



## Hall of Fame 2011 Inductees

# The ByLine

SUMMER 2011

- Reunion Weekend
- Golf for the Endowment
- Alumni News
- Congratulations Class of 2011

# Academics Community Opportunity

## Mission

Our mission is to send into a changing world confident young people of integrity who think critically and creatively while embracing the joy of lifelong learning.

2011-2012

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Sarah Grossi ‘11 and Charly Culberson ‘11 marching towards the Bettcher stage.

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### OUR CORE VALUES

Integrity, Respect, Scholarship  
and Personal Best

Editor: Ken Moore ‘00  
Alumni Relations

On the cover: The 1st Inductees to the Lake Ridge Academy Hall of Fame, Malou Suskin, John and Betty Kemper, and Don Kaatz ‘70.

# President's Letter – Carol L. Klimas



The Lake Ridge Academy Board of Directors is comprised of many dedicated, hard working, volunteer leaders who bring incredible value and wisdom to the school. The Board members agree to accept critical responsibilities as they work to further our mission. The Board is committed to moral, legal and financial leadership, and has the obligation to maintain our school's integrity. Our deeply caring Board members are Lake Ridge Academy's strongest advocates.

For 2011-2012, I am excited to announce the appointment of two new members – Don Esch and Bridget Moreno.

Don is the President and C.O.O. of Bettcher Industries, Inc. Don and his wife, Sherry, live in Westlake; Abby '18 and Emma '16 currently attend Lake Ridge Academy. Their eldest daughter, Megan '09, attends Ohio Wesleyan University where she is studying French.

Bridget graduated from the University of Michigan. She is an avid volunteer, currently serving on the Board of Trustees for the Neighborhood House Association in Lorain and co-leading the Auction Gala Committee for Lake Ridge Academy. Bridget and her husband, Bernie live in Westlake with three of their four children - Emily '12, Adam '14 and Kevin '17. Their eldest, Kate '10 attends Boston's School of the Museum of Fine Arts and Tufts where she is studying photography and liberal arts.



Our departing Board members are Caprice Bragg (J.T. '10 and Ryan '12), Mark Grossi (Sarah '11), Bernie Moreno, and John Mullaney (Aidan '10 and Eòin '13). Their extraordinary leadership and significant contributions will be sincerely missed.

Through our regular publications of *Encore*, I will keep you apprised of the collective actions of our Board of Directors, including their celebration plans for Lake Ridge Academy's 50th Anniversary in 2013.

Thank you for your special connection to Lake Ridge Academy and for your wonderful support!

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carol".

Carol L. Klimas  
President





# SCHOOL EVENTS

ONW students and chaperones pose at the Grand Canyon in snow!

## OPERATION NEW WORLD

The Operation New World class of 9 students spent the semester learning about the geologic history, ecology and anthropology of the Colorado Plateau. Early in the course, the class learned about the geologic time scale of the earth and how the layering in the Grand Canyon exposes over 3 billion years of the changes in life on the planet. Students then spent time reading and learning about Navajo (Diné) history and culture in preparation for their trip to Arizona and the Navajo reservation.

On March 20, the class, along with teachers, Mr. Wright and Dr. Glor, left Ohio to experience the history and culture they had read about. The trip began with a visit to Hoover Dam and then a rafting trip down the Colorado River — getting a firsthand look

at the geologic record of the earth dating back 1.7 billion years. The next stop was a flashback experience to Rt. 66 days and a visit to the South Rim of the Grand Canyon. As the trip continued, the group entered the Navajo Reservation. What followed was a transformational experience for everyone as the students learned the meaning behind the words of the books that they had read about the Diné. A highlight of the trip was visiting the Hubbell Trading Post, which is as traditional as it gets, where native people continue to trade the products of their labor for other items. Other geological sites visited during the trip were Monument Valley, Canyon de Chelly, Window Rock, the Petrified Forest and the Painted Desert.

## CULTURE FEST

The Humanitarian Aid Society (HAS) hosted their 11th annual CultureFest on Saturday, April 9. The aroma of Indian food and the rhythm and beats of the Taiko Drums filled the air of The Bettcher Convocation Center while over 250 people strolled through the “international market place” sampling all sorts of ethnic food and looking over the merchandise each region had to offer. Filling the room were excited Lower School students who were busily going from region to region getting their “passports” stamped. Lower School students were able to learn about the different regions of the world by talking to Upper School students who were manning regional booths or by watching the presentation that HAS president, Andrea Szabo ‘11, and vice president, Jessie Wingar ‘11, had prepared for the event. The passports were great fun!

