



Home > Alumni > Back to the Point

page tools :    

Welcome Alumni

Alumni Community Login

Back to the Point

ViewPoints

Alumni Reunion

Alumni Soccer & Field Hockey Games

Back to the Point

November 2009

In this issue:

[PARTLY BY MISCHANCE, PARTLY BY DESIGN](#)

[ALUMNI SURVEY](#)

[2009 FIORE FELLOWS PRESENTATION](#)

[EIGHTH GRADE VISITS WASHINGTON, D.C.](#)

[PENNIES FOR PEACE](#)

[PINE POINT'S PHOTOVOLTAIC PANELS NOTED IN NEWSPAPER](#)

[MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSICAL](#)

[UP RIVER CAFE DINNER FOR PINE POINT](#)

[ANOTHER WAY TO SUPPORT PINE POINT](#)

[ATTENTIVE TO OUR NEEDS](#)

PARTLY BY MISCHANCE, PARTLY BY DESIGN



In filling out the Alumni Survey (see article below), many respondents said they would like to read more about alumni in *Back to the Point*. One of those was Geoffrey Aronson '65, who now calls Mexico home. Because he has gone from teaching in Georgia to the Yucatan Peninsula, we figured he'd be the perfect person to start off what we hope to be a monthly feature. Here's what Geof sent to us:

I ended up in Mexico partly by mischance, partly by design. In 2002 I was researching a subculture in Belize on the net, centered around Dangria, which consisted of the descendants of escapees from a marooned slave ship who intermarried with the native Mayans. I had a Christmas vacation that was uninterrupted by any outside work and so I decided to travel there.

As the air fare to Cancun was half that of Belize's, I decided to fly to Mexico and take a bus to Belize. I gave myself two days to explore Mexico before going off to Belize if it looked interesting.

Well, it looked so interesting that I never got to Belize. Still haven't been there. I ended up going to the Yucatan peninsula four consecutive vacations in less than three years. When my job was downsized at the university in Atlanta where I was teaching, I decided to make the move.

I got my work visa within 10 weeks after moving to Merida, Yucatan in December of 2005 and have been here in the country ever since. I am currently teaching English to undergraduate students. I have been back once, for a month, to retrieve my car and other additional possessions in July of 2006. I plan on coming north next Easter to visit family in Connecticut and New York.

I have enclosed a self portraiture. It's most unconventional and demonstrates a little what I have been up to. I would particularly like to see Paula Ruisi's ('65) portrait. I understand she worked as an interior decorator for years and I would imagine she has done portraits.

ALUMNI SURVEY

A survey was sent out to all alumni, via direct mail and e-mail, seeking input on a range of issues. If you received a survey in the mail, please fill it out and return it in the enclosed stamped, self-addressed envelope by November 30. If you received it by e-mail and have lost the link, here it is again:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=MjJtdj_2bJoHKHeTkcTGfMnA_3d_3d

We've received over 75 responses so far from alumni from the Classes of 1956 to 2009! But we would love to get more input. In addition to assessing their experience at Pine Point, we've asked alumni to let us know what they're doing with their lives. As well, we asked them to tell us what professional and personal experiences have the most meaning for them. It is with the latter that we've received some very heartfelt messages. An alumna in Colorado told us that helping her child overcome autism was the most meaningful thing she had accomplished while an alumnus in New York reported that the care he was able to give his terminally ill father stood out. Please take 15 minutes to fill out the survey so we can better tell the Pine Point Story and improve our program so that it meets the needs of this generation of Pine Point students. We look forward to hearing from you!

2009 FIORE FELLOWS PRESENTATION

You are cordially invited to hear 2009 Fiore Fellows Robin Smith, David Smith '69, and Carol Ansel

speak on their experiences in a presentation scheduled for Wednesday, December 2nd at 7:00 p.m. in the L/TC.



The Smiths traveled to the north and south islands of New Zealand focusing their study on the Maoris while Mrs. Ansel took a course in Digital Wildlife Photography at the Wellfleet Bay Wildlife Sanctuary. As with previous Fiore Fellows, they returned from their sabbaticals with a renewed commitment to teaching and learning. You can also read about their adventures by clicking [here](#).

Members of the Pine Point family and the greater community are invited to attend dinner at 6:00 in the Mitchell Gymnasium prior to the presentation. Past parent Dennis O'Brien (father of

James '05 and Tim '09) has graciously offered to provide his tasty chili with all the trimmings. Please contact [Director of Development David Hannon](#) by Monday, November 30 if you plan to attend.

EIGHTH GRADE VISITS WASHINGTON, D.C.

As it does every year, the eighth grade recently traveled to our Nation's capital. The students toured the Lincoln and Jefferson memorials, National Mall, Washington Monument, the World War II Memorial, and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Without fail, the name of Loring M. Bailey, Jr. is pointed out to the students at the Wall. Ring Bailey '59 lost his life in Vietnam in 1970. Spanish teacher Lara Dolphin, one of the teachers who accompanied the students, said they "ran the kids ragged," and told the assembled group at Morning Meeting how many compliments the children received from strangers, noting, most particularly, their good manners.



