

## What's New?

Thanks to all who contributed to this issue of Family Album Alumni News. Please keep the information coming. We also welcome your updates on the web at [www.communityschool.com](http://www.communityschool.com)! We love hearing from you and so do your classmates! Updates will be published in the next issue. Thank you.

### Alumni News

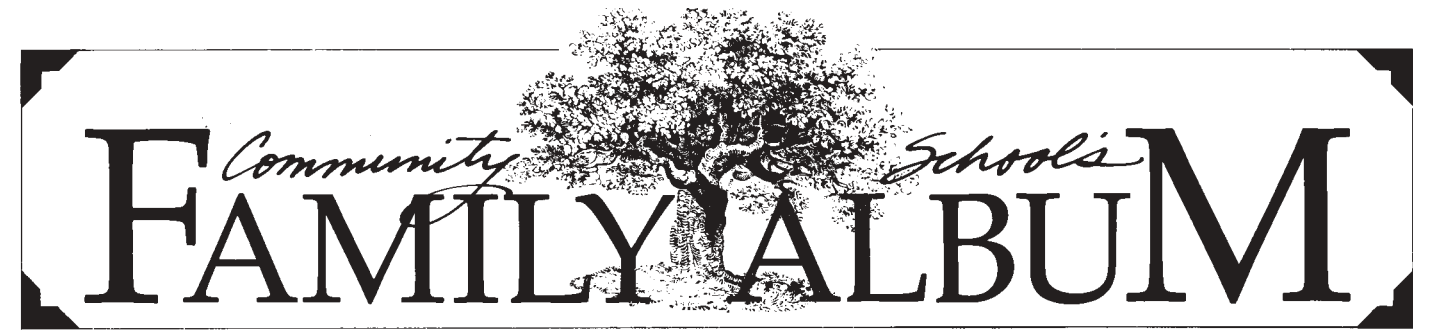
Name \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_  
First (Maiden) Last

Please let my classmates know that I...

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Parents: If your son or daughter is no longer living at your address, please notify us. Thank you.



Volume XV, Issue 1 The Newsletter for the Alumni of Community School Spring 2003

### *Community School Is...*

*Community School is a place for new experiences...*

*Field trips to Grant's Farm, the Wonderbread Bakery, the Chevy Plant, and Shaw's Garden, showed us a variety of career possibilities.*

*Outings to the Art Museum, Planetarium and Zoo expanded our minds. Going to Cahokia Mounds, and doing gravestone rubbings, magnified our Lessons in history.*

*Our physical endurance, quick thinking, and creativity were tested through Camping trips, and rock climbing excursions.*

*Community School is arts and entertainment in education...*

*Musicals, plays, the sixth grade reviews, and Thursday assemblies, all Played a part in the culmination of finding out what we are capable of. And who we are on the inside.*

*Community School is on campus education...*

*Having horses, burros, and other visiting animals, exposed us*

*To taking care of livestock, and different kinds of love.*

*Nature walks introduced us to the flora and fauna that was there*

*To discover in our own backyard.*

*Community School is lessons in finance and sales...*

*Bake sales, flower sales, Eckert's apples, the lemonade stand, and*

*Yearly book fairs all contributed to our knowledge of money.*

*Community School is a place we cherish...*

*It's a place to reminisce of.*

*A place we long to visit, and*

*A place we strive to send our children.*

*Community School is a place of learning...*

*Where teachers know the meaning of teaching.*

*Not just facts from a book, or words on a chalkboard.*

*But lessons in teamwork, family, friendship, and love.*

*by Dana Washington, Class of 1978*

## “The State of Community School”

*By Sheillah Rogers*



It is a privilege to review the accomplishments, and challenges of the school year. Having the opportunity to reflect on the school year is helpful to me, and I trust important to you.

The mission and philosophy of the School are its touchstones. They are printed and placed prominently in each classroom. Referring to them frequently ensures that they are understood and practiced.

