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The Riverview School Newsletter-Special Edition

May 2010

A Vision Realized

Janice and Ralph James were introduced to Riverview School when they enrolled their oldest daughter Katie as a senior in 2006. The School and the James could not possibly have imagined how this relationship would grow.

Like many parents before, Janice had mixed emotions when Katie started Riverview. "I remember being inconsolable after leaving the Admissions Office, but after receiving a "check-in" call from Jeanne Pacheco the next day, I knew this was the right place." Ralph quickly added, "The moment we heard Maureen Brenner speak, we were hooked." Katie's Senior Prom and Graduation were the culmination of a year of growth and transformation at Riverview. The outpouring of emotions and the long embraces of parents and children made the James family realize how truly special Riverview is.



Ralph and Janice James

In addition to the Lunds, Ralph and Janice acknowledge the leadership of other families including the Bells, Delaney, Hunters, Lawrence/Leach, Muller/Bauer, Poses, Smiths, Simons, and Trulaskes. They also expressed their gratitude to the newer families, including the Ahrensfields, Eisenbergs, Starks and Tolks, for joining in. All have experienced the magic of the School and have chosen to generously support its growth.

Janice and Ralph seem to live by a simple creed when it comes to philanthropy. "If you are blessed to have the ability to give, then you are obligated to give." At the heart of the James' giving is their love for Katie and their sincere gratitude to Riverview for building her confidence and capabilities over the years.

With tremendous satisfaction Janice exclaimed, "When you find Riverview, you know you have done your job; you have succeeded as a parent!" "Riverview already has the best staff and the best programs and it should have state-of-the-art facilities to match. We want Riverview students to have a great sense of pride in themselves and their campus," remarked Ralph. The family awaits the day in September when James Center will open its doors to the community and usher in a new era at Riverview School.

As the family began to understand Riverview as a place where amazing changes occur in the students, they decided to partner with the School to bring to fruition a decade-long vision. It was the Sharon D. Lund Foundation's initial gift in 2001 that inspired the James to support the building of a new student center.



Maureen Brenner, Katie James and Ed Muller break ground for James Center.

We Have to Plus That!

From Bob Wilson's perspective, James Center is a culmination of the twenty-five year partnership between Riverview School and the Sharon D. Lund Foundation. As a long-time friend of the Lund family, Bob has seen first-hand the impact the School had on Brad Lund, Class of 1989. "Brad truly grew during his time at Riverview. The staff and teaching methods that Riverview employs had a profound effect on him."

Not everything was perfect at Riverview when Brad was a student. "The Dungeon" was how he referred to the old auditorium, in the basement of Janse Hall. In fact it was the only thing he said he would change about his former school. In 2001 that is what he and his family set out to do. They pledged a generous gift to Riverview for a new auditorium. But first new dormitories and classrooms were needed and Brad waited patiently while these were built. Finally the Board of Trustees gave the green light and the gift from the Sharon D. Lund Foundation motivated other families to get involved.

Bob remarked that "The Lund family owes a great debt to the arts, and James Center is a natural fit. It will not only provide opportunities in the arts but also create new opportunities for student socialization." Brad's grandfather, Walt Disney, when speaking about the need for improvement, often said "We Have to Plus That!" James Center is a remarkable plus for the Riverview community.

Another Brick in the Wall

"When will James Center be completed?" We are pleased to announce that we are looking forward to a September opening. A formal dedication of the building will be held in October 2010. "Are there going to be more opportunities for people to get involved and support James Center?" "Yes! Glad you asked!" The new auditorium with 325 seats and a brand new courtyard with a brick walkway and terrace are two of the options still available for your support. This unique opportunity to put your name on a seat and/or brick will make you an integral partner in James Center. Bricks will be offered for \$50-\$100 and seats from \$250-\$500. Naming options for your seat and/or brick will be mailed this July. Become a part of this new chapter on the Riverview campus.

Riverview School

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Lavoie House

2003



Trulaske Hall

2004



Hunter Haven

2006



Janse-Butler House

2008



James Center

2010

The Dawn of a New Era

A new era is dawning at Riverview School with the upcoming opening of James Center. This spectacular new building fulfills long held dreams for our students and community. An internal assessment completed almost a decade ago identified the need for a new auditorium; art gallery; library and media center; student union; art, drama and music classrooms; and administrative spaces. Now, in one transformative undertaking, this ambitious wish list has been rendered obsolete.



Our small community could understandably be satisfied and proud, if the only accomplishment of the past ten years was James Center. In reality, the School's new signature building is but the frosting on the cake. While undoubtedly the most ambitious project since the

School's founding in 1957, it follows such recent major enhancements as Lavoie House (2003), Trulaske Hall (2004), Hunter Haven (2006) and Janse-Butler House (2008).

One can travel back in Riverview's history through the nineties, eighties, seventies and sixties and see a similar relentless determination to provide the School's students with the best education and facilities possible. This required the leadership and determination of dedicated trustees, administrators, staff, parents and donors. Uniting all these partners was and still is a deep and profound belief in the potential and dignity of our students and a general consensus that they deserve the best.

James Center will greatly enhance the appearance of Riverview's campus. More importantly it will provide countless opportunities never experienced before by our students or alumni. And just as the James family and other major donors intended, it will inspire others to continue the long tradition of support for the remarkable students and families who comprise the Riverview community.

James Center Rises



Janse Demo



Up and Away



Raising the Steel



Almost There!

Save the Date!

James Center Dedication
Friday, October 22, 2010

Thanks ...

Chair of the Board, Ed Muller

Over the years, many people have created the Riverview that we know today. We are the beneficiaries of their efforts. This fall, when we dedicate James Center, we will be doing our part in enhancing the School for future generations of students.

Many people have contributed to this wonderful effort. Two in particular have been extraordinary. Janice and Ralph James and their family made the project possible through their generosity and their leadership. In addition, the Lund Foundation of Los Angeles, fulfilling its longtime commitment to enhance the arts at Riverview, has been very instrumental in this effort. The auditorium will be named for the late Sharon Lund, the mother of Brad who graduated in 1989.

We are grateful as well to all the members of the Board of Trustees. They have participated in the fundraising, planning and oversight of this project. We have been particularly blessed by the leadership of Bob Harbour, a trustee for 14 years and the parent of Todd who graduated in 1999 from GROW. Bob, who has professional expertise in construction, has generously been overseeing every aspect of the construction, as he's done for all of our buildings in recent years.

We are also fortunate to have terrific architects, Siemasko & Verbridge, who've designed a lovely center that fits our campus on Cape Cod, and Acella Construction, which has built many of our Riverview buildings.

None of this would be possible without an inspired leader. We are fortunate to have one in Maureen Brenner. With words, she enabled us to see what was possible. With actions, she is making it happen.

Celebrating the Arts



Creating



Singing



Acting