

**PSPA ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2007 7:00 PM
ADDISON GALLERY OF AMERICAN ART**

Jill Spiak welcomed the PSPA to the Addison Gallery of American Art for its annual meeting. She introduced Brian Allen, the Director of the Addison Gallery. Brian also welcomed the PSPA on this very cold evening. He thanked us for making the effort to come out into the cold to the Addison. The Addison Gallery of American Art is celebrating its 75th Anniversary this year. Intended by its founder, Thomas Cochran, "to enrich permanently the lives of the students of Phillips Academy, by helping to cultivate and foster in them a love for the beautiful," the Addison Gallery of American Art is an academic museum that serves as an educational resource for the Academy while holding a well-deserved place as a center of American art for regional and national audiences.¹ The Addison currently has close to 15,000 of its own objects and it has many exhibits which are open to the students and the public. Brian again thanked us for coming to the Addison and he hoped that we would come back and visit them often. He then introduced Rebecca Spolarich, a member of the education department of the Addison.

Rebecca explained that she works with the students and the public every day. Students from Phillips Academy as well as many schools from the surrounding areas come to take advantage of the Addison's exhibits and resources. She told us that 3 English classes had come to visit the Addison within the last week. These classes were reading books from Moby Dick to Huckleberry Finn. The classes were able to look at the Ship Exhibit and were able to discuss how these ships impacted the lives of those people in the times of Moby Dick and Huckleberry Finn. There was also a Popular Culture class that came in a few weeks ago and they were able to study the current exhibit: Kara Walker: Harper's Pictorial History of the Civil War. Usually there is a course in the spring term that allows students to help curate an exhibit. The teacher who teaches this course is currently on sabbatical this year, so it is not being offered this spring; however, they fully expect that it will be in the course book for the spring of 2008. Rebecca also thanked us for using the Addison Gallery as a place for our meeting and added her wishes that many of us would be able to come back to take in more of the gallery's exhibits.

A current parent, Habib Rahman, has two daughters here. His older daughter has started collecting stories about Andover and he asked for anyone's help to submit any stories they may have about Andover to his daughter so that she may compile them into a manuscript that she hopes to have ready this summer. He left some handout sheets with the information for people who would like to submit a story. He said that there are no insignificant or unimportant stories about Andover!

Jill Spiak continued the annual meeting with a quick overview of what the PSPA has accomplished this year. She felt that it had been a very productive and successful year. The PSPA's fundraising provides the students and the school with additional funds for

¹ Taken from the Addison Gallery of American Art homepage, 2007.

many activities. Merchandise sales raised \$5,000 this year. Jill went on to say that Cathy Shaw had clearly missed her true calling of having a clothing boutique on Newbury Street! The Summer Opportunities Fair raised \$13,000 this year. The sale of DVDs raised \$5,000. PSPA has funded many activities this year to date. Just to name a few: \$870 to the PALS program (Phillips Academy Andover Lawrence Middle School program), \$4,000 to various student clubs and organizations (with another \$2,000 remaining to be given out this spring), 8 individual class events (4 in the fall and 4 in the spring), Winter Carnival, Casino Night, and the Pre-Prom party. PSPA also hosts receptions in the September to welcome parents back to school and in April to welcome the new students to Phillips Academy. Jill said that the biggest change this year was the addition of the videotaping of the membership meetings which are then made available on the PSPA site which is accessible through the Parent Portal. All of this is possible because of the strong volunteer base from parents near and far. Jill and the Board have been truly pleased and thoroughly appreciate all of the parent support. Jill wanted to give her deepest thanks to the current board, the class parents, Angela Zinsmeister and her committee for Summer Opportunities, the Regional coordinators Karla and Sara, the Director of Communications Andy Zhang, Director of Finance Rahn Adams, Treasurer Pat Donelan and Assistant Treasurer Nancy Prince, Cathy Shaw of Merchandising, 1st VP Jackie Downing, Pam Anderson who chaired the Nominating Committee. Jill then went on to introduce the new board for 2007-2008:

President Bob and Jen Grunbeck

First Vice Jackie Downing
President

Second Vice President

Tina Collela

Secretary Prema Ramachandran

Treasurer Pat Donelan

Assistant Janet Ciummei
Treasurer

Director of Jesse Jacobson
Communication

Director of Nancy Prince
Finance

Co- Directors of Jill Spiak
Summer Opps
Janet Warren

Co-Directors of Regional Activities	Sara Faulkner Caron Tsapatsaris
Class Reps: Senior '08	Angela Zinsmeister Cynthia Causbie
Upper '09	Vineeta Kapoor
Lower '10	Patti Flanagan Annie Gilbert
Junior '11	tbd

Jackie Downing and Cathy Shaw then took the floor to thank Jill for all her hard work this year. Cathy went on to talk about the running of the merchandising effort in the future. It is felt that the merchandising venture would be better served if it were run as a committee, just as the Summer Opportunities Fair is. Cathy will help set up and establish the committee. She will pass around a sheet in order for people to volunteer for two different areas: one area would be the ability to volunteer at one of the six events during which merchandise is sold and the second area would be as a member on the working committee. Cathy wanted to stress that 100% of the profits from our merchandise sales goes back to support the students.

Jill then introduced our speakers the evening, Thomas Hodgson of the Philosophy and Religion Department and Gregory Wilkin of the English Department. The title of their talk is "Teaching and Learning about Love". Tom Hodgson was educated at Williams College and Yale University. He has been teaching Philosophy and Ethics at Andover since 1976. He coaches girls' squash and boys' tennis and plays both sports. In addition, he enjoys hiking and fly fishing in Montana and the Berkshires, playing and listening to the banjo, raising golden retrievers and reading. He admires anyone who, like Socrates, is thoughtful, non-dogmatic and principled. Greg Wilkin came to Andover in 1980. He is a graduate of Yale College and has a Ph.D. from the Centre for Medieval Studies at Toronto (topic: the historical backgrounds to the Arthurian romances about the Holy Grail). He has chaired the English department at St. Sebastian's School in Needham, MA and taught at Dulwich College, London, the Physics-Mathematics School 165 in Siberia, and at School Year Abroad in Rennes, France. A certified PTR tennis professional, he coaches the boys' varsity tennis team in the spring, runs the cluster tennis program in the fall, and coaches the boys' JVII squash team in the winter. His articles have appeared in Tennis magazine, English Studies, Spenser Studies, Court and Poet, and the Proceedings of the International Courtly Literature Society, and the Northwest Review. He has written a screenplay based on the life of the British Davis Cup hero from the twenties,

Bunny Austin, and has almost completed a novel based on the screenplay. He lives in Bishop North with his wife, Ellie, and he has five children, two of whom are current students at PA.

Tom originally got the idea that he and Greg could teach courses that collaborated/overlapped with a theme around Love. Tom's course would be the Philosophy of Love and Greg would slightly rework his course on Feasts and Fools. Tom began their presentation with the definition of philosophy which is the love of wisdom. Tom's philosophical hero is Socrates, who is the expert on nothing but love. When Tom mentioned to his family his idea about having a course to discuss love, his daughter Katie, who is a graduate of Brooks and about to graduate from Elon University in North Carolina, told him that he was the last person to talk about love. Tom very much wanted to work with Greg whose course on Feasts and Fools focuses on the reveler mentality in literature and life. Greg felt that he could adjust his readings to reflect the change from focusing on partying to focusing on love.

Therein ensued a very intricate, fascinating presentation of these two courses which I would not be able to do justice to, so I refer you to the videotaping of this meeting. The biggest impact of this presentation was the challenge that these teachers present to their students to analyze, to make connections, and to stretch themselves in intellectual ways that make us, as parents, all the more glad that it is our children taking these courses. Tom and Greg really did give us a wonderful insight into the type of thinking that are children are challenged to do. We give them a deep sense of gratitude and thanks for what all the teachers do for our students each and every day.