Prospective families are attracted to the School because of the warm caring environment, the commitment to an excellent education and the outstanding teachers. Having recently completed the admission process, we are looking forward to welcoming 21 new families into the life of the School with an enrollment of 339. Sixteen per cent of the children are students of color. Our 34 graduates will attend eight different secondary schools.

How the constituents work together make up the School climate. Recognizing these important relationships, the School established a Parent Partnership Committee of the Board of Trustees. The bond between home and School has been strengthened by parents signing the Parent/Partnership Agreement, teachers attending parent education classes with parents, teachers attending workshops to improve conference skills, and increased communication.

Community School teachers are bright, creative, and hard working. They are committed to children, and are outstanding role models. They understand their jobs and do them effectively. I marvel at their dedication and willingness to go the extra mile if it means that the children will benefit.

Providing a developmentally appropriate education for the children is the School’s greatest challenge. It takes everyone to make it happen. This year we have:

- Increased opportunities for teachers across grade levels to meet together.
- Brought conference leaders into the School to benefit the full faculty.
- Continued to review and revise our curriculum. (This year it has been Language Arts and Health and Education.)
- Purchased an interactive Smart Board for use in the upper division.
- Devoted the weekly faculty meetings and in-service days to technology.

Focusing on one area of School life over the last two years has resulted in larger gains both in teacher understanding and student growth. We now have an inventory of all of our computers and equipment. We have a replacement schedule including costs.

We have provided teacher training and have identified the equipment that each teacher needs and will use. A scope and sequence of what should be taught at each grade level has been developed. I am convinced we have arrived at a good place as I receive requests for funds to purchase equipment.

The Learning Center has become a popular spot for children. They recognize the value in having a quiet place in which to improve their skills in reading, writing and test taking. Long after students no longer need the service, they see the value in spending time in the Center.

*Cont’d on page 6*

## Where In The World Is The Class of 1996?

*Community School’s Class of 1996 headed off to college this year. Seven years ago these students lived and learned together each day, and now they are scattered across the globe from England to Arizona. While we cannot take all the credit for these fine students and what they are up to today, Community School, without a doubt, provided a fine foundation for the pursuit of lifelong learning. We wish them well.*



### *Here is where members from the class of 1996 are studying today:*

Ross Ackerman <i>Truman State University</i>	Pete LaPierre <i>Harvard University</i>	Jeffrey Morrison <i>New School Univ, NY</i>
Anita Devineni <i>Stanford University</i>	Drew Lause <i>University of Kansas</i>	Dane Muckler <i>Occidental College</i>
Charlie Felker <i>US Military Academy at Westpoint</i>	Allison Laycob <i>Cornell University</i>	Suman Ravuri <i>Columbi a University</i>
Elisabeth Fulling <i>Middlebury College</i>	Eric Leander <i>Regis University</i>	Tommy Schnuck <i>Cornell University</i>
Jocelyn Gall <i>Skidmore College</i>	Paul Lux <i>Tulane</i>	Natasha Schvey <i>Northwestern University</i>
Kristin Garrett <i>University of Virginia</i>	Janie Mackey <i>Middlebury College</i>	Claire Shapleigh <i>Carleton College</i>
Jeffrey Goldstein <i>University of Arizona</i>	Adrian McDaniel <i>Morehouse College</i>	Katie Watt <i>Northwestern University</i>
Kristen Grant <i>Dartmouth College</i>	Chryssi Mikus <i>Tulane</i>	Triona Winter <i>Bristol Univ, England</i>
	Caitlin Morgan <i>Boston Univeristy</i>	

# Marie Witscher: Teacher, Mother, Friend

by Dana Washington

Marie Witscher is a creative teacher and a warm-hearted person. She began her teaching career during WWII in Norfolk, VA with only two years of college experience. She taught at a catholic school for five years and then came to our home, Community School. Mrs. Witscher molded minds of 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 1<sup>st</sup> graders for thirty-two years until her retirement in 1992.