CultureFest raised \$3,005.00 for Tree of Wisdom, an organization that provides water, food and education for Ugandan children. Not only could HAS donate their proceeds to Tree of Wisdom, but adding to the excitement of the day was that Dr. Monique Richardson, the founder of Tree of Wisdom, was able to be present at CultureFest. She told her story of how the idea of the non-profit came about and how we, as a community, can help. Dr. Richardson was overwhelmed by the outpouring of support that the Lake Ridge Academy community showed to the organization and to the children she serves. For more information about Tree of Wisdom go to [www.treeofwisdom.org](http://www.treeofwisdom.org).



Emily Glor '12, Ashley Mahajan '12, and Viveka Hulyalkar '11 dressed in traditional Indian garb as members of the India region. Viveka served as coordinator of the group working throughout the year to put everything together.

## QUÉBEC TRIP

On Saturday, May 21, twenty-five eighth grade students boarded the charter bus to Québec accompanied by Leah Bilski '11, Sara Bediako '11, Mlle. Marks, Mr. Wakefield and Señor Catanese. This yearly adventure continues to be the culminating event of the Middle School years. After the epic 15-hour bus ride, the group began touring Québec City. Students visited St. Anne's Basilica to observe its beautiful architecture; toured La Citadelle, the star-shaped fort designed by the French architect Vauban where students learned about the history of Québec and how the fighting between the French and English affected the region; and took a boat cruise along the St. Lawrence River where students had the opportunity to socialize with other student groups from both the U.S. and Canada. New to the itinerary was a trip to the Huron Indian Reservation where students learned about the first settlers of the region and their historical relationship with the French. As is customary, the group left Québec on Wednesday evening to drive through the night to arrive at school at 6:30 Thursday morning.

# Québec



The 8th Grade visits Chez Marie, a traditional stop on the Québec trip.

## FLOOD



Water covered the bridge preventing any and all vehicles from crossing.



Curious George lends his helping hands to Mrs. Haase as they worked to save materials from the Kindergarten classroom.



Second Grade teacher Laura Lane and Third Grade teacher Kim Parrish '87 are ready to work on cleaning their supplies donning masks and shoe covers.



Alexa Soloman '22 enjoys reading her First Grade Book in her new classroom. Note the new stylish carpeting and highlighted floor tiles!

On Monday, February 28, 2011, the Lake Ridge Academy campus flooded due to massive storms the previous night. Staff, faculty members, and parent volunteers worked tirelessly to save materials and move classrooms as the flood caused damage to the Lower School, the Fine Arts building and Rob Hall. In these dire moments, the strength of the community was tested, and everyone rose to the challenge. Parent and grandparent volunteers helped discard damaged items and move salvable items to temporary classrooms, and the maintenance crew rescued animals from each classroom.

During the week of clean up, Kindergarten teacher Margaret Haase took snapshots of all the work to show her class what was done to save materials and move to the temporary classroom. Her helper, Curious George, donned a mask and oversaw the crew's efforts. When the Kindergarteners returned to school, they were relieved and energized to see that Curious George had experienced the Lake Ridge Academy Flood. Each student was given a book to commemorate this unusual and real-life fairy tale.

As the students and faculty moved to temporary classrooms, Facilities Director

Paul Swasey was hard at work managing the clean up and restoration. Barrie Spang '90 used her expertise in interior design to choose the new flooring, shelves, and more for the Lower School and Fine Arts Building. Lake Ridge Academy is incredibly thankful for Barrie's support in this endeavor, and to all donors who made special gifts to the Annual Fund for the Flood Relief Effort. Their gifts helped defray the school's \$25,000 insurance deductible and helped replace lost items immediately. The outpouring of support demonstrated our wonderful community here at Lake Ridge Academy!

# Faculty Spotlight

## The Evolution of Student Government

Teresa Lee Jenkins



I can remember the first time I drove onto the Lake Ridge Academy campus thirty-one years ago. There were but three buildings, an art trailer, and a music trailer. As I drove in, little stones attached to the treads of my tire as dust covered my windshield. "Oh," I thought to myself, "if they could ever pave these parking lots, this school would have it all." Thankfully, the school has been run by bigger dreamers than I. The rusty trailer has made way for the Fine Arts Building, and our campus has grown to include a track, a pond, The Bettcher Convocation Center, and a Community Recourse Center that holds two libraries, the Entrepreneurial Studies room and three computer labs. My how we've changed. Or have we?

Henry David Thoreau once said, "Things do not change; we change." Perhaps he's right. While the face of our campus may have changed dramatically over the years, the campus still feels the same. You will still feel the wooden planks beneath your tires when you drive over the creek, you will still feel the barely contained energy of our precocious kindergartners when you pass the art room; you can still feel that familiar sense of warmth when you hear the banter between students and their bemused teachers. Ironically, however, it's only by changing that we are able to hold on to these rare Lake Ridge Academy intangibles.

