



## *Greetings from the Alumni Committee*

After years of inactivity, the BFA Alumni Association is coming back to life. This newsletter is the first of several significant happenings that will connect alumni to alumni and keep you abreast of activities at BFA. There are more than 12,000 BFA alumni living all over the world. I'm sure you are interested in the Academy and keeping in contact with your classmates.

Since 2003 the BFA Alumni Executive Committee has awarded scholarships to graduating seniors from investment monies that the Alumni Association accumulated from stock investments. (See the article on the Alumni Scholarship Fund for more information on the program and how you can help the fund's growth.)

Perhaps the most exciting development is the creation of the BFA alumni website. You can register by going to <http://bfaalumni.net> and click onto the alumni tab. Check out the other tabs for information on what is happening at BFA and reuniting with your classmates.

As you read through this newsletter, you will learn about the many projects that have expanded facilities and programs for students at the Academy. I am proud to have played a significant part in making these projects happen and to continue the strong traditions

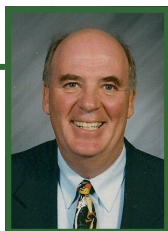
of the Academy. A major renovation of the auditorium will start this June to expand the stage area, replace the old seating, and air condition the facility. The budget for this project is 2.4 million dollars. BFA has about 1.8 million dollars from the capital fund to start this project. The remaining monies will be raised from donations, grants, and a bond. If you are excited about this project and want to contribute with its funding, you can contribute by using the form on the back page of this newsletter.

Check out the contribution form for the various ways to help with BFA programs through your financial gifts. With a base of over 12,000 alumni, even a small contribution of \$10.00 will result in a tremendous boost to the programs.

I am excited about the rebirth of the Alumni Association. Please register on the website and visit often to keep posted on alumni activities and what's happening at BFA. Drop us a note with your suggestions on how to improve and grow the Alumni Association. We are looking for volunteers to help plan future activities. Our goal is to reinvigorate the long dormant Alumni Association.

Reginald Godin '56, Chairperson  
BFA Alumni Association Executive Committee

## *Comments from the Principal*



Dear BFA Alumni,

It is a pleasure to be writing the alumni in this newsletter. Several of our alumni have worked with the school to strengthen our ties with our graduates and update you on the many amazing changes that are happening.

BFA continues to be 'the' school of choice in our region. The class of 2009 graduated 280 students with 79% going on to post secondary education. BFA graduates were accepted and enrolled at Harvard, Princeton, Dartmouth, and Williams – the most competitive schools in the country. In addition, we have the highest secondary school rating in Chittenden and Franklin counties. We now offer 11 Advanced Placement programs providing our juniors

and seniors with college caliber learning opportunities. We have embraced 21<sup>st</sup> Century learning opportunities through technology. Students may enroll in Virtual High School classes; our Local Area Network provides access to the internet, e-mail, and electronic storage. Parents have electronic access to all teachers to check their son/daughter's academic progress, attendance, and receive teacher messages about assignments, events, or activities. Truly, we are in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century!

In keeping pace with maintaining our facilities, we just completed major renovations at the Complex completely rebuilding our hockey rink and track and adding new lights to the football field. The Complex continues to be the leading athletic facility in the state. On campus, we are planning to break ground this spring in a

major renovation of the auditorium. The BFA Performing Arts Center renovations call for widening the stage to hold our full concert band or chorus, adding a green room, set-design room, storage, and yes, we will recondition the original seats to create more space and comfort for the audience. All renovations will be made keeping the historical character of the building intact. We are very excited about this project and look forward to keeping you posted as we move forward.

We recently had visits by the class of 1959 who graciously provided BFA with \$10,000 in scholarships for our graduating seniors. Absolutely wonderful! We thank you and we invite all alumni to stop by and say hello. You are always welcome at the Academy. Sincerely,  
Ned Caron, Principal

### ALUMNI OFFICERS 2009 - 2010

Chairperson - Reginald Godin; Vice Chairperson & Secretary - Larry Bouchard; Treasurer - Frank Horan;  
Members - Mary Bevins, Betty Finn, James Pelkey, Sally Sargent

**1994** School upgraded to comply with ADA requirements, including:

- Elevator access to all 3 floors
- Multiple safety features
- Door handles & more



