



## Legendary coach dies

By Kathryn Boughton

Housatonic Valley Regional High School alumni were saddened Dec. 29 to learn of the death of HVRHS' legendary first football coach, Americo "Ben" Bedini. Mr. Bedini died at his home in Raleigh, NC, after a long fight with pulmonary disease.

An intense veteran of World War II, Bedini once said his only goal was to win, and win, and win. Although he could not win his last battle, Mr. Bedini is still remembered with great affection by the athletes he inspired on the playing fields of long ago.

Bedini came to HVRHS in 1946 for an interview with tHVRHS' first principal, **Dr. Paul W. Stoddard**. Both Bedini and the school were new in those days. The school was only six years old, while Bedini was a 1943 graduate of Springfield College.

HVRHS offered sports to its students before his arrival, but the program was small, as befitted a high school that opened at the beginning of the war when rationing of all kinds was in place. Bedini was soon installed as the gym teacher and coach and went on to create a sports dynasty that lasted until his departure in 1954. His teams, all male and confined to baseball, basket-

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## HVRHS Hall of Fame inducts 10

By Kathryn Boughton

Ten former student-athletes were inducted into the Hall of Fame in November. The Henry W. Burgess Auditorium filled with friends and families of the inductees to hear the shared memories of coaches and former players.

The program demonstrated the remarkable stability of the state's Northwest Corner, as coaches who led generations of student athletes rose to honor now mature men and women who had excelled on the school's playing fields. A number of those students were members of mini sports dynasties, joining parents, brothers and sisters and sons and daughters on the roster of HVRHS' great athletes.

The presenters were often iconic figures in HVRHS sports. Former teacher, principal and Region 1 administrator **Ed Kirby**, a much-esteemed baseball coach, guided a select group of young men into professional baseball careers. He paid tribute at the induction ceremony to one of his stellar players of yesteryear, **Tom Atkins, '59**, who took part in foot-



Photograph by Kathryn Boughton

Former Coach Ed Kirby introduces Tom Atkins, one of 10 2008 inductees to the HVRHS Hall of Fame.

ball, baseball and basketball. But it was his exploits on the baseball diamond that Mr. Kirby remembered, recalling him as an excellent outfielder and a solid pitcher who continued his athletic career well beyond his high school years. Mr. Atkins, who now lives in Oregon,

said that playing sports at HVRHS was "one of the greatest privileges young people could have during my time at this school."

A younger generation was honored when **Francis "Champ" Perotti, '83**, stepped forward to

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## Blue 'n' Gold now available on the 'Net

HVRHS is joining the 21st century. Thanks to volunteer **Mike Flint, '76**, a web site, [hvrhsalumni.org](http://hvrhsalumni.org), is up and operating and will offer an ever-widening array of information to graduates of the high school.

Among the items to be featured on the site is an electronic version of the Blue 'n' Gold

"Anything the alumni want done, we will work to get done," said Mr. Flint.

While the site is still evolving, Mr. Flint's first order of business is to provide links to both the high school's site, [hvrhs.org](http://hvrhs.org), and to those for the Region 1 municipalities and elementary schools. The alumni web site can also be accessed through

the HVRHS.org site.

"As the alumni become more aware of the site, we can do things like link to individual web sites," he said, adding that he plans to offer a Blog on the web site, to which readers can contribute.

The new web site will be easy to navigate, he promised. "I'm not a bells-and-whistles kind of guy."

# Hall of Fame inductees had illustrious careers

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receive his award. A football and baseball player, he was captain of the baseball team and MVP in his senior year. A scholar athlete, he was ranked 13th in his graduating class and was inducted into the National Honor Society before going on to play football for Western New England College. He played for the Tri-State League before undergoing open-heart surgery at age 35, an incident that moved him into the role of coach, guiding players in Little League, Babe Ruth and All Stars baseball teams, Canaan Youth Basketball and at North Canaan Elementary School. In 2001, he started the Steamroller football program, leading his players to an undefeated season in 2006. He serves on the Canaan Recreation Commission and is a member of the Region 1 Athletic Fund. He built the dugouts for the softball team and is the announcer at Housatonic football games.