To me, no change has touched my heart more deeply than the growth over the past 30 years of our upper school student government. When upper school head Jim Wright appointed me Student Council (SC) sponsor after my first year of teaching, I was more than eager. To me, a student government is the school's soul and heart.

I immediately caught up with the Council President, Jane Saddler, and asked, "So what do you see as the role of the Student Council?" "To put on the Christmas dance," she said immediately. "Okaaay," I said, "But what else?"

After an awkward silence, Jane turned to a few of her friends for help. What was this dingy lady asking?

"Do you pass resolutions or talk to administrators?"

"Oh yeah," Jane said. "Of course. I'm sorry. We're just preoccupied with the dance now. Besides, not that many problems come up here."

Jane's comments have proven to be profoundly true over the years. The SC has always understood its primary goals as student leaders, but from the onset, these goals were compromised as they were tagged first as a dance committee. So what's so burdensome about putting on a little dance, you might ask. Well, pause to think about this for a moment. Remember that the Junior class composed of *forty* students had three years to put on the prom. In contrast, every year just *sixteen* Student Council members shared the burden of planning and fund raising for a formal dance. *Every year!* The responsibility was disproportionate, but no one seemed to notice at times not even the exhausted council members. In fact, in the beginning, the SC elected its own officers. It took several years before, realizing their full significance, they ran for Student BODY officers, elected by the entire school.

### STUDENT COUNCIL 1983



Even before this evolution, however, the SC was called to action. In 1982, for example, the student body began to grumble about their

sporadic and at times unreasonable workload. Often times they were hit with three or four tests a day. Student Council President Tom Dresing '83 led his council to compose a tactful slate of recommendations, suggesting ways teachers might better coordinate tests and major assignments. Thus, the Lake Ridge Academy test calendar was formed.

I was particularly proud when the SC approached the Headmaster asking the school be closed on a yet unobserved holiday. Twenty-five years ago the school celebrated Martin Luther King Jr. Day by gathering in the gym for an all-school assembly, a tradition that seemed, in the mind of the faculty and administration, a more effective and respectful way to honor Dr. King than "taking advantage of holiday sales." However, the SC made a compelling argument that not closing the school might send the wrong message to the greater community. Headmaster Coombs was grateful for the insightful feedback and changed the school calendar to include the holiday.

## STUDENT COUNCIL 1992



Fulfilling their leadership roles became more and more difficult over the years, however, as the SC became responsible for even more activities. First they took on the upper school Thank Goodness We're Back In School Olympics (TGWBS) and then, under the leadership of Michael Sherman '92, the Student Council held the school's first Homecoming dance. True, these activities added a great deal to student morale, but when Rachelle Bilz began her ten-year tenure as SC sponsor, she inherited an organization saddled with planning not one, but two major dances. When Mrs. Bilz handed the reins back to me a decade later, she also handed me a document describing every minute detail of the council's activities. The council was running like a well-oiled machine.

Seven years ago, Dr. Mozumdar, as Dean of Students, used this machine to establish our current house system. Now, to understand the houses, just think Harry Potter. Instead of Gryffindor and Hufflepuff, however, the SC named the houses for great thinkers: Locke, Da Vinci, Newton, and Dante. Every year, each house takes responsibility for not only a community service project, but a major social event as well, including Homecoming and the Winter Formal. Suddenly unfettered, the Student Council could focus on its role as student leaders. The SC revised its constitution and thus became the Student Senate, truly the soul and heart of the school.

Acknowledgment, though long deserved, has been long in coming. Throughout the past three decades, the Senate has learned to talk to adults as adults, not with entitlement, but with a sense of responsibility. There are no angry protests staged outside the dean's door — no sit-ins blocking our parking lot. Instead, our Senate governs as it always has — through open and honest dialogue. Until the last few years, such methods have gone unnoticed by their peers.

Now more than ever, students understand it was our Senate that negotiated a more student-friendly exam schedule. It was our Senate that found a way for parents and faculty to be assured that our school dances were alcohol-free. It was our Senate that found a way for students to use their cell-phones responsibly during the school day. It was our Senate that suggested our current schedule to the administration. It was our Student Senate that conceived of and wrote the Upper School Honor Code that hangs in our student commons. And it's our senior senators each year who form the prestigious Honor Council whose task is to hold each student accountable for adhering to the school's values.

