Graduation 2009

O

t the afternoon of May 31, the music of the Akron and District Pipe
Band wafted across the Reserve campus, heralding the graduation
of the Class of 2009. Preceded by Head of School Chris Burner ’80
and the faculty, 109 seniors marched in procession to the front entrance of
the Chapel; the girls dressed in white; the boys in Reserve green and white.
All looked resplendent in the bright sunshine, which belied the chill in the
air and the fresh breeze that rippled the flags on the stage.

As is traditional, the Commencement ceremonies began with the
school prayer, O God, by whose manifold grace… Student Body President
Noel Aker ’09 then rose to offer the student address. Quoting Petrarch,
Aker encouraged those present to ask questions to determine their beliefs, to
take a stand and to respect the differing views of others. “Our beliefs form
our world view, and that dictates how we live our lives,” Aker said. Noting
that his faculty advisor, Science Department Chair Pat Smith, was a
“staunch Darwinist,” Aker said he was a polar opposite as a strict Creationist.
He stressed, however, that each respected the other’s views. Aker went
on to cite passages from the school prayer, relating it to the lives on which
he and his classmates were about to embark. “Never give up; perse-
vere…A disciplined work ethic endures…Recognition and trophies are
fleeting,” he admonished. Aker concluded by expressing his gratitude to
Reserve’s faculty and staff.

The awarding of prizes followed. Science teacher Marie Fiedler and
several colleagues led the induction of 10 seniors into the Cum Laude So-
ciety. Senior Academic Book Prizes were awarded to Shannon Draucker,
Anne Song and David Suwondo. Draucker achieved a grade point ratio of
7.5 during her senior year, while Song and Suwondo each achieved a 7.4.
Suwondo also was presented with the Harlan N. Wood Award, while
Song received the Bicknell Prize and the Angus Frew Award. The Robin-
son Prize went to Noel Aker and the John W. Hallowell Award was pre-
sented to Sara Wroblewski. Nine graduating seniors received Head of
School Awards.

Two faculty members were presented with the J. Ward and Marian

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Keener Prize for excellence in teaching. The prize goes annually to a teacher or teachers with at least one year, but no more than three, as members of the Reserve faculty, and who have exhibited excellence in teaching. The 2009 recipients are Jason Gough and Jeff Namiotka.

The 2009 Commencement address was offered by Dr. Barbara Snyder, president of Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. She noted that the shared history of Western Reserve Academy and the university was a “special bond,” further saying, “We will hold fast to our roots in Hudson.” A second bond between the schools, she noted, was the ability to receive an education at two top institutions. Dr. Snyder also encouraged the graduates to establish priorities in life, and to make certain that they include the people who have been important to them.

Board of Trustees Co-President Peter S. Hellman ’68 oversaw the awarding of diplomas, some of which were presented to the graduates by family members who preceded them as Reserve alumni.

Burner brought the Commencement exercises to a close, thanking the students for making this year, his first as head of school, “rewarding and enjoyable.” Citing Cicero’s De Officiis, Book I, Burner said, “I believe you establish habits and passions at this stage of your growth that will remain with you and guide you for the rest of your life. I am honored that Western Reserve Academy has been part of that development, and in the process, you have enriched us as well.”

The Akron and District Pipe Band then led the Recessional to the flagpole, where the graduates, faculty and alumni present joined in singing the Alma Mater. A reception for all followed at the Murdough Athletic Center.
**Commencement Awards**

**Angus M. Frew Award**
Anne Song '09

**Bicknell Prize**
Anne Song '09

**Cum Laude Society (new inductees)**
Jiyoon Choi '09
Kaitlin Crowder '09
Garren Gotthardt '09
Maggie Ilerisich '09
Eric Jacobstein '09
Jung Min Kim '09
Gina Na '09
WenLi Rui '09
Joon Yoo '09
Sara Wroblewski '09

**Harlan N. Wood Award**
David Suwondo '09

**Head of School Award**
Peter Anderson '09

**J. Ward & Marian Keener Prize**
Jason Gough
Jeffrey Namiotka

**John W. Hallowell Award**
Sara Wroblewski '09

**Robinson Prize**
Noel Aker '09

**Senior Academic Book Prizes**
Shannon Draucker '09
Anne Song '09
David Suwondo '09

Jason Gough accepts the J. Ward and Marian Keener Prize from Head of School Christopher Burner '80. Jeffrey Namiotka (inset) was also honored.

Assistant Head of School William Bugg presents Senior Book Prizes to, from left, Anne Song, David Suwondo and Shannon Draucker.

Members of the Cum Laude Society are inducted by chemistry teacher Marie Fiedler during commencement.
Science Department Chair Pat Smith presents the Robinson Prize to Noel Aker '09.

Anne Song '09 was presented the Angus M. Frew Award and the Bicknell Prize by math teacher Joe DiBiase.

Dean of Faculty Kate Mueller presents the John W. Hallowell Award to Sara Wroblewski '09.

David Suwondo '09 accepts the Harlan N. Wood Award from art teacher Alan Doe.
**Senior Celebration**

**Akron Beacon Journal**  
Regional Star Students  
Gold: David Suwondo '09  
Honorable Mention:  
Chris Corbett '09  
Shannon Draucker '09

**Anne Chapman Prize in History**  
Katherine Miller '09

**David S. Dennison Jr. '36 Prize**  
Joon Seok Yoo '09

**English-Speaking Union Scholarships**  
Jessica Gruden '09  
Eric Rhodes '09

**Friendship Trophy**  
Jessica Gruden '09

**Judy Ross Memorial Scholarship**  
Laura Kisthardt '09

**Keir Vivienne Marticke '02 Memorial Prize**  
Sarah Wise '09

**NewsChannel 5 Best of the Class Award**  
Chris Corbett '09  
Shannon Draucker '09

**Peter L. Eberly '70 Language Award**  
Stephanie Kass '09

**Phi Beta Kappa – KSU**  
David Suwondo '09

**Presidential Scholar**  
Anne Song '09

**Rachel C. Snider Spirit Award**  
Daina Worcester '09

**Robert R. Stoll Mathematics Prize**  
Liren Peng '09

**Rollin W. Waite Award in Mathematics**  
Chris Corbett '09

**Todd C. Weaver '89 Prefect Award**  
Noel Aker '09  
Katherine Miller '09

**Turnbull Endeavor Award**  
Ashley Isaac '09

**U.S. Military Academy Appointment**  
Albert Antweiler '09

**U.S. Naval Academy Appointments**  
Brooke Amoroso '09  
Parker Summers '09

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Head of School Christopher Burner ’80 presents the Friendship Trophy to Jessica Gruden ’09.