During a recent conversation, I asked if she missed teaching. Her response, "Yes, I miss being around the children." She misses being a part of the lives of the "bright-eyed kids." She felt that it was always hard to say goodbye at the end of each school year because they had become a part of her life. Crying at graduation became the natural order of things because Mrs. Witscher got such a feeling of fulfillment seeing kids from beginning to end. "Teaching is the most rewarding experience because you see the kids getting better. It just makes you feel great!"

These days Mrs. Witscher is enjoying her retirement. She may not have classes full of children, but she has two daughters with five grandchildren between them to keep her busy. Sometimes they call to ask for help with math homework. In addition, she stays active by keeping in touch and meeting with other retired teachers. When she slows down, she finds time to read a novel and work her crossword puzzles.



## Class of 1996 News

**Ross Ackerman** is at Truman State University and majoring in Business.

**Charlie Felker** completed Cadet Basic Training at Westpoint and is playing varsity football.

**Kristin Garrett** is in the UVA Nursing School and is involved in the Nursing Students without Borders program through which she has traveled to Russia.

**Eric Leander** is studying business and chemistry at Regis University in Colorado. He skis usually twice or three times a week and remembers lots of fun times at Community School.

**Janie Mackey** is enjoying field hockey and lacrosse. She particularly enjoys her art history courses - freshman seminar on Michelangelo. She writes that it has been a great winter for skiing and she will spend the summer in Aspen.

**Jeffrey Morrison** is studying to be a professional jazz guitarist in the internationally known Jazz Studies program at New School University in New York City.

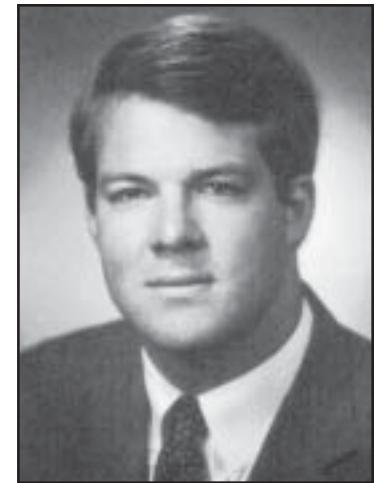
**Tommy Schnuck** is in the undergraduate business program at Cornell University. He spent a busy fall with football and pledged Sigma Chi Fraternity and is enjoying many new friendships.

**Katie Watt** is a member of the women's Lacrosse team and pledged Pi Beta Phi Sorority.

**Triona Winter** is in Bristol, England, studying psychology as a major and enjoying her other classes in French and Ethics.

# From Our Leadership

By David F. Schmid '76



Dear Alumni:

It has been six years since I first joined the Alumni Board of Community School, and I have to say it has been a very enjoyable ride. Working with the wonderful alumni, parents, teachers, and administrators, all of whom exemplify the Community School spirit, has been especially gratifying. I don't know of any other grade school that can boast as many dedicated alumni and school supporters as Community School. It is truly a remarkable place.

Special thanks go to Susan Hunkins who is the heart of the alumni organization. "Never ending enthusiasm and support" is how I would describe Susan's efforts. Nothing would get done without her help. We are very lucky to have her as our Head of Development. I would also like to thank Sheillah Rogers for her leadership of the School and for her support of the Alumni Board. Running a school like Community is a tough but wonderful job, and Sheillah is excellent at all aspects.

This is my last letter as the President of the Alumni Board. I would like to thank all of you for your encouragement and donations of time, effort, and money over the past six years. Keep it coming! The board has elected, and I would like to formally introduce, John Lemkemeier '79 as the new Alumni Board President. John brings a solid background of business, family, and knowledge of Community to the position. He and his wife Mary currently have two children at Community School. Jimmy is in Senior Kindergarten and Sally is in Second Grade. John and Mary are both involved parents at the School. Good luck, John, and thanks for accepting the position.

Finally, I would like to thank those members of the Alumni Board who turn out during the school year for our monthly meetings. We all have other priorities in our lives, but your dedication has been remarkable.

