



Threshold Gazette

Memorable Moments in Residence Life '07-'08

We kicked off the '07-'08 year with the development of a Threshold Student Government. The hard-working members were: Miranda Reville (President), Jeffrey Wasserman (Vice-President), Anna Ferdman (Secretary), Jessie Fire (Bridge Year Representative), and Brandon Rottblatt (First Year Representative). In the fall the Student Government hosted a dance where money was raised for *Partners for Youth with Disabilities* and they gave back to the community by making over 40 bag lunches for homeless teenagers. This spring the Government hosted two fabulous programs, including a trivia night at the Somerville Nursing Home and most notably Threshold's first annual Field Day. The Field day was a smash success with events such as kickball, soccer, Frisbee, relay races, and Wiffle Ball.

In December, the Second and Bridge years went on a fabulous trip to New York City where we walked around Times Square and Rockefeller Center, were entertained by singing waiters at Stardust, and saw Broadway's *Hairspray*. Among our many on-campus programs, some other very successful activities included: apple picking and baking with the fresh apples; Halloween festivities including decorating the halls and a spooky excursion to Salem; Tie-dying tee-shirts (below); visiting the New England Aquarium (top photo) and seeing a 3-D IMAX; a Celtics game; a trip to Faneuil Hall and Quincy Market; and a big dinner at Fire and Ice (lower right).

We look forward to meeting all of the first year students and welcoming back the class of 2009 in September. Also a reminder that our weekly Saturday basketball games will be resuming in the fall. Game on! ❖





Threshold Activities

Semi-Formal is Another Huge Success!

The 2008 Threshold Semi-formal dance took place this year at the beautiful ballroom at the Hotel Marlow in Cambridge. Over 150 people attended, including over 50 alumni.

A tasty dinner was served at 8:00 pm, followed by a delicious dessert. The crowd danced to the music of David Natola until midnight.

It was great to see all of the alumni, some who once again traveled great distances to attend. It was also wonderful to see all of the alumni who have attended the dance every year since they graduated.

The dance will take place again next year in April 2009... so watch your mail for the announcement! More and more alumni have been attending this exciting event each year. If you know an alum who is not receiving our mailings, have them contact the Threshold office to update their address. The Semi-Formal is a wonderful time to catch up with old friends as well as to make some new ones. ❖



(L to R) David Belodoff '09, Danielle Braun '09, Molly Wagoner '09 and Blair Ward '09



Annie Allen and Eddie Shields '07



Jeff Wasserman '08 and Sarah Kellar '08



Mathew Davis '09 and Isaac Varon '09

Alumni Corner

By Cheri Candelori, Class of 1996
Threshold Gazette Alumni Correspondent

Hello Alums!!

Happy Summer to all of you! I hope everyone had a great year. It went by so fast for me. I've been busy with work at the Auto Auction "Manheim New Jersey." I've been working in the Marketing Department for five years, come end of July. I've also been busy with family and friends. I'm planning to come up to Boston (hopefully) by the end of September, 2008. You can reach me at my personal email cheri@alwaysajerseygirl.com.

I just also wanted to update you on what's going on with my part of being the "Threshold Alumni Correspondent". First, Threshold is now on on MYSFACE (it's private):

<http://www.myspace.com/thresholdalumsreconnect>.

The Threshold Alumni Website has a new email address: thresholdalumsreconnect@yahoo.com.

The Threshold Alumni Website also has a new web address: <http://www.thresholdalumsreconnect.net/>.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at either email address!! Have a great summer!!

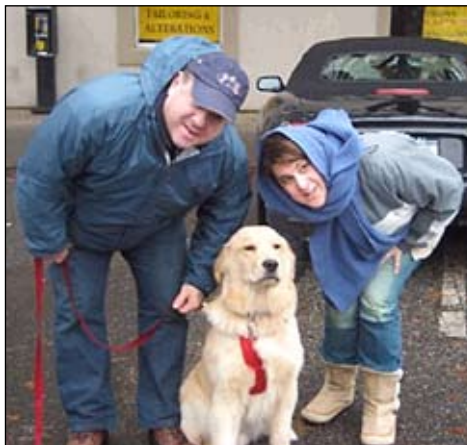
A note from Leslie Draisin-Perilstein
Class of '95

Hello all.

Where to start? I have had so many roommates since I graduated from Threshold, that I have lost count! Since leaving I have had many interesting experiences. I worked in a grocery

store, did retail at J. Crew, and also worked with troubled teens. At present, I work with clients with Developmental Disabilities in a Day Habilitation setting in Newton, Mass.

Now, to the best part; I was married in October of 2006 in my home town of Charleston SC. My husband Barry, is a great man and loves me for me. He understands me when I don't even understand myself. Barry is an accountant, so it comes in handy at times when I need help with some math questions. We live in Winchester Mass. with our one year old Golden Retriever.



