



# Around the Circle

## Castilleja School Newsletter

### From the Head of School

December 2007/January 2008

**Dateline: Johannesburg, South Africa**

My time in South Africa has left me asking Shakespeare's question, 'What's in a name?' I went seeking partnerships with the Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls and African Leadership Academy (ALA), two schools in Johannesburg that are committed to developing the next generation of African leaders. I went to forge relationships that will be beneficial to our school and to these two Leadership Academies. Castilleja's global education initiatives will clearly be enhanced by these relationships, but what do we bring to the table?

Make no mistake about it: I was asked that question often, beginning just a few hours after our 22-hour trip from San Francisco. That first night John and I went out to dinner with John's longtime friend and colleague **Charlayne Hunter-Gault**,



Joan Lonergan with Fred Swaniker, founder and CEO, ALA

until recently CNN's bureau chief for South Africa, and her husband, business leader **Ron Gault**. After an invaluable orientation to the current social, political and economic climate of the city and country, they cut to the chase. "What makes you think you can help or that these schools will want your help?" It was a gentle but direct warning about the danger of coming across as 'educational imperialists,' a sensitive issue in a country that has only recently shaken off the shackles of white rule.

Forewarned, I resolved to keep quiet about our 100 years of educating women to be leaders. As it turned out, I needn't have worried, because Castilleja's reputation preceded me, and the leaders at each Leadership Academy asked questions and sought my advice.

We spent the next day at the two boarding schools. **Fred Swaniker's** African Leadership Academy will open in September 2008 with its first class of 100 African students on the beautiful and well-equipped campus of what used to be a technical college for printing and publishing. But the new school has already had its 'under the radar' trial run, accumulating three summers of valuable experience in a pilot summer program for young leaders from all over the world. Castilleja's **Karen Tobey** and **Ashley Schoettle '06** participated in the first session (as teacher and student, respectively), and **Sonja Swenson '08** participated last summer in one of now five program sites around the world.

Fred and his colleagues are recruiting teachers and administrators from all over Africa; they'll work for a year creating and adapting curricula focused on leadership, entrepreneurship, and African studies, honing their teaching skills, and developing strong bonds among the staff. The Academy will grow to 250 students, 16 to 29 year olds (young women and men) from across the continent, with about half of those students on scholarship and a very small percentage accepted from non-African countries for a gap term or year. Fred is a human dynamo, eager to educate young people for leadership and to affect change in Africa. His vision is bold and potentially transformative for Africa's future. He will be visiting Castilleja again in mid-December. Please take a moment to visit ALA's website: [africanleadershipacademy.org](http://africanleadershipacademy.org)

Oprah Winfrey's school did not have the luxury of a trial run, nor has it been under the radar. To the contrary, it began with unprecedented public attention, an international celebration that drew **Nelson Mandela**, **Spike Lee**, **Sidney Poitier**, and **Tina Turner**, and widespread television coverage.

It is a spectacular campus with facilities that rival anything I have seen in my 30 years in education: a \$40 million campus with 54 acres and 28 buildings, SMART Boards in every classroom, exquisite South African artwork everywhere, and Fort Knox-like security. The Academy began in January with 143 academically talented and disadvantaged girls in grades seven and eight, selected from 3500 applicants, drawn from families



Campus of Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy for Girls

*continued on page 9*

## Casti Kudos

**Bonnie Wong '08** was named a semifinalist in the 2007–2008 Siemens Competition in Math, Science, and Technology for her work examining the effects of point mutations in latent membrane protein-1, a protein essential for Epstein-Barr virus (EBV)—growth mediated transformation, one of two viral genes expressed by EBV in post transplant lympho-proliferative disorder and the only viral protein with known oncogenic effects in non-lymphoid cells, to increase Erk activation and cFos induction. The Siemens Competition recognizes high school students nationally for outstanding research work.

**Melissa Wong '08** and **Alice Adelman '09** traveled to Orlando, FL, to attend the 2007 Grace Hopper Conference for Women in Computing and participated on a panel entitled “Girl Geeks in High School—Technical Experiences of Future Inventors.” The Hopper Conference is seventh in a series of conferences designed to bring the research and career interests of women in computing to the forefront.