Sincerely,  
David F. Schmid  
Class of 1976

## Community School Alumni Board Executive Committee 2002-2003

*President*  
David Schmid '76  
*Vice President*  
Dana Washington '78  
*Secretary*  
Beth Danforth Sankey '74  
*Treasurer*  
Alice Lowenhaupt  
Montgomery '62

## Board Members 2002-2003

Andy Cornwell '74  
Jennifer Davis '82  
Julia Woods Dempsey '76  
Eugene Harris '76  
Tom Helmkamp '76  
David Jones '71  
Rodney Krause '75  
John Lemkemeier '79  
Susie Wolff Loomis '72  
Carrie McDonald Martin '78  
Harriet Cella Marshall '82  
Mary Jones Otto '72  
Peter Perkins '82  
Susie Berger Philpott '47  
Maureen McGarity  
Sheehan '80  
Rich Sterkel '74

We would like to  
welcome our new  
members for 2003 Board

Rebecca Desloge Engman  
'86  
Scott McNett '73  
Kennett Potter '78

*On the cover...*  
During poetry month in April, Dana Washington read her poem to the children during lunch assembly. Dana served on the Alumni Board from 1997-2003.

## The Buder Family

### World's Fair Play Holds Special Significance

By Beatrice Buder Clemens '73

The Buder Gymnasium came to life on April 2, 2003 as the Third graders celebrated their reenactment of the 1904 World's Fair, complete with glittering lights and a display of Community School's collection of St. Louis World's Fair memorabilia. For Anna Buder Clemens, third grade student, the night was very special. She wore her great-grandmother's dress and spats from that very time. Eugenia Hauck was born in St. Louis in 1890, and attended the "fair" the summer she turned fourteen years old. Ten years later, she married Oscar E. Buder. Together, they began a family and became involved in the early years of Community School, which all three of their children attended. Anna's grandfather, Eugene Hauck Buder, was one of these children and graduated from Community in 1928.

Years later, Eugene's own four children attended Community School, and his wife, Jutta, served on the Board of Trustees. During her tenure, Community School determined that the School

needed a gymnasium, and Eugenia jumped at the opportunity to honor her husband's memory by funding the project. Oscar had always loved Community School and had been a life-long promoter of physical fitness, making the gift especially appropriate. In the early 1980's Anna's aunt, Annette Buder Sanburn, class of 1970, joined the Community School faculty and used the Buder Gymnasium with her first grade students.

When Anna's brother, Nicholas Buder Clemens, entered Community School in 1992, another of Eugenia and Oscar's great-grandsons, Daniel Burke, was starting his graduating year.

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar E. Buder would have been thrilled to know that so many children would benefit from their gift. However, little would have pleased them more than the scene of their great-granddaughter waltzing in the Buder Gym in 2003 wearing Eugenia's own dress.



*Anna Buder Clemens '06 is a perfect fit in the actual dress, gloves and spats her great grandmother wore as a fourteen year old visitor to the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair.*

## Hats Off to Ned & Sally Lemkemeier

By Julie Bearman

What began thirty years ago as a decision to send their children to a private elementary school has evolved today into a life long commitment to Community School. The partnership of Sally and Ned Lemkemeier and their involvement in the life of Community School has benefited all of us. In the early 1970's, friends of the Lemkemeiers' told them about Community School and urged them to look at the School for their son John '79. Once committed to the idea of a private school, Ned and Sally felt that Community School was the right place for their family. A few years later, son David '82 started at Community School in the Nursery class.

Sally and Ned were immediately involved in the many activities offered to parents. The Parent Education classes, similar to those offered today, were very supportive to parents. To this day, Ned remembers one particular speaker that made a strong impression on him. "He was from the University of Colorado, and he spoke about how the personalities of adults are molded by the experiences of childhood. Our children thrived under the Community School experience. It was a great value to us knowing that our children liked school." Ned also recalls the Annual Meeting being a very well attended event. "We were a close parent body in support of the kids and the School."

