

Arbor

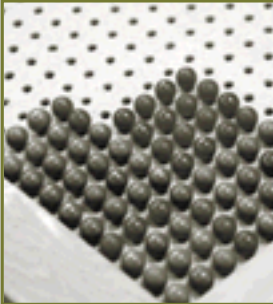


Looking Back, Looking Ahead: *The Journey*



Montessori

School



Annual Report 2008





Looking Back...

By Leslie Logan

It's hard to imagine a busier year than that of 2007-2008. By the time May rolled around we had completed the developmental stage of Arbor's strategic plan, found the perfect new head of school and hired a wonderful middle school teacher.

- In February Jan Deason was hired to be Arbor's new head of school beginning August 1, 2008. Jan has worked at Arbor in assistant, teaching and administrative roles for the last twenty-four years. She was responsible for starting our Middle School and provided the leadership that has brought national recognition to that program. She is well-positioned to guide Arbor into the next decade.

- Arbor's strategic planning process, which began in the fall of 2005 under the guidance of our planning committee and the leadership of Michael Rich, was completed and a proposal for launching the first phase has been implemented. Jeff Wheeler and Karen Horace have agreed to head up a task force which will look at the viability of the Emory campus.

- In March of 2008 Arbor began accepting applications from qualified candidates for the soon-to-be vacant Middle School teaching position. We were delighted to catch the eye of a wonderful Upper Elementary teacher in Austin, Texas. Steve Thorpe

had a growing interest in working with adolescents and had been on the lookout for such an opening. He was very happy to be a candidate for an Arbor job. During his interviews the match was obvious and Steve accepted our offer of a MS teaching position in late March.

At the beginning of the 2007-2008 school year Arbor received the largest gift to the annual fund from a single donor to date. This generous \$26,000 gift from an anonymous donor was the impetus for the "Teacher Appreciation Challenge."

- Co-chairs Larry Gramlich and Rich Escoffery led a successful effort to meet the challenge to increase Phoenix Society membership

by 50%, from 52 to 78 members. This success included another first – a student alumnus gift, at the Phoenix Society level. Thanks to the generous support of the donor, 78 Phoenix Society members, plus families and friends, the Annual Fund raised over \$150,000. We will continue to strive for 100% participation from past and current members of the Arbor community.

The Arbor staff continued to take on leadership roles at the national level.

- The AMI community gathered in Atlanta this past February for its annual refresher course. Many members of the Arbor staff served as coordinators/

helpers in making this a wonderful opportunity for professional and personal growth for AMI members from around the country.

It has been an honor and a privilege to serve this amazing community. I will always be grateful for having had the opportunity. The central strength of this community is its ability to adapt to change through respectful, caring collaboration. The 2007-2008 school year was a beautiful example of that commitment. We all can feel confident in and grateful for the work of those who have guided us in the past and will continue to lead Arbor in the future.

Be the change you want to see in the world.

– Mahatma Gandhi



Looking Ahead...

By Jan Deason, Head of School

It seems incredible that the coming school year marks my 25th year at Arbor. It is a place that exemplifies Dr. Montessori's beliefs about education, a place that supports the growth of each individual within our community. I feel honored and excited to take on the leadership of a school that is recognized nationally as a model in Montessori education and locally as a respected member of the Atlanta private schools.

• In the coming year we will begin the next phase of the Strategic Plan as standing committees and task forces will research and discuss each of the objectives and make recommendations to the Board of Trustees. The work to make the Strategic Plan a reality will

be spearheaded by Arbor's Planning Committee and its chair, Michael Rich. This is big, exciting work and we encourage and welcome your interest and involvement – it is your chance to be a part of Arbor's future.

• Arbor will welcome consultants to our classrooms this year as a part of the accreditation process with the Association Montessori Internationale (AMI). In addition to filling out lengthy self-evaluations, coordinators and teachers will be meeting individually with the consultants to discuss their thoughts about the classrooms. As always, we look forward to this opportunity for continued professional growth and validation.

• We have already begun—and will continue to learn more about—supporting children with learning differences in our classrooms. The staff ended the school year with a two day workshop that focused on special needs. We heard presentations by local experts in evaluation and testing, early diagnosis and intervention, and occupational therapy. We will continue this work into the coming year and provide opportunities for parent workshops. In addition, in January '09, the North American Montessori Teachers' Association will be sponsoring a conference open to educators and parents entitled "Montessori Special Education: A Contemporary Assessment" that will be held in Atlanta.



