

Pine Point > Back to the Point

[Send To Printer](#)

Back to the Point

July 2010

In this issue:

[JOURNEY TO PANAMA](#)

[ALUMNI - SEND US YOUR NEWS!](#)

[ALUMNI REUNION](#)

[ANNUAL FUND SETS RECORD](#)

[POUNCING PANTHERS HIT THE NATIONAL STAGE](#)

JOURNEY TO PANAMA

With graduation on the horizon, George Washington University senior Peter Smith '03 and a friend decided that their final spring break demanded something different from the usual trip to Florida or South Padre Island. As Peter put it back in April when he contacted Pine Point, "Panama was our destination because of its culture and its landscape. Our objective was to 'get as dirty as possible in a terrain as rough as possible.'" (Editor's note: Peter graduated from GW having majored in geography and international affairs.) Our final destination was Sambú, a town about 50 miles west of the Colombian border in the Darién Province. During our travels we published a travel blog <http://blog.mywonderfulworld.org/2010/04/> for the National Geographic Society. NGS runs a website called "My Wonderful World" through its Education Programs, which is intended to spread knowledge of geography and get people interested in learning more about the planet." Writing in the blog, Peter noted, "Going to Panama was an adventure of a lifetime. The jungles of Darién offer physical and cultural landscapes that we never knew existed. We had never seen forest so dense. It was reminiscent of the stories we have heard from our grandfathers' generation of terrain on islands of the South Pacific." More on Peter's adventure will appear in the Summer/Fall 2010 issue of *ViewPoints*.



Peter Smith '03 treks through Panama.

ALUMNI - SEND US YOUR NEWS!

Graduated? Headed to a new school? Just got married? Started a family? Landed a new job? Worked a summer job or had an exciting internship? Traveled? Seen old classmates? Simply thinking about Pine Point and want to pass on your regards to former teachers?

We're in the process of building the Class Notes section of *ViewPoints* and want to include *your* news. Let us know what's going on in your life by clicking [here](#) to contact the Development Office. And by all means, send photos!

ALUMNI REUNION

Join your classmates from the Classes of 1952-2004 for an evening of fun and friendship at the next Pine Point Alumni Reunion on August 7th from 6-9 PM in the Library/Technology Center. You can register for the event

by going to www.pinepoint.org/alumnireunion to register and pay (\$15 admission). Click [here](#) to see who's coming!

RECONNECT WITH OLD FRIENDS

'52

Please Join Us

1952-2004

For a Reunion of the Classes of 1952-2004
at
Pine Point School
August 7, 2010, 6:00-9:00 p.m.

Please R.S.V.P. to
dcruthers@pinepoint.org
860-535-0606, Ext 133

'04

\$15 Per Person

REGISTER BY MAILING YOUR CHECK TO DAVID CRUTHERS,
PAYABLE TO PINE POINT SCHOOL, 89 BARNES ROAD, STONINGTON, CT 06378

or register online by clicking [here!](#)

Current and former faculty are encouraged to attend as the School's guests. Please contact Associate Director of Development [David Cruthers](#) and let him know you will be attending!

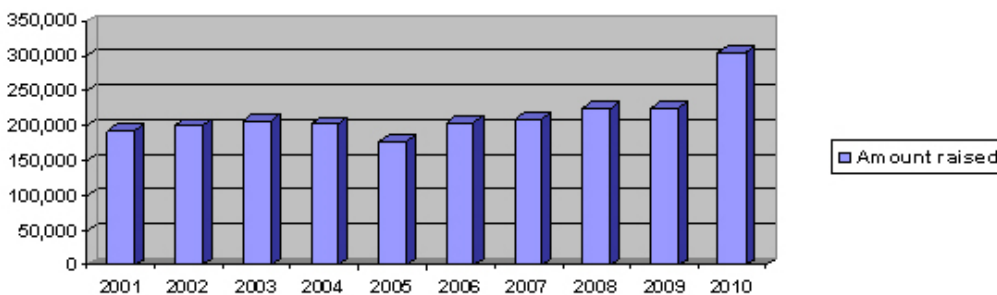
ANNUAL FUND SETS RECORD

In a June 9, 2010 *Wall Street Journal* article ("Donations Slip Amid Anxiety"), journalist Shelly Banjo reported: "Faced with continued economic uncertainty, Americans cut back on their charitable giving again last year. For the second year in a row, philanthropy has seen the deepest decline ever recorded by the Giving USA Foundation, which has tracked annual giving since 1956. Donations fell 3.6% to \$303.75 billion last year, down from \$315 billion in 2008, according to the latest Giving USA study. In 2008, they were down 2%. Giving, in current dollars, has gone up every year the organization has measured it except 1987 and the past two years."