Community School was fortunate to have Ned in the leadership position as Board President from 1976 to 1979. The Board then faced many of the same issues that it faces today. "We worked on fundraising ideas like annual giving and the endowment fund, and there was always the discussion of air conditioning. It was my pleasure and privilege to serve on the

Board. There was great faculty support and I made many friendships. The group worked well."

Today Sally and Ned are defining new roles as Grandparents of children at Community School. They are happy to watch as Sally 2N and Jimmy SKE enjoy the learning process. The Lemkemeiers attend assembly when their grandchildren participate and feel fortunate to not only live in the same city as their grandchildren, but feel welcome in their school. "The Holiday Program is great. It is wonderful to come together as parents and grandparents to share the experience with the children."



The families of Community School are once again fortunate to have Ned serving on the Board, this time with the perspective of a Grandparent. "It is very interesting to watch parents of today deal with many of the same issues as we did thirty years ago." When asked about the future of Community School, the Lemkemeiers felt

that it was important for the School to maintain the same culture using new tools. "The School will need to adapt to changes in time, while keeping the same nurturing environment required to give young children a strong start in education. It is essential to confront challenges and opportunities without losing the mission or spirit of the School."

As Ned and Sally Lemkemeier have seen their relationship to Community evolve, at one time as active parents volunteering where needed, then former parents, then Life Members, and now as Grandparents again actively volunteering where needed, one thing has remained constant for them – their unwavering support of Community School and their devotion to every child who passes through its doors.

## Alumni Notes and News

We invite all of our graduates to come back to Community whenever you are in town to see how things have changed since you've been gone and how many things have remained just the same! Stop in for some Macaroni and Cheese with Bacon for lunch, and say hello to your former teachers. Mr. Hoots, Mr. Van Der Tuin, Ms. Bugnitz, Mrs. Lemen, Mrs. Tisdale, Mrs. Wisland, Mr. Culver, Ms. Hoessle, Ms. Overcash, even the Smith family in the kitchen, Mrs. Eppler and Mrs. Finkes in the offices, all love to welcome our graduates back for an update. Please let us know what you are doing...

**Gardiner Bridge '32** wrote, "In my time--70 years ago-- if you hit the ball on the roof of the School (a "roofer" and a homerun) you were given an extra chocolate pudding dessert. I got a few of those. Truman Fowler '32 hit the ball farther than I did, but he was left handed and his homers seldom hit the roof."

**Lucy Caselton '40** came to St. Louis with her son last summer and stopped to visit Community School. It had been decades since she had seen the School. Her family lived on Black Creek Lane when there were only 3 other houses surrounded by farms. Her son wrote to say, "Thanks for showing us a great time! Many times I've asked my mother to come visit but she would always say no. But I persuaded her this time and it was the visit to Community School that she loved the most. She read the two Community School history books within three days after we returned home! I'll be back again, and I hope my mother will too." Signed, Mike McNichols.

**Waite Thompson '52** also visited this past year. He wrote that he enjoyed the "walk around" and while the ongoing building development was interesting, the "old" parts of the building brought back fond memories.

**Jennifer Jones '94** was named to the Dean's list for academic achievement at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts.

*Cont'd on page 8*



*Waite Thompson '52 toured the School and met some "new" friends during a recent visit.*



*Lucy Caselton '40 visited the School with her son last summer.*



*Dana Washington '78 visited with Sheillah Rogers after lunch with students.*

## "Acorns to Oaks" Alumni Reunion

*By Mary Jones Otto '72*

The "Acorns to Oaks" alumni reunion was held on the evening of Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup> in the Community Center at Community School. Approximately 75 alumni from the decades of the sixties, seventies and eighties attended along with some of our longtime faculty and retired faculty guests as well. The hosts for the evening were the current Alumni Board president, David Schmid '76 the social committee chair, Jennifer Davis '82 and all of the members of the alumni board. Everyone enjoyed the evening's festivities that included hors d'oeuvres, cocktails, piano by Joe Dreyer '67,



*(Back) D.J. Diemer, Nancy Schnuck Diemer '77 (Front) Jen Gosnell '79, Yvonne Allen former faculty, Tony Cusumano, Marie Witscher former faculty.*

even though it meant missing P.E. a few times. What persistence and dedication! Steve Culver mentioned that his uncle was in one of the first classes at Community School, as was my mother. It was amazing how a strong family connection to Community School can last from generation to generation.



