Senior Project

A Culminating Project in Reading, Writing, and Researching
May

1 Art With A Twist Opening Reception, featuring the work of more than 50 local artists, Logan Gallery, 6:30 p.m. (show will remain on display until June 2)

8 & 9 Field Day: Red & White Festival

11 Spring Arts Performance, Choral Music, Fishburn Auditorium, 7 p.m.

13 Board of Trustees Meeting, Choral Music, Hancock Library, 4 p.m.

18 Upper School Academic Awards, Fishburn Auditorium

19 Spring Arts Performance, Band and Instrumental Music, Lemon Dining Hall

20 Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast, Hancock Library, 8:15 a.m.

21 Spring Athletic Awards, CAC, 8:30 a.m.

29 Lower School Academic Awards, Fishburn Auditorium, 8:30 a.m.

Last Day of School, (JK-5)

June

1 Commencement, CAC, 11 a.m.

Last Day of School, (9-12)

2 Middle School Academic Awards, Fishburn Auditorium, 9 a.m.

Last Day of School, (6-8)
C O N T E N T S

4 Headmaster’s Message
5 News Tidbits
6 Raider Happenings
9 Athletics

12 Senior Project
A Culminating Project in Reading, Writing, and Researching

18 Admission News
2009 – 10 Incoming Class Poised To Be Largest Yet

19 Focus on Faculty
Heather Lawrence Named Recipient of the North Cross School Award for Excellence in Teaching

20 Development News
Volunteer Extraordinaire: Suzy Farhat

21 Alumni News
Message from Alumni Association President Eunice Park Austin ’91
Charlottesville and D.C. Metro Area Alumni Gatherings
Class Notes
Before arriving at North Cross School in the fall of 2001, I had never been at a school that had a program quite like the Senior Project, designed to ensure students had experience writing a significant, thesis-based research paper and delivering a prepared, formal speech. These are skills I did not acquire until much later. I certainly did not until graduating from college deliver an address to a large group on a topic I had researched intensively. Our students graduate having had a writing experience quite similar to what they will be asked to do in college and even in graduate school: research a topic over a significant period of time, work with an advisor to make sense of and order their research, and write a paper defending their thesis, using all the formal requirements of scholarship (multiple sources documented using discipline-specific format) and publicly defending that thesis; subsequently, many college writing assignments will be not without precedent for them.

The most important aspect of the senior project is not that our students have learned how to conduct formal research but rather they have had the experience of pursuing a topic of great interest in depth, following the meandering path that true discovery and scholarship always take. For nearly all of them, this experience, while challenging, and, at times even intimidating, is also invigorating and exciting. The best papers explore and clearly articulate the nuances and subtleties of a topic. I believe we were created to learn and so instances of genuine learning are always pleasurable. When they deliver their speeches, our seniors are more expert in their topic than anyone else in the room; that in itself is an exhilarating experience, quite apart from the preparation gained in the process.

Because the project is so important, a graduation requirement, it is essential the upper school faculty prepare our students well, and over the past three or four years we have done work to fine tune the process for selecting a topic, working with an advisor (it’s best to have one familiar with your topic, as with a collegiate thesis), revising the paper, and then delivering the speech. This work has resulted in speeches of consistently high quality.

Also in this edition of All Points are articles about the reading and writing students at North Cross School are required to do, of which the senior project is but the most public. While I intuitively knew, both as a student and as a teacher, that students who did the most reading were the best writers and thinkers, in the past four years I have learned why. Reading and writing require an integrated and coordinated synthesis of nearly every cognitive function: short and long term memory, spatial and temporal ordering, abstract and creative thinking, verbal and language skills, concept formation, even fine motor coordination. There is nothing a brain needs to do that is not called into action when reading or writing. It is a total workout for the brain. At North Cross School we are committed to providing our students with that mental workout as often as possible, so they will be in shape to meet whatever school, college, or life presents.

I hope you enjoy this edition. Read on!

Sincerely,

Timothy J. Seeley
Headmaster

"At North Cross School we are committed to providing our students with that mental workout as often as possible, so they will be in shape to meet whatever school, college, or life presents."
North Cross School Recognized As “The Best Place to Educate Your Kid 2008” by Valley Business Front

North Cross School has been recognized as “The Best Place to Educate Your Kid 2008” in the December issue of Valley Business Front. The issue is available online at www.vbfront.com/VBFront_Dec08.

The distinction was made by the magazine’s editor and Editorial Advisory Board and relied on graduation and college attendance rates, among many other things.

“Just look at what the graduates are doing, how many finish college (all of them at least attend) and their contributions to business and their great communities,” said Editor Dan Smith in the magazine.

“We are deeply honored to receive this award. I have said since coming here eight years ago that there was something very special about North Cross School. Schools exist to enable students to discover and fulfill their possibilities, and it is gratifying to be recognized once again as a place where students thrive while they are here and where they gain the skills to be successful after they graduate,” said Headmaster Timothy J. Seeley.

This is the second time in as many years that NCS has been recognized as the premiere school in the area. The School was previously recognized in the July/August 2006 issue of The Roanoker as the number-one ‘full-service’ high school in the Valley. To read more about the accomplishments of NCS and its students, visit www.northcross.org/newsroom.

Willy Wonka, Jr. A Smashing Success!

Performed before a full house two nights in a row, this year’s spring musical performance of Willy Wonka, Junior was a smashing success. More than 50 students and dozens of parents took part in the show which was performed at 7 p.m. on April 17 and 18. A 9 a.m. show was added on April 17 for lower school students. The show was directed by Choral Director Erin Odell and Upper School English/Drama Teacher Gates DeHart. Kudos to the students, parents, and faculty involved in the show!