Sarah Wise ’09 accepts the Keir Vivienne Marticke ’02 Memorial Prize from chemistry teacher Marie Fiedler.

Chemistry teacher Marie Fiedler presents the Turnbull Endeavor Award to Ashley Isaac ’09.

Language teacher Dr. Ralf Borrmann presented the Rachel C. Snider Spirit Award to Daina Worcester ’09.
**Celebration of Student Excellence**

**A Better Chance Award**  
Emily Huang ’10

**Alumni Association Scholarship Award**  
Nicholas Hobbs ’10

**American Mathematics Competition**  
Lirin Peng ’09  
Chris Corbett ’09  
Lubin Lee ’09

**Amherst College Book Award**  
Ceara O’Sullivan ’10

**Anonymous Donor History Prize**  
American History  
First: Shannon Draucker ’09 & Sarah Foster ’10  
Third: Anne Song ’09  
Honorable mention: Peter Anderson ’09  
Kyla Gaines ’09  
Jaskaran Bains ’10  
Mary Carter ’10  
Simon Yang ’10  
Nick Gasbarro ’11

**World History**  
First: Garren Gotthardt ’09  
Second: Jack Hoover ’11  
Third: Jessie Wilson ’11  
Honorable mention: R.J. Johnson ’09  
Derek McKenna ’09  
Brittany Brown ’11  
Micah Collins-Sibley ’11

**Burton D. Morgan Leaders**  
Jaskarin Bains ’10  
Emily Depew ’10  
Nicholas Hobbs ’10  
Ceara O’Sullivan ’10  
Henry Peller ’10

**Bryn Mawr Book Award**  
Emily Numbers ’10

**Chemistry Olympiad**  
Danica Liu ’10  
David Suwondo ’09  
Dan Litowitz ’09  
Anne Song ’09

**Class of 1950 Fellowship Award**  
Jeffrey Namiotka

**Class of ’74 Advancement Grants**  
Emily Clark ’11  
Sarah Hulver ’10  
Emily Numbers ’10

**ELISA Scholars**  
Nate Barnett ’11  
Brian Fuller ’11  
Jack Hoover ’11  
Allison Isaac ’11  
Richard Kinnerle ’11  
Leah Matalon ’11  
Joe Neuman ’11  
Charlotte Robertshaw ’11  
Caylie Scherba ’11

**Franklin ’30 & Mary Barlow Award**  
Nicholas Hobbs ’10

**Hallowell Sabbatical**  
Tom Davis

**Harvard University Book Award**  
Jaskaran Bains ’10

**Joel B. Hayden Prize**  
Jaskaran Bains ’10

**Kurdziel Award for Excellence in Music**  
Simon Yang ’10

**Mickel Jones Fellowship**  
Michael Bonomo

**Middlebury College Book Award**  
Sarah Puffer ’10

**Music Awards**  
Genevieve Bettendorf ’12  
Carson Brown ’09  
Hunt Hearin ’09  
Eric Jacobstein ’09  
Joseph Marmerstein ’11  
Michael Pallotta ’12  
Aylin Sarac ’12  
Albert Wang ’12  
Joe Wang ’09

**Rensselaer Medal**  
Danica Liu ’10

**School Year Abroad**  
Kristina Dungan ’11

**Smith College Book Award**  
Quinn Cutchin ’10

**St. Lawrence U. Book Award**  
Cale Crowder ’10

**Summer Sabbatical**  
Elizabeth Wirtz

**Trinity College Book Award**  
Kevin Thomas ’10

**U. of Pennsylvania Book Award**  
Danica Liu ’10

**U. of Rochester Bausch & Lomb Science Award**  
Sarah Foster ’10

**U. of St. Andrew’s Book Award**  
Mary Carter ’10

**Wellesley Book Award**  
Hannah Dietrich ’12

**Williams Book Award**  
Thomas Joe ’10

**Yale Book Award**  
Henry Peller ’10
Good times, good food and several goodbyes highlighted Reunion Weekend 2009, as the Reserve community returned to Brick Row for the annual event. In addition to alumni from the United States, alums returned from London, Spain, Germany and Japan.

Members of the classes of 1974 and 1984 held memorial services for classmates Kimber Longstreth ’74 and John Farr ’84. A tribute service was also held for former faculty master William Appling, an influential musician, educator and mentor. By the time that Sunday’s breakfast buffet wrapped up, all attending agreed that it was a weekend to remember.

On Friday, June 5, alumni from class years ending in four and nine began arriving on campus for the weekend festivities. Their guests and family members, and alumni from various other years, swelled the crowd to nearly 250.

The weekend opened with 70 alumni and guests taking to the links for the seventh annual Alumni Association Golf Classic. The weather was nearly perfect – as was some of the golf – and between sponsors and player fees, the event raised more than $7,000 to benefit the Alumni Association Scholarship Award fund. The total raised over the life of the event’s seven years now stands at $75,000.

The event’s platinum sponsor was the Atlanta area firm of ECTek, owned by Randy Davis ’77. Carrying home the winning honors was the team of Rob Murray ’84, Phil Kuri ’86, Scott Brubaker ’87 and Jodi Gildersleeve.

What would a reunion be without great food and libations? Both were in generous supply throughout the weekend, beginning with the Head of School’s Reception and Dinner on Friday evening. Following the meal, guests were treated to the traditional fireworks display as well as a performance by Moos and Da Sharks, a ’50s band that was sponsored by the 50th Reunion Class of 1959. Saturday featured a wine and beer tasting sponsored by the Alumni Association.