## 2011 STUDENT SENATE



2010-11 Student Body President Zac Krislov has made the school's core values — respect, integrity, scholarship and personal best — the focus of this year's Senate. Their efforts have culminated in creating the first annual Core Value Awards. Students and faculty nominate those students who best represent each value, writing a brief explanation as to why they are deserving. Entirely student-run, this process has already sparked essential conversations in the community. "Does scholarship necessarily mean earning the highest grade point average in the class? How DOES one embody integrity, respect?" The thoughtful nominations that have poured in indicate that not only do our students understand the concepts of respect, integrity, scholarship and personal best — but they also recognize — even value — each of these qualities when they see it in their peers.

Thoreau was right. "Things do not change; we change." Hopefully, the four core values will help to change our community as our students strive even more to hold to these ideals. However, I argue that, at times, *things* have to change so that we can change. Just as our new facilities have allowed our students to grow in sports, academics and the arts, so has the new house system freed the senators so they may more easily reach their potential as true student leaders.

# Reunion 2011



The Class of 1991 – First Row; Mary Allen, Seema Haria Devitre, and Caroline Kwon Brosnan, Second Row; Steve Jurkovich, Tim Regovich, Jason Hamilton, Peter Nintcheff, Jim Cunningham, Tavor Lawrence, and Shiraz Cupala.

On May 20th and 21st, many alumni and friends gathered to reconnect and reminisce at Reunion Weekend. On Friday, alumni observed a Town Meeting with the Upper School, a student tap-dance recital during lunch, and saw the school in action. Later that evening, dozens of alumni and friends enjoyed a Happy Hour celebration with many surprise guests including former faculty members John Ranahan and Marilyn Crooker!

On Saturday, alumni and friends gathered at The Bettcher Convocation Center for their class gatherings as well as to honor the first recipients to the Lake Ridge Academy Hall of Fame.

Many alumni who could not attend made special gifts to the Annual Fund to celebrate their anniversary and honor the school.



You can participate too! Thanks for making **your Annual Fund** gift!

Former Upper School Director Susan Sour converses with Shiraz Cupala '91 and Ajay Gupta '91 during the Saturday evening reception.



Teresa Jenkins, Grant Alexander '96, and Franz Bauer '88 gather together.



Mark Johnson reconnects with his former student Lakshman Swamy '01.



The Class of 2001 – First Row; Christine Hong, Julia Bilz Sertich, Elena Ahn, Second Row; Mark Aziz, Michael Sertich, Third Row; Nate Pangrace, David O'Neill, Rebecca Paxton, Blake Oatey, and Lakshman Swamy.



Coach Crowell gathers with four former Royals, Jason Hamilton, Steve Jurkovich, Trevor Lawrence, and Tim Regovich (all from the Class of 1991) in Rob Hall.



Tim Regovich '91, Kim Parrish '86, Sue Haendiges, Marilyn Crooker and John Ranahan enjoy the Happy Hour celebration at Beachcliff Tavern.



Fred Plecha '79 was honored with the 2011 Don Kaatz Alumni Award in recognition for his extraordinary service, dedication and philanthropy. Fred promotes the school in many ways by introducing new prospective families, encouraging graduating seniors to become active in the Lake Ridge Academy Alumni Association, and supporting yearly fundraising efforts. Thank you, Fred, for all that you do for Lake Ridge Academy.

## Hall of Fame

During Saturday evenings' reception, Lake Ridge Academy held its first annual Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony by honoring former faculty member and Foreign Language Department Chair, Malou Suskin, former parents and grandparents John and Betty Kemper, and Don Kaatz '70. These individuals have demonstrated exemplary leadership within and/or beyond Lake Ridge Academy, provided outstanding service to the school and greater community, and embodied Lake Ridge Academy's core values of respect, scholarship, integrity and personal best.

Malou, John, Betty and Don join our founders, Charles Small, Scribner Fauver, Herbert Kaatz and our first Headmaster, Wilfred Hemmer in the Lake Ridge

Academy Hall of Fame. Combined with their automatic induction into the Hall of Fame, we honor our founders on an ongoing basis with the establishment of two awards — the Wilfred Hemmer Headmaster's Award [for a deserving former faculty member] and the Founders' Award [for alumni, former parents, volunteers and friends].

To help honor our Hall of Fame recipients, a variety of Alumni and Friends spoke. Mark Aziz '01 and Shiraz Cupala '91 discussed Madame Suskin's impact. Kristin Roshkowski '84, Kim Parrish '87 and Bill Baker reminisced about John and Betty Kemper, and Dale Alexander and Brian Shimko '04 recalled fond memories of Don Kaatz '70.

Shiraz Cupala '91 uses The Lions Mouth to highlight the French trip taken with Madame Suskin in 1991!



