



# Dunn Alumni News

February 2012

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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*Ne Tentes Aut Perfice*

BY MARK RAWLINS '67

## What “Community” Means to Me

*Community is one of the core themes this year at Dunn. On Friday, September 16th, I had the pleasure of revisiting Dunn School where about 48 years ago, I entered as a freshman.*

As a current member of the Board of Trustees, that day was just one of my many reconnections with a school that was my community for four years that grew into a relation spanning more than four decades. And seeing the students prepare for the Day of Caring, I challenged myself to really wonder what made up a community.

I do know what a community is NOT. Defined by the prefix of the word, it requires more than one person – there is no such thing as a community of one. It is also not a gathering of people without a purpose. A random seating of people around a table is not a community though a

$$f(c) = \left( \sum_{i=2}^n i \right) * p$$

gathering of friends around a table to help a colleague could be a community because it has a purpose. But it needs to be more than just purpose and some critical mass of people.

A community needs to exhibit the adage that “the whole is greater than the sum of the parts.” Why come together as a group if you can accomplish the same thing independently? A community needs to have greater value as a group — a value that cannot exist individually.

So have you figured out the equation yet? The function of a community (“f” of “c”) is equal to the sum of the people (the Sigma sign)

.....  
“...there is no such thing as a community of one.”

*continued page 3*



## Events

**Alumni Weekend**  
**April 27-29**

Join other alumni for a fun-filled weekend! Class reunion dinners on April 27th for 2s and 7s.

The full schedule for Alumni Weekend is on the last page of this newsletter.

**Help us Stay Up to Date**

When you move or change email addresses, please be sure to send us your current information. We'd also like an update on you. Email changes and class notes to [chartmann@dunnschool.org](mailto:chartmann@dunnschool.org).



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<https://www.facebook.com/dunnschool>



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*(above) Zoë Carter counts Defense Secretary Leon Panetta and his wife, Sylvia, as personal and professional mentors. (right) With the First Dog, Bo. (below right) With her mother, Michelle Griffoul, in front of the White House.*



ZOË CARTER '05

## From *West Wing* to the East Wing

Dunn Alumna spends four months interning in First Lady Michelle Obama's office at the White House

According to Zoë Carter '05, interning at the White House came as no big surprise to her family. "My mom always says that was my trajectory from when I was really little," she recalls. "When I was in 7th grade I sat my parents down and forced them to watch *The West Wing* with me. So the interest has been in me for a while."

Although she didn't wind up working in the West Wing, she did manage to score a policy internship with the First Lady, working on two initiatives. The Let's Move initiative aims to eliminate childhood obesity in a generation, and the Joining Forces

initiative focuses on finding ways to support military families.

From August 29 until December 16, 2011, Zoë worked 12-hour days in the White House before going home to an apartment behind the Supreme Court. "It was neat, walking home between the Supreme Court and the Capitol every night. Every morning that I walked into the East Wing I would think, 'This is really cool!' But I was working so much that I didn't have a lot of time to think about it."

A typical day in the White House could include anything from orga-

nizing volunteers to help harvest the kitchen garden, to calling schools and inviting students to attend the Korean State arrival, to leading tours or helping the First Lady break the world record for the most jumping jacks in a 24-hour period.

"That was a fun event," says Zoë. "Mrs. Obama had 500 kids on the South Lawn doing jumping jacks with her." And according to the Guinness World Record officials, they didn't just surpass the previous record of 20,425, they smashed it with an astounding 300,265 jumping jacks.

*continued next page*

But Zoë's favorite event was the Healthy U.S. Schools Challenge.

"We invited all the schools that had reached the benchmark for exercise and healthy food to come and receive an award," she explains. "We had like 900 people come to this event, people that normally wouldn't get to come to the White House. And they were giving out little cookbooks and the First Lady came and spoke to everybody. I liked working for the First Lady because her office isn't caught up in all the politics from the Hill. She just tries to help people."

Working directly with policy director Jocelyn Frye gave Zoë insight into how decisions are made on national issues. She also got a glimpse at what most people don't get to see: the real people behind the big names.

"They're just normal people," says Zoë. "The First Lady's a mom. She's got two girls and she always says she's a mom first."