I look forward to welcoming all of you to the new school year at a parent coffee, dessert party, or class night. The strength of this community is in the sum of its parts – families, teachers and staff dedicated to and working

towards Dr. Montessori's vision:
We are the sowers – our children are those who reap. We labor so that future generations will be better and nobler than we are.
Maria Montessori



Your Child's Arbor Montessori Education:

By *Emilie Mobley*

What would you say if I told you there's an educational methodology which has been around for over 100 years where children are taught to see the world in all its grandeur, to extend the limits of their lives, and to make their individual personalities reach out and touch others? And what would you say if I told you this very same method also lays down a foundation for success in navigating the demands of the 21st century? Would you be impressed, or would you doubt the plausibility of such an ideal educational design? How can a method created so long ago prepare the children of today, including my

own, for a world their great-grandparents couldn't even conceptualize? The answer to that, my friend, is not just blowing in the wind. The answer lies within the child. For "the child has shown us the basic principle underlying the process of education, which he has expressed in the words, "Teach me to do things by myself." (Maria Montessori, Education for Peace)

"A characteristic feature of our time is the gap between the high level reached by our outward civilization, which has been rapidly evolving in recent years, and the low level of human development, which has been raised very little since the earliest days of mankind." Montessori

said this a very long time ago, and many have said the like since. In fact, preparing children for comprehending and successfully negotiating an ever-changing world is a topic which is heating up to boiling temperatures, perhaps because "the gap" Montessori referred to is widening at an alarming pace. During an interview on the Today Show, educator Mel Levine said, "We are seeing an epidemic of work-life un-readiness, kids in their early twenties who can't figure out who they are or what they need to be doing with their lives..."

With a child entering high school next year, does this

awareness increase my parental worries? Not at all. Seven years ago, when I stepped into a Montessori classroom for the first time, I knew immediately I had found the answer to questions I had carried so long that deep trenches were forming in my soul. The child is not an empty vessel that must be filled! An empty vessel couldn't do the things I saw these children do independently. So, what does any sane individual do in such a case? Quit her job, pack her bags and take the training, of course! As a teacher, the past six years have been extraordinarily fulfilling. As a Montessori parent, I am forever indebted to the adults

who guided my child through her journey of self-discovery.

But is my daughter ready to deal with four years in a traditional high school and beyond? Tony Wagner, who has written a book called *The Global Achievement Gap*, lists the "The Seven Survival Skills for Careers, College, & Citizenship in the 21st Century." Here they are and how they relate to our children's developing minds:

1. Critical Thinking and Problem Solving ("How do I triple this recipe so I can serve everyone in the class?")
2. Collaboration Across

A Foundation for the Future

Networks (“Want to work together?” “We might need to go to Betty’s class and ask Jimmy how he did this when he was in this class.”) and Leading by Influence (“Why don’t you ask a third year for help?”)

3. Agility (“Please don’t run in the classroom.”) and Adaptability (“Oh man, I dropped my entire lunch on the floor.”)

4. Initiative (“We’re making a scale model of our Solar System!”) and Entrepreneurship (“Look what I bought at Business Day!”)

5. Effective Oral (“Do I have time to present my research on Meerkats?”) and Written Communication

(“I know you said we’re not supposed to write stories in the morning, but can I just finish writing chapter 21?”)

6. Accessing and Analyzing Information (“If I triple the recipe I should get the fraction pieces and see what $\frac{3}{4}$ 3 times is.”)

7. Curiosity and Imagination (Do you really need an example for this one?!))

We worry about the competitive world we live in and how our kids will fare after high school. I’d say your child has been in good hands at Arbor. I know mine has.





A Leap of Faith

By Braxton Wallace

We enrolled our son Tay, in Arbor Summer camp in 1994, and our daughter Brooke three years later. We had absolutely no prior knowledge of the Montessori philosophy. The school was in our neighborhood and was in such a lovely setting that we were instantly entranced.

Lavista Campus was at full enrollment so we began our beautiful adventure at Emory I. We immediately fell in love with the wonderful teachers and the fairy tale cottage in the woods. It seemed as if Jack and Jill would tumble out of the charming cottage at any time, accompanied by teacher Ann Preston's dog Molly. This was the perfect

place for our child, and he was eager to go to school every day!

After our second classroom visitation we wondered why we were spending our hard earned money so our child could learn to organize and dust bookshelves. He was becoming quite the housekeeper, but what did this have to do with education? Trust us, they said, we know what we are doing. He continued dusting, organizing, playing and having a grand time. Trust us.

We enrolled Brooke and continued our splendid adventure at La Vista Campus, the larger cottage in the woods. Both of our children are now

organizing, dusting and loving school every single day! Being products of traditional education, Sherree and I were naturally concerned about this cozy but unorthodox concept. When do you begin giving tests? Trust us. Ok, but what about homework? Trust us. Ok, but what about report cards? The entire educational system is based on grade performance. How do we know how our children are performing? How will they ever be admitted to high school or college? Trust us.