While our little school on Barnes Road is but a tiny speck in the world of philanthropy, that's obviously not how 534 members of the Pine Point family felt in the last fiscal year about the School and what it's accomplishing in the lives of today's Pine Point students. It's wonderful to be able to report that total gifts to the Annual Fund increased by 35% to \$304,982! This marks the fourth year in a row that the fund, which impacts everything from classroom instruction to financial aid, has set a record.

While the fund-raising total is important, it's what it helps to accomplish that's the real cause for celebration. Perhaps Kate Perkins, grandmother of rising 2nd grader Jack Carver Ryan '19, put it best when she wrote in late June: "What fabulous news that the Annual Fund has reached the highest point in the School's history! Pine Point's real 'victory', however, is its wonderful preparation of children for higher education and life! I hope Pine Point receives many more gifts in the coming days to really put the Annual Fund drive over the top!"

Annual Fund, 2001-2010



While the Annual Fund doesn't begin in earnest until September, the needs of the School are on-going. Happily, there are folks who have already made a gift to this year's effort! In fact, the most recent gift came from an alumnus, who, even with the prospect of his impending nuptials, took time out to make a wonderful contribution to Pine Point! Click [here](#) to make your gift today.

POUNCING PANTHERS HIT THE NATIONAL STAGE!

The Pouncing Panthers jump rope team sent a contingent to the US National Jump Rope Championship in June in Galveston, TX. Coach and Physical Education teacher Judy Davis summed up the adventure: "We have had a very busy and intense three days of competition and were able to relax to watch the Grand National Championship. Our team did a fantastic job performing their routines. Some were a little disappointed with their mistakes, but that is part of the experience, and particularly at this level of competition. It's not easy to take the floor with 11 judges and over 2,000 spectators watching your routine. The kids competed against 1,000 competitors from 69 teams from 31 states. The entire experience was very positive and the team had a wonderful time meeting jumpers from all over the country. We were very fortunate to make contact with Scott Simpson from the Kangaroo Kids. He is a USA National Champion Jump Roper attending Yale University and is eager to work with our team this fall. I'm thrilled to think that a member of the USA All Star team will come to Pine Point and work with our kids. I'm proud of our team and grateful to our parents (George Bourganos, Joey and Kelly Carter, Kim Dreier-Rick, Ann Harvey '73, Rocco Marciano, Geraldine Nager, David and Jennifer Schwindt, Chris Seymour, and Kris Whelan) who were a great support throughout the year and in Texas."



From left: Alex Schwindt '15, Coach and Physical Education Teacher Judy Davis, Samantha Seymour '14, Simone Kronholm '11, Schyler Davis '12, Eliza Griffin '13, Charlotte Harvey '13, Kiona Carter '12, Hannah Long '11, Mia Marciano '14, Bella Griscom '14, and Katia Bourganos '15. Missing is Julianna Rick '14.

2006-2010 Archive

[Volume 9, Issue X, June 2010](#)

[Volume 9, Issue IX, May 2010](#)

[Volume 9, Issue VIII, April 2010](#)

[Volume 9, Issue VII, March 2010](#)

[Volume 9, Issue VI, February 2010](#)

[Volume 9, Issue V, January 2010](#)

[Volume 9, Issue IV, December 2009](#)

[Volume 9, Issue III, November 2009](#)

[Volume 9, Issue II, October 2009](#)

[Volume 9, Issue I, September 2009](#)

[Volume 8, Issue XII, August 2009](#)

[Volume 8, Issue XI, July 2009](#)

[Volume 8, Issue X, June 2009](#)

[Volume 8, Issue IX, May 2009](#)

[Volume 8, Issue VIII, April 2009](#)

[Volume 8, Issue VII, March 2009](#)

[Volume 8, Issue VI, February 2009](#)

[Volume 8, Issue V, January 2009](#)

[Volume 8, Issue IV, December 2008](#)

[Volume 8, Issue III, November 2008](#)

[Volume 8, Issue I, September 2008](#)

[Volume 7, Issue X, August 2008](#)

[Volume 7, Issue IX, July 2008](#)

[Volume 7, Issue VIII, June 2008](#)

[Volume 7, Issue VII, May 2008](#)

[Volume 7, Issue VI, April 2008](#)

[Volume 7, Issue V, March 2008](#)

[Volume 7, Issue III, January 2008](#)

[Volume 7, Issue II, December 2007](#)

[Volume 7, Issue I, November 2007](#)

[Volume 6, Issue X, June 2007](#)

[Volume 6, Issue IX, May 2007](#)

[Volume 6, Issue VIII, May 2007](#)

[Volume 6, Issue VII, March 2007](#)

[Volume 6, Issue VI, February 2007](#)

[Volume 6, Issue V, January 2007](#)

[Volume 6, Issue IV, December 2006](#)

[Volume 6, Issue III, November 2006](#)

[Volume 6, Issue II, October 2006](#)

[Volume 6, Issue I, September 2006](#)



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