



Founder's Day Dinner in New York

Head Master John Franklin and Clerk David Cooke, together with their wives Kim and Sarah, were our guests of honor at our Founder's Day Dinner held at the Yale Club on October 24. With 27 Old Blues and 19 guests we surpassed the 24 Old Blues and 17 guests attending our October 20, 2007, Chicago event. Every decade, from the 30s to the current, was represented with Kenneth Northcott, BaB '34 to '39, our most Senior Blue, and Nik Feldman, MaA '09, this year's Gilman exchange student, the Junior.

We were delighted that Gilman Head Master John Schmick and his wife Janet made the trip up from Baltimore to join us.

Tyler Alfriend, MdB '07, and Gilman '08, on weekend leave from the U.S. Naval Academy, relished his time with Adm. Cooke. Former Treasurer David Farrington, LaB '56-'63, and his wife Shannon,

Former Almoner Alan Ryan, LaA '51 to '59, with his wife Kate, now back at Princeton after nine years as Warden of New College Oxford, and Senate Chairman Chris Pearson Mda '42-48, represented

Above: Head Master John Franklin and Clerk David Cooke take questions.

Right: George Matcham PeB '63-'70 and FCH President Michael Allen MaA '49-'57



Above: David Farrington LaB '56-'63 and Wei Matcham. Above right: Sarah Cooke and Trevor Tomkins MaA '60-'66 Right: Chris Pearson Mda '42-'48 and Ash Devine, LaA '00-'07.



John Franklin spoke of his pleasure in being the Head Master of such a wonderful school, and his delight in the academic and athletic

other arms of the complex Christ's Hospital family.

Ashley Devine, LaA '00-'07 and MaA '00-'07, at the Berklee College of Music in Boston and Mark Laichena, MaA '00 to '07 and Gilman '06, at the University of North Carolina, were two Old Blue undergraduates attending.

We thank Jim Bell, MaA '57-'58, and his wife Patrice for all the time and effort put into organizing this wonderful evening. In his welcome to us all Jim particularly thanked our guests from the U.K. and his partner in reviving the Transatlantic Student Exchange, Sally O'Brien, 5s '70-'77. Sally then introduced our guest speakers, briefly, graciously and with appropriate and clever nautical metaphors.

achievements of its students over the last year with thanks to his staff who made these possible. He has developed a strong relationship with our new Clerk to whom he passed the podium to describe how the Foundation will work to address, with him, the current financial challenges.

David Cooke said that despite his short tenure he was enjoying Christ's Hospital even more than he had imagined. He cheerfully accepted the challenges that lay before him and saw his role as enabling the Head Master and his staff to educate while he bothered about money and maintenance. He thanked the Friends of Christ's Hospital and all U.S. Old Blues for their generosity and can-do attitude.

In a final Q&A, the Head Master announced that up to 92 new full fee students would be carefully phased in over the next five years in order to help fill the present gap between income and expenditure. He explained that the new full fee students would be admitted at ages 11 and 13 and in the Deputy Grecian year and would be spread evenly among the 16 Avenue houses and two Grecians' houses. He added that the program was easily reversible once the current cash flow shortage was resolved.

– Lance Reynolds



Student Exchange Builds Understanding and Relationships

The Gilman-Bryn Mawr junior exchange trips have enriched lives and generated lasting friendships. Here are just a few of those stories...

When I heard about the junior exchange trip to England I decided to apply, as I love to travel and thought it would be an amazing opportunity if I were selected to represent Bryn Mawr overseas. Right before I turned in my application, my hands were shaking at the thought of leaving my friends and family for a month to go study in another country on my own. Little did I know that by turning in those papers I had just made one of the greatest decisions of my life. The month that Laura spent here and the month I spent in England were great in that I was able to get an amazing cultural experience, meet many fantastic people, and make a lifelong friend.