Ultimately, one day in lower elementary we made a giant leap of faith, and placed our blind trust in the hands of these extraordinary teachers. They

know precisely what they are doing. By guiding our children with respect and dignity they are allowing them to "self construct" themselves. Respect is the core philosophy of Arbor Montessori; it is the foundation upon which all else is constructed. It is so simple yet so profound! By nurturing our children with absolute respect, they flourish. They are empowered with confidence, self esteem and dignity. This is a powerful combination that will enable them to thrive and tackle all of life's challenges head on. It is simply amazing to watch this "self construction" process over time and realize how incredibly effective it truly is. It works and it works

brilliantly. Our children are not only being taught, they are being inspired to learn with passion, and they are just soaring.

The living proof of this amazing process is The Arbor Middle School graduation ceremony. This is the culmination of the Arbor Montessori experience. These young adults have been magnificently prepared for reality in this lovely sanctuary we know and love as Arbor. My father cautioned me to never mistake kindness for weakness. Arbor students are kind, confident, smart, self motivated, inquisitive and they are strong. They are coveted by public and private high schools

Imagine the world if every child had the gift of the Arbor Montessori experience.

alike. They excel in high school and are consistently ranked at the top of their graduating classes. Arbor graduates are admitted to the finest colleges and universities because they are the best and the brightest. The Arbor Montessori experience is a gift to our children. It is a gift made with great love, and great sacrifice. It is a gift that will reward you and your children for a lifetime. Imagine the world if every child had the gift of the Arbor Montessori experience, just imagine!

If you do attend the Arbor Graduation Ceremony bring your hanky because you will laugh and you will cry; these amazing Arbor graduates will blow you away. Trust me!





Arbor Teacher Receives National Recognition

Arbor Middle School teacher Barbara Fox has been selected from a national applicant pool to attend a summer study program supported by the National Endowment for the Humanities. The Endowment is a federal agency that supports seminars and institutes at colleges and universities for teachers to study with experts in the humanities.

Barbara will participate in an institute entitled “From the Yucatan to the ‘Halls of Montezuma’:

Mesoamerican Cultures and their Histories.” The four-week program (July 14-August 8) will be held at the University of Oregon and directed by Drs. Stephanie Wood and Judith Musick.

The 30 teachers selected to participate in the program each receive a stipend of \$3,000 to cover their travel, study, and living expenses.

Topics for the seminars and institutes offered for teachers this summer include the works of Shakespeare, Chaucer, and Petrarch;

Latin, Spanish, and Arabic literature; Himalayan and Mesoamerican cultures; the music of Mozart and Bach; American history through song; Thomas Jefferson and Winston Churchill; the United States Constitution and government; the abolitionist movement; the American Great Plains; the industrial revolution; and the Holocaust. The approximately 525 teachers who participate in these studies will teach over fifty thousand American students the following year.





A Journey of Learning

By Jill Flournoy

At the end of every great journey there should be a period of reflection. As my family prepares to say our final goodbyes to Arbor, I glance back and see the path we chose more clearly. Eighteen years ago, I didn't intentionally pick Arbor. In fact, I stumbled upon an ad in the AJC : "Enrichment teachers wanted at Arbor Montessori School – \$5.00 an hour." I was a young mother looking for something to do a few days a week. Of course I fell in love with Arabelle and Miranda's beautifully prepared primary classroom-who wouldn't? The two of them created an unparalleled atmosphere of

joy there. I'll never forget how Arabelle would ask the children to come to a lesson as if she were inviting them into a candy store. Once I learned the basic principals of Montessori philosophy I was officially hooked and knew I wanted it for my own child. During the two years I worked in Enrichment, my daughter Dakota started Primary and I got pregnant with my son Cole. It's hard to believe the baby I carried in me then has just graduated from Arbor Middle School, in a tuxedo nonetheless. Blink...there it went. I would be remiss if I didn't tell you that it was hard to let go of the ideas

I had about education and parenting. It took time to understand that consequences were different than punishments. It took practice to try new ways of being with children. I worried that I wouldn't know if my kids were excelling academically without grades to demonstrate it. A patient mentor, Julie Carnes, taught me look for markers of success in other ways and learn to trust my children to tell me when they needed help. The long mediations the teachers would encourage between the students drove me mad. The dispute was usually over some small tiff

on the playground. I was impatient for the adults to resolve the problem and get on with the task at hand. It took strong teachers like Betty to help me understand that taking the time to teach students to mediate *was* the task at hand.

If Arbor is a tiara, the Middle School program is its crown jewel. Jan, Jacqui, Annie and Barb are a dynamic group of capable, loving, energetic women. They expertly led my children through the rough waters of adolescence. Dakota and Cole emerged from that program as confident

young adults ready to handle anything life brings their way (even a flat tire). In particular, Jacqui Miller, as their advisor, formed a bond with our whole family that is treasured. This woman is extraordinary in every sense of the word. Our family's journey from Primary through Middle School at Arbor has been a life-changing experience. Great explorations are meant to push you to your limit, to test your resolve, and to teach you something about yourself along the way. Thank you, Arbor, for helping the Flournoy four embark on a spectacular journey of learning that will never truly end.

