke Pohlman; Sophomores – Bleu Ruby Daniels-Taylor and Olivia Miller; Juniors – Natalie Rice and Kendyl Kratzer; Seniors Lauren Wilson-Morrow and Elissa Baum; and of course Mariah Reinard, board head.

2014-15 is a stellar year for hours SEM girls volunteered: 8,407.5, nearly two and half times as many as when we began in 2011!
1. Kerui Xu ’16 at Vive La Casa
2. Spring Shoreline Sweep with Buffalo/Niagara Riverkeeper on Ohio St., at the BSRA boathouse.
3. Seniors Caity Grundtisch and Mariah Reinard (SEM community board head) in the gym for the SEM sponsored American Red Cross blood drive.
4. Seniors Morgan Aiken and Megan Mazurkeiwicz at our Unyts blood drive.
Student Achievement

Leah Kramer ’17, performed Sonnet 11, “As fast as thou shalt wane, so fast thou grow’st,” and as Brutus, Act 2, Scene 2, Julius Caesar at SEM, competing in the English Speaking Union’s (ESU) Shakespeare Competition (WNY branch) and she won! It was SEM’s fourth win in four years and it earned her an ESU sponsored trip to Lincoln Center in New York City for the national competition held April 26-28, 2015.

While Leah did not win, she says she did get great ideas for monologues and sonnets from other performers for her next opportunity.

March 27 and 29, 2015, The Buffalo Chamber Players performed Venus and Adonis, a tragic opera, using SEM’s chapel and the talents of singers Madison Chamberlain ’16, and Tracy Clark ’17, who alternated in the role of Cupid, and of dancer Yuha Tomita ’16. The show was directed by SEM’s Roland Martin.

Model UN attended the International Institute of Buffalo’s Model UN conference at UB on March 17, 2015, SEM represented Cuba, Nepal, and Morocco. This was the third year in a row that SEM has had a club after a period of dormancy.
Clad in chartreuse lace, painted with plum lipstick, and accompanied by the floating rustle of a green panache and pink rose, Aurelia enters downstage right. The woman beneath the plum and lace is me, Hannah Porter. But for five glorious performances, I was Countess Aurelia. She and I were one. The character with both a bird whistle and a miniature Complete Works of Shakespeare in her clutch.

For the first time, I’ve wanted to infuse parts of my character on stage into my persona in the world. Aurelia’s love of reading Shakespeare in her spare moments comes from me. The bird whistle? Just the scripted way she summons her many Parisian friends. Aurelia and I both have a sense of eternal optimism—the world shines to us through rose-colored glasses. But I am apologetic; Aurelia is not. While I can seem unsure of myself; Aurelia’s convictions never waver. Aurelia is not afraid to communicate her love, I can hold back and take unspoken love for granted. Her wonderful characteristics have been woven into my psyche and I hope that I never lose sight of these pieces of her that I want to keep.

Aurelia’s backstory is this: she believes in and soaks up all the positivity in the world, always combating evil. When her friends warn her that evil men have been plotting to destroy Paris, she snaps out of her happy vision and devises a fantastical plan to lead them down a never-ending spiral staircase. Coupled with her love of all that is good, she carries with her also the heartache of separation from her one true love. “If you let a single instant wedge itself between you and him, it will become a month, a year, a century,” she says as she ensures two mutually smitten characters not lose their chance to be together, as she has. Her presence instant by instant — and my presence onstage melded to create the most beautifully crafted life lesson: savoring moments and being in them is absolutely essential. And stories will not happen, have not happened, but are happening. Right now.

Hannah will attend Kenyon College to study theatre in the fall of 2015. She has interned at the Irish Classical Theatre Company and Shakespeare in Delaware Park - this summer she will be 2d assistant stage manager for Twelfth Night.
CUM LAUDE SOCIETY

On Class Day, June 8, 2015, SEM inducted seven students into the Cum Laude Society; seven others were inducted in the fall of 2014.

The Cum Laude Society recognizes academic achievement for the purpose of promoting excellence (Areté), justice (Diké) and honor (Timé). A school’s chapter may elect up to 20% of the members of its senior class.

This is the highest academic honor awarded at SEM. These students maintained excellent grades while taking mostly honors and AP level courses throughout the past four years.

Cum Laude Society Inductees

**Spring 2015**
- Claire Conrad
- Julia Douglas
- Danielle Dolan
- Jennifer O’Donnell
- Jane Gold
- Hannah Porter
- Alexis Wright

**Fall 2014**
- Gabriella Alfano
- Maria Victoria Howell-Arza
- Gina (Tori) Igoe
- Anna Magavern
- Megan Mazurkiewicz
- Mariah Reinard
- Ying Zhang

2015 National Honor Society Inductees

Tojumi Oluwa Adegboyega
Lena Beyer
Madison Chamberlain
Anabel Cornacchio
Anna Fretz
Milan Gacioch
Maia Gallagher
Abigail Hopkins

Kaitlin Hughes
Kendyl Kratzer
Danielle Little
Yicen (Jessica) Liu
Erin Melber
Alexia Pezzino
Bessie Shiroki
Sara Smolarek
Class Day Awards
June 8, 2015

Annette Wells Stevens ’24
Freshman Friendship Award
Tess Rine

Suzanne Young Smith ’63
Award
Andrea DeMarco

Cally Montesano ’74 Award
Leah Trow

Jean Wende McCarthy ’31
Award
Weiyi Li

Vocal Music Award
Natalie Harden

Ensemble Award
Nyamana Byaombe

History Department Award
Madison Frank
Maria Victoria Howell-Arza

Math Department Award
in Honor of Jane Turner
Mariah Reinard

Renssealaer Polytechnic Institute Award
TojumiOluwa Adegboyega

Williams Book Award
Abigail Hopkins

Harvard Book Award
TojumiOluwa Adegboyega

Alumnae Association Award
Megan Mazurkiewicz

Faculty Award in Honor of
Robert A. Foster
Maiah Overdorf

Miriam Berger Rashman ’29
Award
Weiyi Li

Gary R. Sutton Award
Hannah Porter

Head’s Award
Rebekah Alexander

Semper Fidelis Awards
Freshman: Yixuan Li
Sophomore: Sophie Mielnicki
Junior: Anna Fretz
Senior: Jane Gold

Science Department Award
Mariah Reinard

Linda Rashman Levine ’59
Award
Morgan Baker

Madeleine Breingrid ’33
Award
Anna Magavern

Margaret B. Herron ’73 Award
Megan Lee
Maiah Overdorf

Outstanding Athlete Award
Madison Frank

Spanish Language Award
Mariah Reinard
Milan Gacioch

French Language Award
Andrea DeMarco
Abigail Hopkins

St. Lawrence University Book Award
Kendyl Kratzer

Mount Holyoke Book Award
Kaitlin Hughes

Wellesley Book Award
Anabel Cornacchio

1. National Honor Society inductees
2. Maeve Melber ’14 and parents Pamela and Brian attend Erin Melber’s induction into the National Honor Society.
3. Kaitlin Hughes inducted into the National Honor Society.
4. Rose Ceremony on Class Day.
5. Morgan Aiken receives United States Military Academy admission announcement from West Point graduate John Bair, father of Ceci ’15.
S.T.E.A.M. Awards

CODING:
1st place: Casey Ball
2nd place: Yasmeen Collins
3rd place: Sydney Adams

ENGINEERING:
1st place: Sarah Hamdan
2nd place: Katie Gibbons
3rd place:
  Cara DeRose, Megan Urbaniak, Sary Lyu

MAKE IT:
1st place: Zoe Galarneau
2nd place: Madeline Cherr
3rd place:
  Aurora Krauss, Sarah Hamdan

PEOPLE’S CHOICE
(voted by faculty and peers)
Coding: Casey Ball
Engineering: Casey Ball
Make It: Madeline Cherr, Zoe Galarneau

OSG TUITION AWARDS:
Casey Ball, Sarah Hamdan, Zoe Galarneau,
Sydney Adams, Yasmeen Collins, Katie Gibbons,
  Madeline Cherr, Aurora Krauss

Student Recognition Day (May 29)
2015 STEAM Award - Casey Ball
Saturday, May 16, 2015, was a SEM milestone. Technology director Beth Adamczyk and 11 freshmen attended the Mini Maker Faire at the Buffalo Science Museum with their voluntary STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art & design, mathematics) Challenge project. The STEAM Challenge was optional and participation was enthusiastic. Said Ms. Adamczyk, almost conspiratorially, “I think we really hatched some technology careers!”