Bill Baker shares stories of the Kempers' years of service to Lake Ridge Academy.



Brian Shimko '04 illuminates the audience to Don Kaatz' '70 skill as a classroom teacher.

Nominations for Next Year's Hall of Fame can be made to Ken Moore

Visit <http://www.lakeridgeacademy.org/our-alumni/hall-of-fame/> for more information



(Download QR Code Reader Application, scan the QR code with your smart phone and you will be directed to the website.)

# LAKE RIDGE ACADEMY'S Golf for the Endowment

On Monday, June 6th, Lake Ridge Academy held its Third Annual Golf for the Endowment Event sponsored by Winfield Associates at The Westwood Country Club in Rocky River, Ohio. The weather was perfect for our 100 golfers who included 15 alumni. This is a significant fundraiser for Lake Ridge Academy, and we appreciate the support of all the participants. This year, golfers, sponsors and other donors provided more than \$25,000 for the school!



"Biff" Baker '86 demonstrates his stellar follow through.



Mike Plecha '11 reads the green for his father, Fred '79, while Uncle John '82 observes.



Left to Right

First Row: David O'Neill '01, Ken Moore '00, Pete Nintcheff '91, Gint Strautnieks '90, Brett Swasey '90, Seth Zaremba '90, and Dan Latham '90.

Second Row: Max Kilbane '00, Tom Dresing '83, Nick Nemetz '11, Mike Plecha, '11, Fred Plecha '79, John Plecha '82, Biff Baker '86, and Joe Raj '89.



# Career Day

Dan Latham '90, (UBS Investments), Sunita Palekar '99 (UNICEF/Humanitarian Relief), Grant Alexander '96 (GK's Detailing), parent Scott Russell (Metro Health Life Flight), and parent Dr. Natalie Drake (Obstetrics and Gynecology) (not pictured) participated.

During the afternoon on Friday, January 28, Upper School students enjoyed the return of Career Day, which featured a number of alumni speakers and current parents. After three sessions, the break-out groups convened in the main floor of The Bettcher Convocation Center for the final panel discussion led by Keon Gregory, Lake Ridge Academy's College Counselor. Mr. Gregory facilitated the discussion, which centered on individuals' college experience and the transition from college to their specific careers. Sunita Palekar '99 offered the following reflection about her experience.

*"I enjoyed participating in the Upper School Career Day for multiple reasons. I remember as a student wanting to hear from people about what they had done after Lake Ridge Academy — in university and beyond — and, by extension, what opportunities existed for me. As someone working in the "nontraditional" field*

*of humanitarian relief, I appreciated that the careers being presented to students were of a wide range.*

*I also really just enjoyed being back at Lake Ridge Academy. For me, it was my first visit in many years, and I appreciated having a chance to reconnect with the spirit and environment of the school as well as several teachers who I have known now for many years. As alumni, particularly as not-so-recent graduates anymore, I think we forget sometimes the impact that we can have on students and the impact that students and the school can have on us. While Lake Ridge Academy alumni are certainly all over the globe, myself included, and not always able to make it back for reunions or career days or college panels, I definitely think that when we are able to make that happen, we give something back to a school that was so important to building our own foundations for success."*

## UPCOMING DATES FOR THE 2011-12 SCHOOL YEAR

Fall Family Day/Homecoming – Saturday, September 17

Thanksgiving Games & Gathering – Friday, November 25

Career Day – Friday, January 27

Reunion – Friday, May 4 – Saturday, May 5

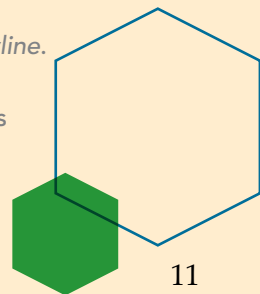
Graduation – Saturday, June 2

## Want to be more involved with Lake Ridge Academy Alumni? Interested in becoming a Class Agent?

The role of a Class Agents is to

- Organize communications between members of their class, Alumni Council and Lake Ridge Academy
- Encourage participation in Lake Ridge Academy programs & events
- Assist in gathering class notes for *The Byline*.

Contact Ken Moore in the Alumni Relations Office, [moorek@lakeridgeacademy.org](mailto:moorek@lakeridgeacademy.org), 440-327-1775 Ext 115.



# Alumni News



## Alumni Spotlight – Nikhil Palekar '01

On a recent trip home, Indira Palekar, mother of Nikhil '01, reminded her son of his childhood notebook filled with potential inventions and ideas. Today, Nikhil is fulfilling his dreams with inventions aimed at improving communications with his own company SUNTAGMA. Using your current email account, SUNTAGMA allows you to easily send and receive secure email.

