

# First Fiore Fellows Named

In early March some 150 members of the Pine Point family gathered in the LTC to celebrate having raised \$1 million in new gifts and pledges for the endowment.

In late December, the School's leaders learned that the Fiore family had committed \$315,000 to create and endow a summer sabbatical program for the teachers and administrators. During February, a committee met to review applications made by the faculty. The new program, which is open to faculty members who have worked at the School for at least seven years, is designed to strengthen the individual's teaching while also being personally fulfilling and energizing.

In presenting the first Fiore Fellows, Head of School Paul Geise declared, "This truly is a moment of transformation in the life of the School, and I am deeply grateful to the Fiore family for establishing this legacy at Pine Point." On hand for the evening were John Fiore, who served as President of the Board of Trustees from 1996-1998, and his daughter, Lauren '96.



*What kind of party would it be without a cake?*



Sally Cogan, a teacher of 4th grade, will travel to Mikura Island in Japan to study bottlenose dolphins. While there she will work with Dr. Kathleen Dudzinski, who runs Mystic Aquarium & Institute for Exploration's Dolphin Communication Project (DCP). (The DCP's office is now located at Pine Point.) Mrs. Cogan's time in Japan will strengthen that partnership. Her excitement about what this summer holds for her and the difference that it can make in the lives of her students and our world was obvious. She said, "When I took a group of our middle school students to the International Children's Conference on the Environment in New London a few summers ago, I saw what 10 to 15-year old children can do. I saw the value of getting kids together from all over the world. I saw their environmental consciences and hearts grow. It's exciting to have this opportunity to continue nurturing in Pine Point students that passion for their environment and that passion for learning."



*Paul Geise, Susan Kozel, Sally Cogan, Hamilton Salsich, Lauren Fiore '96 and John Fiore*

Head of the Lower School Susan Kozel will develop a reading clinic based on the Pine Point reading program that focuses on phonemic awareness, phonics, literature and writing. She will study the Orton Gillingham approach at Massachusetts General Hospital and travel to successful reading clinics and meet with directors to discuss the operational aspects of their organizations. Ms. Kozel looks forward to developing a clinic "that will eventually develop into a resource that will help individuals with reading difficulties, assist parents to understand what dyslexia is, and eventually become a center to train teachers to be effective reading teachers by using the Pine Point model."

Instructor of English Hamilton Salsich will undertake a seven-day guided walking tour of England's Lake District, home to the poet William Wordsworth and his talented, but less well known sister, Dorothy. He will then spend five days in the village of Hawarth, where the Bronte sisters (Charlotte, Emily and Anne) lived and wrote.

Alumni who have sat in Mr. Salsich's room can probably picture him clearly in their minds when he said, "This trip will be a blessing for me (both as a teacher and a person), and it will also be a long-time dream come true. I have wanted to walk through the Lake District since I first found the Wordsworths back in my college days. It is estimated that they walked 20,000 miles in their lifetimes, and I'm sure I will feel like I was literally 'walking in their footsteps' on the tour. At the risk of sounding maudlin, the trip will be a sacred pilgrimage for me. I might fall on my knees along the path a few times."

Mr. Salsich's sense that his trip will be a "long-time dream come true" is exactly what the Fiores hoped would come about when they set up the sabbatical program. In the fall the first recipients of the Fiore's generosity will present their experiences to the School.