Leslie and Barry Perilstein

Celebration of the Arts

The annual Celebration of the Arts was held again this year on April 27th. Faculty members Jeff Melzak, Will Small and Robin Wood led students in performances in creative arts, creative writing and theater production. The afternoon's events ended with a talent show highlighting voice, poetry and dance. ❖



Blair Ward

Threshold Faculty Presents at National Conference

The faculty at Threshold feels strongly about participating in national conferences, to both share their expertise and gain new insights that they can bring back to our campus and program. This year, Jim Wilbur, Program Director, and Fran Yuan traveled to Chicago, Illinois for the annual conference put on by the National Learning Disabilities Association. Fran Yuan presented: "Married couples: Challenges times two." ❖



Threshold Graduation: A celebration of Perseverance and Joy

In her annual remarks to the Threshold graduates, Associate Provost Dr. Carol Streit warmly recalled a chance meeting last year with two Threshold students on their way to a book signing for baseball great Cal Ripken's autobiography.



Threshold graduates toss balls in celebration

Interested, she went ahead and bought the book, learning among other things, that Ripken didn't miss a day of work in 17 years. "Baseball is like life, you get up everyday, strive to be better, practice and practice and persevere," she said. "This ball symbolizes your own perseverance," she told the graduates, and with shy smiles all around, they joined her in facing the crowd, each one hoisting their baseballs in the air with a resounding group "play ball!"



Director of Threshold James Wilbur

On Friday May 2nd, proud families and friends gathered in Prospect Hall for a graduation afternoon filled with music and inspirational words. "I want to salute the parents, families and friends who have supported

these 20 remarkable young men and women who are graduating here today," said Director of Threshold James Wilbur. "Your diligence and efforts have paid off and the proof is sitting directly in front of me," he said.

Graduation speaker S. Paul Reville, Secretary of Education for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and father of graduate Miranda, shared that his daughter has often begun sentences with the phrase 'you need to know', and offered the graduates advice on what they need to know for success; "How to balance life with work and learning, how to find and grow real loves in your lives, how to stay engaged in learning," he said. Most importantly, Reville said Miranda and her friends have taught him "how to persevere, how to be present and live in the moment, and how to be compassionate and caring." Reville added, "Each day if we're open to it, life presents hundreds of learning opportunities."



Graduation Speaker S. Paul Reville

Addressing the crowd, Miranda herself looked back on her college experience with nostalgia. "I remember my first day here, it was amazing. I was actually going to college," said the Class President. "You are all much more than you think you are...live life to the fullest and take any challenge that comes your way," she said.



Class President Miranda Reville

The four other student speakers; Aliza Claire Bible, Rebecca Greenblum, Laura Miles, and Gregory Niethold spoke with humor and warmth. Brighdin Fitzpatrick was awarded this year's Judith Kranes award for her leadership, motivation and academic achievement, all hallmarks of the Threshold program.

Lesley University President Joseph B. Moore drew comparisons between his inaugural year at Lesley and the journey the 20 highly motivated graduates chose to begin two years ago. "Just like you, I wanted to be comfortable in a community where I could be who I am."

Besides their certificate of completion, graduates receive six college credits and most choose participate in one of Threshold's two postgraduate programs: Transition Year provides continuing support as students enter the work world and live in apartments; Bridge offers another year of skill building on campus. Both are certificate programs and an additional three college credits are awarded for successful completion of Transition Year. ❖

Letter from the Director

Dear Alumni and Friends,
We are all looking forward to the arrival of the Class of 2010 and the return our Second, Bridge and Transition Year students. Threshold will begin its 27th year...seems hard to believe! The annual dance continues to grow, with more and more alums returning for mini reunions with their classmates. We would really love to see you in April and will let you know the details. **Please keep us informed of any changes you may have in your email or home address so that we can be sure you are all kept informed of upcoming events and announcements.**



We take great joy in all your successes and achievements and always want to know what you are up to. The down side of having this wonderful tight community is when we lose people we cared about and admired. Sadly, this past year and a half we have lost four people from our community. Kay, Lipper, 1987, Jenn Walsh, 1994, Tom Vazzano, 2000 and Jake Monke, 2003. I know that you all join me expressing our most sincere condolences to their families and friends.

Jim Wilbur

Beloved Faculty Retires

Following eight years as a member of the Threshold faculty, Rosalie Dixon Carter has announced her retirement. Faculty and students alike will miss her. During her tenure as a member of the faculty, Rosalie served as an instructor, mentor and friend. Rosalie has devoted much of her life to education in a variety of capacities. She has many years experience and expertise as both a teacher and academic administrator. Just prior to joining the Threshold faculty, Rosalie served as an Assistant Principal at an elementary school in Boston. Among her many appointments throughout the years, she has served as President of the National Head Start Foundation, as an adjunct faculty at Aquinas Junior College,



and as an educational consultant to numerous federal, state and local organizations. Rosalie has also taught in elementary schools throughout New England. In her spare time, Rosalie enjoys history and traveling, and is also a gifted artisan specializing in ceramics and silver jewelry making. She will now join her family in North Carolina where her grandchildren have anxiously awaited her arrival! ❖

The Threshold Program
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Graduation 2008

