

News

Wender Arts Building Dedication

Ira T. Wender P'77,'89 was introduced to The Putney School on arrival at Swarthmore College in the fall of 1942. A number of his friends at college were graduates of Putney and, as his wife, Phyllis, has observed, it became the school Ira wished he had attended. Two of their children who wanted to go to boarding school attended Putney—John '77 and Sarah '89. And Ira has been



TRUSTEE, MENTOR, FRIEND, AND TRUSTED FINANCIAL ADVISOR IRA WENDER AND HIS FAMILY AT THE DEDICATION OF THE IRA T. WENDER ARTS BUILDING ON REUNION WEEKEND

on the board continuously since 1985 as a wise, courteous mentor and true believer in the mission of The Putney School. It's hard to believe the school could have made it this far without Ira's help. And he's about the last person on earth who would want a building named after him, but his family, the board of trustees, the director, the administration, and anyone else who has crossed Ira's path at The Putney School had a great desire to honor this dear friend, so we gave him no choice in the matter. The dedication took place during the board meeting over reunion weekend in June.

Ira attended public school in Hastings-on-Hudson and then at the Fieldston School in New York. He earned degrees at Swarthmore, University of Chicago Law School, and NYU Law School. He has practiced law since 1949, with several notable interruptions. Ira was assistant director of the Harvard Law School International Program in Taxation from 1953–55. While there, Ira co-authored, with a Harvard Business School professor, a weighty tome called *Foreign Investment and Taxation*.



BEN SCHWARTZ '11, UNDER THE TUTELAGE OF ART TEACHER JOE FICHTER '71, CRAFTING THE SIGN FOR THE IRA T. WENDER ARTS BUILDING OVER SPRING PROJECT WEEK

Ira also taught a tax seminar at Harvard and the introductory income tax course at NYU from 1955–59.

From 1969 through 1974, Ira was chairman of an international agricultural company called C. Brewer & Co. Ltd. While it produced sugar in Hawaii, it also ran agricultural projects in Iran, Iraq, Indonesia, Sudan, and Guatemala. Ira was also president and chief executive officer of A.G. Becker & Company from 1978–82, when it was taken over by its institutional majority shareholders, S.G. Warburg and Banque de Paris et Pays Bas.

Ira is Of Counsel to his law firm, Patterson, Belknap, Webb & Tyler LLP, having retired as a partner in 1995. In addition to working with The Putney School, Ira is a director and treasurer of Fountain House, Inc., which helps the mentally ill lead as full and normal lives as they are capable of by helping them with work, education, housing, and a place to socialize.

Ira is also on the board of ANERA (American Near East Refugee Association), which helps Palestinians in the Gaza

Strip and the West Bank with medical health, education of children, and, recently, encouraging technology companies such as Hewlett-Packard, Intel, and Oracle to establish themselves on the West Bank and help to develop post-graduate technology training for young Palestinians. Ira serves on the advisory board of the Whitehead Institute at MIT, which has been involved in a very successful genome project.

Ira is at the heart of the Fundamental Beliefs of The Putney School, particularly "To learn to appreciate and participate in the creative arts where man gives expression to his struggle for communication of his inner life and for beauty, and to grant these arts great prestige." For these and so many other reasons, The Putney School Board of Trustees dedicated and named the visual arts building the Ira T. Wender Arts Building in honor of its good friend and colleague. Says Randy Smith, Putney School CFO, "Ira has a deep appreciation for the arts and artists; he understands the value that art brings to all of our lives."

Progressive Ed Lab and Independent Curriculum Group

Although there have been times when progressive schools felt they were voices crying in the cultural wilderness, this is now less often the case. Traditional schools' interest in what progressive schools do grows as the demand rises for students educated to be creative, innovative thinkers and problem solvers. Putney is involved in two projects with which we hope to further these goals on a wider scale.

Because it is difficult to hire teachers who themselves have been educated progressively, or educated to teach using progressive methods, Putney, along with three other progressive schools (Cambridge School of Weston, Calhoun, and Unquowa), have launched a teacher training program we are calling the Progressive Education Lab, which has been awarded a \$250,000 matching grant by the E.E. Ford Foundation. Recent college grads will spend two years immersed in both theory and practice, and emerge ready to teach and make an impact on the profession.