Words and music By Leslie Bricusse and Anthony Newley.
Adapted for the Stage By Leslie Bricusse and Timothy A. McDonald.
Based on the book Charlie and the Chocolate Factory by Roald Dahl.
Lower School News

Lower school students spent the day in their pajamas on Jan. 16. The students were rewarded with a “PJ Day” for reducing their electrical consumption in December 2008 by 13 percent. The middle and upper school each reduced their energy consumption in December 2008 by seven percent. The efforts to reduce energy are part of a campus-wide “Go Green” initiative in which Headmaster Timothy J. Seeley has issued a challenge to all faculty, staff, and students to reduce annual electrical and gas consumption by 10 percent.

Forty fifth graders performed two historical plays in the Cartledge Multi-purpose Room on Feb. 2. The plays on ancient Egypt are the second set in a series of historical plays that span the entire school year. The plays coincided with the ancient periods the students are covering in Linda Wright and Victor Lamas’ fifth grade classes. The series began with plays about ancient Mesopotamia and concluded with plays on Rome. The two plays were “Planning a Pyramid” and “Hat-shepsut and Thutmose III.”

The fifth annual Moms’ Luncheon was held on Feb. 6 in the Cartledge Multi-purpose Room. The event is held annually by the kindergarten classes in honor of mothers and grandmothers. Student-made artwork, consisting of hand-drawn portraits of the mothers, beaded necklaces and bracelets, and a picture and statement of why each mom is special were on display in the hallway outside of the multi-purpose room. Chicken casserole, fruit, and dessert were available for the mothers, and chicken fingers, fruit, and cookies were available for the students. This year, 39 mothers attended the event. Two grandmothers, one from Iran and one from India, also attended the luncheon.

On Feb. 12, 60 third and fourth grade students visited the Capitol in Richmond. William Fralin, father of fourth grader Laney Fralin and a Virginia state delegate, gave the group a tour of the Capitol. The students were introduced on the floor of the General Assembly at the start of the session and had the opportunity to tour the Governor’s mansion before they headed back to Roanoke. The trip reinforced the lessons the students are learning in the classroom. Third graders are studying Virginia history and fourth graders are studying United States history. Teachers Donna Horak, Meade Martin, Wanda Clower, Mary Semler, Wendy Lawrence, and Eric Lawrence chaperoned the trip.

Each year the fourth grade studies the classification of vertebrate animals. After this unit, students research a fish of their choice. Once the students have researched their fish, they are taught how to use PowerPoint software and to create a presentation for their parents. This year, 33 fourth graders gave presentations on February 27 in the Lower School Computer Lab. Following the speeches, a reception was held for students and parents. The research and presentations were guided by fourth grade teachers Mary Semler and Wendy Lawrence.

Students celebrate a reduction in electrical consumption with a PJ day.

RaiderHappenings

Middle School News

Eighth graders in Susanna Quinn's art classes have been hard at work this year painting ceiling tiles now on display in the Hancock Library. Some of the tiles include images from Matisse's Goldfish, Cowboy, and The Snail, Van Gogh's Van Gogh's Bedroom and Warhol's Mickey Mouse.

Upper School News

Despite the rainy weather, 10 students spent the day planting rhododendron at Green Hill Park in Salem on Dec. 11. The students, who are in Upper School History Teacher Richard Cook's advisory group, labored away all day – taking breaks only when the rain was coming down so hard that they had to. The day was one of three Community Service Days that all middle and upper school students participate in each year. For more information about the School's Community Service program, visit www.northcross.org/communityservice.

On Jan. 6, five of the School's Class of 2007 returned to campus to talk with this year’s seniors about college life. Some of

continued on page 8

Former MTV Real World Cast Member
Mohammed Bilal Kicks Off Symposium 2009

Writer, musician/poet, and former MTV's The Real World cast member Mohammed Bilal kicked off the School’s annual Symposium on Feb. 5 in Fishburn Auditorium.

This all-day event is designed to expose upper school and eighth grade students to a variety of speakers and group workshops, and directed by local professionals who demonstrate a diverse group of life experiences and careers.

Since his days on MTV's The Real World, Bilal has traveled to businesses and schools giving presentations on issues related to diversity. Bilal has an MA in Diversity Studies, which he uses to educate people about diversity, AIDS and HIV prevention, drug and alcohol abuse, and responsibility.

Bilal performed his “12 Steps to Appreciating Diversity” at this year’s Symposium. The interactive presentation was infused with hip-hop and spoken word. He spoke to students about his experiences growing up in DC and Delaware and challenged them to discover who they are by learning more about their genealogy. He also encouraged students to look to the commonalities they share with others rather than first considering the differences that often begin with skin color.

The auditorium, full of students and faculty, laughed often during Bilal’s presentation and especially enjoyed learning about the importance of music in his life. Even before the audience finished their standing ovation, more than a dozen students had lined up to greet Bilal and shake his hand.

In appreciation of his visit to campus, students presented him with a 2009 Symposium t-shirt and gave $177 to the Elizabeth Glaser Pediatric AIDS Foundation in his name. After Bilal's presentation, students attended workshops and seminars led by more than 30 members of the community on a variety of topics. Symposium 2009 was coordinated by Upper School Teachers Jennifer Landry and Natalie Davies.

Students take a break during an upper school Community Service Day.

Bilal talks with students after his presentation.

Caitlyn Hickey '11 (left) and Marli Dabareiner '10 (right) present a check to Mohammed Bilal.
the subjects discussed are dorm and social life; getting along with a roommate; the kinds of adjustments students face when coming from a small high school; academic preparedness. Julie Aavatsmark, director of college counseling, moderated the discussion. The 2009 sophomore participants were Leah Copplestone '07, Lauren Luckay '07, Danielle Lacy '07, Joe Revercomb '07 and Wes Revercomb '07. The event was held in the Hancock Library.