Great explorations are meant to push you to your limit, to test your resolve, and to teach you something about yourself along the way.



2008 Annual Report: The Journey

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2007 – 2008

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Arbor's Annual Fund

By Larry Gramlich

The "Teacher Appreciation Challenge," made possible by a generous \$26,000 gift from an anonymous challenge donor, raised the bar for the Annual Fund in 2007/2008, and the Arbor community met the challenge. Thanks to the generosity of the donor, 78 Phoenix Society members, and 160 other Arbor families and friends, the Annual Fund set a record by raising over \$150,000 to support teacher training, tuition assistance and other vital programs. In addition to once again being the social event of the year, the Auction also set a record, bringing in over \$65,000. We thank all of you for your time, talents and generous contributions, all of which, along with our incomparable teachers and staff, help make Arbor the envy of Montessori schools across the nation.

Donor giving highlights of the 2007/2008 Annual Fund:

- Largest gift to date, from a single donor, to the Annual Fund
- Arbor's Board of Trustees, with 100% participation, contributed \$10,600
- Grandparents, Alumni Families and Friends generously donated \$9,500
- \$4,100 was received through Matching Corporate Gifts
- First student alumnus gift at the Phoenix Society level

Annual Fund 2007: Teacher Appreciation Challenge

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2008 Annual Report: The Journey

Dianne and Thomas Sherrill
Brenda and John Strickland
Heather and Sean Waters-Lynch

Violet and Chloe Garcia by Meera
and Paul Garcia

Connor '05, Amy '07 and Brian
Wakamo by Carol and Charlie
Wakamo

The wonderful community of staff
and teachers at Arbor by Zahavah
and Terry Stilman

Myesha Green by Mariella and Gene
Eames

The Flournoy Family by Lisa and
Ned Bridges

The Teacher Appreciation
Challenge by Nancy Wiggins-
Lester and Bill Lester

Nisu and Lia Goodwin-Herrera by
Helen and Bill Goodwin

Christie, Lucy '04, and Brian
Pettitt-Schieber by Barbara Pettitt &
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In Honor Of:

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Ali and Jessie Bouterse by Kees
and Trix Bouterse and by Henry
Bomberger

McKenzie Kilgallen by Marilyn and
Ron Warner

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Naegle by Tina and John Naegle

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by Leslie Logan

Lauren Lyles by Cindy and Bob Lyles

Toby Smith by Ralph and Gladys
Kitchen

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Meg, Robyn '02 and Toby Smith by
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Annie Frazer, Camille Scent and
Andrea Baetti by Shiela Pereira-
Scruggs and Tom Scruggs

Mara and Hannah Weissinger by
Liticia and Keyton Weissinger

Susan Forsythe by Charles E.
Forsythe, Mandy and John Sandifer
and family

Jessica Sherrill DeSouza by Dianne
and Tom Sherrill

Cindy Ragozzine by Leslie and James
Richardson

Marian Cooper and Asya Yordanova
by Margaret and Josh Sagarin

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Parzen



2008 Annual Report: The Journey

Businesses Donating to Arbor's 2008 Auction

Arbor proudly acknowledges twenty-two years of community support to our school through the annual auction. Our heartfelt thanks to these businesses for their generous support; it tips the scales in our favor and ensures the success of our exceptional programs for another year.

2008 Sponsor

Gas South, LLC
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Interactive Neighborhood for Kids
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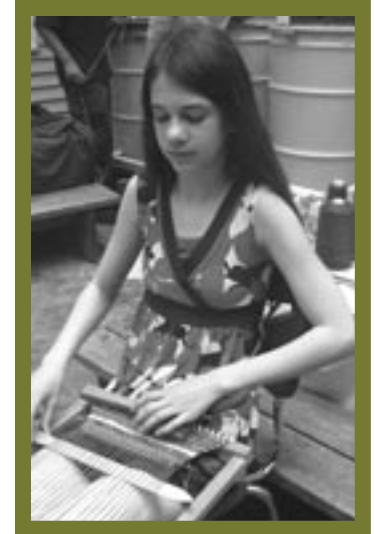


2008 Annual Report: The Journey

Jim Harrington/Rainwater
Collection
John Swofford/Atlantic Coast
Conference
Jones & Indermark, LLP *
Joslyn McGuire
Kaleidoscope Shop
Learning RX Atlanta *
Little Shop of Stories
Little 5 Points Chiropractic
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LockeLordBissell & Liddell, LLP *
Lori Levey, MSW, LCSW *
Lux Studio
Lynn Crow Photography *
Maggiano's Little Italy
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Mark Hill Photography *
Mary Eames Collection *
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Medieval Times Dinner &
Tournament
Mexico City Gourmet
Miami Dolphins
Michael C. Carlos Museum
Mingei World Arts
MollyAnna *
Monkey Joe's

