

Tomorrow we'll make history

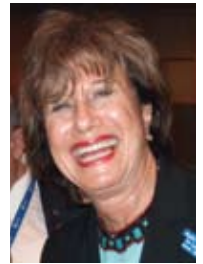
Well, it's just hours after the polls closed on the 2006 election and just hours before we ship the *Quarterly* off to the printer, and I had hoped to use this space to deliver historic news. But not today.

In the summer and fall issues of the magazine, you read about three courageous women running for the U.S. House of Representatives: Diane Farrell '77 of Connecticut's 4th District; Phyllis Busansky '59 of Florida's 9th District; and Paloma Capanna '88 of New York's 25th District. No Wheaton alum has been elected to Congress. Each of these women entered particularly difficult races; all Democrats, they sought to topple longtime Republican leadership in their districts. They knew they were in for a fight.




Diane Farrell '77

This year's election cycle was particularly bruising. "Robocalls" plagued the Farrell campaign; Busansky's opponent charged that she supported public nudity because she voted against a ban on thong bikinis. Capanna exited the race in July, before the state primary; Farrell and Busansky won their primaries, won key endorsements, but lost the race—Farrell by 3 percentage points, Busansky by 12.



Phyllis Busansky '59

No matter their political party affiliation, these Wheaton women stood by their beliefs, ran competitive campaigns with integrity, and became role models for generations of future political leaders. A Wheaton alumna or alumnus will enter Congress. Not today, but tomorrow. 

▶ LETTERS

"Reggio Emilia" article inspires

Blakely Bundy, in her wonderful chronicling of our trip to Reggio Emilia, Italy (fall 2006 *Quarterly*) modestly did not mention that the students were able to subsidize the cost of their trips to Reggio with monies from a Bundy internship. We will be forever grateful for her generosity as well as for her wonderful company. Additionally, the Reggio trips would never have come about if it weren't for the generosity of Trustee Trish Higgins Arnold '66, whose sabbatical funding allowed for my first trip to Reggio Emilia, laying the groundwork for this student-faculty trip.

—Associate Professor of Education
Vicki Bartolini

I am writing in response to the wonderful article "Five days in Reggio Emilia" (by Blakely Bundy '66) in the fall *Quarterly*. The pictures, as well as the text, are wonderful. My granddaughter Meghan attended this conference while she was a student at the University of Vermont. She raved about the experience and, because she is now a teacher, I have sent her copies of the article. Having been a teacher myself, and having a daughter who teaches in New Hampshire, I was especially

interested in the Bundy article. Early education is so important.

—Claire S. Leonard '45

Two years after Wheaton graduation I enrolled in graduate school to learn to be a teacher. Naively I thought I would become a classroom teacher somewhere and stay there forever. Though I had fun in graduate school and learned a great deal, I quickly felt uninspired by education. With a master's degree in hand, I bounced around and finally gave up; I could not be part of the machine producing mediocre thinkers.

Less than a year later, a high school classmate introduced me to Breakwater School in Portland, Maine. In a perfect world, all schools are like this one, and I returned to education. Innovation is embraced, and curriculum is aligned with child development and thereby highly effective. In the absence of tests we have true student achievement. It is exciting to be among teachers who are passionate about children and education. Like the moment I arrived on the Wheaton campus, I knew Breakwater School was my home.

All these years later I am just where I want to be: the Director of Admissions at Breakwater School. Though I am no longer teaching, I work for children and parents as I

guide them through the admissions and enrollment process. It is incredibly rewarding to expand our community and embrace new families. I am doubly blessed to be able to have all three of my children, a five-year-old son and three-year-old twin daughters, enrolled here.

This past *Wheaton Quarterly* really resonated with me. Last spring two of our teachers participated on a study tour of Reggio Emilia schools and have been implementing the approach in the Early Childhood Division of our school. From my dual perspective, as administrator and parent, I am thrilled to see the Reggio Emilia approach in practice. Our very youngest learners are safe and free to explore their environment, experiment with self-expression, and develop relationships. I observe three- and four-year-olds learning about power and responsibility, physics and French, to name only a few facets of the program.

The day after the *Quarterly* arrived in my mailbox, I contacted the Filene Center. With luck, Breakwater School will host Wheaton interns this January. I have shared this edition with my colleagues and many of the parents as well. We very much look forward to working with Wheaton College and hope to cultivate a relationship allowing for the exchange of resources

and ideas as we all work toward educational innovation.

—Erin (Bonville) Frederick '96

Paying for college

I enjoy reading, cover to cover, every issue of the *Wheaton Quarterly*. I am especially grateful for the generous and gracious attention that Assistant Editor Karen Mateer gives to Class Notes. In the fall 2006 issue, the cover story ["Financial aid: Higher ed's high-stakes crisis"] by Editor Jayne Iafate and Director of Communications Michael Graca must be read. Now I understand why our eldest son says he can't retire at 55; his daughter has to go to college!

—Mary Hammer Heron '35

Letters to the editor: The *Quarterly* welcomes letters to the editor on topics you've read in these pages or on other topics concerning the Wheaton community. Please address your letters to:

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Correction

The fall *Quarterly* Class Notes incorrectly reported that Jason Beckerman '97 was named an associate at the law firm of Cozen O'Connor; he was named partner.