On Feb 21, several students were awarded for their hard work on their science projects during the School's third annual Science & Engineering Fair. Lauren Oddo '11 won the first place award for her project, “The cross-race effect.” Christopher Moore '11 won second place for his project, “Hand sanitizer and the selection of resistant bacteria.” David Quinn '11 took home the third place award for his project, “The effect of spin on a soccer ball.” Elizabeth Stoeckle '11 won the honorable mention award for her project, “The viscosity of fudge.” Twenty-five upper school students competed in the fair, which was coordinated by Upper School Science Teacher and Department Chair Dr. Anthony Curtis.

On Feb. 19, for five upper school students in Liz Holt's second period World War II class, history truly did come to life when they had the opportunity to talk with former WWII fighter pilot Walter Robert Eason. All five upper school students in the class sat attentively while Eason talked with them about his experience flying wartime combat missions. He spoke of love and life, and lessons learned growing up in the 20's and 30's and of his decision to enter the military. Eason fought in World War II, entering the service in 1941, and earning his pilot's wings in 1942. Eason's grandchildren, Sarah Boxley Beck '98 and Jack Parrott attended North Cross School, and he is good friends with Holt, who is also the Lower School Director. His son-in-law, John Parrott, is a member of the School's Board of Trustees.

Much like the team on CSI, students enrolled in North Cross School's newest course have made casts of shoe impressions, analyzed fingerprints, and determined sex/age from fake bones. These lessons are some of the many students are learning this year in Jennifer Landry's new Forensic Science course. In a typical trimester, students enrolled in the class learn about DNA, toxicology, firearms, and evidence collection. Students participate in several different hands-on activities in their labs that coincide with the course concepts. Some of the activities include making casts of shoe impressions, studying fingerprints, and DNA analysis. This year is the first time the year-long class has been offered and only juniors and seniors are eligible to register. To enroll, students must have taken chemistry and biology.

Head football coach Lee Johnson presented the state championship football banner to Headmaster Timothy J. Seeley on Feb. 3 in a ceremony honoring the varsity football team. The Raiders won the 2008 state title in a game against Blessed Sacrament-Huguenot Catholic School. They finished the season 11-1.

Patrick DelBuono '09, son of Ernest and Mary DelBuono, was nominated by Congressman Bob Goodlatte to the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis.
Spring Sports Season off to Good Start

Despite the rainy weather that brought in April, the spring sports season is off to a great start this year, with several new coaches joining a group of seasoned coaches. All of the School’s teams are expected to do well this season. Athletic Director Donna Satterwhite invites community members to come out to watch any of the upcoming games and support the students and coaches.

Varsity Boys’ Tennis
Physical Education Teacher Art Thompson has replaced Athletic Director Donna Satterwhite as the varsity boys’ tennis team coach.

Varsity Girls’ Soccer
Middle School Science Teacher JB Brown is now coaching varsity girls’ soccer. Former coach Gaylyn Moore retired last year.

Middle School Girls’ Soccer
Second Grade Teacher Blair Trail has taken over the middle school girls’ soccer team, which was previously coached by JB Brown.

Middle School Baseball
Boosters’ President Greg Gerhart is coaching middle school baseball. He is the parent of Jayson Lamanca ’13 and Ashtyn ’17.

Team Participation in Winter Athletic Teams Climbs

When the winter sports season wrapped up in March, all of the teams had shown a high level of improvement. Athletic Director Donna Satterwhite was also pleased to see student participation on winter athletic teams increase from previous years. To accommodate all of the students who were interested in playing a sport, a second middle school girls’ basketball team and middle school wrestling team were added to the offerings.

Boys’ Basketball
The boys’ basketball team completed the season 21-8 with the highest state ranking of 3rd. The team, led by Glenn Williams ’09, won the Raiders Hoops Classic Tournament and the Amelia Academy Christmas Classic, defeating a very tough Freedom High School, a team hailing from Northern Virginia. A.D. Banks ’10 scored his 1,000th point of his career this season. Banks led the team in scoring (avg 19) and rebounding (avg 12). Toles Hartman ’10 also was a double-double averaging 14 points and 10 rebounds. Sidney Brown ’10 scored an average of 13 points/5 steals per game over the season. This trio will lead a strong Raiders basketball program next season, and will be a fun team to watch.

Girls’ Basketball
After losing three senior starters last season, the girls’ basketball team spent this season rebuilding and restructuring the program. The young team finished the season 7-10 overall and 1-7 in conference play. As a smaller team, the Lady Raiders’ offense focused on running the ball because of the lack of presence in the paint. Hallie Martin ’11, was a big contributor to the team’s offensive force throughout the season. This season was a successful rebuilding, year and the team looks toward strong seasons in the coming years. The team is coached by Jennie Carter.

continued on page 10

All Points Spring 2009 9
When middle school Director and Cross Country Coach Ed Dickenson began rebuilding the school’s cross country trails in 2006, there were just two trails. More than $1,000, 100 hours, and three years later, there are now more than six trails ranging in distance from 1/3 mile to 1 mile. During the past two summers the north fork, south fork, and Groundhog trails have been built and improved. The Penn forest trail, completed in January, is the newest edition to the cross country trails. It connects with the other trails behind the Carter Athletic Center and is one of the longest.