My Girlfriend's Kitchen *
Nantahala Outdoor Center
Natural Body Spa - Decatur
New Jewelry & Design
Noodle
North Atlanta OB-GYN *
Northlake Thai
Oak Grove Market
Pacific Kitchen
Panera Bread
Paolo's Gelato
P'Cheen - International Bistro &
Pub
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Sam's Club
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Advisory, Inc. *
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Squash Blossom

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Stone Mountain Park
Studio Dionne
SunTrust Bank
Sweet Tomatoes
Taste
Tennessee Aquarium
Tennessee Valley Railroad
The 17 Steps Inc.
The Alliance Theatre
The American Boot Camp
The Biltmore Company
The Company Store
The Cookie Studio *
The Flying Biscuit Café
The Grove Restaurant and Tavern
The Home Depot
The New World of Coca-Cola
The Toy Store @ Ansley
Theater of the Stars
Theatre in the Square
Toulouse
Tracy Ewell Cosmetics & Skincare
Trillium Financial *
Tri-State Financial Press
Twain's Billiards & Tap
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Bridges CPA's
Whit's End
Whole Foods Market - Briarcliff
Yellow River Game Ranch
Young Chef's Academy
Zoo Atlanta



2008 Annual Report: The Journey

Founder Fund 2008

Alumni Parent

Lizanne Thomas and David Black
Claire and Guerry Dyes
Liz Frazer and Ernie Eden
Mary and Dan Hinkel
Shelby Johnson
Deedee and Patrick Murphy
Aruna Srinivasan and Sridhar
Narasimhan
Marta and Mark Ward

Family and Friends of Arbor

Anonymous
Mrs. Anthony Amaddio
Mr. Henry A. Bomberger
Mr and Mrs Kees Bouterse
Mary Jane and Eugene Brisbane
Dr. and Mrs. Allan H Cetron
Dr. and Mrs. George Diggs
Linda Hilsenrad
Nancy and Stan Keahey
Harvey E Klehr

Nancy and Fred Runner
Lisa and Greg Shortell
Mr and Mrs James Stolley
Elanna and Christopher Valley
Joseph Wepfer
Elizabeth Arnow and Steve
Weisbrod
Lewis R. Wilson, Sr.
Dr. and Mrs. Gaurang Yodh

Parent

Lindsay and Andrew Abernathy
Nicole and Robert C. Askins
Denise Bomberger and Ron
Bouterse
Molly and Jeff Britt
Kay and John Entrekin
Michelle and Allen Futral and
Family
Nina and Mark Hafitz
Michelle and Matthew Jordan
Tina and John Naegle
Deborah Keenan and Michael
O'Reilly
Amy Tozer and Michael Rich
Margaret and Joshua Sagarin

Staff

Deedee and Patrick Murphy

Corporation

Bank of America

In Honor Of:

Arbor Class of 2004 by Mary and
Dan Hinkel

Arbors Middle School Teachers,
Jan, Jacqui, Barb, and Annie by
Tina and John Naegle

Ali and Jessie Bouterse by Henry
Bomberger; and by Kees and Trix
Bouterse

Josh, Bryce and Rachel Cetron by
Dr. and Mrs. Martin Cetron; and
by Dr. and Mrs. Gaurang Yodh

Mimms and Thomas Cross by
Mildred Amaddio

Joe Crow by Jennifer and Lewis
Wilson, Sr.

Annie Frazer, '90 and Noah Eden,
'90 by Liz Frazer and Ernie Eden

Elizabeth Littlefield by Mr and Mrs
James Stolley

Leslie Logan by Deedee Murphy

Robert and Sarah Runner by
Nancy and Fred Runner

Shannon and Alison Setili by
Nancy and Stan Keahey

Brynne Ward, '94 by Marta and
Mark Ward

Lynn Wepfer by Dr. Joseph Wepfer

Emilie Mobley and Lora Hall from
Dennis Bomberger, Ali and Ron
Bouterse



2008 Annual Report: The Journey

Marian Cooper and Asya Yordanova from Dennis Bomberger, Jessie and Ron Bouterse; by Michelle, Anna and Matthew Jordan; and by Margaret and Josh Sagarin

The excellent Montessori teachers who taught our children by Lisa and Greg Shortell

In Memory Of:

Anthony C. Amaddio by Mildred Amaddio

Liz Klehr by Harvey Klehr

Akshay Menon by Deedee and Patrick Murphy





2008 Annual Report: The Journey

In Kind Donations

Every day, we are given the opportunity to celebrate the Arbor families and friends who fulfill the wishes and needs of our classroom and school. Our community benefits from these generous in-kind donations. To the donors of these gifts, too numerous to mention, Arbor is indebted.