**Samantha Cecil '11** took second place in the Sixth Annual Santa Clara Valley Fiddler's Association (SCVFA) Youth Fiddle Contest. Her spirited renditions of “Grizzly Bear” and “Lover's Waltz” earned her honors in the 16-and-under bracket. SCVFA is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation, promotion, and teaching of traditional music for the fiddle and other acoustic instruments.

**Emily Colvin '10** and **Emily Mosbacher '12** have been selected to attend the Super-Y Soccer League national Olympic Development Program (ODP) tryouts taking place in Florida in February 2008. Emily Mosbacher was also selected to the CYSA-N State ODP tryouts in early December. Both girls play for the Alpine FC Pumas.

## Save the Dates

**Sixth Grade Arts Event, December 6, 2007**

**Choral Music Event, December 11, 2007**

**Eighth Grade One-Act Plays, December 13, 2007**

**Global Week, January 7-11, 2008**

**Middle School Musical, January 25-27, 2008**

**Arts with a Heart, February 9-10, 2008**

**Red-Tie Gala, March 1, 2008**

## Once Around the Circle

Casti Kudos highlight Castilleja student triumphs. See **page 2**. **Parents, send us news of your daughter's off-campus achievements so that we can include them in Casti Kudos ([dana\\_sundblad@castilleja.org](mailto:dana_sundblad@castilleja.org)).**

Cross-Country captures CCS championships. See **page 3**.

Final Centennial community service project gets under way. See **page 4**.

Speakers and schedule for 2008 Global Week are announced. See **page 5**.

Jean Kilbourne and Devendra Raj Mehta visit Castilleja. See **page 6**.

Star of indie film *Outsourced* comes to Castilleja. See details on **page 7**.

Highlights of AP Spanish trip to Mexico are on **page 8**.

Grandparents Day was a success. See **page 9**.

A magical evening at the Father-Daughter Dinner Dance was had by all see details on **page 10**.

## Grand Opening!

**Fitness and Athletics Center**

**Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**

Friday, January 11, 2008 at 3:00 p.m.

Stay to see the junior varsity basketball team at 5:00 p.m.

and the varsity basketball team at 6:30 p.m.

play Mercy Burlingame.





# Fleet Feet: Cross-Country Team Captures Division Title

Castilleja cross-country runners are headed to the California Interscholastic Federation State Championships in Fresno on November 24, 2007, after capturing the Division V Cross-Country Central Coast Section (CCS) Championship. This is the second year in a row that Castilleja runners have captured the top spot in CCS and this success follows their second West Bay Athletic League (WBAL) win on November 1, 2007.

"The meet was good for us," said Castilleja coach **Tom Allen**, whose squad won last season's title with 29 points. "We came and did what we were supposed to and everyone had solid races.... Regardless of the competition, to score 30 points is very good.... But we have known for a long time that the real test wouldn't come until state."

**Sonja Swenson '08** won second place with a time of 20:19 and **Rachel Skokowski '11** placed fifth with a time of 20:44. Other team members, including **Kim Kilgroe '08** (21:09),

**Laura Swenson '10** (21:11), **Eve Zelinger '10** (21:46), **Ginna Freehling '11** (21:57) and **Anna Swenson '10** (22:08), contributed to the team's win.

Mr. Allen has always expected a strong season from the team. He noted that "we have the top 10 runners returning from last year's team that won CCS and WBAL and placed in the top 10 in the state. In addition, last year we had the individual CCS champion, three different league champions, and two league MVPs...and many new additions to the team." Because of the increase in the size of the team, from 11 in 2005 to more than 20 this year, there are now three coaches.

Cross-country has also expanded to include the first Middle School team, coached by Upper School Assistant Coach **Girmay Guangul** and assisted by **Tom Allen**, **Joel Rinsky**, and Varsity Team Captains **Kim Kilgroe '08** and **Sonja Swenson '08**.