While all of my friends spent the weekend after final exams celebrating, I was boarding my plane to England where I would attend Christ's Hospital for a month. My first week at the school almost seems like a blur as it nearly took me that long to figure my way around the campus and remember the names of everyone I had met. Despite my difficulty with memory, everyone at the school was more than willing to help me out when I got lost or needed something to do and it seemed that wherever I went people would say hello or smile at me, even if I hadn't met them yet.

My second week in England I was allowed to act more like a tourist than a student. Laura and I went to her house in London where I was able to spend more time getting to know her mom and seeing all the famous attractions.

My last two weeks I was back at school and taking lessons like a real CH pupil. Experiencing the lessons was wonderful as I was able to see the differences in teaching styles between the two countries. Taking classes enabled me to meet more students at the school, which was great



Laura Prieto and MaryAnn Massumi

as so many of them have different backgrounds. I loved hearing everyone's stories of how they ended up at the school. While the last two weeks had their rough moments where I began to miss my friends and family they also had moments I will never forget. Events like Rock Concert, Sports Day, and the final disco will always hold a place in my heart. These events allowed me to feel like a true CH student and become closer with many of the people I had met.

I am so grateful for my experience and for the opportunities this trip gave me. My month in England taught me so much about the world and myself. I went for a cultural experience, for a chance to broaden my horizons, but instead I received much more. I learned that I can stand on my own two feet. I opened myself up and tried everything that was presented to me. I am so proud of that. I made friends with many fantastic and interesting people I will never forget. Most importantly I found a second family in my dorm, Leigh Hunt B, and a best friend in my exchange partner Laura.

— *MaryAnn Massumi*

As I packed and got ready to fly to America I knew that the month I was about to spend in the States would be memorable, however I was in no way prepared for the incredible events that took place during the course of my four weeks.

My first day at Bryn Mawr was like stepping into a film like Mean Girls. As I walked through the cafeteria out of uniform, everyone stared at me from their respective cliques. During my 1st day I simply followed MaryAnn to all of her classes and then later that afternoon I made my own timetable. The atmosphere and the way the classes were taught was very different from CH and took a while getting used to, for example in English and history we would sit around a large round table and the class discussion very much felt like an organised conversation, where the pupils were in control.

I can't forget to mention that I was fortunate enough that during my second school week at Bryn Mawr it was their annual 'Spirit week'. I thought at first that it would have a religious theme behind it but it was quite the opposite. Everyday each grade was given a different theme to dress up in. For example, Tuesday was called 'decade day' which meant that each grade had to wear the clothes from a different era. Despite the rain that day, all the junior girls

turned up in Togas and sandals.

As if school life at Bryn Mawr wasn't exciting and crazy enough, this was only 50% of my experience, and despite going to school five days a week, what happened after school hours and during the weekends is a whole other story. One of the things I am going to miss the most is being able to jump in to a car with MaryAnn or any of her friends, and drive freely wherever we wanted. One of the very first things I was told by MaryAnn and her friends is that Baltimore is in fact the 2nd most dangerous city in the United States of America after Detroit, having the 2nd highest number of deaths caused by street violence. Statistics such as these would put a grin on their faces and whenever I told them I was glad to be there, they always laughed and wondered why on earth I had wanted to come to their city. Dangerous or not, what I admired was how proud they were of their city, this was seen especially when we went to support a home baseball match. I got the full American experience, a hot dog, lots of screaming and two guys in the row next to us even had a fight.

Americans sure know how to have a good time and how to party, making every weekend as memorable as each other but one experience which will always stand out is when I went to a prom at the neighbouring boy's school of Loyola and rivals to Gilman. The experience was like no other and exactly like the movies. We had to get our nails, feet and hair done and wear a prom dress. Our dates bought us corsages to go on our wrists and we bought them boutonnières.