SEM began its technology initiative in 2008 with a 1:1 laptop program. Every student is issued a laptop and teachers utilize technology to enhance their teaching. Freshmen were also given a year of research and technology class to accompany the computers. The program grew: lessons and homework in every class are now found online with accompanying media, like video, and students submit assignments online.

Thanks to an Oishei Foundation grant, and with the support of the Education Collaborative of WNY, a freshman “STEAM Exploration Program” was launched in the fall of 2014. Exposure as a freshman is potentially more powerful than through an upper class elective. If an interest is sparked, we have time to cultivate and guide the student into more extensive learning in subsequent years, explained Ms. Adamczyk. “Students were required to dig deep and flex their creative and problem-solving muscles.

Comprising a trimester each of coding taught by Ms. Adamczyk, engineering taught by Dr. Jennifer Goetz, and “Make-it” (the art & design component) taught by art teacher Caitlin Cass the inaugural year was celebrated on May 22 with a SEM STEAM fair and awards ceremony. Online School for Girls (OSG) students in upper classes described their experience of learning STEAM online, and demonstrated some of their projects. Freshmen won certificates, statuettes (digitally printed of course) and tuition awards for upper level classes at the OSG.

Taking these courses opened up career possibilities that I had not previously considered,” said Madeline Cherr ‘18. “I saw some uses of the 3D printing that mixed together art and science. The career choice that interested me the most was the creation of prosthetic parts that are both functional and beautiful, because it helps people but it’s also art, and you use math and science as well.”

Katie Gibbons ’18 with visiting NAO robot. The girls responded like it was a member of One Direction - an identical robot joins the SEM community permanently this fall.

Seniors Megan and Amanda Lee at the digital printer with a #Girls4Science project.

#SEMintheCity! At the Buffalo Museum of Science Mini Maker Faire: (L-R) Freshmen Katie Gibbons, Sydney Adams, Zoe Galarneau, Cara DeRose, Yasmeen Collins, Megan Urbaniak, Sary Lyu, Sarah Hamdan (Kneeling) Aurora Krauss, Casey Ball, Madeline Cherr
Joan Kostick Andrews ‘48
Spring Concert

April 30, the SEMachords advised by Kyle Hopkins, and the Ensemble, and student and faculty Glee Clubs led by Ron Martin, were so good people cried. From sophomore Angela Shi’s oboe on Bach’s Sinfonia, to Glee Club president Natalie Harden’s senior swan song “Hard to Say Good-bye, My Love,” to the close with all musicians on Queen’s Bohemian Rhapsody, audience and musicians agreed it was an exceptionally great concert.

Poetry Anthology

Sophomore Enya Cirillo made the cover of this year’s sophomore poetry anthology. The anthology contains poems submitted by the students of the annual poetry workshop that is guided by poet Ansie Baird ’55.

Enya also won the poster competition for the 10th Annual Greater Rochester Teen Book Festival in May 2015.
On March 16, 2015, Cynthia Brennen gave the annual Prince Lecture. Ms. Brennen is a psychologist and the author of “Living, Loving & Unlearning: A therapist’s guide to healing and living authentically from the inside out.”

Ms. Brennen’s lecture was the culmination of a day of student engagement that included visits to Dr. Joplin’s and Mrs. Hopkins’ classes, and lunch with residential students as part of the Dylana Lembitz Accolla ’81 Cross-Cultural Enrichment Fund. Afterward, at a reception in the Margaret Wendt Gallery she signed books for eager students.

The Prince Lecture was established in 2004 by Mr. and Mrs. Warren Prince, Jr. and their daughters Allison ’75 and Jennifer Prince Bronstein ’78. The Prince Family Lecture series seeks to enrich SEM’s curriculum by inviting distinguished scientists, authors, politicians, scholars, and lecturers to share with the SEM community their expertise and experiences on a multitude of subjects.

Ms. Brennen has her master’s degree in Social Work, and is licensed in the state of New York, where she enjoys her private practice in counseling. Much of her therapy focuses on overall health, encompassing the balance of mind, body, spiritual, and emotional wellness.

Wilkinson Lecture

Sam Magavern, the 2015 Wilkinson poet, read to a full house of students, alumnae, and faculty on April 17, 2015. His poems elicited soft laughs and empathetic oohs, even some wet eyes.

As Ansie Baird ’55 said in her lyrical introduction:

“Sam is a man whose poems concern themselves with angels, as though they are his buddies. He writes about farm animals (mules and pigs, for instance) as though they inhabit his backyard. He knows loons, he knows bullfrogs, he knows pumpkins and blackberries, he knows myths and the Old Testament. Love is a supermarket, an office building, a leaky boat. We are blessed with Sam Magavern’s presence here.”

Prince Lecture

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SEM’s Four Thousand Year-Old Tablet!
By Harry Schooley

Considering SEM’s commitment to the full integration of technology across the curriculum through its on-going laptop tablet program, I thought it would be of interest to know that the school has in its possession another “tablet” – this one dating from 2036 BCE! It is a dried-clay cuneiform tablet from ancient Mesopotamia.

About one inch square, the tablet is a temple receipt made by a scribe and written in the Sumerian language. It came into SEM’s possession in 1971 as a gift from Miss Anna A. Russell (‘16) who purchased it for $2.00 from the then noted archaeologist Edgar J. Banks, who made a lecture visit to the school in 1915. Banks “guaranteed” the authenticity of the tablet which he identified as a “temple record” dated 2200 BCE.

Miss Russell gave the tablet to me for safekeeping! I kept it in an Eberhard Faber pencil box in my classroom desk drawer. It would annually see the light of day on visits to freshman history classes. Today it resides in Doug Hopkins’ desk drawer.

In 1974 SEM senior Maureen (“Moe”) Hays-Mitchell (‘74), with the urging of Marcia Pottle Reynolds (‘47), took on the cuneiform tablet as part of her senior project. Marcia then taught a crafts course that included pottery making and thought it would be fun for Moe to research the authenticity of the tablet.

At that time the Carborundum Corporation was operating a ceramics museum in Niagara Falls and Moe contacted the museum’s curator. It was arranged to photograph the tablet and send the pictures to the Oriental Institute, the University of Chicago’s archeology museum and research center for ancient Near Eastern studies. There, the tablet was studied and translated by Professor Robert Biggs, who verified that the tablet is a temple receipt in the Sumerian language and dates from 2036 BCE. In the scribe’s own cuneiformic handwriting it reads as follows:

One dead mountain sheep from Urru (name of the donor)
Tablet of Lukalla (scribe’s name)
The month Shunumun
The town Huuhnuri (a place name) was destroyed

The scribe’s seal (which includes an image of the scribe as well as writing) is stamped into the tablet’s surface by means of a pre-cut cylinder seal rolled across the tablet surface. The cuneiform on the seal reads: Lukalla Scribe Son of Ur-ell-e the equerry.

In September 2009 I undertook an online search for Lukalla and found him in the Mesopotamian tablet collections at the University of Minnesota and UCLA. With the assistance of Professor Eva von Dassow at the University of Minnesota, it was confirmed that SEM’s Lukalla was the same as on their and UCLA’s tablets from Umma (in Iraq). From my perspective, it was like finding an old friend; a VERY old friend.

