

## Chicago Founder's Day Dinner

### Traditions Revived as Toasts Include Verses From the Vorum

**D**istinguished Foundation guests Rear Admiral David Cooke, Clerk, Bill Richards, PrBPeB 1961-70. Deputy Chairman of the Council of Almoners, and new Development Director Lesley Humphreys joined 34 Old Blues and guests for our Founder's Day celebrations in Chicago. Kenneth Northcott, Barnes B 1934-39, was the most senior Blue present followed by FCH Board Chair, John Doyle, PrepB, MdA 1940-48. Grant Bruton, ThA 1948-49, was the most senior of three former ESU exchange students, the others being Jim Bell, MaA 1957-58 and Kip Thompson, ColA 1968-9. With all

fine young men. Emeritus and current FCH Board Members Patricia Stockton, 5s, 6s, 1949-56, and Sally O'Brien, 5s 1970-77, and Grace Scrimgeour, 1s 1972-77, represented Hertford, and Board member Belinda Reiser, 4s, ColA 1979-86, the transition generation. Old Blue David Matcham, MaB/PeB 1966-73, brother of Board Member George Matcham, PeB 1963-70, had the longest journey, from Sydney, Australia.

Following toasts to our Founder and the Foundation, Chris Bugge, MaB 1956-63, revived tradition by leading us confidently through the first two verses of the Vorum. Bill Richards, in his remarks on behalf of the Foundation, thanked Friends of Christ's Hospital for its present hospitality and for all its support during the last ten years. FCH is a shining example to Old Blues around the world. He concluded with apologies to David Matcham for making him once play in the second row of the Old

Blues RFC team instead of his preferred back row. A spirited Q & A followed.

The formal events concluded with an auction at which we claim the world record bid, \$650, for a pair of (mint condition) orange stockings. The winner, Board Member and dinner MC Trevor Tomkins, MaA 1960-66, is our



*Above: Fiona Allan-Smith and Patricia Stockton. Below from left: Rear Adm. David Cooke, David Matcham and Ash Levine*



*From left: Matt Holliday, Mark Laichena and George Matcham*

following decades represented, Mark Laichena, MaA 2000-07, now at UNC, and Ash Devine, LaA 2000-07, at the Berklee College of Music, were our youngest guests. We thank the wives of Kenneth Northcott, Patricia John, and Kip Thompson, Elena Gomez, for extending the hospitality of their homes to these two



new Treasurer-elect. He outbid fellow Board Member and auctioneer John-Allan Smith ThA, ThB 1986-93 whose second place bid nevertheless secured a second pair for Fiona, his wife of nine days, until recently serving with British Military Intelligence in Afghanistan.



## FCH Has Raised Its Millionth Dollar!

**A** check from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, (a three for one match for a generous gift from Gates Senior Program Manager Stephen Coller, ThA 78-84), brought the funds raised by FCH since 2001 to more than \$1 million. As you know we are very actively encouraging all US Old Blues to contribute "according to their means" as percent giving is a key measure for grantors. Please make sure you mail a check made out to FCH to Lance Reynolds, 470F Cola Ballena, Alameda CA 94501 before year end. If you wish to donate appreciated stock, please contact Lance by email at lancereyno@sbcglobal.net or (510) 814-1942 no later than December 10.

# Baltimore Transatlantic Exchange Celebration Dinner

Sally O'Brien again arranged and hosted a dinner at the Mount Vernon Club on April 10 for Blues current (6) and old (8), for parents, students, and faculty of the Gilman and Bryn Mawr schools (14), and other Friends of Christ's Hospital (7).

## Senior Grecian Lily Hayes

In her after dinner remarks, Lily Hayes stated, "Alex and I are in our last year at CH, the Grecian year, and, with only around 11 weeks to go, it is both a daunting and exciting time as we prepare to move on to university. Both of us have been boarding at CH since our second form (that is since we were 11) and frankly I cannot believe we have got to where we are today! I can still remember arriving on second form certain I was at Hogwarts. I will attempt now, no doubt inadequately, to give you an idea of what being at CH is like now and what it has meant to me.

