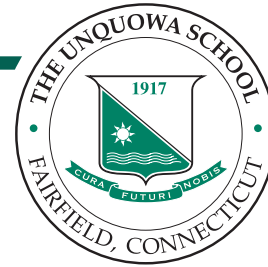


About U.S.



A Publishing Tradition
of The Unquowa School

Message from the Head of School

Our children live in a world that is global in scope. This is certainly not a new notion, and here at Unquowa we have always placed importance on embracing cultural awareness. Early and meaningful foreign language experience, curriculum in geography and comparative cultures, travel opportunities for both teachers and students and the daily experience of being in a diverse community are all important components here at Unquowa of nurturing global understanding.

This past summer, a group of Unquowa Upper Schoolers traveled to Costa Rica for twelve days of environmental education and Spanish language immersion. Students experienced the rainforest first-hand, bravely zip-lined through the cloud forest and worked with environmental scientists in the dark of night to rescue eggs of the endangered leatherback turtle. In the province of Talamanca, students spent a day in the village of the Bri Bri tribe, meeting students their age and visiting with the tribe's Shaman. While some of our students were a bit reticent about speaking Spanish with strangers upon their arrival in Costa Rica, by the end of the trip they were chatting comfortably with Costa Ricans and transacting daily activities without the help of their Spanish teacher, Amy Hellman. This trip, organized by first grade teacher Maureen Becker, was a follow-up to her study trip to Costa Rica last summer as the 2008 recipient of The Virginia F. Birdsall Faculty Award. Ms. Becker's study trip not only led to this year's student trip but also to an enriched rainforest unit in her first grade science curriculum.

This fall, as the recipient of the 2009 Birdsall Award, Early Childhood Coordinator and PreK 3 teacher Janice Shannon will travel to Reggio Emilia, Italy, a region whose early childhood education philosophy has attracted the worldwide attention of educators and researchers. Mrs. Shannon, whose program already has much in common with the 'Reggio' vision philosophically, will spend a week with Reggio faculty - observing

their classrooms and sharing actual practice.

While travel is certainly a meaningful way to heighten cross-cultural awareness, it is only an addition to what goes on daily in our classrooms here at Unquowa. On September 21st, our school will be celebrating The United Nations' International Day of Peace, a worldwide day of highlighting efforts to end conflict and promote peace. Established by a U.N. resolution in 1982, "Peace Day" has grown to include millions of people around the

world who participate in all kinds of events, large and small. This day's schoolwide activities will be guided by history chair Debbie Leidlein and arts chair Krissy Sabol and will kick off a year of related study and lectures in the Upper School around the topic of human justice.

In October, our school will be visited by the Rossijanochka Youth Dance Troupe from St. Petersburg, Russia, sponsored by international cultural exchange organization Creative Connections. Over the years Creative Connections has given our children the opportunity to meet students from Uganda, China, Ireland, India and

Nicaragua. This year's Russian dance troupe will perform in the morning and then spend the day visiting classrooms and having lunch with our students. No matter their cultures or languages, the message is always the same - we start by being interested in each other's differences; we end being amazed by our similarities. No text book can instill this belief as well.

Curiosity, persistence and flexibility are just a few of the habits of mind which we know will serve our children well in school and beyond; the empathy and understanding that lead to cross-cultural understanding are also high on that list. These learned habits overlay the academic facts and skills that teachers are responsible for in their classrooms each year. Combined with a strong academic background, nothing could better prepare our children for the larger world.

Sharon Lauer



Unquowa students traveling to Monteverde by horseback. See full story on our Bulletin Board at www.unquowa.org. Click on Summer News.

Graduation 2009



The Unquowa School held its ninety-first commencement ceremony on Tuesday, June 9. Jane Ferreira, President of Mercy Learning Center, spoke to graduates about the precious nature of a strong education and the importance of community service to a meaningful life. The invocation was given by Msgr. Blaze Gintoli of Our Lady of Assumption Church and the benediction was given by Rabbi Edward Harwitz, Head of the Jewish High School of CT. Valedictorian Max Martone, who has been at Unquowa since PreK-3, spoke to his classmates and audience about the preparation he has received at Unquowa to achieve his personal best in a changing world. Listed from left to right, the class of 2009 will go on to the following schools:

Brandon Hylton - Trumbull Regional Agriscience & Biotechnology Center
Matthew Kresch - Hamden Hall Country Day School
Joshua Knopf - Hopkins School
Javante Cameron-Sheffield - The Marvelwood School
Nicole Derek - St. Joseph's High School
Rajane Brown - Luralton Hall
Jillian Thornton - Hopkins School
Nadia Makhraz - Luralton Hall

Taylor Lopez-Balboa - St. Luke's School
Marissa Leggiadro - Fairfield Ludlowe High School
Rachel McDermott - King Low Heywood Thomas
Catherine McNeela - Luralton Hall
Kamau Burton - St. Luke's School
Seth Samowitz - The Gunnery
Mark Watson - Fairfield Preparatory School
Max Martone - Hopkins School.