While going to college at California State University at Monterey Bay gave Zoë the opportunity to connect with Sylvia and Leon Panetta at their Institute for Public Policy, Zoë believes that Dunn School played a big part in helping her take advantage of this amazing opportunity. "I think that Dunn really gave me the tools to



(above) Posing with the centerpiece from the Healthy School Challenge.  
(right) With Head of School Mike Beck.

do well in college. Dunn made it an option for me."

Even the fact that she didn't get into her first choice of colleges ended up working in her favor. "I got my first college acceptance, which was to Cal State Monterey Bay, on Christmas Eve. It was the perfect place for me. I met Sylvia and Leon Panetta there. And that was sort of my introduction to everything. It's funny because I think of where else I could have landed, other schools I could have gone to, and it wouldn't have been the same outcome. I'm so thankful for my CSU education and I'm so thankful for the opportunity to have been there."

Now that the internship is over, Zoë is taking time to reflect on the experience. Her biggest takeaway? "If you're willing to work hard, you can be successful," she says. "It was good to be able to see that everyone in the White House has worked really hard to be there. School wasn't ever my strong point, but I can work hard at other things and still be successful."

Zoë isn't sure what her next job will be, but she's confident that her White House experience will provide a great stepping stone. "I would love to be back at the White House at some point. I know a lot of interns go back and work for them. I'd like to work for the State Department, or maybe even the Foreign Service."



Maybe even the West Wing?

She smiles. "The options are endless." ■

COMMUNITY cont. from p. 1

which number from 2 to n, all times a purpose (\*p).

What are the communities at Dunn? Certainly being on a sports team is a community where it is the team that wins, not the individual. In theatre, it is the "show that must go on" and not the actor. There is a community in mentoring. There is a community in a band, orchestra or vocal group where the blending of the instruments and voices transcends individual contribution.

We all belong to many communities where engaging with others with a purpose creates a value (pleasure, interest, results, etc.) unachievable individually. BUT... what happens when you exit that community? Have you left it the same? Is it better?

As a trustee, I have always stated that the perfect Dunn School student is one who upon graduation from the school has left it a better community than when he or she arrived.

Anyone can belong to a community but how are you making it better? How is the person who joins next going to find a richer experience? Now that the Day of Caring is past, how is your community (however you want to define it) better or different? Or was it just a bunch of people doing stuff on a Saturday?

As Dunn continues to promote the concept of community, remember that satisfying the above equation is easy. What is tough is making a difference; making whatever community you might participate in a better one for the next person. THAT is what Dunn School taught me about community over four decades ago. ■

# Dunn Alumni In the News

## Nyuol Tong '10

Even before he graduated, Nyuol Tong was making a difference in the world with his nonprofit organization, Sudan Education for Liberty Foundation (SELF). **SELSudan** was recently featured on the PBS NewsHour website. You can read the full article and hear clips of Nyuol talking about the need for education in South Sudan by following this link: <http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/>

## Rob Gray '10

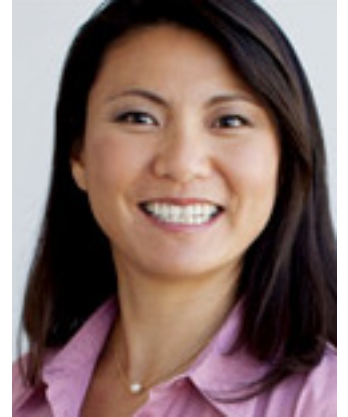
Rob Gray has been cast for the role of Gregory in the upcoming PCPA presentation of "Romeo and Juliet." Additionally, Gray will understudy "Tybalt" for the show which will run at the Marian Theatre April 19 through May 13. Gray, whose acting career began as a soldier in Allan Hancock College's "The Nutcracker" in 1997, regularly performed in Dunn plays when he was a student.

## Michelle Bone '90, Parent '15

The Winter 2012 issue of **Inside the Santa Ynez Valley** features an article on the home of alumna, parent and former Dunn librarian, Michelle Bone. She and her husband, Richard Smalldon, spent two years restoring their historic 1890s home in Los Olivos, customizing it for their family while staying true to the legacy of the house.