Mr. Perotti recalled that his father, **Frank Perotti, '54** was among the first HVRHS Hall of Fame inductees and that his sister, **Candi (Perotti) Wolf, '82**, was inducted in 2005.

Introducing inductee **Colleen Gregory, '92**, softball coach **Mark Scozzafava** said, "Her athletic accomplishments speak for themselves." Ms. Gregory played soccer, basketball and softball, earning 10 varsity letters. She was voted MVP in all three sports and was recognized as a Berkshire League All Star. In her senior year she earned the Sportsmanship Award, Master of Sports, four Varsity Letters, Senior Athletic Award and Athlete of the Year Award. Following high school she played basketball and softball through her college years and is now in her 11th year at Ridgefield

Parks and Recreation. She still plays softball, basketball and completed her first triathlon in 2007. She recently got into cycling.

**David Lindsay**, retired HVRHS coach and teacher, introduced **David Bayersdorfer**, recently retired athletic director and another inductee. Mr. Bayersdorfer was an assistant football coach and varsity golf coach and led his golfers to six Berkshire League championships. He coached varsity boys basketball and even acted as coach to the cheerleading squad. While basketball coach, his team won the Berkshire League Championship, got to the state quarterfinal three times and won a total of 108 games.

Former football coach **Mike Guy** praised **Michael Dodge, '79**, a three-sport athlete and quarterback on Mr. Guy's 1978 powerhouse team. Mr. Dodge averaged 23 offensive points per game. In basketball, he was called on to battle much taller players under the basket and he was a sprinter in his freshman, sophomore and junior years. He was an important part of the undefeated Northwest Conference Championship boys track team in 1978. Mr. Dodge is currently Southern Connecticut State University's defensive coordinator for its football team, where he has coached five All American players.

**Bob Segalla, '65**, specialized in baseball, basketball and cross country but was also active in gymnastics. He was chosen to the All Northwest Conference Team in two sports and was captain of his basketball and cross country teams in his senior year. During his years with HVRHS baseball the team had a record of 58 wins against only 13 losses, only two of which occurred during both his junior and senior years. Mr. Segalla coached Little League baseball for 18

years and founded Canaan Youth Basketball, which he has directed and for which he was officiated for 16 years. He is also co-founder of the Route 44 Youth Basketball League. He joins his son, **Robert Segalla Jr., '87**, in the Hall of Fame.

**Fred Baldwin, '56**, presented the award for **Jacques Tompkins, '56**, who earned seven varsity letters playing football, baseball and basketball. He was the running back on the undefeated 1953 football team and played third base on the undefeated 1954 baseball team. He was co-captain of the '56 baseball team and later played freshman football at UConn. Mr. Tompkins later bought a hockey franchise, an abortive effort that ended after four years. His current interests in sports revolve around the activities of his grandchildren.

**Steven Dodge, '74**, was introduced by former HVRHS principal and coach **Jack Mahoney**. Mr. Dodge's sports career at Housatonic included football, basketball and baseball. He was captain of the football team in his junior and senior years, being voted MVP both years. He still holds the records for the longest field goal, 42 yards, the most touchdown passes in a single year, and the most career touchdown passes of any Housy player. He is also credited with the most passing yards in a season and the most passing yards in a career.

His efforts in basketball were no less stellar. Captain of the team in his senior year and MVP for three of his four years on the team, he was All League in his senior year, reaching the 1,000 Point Club. He was a varsity player in baseball for four years and was All State in his junior year. Again he was

team captain in his junior and senior years and was MVP in his senior year. He holds the all-time Housy strikeout record and was All League in his senior year.

He continued sports in his collegiate career at Eastern Connecticut, playing varsity baseball for two years. He is a Little League umpire.