For me, the most important thing about CH is its sense of community, creating a home away from home, where there is stability and security. As it has always been CH's mission 'to have regard especially to children of families in social, financial or other need' where home life is often pressured and unsettled. One of the main factors that I believe helps maintain continuity within this community is our uniform, probably one of the first things noticeable about a CH student. Apart from being a great source of interest to visitors, (I was once asked which play I was appearing in), wearing the Housey uniform immediately removes social and economic parameters that might otherwise rest upon such a diverse community...

In addition to old traditions many new ones have been created. For example, every year we have CH Valentine's Day on which pupils buy 'snuggles' (hugs) and roses or carnations from the Grecians, to be given out throughout the day in lessons and meals. There always much excitement, especially from the junior girls swooning over the Grecian boys, and it raises much money for charity.

I have noticed a fair amount of change since starting, as I'm sure the Old Blues here will have done. From gaining a new head master and deputy heads, to the completion of the renovation of all 8 boarding house. During all this, Thornton (Alex's first boarding house) was converted into girls' house, evening out the ratio of girls to boys. More recently, with the financial problems that have hit the school we are all much more aware of the true monetary cost of running CH every year and the enormous impact the recession has had. Indeed this became even more apparent when the Head Master announced the admission of some full fee payers and a small number of day pupils. This is a significant step and some worry has arisen within the student body as to the effect this may have on the ethos of the school, but most recognize at least these measures mean there will continue to be a school to have an ethos of. It will inevitably require some adjustment but I have no doubt that, from a pupil's perspective, this short-term measure will not affect the balance of the school due to the strength of the community.

Ask any CH pupil what they feel they have gained most from CH and it is likely they will say opportunities and for each one of them those opportunities will have been realized in different ways. This does not only refer



**Christ's Hospital - Gilman Bryn Mawr Transatlantic Exchange Dinner. Back row: Gabriel Smales LaA 2002-07; Alex Wooley TbA, MdB 2003-10; Gi Lee. Center row: Tamara Piredo Col B 2007-; Molly Elmes Col A 2007-; Harleen Singh; Lily Hayes Col A 2003-2010. Front row: Lucy Taylor Col B 2007-; Charles Kowzum MdA, 2004-; Nik Feldman MaA 2009.**

to an academic education but education in its broadest sense within the context of community life. On an average afternoon at CH you could join the Combined Cadet Force, learn Russian, reflect in yoga, volunteer at a hospice, play American football...the list goes on. This is perhaps similar to any other boarding school and therefore unremarkable. But the difference is outside of CH the majority of its pupils would not be in a situation where such activities are possible. I hope I have been able to make the most of many of these opportunities but, in this last year I feel have failed as, try as I might, I have not been able to make the most of my right as Senior Grecian to legitimately sport a beard.

This aside, as CH is a charitable foundation, I have been given a fantastic education, the chance to develop life skills and independence and just as importantly the preparation to continue this beyond CH. I have also developed an immense sense of pride in the school, which is strengthened upon meeting with Old Blues and sharing in some of the great relationships they have formed, such as those with Bryn Mawr and Gilman. When I do leave CH I will miss it enormously but being here today shows that even when you leave behind the red brick buildings, the traditions and move away, the connection can never be broken."

## Molly Eames, CoLA

Molly Eames relates, "My experience from participating in the Baltimore exchange program for five weeks over Easter was something I will never forget. I was fortunate to be staying with such a generous host family as well as attending such a fantastic school as Bryn Mawr. The exchange was my first visit to the US and having

come from a very different school perspective I found adjusting to life at Bryn Mawr exciting but also daunting.