Dunn alumna Yoky Matsuoka has been making headlines again, this time for her role as VP of Technology for **Nest, The Learning Thermometer**. The company was recently featured in the October issue of **Wired magazine**. Working with Tony Faddell, the genius behind the first 18 generations of the iPod and the first three generations of the iPhone, Matsuoka designed the algorithms that make the thermometer smart enough to adjust the temperature based on time of day and whether anyone is around. Before joining Nest, Matsuoka served as Head of Innovation at Google and Professor of Computer Science and Engineering at the University of Washington. An excerpt from the Wired article is below. Read the full article at [wired.com](http://wired.com)



Included among Nest's advisors is Stanford AI head and Google researcher Sebastian Thrun, who told Faddell and Rogers that the best person in the world to produce this complicated intelligence was Yoky Matsuoka, a 2007 MacArthur "genius" fellow and MIT-trained computer scientist who heads a University of Washington lab, and also was working on futuristic projects for the top-secret Google X division. Rogers set up a meeting.

When Matsuoka heard him utter the acronym HVAC, she pictured some guy in a blue shirt coming to her house and checking out some dirty spot in the basement to fix something. "But seven minutes later, I was captivated," she says. "I'd seen plenty of smart home projects in academia, beginning in the 1980s, but they just could not take off. When Matt presented the idea, I tried to poke holes in it, but he had answers for every problem I brought up. I realized that this could be the entry point — and that this was an opportunity I could not miss."

It's the intelligence within that makes the Nest Learning Thermostat unique. After it's installed, users simply set temperatures that make them comfortable for a few days. Soon, the thermostat figures out what you want, and starts adjusting temperatures on its own, based on time of day and whether people are around.

If you're not home for a while, the Nest will figure out the house is empty. If you routinely turn down the air conditioning before your household goes to sleep, and you forget to do this one night, the Nest will figure it out and take action. "If this is in your house for 10 days, it really starts making a difference. If you're feeling cold, turn it up. If you're feeling warm, turn it off. Turn it up two days at the same time, we know," says David Sloo, the Nester in charge of the user interface.

Matsuoka knew that she'd been successful when she installed one of the 200 test units in her home. *Continue reading at [wired.com](http://wired.com).* ■



(above) Alexandria Dunn '09, Katie Ryan '09 and Lacey Lieberthal '09 (center) Steve Manning '75 and Jim Geller '75 (right) Brett Kline '07, Greg Benton '05 and Daniel Missirlian '07

BY RALPH LOWE

# San Francisco Alumni Gathering a Success

## Admissions Reception

On Wednesday, November 29th, Dunn School hosted an admissions reception at the San Francisco Olympic Club. Over 30 prospective families and current and past Dunn School parents, alumni, Trustees and admissions personnel were in attendance. Thank you to Dunn School alum Bill Olds '81 for hosting the event and to those parents who attended and shared their experiences and perspective on Dunn School with prospective families.



## San Francisco Alumni Gathering

Alumni young and old joined Ralph Lowe (be sure to read his *Lowedown* on the event in the next column) at historic Vesuvio's Café in San Francisco. Tom Holmes, Aaron Dorlarque and Trustees/alums Mark Rawlins '67 and Chris Wesselman '65 also enjoyed the gathering.

## Keep Up with the Lowedown

Ralph Lowe's articles are now archived in their own space on Blogspot. You can subscribe by email and never miss out on his unique perspective pieces. Visit the site at: <http://dunnschool-thelowedown.blogspot.com>.