Congratulations to the Class of 2009. Keep in touch!

Awards Given at our 2009 Graduation & Closing Ceremonies

William J. Grippin Award: **Max Martone**
Unquowa Award: **Matthew Kresch**
Board of Governors' Cup: **Catherine McNeela**
Headmaster's Cup: **Catherine McNeela**
Robert L. Cleveland Award: **Kamau Burton**
John P. Blessington Award: **Nadia Makhraz**
UPA Award: **Amy Greenberg**
Ultimate Unquowan Award: **Max Martone, Nadia Makhraz**
English Award: **Mark Watson**
Mathematics Awards: **Brandon Hylton, Joshua Knopf, Max Martone, Rachel McDermott**
Science Award: **Jillian Thornton**
History Award: **Matthew Kresch**
Dr. McDonald Foreign Language Award: **Nadia Makhraz**

Spanish Award: **Kamau Burton, Max Martone**
Art Award: **Taylor Lopez-Balboa**
Drama Award: **Brandon Hylton**
Music Award: **Kamau Burton**
Public Speaking Award: **Javante Cameron-Sheffield**
Technology Awards: **Matthew Kresch, Seth Samowitz**
Learning Skills Award: **Rachel McDermott**
Physical Education Awards: **Catherine McNeela, Mark Watson**
Elizabeth Curtis Award: **Nadia Makhraz**
John F. Turlick Award: **Kamau Burton**
Margaret Travers Award: **Abigail Winter, Chelsea Byrd**
Class of 2009 Class Agent: **Seth Samowitz**
Virginia F. Birdsall Faculty Award: **Janice Shannon**

Honor Roll - Trimester III 2008-2009

Unquowa Honors

Daniel Leszczynski (5)	Deborah Leszczynski (6)	Charles Haviland (7)	Tristan Schietinger (7)
Jennee Blanco (6)	Mary Spodnick (6)	Charles Jersey (7)	Matthew Kresch (8)
Danielle Greenawalt (6)	Bailey Cooke (7)	Erica Meno (7)	
	Marc Thomas Greenawalt (7)	Mackenzie Murray (7)	

Honor Roll

Rachel Anzalone (5)	Jennifer Godfrey (6)	Jack Weiss (6)	Kamau Burton (8)
Justin Blanchette (5)	Nicole Grabe (6)	Abigail Winter (6)	Nicole Derek (8)
Victoria Clarke (5)	Katherine Halas (6)	Andres Ayala (7)	Brandon Hylton (8)
Caroline Guterl (5)	Morgan Hansen (6)	Davis Baer (7)	Joshua Knopf (8)
Sassine Makhraz (5)	Tatum Hughes (6)	Kai Burton (7)	Taylor Lopez-Balboa (8)
Jaeden McKenzie (5)	Isabel Jordan (6)	Stephen Cadoux (7)	Nadia Makhraz (8)
Michael Proto (5)	Spencer Jordan (6)	Grace Carapezzi (7)	Max Martone (8)
Erin Reilly (5)	Elizabeth Kremer (6)	Peta-Gay Clayton (7)	Rachel McDermott (8)
Patrick Tennant (5)	Gemma Lein-McDonough (6)	Alexis Genovese (7)	Catherine McNeela (8)
Alexander Burdo (6)	Winston Stalowir (6)	Amy Greenberg (7)	Seth Samowitz (8)
Chelsea Byrd (6)	Christopher Taylor (6)	Jeremiah Starke (7)	Jillian Thornton (8)
Vikram Chaudhuri (6)	Claire Tetenbaum (6)	Katherine Viteretto (7)	Mark Watson (8)
Andrew Godfrey (6)	Devin Weiner (6)	Rajane Brown (8)	

45% of Upper Schoolers are Johns Hopkins Scholars



Each year the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth conducts a Talent Search which identifies students who score in the 95th percentile and above on a Standardized Test such as the ERBs.
 Pictured about are 26 of the 32 Johns Hopkins Scholars from in Grades 5 through 8 who qualified in the 2008-2009 Talent Search.

Summer at Unquowa

We had a busy summer here at Unquowa! Summer began with a week-long **Basketball Clinic**. Students in grades four through eight honed their offensive and defensive skills with their coaches - Al Boccamazzo, LaVern Burton and Dan Lawrence.

Next the school was filled with the sounds of music as **Chamber Music Central** began their first of two summer sessions. Intermediated and advanced string, wind and piano students worked in ensembles under the direction of CMC founder Millette Alexander (grandmother of Charlie McGlinsky, class of 2008).