Nikhil defines the entrepreneurial spirit. After graduating from Lake Ridge Academy, he focused on Computer Science and Information Security while also minoring in Entrepreneurship and Management at Johns Hopkins University. Summer internships at a law firm in Cleveland doing patent work piqued Nikhil's interest in pursuing a law degree at Duke University. During his time at Duke, Nikhil realized how reliant individuals and businesses are on outdated technology as it pertains to safely transmitting documents. With his knowledge of Information

Security and Patent Law, Nikhil began to piece SUNTAGMA together by drafting the patent application and drafting and negotiating contracts. His familiarity with the patent process, his knowledge about privacy, and his legal training all have been extremely valuable assets in this venture.

His diverse interests, shown through his educational background, took hold at Lake Ridge Academy during his 13 years as a student. "At Lake Ridge Academy, we took a good variety of classes that were worthwhile in different ways. We were exposed to so much [at Lake Ridge], so the foundation was laid for us to pursue careers in any direction." Such a foundation allowed Nikhil to explore and combine several disciplines to create SUNTAGMA.

SUNTAGMA's technology continues to be tested by various industries, primarily health care, as a key communication tool to keep practices organized and efficient. Nikhil understands the key role privacy plays in health care and has worked to make his technology responsive to patient expectations as well as HIPAA regulations. His system makes online communication confidential, secure, and easy. To find out more about SUNTAGMA, please visit <http://suntagma.com>.

## Former Faculty News

**Veronica (Ronnie) Riffle** left Lake Ridge Academy in 2005 headed to New Delhi, India where she taught at the American Embassy School for three years. She taught Chemistry and the IB Chemistry Program. India was such a vast country that in her three years she barely scratched the surface of discovery. She left in 2008 going to the International School of Prague but still teaches Chemistry and the IB Chemistry Program. She notes, "It's quite an interesting perspective to work with students who come from such varied cultures and backgrounds. My classes are so heterogeneous! It has definitely impacted my teaching style. I have to remember that many examples that I would have used from American pop culture to explain a concept may have no context to so many of my students, so it is a real learning experience." She absolutely

loves living in Europe and enjoys exploring all the interesting cities and cultures that are a short train ride away.

### 1986

**Valerie Dussich-Hall** stopped working in May 2010 to spend more time with her kids. Her oldest has recently been to Space Camp for a week with his class and now is in Australia for a couple weeks as a student ambassador. He's also getting his second-degree black belt in taekwondo, and was ranked third in the state for sparring. Hope all my LRA alums are safe where ever they are! Go Royals!

**1987** – 25th Reunion – May 2012, Class Agents **Maryam Ayad & Kelly Tooman**

**Virginia Barnett** works for Disney in Florida on a forty-five square mile stage teaching the Heritage and Traditions class to new hires and as part of the rapid cycle test team in the sales

and travel operations line of business. She has two daughters, Clara, age 9 and Ella, age 5 and husband Michael is the CEO of Tampa Jewish Family Services. She was excited to read about classmates Steven and Amy in a previous edition of *Applause* and was reminded how lucky she was to be part of such a great class!

**1990** – Class Agent **Dan Latham**

In April, **Dan Latham** participated in the Swim for Diabetes at the Westlake Recreation Center, swimming 10,300 yards or 206 laps in three hours. This summer he plans to swim in three different events: a 12-mile swim from Crystal Beach, Ontario to Sturgeon Point, New York; a 24-mile swim from Long Point, Ontario to Freeport Beach, Pennsylvania; and a 33-mile swim from Point Pelee, Ontario to Sandusky.

**Dr. Karine Suskin Sidski** and husband Leonard welcomed their newborn son Nathaniel into

their family in the beginning of June! Chloe, age 4 1/2, is very excited to have a younger brother.

**2000** – Class Agent Ken Moore

**Ryan Flannery**, after graduating from Lake Ridge Academy, went to Columbia University and majored in Chemical Engineering. After graduating in 2004, he worked for Newry Corp in Cleveland and New York doing innovation and technology strategy consulting. Ryan is currently at Georgetown University pursuing an MBA degree. This summer, he is working for Corning Inc. in the Strategic Growth organization evaluating R&D technologies for future commercial potential.

**2001** – Class Agents Julia Bilz Sertich and Lakshman Swamy

**Lakshman Swamy** announced his engagement to Charu Gupta. The happy couple currently resides in Columbus, OH and they're planning a wedding in the upcoming year.