During Saturday’s Chapel Program, Head of School Christopher Burner ’80 welcomed visitors to a gathering where three major alumni awards were presented. Sandy Meldrum ’70 received the Waring Prize

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from history teacher Dana Cunningham. Chemistry teacher Marie Fiedler presented the Morley Science Medal to William Shilts ’59, and Alumni Association Board President Lorraine Debose ’93 accepted the Alumni Association Award for Fred Cummings ’85, who was unable to attend.

Noel Aker ’09, student body president, led a remembrance of those classmates in years ending in four and nine who died since their last reunion. Aker also delivered a talk on Reserve today and Amina Bennett Nevels ’99 entertained the audience with an a cappella rendition of What a Wonderful World.

Alumni and family members then gathered on Saturday under the big tent next to Ellsworth Hall for the post-Chapel program picnic. That evening, classes from 1944 through 2004 then went to various venues for their class dinners.

For more coverage of all Reunion Weekend events, be sure to visit www.wra.net/alumni/reunion.cfm.
For Andrew “Sandy” Meldrum ’70, the Reserve Chapel was an appropriate venue to receive the 2009 Waring Prize during Reunion Weekend.

“It’s overwhelming for me to be here in this Chapel with all of you,” Meldrum said. “This Chapel is filled for me with all the personalities that we have known here. It’s the place where I spent many mornings in Chapel services, Sunday vespers, where I graduated, at reunions and where I spoke at my father’s memorial service.”

Meldrum, who is senior editor and regional editor for Africa for Global News Enterprises, is best known for his work as a reporter in Zimbabwe for The Economist and The Guardian. In Zimbabwe he reported on a multiracial, multi-party democracy that was widely considered the hope of post-colonial Africa. Over time, though, government officials became increasingly hostile to any criticism of President Robert Mugabe and placed greater restrictions on the press. By the late 1990s, Meldrum was one of the few voices calling for an honest accounting of the misdeeds of the Mugabe government.

In 2002, Meldrum was arrested and put in jail to await trial for what the authorities deemed “false reporting.” Despite Mugabe’s control of the courts, Meldrum was acquitted of all charges. In May 2003, Meldrum was physically forced onto an Air Zimbabwe jet and illegally deported. He recounted those events in his 2006 memoir, Where We Have Hope.

Meldrum shared with the crowd in the Chapel a memory from his Reserve graduation that helped him during his time in Zimbabwe.

“My graduation in May 1970 came a few days after the shootings at Kent State University,” he said. “I was not getting along with my parents. My father told me my grandmother would be attending the graduation ceremony and he said ‘don’t do anything that would embarrass the family.’ When we lined up outside for the graduation ceremony, some of my friends in the class were handing out black armbands to commemorate the students killed at Kent State.

“I declined to wear one, thinking that was exactly what my father was talking about, and I have always regretted that decision. I think it would have been the right thing to do. To be fair to my father, I think today he would agree it was the right thing to do, but in the climate of the times I didn’t.

“In 2002 and 2003 when I was tested in Zimbabwe, by being thrown in jail and being put on trial, at that time I was informed by my decision at graduation and this time I was determined to do the right thing. At that time I stood up for human rights and a free press.”

History teacher Dana Cunningham, a member of the Waring Prize selection committee, introduced Meldrum and presented him with the award.

“From what I have been able to gather during my years on the committee, J. Fred Waring challenged his students to push themselves to be the best they could be, Cunningham said. “There is no question that this year’s Waring Prize winner exemplifies both of these qualities.”

After graduating from Reserve, Meldrum attended Middlebury College before earning a master’s degree from the Columbia University School of Journalism. He worked for a number of newspapers in California and Ohio until, in 1980, he sold all his possessions, bought a ticket to newly independent Zimbabwe, and embarked on an amazing journey that would end very differently than he expected.

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Meldrum took time to share a memory of former faculty member William Appling, who was honored during an alumni tribute earlier in the day.

“Most of my time in the Chapel was spent up here as I was in the Glee Club for four years,” Meldrum said. “And the face I most strongly remember is the warm, engaging, animated, expressive brown face of Bill Appling. With Bill Appling it was not enough to learn the music and sing on key. When he was directing us, he worked and worked and worked with us to get the impression, feeling and emotion out of that music with discipline and excellence. He certainly made us believe through effort and discipline that we could achieve excellence.”

Meldrum’s sense of humor came out during his acceptance speech when he told about a conversation he had with some young co-workers.

“Recently at my office, which is filled with 20- and 30- (year-olds), someone not so casually asked when did I graduate,” Meldrum said. “When I said 1970, there were gasps and startled faces all around. You would have thought I had said 1870 and that we came to the graduation in horse and buggies.”

Meldrum closed his talk by crediting his wife, Dolores Cortes, for her support over the years.

“I'm very proud my wife is here today. Her work with the disabled in Zimbabwe and in human rights inspired my best work. We are truly partners and we have been together through thick and thin.

“This award is a great honor for me and it will inspire me to continue to do the right thing.”

Saturday’s picnic under the tent on the Ellsworth Hall lawn is always a popular reunion event. Enjoying this year’s good food and good times were:

1. Jayson Yost, Bryan Nolan and Chad Tyler, left to right, who returned for their 10th Reunion.
2. Gail Montenegro ’84 and Emily Kite Leonard ’84.
From his early days growing up on a reforested, former dairy farm near the Academy campus in Hudson, Dr. William Shilts ’59 knew that geology was going to play an important role in his life.

“I never recall not knowing the big boulder in our backyard was carried by glaciers from Canada,” he said during the Chapel program where he was named the recipient of the 2009 Morley Science Medal. “(My mother) took geology in college, and my daughter is the fourth generation of women in our family to take at least one university-level geology course. I have my grandmother’s introductory geology textbook from 1902 at Mount Union College, so it must be in the genes that I would go this way.”

Shilts is executive director of the Institute of Natural Resource Sustainability, which includes the Illinois State Geological Survey, Illinois Natural History Survey, Illinois State Water Survey and Illinois Sustainable Technology Center. The institute has wide-ranging research and service programs in ground- and surface-water resources, climate, energy and mineral resources, ecosystems, invasive species, three-dimensional geologic mapping and environmental geology. The institute provides objective scientific information to state and federal agencies, units of local government, industry and the public.