All the teachers and students, many of whom I formed close bonds with, immediately welcomed me. The environment around campus was lovely. I attended American History classes with my exchange partner Harleen Singh and really enjoyed learning about the political background of the country, something that was very different to the curriculum that I studied at CH. As well as the other subjects on my timetable including English and Biology, I really enjoyed listening to the Seniors' convocation speeches. This was again something that I have never experienced but something I felt was a great way to get to know each student before they left. Throughout my time at Bryn Mawr I was also exposed to Lacrosse, a sport which I had never seen be played at such a high standard,

as well as a more relaxed uniform compared to the Tudor uniform my school maintains. I also really admired the commitment that many American students had to their specific sports teams. As Harleen was a keen rower I was welcomed as part of the Crew team. Another aspect of Bryn Mawr that I found interesting was the way in which pupils are assessed over the course of the year, rather than taking exams to assess a student's ability as we do in England. However, I could relate to the way in which the school still practiced traditions and the happy environment, which I found, especially during spirit week, which was great fun.

Outside of school I had a chance to experience life living at home during term time as opposed to boarding at school, which I have done for a number of years. My host family was brilliant at introducing me to new types of food, taking me to exciting American shops and also at the weekends taking me to Washington and New York. It was amazing to compare the two cities to my hometown of London and one of my favorite moments in America was visiting New York. Harleen and I also had fun exploring Baltimore, visiting the Harbor one weekend.

Overall my experience of the US was great, I met so many new people many, all of whom were welcoming and supportive during my stay. My host family was great fun to stay with and they did so much to make my experience special. I am so thankful for having the opportunity to participate in such a great scheme and visit Bryn Mawr and I hope to return to the US in the future.

### Harleen Singh

**B**ryn Mawr Student Harleen Singh agrees. My exchange to England was nothing but phenomenal. My initial thought was that English culture would be extremely similar to American culture. I didn't expect to find that English culture, music, and art is completely different from that of America. My experience was absolutely amazing because I experienced so much of this in such a short period of time, thanks to Molly and her wonderful family!

When I visited Christ's Hospital for the first time, I fell in love with the school at once. Everything about the place was magical. I was basically on the grounds of ancient castle like buildings. Even the dorms were built beautifully. The dining Hall was absolutely magnificent. I loved spending time there, and was glad to know Molly and I would be back when we left to go back to London.

After spending about two weeks in London seeing all the sights Molly and I returned to Christ's Hospital. My last week and a half was spent back at CH. It was exciting, as most everyone was finished with his or her exams and celebrations were going on all over campus all the time. I bonded with all the girls in my house and had an absolutely amazing time hanging out with them, barbecuing, and biking around campus. We watched World Cup soccer matches, and even Wimbledon on TV. It really was an amazing few days, and they whizzed by faster than I could have imagined. I made so many friends and I definitely felt comfortable enough in England to stay a few more months, but the end had to come eventually.

To say Molly and I had a tearful goodbye would be an understatement. We sobbed for a while, and then somehow I ended up on a plane headed back to the US with memories and souvenirs that will last me a lifetime.

Molly and I still keep in touch all the time. We call, we email, and Facebook. I still talk to many of my friends from England. I will never forget my experience. It shone a new light on a different culture for me and I couldn't be more thankful for everything I got to do.

### Charlie Kowszun, MEd, 2004-

**C**harlie Kowszun writes, "Both Molly and I were very nervous on our arrival to America, because we weren't entirely sure what to expect, but those nerves soon disappeared as we received a very warm welcome from our respective families.

For the first few days I shadowed my exchange partner around, went to his classes, took part in the sporting activities and helped with his community service. I was then allowed to make my own schedule, which for me included classes such as ceramics and Russian both of which I have never done before. My sporting commitment was rugby. I had the opportunity to partake in the many different experiences which Gilman school had to offer, ranging from helping the young children who lived in the rough areas of Baltimore to going to the Gilman spring dance. All were equally enjoyable and memorable for different reasons.

The pupils of Gilman and the neighboring girls schools were very approachable and keen to meet us English which made it very easy to make friends. Everyone was very interested by the English accent, some even excited to hear me speak. Soon enough pupils were offering to take me out to lunch, collectively ensuring that I visited every fast food restaurant that was accessible, this added up to around 20 different places, all equally satisfying.