**Michael Sertich** graduated from Cornell University's School of Hospitality Management on May 29. He and his wife **Julia Bilz Sertich** are headed back to central Florida this summer as Michael re-enters the workforce. Julia will continue to work from home as an enrollment counselor for Cornell

University's online programs.

**Anish Navavati** finished up his internal medicine residency this month and is going to be working as an Assistant Professor of Medicine at Georgetown University for the year. He is eagerly anticipating a hematology/oncology fellowship at Georgetown University that begins in July of 2012.

**Kari Sommer Halko** and husband Tommy welcomed Ethan Thomas Halko early in the morning on June 15. All are well and excited for the summer ahead.

**2002** – 10th Reunion – May 2012, Class Agent David Ader

**David Ader** left Microsoft where he focused on strategy for their online division (Bing, MSN, Microsoft Advertising) and is now working for the business side of AOL, helping to turn the organization around from a strategy and operations perspective. David now resides in New York City.

**Luna Droubi** graduated *cum laude* from New York Law School where she was the Editor in Chief from 2010-2011 and won the Professor Lung-Chu Chen Award for Excellence in the Field of Human Rights. Though she was accepted into an LLM Program in International Legal Studies at NYU, she delayed her attendance to work for a year at the Center for New York City Law.

**Catherine Walleck** is currently performing in the U.S./ Broadway Premiere of **WAR HORSE**



at Lincoln Center. A co-production with the National Theatre of London, this new all-American company opened at the Vivian Beaumont in mid-April, and was recently nominated for 5 Tony Awards, as well as winning Best Play in the Drama Desk, the Drama League, the Outer Critics, and Broadway.com Awards. For more information and tickets, check out LCT.org.

**2003** – Class Agent Megan Gardner

**Shaud Tavakoli** graduated from Harvard Law School in May and will be an Associate at

Skadden Arps in New York starting this October.

**2004** – Class Agents Jeff Ader and Brian Shimko

**Jeff Ader** finished his term of AmeriCorps service at the Outward Bound Atlanta organization in May and will be working at the J. Bulow Campbell Foundation this summer. In the fall, he will head back to school to pursue a master of public administration degree at Georgia State's Andrew Young School of Policy Studies. He sends, "Congratulations to the Class of 2011, I wish each of you all the best in your future endeavors!"

**Thommy Butcho** graduated from The Ohio State University Michael E. Moritz College of Law and lives on the north side of Columbus while preparing for the bar exam.

**Russell Smith** was married to Carla Bozzolo on May 29, 2011. The two celebrated their ceremony and reception in Chatham, MA on Cape Cod at Russell's great-grandparents' home. The couple resides in Washington DC, where Russell currently works as an RN in the Emergency Room at Georgetown University Hospital. Lake Ridge Academy Alumni in attendance were **Alexa Smith (Daaboul) '01**, **Keith Rathbone '04**, **Nico Gropper**, and former teachers Karen and Jim Doyle.



**2005**

**Rebecca Cleeton** received her Masters in Public Health at Emory University this May and is now working as a Clinical Research Coordinator at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor

*continued on next page*



# Alumni News



**2007** – 5th Reunion – May 2012, Class Agent Lee Howely  
**Sierra Grasso** is a Geography major specializing in Atmospheric Sciences and attends The Ohio State University. On May 5, 2011, she was one of two recipients of the Department of Geography's prestigious Charles Clifford Huntington Award for 2011. The Huntington Award is a

Sierra and the Department of Geography Professor and Chair Morton O'Kelly

Departmental recognition of scholarly achievement, professional development, and departmental service. This honor is given to the most outstanding undergraduate students in the Department. **Sierra** was selected by the Undergraduate Studies Committee for her excellence in the classroom and her service to the Department as president of the Meteorology Club.

**Andy Milluzi**, a Junior computer engineer and software engineer major at Rose-Hulman, has been turning heads with his work with LEGO. He is one of 50 LEGO MINDSTORMS Community Partners throughout the world, receiving accolades for many projects including a 12.5 foot-by 12.5 foot Monster Chess board (with LEGO robotic chess pieces) and primarily his replica of the NASA Enterprise space shuttle. He has taken his shuttle to numerous special events ranging from the FIRST Robotics World Championship to NASA's Langley Research Center in Virginia for a special party of Yuri Gagarin's 50th anniversary of the first human space flight.

**2009** – Class Agent Luke Howley  
**Ashley Reese** enjoys studying Journalism and Mass Communications at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. Years ago she started DanceXchange, a program that collects and donates dance clothes and equipment to dance students in need. Currently she is

applying for 501(c)(3) status and hopes to advance the non-profit through this transitional phase. She hopes to advertise DanceXchange to the level to fund a scholarship program for high school students with learning disabilities who are interested in majoring in the arts in college. Ashley as a Learning Ally award winner last year was able to spend time lobbying on behalf of the blind and learning disabled. She gained firsthand insight into the workings of our government by participating in roundtable discussions and meeting with various members of Congress.