Over the past three years, the renovation efforts have moved almost 5,000 pounds of topsoil and mulch and removed the stumps of close to 40 trees. Maintenance of the trails is an ongoing, year-round process that Dickenson oversees. Cross country team members help clear the leaves and limbs off of the trails several times each fall. Throughout the winter months, snow and ice typically dictate how much maintenance the trails require.

What started as a personal project and passion for Dickenson has evolved into a community project. To date, NCS parents have donated more than $800 in supplies and materials. In addition to cross country team members, Dickenson’s advisee groups and several other students and parents have donated their time to help maintain the trails.

“Our work on the cross country trails has been personally rewarding,” said Patrick DelBuono ’09. “Cross country has been such an important aspect of my time at NCS, and I feel that my work on the trails has allowed me to say thank you and help future runners. Whether it’s spreading mulch, cutting new trails, or digging out roots, I am proud that my work will have an impact on my school long after I am gone.”

In 2007, local artist Mark Taylor donated several different pieces of natural artwork alongside the various trails. These designs were made with natural elements including rocks, logs, and branches – some of which are nearly six feet tall. Many of these pieces are still intact today and provide beautiful and intriguing sights in addition to the trails themselves.

“I love the cross country trails that meander through the wooded parts of the campus,” said NCS parent.
Eight weeks after the competition began, the men took it all! Bobby Edwards, the father of Shaun Edwards ’04 and Jonathan Edwards ’05 won the CAC’s Biggest Loser competition, winning a new body and $1,000. Edwards lost 18.216 percent of his original weight. Second place winner was Football Coach Jimmy Fisher who lost 18.182 percent. Third place winner was CCA Marlins parent, Steve Vance, who lost 15.716 percent.

When the eight-week program began on Jan. 7, participants weighed a combined 18,506 pounds. After the final weigh-in, the 94 participants had lost a combined total of 1,479 pounds. Twenty-one of the contestants lost more than 10 percent of their original body weight.

During the competition, teams attended weekly weigh-ins to track the progress of not only the team, but the individual as well. At the end of the eight weeks, the team and the individual who lost the largest percentage of weight both won a prize. In the first week, a total of 491 lbs were lost across the teams.

The competition was started by CAC General Manager Kim Leigh Martin as a fun approach to losing weight in a healthy way. Through the program, Martin counsels the NCS community on proper snacking choices, how to handle weight loss plateaus, and choosing a workout routine that best suits each individual.

Nutrition logs, which contain a diet guide and a daily nutrition and exercise log, were given to each participant. With this, each individual can track their daily food consumption and their physical activity.

The Carter Athletic Center is a 62,000 sq. ft. facility that offers a variety of activities, such as an indoor walking track, Cybex strength training machines, free weights, cardio, an indoor swimming pool, and racquetball and squash courts. Nationally certified personal trainers are also available to customize individual fitness routines for members. The CAC provides several different membership options to choose from, and is open to the public.

For more information visit www.northcross.org.
When senior Davis Frith took to the stage in Fishburn Auditorium in formal dress earlier this winter to talk about the Golden Ratio, one thing was clear: he was well prepared for the 15-minute speech he would be giving that morning before an audience of his peers, faculty members, and parents. Frith, like all North Cross School seniors who have come before him, spent about nine months working with his faculty advisor, Math Teacher and Department Chair Erin Levering, planning, researching, writing, editing, and perfecting the thesis paper that he then turned into a formal, 15-minute presentation before an audience of more than 300 people.

A central part of the curriculum and the capstone of the NCS experience, the Senior Project is a thesis-based research paper students begin in the spring of their junior year when they begin to identify their topic and select a faculty advisor. The end result, submitted the following December, is a 3-4,000 word paper that exposes students to the higher level thinking and writing they will be required to do at most colleges and universities. During the winter, students deliver a formal 15-minute address on their topic.

“The senior paper and speech are part of what makes North Cross School unique,” said longtime NCS Latin Teacher and Senior Project Committee member Margaret Grayson.

Like Frith, all of this year’s seniors have now completed the Senior Project – a requirement for graduation. The topics this year have ranged from “Shakespeare” to “WWII and Hitler,” “FDA Testing and Drug Companies,” and the “Mind-Body Connection.”
Although they may not know the specifics of the Senior Project until they enter the upper school, one thing is clear – students at NCS begin preparing for this signature event from the day they are offered admission to the school. Reading and writing – and the ability to do both well – are the fundamentals of the School’s college preparatory curriculum.

“One of the results of a good education should be the ability to identify an important question, the skill to figure out what information is needed to answer it, the insight to use that information effectively to solve the problem, and then the confidence to communicate these ideas creatively and powerfully,” said Headmaster Timothy J. Seeley. “The Senior Project brings together all of these elements of being an educated person and, as such, is an excellent introduction to the kinds of research students will be doing in college and graduate school.”

Students begin learning the rudiments of research, a core part of the Senior Project, in the lower school in fourth grade when they create PowerPoint presentations on sea creatures. During the middle school years, students learn
more about researching in sixth and seventh grade, concentrating on literacy and historical topics. By the time they reach the eleventh grade, where they really begin to start focusing on the Senior Project, students are already familiar with the basics of research. It is in the fall of the senior year, after they have chosen their topic and begun working with an advisor that students receive focused instruction on putting together a formal research paper with sufficient resources, proper citations, and presented in a collegiate format. The best Senior Projects undergo development as students refine and perhaps even change their thesis as a result of the research being done. It is not infrequent for students to say they began the project with one thesis, but, as a result of their work, altered their conclusion. In this way, the project mirrors authentic scholarship, not the cookie cutter version of academic research so often done in schools.

