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## Back to the Point

### January 2010

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#### WELCOME BACK!

On a quiet day during the holiday break, current parent Kerilynn Antoch stopped by Pine Point to take a few photos of our beautiful campus. Though we've experienced the frigid temperatures and snow as has much of the country, we've yet to miss a single day of school!



#### DEPUTY MAYOR ADAM SPRECACE '85

Adam Sprecace '85 reports that life in New London, CT, has been "good...busy, but good." The most recent news is that he was re-elected for a second term to the New London City Council after coming in behind the top vote-getter by only 41 votes. In addition, he was part of a team which was able to end an almost 20-year long Democrat hold on the City Council bringing to New London a balanced political make-up of three Republicans, three Democrats, and one Green. At their first meeting, Adam was selected by his fellow Councilors to be the Deputy Mayor and says he is looking forward to working with the new City Council to help New London reach its full potential.

In the past year, Adam celebrated his 12th wedding anniversary with his wife, Jean, whom he met while getting his bachelors and masters degrees at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Jean is a stay-at-home mom for their two daughters, Samantha, 10, and Kaila, 8, but holds associates and bachelors degrees in Culinary Arts and Food Service Management, respectively, from Johnson and Wales University. Samantha and Kaila both attend St. Joseph School in New London.

Adam was also promoted during the past year to Principal Engineer at General Dynamics Electric Boat



Adam Sprecace '85 is sworn in as Deputy Mayor of New London by his father, Dr. George Sprecace, as Adam's wife, Jean, looks on. The photo was taken by Adam and Jean's daughter, Samantha.

where he has worked for the past 16 years. Adam is a mechanical engineer whose primary focus is the development of new composite materials applications for submarine use. Composites are lighter, corrosion resistant, and can replace steel structures in many areas when properly engineered.

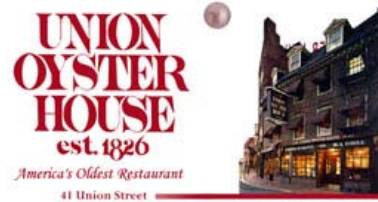
Not surprisingly, Adam reports that hobbies have taken a back seat. He holds a private pilot's license which has been seeing sparse use lately. He does, however, manage to keep current with it by regularly participating in the FAA's pilot proficiency program. Time with the family has sometimes been hard to come by but Adam believes that the family is the foundation without which everything else is insignificant.

Keeping busy and beginning new journeys seems to be a requirement for everyone these days. Adam says he's only been able to manage with the support of his family, but also credits the education he received at Rensselaer, St. Bernard High School, and of course, Pine Point, in getting him this far.

#### BOSTON ALUMNI EVENT

Please join us for our first-ever Boston event! We'll gather at the Union Oyster House on February 11, 2010 (5:30-7:30 PM). The cocktail reception is open to alumni in the Classes of 1952-2004 as well as current and former faculty. We'll be joined by alumni of The Williams School.

Please contact Associate Director of Development [David Cruthers](#) if you would be interested in helping to generate a good turnout of alumni, or if you want to R.S.V.P. Those attending are welcome to bring their spouse or a special guest. Check their website for information and directions by clicking [here](#).



Click [here](#) to see who's coming so far!

#### SUBMIT YOUR CLASS NOTES

It's getting to be that time when the spring *ViewPoints* is being readied. According to those who filled out the recent Alumni Survey, 78% say that the thing they read first in the magazine is Class Notes, catching up on news of old friends. They want to hear from alumni and, alumni, the best source of that information is YOU! Please let us know what's been going on in your life by clicking [here](#).

#### PINE POINT DINNER AT SEÑOR FLACO'S!



#### SPRING BENEFIT AND DINNER DANCE

Save the date! For the first time since the 50th Anniversary Gala way back in 1999, the entire School will gather for a benefit dinner dance and auction! Organized by the Parents Association, the party will take place on Friday, April 30, from 6:30-11:00 pm at the Branford House, located on the University of Connecticut's Avery Point campus in Groton. Once the stately mansion of Groton philanthropist Morton Plant, the Branford House will be a lovely spot for you to have a drink, bid on silent and live auction items, and enjoy dinner, dancing, and the company of good friends. More details will come in the February *Back to the Point* on what should be a delightful evening for all!



#### CLASSICAL SOUTH INDIAN DANCE



The Bharata Natyam Classical Indian Dance School will perform at Pine Point on Thursday, January 21, at 1:30 pm in the Mitchell Auditorium. The dance school is directed by Hemalatha Vaidyanathan, and features Panchali Choudhary (left), one of our first graders.

[Bharata Natyam](#) is a classical dance form originating from Tamil Nadu, a state in southern India, and is thought to have been created by [Bharata Muni](#), a Hindu sage who wrote the [Natya Shastra](#), the most important ancient treatise on classical Indian dance. Bharata Natyam is known for its grace, purity, tenderness, and sculpture-like poses.

The performance is open to the public and is sponsored by the Parents Association. This is part of the Enrichment Series, which is coordinated by current parent Sandy Pereira. For more information, please call 860-535-0606.

#### DR. PARESH SONI, ANTI-APARTHEID ACTIVIST, TO SPEAK AT PINE POINT

Dr. Paresh Soni of Mystic, a native South African who was involved with the anti-apartheid movement in his homeland, will speak on his activities in helping to break down racial barriers, at Pine Point, on Thursday, January 21, at 7 PM in the L/TC.

Soni will focus on the injustices of the apartheid system, the growth of mass resistance in South Africa, the internal and external struggles that led to a peaceful transition in 1994, and some of the problems faced by Africa's youngest democracy.

As a native South African, he was active in several community-based, professional and student organizations during the time when the country was governed under apartheid policies. He helped to develop health care policy, in conjunction with the exiled African National Congress.

Dr. Soni joined Amarin Corporation, a biopharmaceutical company specializing in treating lipid diseases, in September 2008 as SVP and Head of Development, after serving for years with Pfizer where he held a number of leadership roles in Global Research and Development in both experimental medicine and late stage development. He and his wife, Manju, are the parents of Diptesh '03 and Sejal '05.



The event is open to the public. For more information, please call 860-535-0606. Child care will be provided.

#### PINE POINT RALLIES TO HELP HAITI

After the devastating earthquake in the Western Hemisphere's poorest nation, the Pine Point community has come together to help Haiti in many ways. A dress-down day organized by our G.I.V.E. committee raised over \$1,000 for the American Red Cross's relief fund. Kindergarten teacher Lou Toscano urged those who participated in the annual Red Sox-Yankees dollar per win (or loss) contest this year to direct their donations to either the [Red Cross](#) or [Partners in Health](#), a Boston-based organization which works to bring modern medical care to poor communities in nine countries around the world. Partners in Health's CEO, Paul Zintl, is the brother of the late Alicia Russell, mother of Amanda '06. In addition, the Meneo and Rick families have pledged donations for Haitian relief based on the number of points scored by the Panther boys and girls basketball teams. Click on the highlighted names of the organizations listed above to make your donation. Thanks!

#### YOUNG CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL/EARLY CHILDHOOD OPEN HOUSE

Bring your children to enjoy some winter crafts and activities and learn about Pine Point's Early Education Programs followed by tours of our DeMovick Early Childhood Center classrooms. The festival starts at 10:00 am on Saturday, January 30. [RSVP for the Young Children's Festival.](#)




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Strong Minds, Caring Hearts

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