*Dana Washington '78 (left), and Judi Fagen Coleman '70*

archives display with photos and scrapbooks, and a special party favor bag of chocolates fashioned in the shape of C.S. acorns!

What impressed me most about the Alumni Reunion was the genuine excitement the alumni and their former teachers felt in seeing each other, and the enthusiasm they shared as they retold stories of their years at Community. One could feel the dedication of commitment that these teachers had to Community and to their lives as teachers. Mrs. Witscher now enjoys helping her grandchildren in Math. She told us that as a teacher, she worked with all the children until they got it right



*(left to right) Becca Lowenhaupt '89, Steve Culver current faculty, Natasha White '89, Bette Nuzum former faculty*

# “The State of Community School”

*Cont'd from page 2...*

Assisting parents in the secondary school placement of their children is an important service we provide. The parents receive information about the secondary schools beginning in fourth grade. At the end of fifth grade, the teachers and parents meet with administrators to discuss the child's academic progress and secondary school choices. Early in the sixth grade year, the parents gather to review the process for application and hear past parents highlight the uniqueness of the schools their children are attending. Our placement record is impressive.

The buildings and grounds continue to be an attractive feature of the School. Bill Bauer, Maintenance Supervisor, takes special pride in keeping our grounds well groomed and the buildings functional. This summer all of the homeroom classrooms will be air- conditioned.

The following challenges have been identified for future action:

- To broaden our after-school program to meet the needs of a wider range of ages and interests.
- To find effective ways to integrate new families into the life of the School so that they will become full participants.
- To fund the technology needs.
- To build on the common ground that teachers and parents share to ensure we have realistic and fair goals for our students.
- To build the endowment.

A Strategic Plan has been completed which addresses these challenges. It will be presented to the Board for approval before the year ends.

Community is fortunate to have bright, eager students from families who value education. A strong partnership between home and School insures that our students receive the maximum benefit from the School. This partnership is described beautifully in the following poem;

### WHOSE CHILD

“Whose child is this?” I asked one day seeing a little one out at play.  
 “Mine,” said a parent with a tender smile. “Mine to keep a little while –  
 To bathe his hand and comb his hair. To tell him what he is to wear;  
 To prepare for him his daily food. To take time to train him to be good.”

“Whose child is this?” I asked again, as the door opened and someone came in.  
 “Mine,” said the teacher with the same tender smile. “Mine to keep a little while.  
 To teach him how to be gentle and kind; To train him and direct his receptive mind; To help him to live by the  
 Golden Rule and get the best he can from school.”

“Whose child is this?” I asked once more, just as the little one entered the door.  
 “Ours,” said the parent and the teacher as they smiled. “Ours to love and train together. Ours this blessed  
 task forever.”

I thank you for the privilege of partnering with each of you to provide the best education possible for the children entrusted to our care.

# Alumni Reunion Photo Album



## ***Please Remember Community School In Your Estate Planning!***

The Oak Tree Society recognizes planned gifts valued at \$15,000 and greater which are earmarked through bequest or deferred giving for Community School.

\_\_\_\_ Please send me information about Estate Plans I might make on behalf of the School.

\_\_\_\_ I have already made provisions in the form of a \_\_\_\_\_.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Either Sheillah Rogers, Head of School, or Susan Hunkins, Director of Development, will be happy to discuss planned giving opportunities at Community School. Please call anytime (314)991-0005.

All inquiries are strictly confidential.