“This project was a huge part of what made the transition to college easy for my own three children” said Grayson. “Having to stand up before peers and parents and faculty is frightening, yes, but once it has been done it is an accomplishment which can be looked back on and ‘leaned on’ for years. The range of topics is impressive and the depth of the research is usually beyond what a lay person might know. I remember so well the first time I heard about the “big bang” theory, and this year I learned what fractal meant. One night later it was a question on ‘Jeopardy.’”

Over the past few years the upper school faculty has refined and systematized the process of helping students move from topic and research to a formal paper and presentation. The rough draft is now read by a member of the Senior Project Committee as well as by the student’s advisor and each senior meets with the reader and advisor to review the drafts. Guidelines for delivering the speech, and the use of a rubric to ensure more consistent assessment of it, have also been added recently.
"We have heard consistently excellent speeches over the last few years, and I think we can attribute this to the thorough process of preparing students for their moment on the stage," said Seeley.

"Having directed the Senior Project for the past 39 years, I must say that the experience has been one of the most rewarding of my career at North Cross," said Senior Master and Upper School English/Drama Teacher Gates DeHart. "Reading many of those papers and hearing all of those speeches have enriched my life in countless ways."

Another valuable aspect of the Senior Project is the sense of camaraderie it creates amongst students and alumni. Like a badge of honor, having successfully completed the project is something that many alumni find themselves talking about long after graduation, although it isn't always the specifics of the speech they remember most.

"The walk up to the podium to actually give the speech, that's what I remember most," said Harry Johnson '86. "That's when it sinks in that you are speaking to the entire school." Johnson, who now works as an attorney with Jones Day in Los Angeles, CA, gave his speech on the Monroe Doctrine and the Invasion of Grenada.

"What I remember most is the haircut I got the weekend before my Senior Speech," said John Parrott '76. "I have always believed that the faculty was so relieved that I had finally cut my long, shaggy, hippie afro off that they rewarded me with a great grade on my speech." Parrott, who gave his speech on trout fishing, is now the Senior Vice President with The Rutherford Companies.

"I could feel him catching the trout," said Grayson. "I was one of three graders. I gave it a 100 - the first and only time I've ever given a student a perfect score on the speech."

Kevin Garbee '90 began his speech on Elvis Presley by walking on stage dressed as Elvis and singing "Burning Love."
"While my vocals sounded like cattle being slaughtered, the song was salvaged by the brilliant backing band of Rick Lewis '90 on guitar, Thomas Neuhaus '90 on bass, and Dave Gerow '91 on drums. Afterward, I delivered my speech from a stool rather than a podium, which meant I didn't have a copy in front of me so I spent weeks making sure I knew it inside and out. What I remember most about my speech was sprinting offstage when it was over, "said Garbee explaining, "my fast exit may have looked like a rock star move, but it was really more of a 'Thank God Elvis has left the building so I can enjoy the rest of the semester' type of thing."

In addition to the speech, there is also educational value in what they learn from preparing for the presentation itself. Students are expected to rehearse in advance of the 'big day' and must schedule time to do so in Fishburn Auditorium with the School's Director of the Calendar. Additionally, students who plan to use an LCD projector during the speech must work with the librarians to coordinate their needs. They are also tasked with asking a junior to introduce them on stage on the 'big day.' They must also coordinate with fellow students if they need help with lighting and/or the projector. On the morning of their speech, seniors are not expected to attend classes to allow them time to prepare.

Educators across the country talk openly about the value of reading and writing, with good reason. Facility in these skills is the hallmark of an educated and refined mind. NCS is committed to maximizing opportunities and requirements for all of its students to read and write. As junior kindergartners, students begin learning the skills to be successful readers and authors. These abilities are built upon each year until twelfth grade. The Senior Project is the final and most visible entity of the many ways in which NCS faculty and staff instill in students an understanding of the importance of reading and writing.

In addition to reading requirements, students participate in a number of activities each year that emphasize the value of reading. In the lower school, a celebration of Dr. Seuss’ birthday each March demonstrates how much fun reading and writing can be. A fall and spring book
All Points Spring 2009

Fair allow students to purchase books for required and supplemental reading.

The assignments don’t end when the bell rings on the last day of school either. Students are required to read an average of four books each summer, depending, in part, on grade level. Each March, students are given a Summer Reading Guide, which includes summer reading requirements for students at every grade level, from junior kindergarten through twelfth grade, as well as sections on “Senior Favorites” and “Faculty Favorites.” The latter two sections are intended to give both a wide range of selections and communicate to students that reading is an important lifelong activity. The guide is available online at www.northcross.org/publications.

“Cognitive scientists have researched the loss of knowledge and skills that can happen during the summer months,” said English Department Chair Dr. Phyllis Mac-Donald. “When students read in the summer, it reinforces that reading is a lifetime activity, associating reading with leisure and forming an objective corollary for intellectual pleasure.”

The advantage of having undergone the Senior Project experience is clear: NCS graduates are better prepared for higher education than many of their peers, and many find a real value in having studied something so closely. For some alumni, the research they did as part of the Senior Project allowed them to discover an interest that has turned into a successful career. And, while Frith may not choose to further explore the many ways the curious proportion known as the Golden Ratio overlaps with both human aesthetic sensibilities and structures in nature, he will be prepared for the reading, writing, and researching demands of Washington and Lee University when he begins his freshman year in the fall.

Kevin Garbee ’90
Senior Project Topic: Elvis Presley
Education: BA, Political Science, Davidson College, 1994 & MFA, screenwriting, Loyola Marymount University School of Film and Television, 2002.
Career: Stand-up comedian and writer (Los Angeles CA)

“The Senior Project definitely helped prepare me for college and the workplace. I’m fortunate in that I’ve always been comfortable onstage and in front of large audiences, so the real benefit for me was learning how to create a dynamic and engaging presentation...from exhaustively researching your subject matter to learning how to self-edit and trim the fat...it was all about preparation. It’s a lesson that applies to my current career...it’s only when I’m prepared that I have the confidence and energy necessary to be successful.”