**Karen (Chinatti) Koutsoukos, '73** was introduced by her father, former coach and Housy Hall of Famer, **Roland Chinatti**. Ms. Koutsoukos participated in field hockey, basketball, softball and badminton. Her favorite sport, soccer, was not available to girls and she was instrumental in promoting the HVRHS Girls Soccer Club to a varsity sport, making it the first Connecticut program for girls. Following an active collegiate sports career, she married and her family moved to Colorado, where she works as a parole officer for the state. She continues to play soccer and softball, has completed more than 10 150-mile bicycle tours and a week-long, 450-mile bicycle tour called Ride the Rockies. She ran her first marathon in 2005.

**Kyle Stelma, '91**, a businessman in Dubai, was unable to attend the ceremony. Presenter David Bayersdorfer recounted Mr. Stelma's trials as "a skinny little kid who just loved football" who fought his way up and down the field as a 150-pound lineman. Mr. Stelma alternated between tackle and guard all the way to the state championship game in 1990. He excelled in baseball under coach Mike DeMazza and finished out his high school athletic career as a three-letter athlete in football, skiing and

## Bedini brought teams to glory on Housatonic's playing fields

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traveled all over Connecticut, Massachusetts and into New York State.

"I loved that man, he was something special," said **Fred Baldwin, '56**, of Canaan, a member of Coach Bedini's first 11-man football squad. "He was a winner."

"He certainly had a burning desire to win," agreed Bedini's former assistant coach **Ed Kirby, '45**, of Sharon. "He taught kids to do things correctly so they were successful in life as well as athletics, which is something he imbued in me. He was a stickler for detail and he would practice until things came out right."

Bedini left HVRHS in 1954 to coach in Rye, NY. An interview was taped in 2007 when he was honored by Iona College. That interview has been turned into "The Bedini Years," as part of the Fulco Project, an effort to capture the Northwest Corner's sports legacy on DVDs. Copies are available for \$15 and can be ordered from Mr. Baldwin, 860-824-8449, or by sending a check to The Fulco

Project, Box 1245, Canaan, CT 06018. Proceeds benefit the Region One Athletic Fund.

Mr. Kirby and former players **Pete Marcon, '47**, **Barclay Prindle, '56**, and **Bill Tobin, '54**, conducted the interview. Memories flowed as Bedini, 87, reached back into his encyclopedic memory to recall plays and players from six decades ago. He shared some of those memories this fall in a phone call from North Carolina, where, until two years ago, he was kicking coach for North Carolina State.

He recalled a much different HVRHS in the post-war years. His first football program was a six-man team that played schools such as New Milford, Bethel, Terryville and Thomaston. The players had no regulation uniforms, going on the field in jerseys formerly used by HVRHS's soccer team.

"We were the only team in the league with shirts that laced up the front," Mr. Baldwin recalled. "I remember one game when we had to stop in New Milford to get some helmets."

Later Hotchkiss School in Lakeville supplied HVRHS with

cast-off helmets and, when the team went to 11 men, Stadium Systems in Canaan provided the Mountaineers with uniforms once used by Syracuse University. The six-man team played on a field "carved out of a cornfield."

Transportation to games was undertaken by teachers in their personal cars. "The faculty would sign up to drive to games," Bedini recalled. "We didn't worry about insurance—we didn't worry about anything—we just got someone to drive and loaded up the cars. If it was a terrible game, no one wanted to drive."

Winter driving and the rural nature of the Northwest Corner forced innovation. There were no late buses and athletes were transported either by coaches or hitchhiking. Kent students were taken to the coach's Canaan home after school where they were fed before driving back to HVRHS to play.

"In winter time sometimes the weather was so brutal we would get back to the high school and we would keep the kids there," Bedini said. "We would break into Home Ec's food department and we always caught hell for that." The young people would sleep on exercise mats in the gym.

The discipline and camaraderie developed in his program produced winning teams. His first year as a football coach the team lost two of four games on the road and

then swept the rest of the season. His baseball and basketball teams were equally successful.

Bedini taught 35 gym classes each week, coached three sports and scheduled games. He was paid \$2,000 and "was happy to get it." In his second year, he was given a \$200 raise with the expressed hope that he would be equally successful. He never faltered over the next seven years. In his final year at Housy, he could no longer find schools willing to play his football team and he expanded to 11 players.