## Golf Team Caps Off Best Season Ever

On October 29, 2007, the golf team capped off its best season ever with a strong showing at the Central Coast Section (CCS) Championships. After going undefeated in the WBAL (6-0), the team earned a berth at CCS, which was held at Rancho Canada East Course. Team members **Lauren Buchanan '08**, **Sarah Debs '11**, **Amy Klivans '09**, **Brenna Nelsen '11**, **Nicola Schulze '09**, and **Lindsay Taylor '08** traveled to Carmel for the tournament. Led by Brenna Nelsen '11 (30th place) and Lauren Buchanan '08 (34th place), the team placed 7th out of the 11 teams invited and were only four strokes out of 6th. Three team members also qualified for individual play. The week prior to CCS at San Mateo's Poplar Creek Golf Course, where Nelsen shot an 85, Buchanan qualified with a 91, and Debs qualified with a score of 92.



## Varsity Fall Sports—Wrapping up Another Great Season



The water polo team, won their league and ended the season with their best record (18-9) in 5 years, but lost in the Central Coast Section (CCS) semifinals to Sacred Heart.

The varsity volleyball team was a CCS Division V runner-up and on November 24, 2007, they won their first challenge in the NorCal playoffs defeating Rincon Valley Christian 3 to 1.



# Community Service

## Arts with a Heart

Kyra McCarty '10

Arts with a Heart (AwaH) is an annual, student-run production that benefits charitable organizations selected by the student community service council, and **Karen Tobey**, Director of Community Service.

From December through February, Castilleja's students work hard on film projects, photomontages, choreography, music, and many other projects related to the arts. The student-run production team is already working hard to make this year's production, *Dancing Through the Decades*, in honor of Castilleja's Centennial, the most exciting show ever. Auditions will take place in December (see schedule below), and students in all grades (6–12) are invited to create something for the show or audition to be in a piece.

Show production is overseen by **Georgi Shea**, the dance and choreography teacher, and **Bear Capron**, the drama and film teacher as well as the producer of Castilleja plays. Both have produced AwaH numerous times and put all of their heart into it each year.

So come one, come all! Be a part of the talented cast or amazing production team that puts on this exciting show and raises money for a great cause.

**One Weekend Only!** After almost three months of rehearsal, the show will run one weekend only! So mark your calendars for February 9 and 10, 2008.

## Arts with a Heart Auditions!

Upper School: Wednesday, December 5,  
2:30 p.m.–5:30 p.m.

Middle School: Friday, December 7,  
2:40 p.m.–4:30 p.m.

## Final Centennial Project: \$25,000 for Room to Read

With two incredibly successful service projects behind us, it's time to turn our attention toward the last of our Centennial service projects—raising \$25,000 for Room to Read (RTR). The money will fund 100 scholarships for girls in developing countries including Cambodia, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam, where education is not often free, and financial hardships often keep families from sending their daughters to school for more than a few years. RTR's Room to Grow Girls' Scholarship Program has an immediate and direct impact on the lives of thousands of girls in the developing world where a solid education beginning in the early years is the key ingredient for improved status for women. Their improved status sends positive ripple effects throughout society.

This year, as last, all funds raised from Castilleja's Arts with a Heart performance will benefit the Girls' Scholarship Program through Room to Read. Proceeds from both years, plus funds raised through other student-led activities, will help Castilleja reach its \$25,000 fund-raising goal.

## Service Beyond the Circle

In honor of Castilleja's Centennial, groups of alumnae gathered on October 20, 2007, to participate in "day-of-service" projects in their own communities. In New York City, volunteers spent the day refurbishing a school with NYC Cares; San Francisco area alums prepared and served meals at Glide Memorial Church; and Washington, D.C., area alumnae volunteered at Martha's Table.

A project for Los Angeles alums is scheduled for January 2008.



NYC alums: Katy Gaul '91,  
Chantelle Karl '99, and  
Katherine Sleeth '99



SF alums: Stephanie Restifo Grosse '86,  
Emily Nelson '01, Lindsay Austin Louie '98,  
Elizabeth Rowen '01, Wakako Uritani '93.