2003 - BUILDING TRADES GETS A NEW BUILDING



2003 - NEW WINDOWS FOR THE MAIN COMPLEX

**The year is 1996**



**Bellow Free Academy purchases the St. Albans Hospital Unit.**  
 In January 1996 the Board of Trustees moved to enter in a purchase/sales agreement with the Northwest Medical Center for the St. Albans Hospital Unit. At the same time they negotiated a purchase/sales agreement to purchase the Franklin Grand Isle Mental Health building located on the south side of Ferris Street for parking space. Collectively this would unify the Bellows Free Academy campus with the St. Albans Hospital Unit. The bond issue to finance the acquisition of these properties and the needed improvements was approved by the St. Albans City and St. Albans Town voters at the Annual Meeting day vote in March 1996.

The \$5,089,600 project was completed and opened in September 1997.

**2004** The March 3<sup>rd</sup> headline in the St. Albans Messenger reads:  
**Voters make BFA public City, Town overwhelmingly approve change in status**

In March 2004 a positive vote from both the St. Albans Town and City residents approved the change in status of Bellows Free Academy. where the Town voted no and the City voted yes, the vote passed by a large margin with BOTH communities supporting the change.

The question of private vs. public had been an on and off community discussion since the late 1970s. After many formal studies and three failed vote attempts After 75 years as a quasi-private school, BFA St. Albans officially went public on July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2005.

**2008-2009:  
COLLINS PERLEY  
GETS A MAJOR UPGRADE**



When the Collins Perley Sports Center opened in 1985, Headmaster Reg Godin declared it the finest high school athletic facility in the state. He was right, of course. While other schools improved their facilities, Collins Perley aged. Its use increased. Steps have been taken to maintain, modernize, and improve the facility.

Each period of the day, two classes of students are bussed to Collins Perley for physical education classes. After-school programs have been added for students who are not active members of athletic teams. New athletic teams include Girls' Varsity Ice Hockey, Boys' Junior Varsity and Varsity Lacrosse, Girls' Junior Varsity and Varsity Lacrosse, and Club Field Hockey. Spring and fall athletes now number close to 400, nearly half of the student body.

Community use has increased with business functions, a number of conventions and expositions, corporate wellness programs, and individual fitness activities. Off-season opportunities have been expanded indoors. In addition to the traditional tennis programs, youth and adults now have opportunities for soccer, football, lacrosse, and a number of exercise classes.

Community support has never been more clearly demonstrated than when voters have approved expenditures for upgrades. Last summer nearly \$3 million was spent. The stadium lighting system was replaced, the track and associated field venues were torn up and replaced, and storm water treatment was upgraded. Indoors, the building got all new lighting. The rink floor was removed and replaced. Also replaced were the rink boards, glass, bleachers, press box, and refrigeration plant. The next phase of that project is slated to begin this summer and will probably include a new surface in the north hall.

With over 600,000 user visits per year, Collins Perley has truly fulfilled its promises to the community and surpassed the expectations of us all.

David Kimel, CPSC Manager



**ALUMNI RETURN TO TEACH AT BELLOWS FREE ACADEMY**

Louise Luneau Haynes, Class of 1965

If my research is complete, there have been 57 alumni who have returned to teach at BFA since its opening in 1930. This number does not begin to cover the many more alumni who have worked or are working at BFA in the support areas of special needs, athletics, and other extra-curricular activities, as well as in custodial and secretarial areas. And there have been numerous alumni among the Trustees and on the School Board. One of our own, Reginald Godin, Class of 1956, served as Headmaster from 1983 – 1999.

From the early days, one could add a number of graduates from St. Albans High School who held positions at BFA including Alice Chandler, Acting Headmaster 1943-1944, and Jesse Sunderland,

Headmaster 1944-1960. Such names as Marion Witters, Marion Curtis, and Germaine Perrault are familiar to many alumni from BFA's earlier years.

Every department has been home to an alumni teacher, some of whose longevity is remarkable. Although Robert Ashton, Class of 1952, retired after 40 years of service, he continues to substitute and he attends just about every BFA athletic contest at home and away. Many other alumni teachers have also been heavily involved in extra-curricular activities.

Why have so many alumni sought jobs at BFA? A recurring answer is that St. Albans is a great place to live and BFA is a premier school. The many positive examples our teachers provided engendered in us a love for every aspect of the Academy.

