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## Back to the Point

### April 2010

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### CATCHING UP WITH J.B. DAUKAS '77



J.B. Daukas '77 works for Goodwin Procter, an international law firm based in Boston of 850 attorneys. He is a partner in the Trial Department specializing in complex litigation, and has served as a Special Assistant District Attorney for Middlesex County, MA, and a law clerk on the United States District Court for the District of RI. J.B. is a graduate of Choate, Dartmouth, and University of Virginia Law School.

He is also one of the twelve Alumni Challengers who have been encouraging their fellow Pine Pointers to give to the Annual Fund. (The Challenge is to secure Annual Fund gifts from 250 alumni donors.)

We asked him to catch us up on what gives his life meaning outside of work. He answered this way:

"I:

- 1) just finished up as president of the Dartmouth College Alumni Council;
- 2) am on the board of a community theatre group (The Dover Foundation) that raises scholarship money, and have been appearing in musicals for the last 5 years (including playing Billy Bigelow in *Carousel*) – my first trips back to the stage since Pine Point – literally!

3) am on the board of my college fraternity Chi Gamma Epsilon ('Chi Gam' is what everyone calls it);

4) am very active in my church, Most Precious Blood, including teaching CCD, singing in the choir and sometime fill-in cantor;

(and, the really important stuff)

5) have 1 wife, Christie, whom I love, 4 kids – Victoria, 18 (at Dartmouth); Erika, 16 (Dover/Sherborn High School); Jay, 15 (St. Sebastian's School); and Virginia, 13 (Dover's Chickering Elementary School), two dogs, a horse, a pony, and live in Dover, MA, but spend the summers in Watch Hill. As my wife says of why she married me: 'I'm fond of J.B., but I really love Watch Hill.'

### JOIN US AT THE BRANFORD HOUSE FOR AN EVENING BY THE SEA!

On April 30<sup>th</sup>, please join us for An Evening by the Sea, the first Pine Point gala in over a decade. The setting is the beautiful Branford House on the UConn Avery Point Campus in Groton, and is from 6:30-11 PM.

Great food, music, silent and live auction items, and dancing will make this an evening to remember. Linda Sample and her talented staff that make up A Thyme to Cook will be offering seared tuna in wonton cones, local Bomster scallop ceviche, soba noodles, spring vegetable paella, fattoush salad, skewered wood grilled beef and vegetables, hand-thrown pizzettas, and more delectable foods inspired by the cuisine of Asia, the Mediterranean, and South Africa. Beverages for the evening are provided by Jonathan Edwards Winery and Cottrell Brewing Company. Our pianist during the cocktail hour will be Glenn Hardy, and when the auction is over, DJ Charles Crawford of Ultimate Party Masters will get you out on the dance floor.

The auction will offer a range of items and experiences that can be enjoyed by everyone. Some of the silent auction items include:

*Please Join Us for*

- tickets to Olde Mistick Village Art Cinemas
- overnight sailing camp at Mystic Seaport
- 90 minute hot stone massage
- special dinner for four at S&P Oyster House
- gift certificate to Bruna's Table
- family membership to Florence Griswold Museum
- a basket filled by Bank Square Books
- four weekday rounds of golf with carts at Stonington Country Club
- golf lessons with Mr. T
- four round trip high-speed ferry tickets aboard the Block Island Express and lunch for four at Dead Eye Dick's on Block Island

The silent auction will also include marvelous creations by every grade in the School. From an illustrated herb cookbook to a dinnerware setting for 12, every one of these class projects would make for a timeless addition to any home. One of the class projects is a table made from solid wood and reclaimed materials, hand-painted and stained with broken glass tiles laid in by the Dinosaurs. The mosaic top is surrounded by a trim hand-painted by the children.



Pine Point is blessed to have parent Geraldine Nager Griffin, a senior vice president at Sotheby's, as our auctioneer for the night. Here are five items to consider:

- a sleepover for 20 at Mystic Aquarium - Institute for Exploration - Immersion Learning
- a visit by the Pizzetta truck to your home or other location to make it an extra special birthday, anniversary, or graduation celebration
- Breakfast at Tiffany's for 10 at Mohegan Sun plus a \$100 charm for each guest
- an Instant Wine Cellar created by the Board of Trustees and others that features wines that are sure to be appreciated by any

enthusiastic oenophile

-a week on a Swan 57' sailing yacht (captained by world-renowned sailor Clay Burkhalter '73), leaving St. Maarten on a mutually agreeable time in the winter of 2010-2011

An Evening by the Sea promises to be a great night! [Click here to reserve your spot.](#)

#### JOHNS HOPKINS RECOGNIZES PINE POINT

Pine Point has been named a "Top School" for the State of Connecticut in the 2009 Johns Hopkins University Center for Talented Youth Talent Search. The Center looked at the top 100 schools by state to determine the number of student enrollments received into their annual Talent Search.