Something else that I noticed is that sport is taken incredibly seriously whatever level you play at. All teams have practice every day and around 3 to 4 matches against other

schools a week. MaryAnn was in the rowing team and every morning with the exception of Thursday she would wake up at 4am, drive to the inner harbour, have a 2 hour work-out on the water, and then drive to school where she would take a shower and start her school day. This commitment and drive was truly exceptional and even on cold raining days she would get up while it was still dark outside.

To sum up I went to a total of four states during my stay, Washington D.C, ironically on the day Obama was in London, and Philadelphia. I also visited Baltimore's National Aquarium. Although I have been to the States before, actually being integrated and living life as an American high school student is indescribable. It was not always easy being so far from home but every second was worth it and the experience has been eye opening, I will never forget a moment I lived there and I hope that MaryAnn and Nik enjoyed their time at CH as much as Seb and I did ours in Baltimore. I would like to thank the Friends of Christ's Hospital, Jim Bell, Sally O'Brien, Ms Munoz, Mr Franklin, Dr Stuart and everyone else that made the exchange possible for if I could if I could repeat my experience again I would do so a thousand times over.

— *Laura Prieto*

I always considered myself to be a worldly guy, with a lot more foreign friends than the other boys in my class. When I think of the opportunities I've been so lucky to have enjoyed in my life, attending the oh-so-unique Christ's Hospital for a month is by far my proudest accomplishment and the most rewarding experience of all. I do not hang back from the novel and the unknown. I engage myself in new experiences to the fullest. I am a firm believer that you gain from

your challenges that you put into the endeavor. Never again will I be able to visit a country in the way that I visited England, our motherland. I was completely immersed in the life of a British boy studying at Christ's Hospital. Whether I was wearing my housey, watching a time-consuming, but always interesting cricket match (now I finally understand the rules), eating a kabob with Walker's spicy Thai chili crisps' (totally amazing) in Victoria Station, or camping at Arundel, I always felt that I was one of the "Blue-Coats." I never wanted to go home. In fact, I approached CH Admissions and my parents more than once about staying on for this year. Although I took many, many pictures of Christ's Hospital and London, photographs won't really provide my memories of the exchange. I think of CH and England every day because part of me is still there. I'm constantly wondering how my friends are doing, even though I speak to them almost daily. Although it sounds a cliché, it is completely true that the friendships I made at CH, especially with those in Maine A, are some of the most important in my life. That is the legacy of Christ's Hospital: a collection of completely unique and exceptional kids. I forged so many friendships at CH with stand-up guys whom I will never forget. I can only hope that they learned and gained from me as I did from them. Christ's Hospital is a wonderful place that will forever be in my memories.

— *Nik Feldman*

continued next page

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Nik Feldman

At first dubious as to whether to apply for the Gilman Exchange, there is now rarely a day that goes by where I don't think about either my time in the States or my American counterpart's time over here. I first considered that the programme could be something I might like to do when, in 2005, Mark Laichena who was a Dep in my house as the time took part. His tales of Gilman were more than enough to grab my interest; however, it was when Jon MacMaster (his exchange) came over to England that it really struck me what a unique and exciting experience the Exchange might be.

Laura and I were fortunate enough to spend a month in the USA at a time of great political significance. President Obama had been inaugurated only a month before Flight BA6564 landed at JFK International, NY. One thing that can be said of Baltimore is that it is a city most discernibly divided politically and moreover in social and economic terms. The latter was made particularly evident to me by the time I spent with the combined rugby team of Gilman, Towson, and Baltimore Poly, where I played with a mixed group of boys who although all lived within a couple of square miles of one another, saw the city in which they lived very differently.

Having never been to America before, I was astonished at both how different and also how similar our cultures are. Having had, from an early age, my mind saturated by American film and media, I of course had a plethora of stereotypes and preconceptions that I was all too eager to put to the test. I did for example not see nearly as many gratuitously overweight people as I had

been lead to believe I would; concurrently I was suitably overwhelmed by the extended variety of food that was available (why go to MacDonald's when there is Wendy's, TacoBell, Chic-fil-A, Chipotle, Boston Market and Five Guys, to name but a few?).