**NOTE: Visit the alumni website for the current list of alumni who have been or are currently part of the faculty at BFA.**



**ALUMNI SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Alumni Irrevocable Scholarship Trust" with preference given to needy and worthy students.

The history of the Alumni Scholarship Fund, past recipients and application information can be found at the BFA web site under the alumni tab.

It is said that one person can make a difference. That statement applies perfectly when looking at the origination of the Alumni Scholarship Committee. As the last Treasurer of the St. Albans High School - Bellows Free Academy Alumni Association, Frank Horan was concerned that monies in the alumni fund were sitting idle and only under his name.

In the Spring of 2003 he invited a group of alumni to meet, discuss and eventually form the "St. Albans High School/BFA

Currently we offer three scholarships of \$1,000.00 each. The Alumni Committee is very interested in building up the trust fund in order to expand the number of and the dollar amounts of the scholarships.

Please consider using the contribution form on the last page of this newsletter to support this endeavor.

Thank you, The Alumni Scholarship Committee

**Restoration Projects**

Dear Fellow Alumni:

In the past eleven years that I have been at Bellows Free Academy in the capacity of French teacher, I have also been a part of a Restoration Committee that has, with the support of the BFA board and administration, worked hard at refurbishing and restoring to original luster those pieces and parts of Building A that are irreplaceable.

The Restoration Committee has restored the statue of Mercury as well as both chandeliers in the main entry way. The paintings of Hiram Bellows and his wife were professionally cleaned, restored, and protected. The big clock in the front of BFA was fixed and we have returned to its original color the upper entry (main floor) of BFA. Brass kick plates were refurbished and attached to the beautiful wooden doors. Outside lights that once

used to be in front of BFA were replaced. The terrazzo floor directly in front of Mercury was cleaned and polished.

It is also the hope of the Restoration Committee to return the lamps of knowledge that once adorned either side of the big clock in the front of the building.

I share all of this with you for a couple reasons: 1) You also are a proud graduate of BFA and I know you would want it cared for as it once was, and 2) We are now about to begin another aspect of this restoration phase that will be of great benefit to the community as well as to BFA for years to come. The auditorium is going to be restored to a more user and audience friendly place without sacrificing aspects that make our auditorium a unique and special place. We hope you will support us in our efforts.

Sincerely,  
Paula Bouchard Johnson '73 ...

**Were you there when they were HEADMASTERS?**

(now called "PRINCIPAL" since going public)

Harry B. Dickinson	1930 - 1943
Jesse E. Sunderland	1944 - 1960
Donald C. Pierce	1960 - 1973
Angelo A. Massa	1973 - 1983
Reginald R. Godin	1983 - 1999
Robert C. Levis	1999 - 2003
Paul L. Clark	2003 - 2005
Ned Caron - Principal	2005 - Present

**Check out our Alumni website: <http://www.bfaalumni.net>**  
A great way to keep in touch with school and alumni activities.  
The school website is: <http://www.bfasta.net>

**Check us out on Facebook: [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com)**  
Search for "Bellows Free Academy St. Albans, VT"  
... Meet your classmates there ....

**Bellows Free Academy**  
 Franklin Central Supervisory Union  
 28 St. Catherine Street  
 St. Albans, Vermont 05478

Non-Profit Org  
 US Postage PAID  
 Burlington, VT  
 Permit #478



Auditorium project gets  
 underway June 2010!!

..... cut on dotted line .....

CONTRIBUTION FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ (indicate maiden name)

MAILING ADDRESS Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street: \_\_\_\_\_  
 City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

CLASS OF: \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

- Gift to Alumni Scholarship Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Gift to General Capital Improvement Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Gift to the Auditorium Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - Other (specify) \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Total Entered: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

- GIFT will be matched by: \_\_\_\_\_ (employer name, other)
- I prefer to remain anonymous. Do not show my name in any list of contributors
- Gift is given in Honor of \_\_\_\_\_
- Affiliation  Alumni  Grandparent  Friend  Current Parent  Parent of Alumni  Other

**Make checks payable to:** BFA St. Albans Alumni Association

**Mail to:** Bellows Free Academy  
 Attn: Shirley Raymond  
 71 South Main Street  
 St. Albans, Vermont 05478