Katy Laguzza ’04
Senior Project Topic: Puppetry
Education: BA, Puppetry and Human Rights, University of Connecticut, 2008
Career: Conservation Technician at Harvard College Libraries and Freelance Puppeteer (Cambridge, MA)

“My Senior Project helped me realize that puppetry was something I had a real excitement for. I wasn’t afraid of the speech—that part I remember looking forward to. I tried to make my speech interesting and engaging—there was even a piano player—so that folks wouldn’t fall asleep or think about their lunch too much.”
As the end of the current school year draws to a close, the Admission Office is bustling with activity! Director of Admission and Financial Assistance Deborah C. Jessee reports a record number of inquiries as well as waitpools at most grade levels. In addition, open house and visit day attendance has doubled over recent years. In many cases, inquiries exceed space available.

"I’m so pleased to have the opportunity to talk with so many new families about the wonderful opportunities that a North Cross School education can provide their children," said Jessee. "It’s also gratifying to see so many of our current families returning next year."

Preliminary numbers suggest that the 2009 – 10 school year will see the largest enrollment in many years.

“It reinforces what we already know and are extremely proud of – we have wonderful teachers who do a great job of preparing our students well for success in college and in the rest of their lives,” said Headmaster Timothy J. Seeley. “It’s great to know that our reputation as a premiere independent day school now saturates the Roanoke Valley.

Many of this year’s prospective families are citing word of mouth and the School’s website as the way they are first learning about NCS. Many of the parents inquiring about NCS have cited their frustration with the budget cuts local public schools are facing as the reason they first began to look into an independent school education. Once they begin the search for an alternative to public schools, it doesn’t take long for our prospective families to hear about NCS and then to find us on the web.

The number of current families who plan to return to NCS next year has also increased. As of March 15, 80 percent of current NCS families have already submitted re-enrollment agreements.

“There are many reasons behind our increasing numbers,” said Seeley. “Our consistent good care of our current students and families, better materials and advertising to better represent and market the school, our efforts to reach into segments of the Roanoke Valley that have not been well represented in the student body in the past, successes in athletics that have put our school’s name in the papers, and, of course, concerns in the community about the impact of reductions in funding for public schools on the experience of students.”

For more information about the program and the application process, please contact Deborah Jessee, Director of Admission and Financial Assistance, at 540-989-6641, ext. 330, or djessee@northcross.org.

When the 2009 – 10 school year begins on August 31, NCS will welcome its youngest students ever: 30 three-year-olds!

The students are part of the School’s new Junior Kindergarten 3 Program (JK3), which will be comprised of two classrooms of 15 students each. The advanced program features beginning reading skills, number recognition, and science lessons designed to open the students’ eyes to the world around them. Students will also learn beginning Spanish and take part in music, art, and perceptual motor skills. The three-year-olds will be in self-contained classrooms in Ellis Hall. The Montessori-based program will be taught by a lead teacher and an assistant teacher. Jennifer Luckay will oversee the new program as the Director of Junior Kindergarten.

“Educational research shows that the younger the children are when they begin to learn in a school setting, the more successful they will be in their academic career,” said Director of the Lower School Liz Holt.

The program, which was piloted this school year, will be offered as either a three-day or five-day program, which will run from 7:50 a.m. - 1 p.m. An extended day option is being offered at an additional cost. Students must be at least three by Sept. 30, 2009, and must be toilet trained to apply. Enrollment is limited to 30 students.

**North Cross School Admits Youngest Students Ever!**

**Admission News**

**2009 – 10 Incoming Class Poised To Be Largest Yet**
Heather Lawrence Named Recipient of the North Cross School Award for Excellence in Teaching

North Cross School Middle School History Teacher and Varsity Tennis Coach Heather Lawrence has been awarded the 2009 North Cross School Award for Excellence in Teaching. The award was presented to Lawrence during the annual Founders’ Day event on Jan. 30, in the Carter Athletic Center.

“I’m honored to have been chosen for this award,” said Lawrence. “Many of the past recipients have been mentors to me during the last eight years I’ve spent here at North Cross School. It’s truly an honor to be recognized with such a talented group of educators.”

Now in its ninth year, The North Cross School Award for Excellence in Teaching recognizes a faculty member who has a minimum of three years teaching experience at North Cross School, expertise in his or her field, and the ability to effectively communicate that expertise/knowledge, the desire and commitment to grow professionally, and participation in the greater school community through co-curricular activities. Nominations for the award are made by students, faculty, and alumni.

“T is especially pleased that Ms. Lawrence is receiving this award,” said Headmaster Timothy J. Seeley. “It not only honors the great work she has done at North Cross School, but also the importance of the middle school for our students. I have enjoyed watching Heather move from an enthusiastic but inexperienced young teacher when she first arrived into an accomplished and talented educator who is an exceedingly important part of our middle school. In the finest traditions of independent schools, she not only excels in the classroom, but contributes mightily as an advisor, coach, and overseer of the middle school intramural program. The award is well deserved.”

Lawrence, who has a bachelor’s degree from Roanoke College, began teaching in 2000 in Roanoke City, where she began as a teaching assistant for third, fourth, and fifth graders. In 2001, she came to NCS as a middle school history teacher. Lawrence also coaches the women’s varsity tennis team. During the seven years she has coached the team, Lawrence has led the Lady Raiders to the Blue Ridge Conference tournament three times, winning the conference title in 2004. She also sponsors the Middle School Intramural Club.