Lukalla, however, was much more than just a scribe. In September 2011, I Googled Lukalla just to see if there were any updates since 2009. This search led me to write to Professor Jacob Dahl at Oxford University. He wrote back immediately with enthusiasm. He had written his Master’s thesis on Lukalla and is an expert on the period of ancient Mesopotamian history known to scholars as Ur III. He even sent me a PDF of his doctoral dissertation, “The Ruling Family of Ur III Umma: A Prosopographical Analysis of an Elite Family in Southern Iraq 4000 Years Ago.” (It’s not the easiest thing to read, to be sure!)

Professor Dahl explained that the Third Dynasty of Ur ruled over the Mesopotamian cities between 2100 and 2000 BCE. The nephew of three provincial governors (brothers), Lukalla served as second-in-command in the provincial government.

“Your text is in fact one of a very large group which details the daily delivery of one or at most two dead animals from a number of named shepherds, for the consumption at the provincial court. In themselves these texts are not particularly important, but together they give an extraordinary overview of life at a provincial center 4100 years ago.”

Professor Dahl listed our tablet on the Cuneiform Digital Library Initiative (CDLI) at UCLA as Buffalo Seminary 1.

The date of the tablet makes it contemporary with the 11th dynasty of Egyptian pharaohs (Middle Kingdom) and more than 700 years older than the Biblical Ten Commandments.

So, this is the “story” of SEM’s own Sumerian. I thought you’d be interested. Cool, huh?
Harkness

You may have seen or heard of Harkness tables, which Phillips Exeter Academy first popularized, and you may even know of American philanthropist Edward Harkness, who attached an entire philosophy to the tables he gifted to Exeter. But you may not know why they are at SEM or why they matter to young women’s education. The answer is not very mysterious: Harkness learning is student-centered, and this matters even more for girls’ education.

We at SEM can hardly remember a time before Harkness tables. Debating an article, a book, must occur face to face, not just with students facing the teacher or the back of someone’s head. In 2009 SEM brought Harkness tables into English and history classrooms. There was an undeniable shift in the way the classroom felt. Harkness tables engender an intellectual connectivity that comes with a solid, uninterrupted oval plane of sturdy, beautifully stained wood joining us, our notebooks and laptops.

Not only is the Harkness experience close to what students will encounter in college, it is vital that a girls’ school make good use of the table - for two reasons. First, teachers sometimes stand at a podium in order to present facts as an authority. In Harkness classrooms, students learn that when the teacher sits down, the material is offered up for discussion and debate and the girls must take up the discussion. Second, girls’ education removes many of the unconscious biases teachers may have, such as calling on boys more; thus,

Girls who sit at a Harkness table are extraordinarily empowered to have and develop a strong voice that they will take with them to college and beyond.

A Harkness table discussion can range from an open dialogue to a highly formalized Socratic method of debate. Either way, students at SEM are responsible for connecting what they say with the shared material in the book, on the board, or in their laptops. Even a large class of 15 seems like half that when everyone is connected, focused, and collaborating.

Harkness Table discussions encourage respect: all of us sit honorably at the oval table in order to listen and respond to another person. Above all,

Harkness tables at SEM assuage the distractions that tend to pull us away from each other and instead foster human interaction.

Harkness

The Teacher

BY DR. BENJAMIN JOPLIN

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When you hear the word “classroom,” you might picture a room filled with desks, a chalkboard/whiteboard, and a teacher standing at the front. The teacher is lecturing and asking questions, and students raise their hands, waiting to share their answers.

Although this is a familiar scenario, not all classrooms are alike. At SEM, the history and English classrooms do not fit this imagery. Instead, a huge, round table takes up most of the classroom. These tables are known as Harkness tables.

In 1930, philanthropist Edward Harkness requested that a donation he made to Phillips Exeter Academy in New Hampshire be used to create large oval wooden tables where students could sit around and discuss their current topic. It would allow for everyone to be seen and heard, all getting a chance to pitch in their thoughts and theories on a topic.

“At that time, he wrote: “What I have in mind is [a classroom] where [students] could sit around a table with a teacher who would talk with them and instruct them by a sort of tutorial or conference method, where [each student] would feel encouraged to speak up. This would be a real revolution in methods.”

The purpose of a Harkness table is to discuss a topic, analyze all components of the topic, bring new ideas and questions to the table, and then collectively come up with a conclusion. It helps students to work on their discussion skills and to begin teaching one another, and allows them to become more independent. Students overlap ideas and thoughts, bringing together a more full understanding of the topic at hand.

“I love our Harkness tables,” said Jessica Silverstein, a history teacher at Buffalo Seminary.

“I really like being able to sit at the table with my students and engage them in discussions that feel like great dinner table conversation, rather than the traditional classroom ‘chalk and talk.’”

Examples of discussions that students might participate in at a Harkness table include analyzing a piece of literature to find its deeper meaning, making sense of a difficult piece or trying to see different sides of a historical event. Tara Porter ’17 said, “I enjoy using Harkness tables because they allow for scholarly conversations and mutual respect between students, where everyone has a voice in the conversation and every idea is heard.”

Fellow sophomore Rebecca Thomas agreed.

“What I like most about Harkness tables is that it’s a really unique way to make sure that mostly everyone’s ideas can be heard,” she said. “It feels more like a conversation about the subject rather than an assignment, and being able to see who you’re talking to can ... help you connect to what they’re saying.”

Aerin Wagner ’15 wrote the story excerpted here as a reporter for NeXt, in The Buffalo News on January 22, 2015.

Visiting poets Sam Magavern and Ansie Silverman Baird ’55 use the Harkness table in Carey Miller’s room for Mrs. Baird’s annual sophomore poetry workshop.
2015 Is a Banner Year for SEM Athletics - Literally!

SEM Squash won its division at the US Squash High School Nationals bringing back to SEM a division championship with silver cups and banner.

SEM Bowling won the Monsignor Martin Association All-Catholic Championships with the help of seniors Megan Mazurkiewicz (Also, 1st Team All-Catholics) who bowled 11 straight strikes at one point in the season, and Yiyang Li who bowled a personal best 188 at the championship. The MMA doesn’t give banners, but it does award plaques.

SEM Tennis is the undefeated champion of the Division II Monsignor Martin High School Association. Isabelle Schlehr ’17 and Anna Fretz ’16 are the MMA Doubles Champions! In singles, Priya Bommaraju ’18 won 2d place and Zeyun (Zoe) Liu ’18 won 3d place! Great news is that the team is young - it has many championship years ahead!
Winner of US Squash High School Nationals, Division V Championship

VARSITY SQUASH

COACH: Phil Barth
CAPTAIN: Madison Frank ’15
MVP: Kaitlin Hughes ’16
MVP: Isabelle Schlehr ’17

Mackenzie Beck
Cara DeRose
Kaitlin Hughes
Madison Frank
Anna Fretz
Kendyl Kratzer
Sijia (Scarlett) Lu
Grace Obletz
Brooke Pohlman
Alexa Rosen
Lara Sherris
Isabelle Schlehr
Clare von Simson

VARSITY BASKETBALL

COACHES:
Eva Cunningham
Kacie Mills
CAPTAINS:
Erica Luciano ’15
Sara Smolarek ’16
Gabriella Augello ’16
AWARDS: Grace Gallagher ’17
All Catholic 2nd
Team B Division
MVP: Grace Gallagher

Gabriella Augello
Casey Ball
Samantha Burlow
Grace Gallagher
Alison Gareis
Emily Marie Jimenez
Danielle Little
Yicen Liu
Jiani Lu
Erica Luciano
Natalie Rice
Anya Roy
Sara Smolarek
Kira Yerofeev

Winner of US Squash High School Nationals, Division V Championship
VARSIY BOWLING

COACHES:
Jim and Edi Dref

CAPTAIN:
Megan Mazurkiewicz ’15

MVP & 1ST TEAM
ALL CATHOLICS :
Megan Mazurkiewicz ’15

Chisty Jiang
Jenna AlNaji
Shelby Kmidowski
Katherine Kraft
Yiyang Li
Megan Mazurkiewicz

