

FROM THE ALUMNI CENTER



Hawken is on a roll, and graduates are actively playing a bigger part of that resurgence. After our own year of discovery, the Hawken School Alumni Association has been reviewing the findings from the recently completed alumni survey. Our goals are to further increase alumni engagement and visibility with students, trustees, administration, and the community. Specifically, we will focus our efforts for the remainder of the year on establishing a viable networking and career-mentoring program and on furthering Hawken traditions. Please let anyone on the Alumni Board know if you would like to become more involved in these endeavors.

Alumni Survey: First, a thank you to all who responded. Our response rate was close to 30 percent, one of the higher response rates among peers. More important, the scores relating to the satisfaction with the student experience was the highest achieved on record among all independent schools surveyed. Hawken also scored highest for its academic program, the caliber of its faculty, and student-faculty interaction. But while graduates loved their student experience, their experience with Hawken as a graduate didn't score as well. So the survey will provide an important roadmap for the Association and the School to improve alumni engagement.

Log on to HawkNet: One way to improve the alumni experience is through online networking. Hawken has been changing over to a new, password-protected intranet this fall. Alumni can find instructions on logging in on page 27 of this Review. So sign in, update your profile info, and start connecting with your classmates and other Hawken community members.

Board of Trustees: The Board of Trustees has recognized the importance that alumni play in the future direction and success of the School. The strategic plan approved by the board in June 2007 incorporates a strategic goal that directly relates to enhancing alumni engagement. In addition, we are pleased to welcome Dale Kates '81 as the newest alumni member on Hawken's Board of Trustees. We will be working hand in hand with trustees to further strengthen the relationship between alumni and the School.

Student Representatives: Four seniors were elected to the Alumni Board in October. I'd like to extend a welcome and thank you to Rob Abramoff, Samantha Kadis, Maddy Strohl, and Lindsay Woodson. Your voices as current students and soon-to-be graduates are important contributions to the Alumni Board.

In the Office: Birkett Gibson '68 has been enjoying his retirement since July by traveling to places such as Sweden, Norway, Panama and Guatemala. He recently married Gloria Ritter right here in Kirtland, Ohio. Congratulations, Birkett! Eleanor Hitchcock Anderson '79, who has been part of the Development office since 2004, has been named Interim Director of Alumni and Parent Relations. Thank you, Eleanor, for stepping up to the plate.

Recent Alumni Activities: In August Walton Weekend reenergized and reengaged our community like never before. It brought together students, alumni, faculty, friends and parents at the largest gathering of Hawken supporters in history. In October, the Alumni Association sponsored its first annual Fall Family Fair/Homecoming Family Fun Run. Hawken sophomore Lisa Richey was chosen as the winner of this year's first T-shirt design contest and over 80 runners participated in the inaugural event. We fully expect this signature event to grow in years to come.

The annual holiday alumni luncheon occurred on December 22nd at the Upper School. We honored those faculty and staff who were selected this year as honorary alums. They have dedicated more than twenty years of service to the School. This year's recipients are David Coad and Mike Iorio.

Future Events: Alumni Weekend honoring our classes ending in 3s and 8s will be May 16-18. Save the date!

Martin Schulz '82
Alumni Board President