His first 11-man team was undefeated, beating New Canaan, which was on a 24-game winning streak, and Williamstown. "We only gave up 19 points all season," he reported.

Bedini's salary inched up slowly but then came a call asking if he would take a similar position in Rye for higher wages. In Rye he had two 33-game winning streaks separated by only two losses.

His next job was coaching at Iona College, where he started its club football program. The 1967 team was undefeated, winning a national club championship. His overall record at Iona for five seasons was 25-9-1.

Bedini later became a line scout for the Cleveland Browns and the Kansas City Chiefs.

## 6-Man Football Team Reunion

Donald Piretti would like to have a reunion of the last six-man tackle football team, which played in 1952.

Those interested should

send their names, addresses, towns, zip codes and home telephone numbers to Mr. Peretti, 19 Hall Road, Ellington, CT, 60029; 860-872-3955.

## Class of '56 Honors Bedini's memory

Upon learning about the passing of coach Americo "Ben" Bedini, members of the **Class of 1956**, acted on a suggestion by **Jane Clyburn Boyd**, **Barclay Prindle**, and **Ellery Sinclair** to commemorate coach Bedini's significant contributions to the stu-

dents of Regional High School. Class President **Fred Baldwin** invited classmates and friends to make donations to the Sidney Shoifet Scholarship Fund, which coach Bedini started.

Thirty-two donations were made by classmates

and friends of the class, for a total of \$670, which was forwarded to administrators of the fund, according to **Fred Baldwin**. "I am so very proud to be a member of our wonderful class as we honor such a great coach, teacher and friend."

### In Memoriam

**Elizabeth Wilbur**, 2008  
1960-1981, HVRHS English  
**Gordon P. Heyworth**, 2008  
1965-1995, HVRHS English  
**Carmella Segalla**, 2008  
1944-1950, HVRHS Social  
Studies  
1954-1959, Salisbury Central  
1959-1981, North Canaan

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# Pens recall historic White Oak

By Kathryn Boughton

Sometime around the American Revolution a white oak seedling sprouted on the plateau above the Housatonic River. It would be a venerable specimen before plans were laid to build Housatonic Valley Regional High School. Builders would be careful to avoid disturbing it.

Housatonic Valley Regional High School was completed in 1939 and the White Oak became its symbol. When the school was expanded in the 1960s architects were again careful to leave it undisturbed. There it remained another 44 years, carefully tended, until a 2004 windstorm suddenly brought its long reign to an end. Its twisted hulk fell across a roof.

Enter **Joseph Jude Brien**, '81, master teacher with the Commission on Culture and of

Tourism. Observing the fallen elder, he determined that as much of it as possible should be preserved. Mr. Brien became a member of the school's new Arboretum and Landscape Committee and proposed that the wood be milled and put aside. A plan was devised to create commemorative pens from the old tree. The project was as an independent activity at the high school and 40 pens were made in 2006.

Mr. Brien tied the manufacture of the pens in with other activities in a curriculum he dubbed "The Tree of Knowledge Program." The program brought the Landscape and Arboretum Committee \$1,000, some of which was used to purchase the replacement White Oak planted in the courtyard two years ago.

Then the project languished until Mr. Brien, who presents special classes throughout the region, came up with a residency program for Kellogg School in Falls Village. His mind turned to the boxes of white oak he had stored away. He reworked his Tree of Knowledge concept to fit a population that ranges from kindergarten through eighth grade and offers the pen-making activity as an after-school project.

He is now facilitating academic and creative projects involving trees, especially oaks, for the entire school. The program will culminate with a Spring Tree Celebration on May 28 when HVRHS alumni, students, friends and interested woodworkers are invited to display wood projects made using lumber harvested from the original White Oak. Those interested should contact Joe Brien at [jbrien@snet.net](mailto:jbrien@snet.net) or 860-824-5599 for more information and Mark Burdick at HVRHS to pick up a board or two to work with.