Winner of the 2015 Monsignor Martin High School
Association Championship

JV BOWLING

COACHES:
Jim and Edi Dref

CAPTAIN:
Anabel Shen ’16

MVP:
Anabel Shen ’16

Aileen Cotter
Lucy Marie Gaulin
Chenqioing Jin
Yixuan Li
Shangqi Lyu
Jacqueline Schanzlin
Anabel Shen
Ziqing Wang
Mengcheng Yu
Varsity Fencing

Coaches: Wesley Roberts & Philip Kiernan
Captain: Maria Victoria Howell-Arza ’15
Fencing Awards:
Most Improved: Dabin Han ’17
Best Foil: Erin Melber ’16
Best Épée: Olivia Colon ’16

Emily Bulan
Olivia Colon
Bleu Daniels Taylor
Dabin Han
Maria Victoria Howell-Arza
Gina Victoria Igoe
Erin Melber
Olivia Miller
Yuxin Shen
Miao Yu
Amber Ye
Yi Zong

Crew

Head Coach: Christi Roorda

Maggie Rose Bontempo
Madison Chamberlain
Mary Conboy
Maia Gallagher
Brooke Gannon
Alexis Kowalak
Katherine Kraft
Elissa Lipke
Marissa Olsen
Azia Parris
Anya Roy
Fatima Siddiqui
Christina Siragusa
Consuela Sowa
Paige Usiak
**JV LACROSSE**

**Head Coach:**
Doug Hopkins

**Assistant Coach:**
Lindsay Mathias

**Captains:**
Maria Laudico ’17
Sihao Sheng ’16

Emily Broxup
Madeleine Cherr
Moriah Daniels
Kai Ellis
Nia Ellis
Zoe Galarneau
Marai Laudico
Jiani Lu
Sophie Mielnicki
Tess Rine
Juliana Scaccia
Sihao Shen
Elle Tolomeo
Natalia Vaquero
Lysette Vazquez
Kerui Xu

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**Varsity LACROSSE**

**Head Coach:**
Kevin Phengthavone

**Captains:**
Morgan Aiken ’15
Samantha Burlow ’17,
Anabel Cornacchio ’16
Madison Frank ’15

Morgan Aiken
Casey Ball
Samantha Burlow
Sara Caywood
Olivia Colon
Anabel Cornacchio
Alyssa Ebeling
Madison Frank
Grace Gallagher
Alison Gareis
Erin Hanratty
Abigail Hopkins
Alex Kane
Shelby Kmidowski
Maiah Overdorf
Brooke Pohlman
Sailing

Sydney Adams
Mackenzie Beck
Molly Doyle
Caroline Dunbar
Kyra Fogg
Jacqueline Schanzlin
Leah Trow

Undefeated Winner of the 2015 Division II Monsignor Martin High School Association Championship

MVP: Priya Bommaraju
AWARDS: Isabelle Schlehr & Anna Fretz - MMA Doubles Champions
Priya Bommaraju - 2nd Place MMA Singles
Zeyun (Zoe) Liu - 3rd Place MMA Singles

Varsity Tennis

Head Coach: Andrea Abels
Assistant Coach: Gerry Neff
Captain: Megan Lee ’15

Priya Bommaraju
Morgan Brown
Anna Fretz
Hannah Garis
Lucy Marie Gaulin
Sarah Hamdan
Kaitlin Hughes
Amanda Lee
Megan Lee
Zeyun (Zoe) Liu
Grace Obletz
Natalie Rice
Isabelle Schlehr
Alina Shaikh
Hannah Stern

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SEM is home to 46 exceptional girls from Bermuda, China, Japan, Korea, and Taiwan. The girls who live in our four residences (Niscah and Lipke on Soldier’s Circle and Oishei and Wendt on Potomac Ave.) are accomplished musicians, math wonders, athletes, readers, writers, actress, artists - and all brave adventurers. They are often only children far from home, precious to their parents and grandparents yet sent to the U.S. These families entrust SEM with their girls’ academic and social development seven-days-a-week for almost 10-months-a-year because we can help their daughters realize remarkable futures.

Each year, another five girls from Germany and France call SEM home - the Germans in the fall and the (brave!) French in the winter. These girls too were exceptional this year. They joined SEM teams, they joined SEM classes, they embraced SEM traditions like Hornet/Jacket and Hanging of the Greens, they made Elmwood Village and Buffalo their own.

SEM offers much to these girls. But in return we too gain insight and knowledge. The cafeteria chefs now make a delicious Chinese New Year feast. Eva Cunningham and Kacie Mills have Chinese language Twitter-like feeds on their phones. Helen Marlette has now tailgated with sushi. Music played on traditional Chinese instruments wafts around the 3rd floor in the afternoons. **Worldliness is contagious.**
FOREIGN EXCHANGES

BY SARAH LETAILLEUR ’17

In France, I’ve never had the opportunity to go to the gym on my free period, or to share Chinese culture when I come back to my house. I thought that the cold would be horrible, it is not. It was quite hard the first days, and now it just seems normal to me. In France I never had a class of fifteen students, and I’ve never spoken with my teacher about something other than the class when the lesson is done. Now I know how work is important for my life, how I can be proud of being a girl, how personality is much more important than your appearance. At SEM school is a community, not a competition where the only person you care about is you.

BY MATHILDE FECAMP ’17

I thought that coming and actually be in an only-girls school was going to be weird because I had never experienced that before. But during my time here, I never really needed boys. You girls are so amazing that nothing is lacking to this wonderful school. From the faculty members to the students and all the amazing teachers, everyone is perfect here!

I have learned to appreciate all the small things happening in my student life from the songs of the morning meetings to the fire place in the library and the sit-down dinners every Wednesday. I am most grateful for all these lessons. Leaving all of you girls, leaving this school, leaving this city, this country is going to be one of the hardest things I have ever had to do. I never thought I was going to find more than a school, but a family here.

Thank you so much, everyone!

BUFFALO FOR BEGINNERS

BY JANE CONSTANTINE ’66

Through the generosity of Delaware North and the Jacobs family, our residential students got the chance to experience American culture far from our Elmwood Avenue campus. The size and scope of sporting events in the USA was an eye opener. Being part of the crowd, wearing Buffalo sports gear and feeling and sharing the enthusiasm of our hometown team was a thrill.

At the Bills game, fans gave them high fives and taught them cheers. Not only was it broadening for our girls but for Buffalo residents who got to see how girls from another country were just like their own Buffalo girls with faces painted, loud cheers, and great spirit.

The Sabres game offered the opportunity to see a fast paced sport with an arena full of noise and enthusiasm. The Buffalo Bandits lacrosse game was an opportunity to see how a sport they can play at SEM is taken to a professional level.

Learning the love of competition and sportsmanship in this country can only help them as they compete on our school teams and beyond. They already are great ambassadors for our wonderful city and this was another chance to showcase the “sporty” side of living in the USA.

French residential students ice skate at the home of Grace Gallagher ’17

German students live and study at SEM from September to December. This year they were (L-R) Clara, Anna, Paula, Victoria, Anna

Seniors Leah Trow, Sylvia (Szu-Yu) Choh, Yara (Yanying) Yang, and Shauna (Zhuoran) Liu at a Buffalo Sabres game
So much has changed since the fall of 1997, when I embarked on my own college search with Judy Kramer, the then-college counselor at SEM. She was a calming influence on a process that has the potential for a lot of anxiety.

The college application process is now more daunting and competitive than ever, but I could not be more excited to lead SEM’s college counseling office next year and help SEM students navigate the process with enthusiasm and excitement, rather than fear and anxiety.

I have been an associate in the college counseling office since I started at SEM in the fall of 2007. Though I have held various positions throughout my tenure at the school, I have always particularly enjoyed college counseling because of the opportunity it gives me to work with students in a unique and personal way.

The goal of the SEM college counseling office has always been to help our girls find the college that is the best fit for them, and I will continue this goal and ensure that each girl has choices on May 1 (when deposits are due).