In addition to his work with the institute, Shilts is an adjunct professor at the University of Illinois, the University of Quebec at Montreal and Illinois State University.

During his acceptance speech, Shilts credited both his mother and Reserve for setting him on his career path.

“My mother was a big influence on my life,” he said. “She was an English major in college and taught first grade in the public schools here. I never remember not being able to read because she put a lot of effort into teaching me when I was very young.

“It wasn’t until I came to the Academy that a big change happened in how I looked at (life). It started with (biology teacher) Tien Wei Yang ’41. He opened my eyes to the details of my surroundings. He had us identifying trees by the leaf scars on their twigs, he taught us about different types of fungi on the trees, and how to classify and identify them. For the first time I began to look at my environment and see all the details.

“If you don’t have someone open your eyes like that, you can cruise through life without seeing any of the details of your natural surroundings.”

Like most Reserve students, Shilts took English courses (from Max LaBorde), but he also took French (from Bob Pryce), which opened up unexpected opportunities.

“The English allowed me to express myself accurately, with a good vocabulary,” Shilts said. “The French helped when an emeritus professor at Princeton I had worked with was asked by the Canadian government for names of people who he thought would want to work in Canada as senior field assistants to researchers carrying out glacial geology studies. The application asked which of the two official languages of Canada do you speak, and I said English and French, and the next thing I knew, I was in Quebec. I did my Ph.D. work in geology in Quebec and have worked on and off in Quebec ever since. So you never know what that liberal background will do for you in providing opportunities.”

Shilts spent more than 25 years working in Canada, starting with the Geological Survey of
Canada in 1970 as a research scientist in the Terrain Sciences Division, before finishing in 1995 as head of the environmental geochemistry section in the Mineral Resources Division. The publications based on his early work in the Canadian arctic were written at a time when little was known of permafrost processes and glacial history of the region, and at a time when climate change was having a noticeable effect on the landscape. Shilts was involved in mineral exploration research that led directly to the subsequent discovery, by prospectors using GSC research, of significant diamond deposits in northern Canada.

Shilts’ sense of social mission was also honed at Reserve. “The dedication to serving other people, a lot of that came from the atmosphere that existed on this campus,” he said. “The idea that you don’t just do your career for yourself, that you have an obligation to people in general to share with them your training and expertise; I’ve always tried to do that and that’s probably one of the reasons why I have the job I have.”

Shilts closed his remarks by honoring the fellow members of his class who were celebrating their 50th Reunion. “There is quite a contingent from the Class of ’59 here, and it was an exceptional group of people,” he said. “I probably have never been closer to a group of people; they presented me with an outlook on life, an approach to athletics and an approach to intellectual pursuits that I seriously doubt I would have gotten in any other environment. I want to thank the members of my class for doing that service for me.”
Fred Cummings '85 was already having a good day when Lorraine Debose '93, president of the Alumni Association Board, called him with the news that he was the recipient of the 2009 Alumni Association Award.

"When I called him to tell him about the award, he was more excited than I thought he would be," Debose said during her presentation during the Chapel program. "I would say he was exuberant. He said that this was the second best thing that had happened to him that day as he mentioned that the market was up that day."

Cummings, assistant treasurer for the Board of Trustees and owner of Elizabeth Park Capital Management, was chosen to receive the award based on his years of service to Reserve, including his time on the Board of Visitors, on reunion and Annual Fund committees for his class, his work on the Campaign for Reserve, and his support and fundraising efforts for the PBS documentary on the Rev. Samuel Harrison 1839, *A Trumpet at the Walls of Jericho*.

"I regret not being with you today," Cummings, who was unable to attend the Chapel program, said in a prepared statement. "I would like to thank the Alumni Association for recognizing me for this award. It has been a pleasure for me to give back to the school in any way that I can, as I have benefitted greatly from my association with WRA over the last 26 years and I look forward to giving back in the future."

Cummings earned a bachelor’s degree from Oberlin before embarking on a successful career with McDonald Investments. He left in 2007 to form his hedge fund, Elizabeth Park Capital Management, which he named after an area of Akron where he grew up. In addition to his work as assistant treasurer on the Board of Trustees, he also serves on the Finance & Investment Committee, the Development Committee and the Audit Committee.

"I would say he is in a league of his own, especially when you think about the type of service that people give back to Reserve," Debose said. "This award honors exemplary volunteer service to Western Reserve Academy. That’s a distinct honor because so many people give back to Reserve."

Originating in 1982, the Alumni Association Award is presented annually to an alumnus or alumna "who has demonstrated outstanding commitment to Reserve, primarily significant volunteer work on behalf of the school."

To view the AAB Award presentation, please click here.

Fred Cummings '85 wins AAB Award

From left to right, Rob Murray '84, Phil Kuri '86 and Scott Brubaker '87 react to Brubaker’s missed putt during Friday’s seventh annual Alumni Association Golf Classic.
Top: Adam Brand ’59 samples a glass of wine during Saturday’s Wine & Beer Tasting in the WRAp. The event was sponsored by the Alumni Association.

Above: David Pantry ’69 arrives at Friday night’s dinner ready for his 40th Reunion.

Left: Amina Bennett Nevels ’99 performed an a cappella rendition of What a Wonderful World during Saturday’s Chapel Program.

Top: Friends, family and classmates came together to honor John Farr ’84. From left are Diane Farr; Jonathan Farr ’12; Andrea Farr; Warren Farr III ’80; Usha Thakrar, Farr’s widow; Kavi Farr, her son; Mary Farr and Warren Farr Jr. A plaque, above, was also placed in the Green Key in Farr’s memory.