The seventh-graders have grossed more than \$1,300 toward their 2010 trip to Quebec. In addition to the plain pens the ALC will offer pens with a band engraved with 2009, perfect for graduating seniors, retiring faculty, etc. The cost is \$35. Pens may also be ordered at [www.hvrhs.org](http://www.hvrhs.org), or by calling Sara Lloyd at 860-824-5123, ext. 356.

## Science Technology Center progressing

The project whereby the old ag center will be converted into a new science and technology center is well under way. Units on finance, curriculum and sustainability have begun their work. Local alumni are conspicuous among the leaders of this special effort for the school. **Mickey Riva**, '61, is co-clerk of the works, and brother-in-law **Frank Perotti**, '54, long-time chair of the school's standing

Building Committee, is leader of the Contractors' Unit.

Look for an opportunity to contribute to this project in the near future. It is unique in the state and probably in the nation because it is to be financed with private dollars – and because it is to be as sustainable as we can make it. Those interested in becoming involved should contact Mr. Mahoney at 860-824-5209 or [jackmahoney2@comcast.net](mailto:jackmahoney2@comcast.net).

## Reunions

### Class of '59

The HVRHS Class of 1959 has reserved the dates of Oct. 2-4, 2009, for its Golden Reunion Celebration. Reunion headquarters will be at the Wake Robin Inn in Lakeville, with the celebration banquet on Saturday evening, Oct. 3. The festivities will begin with a social at 6 p.m. and dinner at 7.

Those who have not received either e-mail or U.S. mail notices should contact Dick Gustafson at 17 Kittanset Rd., Bedford, NH 03110 or by e-mail at [r.gustafson@snhu.edu](mailto:r.gustafson@snhu.edu).

### Class of '47

The Class of 1947 will celebrate their collective 80th birthdays at Bucky Brown's campsite in

East Canaan with a pig roast on Aug. 8. Plans are complete but the committee needs to hear from classmates—will you be coming? Contact Toni (DellTenno) McGrain in Pittsford, N.Y., Pete Marcon in Larchmont, N.Y., Barbara Bartram in Sharon or Dot (Winn) Cecchinato in Canaan. Come and enjoy.

# Alumni News by Class and Decade

## The Forties

The Class of 1948 held a 60th Class Reunion on Oct. 18, 2008. The gathering met at the home of **Eloise (Cecchinato) Koneazny** for appetizers and refreshments followed by dinner at the Bridge Restaurant in Sheffield, MA. Old friendships were renewed with many funny and interesting stories slipped in.

Those in attendance were: **Bruce Grannan** and wife, Anne, **Allyn Hurlburt** and wife, Anita, **Joe Solan** and wife, Teresa, Mrs. **Koneazny**, **Caryl (Dillon) Ponti**, **Mary (Honour) Lillibridge**, **Helen (Jacobs) Kircher**, **Audrey (Johnson) Pechkoff** and daughter, Lauren, **Audrey (Murphy) Whitbeck** and husband "Bam," **Norma (Sanger) Kaiser**, **Elizabeth (Segalla) Ohler**, **Shirley (Weir) Rogers**, and **Violet (Williams) Vaill**.

A wonderful time was had by all and everyone is looking forward to the next one.

The Board of Directors of the Alumni Association wishes to thank the Class of 1948 for their generation donation to the HVRHS Scholarship Fund. Many thanks, Class of 1948.

## The Fifties

A group of Class of '53 graduates had their semi-annual "ladies lunch" Nov. 10, 2008, in Sharon at the Twin Oaks Restaurant. Attending were **Betty (Baldwin) Bernoi**, **Joan (Barnett) Loper**, **Anne (Clyburn) Killawee**, **Betty (Dings) Cleveland**, **Mary (Egan) Frattarola**, **Carol (O'Brien) Whittlesey**, **Edna (Pond) Tapley**, **Lee (Porter) Allyn**, **Marie (Whitford) Kearns** and **Gertrude (Winn) Hunker**.