The daughter of two educators, Lawrence’s love for teaching is shown not only in the classrooms at NCS but also in her involvement in the community. She teaches Sunday School to seventh and eighth grade girls at St. John’s Lutheran Church, is involved in the Roanoke Valley Junior League, and has a “little brother” in Roanoke’s Big Brother, Big Sister program. She has also played in charity tennis tournaments with her dad in northern Virginia in recent years.

Lawrence will receive a stipend in recognition of the accomplishment.

Past Recipients

2008
Upper School History Teacher
Richard Cook
2007
Upper School English Teacher
Gates DeHart
2006
First Grade Teacher
Betsy Cook
2005
Middle School Science Teacher
Sandy Patterson
2004
Junior Kindergarten Teacher
Temple Glenn (retired)
2003
Upper School Science Teacher
Jerry Maycock (retired)
2002
Middle and Upper School Latin Teacher
Margaret Grayson
2001
Fifth Grade Teacher
Mary Lou Sallade (retired)
Suzy Farhat is the mother of Nicholas Rehmus ’11 and a longtime supporter of the North Cross Fund. She and her husband, Dave Rehmus, are charter members of the School’s 1961 Society. The couple gives generously of their time and resources each year. They also own Data Safe LLC and are active members of the community.

**Q: Why did you choose NCS?**
A: When my husband, Dave, and I moved to the area eight years ago we were interested in the best education we could find for our child in the Roanoke Valley. We originally came from the same hometown but from completely different schools and educational experiences. Like the Roanoke Valley, the public schools were considered to be very good. My education was provided by this public school system and my husband was a product of the private schools in our area. We naturally had very mixed feelings about where to send Nick, but we ended up choosing NCS. We felt that it could provide Nick with the most individual attention to his academics in elementary school through high school. This was a critical factor in being prepared for the best colleges in the country and for life in general. It was important to us that Nick’s teachers knew him well – both his strengths and his weaknesses! We have never regretted this decision!

**Q: Tell us about your experience with NCS.**
A: Volunteering at NCS has provided me with so many opportunities to learn about myself, my child, the teachers and the internal workings of our school. I have met friends that have supported me through all the normal trials and tribulations of parenting (and still are) and who have worked alongside me in a group effort to make our school successful and positive for everyone involved. If volunteering for the annual fund does not interest you, try some of the other things I’ve tried: be a room-mother, get involved with the Parents’ Association, chair an event like the Holiday Greenery Sale, the Spaghetti Supper, Field Day, or work with the Boosters or in the Spirit Store. You can also help by driving for a Community Service Day or hosting an exchange student or teacher. There are a myriad of opportunities that require various different levels of commitment. Choose one that works for you and get involved-your school could really use your help, and you will benefit personally in more ways than you can imagine!

**Q: Tell us something we probably don’t know about you.**
A: A few things people might not know: I
love to swim. My husband and I own Data Safe LLC and we work together everyday. I kept my maiden name when Dave and I got married, but I don't mind being called “Mrs. Rehmus.” I’ve lived in eight different cities (including three different countries).

Q: Why do you and Dave give to NCS?
A: We give because we believe in the educational opportunities that NCS has and continue to provide for our son. In addition, we give because we understand that this is the way a private school works. A private school does not have the benefit of tax dollars. In Dave’s private school career it was always an unspoken rule that everyone gave a gift at the leadership level. This was not a request but more of an expectation. At North Cross there is not this pressure and we are very appreciative of that, but we understand the need. We know that giving directly benefits our child's educational experience and that it helps to make our school community stronger, which then helps to make our greater Roanoke community stronger. That philanthropy or giving back to something that has given us so much is important. It makes us take ownership and helps us feel like we have ownership in our school. We as a community are all working together to make North Cross the best school and best environment it can be for our children. If we all give and we all volunteer, we know we are not alone in this endeavor. Dave and I find satisfaction in knowing that we have helped to make a difference!

Alumni Encouraged to Strive for 5

As a North Cross School alum, we are part of a very special community of more than 1,400 other alumni who have passed through our doors and shared in the traditions and experiences that have made, and continue to make, North Cross School a great institution.

This year, 31 students will graduate as the 45th class of NCS and in five short years we will have our first 50th class reunion! As the School approaches these milestones, it’s important to recognize the important role that we can play as future leaders of the School.

We are an incredible resource for North Cross School and solid proof that the preparation we provide for college success and life long achievement is worth the investment families choose to make.

In addition to giving to the North Cross Fund, we can help in many different ways. If you don’t live in the area and/or don’t have much time to give, you can do some small, but significant things to help. Everyone should visit www.northcross.org to log in and update your profile. If you need help logging in, contact Jennifer Burtch at 540-989-6641 x284 or jburtch@northcross.org. In an effort to reduce the School’s carbon footprint and stay in better contact with alumni, the School has begun to communicate with alumni primarily through email.

You can also nominate fellow alumni for the Alumni Service Award given out each spring at Commencement. Nominations are accepted year-round by email to Jane Bondurant, Director of Alumni & Family Relations, at jbondurant@northcross.org. If you have a little more time, and want to stay in touch with your fellow classmates, become a Class Agent! Annual Giving Director Emily Phillips heads up that program and can be reached at ephillips@northcross.org.

These are just a few of the many ways that you can, and should, get involved. I’m challenging you today to Strive for 5. Strive to complete at least five of the 10 opportunities listed on the checklist shown on page 22 to strengthen your bond with the School.