Another project is being run by the Independent Curriculum Group (IGC), of which Putney was a founding member three years ago. Most schools hope to



teach students habits of mind and higher order thinking skills that are broader and deeper than the content and skills isolated in tests of single subjects, but there is little known about how to clearly assess progress in these areas. The IGC's National Assessment Project (www.independentcurriculum.org) will bring schools together this year to design ways to assess four competencies: critical inquiry; creative problem solving; oral communication; and collaboration/group work. All of these fall into the "you know it when you see it" category, but the ability to assess learning is crucial to good teaching. We also know that if we can prove success, rather than just claim it, we will have more influence in the larger educational debate.

Four new members were voted onto The Putney School Board of Trustees this year. All are completely new to the board, although none is a stranger to the school. If we were picking sides for something that required strong team members, we'd pick these people. Here's why:



LAKSHMAN ACHUTHAN '84 AND JOSH LAUGHLIN '82 AFTER THE ALUMNI DISCUSSION PANEL AT THE JUNE BOARD MEETING

Lakshman Achuthan '84

"My Putney experience helped form who I am today—including my interest in questioning the status quo," says Lakshman. "I share Putney's interest in supporting curiosity in all walks of life, and its focus on both local and global social consciousness." After receiving an undergraduate degree from Fairleigh Dickinson University ('89) and a graduate degree from Long Island University ('91), Lakshman joined Geoffrey H. Moore at Columbia University's Center for International Business Cycle Research to study recession and recoveries. In 1996 Lakshman left Columbia with Dr. Moore and co-founded the Economic Cycle Research Institute, which, according to *The Economist*, gave advance warning of each of the past three recessions; just as impressive, it has never issued a false alarm. In 2004 Lakshman co-authored *Beating the Business Cycle* and in 2005 co-founded an investment management company. He also sits on a few non-profit advisory boards and serves as trustee on the boards of two foundations. He lives in Manhattan with his wife, Tracy White '87, and their daughter.

Freddy Friedman P'12

Freddy's son, Tommy, started as a sophomore at Putney and will graduate next spring. Freddy and Mary Jo, his wife, live in Southfield, Massachusetts. Freddy is both a sales associate for Elizabeth Eyre Taylor Real Estate ("representing the high end properties in the Berkshires in western Massachusetts, northwest Connecticut and eastern New York") and a farmer. He attended Deerfield Academy and Boston

University. Former Putney board chair, Matt Lorentzen '81, says, "[Freddy] is a very experienced school trustee. He has been on the Eaglebrook board for over 30 years (without breaks) and the boards of several local schools in New York, Connecticut, and near his home in the Berkshires. He seems to prefer progressive schools and I think he will fit well with the Putney ethos." Having worked with him at several board meetings already, we agree.



DANA HOKIN '84, NEW TRUSTEE, AT THE BITTER END YACHT CLUB, VIRGIN GORGA, BVI

before transferring to the New School in New York, where she met the man who would later be her husband, Robert Garvey. The two eventually moved to Pittsburgh, where Dana taught art at Carnegie Mellon University. They later moved to Chicago

Dana Hokin '84

Dana grew up in New York City and went to The Chapin School before coming to Putney. She went to Scripps College in southern California

to take over management of a family business, the Bitter End Yacht Club & Resort in the British Virgin Islands. Dana says one of the strengths she brings to the board is in the area of marketing, an integral part of the business she manages. Dana has been a class agent for Putney, and a great supporter of the school. We welcome her and her expertise.

Josh Laughlin '82

"I have recently been getting re-acquainted with the culture of The Putney School as a result of having two young children growing up in the Putney community," says Josh. "Many of my closest friends date back to my years at Putney and I feel that I was well prepared for life's challenges by my Putney experience." Josh and his wife Alice (Luhmann) Laughlin '87 have two boys at the Putney Central School. Alice's retail business, Dragonfly Dry Goods, recently went fully online when Brattleboro's Brooks House building burned. Josh is a self-employed builder, restorer, and renovator of older homes and barns in the greater Putney area. "I have often felt aware of, and witnessed, the separation between The Putney School and the larger Putney community," says Josh. "I am in my sixth year on the Putney Selectboard and feel well qualified to bring a local perspective to a largely non-local board of trustees."