I had a great opportunity to see other parts of America such as New York and Washington, thanks to my kind host Gi Lee and his family. I thoroughly enjoyed every moment spent out in America and at Gilman school and I was lucky enough to spend an extra week due to the unexpected volcano ash cloud. My experience in America is one that I am sure to never forget and I am very grateful to all those who made it possible.

### Gi Lee

**H**is Gilman counterpart Gi Lee writes, "Journeying across the Atlantic, I felt a subtle separation from the familiar and comfortable. This uneasiness increased as a flurry of novel English accents bombarded my ears while entering the terminal at Heathrow. However, the warm

greeting of the Kowszun family, awaiting my arrival, slowly dissolved the needless tension. From being kitted up in my "Housey" uniform to attending classes, I experienced a sublime connection to my peers and the energetic school itself. Christ's Hospital and its members graciously opened their arms and made me feel as if I were an actual student of the school.

A once in a lifetime experience, I was determined to make the most out of the exchange. My bucket list became shorter as I explored London and Oxford, while wandering through shops and taking in the sights. My endurance was also tested during my exchange through a 4-day long camping/hiking trip into the rolling hills of Dartmoor. The trek proved to be the most memorable experience of my exchange because it allowed me to bond with fellow CH students, while losing the barriers of being an American exchange. My fondest memories, however, occurred in the common rooms of my dormitory at CH, Middleton A, where I watched world cup matches with roommates and became engaged in debates involving the declaration of American or British supremacy. It was fascinating to observe the differences and similarities in the views and opinions of the people who I met.

The whole experience has taught me to take hold of the opportunities that are present in my life, but require venturing outside my comfort zones. The best part of the trip was having the opportunity to become acquainted with CH students and teachers, by becoming immersed in their schools vibrant atmosphere. Struggling to keep up, I was amazed at how busy the students' lives were, with attending classes to participating in their many extracurricular activities. Despite this stress, the students always seemed to love every moment they spent in the school and with their friends.

I would like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Riepe, Mr. Christ, Dr. Stuart, Sally O'Brien, Nik Feldman and his family, for helping me to form priceless memories and friendships during my stay overseas. Special thanks go to Charlie and the Kowszun family, who gave me an amazing tour and treated me as if I were a part of their family."

## The Northcott Brunch

**T**hose of us that were able to stay for brunch on Sunday with Kenneth and Patricia received a memorable feast, and, for those who had not attended in 2007, a viewing of a bold and unforgettable art collection. Kenneth had trouble rousing Ash who had been, with some assistance from Mark, researching the Chicago jazz scene until dawn, presumably as part of his Berklee studies. We cannot thank Kenneth and Patricia enough for their hospitality that provided a delightful end to a festive weekend



Above: Randall Peart, MEd 1945-52, and Lesley Humphreys. Right: Susan Vargo with Charlie Holliday

# Senior Grecian Visit

## Volcanic Eruption in Iceland Extended U.S. Visit During Spring Break

Senior Grecian Lily Hayes (now reading Chemistry at St. Andrew's) and Second Monitor Alex Wooley (now reading Classics at Oxford) were our guests in New York and Baltimore during the 2010 spring break. The volcano in Iceland extended their stay by almost a week and we thank Sally O'Brien for her extended hospitality. Lily and Alex provided the following.

Baltimore, New York, Washington, what can I say? In the run up to the trip I got so excited I was worried my expectations may have climbed too high, but after just one day I realized they had not been high enough. The first thing that struck me was the size of everything from food portions to buildings, cars and their roads. I found this particularly in New York where even when I was almost bending over backwards I still failed to get even one of the smaller skyscrapers in one picture. I had similar experiences looking at the older buildings in Washington such as my favorites the Lincoln Memorial and the National Cathedral.

