



Greetings from Newman Road
An Electronic Newsletter for Alumni of
Thomas Jefferson Independent Day School
in Joplin, Missouri
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In this issue - - -

Homecoming Update from Bill Carter

Class Notes

With Former Faculty

Request for Information

Message from Bill Carter, Head of School

We had a busy first semester. TJ survived the second Great Ice Storm of 2007 without too much damage to the trees on the campus. We only missed two days of classes. Joplin R-8 missed a full week because of the loss of power in the schools.

The 2008 Homecoming was a success. The Boy's team beat Exeter 33-26 at the Homecoming game. We enjoyed seeing the many students who were able to return to TJ.



Left -- Betsy Nagle and Tiffini Denzik (both Class of 2005), with Head of School Bill Carter at Alumni Reception at the Millennium Tennis and Fitness Club. **Right** -- Nathan Glassman, Cragin Currence, and Sam Simpson (all Class of 2007) relate tales of their college experiences to Mr. McCollum at the Alumni Reception.



The **2008 TJ Homecoming Court** -- (left to right) 9th grade attendants Sally Currence and Will Norton, 11th grade attendants Cheyenne Hill and Jae Yoo, 12th grade attendants Summer Davidson and Daniel Bulgarelli, Queen Carley Leubber and King Will Humphreys, 12th grade attendants Allison Fraum and Will Flanigan, and 10th grade attendants Amanda Saladin and David Evans.

Both Upper School basketball teams played in the Liberal Tournament last week. The roles have been cast for the Spring play, *The Secret Garden*, and rehearsals are underway. The search is underway for a permanent Head of School. Mr. McCollum's classroom door is filling up with note cards and before long, commencement will be here. Our graduation speaker on May 25th will be the author and humorist P. J. O'Rourke.

To all of you and your families we wish a very Happy New Year and hope to see you soon.

Bill Carter
Head of School

Class Notes

Phil Butcher (Class of 1999) works in The Office of the Commissioner of Insurance in Madison, Wisconsin.

Dallas Hellwig (Class of 1999) is working as an IT specialist with Advanced Call Center Technologies in Taos, New Mexico.

Cameron Graham (Class of 2000) successfully completed parachute training and proudly wears the wings of an airborne trooper in the U.S. Army.

Kathy Liu (Class of 2000) is working with the American Ballet Theatre in New York City.

Grant Clemons (Class of 2000) and **Martha Shaver** (Class of 2002) are engaged to be married. The date for the wedding has not been finalized.

Mark Scaewater (Class of 2000) is teaching A.P. Human Geography and coaching JV basketball at Cyprus High School in Orlando, Florida. Mark is also pursuing a MA in History online through Sam Houston State University.

Avery Barnett (Class of 2001) is on active duty with the U.S. Army in Mosul, Iraq. He is providing logistical support for front line troops.

Katie Perkins Stewart (Class of 2001) is working in marketing with a bank in Kansas City.

Rodney Edwards and wife Kristy are the proud parents of Noel McKenna Edwards. She will be joined by a new brother or sister later this year. In June Rodney will transfer from his duty station in Hawaii to the U.S. Navy SEAL Team #2 at the Little Creek Amphibian base in Norfolk, Virginia.

Rebecca Porte (Class of 2002) is grad school at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

Andrew Whiteside (Class of 2003) is in law school at the University of Oklahoma in Norman.

Tiffini Denzik (Class of 2005) is engaged to be married to Adam Miller with the marriage planned for July 4, 2009. Tiffini is studying early childhood education at the University of Arkansas. Adam is serving with the U.S. Army in Iraq.

Payden Evans (Class of 2005) is attending Lewis and Clark College in Portland, Oregon. He is majoring in art.

Josh Porte (Class of 2005) is spending the Spring semester at Kings College, London.

With Former Faculty

Former TJ math teacher **David Baker** and his wife Marsha operate Higdon Florist on 32nd Street near south Main. Besides being a full service florists they also have "Higdon's Hot Spot," an espresso bar/soup and sandwich shop. David also teaches math classes at MSSU. The Baker's have five grandchildren (four girls and a boy). On the weekend, they can be found at their house on Table Rock Lake. When you are in town next, stop by and see David in his shop. David can be contacted at david underscore baker underscore 123 at hotmail.

Request for Information

We are missing email addresses for the following alums. We would appreciate your help in helping us maintain contact with everyone in the TJ family. If you know of someone who is not receiving this newsletter or someone who would like to receive it, please let me know at smccollum@tjeffschool.org.

- Class of 1997 Joe Bogotko, Jean Kelly,
- Class of 1998 Mindy Schaffer Schmidt, Anne Walkenhorst, Iris Yen
- Class of 1999 Meagan Wilkinson
- Class of 2002 Emily Riggs
- Class of 2004 Aleksei Tarasov
- Class of 2005 Katie Alms, Matt Crossland, Brooke Jessee, Felicia Owen,
- Class of 2006 Maurice Cramer, Robin Fish
- Class of 2007 Amanda Sprague

All of the pictures were taken by Alyssa Bayless, the Marketing and Communications Coordinator at TJ.

Check out the TJ website. <http://www.tjeffschool.org/>

All of us still on Newman Road wish all of you the best. Please keep in touch and let us know what you are doing.

Look for the next newsletter in late May 2008.

Cheers Carpe diem/

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