In 2003 when some members of the Class of 1955 began to think of having a 50th reunion it was decided to meet at the Canaan Country Club for lunch.

The 50th reunion was a great success and the lunches were so much fun that they are on-going.

Members attending the last lunch which was held at Higby's Restaurant in North Canaan were: **Wanda (Hutchinson) Colman**, **"Patty" (Piretti) White**, **Barbara (Breen) Victorien**, **Emily (Sheldon) Whitford**, **"Mike" (Smedick) Beauchemin** and **"Bunny" (Cecchinato) McGuire**. Any members of the Class of 1955 interested in attending these lunches, should get in touch with one of participants.

**Judy (Woodin) Hopkins, '58**, planted six acres of grapes with the assistance of her husband and daughter almost 40 years ago. Today the family produces 11 types of grapes and bottles 7,000 cases of wine annually at their Hopkins Vineyard in Warren, CT.

**Alden Hart, '58**, attended Yale University twice—the first time for a year after graduation. He then entered the U.S. Army where he served in Germany with the Army Security Agency. He returned to Yale, graduating in 1965. He received his Ph.D in English in 1972. He's now retired, living in Greenville, NC.

**Peter M. Hart, '59**, a National Park Service leader with more than 33 years of service, died on Jan. 29, 2009, at University of Washington Medical Center in Seattle, after a battle with leukemia. At the time of his death, Mr. Hart was 67 years old.

He was considered to be one of the most influential leaders in the modern National Park Service, who dedicated his career to conservation and leadership in the field of natural and cultural resource protection. He touched the lives of thousands of national Park Service em-



Photograph contributed

Peter Hart doing what he loved best.

ployees and influenced the management of the entire national park system and its service to more than 280 million annual visitors.

A native of Canaan, he received his undergraduate degree from Middlebury College in Vermont and earned a Master's degree in geography from the University of Colorado, where he did research at Rocky Mountain National Park. He served as an army engineer officer in Vietnam and was awarded a Bronze Star.

He joined the NPS in 1968 as a park ranger. He later worked at Mount Rainier and Grand Teton National Parks, where he was primarily involved in search and rescue and climbing management. Additional assignments included district ranger in Yosemite and chief ranger at both Cape Cod National Seashore and Great Smoky Mountains National Park. In 1990 he became superintendent of Theodore Roosevelt National Park in the badlands

of North Dakota. Hart then served in an extended detail as acting chief ranger of the NPS in Washington, D.C. In 1995 he was appointed superintendent of New River Gorge National River, Gauley River National Recreation Area and the Bluestone National Scenic River all in West Virginia.

He retired from the NPS in 2001, and completed a 2,168-mile hike on the Appalachian Trail from Georgia to Maine. After relocating to Livingston, Mont., he returned as interim superintendent of Glacier National Park in 2002. In 2003 he spent several months filling in as interim superintendent at Black Canyon of the Gunnison and Curecanti National Recreation Area. The following year he returned again to Glacier as acting deputy superintendent. In 2006 (from January to May) he again

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## Alumni News by Class and Decade



### Scholarship Award

Each year the Housatonic Valley Regional High School Alumni Association awards a scholarship to a graduating senior from Housatonic Valley Regional High School who has been accepted at an institution of higher learning. He or she must have had parents or grandparents who have graduated from Housatonic Valley Regional High School. The 2008 award went to **Elissa Whitmore** of Kent, who has been accepted at Sacred Heart University. Elissa's parents and grandparents all attended Housatonic: **Joann Gleason, '73** and **Kenneth Whitmore, '71** are her parents, while **Mary Soule, '47**, and **Donald Gleason, '49**, are her grandparents.

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filled in as interim superintendent of Big Thicket National Preserve in Texas in the aftermath of Hurricane Rita, and in September he was tapped as the temporary, acting deputy superintendent at Grand Canyon National Park.

Mr. Hart is survived by his wife, **Sally (Jensen) Hart, '60**, his son Chris, and daughter, Wendy. His daughter, Wendy Ross, currently carries on his NPS legacy as management assistant at Glacier National Park.