The two things that I most value from the Christ's Hospital-Gilman Exchange are these: the first hand experience of America and of American education has wetted my appetite to return, so much so that I have since applied to read American Studies at University (with a year in the States) and am at present a candidate for the Morehead-Cain Scholarship. The second is simply the friends I have made as a result of my time abroad. My host family, the Feldmans, by chance were the perfect family for me to have come into; I'm sure that very few families in America are as kind and hospitable as they were to me (that said, my time at Gilman has lead me to believe otherwise) and I hope I was able to reciprocate their generosity of spirit. Nik, my exchange, I am certain will now always be a friend both to me and now to Christ's Hospital as he was, I know, profoundly touched by the agonizingly brief time he spent at our school in Horsham.

– *Sebastian Streeting*

Mark Laichena, who is a Morehead Scholar at the University of North Carolina, shared some of his time away from campus with us ...Readjusting to Carolina has been interesting. My schedule is fairly Politics-heavy (with a Judicial Procedure class and an Individual Liberty and the Law class to keep up the legal connection), with poetry writing and Development Policy to add variation. Not doing any Science A levels, I'm trying to remedy that outside the curriculum: I'm starting as a research assistant for a Clinical Psychiatrist here doing VA-funded

And From a Parent...

“... I don't have to tell you how completely in love with CH he is. What a life-changing experience, and what life-long friends he has made. I'm so glad that Joel and I went to Horsham. The whole unique mission of the school and its incredible history were overwhelming and awe-inspiring. We met some governors, loads of his friends, and his housemaster and we found the scholarships for 90+% of the students fascinating. He has totally bought into the charge to try to give back later; so the whole enterprise continues forever. We don't know how to express our gratitude for sharing this wonderful world with Nik; he will truly never be quite the same boy. He has had his horizons expanded exponentially; in his heart the most of all. Thank you all for this treasure,
– *Nancy and Joel Feldman*

research relating to Iraq/Afghanistan veterans and the relationship between combat and trauma to disorders and interactions with the criminal justice system on their return.

It's probably easier to begin from the start relating to the year away than to count backwards... In early January, I headed to Israel as part of a program with an Israeli institute working primarily on conciliation between Arab and Jewish communities in Israel. We studied conversational Arabic six days a week, with some basic Hebrew, weekly lectures and trips relating to minority communities within Israel, history of Zionism, and Middle Eastern politics, and were housed on a nearby kibbutz (in northern Israel, just south of the Galilee - a predominantly Arab area). I was the only non-Jew in the program (or on the kibbutz), and ended up invited to participate in a national leadership program with monthly residential seminars in Jerusalem, study trips to government ministries, and speakers who included the previous Head of the Israeli Army, currently a cabinet minister.

Six weeks in, I decided to move off the program accommodation in kibbutz to stay with an (Arabic-speaking) Palestinian-Israeli family in a nearby Arab town. I was fortunate that the parents of the family, while having strong connections with Jewish Israelis through work and organizations, had friendships

to fascinating individuals on the Palestinian side; I attended political events and met with Fatah figures in Jenin in the northern West Bank, a town with strong connection to past conflict and otherwise unsafe to western travelers. After the end of my program, I spent three weeks at Al-Najah National University in Nablus (West Bank), lucky enough to have connections in the kind of place definitely off-limits to the average traveler, as part of a short program with local Palestinian Authority support and an entirely different perspective to what I had gained in Jerusalem.

I returned to the UK at the start of July, and headed to Kenya one week later, my father's home country (to which he returned three years ago) and one which I had not visited in six years. Previously having experienced Kenya as a child, there was an element of personal discovery and heritage to my time in Kenya. My father was one of 12 children, and my grandfather had a second wife (with nine more), and meeting many of my relatives for first time took me to village shacks and meat markets, universities and a vice-president's office at Citigroup, as well as giving me the chance to catch up with my father who I had last seen while a Grecian at CH.