Fundraising Dollars at Work

It is only through generous community support received in response to the campaigns listed in these pages that we experience fundraising success. The Annual Fund and Auction gifts benefit tuition assistance, faculty education, and vital program priorities.

Worth special mention, this year's Faculty education funding provided for:

- Jan Deason, Head of School to attend the NAIS Institute for New Heads of School
- Betty Litsey and Kate Ramsey to attend and present at the 2008 annual Elementary Alumni Association conference, *The Wisdom of the Hand: Exploring the Fundamental Need of Clothing through Handwork.* (read more at AMI-EAA.org or at NAMTA website)
- Nancy Fernandez to begin her work toward an AMI elementary diploma at the Washington Montessori Institute.
- Annie Frazer to attend the two-week Oxford Institute for Environmental Education focusing on schoolyard ecology, as well as the Georgia Adopt-A-Stream certification workshop.
- Barbara Fox to participate in the four-week National Endowment for the Humanities Summer Institute

on *Mayan Culture and The Wired Humanities Project* in Eugene, Oregon.

- Steve Thorpe to attend the five-week NAMTA Orientation to Adolescent Studies in Cleveland, Ohio.
- Jacqui Miller to become recertified with Georgia Adopt-A-Stream and work as an advisor and presenter at the NAMTA Orientation in Cleveland

In Closing

We gratefully celebrate and acknowledge the long tradition of parent involvement and financial giving to support our school's programs, goals and mission. It is through this tradition of *Looking Back, Looking Ahead* that we ensure a legacy of the highest quality in education and personal development for our children. Thank you for your constant

and unending support of our community. Congratulations on being included in the 2007-2008 Annual Report.

We have made every effort to compile and correctly list the information in this 2007 – 2008 Annual Report. Please accept our sincere apologies if your name has been omitted or listed improperly. We ask that you notify us by September 30, 2008 of any error so that we may publish corrections in a timely manner. If you would like more information regarding giving opportunities to Arbor or have any questions, please contact Martha Addison in the Development Office at 404-321-9304 or by e-mail at marthaa@arbormontessori.org.



Wheeler Family Wins Volunteer Award

Arbor's Wheeler family (Amy and Jeff Wheeler and their three girls, Grace, Abigail and Clare) won Georgia's Volunteer Group of the Year Award. They were recognized for their work at Wesley Woods Towers, Emory Healthcare's geriatric residence located on the Emory campus. The Georgia Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (GAHSA)* presented the award to the Wheelers on April 14, 2008 during the GAHSA annual conference awards dinner in Young Harris, Georgia.

About two years ago, Abigail performed at Wesley Woods in a harp recital, and her older sister, Grace, handed out programs for the event. The experience was so positive that Amy decided to include all of her daughters. About volunteering there, their youngest daughter, Clare, says, "It's fun!"

The Wheelers travel to Wesley Woods after school at least once a week where they chat with the residents, participate in art projects, or play bingo. Amy also helps out in Wesley Woods' Horticultural Therapy Program. The Wheelers learned first-hand that it is possible to help others even though both parents work and the children themselves have busy schedules, including guitar and harp lessons and taking care of their dog, Omar.

Next year, Clare will be a second year in Cindy's class, Abigail will be a fourth year in Kate's class, and Grace is moving up from Betty's class to Arbor's Middle School. Amy is associate Editor for the Center for the Study of Law and Religion at Emory Law School, and, in addition to his photography career Jeff is Arbor's Running Club coach. Congratulations to the members of the Wheeler family, each of whom



embodies Maria Montessori's vision to care for the earth and those who live in it, young or old.

*The Georgia Association of Homes and Services for the Aging

is a nonprofit association that represents key providers of non-profit community-based housing and service providers throughout the continuum of long-term care.



Community Service with Box Tops for Education

Do you ever wonder what happens to those cereal box tops you bring in to Arbor? Here's what we found out: This year, Kate's upper elementary class had a discussion about how to use the money generated from cashing in the box tops. The class decided to donate to two causes: one for animals and one for children. The organizations they decided on were PAW's Atlanta, a pet adoption agency, and The Smile Train, which donates money to children who need surgery for cleft palate. Once again, Kate's class has learned the value of community service and the real-life decisions that go into helping others.





Colleges our Alumni Have Attended

Auburn University
Bennington College
Brown University
Carleton College
College of Charleston
Connecticut College
Davidson College
Emory University
Florida State University
French Culinary Institute
George Washington University
Georgetown University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Hampshire College
Harvard University
Harvey Mudd College
Howard University
Humboldt State University
Kenyan College
Lawrence University
Loyola University at New Orleans
Massachusetts Institute of
Technology
Mount Holyoke College

New York University
Northwestern University
Occidental College
Presbyterian College
Princeton University
Purdue University
Savannah College of Art
and Design
Thomas Jefferson Medical College
Tufts University
Tulane University
University of California, Davis
University of California, Berkeley
University of Georgia
University of Kentucky
University of Michigan
University of North Carolina
University of Pittsburgh
University of South Carolina
University of Tampa
University of Virginia
Vassar College
Yale University





Alumni News: Year in Review

Harper Addison writes, “Last year I spent a semester in Kenya studying ecology, wildlife management, environmental policy, Swahili, and doing research. We were stationed in southern Kenya, about 5 hours outside of Nairobi so that I got to wake up and look at Mt. Kilimanjaro every morning. According to the Kenyans, we were definitely in the bush. It was an absolutely amazing experience and I’m trying to figure out a way I can get back to Africa and hopefully do some more research. I’m graduating from Davidson with a BS in Biology and a minor in Southern Studies.”