Condolences can be sent to Mrs. Hart and family at 06 Riverside Drive, Livingston, MT 59047. The family has requested memorial donations be made to The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society, the American Red Cross, or The Employee & Alumni Association of the National Park Service.

### The Sixties

**Karen Parsons, '69**, and **Jane Griffiths, '70**, met in Florida in June 2008 at the home of **Betty (Stanton) Griffiths, '44**, for a relaxing weeklong visit. They also enjoyed a visit with **Karen (Blodgett) Osborn, '71**, and her husband, Ned, who live not far from Betty.

### The Seventies

**Stephen E. Hall, '78**, joined the U.S. Navy right out of high school in July 1978 and served for 23 years and 19 days, retiring in July 2001 as a Senior Chief Petty Officer (E-8). He served aboard five ships, and at three shore stations, in all spending 13 of his 23 years on sea duty. His

specialty was communications as a radioman.

**John Allyn, '74**, is the newly appointed supervisor of the Norfolk highway department, after having spent the past 19 years in a similar capacity in Morris, CT.

### The Eighties

**Therese Palmer, '80**, now living in Rockwall, Texas, has had a busy life since her graduation from HVRHS nearly 30 years ago. Now working part-time in nursing and substitute teaching, she home-schooled her own sons, Evan, 19, and Eric, 13, until middle school. Evan is a freshman at the University of Texas at Dallas.

Her husband, John Duca, is an economist for the Federal Reserve and a professor at Southern Methodist University.

She says she has not heard from some of her former classmates since their graduation. "You know who you are," she writes. "Have your kids help you to learn how to use Facebook and let me know how you are! Hey, Tom Moran—where are you?"

**Bill Cooney**, a member of the **Class of '83** who finished at Simon's Rock, writes that he has been in Seattle for the past 20 years, having moved there from Vermont in 1989 while playing with a band. "We almost became famous," he said. "We did some recording, played lots of shows, did some touring and made friends with a bunch of famous guys. I was even the boss of some of the famous guys—before they became super-famous."

He says he loves the West and doesn't return often to the East, where his family has scattered around New England.

He stopped playing music seriously when he was in his early 30s while his hearing was still intact and then managed a variety of local businesses. He started selling medical benefits to small businesses in 2000 and quickly gravitated to financial planning, estate planning, managing money, life, disability and long-term care insurance and says he "absolutely loves it." He calls his current employer, Northwestern Mutual Financial Network, "a fabulous company."

He married Andrea in 2001, a "wonderful literary genius from New York," and they had "a sweet, beautiful daughter," Noa, in April 2008."

**Jim Loi, '85**, joined the National Security Council as director of Asian Economic Affairs in July 2008. Prior to that he was a visiting fellow with the Freeman Chair in China Studies at the Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS).

He joined the U.S. Department of State as a Foreign Service Officer in 1995. From 1996 to 2000 he served as an economic officer in Bucharest, Romania, and Pretoria, South Africa. From 2000-2004, he held several positions in Washington, D.C., including at the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR), where he was director for China and Japan Trade and at the De-

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partment of State Operations Center.

During his detail to USTR, he was assigned to the U.S. Embassy in Beijing from 2004-2007, initially as head of the office responsible for economic policy analysis and for tracking China's compliance with and implementation of World Trade Organization (WTO) commitment, and later as head of the Embassy's broader external economic affairs unit. He was also the Embassy's mission-wide coordinator for the U.S.-China Strategic Economic Dialogue.

Before joining the State Department, Jim worked for SEI Investments, a Philadelphia-based asset management and technology firm, in institutional sales and marketing. Prior to that, he was an active-duty surface warfare officer in the United States Navy, serving on a San Diego, CA-based frigate and destroyer. He is a veteran of Operation Desert Storm and currently holds the rank of commander in the U.S. Naval Reserves. As a Navy reservist, he worked as the Assistant Naval Attaché in Bucharest. From 2000 to 2004, he was a political-military affairs officer in the Asia and Middle East branches of the Navy Staff, Pentagon.