Washington D.C. alums: Irini Kolaitis '01, Megan Wilcox-Fogel '01, Lianna Chang '01, and Tiffany Chan '01

# Global Week

Global Week is part of Castilleja's multilayered approach to developing young women who will learn and lead in the twenty-first century. This year, the primary objective of Global Week is to ensure that students are conversant with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Students will also investigate one subtopic through grade-specific workshops and

local experiences. Subtopics include girls and education (grade 6), water (grade 7), immigration (grade 8), community change (grade 9), marginalized workers (grade 10), and international conflict resolution (grade 12). Juniors will be investigating the human rights and the role of women in either Bangalore, India, or Shanghai, China, on Global Investigator trips.

	Monday, January 7	Tuesday, January 8		Wednesday, January 9		Thursday, January 10	Friday, January 11
8-8:15	Advisory						
8:20 – 11:30	Chivy Sok	Senior panel		Ji-li Jiang	Paola Gianturco	Carl Hobert	Alumnae panel
	Break						
	Grade-level discussions	MS: Workshops with seniors	US: Film <i>Born Into Brothels</i>	Mini film festival on campus		Grade-level workshops	Alumnae workshops
11:30 – 12:25	Lunch	Lunch		Lunch			Closing Speaker Loune Viaud
12:30 – 2:05	MS: Grade-level workshops US: exam return	Performance		Performance	Jonathan Jansen		Lunch
		MS: Grade-level workshops	US: Workshops with seniors	Grade-level workshops		Final performance	
2:10 – 3:00	Performance						

## Presenters During Global Week

### Monday (all-school): Chivy Sok

Chivy Sok is an independent consultant who focuses on human rights and child labor education. She has worked extensively with the Cambodian community and the International Human Rights Law Group in Phnom Penh. [www.wildforhumanrights.org](http://www.wildforhumanrights.org)

### Tuesday (all-school): Senior Panel

Lauren Augustine, Allison Hoffman, Eunice Chan, Ellery Dake, Liz Harmon, Anjali Jotwani, Kim Kilgroe, Shibani Mehta, Rachel Moncton, and Sonja Swenson

### Wednesday (US and parents): Paola Gianturco

Paola Gianturco is a photojournalist who has spent the past 12 years traveling in 40 countries to document the lives of women. <http://womenwholightthetdark.com>

### Wednesday (MS): Ji-li Jiang

Ji-li Jiang is the author of *Red Scarf Girl*, a recounting of her childhood in China during the Cultural Revolution. She has also published an acclaimed adaptation of the classic Chinese folktale *Magic Monkey King—Mischievous in Heaven*. <http://www.jilijiang.com/red-scarf-girl/>

### Wednesday (US): Jonathan Jansen

Jonathan Jansen, an administrator from Durban University of Technology in South Africa, is a 2007–2008 Fulbright Scholar at

Stanford University and author of the publication *Leadership of Transition: Correction, Conciliation, and Change in South African Education*.

### Thursday (all-school): Carl Hobert

Carl Hobert is the Executive Director of Axis of Hope, a nonprofit organization dedicated to teaching international conflict resolution in public and private elementary, middle, and high schools worldwide. <http://axisofhope.org/>

### Friday (all-school): Loune Viaud

Loune Viaud is the Director of Strategic Planning and Operations for Partners in Health's flagship project location in Haiti. She was named the 2003 Woman of the Year by *Ms. Magazine* and received the Robert F. Kennedy Human Rights Award in 2002. <http://www.pih.org/where/Haiti/Haiti.html>

### Friday (all-school): Alumnae Panel

Paige Austin '01 (journalist, Middle East), Lori du Trieuille '88 (formerly with AFRICARE), Joyce Kim '94 (USAID, Washington D.C.), Diane Kimball Jacob '72 (Mothers Without Borders, Africa), Andi L. Kleissner '04 (Rural Electrification Project, Sri Lanka), Kathy Stewart Marcove '82 (Peace Corps, New Guinea and Slovak Republic; Terra Livre, Brazil), Logan McClure '04, Claudia Skieller '04, and Kacey Wulff '04 (Bahati Education Project, Tanzania), Elizabeth Yin '00 (Women in Business, Japan).