Summer Farm Camp, directed by Mary Faulkner, had programs for preschoolers through sixth grade students. Our "sweet peas" in PreK and Kindergarten worked in our campus gardens with Mrs. Shannon and the kitchen with Chef Peter in addition to playground and sprinkler fun. Older campers spent most mornings working and learning at Sport Hill Farm and afternoons studying our brook and woods with Mrs. O'Connell, creating art projects with Ms. Desgranges, and cooking with Chef Peter. Each of the four weeks also included a field trip - the Audubon, New Pond Farm or the Maritime Center in Norwalk.



Our competition will certainly "Fear the Gator" next season after this summer's basketball clinic!



Farm campers with their harvest of garlic scapes.



Chamber Music Central Campers from the first session.

At the end of July Upper Schoolers spent a magical week in our **Improv Clinic** run by Amy Hellman. With three guest instructors, as well as Rebecca Gibson, a co-director from the U.K., students learned about the core aspects of improvisational comedy and demonstrated what they learned in a fantastic show at the end of the week.

Also in July twelve Unquowa students participated in an **Environmental/Spanish Immersion Program in Costa Rica** - an adventure of a lifetime! Chaperoned by Ms. Becker and Ms. Hellman, the Unquowa students traveled with Ecodestination for the twelve day tour. There were so many memories — the sloth sanctuary and turtle station, the students of the Bri Bri tribe, black sand beaches, whitewater rafting, caves, waterfalls, horseback riding, surfing, and more! Check our website bulletin board under Summer News for a detailed description of the trip by Ms. Becker.



Sweet Peas working in the Unquowa gardens.



Working on Improv skits.



Spelunking in Costa Rica



Teamwork and trust at the Improv Clinic

Welcome new Faculty & Staff



Mrs. Lawrence



Ms. Rolla



Mrs. Sarrazin



Mr. Mehinovic



Mrs. Haviland

Caroline Lawrence will be joining our PreK-4 team as a partner to Rachel Beninati. Carrie hails from Portland, Maine and recently completed her master's degree in early childhood education at Manhattanville College in New York. Carrie has spent the last two years at The Stanwich School in Greenwich and lives here in Fairfield with her husband, Jeff.

Megan Rolla, whom some of you may have met through her role as counselor at Farm Camp this summer, will be joining us a full-time assistant in the first grade classroom this year. During her undergraduate work at Sacred Heart University, Megan was an intern in second grade here at Unquowa, and she served as a substitute teacher in the early grades last year after graduating, so she is familiar with our students and culture. Her wonderful interaction with students on a daily basis this summer made her the clear choice for assisting Ms. Becker in our first grade.

Susan Sarrazin will be joining us in the Spanish department. We are thrilled to welcome Sra. Sarrazin back to Unquowa, where she taught over a decade ago before the birth of her children. Susan was most recently at The French-American School of New York, and her experience with language immersion there will make her a valuable asset to our foreign language program. Susan lives in Westport with her husband, Robert, and her daughter and son, Sophia and Victor, who will join our kindergarten and first grades, respectively, in the fall.

Senad Mehinovic, the newest addition to our music staff, is a graduate of the University of Sarajevo and holds a master's degree in composition from SUNY at Stonybrook. Mr. Mehinovic has a great combination of strong music theory background, decades of classroom experience teaching all grades from elementary to university, and experience in digital composition. Most notable for us is his experience as a guitar teacher and ensemble director, both at the elementary and upper levels. Mr. Mehinovic and his wife, Vesna, who is also an accomplished musician, live in New Haven, where Senad most recently taught in the public schools. They have two grown sons, one of whom recently graduated from MIT and the other who attends UC Santa Cruz.

Kate Haviland has joined us as Director of Development. Kate most recently served as Executive Director of Micro Credit Businesses where she was responsible for new donor development and solicitation and corporate and foundation grant writing. She will be raising our school's visibility in the broader community and securing resources to support our school's programming. While Kate's experience in the Fairfield County foundation community will be an asset to her work, one of her favorite experiences was as a bilingual teacher in the Bronx. Most importantly Kate, whose children, Charlie and Grace are in grades 8 and 5, respectively has been an Unquowa parent for 9 years - she knows and loves our school.

A note from the UPA ...

Hoping that everyone had a wonderful summer as we welcome the new school year. We would like to take this opportunity to greet all families to the Unquowa Parents Association (UPA). The UPA conducts our monthly meetings on Wednesday and we have many enjoyable events scheduled for the upcoming year. Please check the online school calendar for the specified meeting dates. All meetings begin after assembly.