– *Mark Laichena*





Baltimore Transatlantic Exchange Dinner

This year's Transatlantic Exchange Dinner turned into more of a weekend (much as it did last year) and provided an opportunity both for Gilman and Bryn Mawr to dip their toes into the history and character of Christ's Hospital and for a number of Old Blues, especially young Old Blues, to reconnect with each other and the CH pupils who were visiting the US. In all 35 people came to the dinner spanning eight decades of CH life.

The Gilman and Bryn Mawr showing for the dinner itself, at the Mount Vernon Club, matched the Christ's Hospital contingent. It was wonderful to have former 2007 exchange student Tyler Alfriend (resplendent in his Naval Academy uniform), Ryan Gisriel, 2008, (who is looking forward to going to Notre Dame University this September), and Taylor Adams, 2008, (who will be matriculating at Wake Forest University), and their parents with us. We're beginning to build a special group of friends beyond Old Blues which in time will, I hope, serve CH well.

The two CH exchange students Laura Prieto and Sebastian Streeting were an enormous hit. They both adapted readily

Left to right: Nik Feldman, Sebastian Streeting, Maga Mannion Daniels, Rodney Serunjogi, Rachel Fisher

and with enthusiasm to life in an American high school and took full advantage of everything that was offered to them. They visited Washington D.C. and New York. Laura despite having to wake up

at 4 in the morning to do so, gamely joined Mary Ann Massumi, her exchange student, at various regattas and rowing practices while Sebastian when he wasn't rescuing the fortunes of the Gilman rugby team got a taste of polo from his exchange partner Nikki Feldman, one of the USA's best young polo players.

Rodney Serunjogi (Senior Grecian) and Rachel Fisher (Monitor) could not have been easier guests. They arrived on Thursday night after a whirlwind tour of New York and spent Friday in Washington DC where much to their delight they saw President Obama drive past in his motorcade. On Saturday they had the unique experience of attending (in summer like temperatures) Maryland's annual Grand National Steeplechase races before coming home, donning their Housey and heading to the dinner.



After Dinner Blues: Ben Allison with Laura Prieto and MaryAnn Massumi

In the midst of all this Ben Allison arrived from Davidson College, Maga Mannion-Daniels traveled down from New York, while Lance Reynolds flew in from the West Coast. The house was full! Both current pupils and young Old Blues acquitted themselves with composure and charm everywhere they went. The School could not have had better Ambassadors.

In his remarks at the dinner, Rodney Serunjogi noted, "I shall always be thankful to Christ's hospital for the many opportunities I have received. Where I live, in the East End of London, none of them would have happened had I attended state schools". He then entertained us all with a taste of CH music, playing a recording of the Grecians West winning song from this year's open singing competition that included his own wonderful solo.

In his response, Lance Reynolds reminisced about his time at CH, (despite promising not to), stated how much better he believed the school's atmosphere to be with co-education, acknowledged FCH's enthusiasm for the exchange program, and reminded all of the Charge.

Having succeeded in pulling this dinner off for a second year I think it is now officially an annual event and I, for one, am already looking forward to the next one!

– Sally O'Brien



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Staying in Contact

US Old Blues tend to be mobile. Your Secretary has lived in six states. Please let Belinda Reiser know when your address or e-mail changes, belindareiser@hotmail.com or by mail, see our return address.

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Science Day

Right: Chemistry by discovery is alive and well.

Below: John Doyle and former Treasurer Susan Mitchell on Old Blues Day in the Doyle Design and Technology Building.



The SAT Initiative

With tuition costs increasing in the UK, and students facing increasing debt burdens, the possibility of attending a major US university on a full scholarship is becoming increasingly attractive.

FCH has been funding a tutoring program at Christ's Hospital for those wishing to take the SAT. We are delighted to learn that second Monitor Alex Halley received the highest score of any UK student this year.