In her letter to Pine Point, Lea Ybarra, Executive Director of the Center wrote, "We hope this achievement will be a source of pride for you, your staff, students and families. We're very thankful for your participation, of course, but we are also mindful of what this award says about your school. It suggests you have a solid core of very high-achieving students. It also suggests that you look out for your top students' best interests by encouraging them and their parents to investigate outside academic options like CTY."

The list of Top Schools for 2009 can be found at [www.cty.jhu.edu/ts/topschools/CTtop.html](http://www.cty.jhu.edu/ts/topschools/CTtop.html).

#### NEW LAPTOPS ENHANCING LEARNING

Early in January the academic program was strengthened by the addition of twelve new laptops, which were a gift from the Parents' Association, Head of School Paul Geise and his wife, Robin, and the School's Board of Trustees. In this photo, the 4th grade is hard at work. On this particular day, they were studying math through the Stanford Educated Program for Gifted Youth (EPGY) program. On other days, the 4th graders use the computers for writing and research. The students can then take their work, copy it to a flash drive, and print it.



Regarding the new assets, 3rd grade teacher Mary Raftery wrote, "Having the new, reliable laptops have helped us individualize our math classes more effectively. In science and social studies, students use the computers as research tools working alone or in groups. It also helps that they are just the right size for little hands!"

Another place where a laptop helped tremendously was during the 9th grade trip to Costa Rica in March. Science teacher Jon Mitchell wrote, "For Costa Rica, we were eager to have a computer on hand to help us with communications, documenting the trip, and maintaining our files. Unfortunately, there was no computer that was fast enough, small enough, or available – until these netbooks arrived. Because of the quality of the machines and their portability

I was able to carry the computer with us, upload photos, videos, and written documents and send them back to Julia Pereira at Pine Point. In addition, the students were working on videos during the trip – some students had so much footage related to their topic (frogs), that we needed to 'dump' the footage from the camera somewhere. Fortunately, we had the computer with us and were able to free

up memory on the camera without losing any of the material. In addition, having the computer before and after the trip to add and adjust the settings was a huge benefit. I needed to download some important programs related to our work in Costa Rica and our communications back to Pine Point (other machines would not have handled some of the programs as well) but this computer was great. We took great care of the computer on the trip, and it now has a new padded bag in which to carry it on the next trip!

Spanish teacher Lara Dolphin echoed Mr. Mitchell's comments and added, "Starting in late January after semester exams, I was able to bring four of the netbooks down to the Spanish classroom a couple times a week with head phones and have each student practice their listening and speaking skills using a University of Texas speaking proficiency exercise found on-line. Although it took a while to download the info (which, by the way would not have been possible without the help of Mr. Mitchell and Joseph Rosen, an expert on the netbook – he was my hero) the students were then able to come to class and get right to work at their own pace. I think it really added to their comfort level of listening and speaking on specific topics while in Costa Rica. Although I have not had the opportunity to use the netbooks since then, I would love to use them for more classes. They are GREAT!!!"

### LATIN STUDENTS PERFORM AT HIGH LEVELS

Nine Pine Point Latin students from grades 7-8 recently participated in the 2010 NATIONAL LATIN EXAM.



For their performance in the Introduction to Latin exam, Jennifer Carroll received a "certificate of achievement," while Edward Litvinov earned a ribbon and "certificate of outstanding achievement" for correctly answering all but one question. Other seventh grade exam participants included Alan Carroll, Kara Falck and Gaelen Frink.

Eighth graders Hannah Long and Matthew Owen were recognized for their achievement on the Latin I exam with gold medals for their *Summa Cum Laude* performance. Both answered 35 out of 40 answers correctly. Quintin Parsons and Adam Verhoeff also took the Latin I exam.

Ms. Robin Rice, a World Language faculty member since 2004, teaches the grade 6 *Introductory Latin* course; *eLatin*, an elective

independent study program for grades 7-9; and *Latin I* for eligible ninth graders.

### EARLY BIRD GOLF TOURNAMENT

The deadline for taking advantage of the early bird discount fee (\$15 off the normal entry fee) for the tournament ends on Tuesday, April 20th. [Click here to go to the golf tournament page to download the entry form or to pay online for your entry fee!](#) Please also consider sponsoring a hole. Advertise your business or a cause important to you. In the past, folks have honored their child(ren), someone's birthday, an anniversary, a favorite teacher, even a recently deceased pet! Contact the Development Office at [development@pinepoint.org](mailto:development@pinepoint.org) if you have questions about the tournament.



### SUMMER CAMP: PINE POINT À LA CARTE

Registration is underway for the 2010 summer program, *Pine Point à la Carte*. Visit [www.pinepoint.org/summer](http://www.pinepoint.org/summer) to view the offerings for kids from preschool through 9th grade. You'll find a variety of innovative programs in athletics, art, foreign language, music and more. Take advantage of the early registration discount before April 30.



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## Strong Minds, Caring Hearts

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