## Esteemed Guests at Castilleja

### Jean Kilbourne Visits Castilleja



**Dr. Jean Kilbourne**, author of *Can't Buy My Love: How Advertising Changes the Way We Think and Feel* and pioneer in understanding the effects of advertising, addressed students at an all-school assembly on November 13, 2007. Dr. Kilbourne spoke about the images that advertisers use to sell products, including alcohol, tobacco and prescription drugs, and the damage that their pervasive messages cause. She illustrated how advertising

messages shape perceptions of relationships, success, popularity, and self-worth, especially for girls and young women, and how those resulting misperceptions lead to eating disorders, low self-esteem, addictions, and other destructive behaviors.

After the assembly, a group of eighth graders, including **Hannah Fields, Shannon Lacy, Maysa Torabi, Julie Lancot, Skylar Dorosin** and **Emily Wong**, interviewed Dr. Kilbourne

for the local cable show *Girls Are Champions*, which airs on Pen TV Channel 26. The show is produced by Athletic Girl Productions, a nonprofit organization dedicated to educating and empowering girls through the development of healthy role models and a positive presence of girls in the media.



For the Pen TV Channel 26 schedule, visit [www.pentv.tv](http://www.pentv.tv) or visit [www.girlsarechampions.org](http://www.girlsarechampions.org).

### Devendra Raj Mehta Returns

On Monday, November 12, 2007, **Devendra Raj Mehta** returned to Castilleja to visit with the human physiology class and meet with students.

Mr. Mehta helped to create the Jaipur Foot/Limb, a simple and extremely efficient prosthesis that utilizes innovative technology and materials. The Jaipur Foot/Limb allows normal walking, running, sitting, climbing, and other daily activities. Since 1975, nearly 1 million people worldwide have been fitted for the Jaipur limb. Mr. Mehta was recently honored



with the SanDisk Equality Award, one of five awards presented by the Tech Museum Awards: Technology Benefiting Humanity. The \$50,000 cash prizes were presented to an international group of technologists, educators, scientists, and social entrepreneurs who are using technology to improve our world. Mr. Mehta and four others were selected from an initial field of more than 700 nominated individuals and groups. Castilleja faculty members visited the Jaipur Foot Factory during their trip to India in 2006.



Mr. Mehta previously visited Castilleja during Global Week 2007. He was the first recipient of the Neukermans Social Entrepreneurs Fund, a grant which brings an individual who is making a difference in the world to campus. Past assembly speakers have included Nobel Laureates former **Vice President Al Gore** and Grameen Bank founder **Muhammad Yunus**.

## Actresses Take Center Stage

### Ayesha Dharker of *Outsourced*

Actress **Ayesha Dharker** of the new PG-13 film *Outsourced* visited on November 12, 2007, for a miniscreening of the movie and Q&A with students, faculty, and parents. The romantic comedy follows Todd, a Seattle call center manager who is fired and then sent to India as a consultant to train his own replacement. The *New York Times* called the movie a “springboard for a smart look at the effect of cultural difference on work, friendship, and love and the global economy’s impact on national and personal identity.” Ms. Dharker talked to the students about the independent filmmaking process, the importance of “authenticity,” and the sorts of things they can expect when they visit India.

For more about the movie, visit <http://movies.nytimes.com/2007/09/28/movies/28outs.html> or [www.outsourcedthemovie.com](http://www.outsourcedthemovie.com).



Back row (l to r): Nandini Mukherjee '10, Ari Yulo '10, Crystal Ghosh '10, Erin O'Malley '09, Natalie Shell '11, and Ms. Richardson, front row (l to r): Lakshmi Pratury (Founder of Tamarind Grove), Sara Colvin '09, Ayesha Dharker, and Vritti Goel '08

### Lysistrata Takes the Stage



Castilleja's Upper School play, a modern retelling of Aristophanes' *Lysistrata* opened on November 16, 2007, for three performances. The cast, headed by **Emily Shenfield '08** (Lysistrata), **Dasha Klebaner '09** (Calonice), **Kelsey Bostrom '08** (Lampito), and **Franki Allegra '11** (Myrrhine), also included **Laura Sisson '09**, **Laura Scharff '09**, **Natalie Shell '11**, **Amanda Dillon '08**, **Nicola Goldberg '11**, **Anne**



**Warner '08**, **Julia Bard '09**, **Angie Moore '09**, **Ana Vuko '10**, **Parisa Zamanian '09**, **Anna Winham '10**, **Tobi Amos '11**, **Danae Smith '10**, **Simone Polanen '10**, **Cam Stein '10**, and **Nadav Shiffman** from Palo Alto High School. The production team included **Sherri Billimoria '10** and **Sylvia Rodriguez '08** (stage managers) and **Christie LaRoy '08** and **Hana Littleford '08** (lights).