There is much in the news always about the extreme pressure students face when applying to and choosing a college, and thus it is ever more important to guide and counsel SEM girls so that they know that their self-worth is not tied to the college (brand!) they attend. As we all know, happiness is about infinitely more than brand.

The faculty and staff at SEM strive to empower our students each and every day to advocate for themselves, and that skill is especially important in the college search process. I will encourage each girl to own her college search process, and emphasize the importance of finding the right school for her.

SEM is a close-knit community, and I feel fortunate to know each and every one of our students so well, as that greatly helps me to guide them towards schools that fit their needs, and to advocate for them when contacting colleges. I also feel fortunate to have learned from two of the best college counselors in the business, Judy Kramer and Erik Bertelsen. They have taught me so much, and I am so excited to that knowledge to continue the great and successful tradition of college counseling at SEM.

Molly is the new director of college counseling.
As of June 2015, SEM students are accepted into the following:

Albion College
Alfred University
Allegheny College
American University
Arizona State University
Baldwin Wallace University
Boston University
Bowling Green University
Brown University
Canisius College
Case Western Reserve University
Claremont McKenna College
Clarkson University
College of Charleston
Daemen College
Denison University
DePaul University
Dickinson College
Drexel University
Duke University
Duquesne University
D’Youville College
Elmira College
Elon University
Emerson College
Emmanuel College
Fairfield University
Fordham University
Franklin and Marshall College
Gannon University
George Washington University
High Point University
Hilbert College
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Hunter College of the CUNY
Ithaca College
James Madison University
John Carroll University
Keene State College
Kenyon College
Keuka College
Lafayette College
Long Island University (C.W. Post)
Loyola University, Chicago
Loyola University, Maryland
Marietta College
Marist College
Marquette University
Medaille College
Mercyhurst University
Miami University (OH)
Michigan State University
Middlebury College
Mount Holyoke College
Nazareth College
Niagara University
Northeastern University
Northwestern University
Ohio State University
Ohio University
Ohio Wesleyan University
Pace University, NYC
Parsons The New School for Design
Paul Smith’s College
Pennsylvania State University
Philadelphia University
Pratt Institute
Purdue University
Rhodes College
Roanoke College
Rochester Institute of Technology
Roger Williams University
Rollins College
Rutgers University, New Brunswick
School of the Visual Arts
Simmons College
Skidmore College
St. Bonaventure University
St. John Fisher College
St. Joseph’s University
St. Lawrence University
Stetson University
Suffolk University
SUNY Albany
SUNY Binghamton
SUNY University at Buffalo
SUNY Buffalo State College
SUNY Brockport
SUNY Fashion Institute of Technology (NYC)
SUNY Fredonia
SUNY College at Geneseo
SUNY New Paltz
SUNY Old Westbury
SUNY Oswego
SUNY Potsdam
Syracuse University
Temple University
Trinity College
United States Coast Guard Academy
United States Military Academy
University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa
University of Akron
University of Arizona
University of California, Davis
University of Colorado, Boulder
University of Connecticut
University of Dayton
University of Findlay
University of Maryland, College Park
University of Mississippi
University of Oregon
University of Pittsburgh
University of Richmond
University of Rochester
University of South Carolina
University of Tampa
University of Toronto, Canada
University of Vermont
University of Washington
Vassar College
Virginia Commonwealth University
Wake Forest University
Washington College
Wilkes University
Xavier University
Monique Brannon becomes SEM’s director of advancement on July 7, 2015. Since 2008 she was the director of development and operations at Westminster Presbyterian Church & Westminster Early Childhood Programs. She has been active in the SEM Parent Association as her daughter Maggie Brannon is a member of the Class of 2016. She is a graduate of the University of Houston and a member of the Junior League of Buffalo.

“Our family has really enjoyed being part of the SEM community these past few years and now I’m looking forward to this new chapter, working with the Advancement Team as we support the exceptional programs and the dynamic school that is Buffalo Seminary. I am eager to begin work to help fulfill the school’s mission and support the programs as we continue to embrace a future of remarkable opportunities for all our students, families and friends.”

Suzy Marlette Sears ’73, an honorary trustee, leaves the advancement position after almost two years. “After being away for 10 years, it was a treat to get to know new faculty and become familiar with the residential program,” Suzy said. “SEM is thriving! Monique’s years of development experience and warm personality are going to serve the SEM community well. She will be a terrific leader to an already strong team.”

June 24, 2015, invited by Linda Cornelius ’71, and Margaret Brown ’72, alumnae gathered on a gorgeous night on the Manhattan rooftop of the von Simson family (Grace ’13, Clare ’17) to celebrate summer, SEM, and the launch of REMARKABLE OPPORTUNITIES - CAMPAIGN FOR SEM. The kinship was palpable among the New York City based graduates of classes which ranged from 1962 to 2013 as they listened to Jody Douglass and Margaret speak about the leadership gifts already received, building work commenced, and the goals of the campaign.

Save the date for Reunion 2016!

June 3 & 4, 2016
Classes ending in 1’s and 6’s - it’s especially for you!

Go to buffaloseminary.org/reunion for activities and accommodations and to get inspired; see pictures of the 2015 reunion there.
Dr. Amanda Hassinger and Dr. Victoria Brooks grew up as the Brooks sisters in a house in North Buffalo, by the zoo, where their parents still live. They left for college - Mandy to Duke and Tori to Boston College - but never lost their appreciation for home - their parents, Buffalo and SEM.

“People would make fun of me because I was the Buffalo girl,” Tori said with a laugh. As for Mandy? “I still have dreams of SEM,” she said. “It made me a lot more of who I am. It made me think women can do anything.”

The best teacher Mandy ever had was Val Caldwell, she said, while remembering having to watch water boil and having to write a description of it. “I worked harder in high school than any other time in my life. It’s almost like SEM treated us more like adults than I was in my training.”

For Tori too, SEM was an extraordinary education. “It prepared me to be able to handle college and medical school, because of the autonomy and the workload. The value put on both education and making it enjoyable helped me develop as a whole person.”

Both came back for medical school at UB. Tori stayed, became a psychiatrist now is the director of the Comprehensive Psychiatric Emergency Program (CPEP) at ECMC, a program that sees more than 9000 patients annually.

Mandy left once more, this time for Chicago and a residency and fellowship in pediatric critical care. She returned in 2011 and now works at Women & Children’s Hospital. “Chicago was so huge it never felt like what you’re doing makes any difference. You’re a drop in a puddle. I came back for family and the future and it’s panned out nicely.”

The sisters now both practice medicine here and live in homes in North Buffalo with their husbands, raising their three one-year-old daughters (Mandy has twins, Emily and Josephine, and Tori has daughter, Tess) as virtual triplets and as candidates for the Class of 2031. And of course, as future Jackets.

And while they don’t want everyone to find out the secret that is the good life you can have here, they do wish at least a few of their old SEM friends were here too.

So, alumnae, come back! Share in Buffalo renaissance with the Brooks sisters, and with SEM. Heed Tori, “There aren’t a lot a lot of places that have neighborhoods any more.”
2015 REUNION

Alumnae gathered from the class years ending in 5 & 0 at the Garret Club on June 5 to reconnect, reminisce and celebrate their reunions.
Class Notes

Thanks to SEM, our alumnae are confident, driven, capable and accomplished women -- and deserve to be applauded! The BSAA wants to hear all about your milestones and accomplishments so please, keep sending Class Notes. Your success is SEM’s best tool for success!