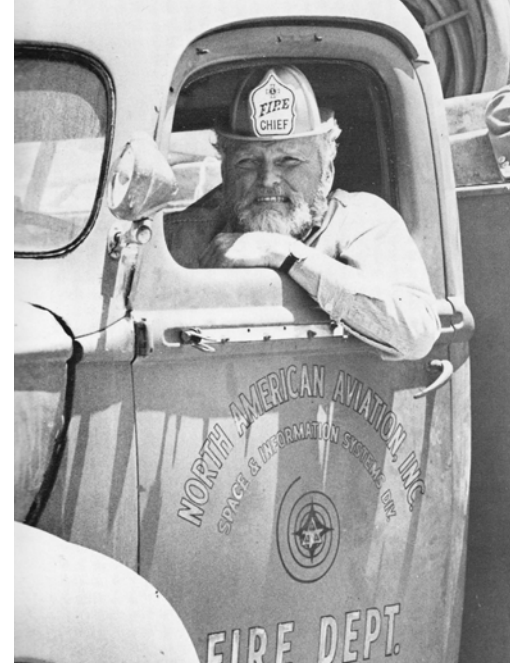
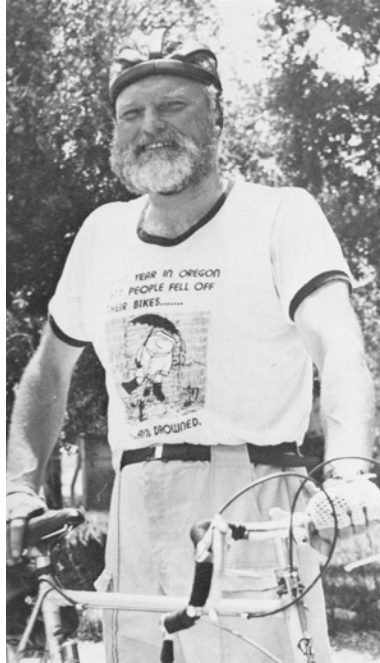
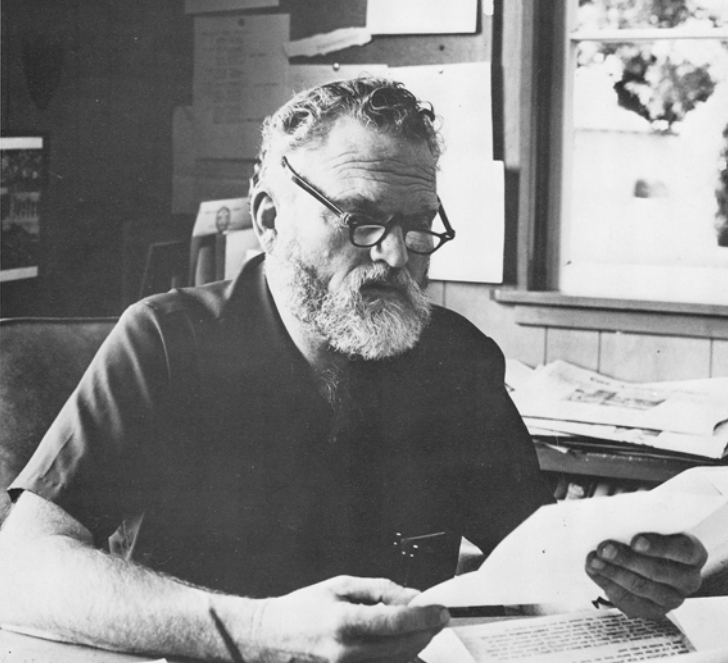
So we went down to the Beat Crossroads, off Jack Kerouac Alley and across from Specs, to Vesuvio's with its Christmas lights that are on all year, its sepia slide show on the wall above the bar and old black and whites of the Beat Pantheon lining the stairway down to the fetid basement men's room, next to the slide that shoots the kegs into the cellar. We had antipasto from Marineros up on Vallejo and Columbus and a waitress named Abby.

Maddy Phenecie '09 couldn't get in because she is too young, so she and Mackenzie Lisenby '09 and Downey Orrick '09 and Justin Ching '07 with James Kieckhefer '09, retreated to The Stinking Rose up the street. Eventually, Alexandria Dunn '09 fell in and it was the third Dunn Alumni Convocation of the evening.

It was loud upstairs at Vesuvio's. The anecdotes and lies were flying, the revelations and confessions emerging. In short, we were about the business of marveling at our youth, the common ground and peculiar vocabulary we share as graduates of a unique, gentle and often rowdy institution which went a long way toward making women and men out of girls and boys.

Lacey Lieberthal '09 showed up with her boyfriend who looked on amused and, every once in awhile, probably amazed. Brady Redall '92 was there too, a reporter on energy issues, policies and trends for no less than Reuters, and Daniel Missirlian '07 back from graduating from Sarah Lawrence and making videos about fly fishing. Cianna Walker '05 stopped by, gorgeous, resplendent as ever with the inimitable Walker smile. Steve Dini '89 was there (I haven't seen him since Athens nor had I seen Katie Ryan '09 since) as was Stephan DeBord '90, without whom it would not be an alumni event. Reed Stevens '04, my "old" advisee, is no longer (literally) racing around in circles and getting nowhere and has become a circumspect fellow with a clear sense of where he is going.