Right: Greg Gordillo ’79 was among the alums, faculty and friends who gathered in the Chapel on Saturday for an alumni tribute to William Appling.
1st row: Bob Colopy, Bill Williams, George Gregory, John Whitacre and Harry Freer
2nd row: Peter Black, Zim Oseland, Bob Soulen, Bob Feltman, Sherry Cadwell and Nick Bakker

1st row: Tom Lewis, Ted Herwig, Dan Wingard and Don Jacobson
2nd row: Bob Peterson, Tom Swanston, Roger Marshall, Walt Miner, Jack Timmis and Rollin DeVere

1st row: David Crafts, Pete Parry, Cliff Hunter, Neil Clipsham, Bill Shilts, Wallace Walker, John Gier, Jim Irwin, Herb Wainer and Bob Potter
2nd row: Stephen Chang, Stewart Snodgrass, Norm Shaw, Bill Spohn, Dave Snyder, Fritz Thiel, John Lindamood, Mike Costello, Ernie Hedler and George Medill
3rd row: Chuck Connors, Bill MacDonald, John St. Clair, Jim Moodey, Nick Hayes, Norm Wulff, Adam Brand, Bill Levy and Jeff Jones

1st row: Alan Forsyth, Don Husat, Dick Topping, Jeff Lucas, Eric Conger and David Wright
2nd row: Chris DeHaven, Jack McKee, Tom Jones, Mark Lewine, Rick Herrick, Bob Wellman, Bob Keener, Bill Holmes, Russ Trier and Tom Eaton
2nd row: Ham Amer, Roger Newberry, David Daye, Mark Wiedenmann, Terry Keith and Hank Holtkamp
3rd row: Richard Hays, Chuck Fergusson, George Rosic, Bruce Conger, Dave Pantry, Chris Guiker, Charley Wayne and Jim Fraser

1974
Jeremy Messerer, John Stafford, Joe Fisher, Jim Chambers, Len Carlson and Paul Cobb

1979
1st row: Craig Campbell, Lynn Ogden Weary, Hayes Gladstone and Jamie Gaynor
2nd row: Brad Trees, Midge Karam, Ed Wiles, Ralph Weary, Charlie Tramel, Greg Gordillo and Bruce Tod

1984
1st row: Rob Murray, George Evans, Jennie Campbell Peterson, Gail Roemer Montenegro, Kristin Jones O’Hara, Dana Schwarzkopf, Emmy Hessler and Christine Walker Borrmann
2nd row: Tommy Dunn, Dave Ducas, Lindy Michaels, Chris Mondini, Anne Campbell Goodman, Shawn Conly ’82, Marc Buehler, Kim Hasbrouck Barsella, Emily Leonard Kite and Simon Demian
3rd row: Bill Baker, Bill Starn, Hugh Price, Kristen Lepke Mayer, Paul Jacques, Curtis Mays, Melissa Hill Friedman, Will Galloway, Dave Rogers, Ted Donley and Jon Ward
1st row: Judy Snyder, Deb Else, Ilse Schwarzkopf Rolf, Kelly Raymond Burdsall, Katie Beller Chery, Jennifer Demian Gidlow, Amy Donnelly ’90 and Heather Lambert Berling ’90
3rd row: David Blankenship, Sean Donnelly, Chris Sacher, Eric Steidinger, Dana Pawlicki, Matt Dorson and Steve Paquelet

Abbey Swegan Baker, Dave Alpern, John Heinnickel, Kerry Kirk, Bill Keith, Alicia Tschantz Snyder, Ryan Morrissey, Rob Marias, Charlie Gaetjens, Aylie Fifer, Dave Vanik, Jason Wortendyke and Molly Dunne

1st row: Elizabeth Baird Hamblin, Kara Sandra Metcalf, Katie Drain, Winnie Murray, Caroline McNally, Samira Mubashir Koser, Maeve Hopkins, Amina Bennett Nevels, Vanessa Estonina and Yolanda Jennings
2nd row: Hallie Godshall, Laurie Purse White, Christine Hsu, Matt Megyes, Bryan Nolan, Pat Hoopes, Justin Wortendyke, Erin Dickinson, Jon Wanders, Hillary Thompson, Megan Harris Lin and Cecil Woods Mullins
3rd row: Cagney McGonegal, Amy Haller, Chad Tyler, John Trelleven, Jayson Yost, Greg Tomasko, Michael VanBuren, Faisal Khan and J.C. Reindl

1st row: Jackie Rieser, Aasha Swamy, Lauren White Sarver, Kara Donahoe, Mandy Dearborn, Kelly North and Lauren Molten
2nd row: Jamie Ireland, Rob Becker, Dan Galea, Tad Gruman, Trevor Kline, Chris Reed, Trevor Marticke, Ben Cowie, Calvin Smith and Matt Scheel
Anne Song ’09 has been named a 2009 Presidential Scholar, becoming one of only 141 of the graduating U.S. seniors to receive the award. In June, she traveled to Washington, D.C., to be honored and meet President Barack Obama.

The Presidential Scholars include one young man and one young woman from each state, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, and from U.S. families living abroad, as well as 15 chosen at-large and 20 Presidential Scholars in the Arts.

Song was invited to apply for the award, qualifying without outstanding SAT and ACT scores. A 29-member commission appointed by the president selected the scholars based on their academic success, artistic excellence, essays, school evaluations and transcripts, as well as evidence of community service, leadership and commitment to high ideals.

Song said she was unbelievably shocked to learn of the honor. “I feel like I must have gotten really lucky,” she said, “because I read some of the biographies of the kids who were named Presidential Scholars in the past, and they are unbelievably impressive.”

Yet Song’s biography is remarkable itself. Consistently at the top of her class, Song is a National Merit Scholar and a member of the Cum Laude Society. She played varsity soccer, basketball, and track and field for four years, capturing soccer and track during her senior year and basketball both her junior and senior year. In addition, she played clarinet in the concert band, served as a day prefect and a Green Key Society senior, and participated in the Junior Engineering Technical Society (JETS) Club, Forensics Club and the It’s Academic challenge. As a Morgan Leader, she worked with other students on a project for a pavilion and boardwalk that will be built behind the Murdough Athletic Center.

Song named English teacher Nick Lewis as her most inspiring and challenging teacher. “It was really difficult to pick just one teacher,” said Song, commending her teachers at Reserve. “I would not be the same person that I am today without everything that they have taught me. Mr. Lewis is definitely one of those teachers.”