Although the building and architecture were incredible, the best thing by far about the trip was meeting so many people. I loved the transatlantic dinner because of the fantastic mix of people from CH, Bryn Mawr and Gilman. In the week that was ever so unfortunately added to our trip due to the volcanic eruption, I was delighted to be able to spend a day in Bryn Mawr with Mary Anne (one of the exchange students from last year) and develop the picture I had developed at the dinner of what school in America is like. This extra week also meant we could spend more time at the O'Briens' which was fantastic and Sally made sure we got the whole Baltimore experience by taking us to have crabs, which was definitely an interesting experience.

A further thing about the trip is that it opened my eyes to so many things. For example, I never visited an art museum before, but having now been to MOMA and the Frick I have fallen in love and cannot wait to see more in England. Also, it made me fully realize there is so much out there and by grasping opportunities it is possible to be part of it. Therefore, the next chance I get I shall be back!



*Senior Grecian Lily Hayes with Second Monitor Alex Wooley*

I think the excuse for my trip to America was that I needed to attend the Transatlantic Dinner. What a great deal – a week's holiday (which turned out to be more akin to a fortnight while volcanic ash hovered over Europe) in return for saying the Housie toast at the end of a very nice dinner. If only every transaction in life were as attractive as this.

I should like to pick out a few memories from my stay, without any particular regard for chronology, rather than list every last detail. The first of which was our visit to Washington DC. Truly, the architecture was an experience; an experience I feel no medium can convey. Can words ever have the same impact as when the dome of the Capitol rises gleaming out of vibrant trees, as reading Lincoln's Gettysburg address within a

Grecian temple, so far from Greece, in a so Christian country, or as a new and medieval moon-laced Cathedral? Can a photograph ever convey the sense of awe at being surrounded by museum after museum and memorial after memorial, each so different, yet together so concordant? Can anything be as powerful as a room of empty shoes? It is easy to feel at the centre of the world in Washington.

We spent a few days in New York, and were lucky enough to see 'South Pacific.' Like all the best musicals, there was cheese, and plenty of it. But there was tenderness and humor too, along with some weighty questions about prejudice. As something of a classicist-to-be (you probably guessed from my archaic and odd writing style), who's read a lot of tragedy recently, I found it good to be reminded that serious questions can be raised in light-hearted ways.

Going back to the beginning, the Transatlantic Dinner was a lovely evening. It was a real pleasure to

meet staff from Gilman and Bryn Mawr, this year's American exchanges Harleen Singh and Gi Lee, and to find Molly Elmes and Charles Kowszun enjoying their time so much. The exchange programme looks set to be another success, and I look forward to seeing the American partners at CH in June.

Lastly may I thank all the Friends of Christ's Hospital for making this a reality, especially those whom we met, lodged with and were entertained by, Mrs. O'Brien, Mr. Bell, Mr. Allan-Smith and Mr. Allen. However I must extend the largest possible thanks to the entire O'Brien family who fed and put up with us not once but twice, the second time completely unexpected during Iceland's extension to our trip.

## Thank You Jim Bell

It was with great regret that we accepted the resignation of long time Board member Jim Bell this summer. Jim was an ESU exchange student 1957-58, one of many from Andover. Jim, working with Sally O'Brien, was instrumental in reviving student exchange between Christ's Hospital and US schools, albeit in modified form due to today's examination and college entry pressures. He clarified for Horsham students and staff some of the mysteries of the SAT and the US university application process. He was a generous host to students, staff and Old Blues visiting New York where he arranged and hosted two highly successful Founder's Day Dinners. Last and by no means least he has been a very supportive FCH Donation Governor.

## FRIENDS of CHRIST'S HOSPITAL



**Chair** – John Doyle

**Treasurer/CFO** – Trevor Tompkins

**Secretary** – Lance Reynolds

At its Annual General Meeting in Chicago on October 23, 2010, the Board elected to one-year terms for calendar year 2011, John Doyle, Trevor Tompkins, and Lance Reynolds. Formal transfer of the Treasurer and accounting functions from Lance to Trevor will occur in January 2011. Until that time donations should be sent to Lance.