Lauren Albrecht currently lives in Washington, DC where she works as the media intern at the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities. As a part of her work, she corresponds with journalists and policy makers throughout the country to ensure that they are given accurate and timely information.

Sam Artopoulos (*Arbor '04*) will be entering Georgia State in the fall.

Melina Baetti writes, “I graduated Summa Cum Laude in May 2007 from the University of Georgia with a dual degree in Public Relations and French and a minor in Sociology..I really enjoyed my time at UGA and was very involved as the President of the Hispanic Student Association and doing Public Relations for the UGA men’s basketball team. I’m living in Paris right now doing a full-time internship on the worldwide team of Publicis Consultants, an international Public Relations firm under the Publicis Groupe. I work on the Champs Elysees, right next to the Arc de Triomphe! I love living in Paris and I’m having a great time. In the future I’d like to get my MBA, and continue traveling the world.”

Julian Bridges (*Arbor '07*), received the award for Outstanding Symphonic Band Soloist at a national high school band competition in Chicago, IL. He will also participate in the NYU Broadway Percussion Intensive in New York City this summer.

Lauren Deibel has been at the University of North Carolina at Wilmington for the past four years, graduating with a degree in psychology. After graduation she plans to move back to Atlanta to attend nursing school at Emory or Georgia State University.

Nour El-Kebbi, who will be a senior this fall at The Paideia School, was presented with the *Wellesley Book Award* this year. The *Wellesley Book Award* honors young women who have been top scholars in high school and talented performers in extracurricular areas. Nour would like to major in international studies in college

and hopes to be an ambassador to the Middle East. Her brother, **Sami**, will be a sophomore at Paideia and is interested in theological studies.

Lidia Hanevold writes, “I’m engaged to be married in September, graduating in about a year with a BS in psychology, and have a five month old son named Micah. Things are rockin’!”

John Henry Hinkel (*Arbor '04*) will be attending Harvard University in the fall.

Hyland Hunt graduated from University of Michigan Law School this year and was awarded the Class of 1908 Memorial Scholarship Award, which is given to the student who has attained the highest scholastic average at the beginning of her senior year. Her mom writes, “All credit goes to **Arabelle Luckhart**, **Betty Litsey**, and all the fine teachers she was privileged to have at Arbor and later Paideia.



Alumni News: Year in Review

Becca Jenkins formerly Rebecca Batchelder, was a student when our school was named Montessori Children's Development Center, or MCDC, in 1982-83. She writes to her former teacher, **Betty Litsey**: "I live in Nashville, TN now and work at Sitel as a Sr. Director of Global HR Information Systems. I live with my husband, 3 and a half year old son, and twin (10 month old) girls. I am so lucky to have had the beginning that I did as I feel that it prepared me for enjoying life and passing that on to my children. I have just enrolled my son in the Montessori School of Franklin where I feel he will excel just as I did in the Montessori environment. I hope that you are doing well and please know that every day you make a difference!"

Lanya Khoury graduated from Brown University and writes, "I'm majoring in psychology and working on a senior project on the association between early life

stress and hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis abnormalities as a biomarker for depression and other mood disorders. As of now, I'm planning on getting a job doing research somewhere for a couple years (either with the group I work with now in Providence, at the NIH, or maybe in Atlanta but probably not), taking some pre-med classes at the same time, and trying to clarify what the next step will be (MD, PhD, both?). Academics aside, I'm pretty involved in a group at Brown called Brown Outdoor Leadership Training (BOLT); it's a program for rising sophomores to go backpacking for a week in New Hampshire (a preventative tool of sorts against the sophomore slump), and I've been a group leader for a couple years.

Lucy Pettitt-Schieber (*Arbor '04*) received the Female Athlete Award from the Athletic Department at Atlanta International School. She

was also given the Thespian Award and was salutatorian of the class of 2008. She will be attending Georgia Tech in the fall and is pursuing a degree in Chemical Engineering.