She credits her growth as a writer, reader and speaker to Lewis, and said in his classes she transformed from “a self-proclaimed math and science person” into someone who was incredibly excited about reading and writing, discovering she loved literature. “He was unbelievably passionate,” she said. “It was infectious.”

Lewis accompanied Song to Washington to accept a Teacher Recognition Award from the Department of Education. Describing Song as “the embodiment of the award,” he said the recognition “has weight because of the remarkable young woman who nominated me. I’m excited to travel for myself, of course, but more for Anne. I would not miss the chance to share this experience with her.”

In the fall, Song will attend Yale University and play varsity soccer. Undecided about a major, she said she is interested in the sciences and will likely study molecular biology or chemistry and is considering the field of medicine.
Five Western Reserve Academy juniors were recently named Burton D. Morgan Leaders for the 2009-10 academic year: day students Jaskaran Bains and Emily Depew, and boarding students Nicholas Hobbs, Ceara O’Sullivan and Henry Peller.

The five leaders were announced at Reserve’s academic awards assembly on May 20, held in the school’s Chapel. On hand to congratulate the recipients were Head of School Christopher Burner ‘80 and Burton D. Morgan Foundation President Deborah Hoover.

“This innovative program identifies emerging campus leaders to serve as role models in the school,” commented Burner. Now in its fourth year, the Morgan Leaders Program was established by a grant from The Burton D. Morgan Foundation, which awards five $10,000 scholarships each year, recognizing selected students for their outstanding leadership abilities.

“I’m excited to be a Morgan Leader because, along with being a senior, it gives all of us another chance to make a lasting impact on the school,” said Bains, who won the school’s Joel B. Hayden Award and the Harvard Book Prize during Commencement weekend. A news editor of the Reserve Record, the school’s student newspaper, Bains is also a member of school’s JETS program and a three-sport varsity athlete. “While it’s a good way to build personal leadership, I think the most important part is our service to the school,” he added. “I want to make WRA a place where everyone feels included.”

“Morgan Leadership is a great honor,” commented Depew. “I believe that in order to become a leader you need to practice, so I am really excited to have received this great opportunity.” At Reserve, Depew is captain of the swim team; she has also participated in the leadership program at Camp Nellie Huckins in Freedom, N.H., where she will be a junior counselor this summer.

For Honor Roll student Hobbs, a Morgan Leader is “a person who has a plan and has the skills to make the plan a reality.” At Reserve, Hobbs is a leader of the Green Campus Action Team and a member of the track team, as well as a dormitory prefect. Recently, he won the school’s Franklin ’30 & Mary Barlow Award and is the recipient of this year’s Alumni Association Scholarship award. “A Morgan Leader in my mind is someone who has demonstrated a passion for the school,” Hobbs added. “Being named a Morgan Leader is a really big honor,” said O’Sullivan. “The 2008-09 group were truly the leaders on our campus this year, and next year, we will be continuing their work. To me, being a Morgan Leader is an exciting opportunity to gain leadership skills through the service projects we take on and the people we will meet.” O’Sullivan recently received the school’s Amherst College Book Prize and was named MVP of the cross country and track teams this past year; she will captain both teams during the 2009-10 school year. A two-year dormitory prefect, O’Sullivan is also a three-sport varsity athlete and a leader in the WRA orchestra.

“The Morgan Leadership is a great honor for me,” commented Peller, “but more importantly it is a responsibility.” In addition to being a member of the school’s varsity wrestling team, Peller spent the summer of 2008 teaching pottery classes, giving demonstrations and group talks, and offering one-on-one assistance to children ages 8 to 14. “That the school considers me to be one of the five most qualified students to assume this role is humbling,” he added, “and I will perform the duties of this position to the best of my ability.”

Established through a grant from The Burton D. Morgan Foundation, the Burton D. Morgan Leadership Program awards five $10,000 scholarships each year, honoring selected students for their outstanding leadership abilities. The program seeks to recognize students already enrolled at the Academy who have demonstrated “noteworthy academic standing, exemplary service to others, exceptional generosity, positive spirit, entrepreneurial potential and demonstrated motivation.”
Reserve students and faculty took a day off from classes in May to go M.A.D. – again. Building on the success of the Academy’s first volunteer day last fall, members of the school community fanned out to sites across Northeast Ohio, all in an effort to Make A Difference.

Along with about 45 faculty members, more than 300 students participated in a wide variety of volunteer opportunities, including Habitat for Humanity, the Cleveland Foodbank, Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Cleveland’s Orchard Elementary School and Hudson Parks. (Members of the junior class spent the day on campus participating in a college guidance workshop.)

“Days like this help build a greater sense of community – on campus for some, but also beyond our walls,” commented Director of Social Mission Margaret Karam ’79. “Our students are learning that each step they take can have really big ripples.”

Reserve’s entire sophomore class returned to the Orchard School, at the request of the school’s principal, to help kids with everything from tutoring and reading to fractions and gym class.

The experience at Orchard was eye-opening for some. “I knew that there were metal detectors in schools in Cleveland,” reflected Carley Stewart ’11, “but it gives it a whole different perspective when you see a first grader walking through it.”

“The day gave our students the opportunity to be the role models for smaller kids, and they were excellent,” said English teacher Jill Evans, who accompanied the sophomores. In fact, when Reserve students discovered that a young special needs student with very poor eyesight had broken his glasses – twice – and could not afford another replacement pair, they decided to take action.

“We came up with the idea of a bake sale,” said Maggie Craig ’11. Held during WRA’s exam week, the sale netted more than $200 for a new pair of glasses.

“I think the reason the sophomore class went to Orchard School wasn’t to help the students with the alphabet or addition,” added Craig, “but to force us to realize that we are so incredibly lucky. I’m so glad I had the opportunity to see this perspective.”

Meanwhile, WRA math teacher Sherry Chlysta and a group of 10 students spent the day at St. Barnabas School in nearby Northfield, working with three different fourth grade classes.

“Our students thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to work with the children,” Chlysta said. They also had lunch with the school’s eighth graders, helping them to strategize plans for putting together their own service day, as well as offering advice about the transition to high school. “We look forward to returning next year,” Chlysta added.