2015 Reunion attendees:

1940 - Arlene Betz Benson, Betty Johnson Ott, Margot Cordez Owen, Rosemary Woodward Whiting, Jackie Miller Melton, Mina Roblin Neidrauer

1945 - Ruth Roblin Winnick


1955 - Nancy Hewitt Holler, Nancy Marsh, Lucy Guthrie Keil, Grace Anderson Watt, Barbara Smith Pierce, Alison Fleischmann, Ansie Silverman Baird, Jean Sattler Stern, Gail Lunctot Hamlett, Carol Sippel Monsees

1960 - Margot Rumsey Banta, Kathie Childs, Judy Becker-Cavilion

1965 - Elizabeth Acer Crawford, Sally Miller Bugg, Mickey Draper Stobbe, Crusty Brouse Richardson, Trudy Adam Mollenberg, Anne Ginther Keating, Sally Gisel Green, Mary Zeckhauser, Julie Jenczskes Moore, Maria Flor Bowles, Demi Walsh Ayres, Marie Anne Mellen, Amy Lyle Spitzmiller, Nancy Jo Katz, Feinberg, Candy Stockton Hutton, Jane Schoellkopf Banta, Cricket Prentice Gordon, Jane Nelson Miller, Ellie Hignbotham Foster, Howdy Love Lindsay, Cindy Locke Phelan, Barbie Howland, Cathy Johnson Brock


1975 - Martha Buyer, Beth Waagen, Martha Bednarz, Ginny Schaefer Horvath, Nancy Huddleston, Erica French Seibold, Nancy Hoffman Murphy, Sylvia Mihich, Pami Willett Sutton, Joan Khattab, Githi Barrell, Katie Bassett

1980 - Madonna Dunbar, Melinda Rath Sanderson

1985 - Jennifer Dunbar Crandall, Amy Kelly Yerofeev, Kelley Donohue Hacker, Ann Weidenbeck Galbraith


2000 - Sarah Platts, Deborah Stringer, Allison Krueger Stefanik, Jolie Roetter

2005 - Kate Niswander, Julia Broman Topper, Moira Giannaresi, Christine Kufel, Natalie Hofert, Caitlin Overturf McCarthy, Katie Schuster, Liz Lisker, Angela Piscitello, Amy Brownshadle Wopperer, Naima Pearce, Tara Matthews

2010 - Thalia Steely, Michela Gacioch, Grace Niswander, Megan Starzynski, Allison Joseph, Sarah Stoklosa, Emily Calieri, Claire Brady, Attie McNamara, Jordan Joseph, Kibby Bronstein

1940 Neva Jane Manock Upp: Amazing that it’s our 75th Reunion! We certainly enjoyed the 70th! Wish I could join you -- the spirit is willing but the “flesh is weak.” Probably many of you understand! I will be thinking of you and wishing I was north!

1942 Maryellen Gould Hadjiyski: Enjoying life. Retired after 40 years as a child psychologist in child guidance clinics, schools, and private practice in the Detroit area. Now volunteer in the Leelanau County Historical Society, golf, and travel, active life with other retirees and local families.

1944 Molly Potter Scheu: Doing well here in N.H., albeit a very cold winter. I still X-C ski, which warms me up. I look forward to Cliff Island, Maine, this summer.

1945 Mary Moot Buerger: Sorry to have missed my 70th reunion - just too much stuff going on. I will be in Buffalo for Western NY Foundation, June 21, and a few days after. Ruth Roblin Winnick: My two sisters and I will be at reunion this year – Mina Roblin Neidrauer ’40 and Ethel [Roblin] Melzer ’50. Saw Davey Sapersten Klingenstein a while back — also saw Suzie Beck [Allen] ’46 in from California. We are great-grandparents of a 10-month-old boy named Dylan. Truly blessed.

1950 Elinor “Lannie” Osborn Gartner: I am still going strong and will be attending our Class of 1950’s 65th Reunion. From SEM, I graduated from Middlebury College and Boston School of Occupational Therapy - Tufts. I have stayed involved with many community projects ever since. Our four children all have a college education.

Ethel Robin Melzer: Dear Classmates: How can it possibly be 65 years since we marched down the aisle at Westminster in our white gowns, with bouquets of red roses in our arms, approaching Miss Angell to receive our graduation diplomas? My two sisters are also coming to their reunions: one celebrating her 70th and the other, her 75th! My how time...
really does fly! How lucky we are to have shared in the experience of being “SEM girls.” I’m looking forward to seeing as many of you who can attend.

1951
Charlann Mooney Duffy: We are healthy and had a great 2014. Busy with family and 11 grandkids and 2 great-grandkids. Hope to return for our 65th in 2016.

1955
Heather McDougal Holmes: I’ve been a docent at the Salvadore Dali Museum in St. Petersburg, Florida, for 20 years. I’m active in Rotary community projects. I participate in the American Association of University Women (AAUW). We award scholarships to college students. Most of all—I enjoy being with my family and traveling.

Lucy Guthrie Keil: We took our two teen-aged grandchildren to Costa Rica last summer. The spectacular trip included a week on an Earthwatch project gathering data on dolphin habitat to support creation of a marine protected area. The best part was spending time with two terrific kids.

1958
Toby Goldstein Bulan: We are truly enjoying retirement—summers in Buffalo and winters in Florida. We wish everyone a very happy and healthy new year.

1960
Judith Hansen Benson: 60th is only five years away. Hope that is enough time to make a plan to come and celebrate being the old girls!

1961
Patricia Waterman: Gathering with Cornelia “Corny” [Roberts] Dietz, Barbara “Bobbi” [French] Pace and Ruth Greenberger in September at Ruth’s home in Santa Fe—becoming an annual event to enjoy and explore our outer and inner worlds together.

Married my partner of 25 years, Barbara Maltby, in October—happy to have that opportunity in our lifetime! Appreciating the spaciousness of retirement.

1962
Ellen Genrich Rusling: I was ordained in Fellowships of the Spirit and continue to provide Life Discernment Consulting to persons seeking/traveling their spiritual life path.

1964
Josephine “Josie” Townsend Kaestner: I met up with Deborah Williams in Florida in March. Both of us were trying to escape winter – she from Buffalo, and I from Vermont!

Anne Herrick Lacy: Still teaching at Bayfield School, but I plan to retire at the end of this school year. Looking forward to retirement. Our two daughters are thriving. Natalie is living in Aspen, Colorado, working for the Aspen Challenge and planning to earn an MBA over the next year and a half. Sara just passed the Wisconsin Bar and is living in Washington D.C.

Ann Walker Rice: We feel so blessed. In August 2014, daughter Allison and hubby Ryan gave birth to a daughter “Charlie” named after my dad, Charles Walker, and Ryan’s grandfather. Now we have 13 grandchildren! I do believe if you have a house in Florida you will see your children! Wouldn’t you rather shovel seashells than snow?

1965
Susan Clarke: Think of you all a lot. I have landed in the middle of the Rockies in Glenwood Springs, CO, after a long time in southern Arizona, followed by Oregon and Texas. Come visit.

Elizabeth Acer Crawford: I am homeschooling two children in NYC after retiring from a school in which I was a founding teacher 17 years ago in Greenwich, CT. I am thrilled to be back in NY, am pursuing my writing, enjoying the opera, classical concerts, Central Park and old and new friends. My daughter lives in NY, as well, reverse commuting to teach in CT and my son is looking for a job in DC. I have taken over the family website, to share my passion for education, writing, and directing children’s plays.

Anne Ginther Keating: Looking forward to seeing everyone at our 50th. Hope everyone can come.

Cristy Brouse Richardson: Looking forward to our 50th reunion this year.

1967
Joanne Seay Byrd: There has been much activity in our world! Our son, Brandon, completes his first year as an asst. professor of history at Mississippi State this month. Last year he received his PhD from UNC. He will marry a Duke Law grad in just a few weeks. Retirement is still great and allows many visits with our daughter Lesley, a government analyst in DC.

1968
Madeline Ambrus Lillie: Jody Douglass and staff are doing an amazing job of educating and nurturing young ladies.
Amy Fisher: I’ve been a Realtor in DC for the past 40+ years. My husband and I own our own boutique real estate firm.

Ellen Goldstein: I am now managing editor of the Jewish Journal of WNY, a new 48-page monthly publication we began two years ago in partnership with Spree Publications. In an upcoming issue, you can read a feature story about the Roblin sisters, Ethel [50], Mina [40] & Ruth [45], all over 80, who are devoted SEM grads and supporters.

