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### February 2010

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### PPS ALUMNUS AT THE HELM!

Doug Jones '79 is president of Traditional Boat Works in San Diego.



Doug's company specializes in traditional wooden boat construction and repair methods and has built, rebuilt or repaired boats ranging from an 8-foot rowboat to a 125-foot pilot schooner. After working at Mystic Seaport and graduating from Connecticut College in 1986, Doug apprenticed on Martha's Vineyard before heading to California, where he worked on the State's tall ship CALIFORNIAN as boatswain for a year. Later, he worked with Clark Custom Boats in San Diego before buying the business in 2005. Doug owns his own wooden vessel, PACIFICA, a 48-foot 1947 Sparkman & Stephens yawl (shown below with Doug at the helm). He has sailed her in the TRANSPAC race and cruised on her from Vancouver Island in the Pacific NW to San Diego. Doug is an active member in the Ancient Mariners Sailing Society (AMSS) where he has served as Commodore and is currently Race Committee Chairman. He and Deb have

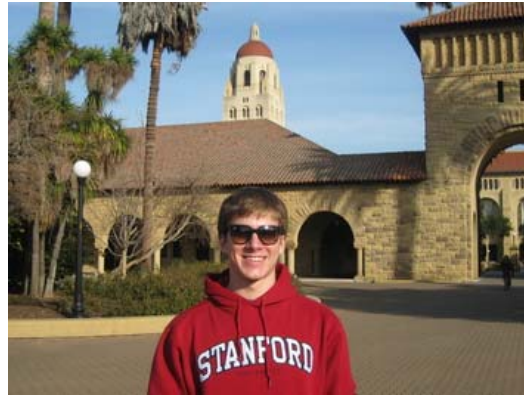
been running the Family Boat Building Event (in cooperation with the San Diego Maritime Museum and AMSS) in San Diego since 2000 where families build their own 12-foot Bevins skiff in two and a half days.



### COLLEGE-AGED ALUMNI - WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

One of the ways to judge a school and the rigor of its program is to see where that school places its alumni. In that regard, Pine Point would seem to be doing an outstanding job preparing its alumni to meet the challenges of secondary school and later with their college placement. The spring issue of *ViewPoints* will feature some brief bios of our youngest alums, accompanied by a photo showing them on their campus sporting their college sweatshirt. So this is a call to all college-aged alumni. Please let us know what you are doing so we can include your news by clicking [here](#). And by all means, send us a photo of yourself taken on your campus!

Some of the schools Pine Point alumni are currently *attending* include:



**Chris Douglas '05 sporting the colors of the Stanford Cardinal.**

Bates College  
 Boston University  
 Brown University  
 Colby College  
 Dartmouth College  
 Franklin and Marshall College  
 Georgetown University  
 Hampshire College  
 Hobart and William Smith Colleges  
 Johns Hopkins University  
 Johnson and Wales University  
 Lehigh University  
 Loyola University (New Orleans)  
 Middlebury College  
 New York University  
 Northeastern University  
 Northwestern University

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute  
 Rice University  
 Scripps College  
 St. Lawrence University  
 Stanford University  
 Trinity College  
 Tufts University  
 Tulane University  
 Union College  
 The United States Military Academy  
 University of Chicago  
 University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill)  
 University of Washington  
 Washington University  
 Washington and Lee University  
 Wesleyan University

### BOSTON ALUMNI EVENT



Twenty Pine Point alumni joined their counterparts from The Williams School on February 11th for fun and friendship at the Union Oyster House in Boston. A great group ranging in classes from 1971 to 2003 enjoyed each other's company amid great food and drink. Four students at the event – Jessica Williams '01, Chris Fital '02, Eric Blum '03, and Diptesh Soni '03 – are alumni of both schools! We'll do it again next year. In the meantime, save August 7th, when alumni will gather at PPS for our annual summer reunion. Check out the Pine Point website for a [slideshow](#) to see who was there.

#### VOLCANISM AND THE NINTH GRADE

In early February, the 9th grade Biology class did not spend their usual lab period aboard the School's research vessel, *Quest*, or in the lab conducting experiments. Instead, they met in the L/TC to hear Tristan Kading, a graduate student from Wesleyan University, speak about volcanism and some of the volcanic sites the group will be studying during their International Studies Program (ISP) trip to Costa Rica in March. Mr. Kading and Pine Point first worked together last fall when he was trying to find help collecting sediment samples from the Mystic River for his research in coastal mercury contamination. Two 9th graders, Joseph Rosen and Morgan Buffum, worked alongside Mr. Kading to collect approximately 20 sediment samples; the work was completed aboard the *Quest* using methods and equipment with which the students were familiar from their work in Biology class.