At Habitat for Humanity sites in both Summit and Portage counties, students put up roof tresses, worked on plasterboard and assisted with landscaping. The group at Cuyahoga Valley National Park worked on rehabbing an old youth hostel, which will become a visitors’ center.

“The students were hard-working, cooperative and fun to be with,”

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Rachel Blanda ’11 was among a group of students and faculty who worked on a clean-up crew at the Cuyahoga Valley National Park.
commented James English, the park’s manager of events and facilities. “The teachers did an outstanding job of supervising, coordinating the work load and were great examples for Western Reserve Academy.”

Hudson Parks and the Reserve campus grounds also benefited from the students’ cleanup, planting, weeding and beautification efforts. “The kids did a great job and really accomplished a lot of work,” commented Hudson Parks Superintendent Eric Hutchinson. “The parks look much better thanks to the work they put in.”

“I appreciated having you spend part of your day with us on the WRA grounds,” Director of Grounds Curt Van Blarcum told students, who worked with staff members on a variety of projects, including planting trees and sunflowers, preparing a student/faculty vegetable garden, working on athletic fields and painting fences.

A group of seven students, under the supervision of Dean of Students Brand Closen, took on an impromptu adopt-a-highway mission on Prospect Street and Hines Hill Road, near the Reserve campus. “We collected six large garbage bags of recyclables and eight bags of trash, along with some metal pipe and three tires,” Closen reported. “I think they got a new perspective on littering; I don’t think any of those seven will throw anything out of a car any time soon!”

Building on the success of this year’s volunteer days, Karam hopes to expand Reserve’s volunteer efforts next year to include, among other things, regular Habitat for Humanity work and an afternoon tutoring program at the Orchard School.

“T he Orchard principal told me that for her little students to have the undivided attention of a big kid changes their world,” added Karam.

Two teams of Western Reserve Academy math and science students were recently named national finalists in the Junior Engineering Technical Society (JETS) TEAMS competition. Reserve’s eight-member Varsity A team, which placed first in the state of Ohio, earned an 18th-place national finish in Division 2. In addition, the school’s Junior Varsity C team, which ranked second in the state, earned a second-place ranking in the national competition.

“I am continually impressed with our teams’ competitive spirit and creative solutions,” commented JETS TEAMS advisor and WRA chemistry teacher Marie Fiedler. “The Junior Varsity C team did a particularly outstanding job on the second half of the test. I was impressed with the thoroughness of their answers, which is unusual for sophomores. This is certainly an especially talented group, and they should represent us well in future competitions. They have set a new standard.”

Members of Reserve’s second-place Junior Varsity C team include sophomores Eun Cho, Oliver Curtiss, Jack Hoover, Jenny Hu, Lisa Jung, Joe Marmerstein, Bethany Qiang and Chris Tonge.

Reserve’s nationally ranked Varsity A team includes seniors David Suwondo, Anne Song, Joey Bolognese, Chris Corbett, Visarute Pinrod, Wenli Rui, Eric Su and Joe Wang.

In February, five Reserve teams competed in the two-part regional JETS competition, held at the University of Akron. The theme of this year’s competition was Behind the Scenes: Theme Parks, which challenged students to examine the engineering involved in designing, building and running America’s theme parks. Based on their performances, all five Reserve teams earned state rankings: in addition to the two nationally recognized teams, Reserve’s Varsity B team placed seventh in Ohio, while the Junior Varsity B and Junior Varsity A teams placed fourth and fifth in the state, respectively.

For the past 34 years, JETS has sponsored the national competition. The goal, according to the society, is to give high school students the opportunity to discover the practical applications of math and science by solving some of today’s greatest engineering challenges in a fun and fast-paced competition that inspires creativity, teamwork, critical thinking and valuable insight into the world of engineering.
In just a short amount of time, Kelly Muffley’s positive impact on Western Reserve Academy athletics became obvious.

Muffley ’09 impressed everyone who saw her play soccer, basketball and softball in just two years at the school. Her athletic skills and talent earned her a Gold Medal this spring, Reserve’s most prestigious athletic award.

“It completely flattered me to receive the Gold Medal,” Muffley said. “It’s by far the greatest moment I had at Reserve. I never thought I would be considered as good as Anne Song ’09, Kelsey McCallops ’08 or Chris Corbett ’09 (previous Gold Medal winners) at one of my own sports.”

Muffley led the Pioneers softball team to a 10-3 overall record and a 6-2 mark in the Private School League this past season.

“Getting a Gold Medal when you have only been at Reserve for two years is an even more impressive accomplishment than being there for four years,” softball coach Jim Bunting said. “It’s an award that is based on athletics – that is the key. You have to be viewed by the Reserve coaching community as a prestigious athlete. You have to have superior and sustained excellence in your particular sport.”

Muffley, a 5-foot-7 right-handed pitcher and batter, was vital to the Pioneers’ success as she was the only pitcher the team used all season. In addition to her 10 wins, she finished with a 1.31 ERA, striking out 114 batters, and allowing only 15 earned runs and 37 hits.

Muffley pitched no-hitters in consecutive games in 2009. The first came in a 1-0 victory over Andrews-Osborne and the second came in a 6-0 win against Our Lady of the Elms. Her two no-hitters are a school record.

“Kelly is a coach’s dream,” assistant coach Aimee Zimmerman said. “She worked hard and showed dedication every day, and she continually strived to improve, always pushing herself to the next level. She demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities on and off the field, and the Reserve softball program will have to make great strides to fill the void that she’s leaving behind.”

A first-team All-PSL selection, Muffley hit cleanup in the batting order and compiled a .300 batting average with six singles, five doubles, a triple, eight runs scored and six RBIs. She also committed zero errors defensively.

Muffley served as a tri-captain with catcher Tucker Murray ’09 and third baseman Sarah Wise ’09.

“This season was great to be a captain,” Muffley said. “The younger girls were incredibly fun – Jen Blanda ’11 will forever be my best softball friend. The relationships I had between the other two captains, Tucker and Sarah, grew increasingly every game. This season was one I will always remember.”

Muffley said she was thankful for the support she received from the Reserve staff.