**2010**  
**Amanda Seidel** completed her freshman year at Purdue University as a Chemical Engineering major earning Dean's List stature. Currently she is serving in a Summer Program in the EID Co-op/Intern Program at GE Aviation in Terre Haute, Indiana. GE Aviation is the world's leading producer of large and small jet engines for commercial and military aircraft.

## In Memoriam *Written by Sarah and Rebecca Cleeton '05*

**Joanne "Yanna" Voutsiotis '05** passed away in a tragic car accident on February 7, 2011, at the age of 23; a devastating loss to all who knew her.

At Lake Ridge Academy, Yanna stood out in the classroom and on the athletic fields. She was an outstanding student and a bright and serious contributor to every class. She was a top student in her graduating class and a member of the National Honor Society. Yanna excelled in Lake Ridge Academy sports where she was a fearless competitor on the volleyball, basketball, and softball teams and was honored in her senior year as the school's most outstanding female athlete. Yanna was also very dedicated to her Greek culture and



Sarah Cleeton, Yanna Voutsiotis, and Rebecca Cleeton

devoted a great deal of time to her cultural education and expression at her church.

Yanna attended Boston College where she graduated with degrees in biology and French. Driven by a passion to help others, Yanna conducted research for Joslin's Diabetes Center

before she went on to start Dental School at the University of Pittsburgh in the fall of 2010.

Always laughing, Yanna had a joyful spirit that always managed to brighten a room. Her energy and love of life was contagious to those around her. As a truly blessed and successful young woman, Yanna was happily living her dream.

Yanna touched the hearts of many and will be greatly missed. She is survived by her parents, George and Vivy, and sister, Alexia '07. Services were held in Rocky River, and memorial gifts can be made out to Lake Ridge Academy, 37501 Center Ridge Rd., North Ridgeville, OH 44039 in Yanna's name.

# Congratulations to the Class of



# 2011

## First Row

Janna Powell  
Sarah Grossi  
Jessica Wingar  
Hadden Klima  
Hannah Khaddam  
Charly Culberson  
Terra Soto  
Sara Bediako  
Viveka Hulyalkar  
Stephanie Vukotic

Hampshire College  
Butler University  
University of Miami, FL, Honors  
Northwestern University  
Ohio Wesleyan University  
Ithaca College  
University of Findlay, Pharmacy  
Xavier University  
Brown University  
Washington University, St. Louis

## Second Row

Zachary Krislov  
Melina Schiff  
Andrea Szabo  
Kourtnei Taylor  
Tahni Hresko  
Leah Bilski  
Emily Kurtz  
Alyssa Cook  
Erin Maldonado  
Nicholas Nemetz  
Matthew Nathal

Yale University  
Earlham College  
Boston University  
University of Evansville  
Purdue University, Honors  
Eckerd College, FL  
Wellesley College  
Carnegie Mellon University  
Capital University  
Chapman University  
Northwestern University

## Thrid Row

Samuel Freiberg  
Christopher Huebler  
Eddy Morgan  
Robert Mason  
Suneil Maddali  
Andrew Hyland  
Zhiyu Zhu  
Wei Wang  
Christopher Wade  
Samuel Spellman  
Robert Kirwin

University of Richmond  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
Baldwin-Wallace College  
University of Cincinnati  
Ohio State University  
DePaul University  
Purdue University  
Purdue University  
DePaul University  
Colorado College  
Wittenberg University

## Fourth Row

David Radulovich  
Spencer Scheeler  
Jaeyeon Lee  
Harry Persaud  
Matthew Wong  
Michael Plecha  
Justin Hassler

John Carroll University  
Ferris State University  
Massachusetts School of Pharmacy  
DePaul University  
Rochester Institute of Technology  
Northeastern University  
Kalamazoo College



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Ridge Academy here!

SAVE THE DATE  
THANKSGIVING GAMES • FRIDAY NOVEMBER 25 @ 2PM

WHATEVER YOUR NEWS, WE WANT TO HEAR IT



# I JUST...

- Ran for Office
- Got my dream job
- Took an exotic trip
- Got (another) degree
- Quit my day job
- Had a baby
- Enjoyed returning for reunion
- Got published
- Retired
- Got married
- Starred on YouTube
- Became a grandparent

Send us an email — we'll publish your news and/or photo in our Alumni News: [moorek@lakeridgeacademy.org](mailto:moorek@lakeridgeacademy.org)