Sincerely,

Eunice Park Austin ’91
Alumni Gatherings

Charlottesville Alumni Gathering
On February 26 current University of Virginia students took a break from their studies to join Headmaster Timothy J. Seeley, Director of Development Kim Williamson, Director of Alumni & Family Relations Jane Bondurant, current middle school teacher Dave Calvert and alumni at the home of Karen Moran and Wistar Morris '81. All enjoyed learning what was happening back on campus and making connections.

D.C. Metro Area Alumni Gathering
On a bitterly cold February night (Feb. 6) a group of alums representing four decades met at the Hotel Monaco in Alexandria. They were greeted by Headmaster Timothy J. Seeley, Director of Development Kim Williamson and Director of Alumni & Family Relations Jane Bondurant. The alumni spent the evening chatting with each other and took the opportunity to learn more about the current happenings at NCS.

Marriages

'92 Anna Clayton Logan and James Michael Bullock were married Oct. 18, 2008, on Pawley's Island, SC. Members of the wedding party included her sister, Beverley Logan McCaskill '94, her cousin, Blair Lawson '91 and her brother, Dandridge Logan '96.

'95 Ryan Jennings married Gabriel Snow Oct. 25, 2008, in Roanoke. Sarah Waybright Barr served as matron of honor. The couple lives in Arlington where Ryan is a small animal veterinarian.

'97 Hunter Smith and Leslie Ann Allgood were married Oct. 18, 2008 in Roanoke. He is employed by Smith/Packett Med Com in Roanoke.

'00 Anne Wilcox Hubard and William Jeffers Wingfield were married Dec. 13, 2008 in Roanoke, VA. Beth Hubard Massey '98 was her sister’s matron of honor and John Hubard '03 was a groomsman.

'02 Patrick Arbo married Jennifer Lynn Tipton on Aug. 18, 2008. Patrick is a graduate of East Tennessee State University and he teaches English in the Hawkins County School System.

'03 Erin Baker and Lt. JG Conor Heely, USN were married Sept. 28, 2008 at VMI in Lexington, VA. The wedding party included Adam Baker '07 and Olivia Baker '17. The couple currently lives in Oklahoma City, OK.
Classnotes include positions, Weddings, Births, In Memoriams, and College Degrees and should be submitted within six months of the event. They are typically posted online and published in All Points. Please e-mail your note to jbondurant@northcross.org.

Photographs, including a brief description, with the names of the people in the photograph, should also be e-mailed.

Births

’93 Erin Waldvogel Kerr and her husband, Brendan welcomed their third son, Darby James Waldvogel Kerr, on Dec. 21, 2008. His big brothers and parents couldn’t be more proud.

’95 Holly Dennis Heasley and her husband Brian welcomed their first child, a son, Holden Alexander, on Sept. 16, 2008.

Deaths

’79 Ethan Engleby died Oct. 17, 2008, in Baltimore, MD. He is survived by his wife Anne Kennan Engleby, his parents Dennis and Jane Engleby Sigloh; his brother, the Rev. Matthew Engleby; his sisters, the Rev. Kate Engleby Kelderman and Sally Engleby Farrell.

’98 Lindsey Nicole Hoagland died Jan. 8, 2009, in Douglassville, PA. She is survived by her parents, John and Belinda Hoagland and her fiancé, Jared Cram.

Other News

’78 Liza Mundy is the author of “Michelle: A Biography,” a book that chronicles the life of First Lady Michelle Obama. Mundy is a staff writer for The Washington Post Magazine.

’79 Hugh Hall was a member of a four-week church mission trip to Ghana, Africa in July 2008.

’83 Caroline Light has joined the faculty of Harvard University as Director of Studies and Professor in the Women’s Studies Department.

’91 Eunice Park Austin of the law firm Gentry Locke Rakes & Moore, Roanoke, has been named to the “Virginia Legal Elite” team by Virginia Business magazine.

’97 Bette Kaufman is in the dermatology residency program at Wake Forest University School of Medicine. She is a graduate of the University of Virginia School of Medicine.

’02 1st LT Charles Gill is serving as an Army Reconnaissance Liaison Officer with an Air force Unmanned Aerial Vehicle Squadron in Las Vegas, NV. He is the first Army officer to hold this position. Stephen Morse works for Reconstruction Experts in Denver. Ann Nicholas is in her first year at Tufts Dental School, Boston, MA.

’03 Jack Hamlin has accepted a job as a junior designer for Classic Kitchen of Virginia in Richmond.

’04 Shaun Edwards works as an IT Software consultant for CGI Federal. She lives in Arlington, VA.

’07 Alison Lemon, sophomore and all ODAC rider, attained a 4.0 or higher grade-point average to earn a Scholar-Athlete award at Washington & Lee for the fall term.

Class Notes include positions, Weddings, Births, In Memoriams, and College Degrees and should be submitted within six months of the event. They are typically posted online and published in All Points. Please e-mail your note to jbondurant@northcross.org. Photographs, including a brief description, with the names of the people in the photograph, should also be e-mailed.
Join Us for Fun Under the North Cross School Sun!

**Enrichment Camps** provide a structured setting for students in junior kindergarten through fifth-grade. Opportunities include fun classroom sessions in art, drama, and science with tennis, swimming, dance for girls and gym sports for boys.

**Middle School Madness** provides rising fifth through eighth-grade students with five-day workshops, including guitar, video-game design, cooking, chemistry, drama, woodworking, jewelry making and more!

**Sports Camps** appeal to male and female students of all ages and include football, basketball, volleyball, soccer, lacrosse, tennis and baseball.

To view the full 2009 Summer Programs Catalog, please visit www.northcross.org/summerprograms. For more information, contact Stephen Belderes at 540-588-8320 or sbelderes@northcross.org.