Bill Olds '81 proved once again that he can, like Joseph Campbell's hero, "move between worlds with ease." He showed up after the more sober gathering at the Olympic Club and helped us close the place. It was agreed that the Vesuvio's soiree was worthy of becoming an annual event. I know the manager; I can get the cold cuts. I'll ask for Abby. ■



BY NICK THACHER

## In Memoriam: Bill Webb

William R. Webb, Headmaster of Dunn School from 1967 to 1975, passed away November 6th, 2010, at the age of 89 surrounded by his family. Bill took over the leadership of Dunn after the untimely death of his friend and fellow Headmaster Tony Dunn.

The son of Webb School founder Thompson Webb, Bill was born in Long Beach in 1921 and followed a family tradition by graduating from his father's school in Claremont, California, just as his own father Thompson had done at the Webb School of Bellbuckle, Tennessee. (Bill's daughter Joanne, known as Jody, continued that tradition by graduating from Dunn in 1972.)

Bill taught at his father's school after college and service during WWII in the Pacific. (His eldest daughter, Robin Zismann Bleeker, carried on that family tradition by teaching at Dunn while her father was Headmaster.) Prior to his arrival at Dunn in 1967, Bill had served as Assistant Headmaster at Webb and Headmaster of the Catalina Island School for Boys.

Bill and his wife Doree, who passed away in 1992, made an energetic team at Dunn. Doree volunteered her time managing the Dunn School dining hall and supervising the kitchen staff as well as all Dunn social events. Both of the Webbs loved the Santa Ynez Valley; after they retired from Dunn, Doree became the first woman administrative assistant to a Santa Barbara County Supervisor and, assisted by her husband, vigorously promoted land use planning that protected open space in the valley.

In 1982 the Webbs left the Santa Ynez Valley and moved to San Juan Island in Washington. There they successfully founded Westcott Bay Gourmet Shellfish, which supplied half shell oysters to restaurants throughout the greater Northwest and as far away as New York, Alaska, Singapore, and the Netherlands. Their oysters were featured in *People Magazine* in 1987.

The Webbs were preceded in death by their granddaughter Scholle Zismann and are survived by four daughters, Robin (Zismann) Bleeker, Nancy Webb, Sally Webb, and Joanne Webb, as well as their son-in-law Craig Bleeker, three grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren. Bill and Doree and their family will be recognized at the All-Alumni Reception and Dinner on Saturday, April 28 during Alumni Weekend. Bill and Doree's friends are encouraged to attend. ■



### Passages

Brooke Comer '76 sent word that her good friend and classmate **Lorna Sykes** passed away on Dec. 21st, 2011.

Lorna graduated from Dunn in 1976 and her years there were the highlight of her life. She died peacefully after a long battle with Huntington's disease. ■

## THE WEBB AWARD

# The William R. Webb Trophy

Since 1979, the Webb Award has been given to the student who has shown the greatest improvement in attitude and personal growth as reflected in his/her contribution to the school community for a period of three or more years. All Webb Award recipients have been personally invited and will be recognized during the All-Alumni Reception and Dinner on Saturday April 28 during Alumni Weekend.

1979 - Tom Weissbarth  
1980 - Jeff Roberts  
1981 - Lyn Wiley  
1982 - Greg Rude  
1983 - Phil Samuelson  
1984 - Brian Panosian & DeDee DeLongpre  
1985 - Kim Metzger  
1986 - John Reich  
1987 - Nicholas Goodman  
1988 - Chris Harahan  
1989 - Tom Johnson  
1990 - Miles Robinson & Patrick Spicer  
1991 - Kenyatta Jones  
1992 - Brian Dunn & Jill McCutcheon  
1993 - William Miller  
1994 - Cheryl Clay  
1995 - Not given