# AP Spanish Class Visits Mexico for *Día de los Muertos*

For the twelfth year, **Señora Richardson** led the AP Spanish class to Tijuana, Mexico, during the traditional holiday *Día de los Muertos*. The girls participated in the preparations for this important holiday and celebrated with two Mixteco communities. The girls also learned firsthand about the Mexican point of view regarding immigration and border politics between the United States and Mexico, visited local schools and orphanages, and learned about the Mexican and Mixteco cultures.

Students shared some of their most memorable moments from the trip:

“The highlight for me was visiting *El Niño Jesús* orphanage. We played and ate dinner with the children, ages 3 to 14, whose parents were either sick or too unstable to take care of them. The children were so cute! The older ones put on a little dance production for us, and we roasted marshmallows with them all.” (**Hanna Burch '09**)

“I loved going to the *Escuela de Educación Especial*, a school for teenagers with Down’s syndrome. It was an amazing experience because we got to see how the students were learning different trades—carpentry, sewing, ironworking, and baking. We got to meet the students who were hoping to become assistants in bakeries. We also made our own *Pan de Muerto* (bread of the dead) and got to eat it fresh from the oven!” (**Laura Martinez '09**)

“At *Casa del Migrante*, we ate dinner with men who were planning on crossing the border illegally. No matter what one’s opinion on illegal immigration, the experience was undeniably sobering and eye-opening; hearing the stories put a new perspective on this controversial issue.” (**Audrey Loke '09**)

“I walked into *Casa del Migrante* critical of their principal goals but found myself questioning my stand. Although I did not change my political opinion, it was a very valuable experience to talk with the men and hear their stories. It personalized the whole debate for me.”

(**Meredith Harding '09**)

**Blair Larkens '09 and Kat Boohar '09 at El Niño Jesús**



*Kelly Kalinske '09 and Meredith Harding '09 at El Niño Jesús*

“Visiting the orphanage was an incredible experience. I was touched by how loving all the children were to each other. They tried to fill for each other the place of their missing family. Working with the children made me feel like a part of their new family. It truly gave me faith in the goodness of others and hope for those in need.” (**Julia Bard '09**)

“It was really rewarding to help a school complete the concrete playground. The entire school, *Escuela Primaria Jesús Garcías*, had been built by the community. It was so inspiring to see how dedicated all the parents were to create a fun, safe, and functional school environment for the children.” (**Julia Feiler '09**)

“The students at the school *Escuela Primaria Niños de Baja California* were really fascinated with my camera, and one of the little boys became very protective and warned me to keep it safe.” (**Audrey Kuan '08**)

“I really loved the school *Escuela Primaria Niños de Baja California* because the children were so affectionate, and I really became attached to one girl.” (**Blair Larkins '09**)



*Kelly Kalinske '09 and Julia Bard '09 at Escuela Primaria Jesús Garcías*

“It was an eye-opener for me to see the celebrations for *Día de los Muertos*. In Mexican culture, they embrace and celebrate the return of the spirits of their dead relatives and friends at the cemeteries. Both the vibrant colors and the attitudes really contrasted with the fear of death that is seen here.” (**Laura Hansen '08**)

“One of the many highlights for me was sharing the experience with my students and seeing Mexico through their eyes. Our trip was made even more memorable by the presence of **Maestra Deb Schoelerman** and her niece, who joined us from Iowa. Deb is a former colleague from Castilleja who taught many of the students on this trip in Middle School. She is also a dear friend and great traveling companion.” (**Señora Richardson**)



# Grandparents Day



On November 21, 2007, more than 200 grandparents came to Castilleja to be a part of Grandparents Day. After breakfast and a short program of student performances in the dining room, grandparents met their granddaughters on the Circle and accompanied them to their classes.