Jim received a B.A. in international relations from Cornell University in 1989. He speaks Mandarin Chinese and Romanian. He is married to the former Jennifer Moore and has three children, Caitlin, 10, MacKenzie, 8, and Noah, 5. They live in Burke Va.

**Amy (Loi) Low, '87**, is now a stay-at-home mom,

raising her two children, Kiana and Dylan. She is married to Craig Low, vice president in charge of marketing at Lee and Low Books.

Amy is now known as Mei Lan Low. Her mom, Jo Loi, explains, "She used Mei Lan when she was in Taiwan for her junior year abroad and then again when working at the Vera Institute. She liked it so much, she decided to use her given Chinese name all the time."

Mei Lan is involved in volunteering at her children's school, helping to raise money for school computers and PE equipment.

Prior to settling down to raise her children, Mei Lan attended Connecticut College in New London, majoring in Chinese and East Asian Studies. She graduated cum laude, with distinction in both majors. She attended the Taipei Language Institute in Taiwan in 1989. Her first job out of college found her working with the City Volunteer Corps in New York City, overseeing a community service internship program with up to 50 non-profit and city agencies. She moved on to the Victim Services Agency as a trainer and staff developer before becoming an instructor at the Wilderness School, Department of Children and Families, in East Hartland, CT. There followed a year in Tokyo, where she established a private business teaching English as a Second Language to children and adults. She started an ESL program, staffed by volunteers, at a public housing unit for single mothers and their children.

From 1995 until 1998, she was a planner and project director at the Vera Institute of Justice in New York City, where she researched the best practices in the fields of youth development and adolescent violence prevention. She managed project development in preparation for a three-year demonstration project.

Shifting her course, from 1998 to 2002, she worked for Barbara Feinman Millinery in New York City, collaborating with the owner on all facets of operating a new retail business, product design, production, merchandising, sales and the like.

## The Nineties

**Carolyn Yerkes, '98**, was the recipient of the 2008 Mary Isabel Sibley Fellowship, a \$20,000 award given to young women who are finishing or who have just completed their doctoral dissertations. The awards are given alternately for French and Greek.

Ms. Yerkes was a doctoral candidate in the art history and archaeology departments at Columbia University. She received her B.A. magna cum laude in 2002 from Columbia and her Master's Degree in architecture in 2005 from Princeton. At Princeton, she won the Suzanne Kolarik Underwood Prize for her theses as well as the Archaeological Institute of America medal.

She has worked for architectural design firms in Washington, D.C., and New York and received an Andrew W. Mellon Fellowship in Humanistic Studies to pursue a Ph.D in architectural history. She used the Sibley Fellowship to continue her work on her dissertation, "The Paradox

of Precision: Architectural Drawing between Ancients and Moderns."

**Lara Mittaud, '99**, is a US Army Captain, working full-time at the Connecticut National Guard, Army Aviation Unit, in Enfield. She is a helicopter pilot, married to Iraq veteran Patrick Hafner, with one son, Marc Mittaud Hafner, 13 months old.

**Vicki Kircher, '99**, graduated from Southern Connecticut State University with a Bachelor of Science in physical education. She is employed at Pearson Middle School in Winsted. She plans to marry this summer.

## The Two Thousands

**Sarah DeProdocini, '01**, graduated from Wheelock College in Boston in 2005. She is employed at Seattle Children's Hospital and plans to marry during the summer of 2009.

**Sherifa Wright, '01**, founded the Wright Services agency, a professional child care program in New York. She returns to Lakeville each weekend to visit her family.

**Megan Allyn, '05**, is a third-year music major at Keene State. A recent school project she tackled was a documentary on her home town, Falls Village.

**Lily Belter, '08**, is a freshman in the School of Business at The George Washington University in Washington, D.C. A varsity volleyball player and captain while at Housy, she was recruited for GW's Women's Rowing and has made the novice team of the D1 sport. She was also recently accepted into the business fraternity, Delta Sigma Pi.