During his 1½ hour presentation, Mr. Kading spoke to the 7th and 9th graders about the principles of plate tectonics and volcanism, emphasizing the cause and form of two common types of volcanoes. The 7th grade students, who are focusing on geology in science, followed up with many questions, some of which led Mr. Kading to speak about the more adventurous side of working in the field as a volcanologist. During the latter portion of his visit, he also spoke to the 9th graders in greater detail about his work in Argentina on Copahue Volcano and the volcanoes in Costa Rica that the students will be visiting. He also spoke of some interesting aspects of his work in biogeochemistry, including the highly acidic (pH levels of 0!) volcanic lakes on which he focuses.

Although unlikely, the students are hopeful they will see Mr. Kading in Costa Rica. Coincidentally, he will be in San Jose for a conference at the same time as the students this March!

Please check in to the Pine Point website to follow the progress of the ISP, which will be in Costa Rica from March 4-13.

#### MATHCOUNTS TEAM EXCELS Matt Owen Headed to State Competition

Congratulations are in order for the Pine Point School MATHCOUNTS team. Twelve of our middle school students spent Saturday, February 6 at the US Coast Guard Academy competing against other middle school students from the Eastern Connecticut Chapter of MATHCOUNTS. The Pine Point School team placed 10th out of 33 registered schools. The following students competed: Athan Bourganos, Apolline Jonckheere, Nithya Prakash, Nicolas Welch, Georgia White, Alexander Hawley, Edward Litvinov, Nolan Burkholder, Ben Dameron, Matt Owen and Quintin Parsons. Matt Owen qualified to compete in the State Level competition, which will be held March 13, 2010 at the University of Hartford.



### FATHER-DAUGHTER DANCE

On February 5, the second annual Father-Daughter Dance was held in the Mitchell Auditorium. Open to the entire community, and brilliantly organized once again by current parent Jeff Marquardt (seen here with his daughters Emily '14 and Camille '16), the event raised over \$1,000 for the Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center. The event was a great success, as over 200 young girls accompanied by dads, uncles and grandfathers, danced the night away to the music of Brass Attack. One father was compelled to write to us about how much fun he had:

"I just walked in the door, but I have to tell you about this amazing evening Emma and I had at Pine Point at the Father-Daughter Dance for the WARM Shelter and Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center. A most memorable evening for the two of us. It was so great. Could you please pass along that I want to thank whomever at the school organized this event? I think that everything about the evening was positive: the cause, the concept, and the band - BRASS ATTACK! Kudos to Pine Point for hosting."

Making this now a true annual event, the third dance has already been scheduled! Mark January 21, 2011 on your calendar.



### PPS CONTINUES TO HELP HAITI

At a recent Monday Morning Meeting, Head of School Paul Geise introduced Jessica Patti and Cheryl Mauldin, two nurses from Lawrence and Memorial Hospital in New London, who were about to make their second trip to Haiti after the earthquake on January 12 which devastated that Caribbean nation. Jessica is the aunt of 5th grader Dominic Patti '14, and she made a special plea to the School for items that you may not think would be needed in such a dire situation – baby bottles and sippy cups. In an article in *The Day* from earlier this month, Pine Point was mentioned for its collection of these valuable vessels to help save lives. The two nurses have set up a website, [www.raisinghaiti.com](http://www.raisinghaiti.com), to help raise money for their efforts.



Last month, we mentioned that the Meneo family would be contributing funds for earthquake relief based on the number of points the girls' basketball team scored during their season. At a recent Morning Meeting, they presented a check for \$400! Also, Dr. Andy Hallberg '71 spent three weeks in Haiti helping with orthopedic surgeries. His work will be featured in the spring magazine. Andy took the picture above.

### THE FIRST ONE AT SCHOOL

Throughout the course of the year we receive a number of unsolicited testimonials from different members of the Pine Point family about what the School means to them. (Happily, these notes are almost always accompanied by a gift!) This week, we received a marvelous note from the mother of a 4th grader. She wrote, "Our son is having yet another fabulous year. It is thrilling to think your child can't wait to get out the door to be the first one at school. What a testament to the program at Pine Point!"

The strength of the Annual Fund is critically important to the health of Pine Point. When you make a gift to the Annual Fund, you are ensuring the vibrancy of the program, and, in doing so, you can bet that this particular 4th grader isn't the only student imploring his parents to get him to Pine Point so he can begin his day! Please make your gift by clicking [here](#).

### ADDRESS UPDATES, GRANDPARENTS'/GRANDPERSONS' DAY, AND MORE

Grandparents'/Grandpersons' Day, which is great fun for all concerned, is coming up on April 30<sup>th</sup>. The mailings for this annual event will go out on March 4. PLEASE contact Associate Director of Development David Cruthers either by [e-mail](#) or by calling 860-535-0606, ext. 133, with any address changes, so that he can make sure that grandparents and special friends receive their invitation.

It is so important to have up-to-date addresses for all people affiliated with Pine Point. An unhappy occurrence takes place twice a year when we send out our magazine, *ViewPoints*. If we get a magazine returned with no forwarding address, we are charged over \$5.00 per issue! Contact Mr. Cruthers to help us stay up-to-date by informing us of any changes. Thank you!

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