## Excerpt from Senior Talk for Grandparents Day

by Anne Warner '08

"For quite a while I have been obsessed with yearbooks. Not just Castilleja yearbooks, but any school's yearbook....The yearbook is like a personal journal, but for a community instead of an individual. It is more than a documentation of the school; it captures the essence of those who passed through.

The importance of memories is one of the reasons why I dedicate so much of my time to working on the yearbook. Since sixth grade, I have made it a tradition to stay up late on the last day of school reading the yearbook from cover to cover. This tradition allows me to relive each moment of the school year and remember all the people who made my year what it was. When I open my yearbook from sixth grade, I am instantly reminded of the sadness of the school after September 11, 2001, but I can also

hear the laughter from my best friends as we stole each other's backpacks during lunch. These are things I do not want to forget, and without the yearbook, I cannot be sure that I will remember....In the centennial year of Castilleja, the challenge is to make a yearbook that will focus on the importance of this year and show how the history of the school has made it what it is today. I contemplate these questions: What will future generations want to know about Castilleja in its hundredth year? What will we, as current students, want to remember about the school? We must make a book that records everything that is important to us now. So even during February break when I should be off skiing, and instead am in the computer lab, what motivates me is my commitment to creating a book that endures."

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## Head's Letter Continued from Page 1

below the South African poverty line of about \$750 per month. Clearly, **Oprah Winfrey** intends to change these girls' lives and provide the country with a strong cadre of female leadership, "The best way to effect change long term is to... give children exposure and opportunity, and nurture them to understand their own power and possibility."

Tragically and ironically, the school has had leadership problems of its own. It will have four heads of school before the end of the first year, with head #3 having been dismissed during a scandal involving strong allegations of abuse by a house matron.

I found **John Samuel**, the school's CEO and former head of the Nelson Mandela Foundation, to be candid about the school's challenges—and receptive. Can you help us, he wanted to know, in our quest to develop our curriculum and faculty and empower girls to be strong, ethical leaders committed to social justice?

Both of these leaders knew enough about Castilleja to recognize that we, too, are a Leadership Academy, even if that's not in our name. For these two South African schools, their names are aspirational, not descriptive. They are staking out ground they hope and intend to occupy.

And so, I wondered, if we were to rename Castilleja today, what would we call it? What new name would accurately describe what we hope to be?

Which brings me back to Global Education and our determination to go 'beyond the circle' in our second century. Much of the rest of the world is well ahead of American education in their understanding of global education. More bluntly, what we are now calling 'Global Education,' Fred Swaniker, John Samuel, and others outside the United States simply call 'education.' And those two schools can help us move forward, help us to understand the power of ideas made real and the potential of girls everywhere to change the world.

*Jean*

## Thank You, Parents!

An echo of “mmms” resounded around campus on Thursday, November 8, 2007, as Castilleja School Association members delivered dinners prepared by parents to the dining room. Faculty and staff had a terrific time browsing through bags, boxes, and baskets containing almost 100 meals—ranging from organic salads and vegetarian lasagnas to chicken marsala and Indian curries, not to mention pies, brownies, and other treats.

Thank you to all the families who prepared meals and

especially to **Jeanne Heise P'10** and **Joan Ragno P'12** for coordinating this wonderful gift! Every meal was delicious, and the generosity and effort were deeply appreciated by all!



*Jeanne Heise P'10 and Joan Ragno P'12*

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## Father-Daughter Dinner Dance

Almost 720 elegant Castilleja girls and their escorts attended this year's Father-Daughter Dinner Dance. A grand ballroom decked out in black, white, and red, a roving magician, and myriad sparkly black top hats and balloons, echoed the evening's magic theme. After a lot of socializing and a formal dinner, the Joel Nelson Band took to the stage and the girls headed for the dance floor. Before long, it was time for the

traditional senior dads' show.

Shouts went up from the crowd when the dads burst out dressed as Casti girls and took us “back to the future” complete with a whirling, spinning time-travel machine. At the end of the show, each dad or escort presented his senior with a red rose. The crowd was back on the dance floor before the dads had time to catch their breath, and the Joel Nelson Band kept them rocking all night long. Who knew that so many dads knew the Macarena? Many thanks to all the volunteers and others who helped to make this special evening possible.