As members of the UPA, we are dependent on parental support in volunteering for the many committees that comprise our association. Your support benefits our children and their social afterschool programs as well as our evening events

for the parents. No job is too small, and the committee chairs appreciate any participation in helping to coordinate their events. Additionally, the social benefit of volunteering is the ability to meet both returning and other new parents. What a great way to feel connected to Unquowa.

Our first social event is the fall "Fun" Raiser which takes place on Friday, September 25th from 6:00-8:30. Dinner will be created by our own Chef Peter and Chef Dan. The children will enjoy fun activities and dancing with music provided by a DJ. Come on down and spend a "fun" evening sharing the Unquowa spirit.

Marcie Lapido & Irene Brennan
UPA Co-Presidents

Welcome Baby Unquowans!

Betsey and Ford Young, welcomed their new baby, Eloise, born on June 21. Siblings Kate, Caroline, Ford, and Alice are thrilled with their new sister!

Alumni News

Stephen Gaspar, class of 2001, graduated with honors from the Berklee College of Music in Boston where he was a Guitar Performance major. In addition, he was invited by Berklee to perform at their Commencement Concert, where this year they paid tribute and bestowed honorary doctorate degrees to Linda Ronstadt and Smokey Robinson.

We're impressed that Stephen shared the stage with Ronstadt and Robinson! Quite an honor!



Elizabeth Bruno, class of 1999, and a graduate of the University of St. Andrews is currently a veterinary student at the University of Edinburgh. This summer Liz volunteered for four weeks at TOLFA (Tree of Life for Animals) in Pushkar,

India. TOLFA is a grassroots organization in India set up to improve the suffering seen in stray animals residing on every street.



Condolences

John Amend Jensen, passed away peacefully in his home on June 29 at the age of 88. Mr. Jensen, whose sons **John** and **Jeffrey** graduated from Unquowa in 1962 and 1963, respectively, served on our Board of Governors for a number of years.

Our condolences to the Jensen family.

Mark Andreas, an accomplished artist and former Unquowan, has been invited to join an expedition to the Arctic Circle. Aboard an ice-class sailing vessel, Mark, along with artists of all disciplines, architects, scientists, and educators will voyage for 17 days and nights into the High Arctic.

Mark, former Unquowan and an accomplished sculptor, visited us in 2005. In addition to bringing in one of his graceful wood and steel sculptures, he showed a videotape of one of his large, impressive kinetic sculptures in motion.

Mark and his sister, **Nicole**, attended Unquowa in the '80s and his mother, **Cassandra** is also an Unquowa alum. After studying at the Art Institute of Boston and the School of Visual Arts, Mark fine tuned his metal working skills building boats at a shipyard. He currently lives and works in New York.

We will be able to follow Mark's journey on the Internet via the website: <http://www.theartcticcircle.org>. There will be live updates during the trip which begins October 5.

We would love to hear from other alums! Please contact Kate Haviland in our Development and Alumni Office at khaviland@unquowa.org

William "Bill" Seeley, class of 1950, threw a 70th birthday party for his brother **George**, class of 1953, in August. The following other Unquowa alums joined in the celebration: their sister, **Nancy Seeley Gilliland**, **Jerry Stagg**, **Ellen Leeds Sturges** and **Peter Carnes**. At the party Bill shared a poem written by George that was found in an old school publication and gave Unquowa baseball caps to his former classmates. Happy birthday, George!

Kevin Gibian, class of 1976, found the new Unquowa website and reconnected with the school. Two of Kevin's brothers are also alums and his father Paul is a former president of the Unquowa Board of Governors. Kevin is now living in Florida.

Stoddard Finnie, class of 1978, is a captain with American Eagle Airlines and lives with his daughter Gaelen and his wife Jen in Somers, CT. Stoddard is often in Fairfield to visit his mother **Anne Finnie Patterson**, class of 1945, and her husband **Gibney Patterson**, class of 1942. Stoddard has fond memories of his days at Unquowa and is the great-great grandson of one of the Unquowa founders, **Hannah Stoddard**.

James Brogan, class of 2008, was in a production of *The King And I* with the Curtain Call Summer Youth Theatre. Congratulations, James!



A 10 Year Reunion for the Class of 1999 was held at the Southport Brewing Company in Fairfield in May 2009. Great seeing everyone and catching up on the last 10 years!

981 Stratfield Road, Fairfield, CT 06825-1697

THE UNQUOWA SCHOOL



a photo from Jean Winton, class of '34

Can you identify any of these parade participants? Contact KHaviland@unquowa.org

*About U.S. is
going seasonal —
Fall, Winter,
Spring,
and Summer!*

*Watch for our
Fall issue
in November!*

Mark your calendars!
Founders' Day is Saturday, October 17. Join us at noon!