Jessica Murphy writes, "While attending FSU, I had the opportunity to study abroad in Valencia, Spain for four months. I improved my Spanish, acquired a taste for paella and perfected the art of fiesta. This past summer I lived in the Ecuadorian Amazon with a Quechua tribe. I got in touch with my natural side by bathing in rivers, eating bugs and harvesting our own food (I never realized my Medicine Bow experience might actually come in handy). I also visited the Galapagos with my mom at the end of my trip where we saw Blue-footed Boobies (it's a bird, don't worry), warm weather penguins and Darwin's finches. I have spent the past two years working for the non-profit

Volunteer Florida Foundation which has inspired me to pursue a degree in non-profit management.

Tarun Narasimhan (*Arbor '05*) received the Dartmouth Book Award and will be a senior at The Paideia School in the fall. Book awards are sponsored by colleges and universities to recognize exceptional students in the areas of scholarship, leadership, and citizenship.

Joanna Reid writes, "I work at a suicide and crisis hotline, and I'm getting married in May, then my future husband and I are moving to Washington, D.C. in the fall."

Evelyn Richardson, (*Arbor '05*), was named Presbyterian College Fellow for High School Juniors for 2008. She received the World Languages Award at Dekalb School of the Arts for excellence in Latin, and is on the "All-A" Honor Roll.



Alumni News: Year in Review

Lauryn Saxe writes, “I’m graduating from UGA in August with a BA in Public Health. Then I’m getting my master’s in public health and going to nursing school to be a nurse practitioner.”

Paul Shortell received the Columbia Book Award and will be a senior at The Paideia School this fall. Book awards are sponsored by colleges and universities to recognize exceptional students in the areas of scholarship, leadership, and citizenship.

Megan Smith (*Arbor* '00), is attending Georgia Tech, majoring in Chemistry. She will be working as a National Science Foundation intern in the Marine Science Department of the University of Georgia this summer. The project considers the effect of temperature control on carbon flow in coastal sediments.

Patrick Smith (*Arbor* '04), will attend the University of Georgia this fall and is interested in pursuing the study of higher mathematics.

Robyn Smith (*Arbor* '02), will be a junior at University of Georgia, majoring in International Affairs and Romance Languages. She is participating in a Service Learning Program in the Ukerewe District of Tanzania, Africa for 4 weeks this summer. Robyn was awarded a cash scholarship to attend this program.

Alex Snead (*Arbor* '04) graduated with honors in May from Greater Atlanta Christian School where he was a Beta Club and National Arts Honor Society member. He will be joining his brother, **Brock** (*Arbor* '02) at Auburn University this fall. He will be majoring in Building Science/Engineering. Alex’s high school peers voted him as the one with “The Best Laugh” of 2008.

Anand Varma (*Arbor*, 2000) is working in Washington, DC as a field assistant at National Geographic Magazine. He participated in the “Cave Crawlers” (9/07) and “Marine Microfauna” (11/07) articles.

Connor (*Arbor* '05) and **Amy Wakamo** (*Arbor* '07) were on the Headmaster’s List at Lovett School for the fall 2007 semester.

Janay Whittaker (*Arbor* '05) received the Vanderbilt Book Award and will be a senior at The Paidiea School in the fall. Book awards are sponsored by colleges and universities to recognize exceptional students in the areas of scholarship, leadership, and citizenship.

Shelby Zimmer writes, “I knew I wanted to go to a women’s college and I got a very generous academic scholarship to Agnes Scott, so I

decided to stay close to home. At Agnes Scott I work in the Writing Center. The center offers free tutoring to all students on any type of writing from any class or for applications, etc. I love my job have made some really great connections with my coworkers as well as people I tutor. After major-hopping for a while, I’ve settled on History and am currently in London for my junior year at University College London. When I think of being a kid, all my memories are connected to Arbor. In fact, my two best friends to this day are Blythe Winchester and Maria Baetti, who were both in Emory I with me. I hope my children will be second-generation Arbor kids, but if I don’t live in Atlanta, they will still definitely go to a Montessori school!”

Statement of Activities

	2007			
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	Total
Revenues				
Tuition and Fees	\$ 2,748,167	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 2,748,167
Enrichment	116,957	\$ -	\$ -	116,957
Investment income	306,882	\$ -	\$ -	306,882
Rents received (net)	6,481	\$ -	\$ -	6,481
Gifts received (Note 6)	196,314	1,867	9,090	207,271
Total Revenues	3,374,801	1,867	9,090	3,385,758
Expenses				
Instruction	\$1,536,024			\$1,536,024
Enrichment	109,030			109,030
Financial Aid	64,215			64,215
Tuition remission	53,242			53,242
Fundraising (Note 6)	67,918			67,918
Administrative and general	647,581			647,581
Plant operations and maintenance	129,559			129,559
Depreciation and amortization	105,600			105,600
Interest expenses	86,476			86,476
Total expenses	2,799,645			2,799,645
Change in net assets	\$ 575,156	\$ 1,867	\$ 9,090	\$ 586,113



Arbor Montessori School
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www.arbormontessori.org

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