# December 2007/January 2008

**Dates are subject to change; please check with Dianne Zack x7754 for updates**

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
2 SAT Offsite 1:00pm US Open House	3 A week	4 7:30am Bldg & Grounds-Newcomb  Hannukah Begins at Sundown	5 2:30pm US AWAH Auditions-Chapel 7:00pm HS Info Night-Choral Rm	6 8:30am Red Tie Gala Mtg-Newcomb  7:00pm 6th Gr. Arts Celebration	7  2:40pm MS AWAH Auditions-Chapel	8  Winter Formal
9	10 B week	11 Class Elections  7:30pm Choral Music Event	12 8:15am Lead Parent Rep Mtg-CSA Rm 12:00pm CSA Holiday Lunch 1:00pm Cent. Campaign Mtg-Newcomb	13 7:45am Finance Cmte-Newcomb  7:30pm One Act Plays-Chapel	14 Non-Uniform Day	15
16	17 A week US Exams/MS Classes AM-English Exams PM-Science Exams	18 AM-VPA/Conflict Exams PM-History Exams	19 AM-Math Exams 5:30pm Young Alum Holiday Party-Library	20 Winter Break Begins	21	22
23	24 School Closed	25 Christmas Day	26 Kwanzaa Begins	27	28	29
30	31 School Closed	1 New Year's Day	2	3 Faculty Inservice Jr. Global Invest. Trips depart	4	5
6	7 Global week	8 ASB Elections	9 8:15am CSA Board Mtg-all parents welcome	10	11 End of First Semester	12
13 4:00pm 6th Gr. Family Bingo-DR	14 A week	15	16 8:00am Lead Parent Rep Bkfst-CSA Rm	17	18 8:00pm High School Social-DR	19
20	21 B week MLK Birthday School Closed	22	23	24 US Elections 8:00am Parent Council-CSA Rm	25 Non-Uniform Day 7:30pm Middle School Musical-Chapel	26 SAT Offsite 7:30pm Middle School Musical-Chapel
27 SAT Offsite 2:00pm Middle School Musical-Chapel	28 A week	29 5:30pm Peer Advisor Dinner-DR	30	31	1 FOMF	2 FOMF

## Parent Education

### College Unranked: Rethinking College Admissions

#### Lloyd Thacker

Tuesday, January 15, 2008, at 7:00 p.m., Campbell Center, Sacred Heart Prep

Castilleja parents, faculty, and staff are invited to a special evening with **Lloyd Thacker**, author of *College Unranked: Ending the College Admissions Frenzy*. Mr. Thacker, a former Oregon guidance counselor, is a leading critic of today's college admissions process. In 2004, he quit his job of 28 years to found the Education Conservancy and launched a national movement to revamp the admissions process. Mr. Thacker, who also served as an admissions officer at the University of Southern California and at Pacific University, has a clear mission: Help students, high schools, and colleges resist "commercial interference"



in higher education and promote ethical admissions practice. This free, adults-only event (no students, please!) is cosponsored by Castilleja, Menlo, and Sacred Heart schools.

More information on Mr. Thacker and his organization can be found at <http://www.educationconservancy.org/>.

## Common Ground Speaker Series

### Strategies for Improving Relationships at School and at Home

#### Richard Lavoie, M.A., M.Ed.

#### It's Hard to Be Your Friend

Tuesday, January 29, 2008, at 7:00 p.m., Hillbrook School

Thursday, January 31, 2008, at 8:45 a.m., St. Joseph's School of the Sacred Heart



Mr. Lavoie will explore the root causes of social isolation, exclusion, and poor self-esteem and offer parents practical advice on how to help their children improve their social standing and success. Richard Lavoie has worked in residential programs for children with learning disabilities for more than 30 years and believes that what he has learned through this work applies to all children experiencing social difficulties.

#### Misunderstood in My Family

Wednesday, January 30, 2008, at 7:00 p.m., The Nueva School

In this special presentation for the parents, teachers, and counselors of students with learning disabilities, Mr. Lavoie will explore the impact these children can have on family relationships and present practical ideas for improving communication within the family.



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