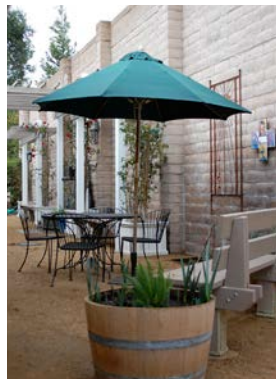


1996 - Russell Chaplan  
1997 - Anton Riley  
1998 - Violeta Flores  
1999 - Tobyn Derby - Talbot  
2000 - Jessica Tobey & Julia Zinovieva  
2001 - John Howell  
2002 - Justin Rendel  
2003 - Tracey Shea  
2004 - Katherine Bell  
2005 - Tommy Cortez  
2006 - Taylor Lohman  
2007 - Tabitha Ballard-Williams  
2008 - Walter Lee  
2009 - Tanner Sullivan  
2010 - Fidencio Flores  
2011 - Woo Jin Choi



## Celebrating Tracey's Garden

Inspired by the vibrant life of Dunn alum Tracey Shea '03, who passed away due to a rare viral infection last year, the Tracey Shea Memorial Garden was constructed on campus by volunteers. Spearheaded by Dianne Barrett and Marge Elfering, parents of current senior Laura Barrett-Elfering, the design includes a large water feature, a main pergola covered in climbing roses and student gathering spaces. "The outpouring of effort on the part of all involved—growers, craftsmen, electricians, and materials suppliers—was quite remarkable and speaks to the universal bond that each of us relates to when we speak of our children," stated Dianne Barrett.



The garden tile was designed by Michelle Griffoul, local artist, former Dunn teacher and parent of alumna Zoë Carter '05. Dale Elchlepp, a petroleum engineer and friend of the Barrett-Elfering family, volunteered his time and carpentry skills to build wooden landscape features. Dunn's grounds crew and maintenance team were also actively involved in the construction of the project. By Alumni Weekend the garden should be in full bloom. If you're here for the festivities, be sure to visit this special place on campus, behind Collins Library and the Learning Strategies Center. Tracey and her family will be recognized at the All-Alumni Reception and Dinner on Saturday, April 28 during Alumni Weekend. Tracey's friends are encouraged to attend. ■



**Alumni Weekend Contact:**  
**Tom Holmes**  
For questions please email:  
[tholmes@dunnschool.org](mailto:tholmes@dunnschool.org) or  
call: (805) 688-6471

**PLEASE RSVP  
BY APRIL 13**

**For Friday and Saturday  
dinners, please email:**  
[chartmann@dunnschool.org](mailto:chartmann@dunnschool.org)  
or call: (805) 686-0632

**For golf, please email:**  
[jsilvino@dunnschool.org](mailto:jsilvino@dunnschool.org)  
or call: (805) 686-0615

**Hotel Information**  
Santa Ynez Valley Hotel Association  
[www.syvha.com](http://www.syvha.com)

## Alumni Weekend Activities

### April 27th

- 5:00 pm Boys' Volleyball vs. Cate  
5:30 – 7:00 **Reception** in the Collins Library  
8:00 – 10:00 **Alumni Dinners** at various off-campus venues (*RSVP Encouraged*)

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### April 28th

- 9:00 – 11:00 Breakfast in the Mary Dunn Jackson Dining Hall  
10:00 – 3:00 **9th Annual Jurgensen Golf Classic:** Alisal River Course (*RSVP Required*)  
11:00 Boys' Tennis vs. Besant Hill  
Girls' Lacrosse vs. Thacher  
12:00 – 1:00 Sandwich Bar in the Mary Dunn Jackson Dining Hall  
1:00 – 3:30 Swimming Pool Open  
3:00 – 5:00 Boys' Baseball vs. Thacher  
*Enjoy a family afternoon of peanuts, popcorn and Cracker Jacks with the entire Dunn Community.*  
5:00 – 9:00 **All-Alumni Reception and Dinner** at the Bliss House, home of the Head of School Mike Beck and his wife Maura. Celebrate the Alum of the Year, Young Alum of the Year, reunion classes (2s and 7s), the lives of Bill and Doree Webb, past Webb Award recipients, and Tracey Shea '03.  
(*RSVP Requested*)

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### April 29th

- 9:00 – 11:00 Brunch in the Mary Dunn Jackson Dining Hall – with Guest Chef: Head of School Mike Beck  
9:30 – 10:30 Alumni Womens' Lacrosse Game  
10:30 – 11:30 Alumni Mens' Lacrosse Game  
11:30 – 12:30 Alumni Baseball Game  
12:00 – 1:00 Sandwich Bar in the Mary Dunn Jackson Dining Hall