New Trustees

Graduation Speaker: Carma Hinton, Ph.D.

Documentary filmmaker and educator Carma Hinton delivered this year's graduation address on June 5. Carma is the granddaughter of Carmelita Hinton, founder of The Putney School, and daughter of Bill Hinton, author of *Fanshen*, a first-hand chronicle of China's cultural revolution. She has been a Robinson Professor at George Mason University since 2006. This spring Dr. Hinton was selected as a jury member for the 35th International Hong Kong Film Festival's Humanitarian Awards. The central theme of Carma's address is largely summed up in a statement made early in her talk about how The Putney School represents an ideal that's as integral to the mission as education. Carma said, "What I think lies at the heart of these values and beliefs is an insistence on connectedness against forces that tend to separate, divide, and stratify." And, more specifically, "There can be no true equality and justice if society is divided in a way in which those who work with their minds disdain manual labor and those that work with their hands could afford little or no opportunity for intellectual or artistic development and enrichment." These same ideas are reflected in the arts-related stories in this issue on pages 15, 17, and 19.



MAUDE BEHRENS



MOLLIE MONTAGUE

LEGACIES



NATHAN GUGGISBERG



SOPHIE VAN COOPER

The closest we ever come to having a repeat customer, which is something you really never want to have at a school, is when the sons, daughters, nieces, nephews, cousins and siblings of alumni join the fold. This year, we welcome Maude Behrens, daughter of Helen Stickney '94; Sarafina McLeod (not pictured), daughter of Arnold McLeod '77 (*Putney Post* cover artist, Spring 2006); Mollie Montague, sister of Katie Damron '08; Sophie van Cooper, daughter of Tom van Cooper '77; Henry Fitzpatrick (not pictured), son of David Fitzpatrick '73; and Nathan Guggisberg, brother of Jake '12 and Eric '09. Do you have a younger relative who is right for The Putney School? Please let us know at admission@putneyschool.org.



Sports and Recreation at Putney



Indoor and outdoor sports and recreation are flourishing at The Putney School. Although the boys' soccer team won the league championship last fall, the emphasis in competitive sports is still focused on enjoyment, encouragement, and, as our founder advised, "an increased joy in living." Competitive sports include boys' and girls' basketball, cross-country running, cross-country ski racing, boys' and girls' lacrosse, coed rowing, boys' and girls' soccer, and coed ultimate frisbee. In the recreational realm you'll find yoga, rock climbing, fencing, mountain biking, and horseback riding, to name but a few afternoon activities. Through the winter trimester, the big bus goes to Mt. Snow every Sunday (all day) and Wednesday afternoon for recreational alpine skiing and snowboarding. Long Fall trips offer many hiking options, plus some cycling and rock climbing. Noah, a rising senior, spent a good chunk of his junior year, including this past Project Week, organizing an outdoor program that trains students to help lead weekend camping and hiking trips. Despite all of the technology and distractions of the new millennium, Putney kids are off the couch and moving on a regular basis. And, as you might discern from these photos, they love it.



<Clockwise from upper left> **YET ANOTHER HOME GAME FOR THE BOY'S BASKETBALL TEAM; SKIERS HEAD OUT FROM THE WAXING ROOM, THE FIELD HOUSE'S BASE OF OPERATIONS FOR COMPETITIVE AND RECREATIONAL SKIING; BOYS' LACROSSE; WILLOW '12 COMES OUT OF THE GOAL TO GUARD HER TURF IN A LATE FALL GIRLS' SOCCER GAME; A SUNNY FALL DAY FOR A BOYS' SOCCER GAME; 2011-2012 HEAD OF SCHOOL, JACK '12, HAS A CONTEMPLATIVE EVENING MOMENT ON LONG FALL; A WINTER WEEKEND HIKING TRIP TRAVERSED THE RIDGE BETWEEN PUTNEY MOUNTAIN AND THE PINNACLE; IT WAS A LONG WET SPRING FOR THE GIRLS' LACROSSE TEAM**

ERRATA

We accidentally put Jackson Gillman '72 in the Class of '74 in the last issue's alumni notes. We apologize for thinking he was younger than he is.