Each night, the students were required to write for 45 minutes in their journals about their impressions of the day. Marion Philippe '11 said that the Holocaust Museum had the greatest impact on her, but told us more. "Washington, D.C. can be described in so many different ways. From the monuments to the museums or from the beautiful scenes to the sweet nature, it was one of the best trips." Hannah Long '11 wrote, "The eighth grade field trip to Washington, D.C. in early November was an exciting mixture of learning, relaxing, bonding, talking, writing, and having an incredible amount of fun. I personally believe that the experience was even better with our four outgoing, loving teachers: Mrs. Dolphin, Mr. Williams, Mrs. Owen, and Mr. Mitchell. I barely realized how much information I was taking in while speeding through the monuments and museums because I was enjoying it. If I attended any other school, I'm willing to bet that it would be nowhere near as amazing of an experience; our group of students and teachers is small, close, and we get along extremely well, which truly made the trip." Chris Collins '11 wrote that "our class trip to Washington, D.C. was a very enlightening experience. In just taking a walk around our Nation's capital, you see museum after museum documenting our history, yet you also see our government, our buildings. You see the present day world that we live in every day. Washington is a magical place, and if you're lucky you may even get a glimpse of our future."

PENNIES FOR PEACE

Fifth grade students Julia Little '14 and Vivienne Gao '14 have organized Pine Point's participation in a project called Pennies for Peace. The program was started by Greg Mortenson, author of *Three Cups of Tea*, and raises money to build schools in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Proceeds from a recent dress down day kicked off the effort, while collection jars have been placed throughout the School to secure additional funds. Our school community will be collecting change through Thanksgiving. To learn more about this program visit www.penniesforpeace.org or read *Three Cups of Tea*.



Fifth graders Vivienne Gao and Julia Little hold one of the Pennies for Peace jars that have been all around the School.

PINE POINT'S PHOTOVOLTAIC PANELS NOTED IN NEWSPAPER

The November 2nd issue of the *Hartford Courant* had a cover story entitled "Green Giants: Prep Schools Leading the Way in Alternative Energy Technology." While the main focus of the article was on the Westminster School in Simsbury, other schools that have installed photovoltaic panels were mentioned, including Pine Point! You can access the article by clicking on the link below.

http://www.courant.com/news/connecticut/hc-greenpreps.artnov02_0_2525337_story

Since the installation of 330 photovoltaic panels in 2007, we've been monitoring the panels' output and corresponding reduction in pollutants. To see how Pine Point is making a difference, click on the link below.

<http://view2.fatspaniel.net/FST/Portal/SolarWrights/pinepoint/HostedAdminView.html>

For those new to the School, if you'd like to learn how Pine Point came to have one of the largest arrays in Connecticut, and about the wonderful dedication ceremony (attended by a list of dignitaries), click [here](#).

MIDDLE SCHOOL MUSICAL

"You're A Good Man, Charlie Brown" is this year's Middle School musical. Based on the beloved Peanuts comic strip, the show will be presented on Friday, December 11, and Saturday, December 12 at 7 PM in the Mitchell Gymnasium. Thanks to Apolline Jonckheere '13 for her great drawing of the musical's title character, Charlie Brown.



UP RIVER CAFE DINNER FOR PINE POINT

Our next dinner gathering will take place at The Up River Café and Cocktail Bar in Westerly on Thursday, December 10th. As with last month's dinner at the Dog Watch Café in Stonington, 15% of all dinner and drink orders will be directed to Pine Point. Dan and Jennifer King, parents of Oscar '18 and owners of Up River, look forward to welcoming members of the Pine Point family and the extended community to their restaurant. You can visit Up River's website by clicking [here](#).

Pine Point School

Please Join Us for Dinner

at

THE UP RIVER CAFE



AND COCKTAIL BAR

37 Main Street, Westerly, Rhode Island

Thursday, December 10th

5:00-9:00 pm

15% of all dinner and drink orders will be donated to Pine Point School!

ANOTHER WAY TO SUPPORT PINE POINT

As you think about your holiday shopping (and shopping throughout the year for that matter), please consider conducting your online shopping utilizing GoodShop, an online shopping mall of well-known merchants (Aeropostale, Amazon, Target, Gap, Best Buy, eBay, Barnes & Noble, L.L. Bean, Staples, Expedia, etc.) dedicated to funding worthy causes across the country. Each purchase made via GoodShop results in a donation to the user's designated charity or school – in this case, Pine Point. Donations average approximately 3% of each sale. (You must go through the GoodShop site and not the individual stores in order to have your purchase credited to Pine Point.) Click on <http://www.goodsearch.com/goodshop.aspx?catname=all-stores> to get started.

ATTENTIVE TO OUR NEEDS

If you recall the fall issue of *ViewPoints*, we showed Laura Hagen '06 on the cover on Kato getting ready for another day of work out in Killdeer, North Dakota.

Now finishing up her first semester at Rice University, Laura fondly recalls her days on Barnes Road. She recently wrote, "I can't imagine how my academic preparation from Pine Point could have been better. The teachers were all so incredible, passionate about their subjects, and attentive to our needs. We learned all of the facts, formulas, and definitions, but we also learned how to think and apply all of those things on our own...I still look back at my times at Pine Point as some of the best of my life. I wouldn't trade the friends I made, the experiences I had, or the things I learned there for anything, and I couldn't say where I'd be without them."

When you make a gift to the Annual Fund, you are ensuring that today's Pine Pointers benefit from that same experience of which Laura wrote. The great news is that we're off to a terrific start with the fund, ahead in both donors and dollars raised, but we've got a long way to go to where we need to be. In this season of thanks, *everyone* at Pine Point is grateful for the strong support that is given to the School. You can make a gift to the School by clicking [here](#).

May you and your family have a relaxing Thanksgiving holiday.



2006-2009 Archive

[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](#)



To view pdf files you need to have Adobe Reader. If you do not already have it on your computer, click the icon to visit the Adobe website and to download the free program.

<

Strong Minds, Caring Hearts

Pine Point School, 89 Barnes Road, Stonington, CT 06378, Phone: 1-860-535-0606, Fax: 1-860-535-8033