Catherine Flickinger Schweitzer: Preservation Buffalo Niagara has named Catherine chairwoman of its board of directors.

Karla Hailfinger Micka: As a director of human resources for a multi-billion dollar defense contractor, I oversee human resources for over 1500 employees in seven different countries. The challenges of working in very austere environments, as well as adherence to host country labor laws makes my job very exciting.

Elizabeth Duryea Maloney: Our wonderful boys are grown, and so I have been keeping busy renovating houses and doing design work for clients. Great to see that SEM is flourishing.

Maureen Hays-Mitchell: Residing in Cazenovia, NY, I am a professor of geography at Colgate University. Son Zack is completing sophomore year at Georgetown University and will study in Buenos Aires in the fall. Son Eli will graduate from high school next month and head to Connecticut College in the fall. Son George is in college at Curry. Son George is in college at Curry.

Leslie Pooley Heffernan: Hello, Classmates, We are empty nesters this year as Will is in college at Curry. Son George is studying in Paris through GWU. He caught the bug of study abroad from me. I remember fondly our month exchange with Paris students. Fondly, Leslie.

Monica Barnett: I own a Wardrobe Styling & Image Consulting company called Blueprint for Style based on Washington, DC. I’m in “talks” with SEM to do some fun training and seminars so that’s ‘awesome sauce’!

Saxon F. Deck: As reported by her parents: Saxon has moved back to USA with husband, lain Patefield from Auckland, NZ. She was promoted to USA senior manager for social media with Pricewaterhouse Cooper. They are living in Lakeway, TX.

Jessica Donsky Devine: I’m a freelance copywriter and social media manager, currently working on a really fun project: blogging and doing social media promotion for a new kids’ book called Galactic Hot Dogs! My husband and I live outside Boston, MA, with our two daughters, 3rd-grader Lily, and kindergartener Sabrina.

Nicole C. Lee was honored with the SUNY Buffalo Law Alumni Association’s Distinguished Alumna Award for public service. She is a human rights lawyer with Lee Bayard Group in Washington, D.C., where she resides. Nicole is immediate past president of TransAfrica in Washington, D.C. She is a member of the UB Law School Dean’s Advisory Council.

Catherine Young: Hi, Everyone! Great job with the 2014 reunion. Looking forward to 2019 (gulp!).

Cynthia Barrett ’90, Jessica Murphy ’90, Kate Gondree Rand ’90, Noel Zieziula Anderson ’90

Shannon Herbert: This coming spring I will go up for tenure at Santa Monica College. In October my wife, Suzanne, and I welcomed our second son, Lucas. Our 2-year-old son, Gabriel, seems pleased but is reserving judgment. The intellectual challenges I faced at SEM continue to inform my teaching and learning.

Kathryn Franko: I just joined the Foreign Service and will be serving as a diplomat in China for the next two years.

Katie Hamister Riley: I’m working in Buffalo for my family’s company, Hamister Group, Inc. I am director of social media and their photographer...love it! I’m also raising two beautiful little people, Jori is four and Liam is two. While I travel back and forth to Buffalo from NC and am in the area for most of the summer, my heart is always in Buffalo and with SEM. (Here’s to hoping I’m raising a daughter to graduate in ’29 - crazy to think about.) Follow the company on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and Linked-In! I’m also an avid runner, biker and love to swim.

Gillian O’Connell Bobrowski: I left corporate America a year ago, now I’m an independent consultant for Thirty-One Gifts and a stay-at-home mom.

Katherine Dickinson: I have fond memories of SEM and can attribute many of my successes to the solid foundation I received. It is so important to continue to educate, empower, and support tomorrow’s leaders!

Meredith Stone: I’m currently working at a production/post-production facility called Trium Entertainment. We produce a bunch of different shows, among them “Something Borrowed Something New” and “Bride By Design” for TLC, and “Recipe Rehab” for CBS. We’re also working on projects with James Franco and Ali Larter. Otherwise I stay busy spending lots of time with my doggie, Mr. Dog, and my friends, and doing kickboxing!

Ashley Stewart: Finishing fellowship in Surgical Endocrinology at MD Anderson. FINALLY going to get a real job. My daughter, Eloise, 15 months old keeps me pretty busy! Very grateful for all that SEM taught me.

Moira Giammaresi ’05, Brielle d’Estries ’06, Molly O’Connor Greene ’98, Grace O’Connor ’02

Joanna Glauser Marymor: Jon, Autumn and I welcomed Baby Boy Bennet Marymor 3/23/2015. We are loving being a family of four!
2001
Meaghan Bailey Brody: We moved to Portland in December, after 18 wonderful months in Colorado. It’s been really interesting and enjoyable to live in the Pacific Northwest! Portland is a fantastic city and there is lots to do outside the city as well. I’ve been thankful to be able to work from home, as I have been with NSF Health Sciences (formerly Becker & Associates Consulting), for almost seven years. I’m senior director of our medical devices practice and I help companies bring innovative new technology through the FDA regulatory process. I celebrated two years of marriage with my husband on May 4.

Robin Hace Nusbaum: Married Ryan Nusbaum on September 27, 2014. April Hace Corrao ’04 was the matron of honor.

2002
Caitlin Overdorf McCarthy: Working for an IT company and loving Buffalo!
Kate Niswander: Was recently named marketing and communications manager at the Casualty Actuarial Society (CAS). She also recently completed an MA in strategic communication at American University.

2005
Katherine Meier-Davis: I’m about to graduate from the University of Michigan Law School and will begin working at Phillips Lytle LLP in downtown Buffalo in the fall.

Linda Brownschidle ’02, Amy Brownschidle Wopperer ’05, Tara Matthews ’05

2006
Rachel Engl: Making progress on my PhD in early American history at Lehigh. I’m ABD (all but dissertation) while I complete “America’s First Band of Brothers: Friendship, Camaraderie, and Collusion within the Continental Army during the Revolutionary Era.” I received a year long dissertation fellowship from the McNeil Center for Early American Studies, on the University of Pennsylvania campus, where I will be in residency for the upcoming academic year, so come and say hi if you’re in Philadelphia!

2007
Amber Chinn: Amber sang a cover of the Jhene Aiko song “The Worst” sitting by a friend’s pool and a phone recording of the impromptu performance was posted to Facebook - it’s gone viral with a whopping 3.7 million views on Facebook. Amber’s had coverage including in USA Today and Buffalo’s WGRZ-TV. See it on Facebook/BuffaloSeminary.

Katharine Dunbar: Finished my freshman year at Roger Williams University. I am in the business school and planning to major in management, and minor in marketing. I ran on the track & field team and helped my team win the 2015 Commonwealth Coastal Conference!

2008
Jenny O’Leary: Currently working in NYC as an architect for Zara retail stores. SEM!

2011
Margaret Mugel: I just graduated from Denison University with a bachelor’s degree in theatre.

2013
Eliza Hopkins: Declared as a Religious Studies major at Yale with a concentration in Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, and has been voted president of her a cappella group, Redhot & Blue, this coming year. And, for the third summer in a row, she is excited to be working at Summer at SEM with her wonderful co-counselors!