“The success I had was due completely to Reserve,” Muffley said. “Those who came into my life – Mrs. (Katie) Bonomo, Ms. (Jill) Evans and Ms. (Megan) Williams as dorm masters; Mr. (Gerard) Manoli as my advisor; and Mr. (Jeffrey)
## Spring Athletic Award Winners

### Baseball

**MVPs:** Matthew Shaw ’09  
Ryan Foutty ’09  
Franklin Haverlack ’09  
Adam Wise ’09  

**MIP:** Nicolas Zuccarelli ’10  
**Spirit:** Nathan Barnett ’11

### Boys Lacrosse

**MVP:** Brayden Gerrie ’09  
**MIP:** TaShan Mitchell ’11  
**Coaches/Spirit:** Noel Aker ’09  
William Tanner ’10

### Girls Lacrosse

**MVPs:** Sara Wroblewski ’09  
Persy Sample ’10  
Clare Manoli ’09  
**MIPs:** Anne Forhan ’10  
Taryn Murray ’09  
**Coaches Award:** Megan Packer ’09  
Brynn Schmitt ’09

### Softball

**MVP:** Brooke Amoroso ’09  
**MIP:** Alexandra Eliopoulos ’12  
**Coaches/Spirit:** Elizabeth Sankey ’09  
Margaret Craig ’11

### Tennis

**MVP:** Jaskaran Bains ’09  
**MIP:** Sebastien Edgar ’09  
**Coaches/Spirit:** Jonathan Deeter ’12

### Boys Track & Field

**MVP:** Joshua Sibley-Harris ’09  
**MIP:** Jonas Weirtz ’10  
**Coaches/Spirit:** Joseph Bolognese ’09  
Carl Basnett: Rene Silva ’09

### Girls Track & Field

**MVP:** Ceara O’Sullivan ’10  
**MPA:** Calli McKenna ’11  
**Coaches/Spirit:** Sarah Puffer ’10  
Carl Basnett: Anne Song ’09

For more information, click on the sport to be taken to the team’s website.
Matthew Shaw ’09

Baseball MVP

Ryan Foutty ’09

Boys Lacrosse MVP

Adam Wise ’09

Baseball MVP

Brayden Gernie ’09

Boys Lacrosse MVP

Sara Wroblewski ’09

Girls Lacrosse MVP

Frank Haverlack ’09

Baseball MVP
Girls Lacrosse MVP

Persy Sample ’09

Tennis MVP

Jaskaran Bains ’09

Boys Track & Field MVP

Joshua Sibley-Harris ’09

Girls Track & Field MVP

Ceara O’Sullivan ’10

Softball MVP

Brooke Amoroso ’09

Girls Lacrosse MVP

Clare Manoli ’09

Girls Lacrosse MVP

Ceara O’Sullivan ’10
There is so much to be enthusiastic about,” writer Robert Sullivan proclaimed during his visit to Western Reserve Academy on April 15. Sullivan, a contributing writer for Vogue, a frequent essayist for The New Yorker and The New York Times and the author of several books, addressed the student body, visited English classes, lunched with creative writing students and signed books at a reception during the daylong event.

Students were struck by Sullivan’s encyclopedic knowledge, his tendency for tangents and his genuine interest in everything. Danica Liu ’10 described Sullivan as “an incredibly energetic speaker” who “jumped from a discussion of Thoreau’s Self Reliance to a recent interview he had with Cameron Diaz.”

English teacher Dr. Dan Dyer, who coordinated the event, said “His great trait – his amazing curiosity – takes him places.” Sullivan’s writing explores wide-ranging topics from whale hunting to rats, celebrities to the last horse peddler in New York City. Dyer hoped students would learn from Sullivan’s insatiable sense of wonder “to not be afraid of what their curiosity tells them is interesting, to follow that.”

Sullivan joined a long list of writers to have visited Reserve, including poet Sharon Olds and fiction writer Tobias Woolf. “He’s the only writer of literary nonfiction that we’ve had,” Dyer noted. “Creative nonfiction is such an exploding genre – I wanted to give students a taste of that.”

The Pioneer Women of Reserve sponsored Sullivan’s visit.

In preparation for the visit, Dyer’s English III students read portions of Sullivan’s latest book The Thoreau You Don’t Know: What the Prophet of Environmentalism Really Meant, which dismantles the mythos surrounding Henry David Thoreau, illuminating the real man as more social critic than nature writer.

“It was really an experience meeting Sullivan in person – his writing reflects the sort of person he is,” said Emily Huang ’10. “At first, his book was a bit confusing to me, but after hearing him talk about it, it made a lot more sense. I, and most of the class, realized that Sullivan talks the way he writes – hitting many ideas at once, connecting two very different aspects of an idea and speaking at length.”

During his all-school presentation in the Chapel, Sullivan described his start in newspaper writing. Assigned to cover a fire, he came back with “all kinds of details – the story of the guy down the street, a dog, (but) nothing about the fire.” Moving to magazine writing allowed Sullivan the freedom to digress and explore his varied interests and his books have been an extension of that.

Jordan Lin ’10 said Sullivan’s diverse interests were reflected in how Sullivan answered student questions. “He went into such great detail that he would completely digress,” Lin said. “This wasn’t necessarily a bad thing though; he was very entertaining. He knows everything he wants to say and is articulate about it.”

Sullivan’s previous books include The Meadowlands: Wilderness Adventures on the Edge of a City and Rats: Observations on the History and Habitat of the City’s Most Unwanted Inhabitants. Often categorized as a nature writer, Sullivan resists that label. He called himself a “skewed nature writer,” tending to write about subjects not often considered part of nature.

“It was a joke, an experiment to write a book about rats,” he said, suggesting no one thinks of rats as the poetic stuff of nature writing.

“It’s limiting to think of nature as beautiful flowers,” Sullivan said. “There’s an idea that some things are natural and therefore sacred and everything else is not – that’s a false divide,” Sullivan said. “Everything is natural.”

Sullivan impressed upon students the necessity to be curious in order to discover new ideas and ways of thinking. “Go be an explorer,” Sullivan commanded. “Be an explorer in your own world.”