New Hires



Please help us welcome Putney's newest employees. **Abelardo Almazan-Vazquez** will teach Spanish. He has a master of arts degree in Spanish and Latin American Studies from Cleveland State University and a B.A. in teaching Spanish as a second language from Universidad Internacional UNITER. Abelardo has experience teaching at Ohio's Gilmour Academy and at the Middlebury Language Institute. **Mark Green** is joining Putney as Major Gifts Officer. Mark has had extensive development and fundraising experience at Dartmouth College, The Grammar School, The Greenwood School, and White Mountain School. In addition, he knows Putney well, having served here as Associate Director of Admission in the mid-1990s. Mark has a B.A. from Hamilton College and an M.Ed. from Antioch University of New

England. **Tom Kardel** has taken over as dean of students from Ben Freeman, who is now head of a new semester program at Burr and Burton Academy in Manchester, Vermont. Tom holds a master of arts in Spanish from Middlebury College, a B.A. in theater from Kalamazoo College, and has teaching and administrative experience from Walnut Hill and Kimball Union Academy. **Amanda Nguyen** is our new Assistant Dean of Students. Amanda graduated with a biology major and education minor from Bowdoin College, where she was active in student government, the outing club, and student leadership training. She also brings an interest in ceramics, creative outdoor cooking, and mindful learning to Putney. **Maria Ogden P'07,'09**, formerly of Summer Programs, is returning to work during the school year in the health center. Maria has an associate's degree in nursing from Yavapai College. **Annie Petersen** has a Ph.D. in media studies from the University of Texas and will teach English. She also holds an M.A. in English from the University of Oregon and a B.A. in rhetoric and film studies from Whitman. She has also taught at both of these colleges. **Penny Ridgdill**, a math Ph.D. from UMASS Amherst, will fill an open slot in the math department. She also has earned a B.S. in math from

the University of Georgia and has taught at the Universities of Arizona and Massachusetts. **Alice Roby**, who worked with Putney students on the Sustainability Squad as part of her master's degree work at Antioch New England Graduate School in Environmental Studies, will also teach Spanish. Alice has a B.A. in Hispanic Studies from Lewis and Clark and has taught at the Teton Science Schools. **Jonathan Riseling** is a professional dancer in New York City and internationally. He will be filling the dance class duties recently vacated by Kalya Yannatos, who has gone to Choate to oversee their arts program. Jonathan has taught at Adelphi University, in New York Public schools, with the Alvin Ailey American Dance Center, and for the Central Pennsylvania Youth Ballet. **Martha Black** is our new residential nurse. She comes to us from Ithaca College's health services, holds a B.A. from Colby Sawyer College, and an R.N. from Hartford Hospital School of Nursing. She'll be living in John Rogers dorm. **Olivia Sanders** is our new Admission Office Manager. She holds a B.A. from Marlboro College, where she was assistant to the dean of students and to the director of academic advising.

Recent Putney Alum Edits *Millennial Youth*



Jordan King '11 has been named Vermont Bureau Chief of *Millennial Youth*, an online (www.millennialyouth.com) and quarterly magazine written and edited by, as the name would lead you to believe, millennial youth. On the "about" page of the website, it says, "*Millennial Youth* is an independent, youth-run magazine housed at the *Times Union* newspaper in Albany [NY]. Its goal is to publish the highest quality journalism written by youth, no matter where they live. The magazine is published quarterly and distributed to schools, youth organizations, and select business locations. Web-only features published about our website accompany the print edition." Jordan's first piece for the magazine was about his trip to Haiti with his father, Clennon King '78, to shoot video footage to be used in a fundraising film by the Haitian People's Support Project, a non-profit organization based

in Woodstock, New York, that supports nutrition and educational programs in orphanages, schools, and shelters throughout Haiti. Jordan has recruited other Putney student writers (Nate '12, Paige '13, Lilly King '11, and Hyun Seok '12), so check back often to see what they've written. Jordan has been accepted at the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University, where his editorial and writing skills will be honed to an even finer point.