Alexandra LaMonte: Attending school at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, NY. Will be studying abroad in Rome, Italy, in the fall!
Phyllis Arnone  
grandmother of Michele Kujawa ’08

Mary Augustyn  
grandmother of Emily Augustyn ’07

Earl Winfield Bleyle  
grandfather of  
Assistant Athletic Director Kacie Mills

Elizabeth T. Coley  
mother of Susan Coley Gaylord ’65  
and Ann Coley Unsworth ’71

Ann Armstrong Craig ’58

Richard W. Cutting  
brother of  
Elizabeth “Betsy” Cutting Brown ’53

Virginia Deuel ’33  
Honorary Trustee,  
aunt of Brenda Lutz Kinzly ’56,  
cousin of Barbara Ebling ’85

Gael Dohany ’59  
Georgia “Betsy” Ganson Engelbert ’43

Mary Louise Britt Glennie  
grandmother of Susan Gray Isaac ’91

Katherine Kavinoky Goldman ’53  
mother of Marjorie Goldman Corrow ’75,  
Ann Goldman More ’79 and  
Susan Goldman ’83, cousin of  
Emma Magavern ’03 and Anna Magavern ’15

Carolyn Benson Gundlach ’35

Christopher Hartnett  
brother of Hilary Hartnett ’86

David R. Hershey, Sr  
uncle of Sarah Hershey ’74  
and Sam Hershey Hafey ’76

Mary Koessler ’10

Sally Larkin Kryder ’41  
mother of Anne Kryder Almy-Webber ’78

Angel Luciano  
grandfather of Erica Luciano ’15

Derek Mangan  
husband of Mary Ann Cutting Mangan ’50  
and brother-in-law of  
Elizabeth “Betsy” Cutting Brown ’53

Mary Ann Cutting Mangan ’50  
sister of  
Elizabeth “Betsy” Cutting Brown ’53

Janet Pierce Minella  
mother of Assistant Director of Development  
Nancy Miller and grandmother of  
SEM faculty member Carey Miller

Susan Oliver Montgomery ’56  
sister of Joan D. Oliver ’62

Jennifer J. Priebe ’82

Elizabeth Schulman ’56  
mother of Lauren Schulman ’89

Virginia B. Thweatt ’40

Peter A. Todaro  
father-in-law of Michelle Gigante ’84

Lorraine Topolski  
grandmother of Julia Topolski ’96

Russell Tucker  
grandfather of Athletic Director  
Eva Cunningham

Linda Wailand  
mother of Catherine Wailand Glover ’89

Margaret “Peggy” Cowan Walter  
mother of A. Carla Walter Clark ’73,  
sister of Barbara Cowan Hyde ’45,  
great aunt of Grace K. H. Hennigan ’09

Suzanne Ransom Watson ’43

In Memoriam
Buffalo Seminary Alumnae Association News

The BSAA just finished a banner year of activities and new initiatives. Here's a review of some of its efforts!

Senior Induction Luncheon

66 Seniors were inducted into the BSAA on Tuesday, June 2, 2015, at luncheon in the newly christened Patricia Oishei Colby ’32 Room (formerly Upper West-Chester). As has become tradition, students were asked to share something of their SEM experience. “SEM has given me an amazing education, confidence to speak my mind and sisters that will last a lifetime,” said one senior. “SEM gave me the ability to not only articulate my ideas but to listen and take into account those of others” said another. Girls were given a long-stemmed red rose and copy of Dr. Seuss’ book Oh, The Places You’ll Go!

Improved Communications

The BSAA is working hard to communicate with alums on all sorts of topics, such as accomplishments, awards, marriages, births and loss of loved ones. Keep SEM informed of your activities! Look for expanded online communications as well as the launching of an online job search, mentoring and networking tool. Contact Lucy Butterbaugh Coburn at bigmamalu@gmail.com.

Board of Directors

The BSAA is always looking for graduates to serve on its board of directors. If you’re interested in serving, please let us know. We’ll be reviewing candidates over the summer.

Local Alum Social & Networking Event - Feb. 24, 2015

The BSAA held a Social & Networking Happy Hour for local alums in February. Women from a range of classes enjoyed conversation and hors d’oeuvres at Giancarlo’s restaurant in Williamsville. Congratulations to Ehlimana Imamovic ’97 who won the raffle prize of SEM merchandise.

Pictures from the event can be seen in Class Notes.

Local alumnae should stay tuned as plans are underway for a Buffalo social event in September 2015. Watch Facebook.com/BuffaloSeminaryAlumnae or BuffaloSeminary.org/Alumnae for details.

SEM Pendants Are Here!

In conjunction with Erik Jewelers, the BSAA has made the Buffalo Seminary pendant – our venerable seal in silver ($125), 14K gold or 14K white gold (both $650). To purchase, call BSAA corresponding secretary Lucy Butterbaugh Coburn ’73 at (716) 783-4257. Approximately 3-4 weeks for delivery.

How can you resist?

Holiday Bazaar - Dec. 11, 2014

Another successful Bazaar! They just keep getting bigger and better every year. Don’t miss out if you’re in town this year on December 12th!
Bright and early on a Saturday morning in May, the Class of 2019 gathered in the library to take the SEM placement exams. Girls chatted, snacked, and got to know each other a bit before being tested in Spanish or French, and math. These exams have proven to be an accurate predictor for class placement, but they also provide an opportunity for our new students to re-introduce themselves to each other (since the accepted students night in February) and to bond over the shared experience of testing, and then pizza and bowling at Lancaster Lanes.

SEM received 92 completed applications from 36 sending schools for admission in fall 2015. The Class of 2019 was refined to include 44 scholars, artists, athletes, and musicians from 22 different schools. Among them are our first SEM athletic scholarship winners (soccer and basketball), and a competitive skier, a sailor, and a ballerina. We have musicians and painters and all are bright students brimming with potential.

This new class has strong ties to SEM with eight students having sisters at SEM, and seven students having family connections through mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and cousins. In addition, almost half of the girls in the Class of 2019 attended Summer at SEM!

Into this exciting mix SEM will also welcome to the Class of 2019 four highly qualified students from China and two from Korea. We are particularly thrilled with the level of these girls’ English ability and scholarship, and with the diverse talents they bring to their class, and to SEM.

As the Class of 2019 returned their bowling shoes and boarded the bus to return to SEM, the girls were animated. They expressed to each other their hopes of testing into high level classes and exchanged social media addresses. The ride back was full of laughter and excitement as old friends re-connected and new friends promised to stay connected this summer.

The coming academic year will be a rich and exciting one as SEM has met its enrollment goals and we anticipate another rewarding year for students and those who teach them. 2015-2016 promises to be another remarkable year at SEM!

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**Summer Reading Revolution**

SEM’s summer of 2015 All-School Read is chosen by the Science Department: *The Best American Science and Nature Writing 2014*. All students and faculty will read five essays: “The Great Forgetting” by Nicholas Carr; “Why the Brain Prefers Paper” by Ferris Jabr; “Danger! This Mission to Mars Could Bore You to Death!” by Maggie Koerth-Baker; “Imagining the Post-Antibiotics Future” by Maryn McKenna; and “TV as Birth Control” by Fred Pearce.

This year, for the first time, all other summer reading is voluntary. Our goal is to foster a love of reading at SEM. The faculty believes that mandatory summer reading makes reading a tedious chore rather than an opportunity for discovery and intellectual independence. There is some evidence that suggests mandatory reading actually creates nonreaders. So, instead of asking students to read specific books, we encourage students to read as many books as they can.

We encourage students to get reading suggestions from one another; we have even created an online community, “SEM Reads,” via goodreads.com that allows students to chronicle their reading, to evaluate what they have read, and to give and receive literary recommendations. Parents and alumnae are cordially invited to join our reading community...

Visit goodreads.com, select “groups” at the top of the page, and search for SEM Reads. See you there!
Fall Weekend & 100th Anniversary of Hornet/Jacket Celebration

October 16 & 17 - Welcome Alumnae, Students, Parents and Faculty
Oct. 16 - JV & V Field Hockey games at Larkin Field
Oct. 17 - Hawk Walk begins at 11 AM followed by a Parent Association sponsored lunch on Larkin Field

OPEN HOUSE
Sunday, Sept. 27 9am – 1pm

- Learn about the unique value of our all-girls, independent school.
- Take tours of our historic school, residences, and field.
- Meet faculty, parents, and trustees.
- Get information about scholarships and financial aid.

Our academics are rigorous, trust is intrinsic, and creative, independent thinking is valued. Our humanities and STEAM curricula, arts, athletics, and clubs are available to all girls, local and boarding.

Visit. See why SEM girls love their school!

PHOTO BY TESSA PSZONAK ’17

More Opportunities...
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An independent day and boarding school for college-bound girls
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