

LION'S PRIDE

Winter 2004 Newsletter

Virtus Repulsae Nescia Sordidae

And the Winner is...

By Pete Telford (Staff '78-'98)

The 75th Anniversary of *South*, celebrated last May, seemed to be an appropriate occasion to take stock of what has made this school a very special place. It occurred to the *Alumni Association* that in no small measure it has been a talented and devoted STAFF that is partly responsible. And yet, oddly, there has been no *formal* way in which staff contributions are recognized.

This has given rise to the *South 75th Anniversary Award* – an annual honour, which will be presented to “a staff member who has contributed significantly to making *South* a quality

school.” The award will be funded by the Alumni Association, and presented each year at the Commencement ceremony.

For the inaugural year (2003), nominations were solicited from current staff members, and from the Students Council. Eight nominations were received (all of which contained tributes of high praise and clear examples of excellence). An *Alumni Association* committee chose from these an 11-year veteran of the English Department, well-known for his excellence in the classroom, and renowned as the Director of five very successful *South* School Shows – DENNIS JOHNS.



A word from our Winner...

By Dennis Johns (Staff '91-present)

I have been a teacher with the London Board for twenty-seven years; the last twelve years at *South*.

There is something quite unique about the history and tradition of this little school in the middle of the old *South* residential community. I cannot quite define this quality, but I can describe it.

I see visible reminders of it when I wander through the building — black and white photographs around the building, championship banners in the gym, honour rolls of war veterans in the halls, academic plaques and athletic trophies in display cases, original wooden floors and brick walls in some classrooms, even some aged graffiti carved in the bathroom walls.

I hear it from our students who insist on saying they attend *South Collegiate*

Institute, and on having SCI printed on their school clothing, even though the school has been officially known as *South Secondary School* for the last twenty years.

I sense it when I scan the names of the distinguished and highly respected teachers who chose to come to, and more significantly to remain at, this school for their teaching careers. Jesse Macfarlane, Marion Woodman, Fraser Bowa, Glen MacDonald, Ian Underhill, Bill Cockburn, Joanne Mayhew, Peter and Betty Telford, Bill Pollard, Frank Littell, Dave Elston — the list goes on.

I was very aware of it when I witnessed the vast numbers of alumni who attended the 2003 reunion for the school's seventy-fifth anniversary — alumni from as far away as Europe and California, alumni from age 18 to age 90 — yet *South Lions* all.

Despite the misguided attempts of the Mike Harris Tories to homogenize and to standardize Ontario education into the same bland mess, most secondary schools have, thankfully, maintained their own unique identities. I am so proud to work at *South* where the students, their parents, a proud and very active alumni association, the neighbouring community, retired staff members and the current staff have all worked, and I am happy to report, continue to work, to maintain this unique identity.

There *is* power in numbers

by Sandy Ross ('79)

With our 75th reunion now a warm afterglow, let's look at what sparked one inspired moment... the giant '75' on our football field created by South students standing strategically (*pictured at right*). Can you imagine setting it up – mapping its shape, getting 600 teenagers regimentally aligned, and getting a picture of it in the newspaper? Luckily, it was spearheaded by a guy who knows our football field like the back of his hand-off. Ted Hessel (class of '53) was “fizz ed” teacher and coach at South from '70-'76, and the grand-scale project fell to him. Here's Ted's play-by-play.

Ted knew that a giant '75' would be a great media photo to publicize our reunion. The football field was an ideal stage, and Principal Sonier okayed a day when all the students would be out anyway – for an afternoon pre-game pep rally. Now, on to the '75' shape.

Ted had the OAC math class calculate measurements and, from the centre line out, mapped '7' on one side, '5' on the other. Wire hooks in the ground had binder twine fed through to rope off '75'. Ted knew the lining machine would



finish the outline. Enter Murphy's Law. The powder had to be changed to yellow so as not to interfere with the white yard lines for the game that would kick-off just 30 minutes after the photo shoot. OK. Done. Now, about that photo.

A *Free Press* photographer was set to capture it all from an Empire Aviation plane piloted by Andrew Clark (class of '93). Murphy's Law returned. That morning, a big fire broke in London, and the Freeps' photographer went to it. So, with just half an hour until show time,

Ted nabbed a student from the photography club, Simon Rossiter (class of '03), and was at the airport in a record 17 minutes! Ted laughs, recalling, “*Simon was more worried about the drive there than the flight!*” Later, the Freeps' shutterbug returned, but had missed her plane. So, she went atop the parking lot for a shot. Murphy's Law: strike three. That vantage didn't capture the impressive scope of it all, so in the end, it was our student's snap that the paper ran for great coverage. Take that, Murphy!

Remember when?

By D. C. (Don) McLean, B.S.A., P.Ag. ('39)

Faculty Focus [Winter, 2000-2001] refers to Bryce “Dinny” Dinsmore. Sixty years ago he, if this was H. B. Dinsmore, was never called Bryce or “Dinny,” at least by the students. Those were the days of Mr. and Mrs. and Miss. – no Ms. Mr. Dinsmore had a great sense of humour and was very well liked and respected by the students. On one occasion a classmate and excellent athlete, Alf Moulden, offered him a stick of gum. A bit suspicious, Mr. Dinsmore

asked, “Is this Ex-lax (a laxative)?” On being assured that it was not, he pulled a stick out of the package and immediately received a good whack on his finger from the mouse-trap like device.

[Another name] rang memory's bell, J. Fletcher Calvert... One could hardly call Mr. Calvert (Botany) humorous, at least not in class. Nonetheless, he was the subject of a laugh of his own creation. For some reason he was about to hang a picture in the hall, not far from the school office. He carefully

mounted the step-ladder being careful of his step and securely holding the picture. This was all well and good, carefully planned, as was his nature. The slip-up came when he went one or two steps too high and gave his head a firm bump against the ceiling! No harm done; he did not fall and he did not drop the picture.

The Way the Ball Bounces

By Pete Telford (Staff '78-'98)

Every year since 1984, former *South* basketball players have returned to the old gym to test their skills against their counterparts from other eras. The issue of young *vs.* old never goes away, and it's unlikely it will ever be resolved.

But, chalk one up for youth this year, as a spirited group of nine grads from the 1998-2003 period prevailed to win the Men's Alumni Tournament on December 6/03. Four games on this day displayed talent from teams representing the 60's/70's, the 1980's, 1990-97, and our new champions from 1998-2003.

The defending champion 1990-97 team got lots of scoring from Quin Roney, Justin Thompson, Paul Bikkers, and Mark Leonard, but ended the day with one win and one loss. A short-staffed 1980's club, for which Shawn Manuel and Pete McIntosh each scored 23 points in the morning game, came up short in the final, losing 83-68 to the Tournament Champs. The 60's/70's tried to inject some fresh legs by adding Kevin Gowdey's son Sam to their lineup, but couldn't overcome either of their opponents on the day.



An attempt was made to stage a Ladies Championship this year, but a lack of numbers from teams from the past five years forced a postponement of this event until 2004.

All those alumni and family members who attended the Tournament can vouch for both the talent and the continuing spirit of our former *South Lions*.

The 2003 South Alumni Champions (1998-2003 team) Back Row: Jeff Kneeshaw, Morgan Fairweather, Morgan Latvanen, Damien Gordon
Front Row: John Sengbusch, Chris Pellarin, Lee J Agnew
Absent for photo: Mike Edwards, Leon Melville

Alumni News

Where are you today? We would love to hear from all South Alumni and Staff. Let us know where you are in life, what you're doing, or anything else you'd like to share! You can send updates to Alayne.dieter@rogers.com or via snail-mail to address at the end of this newsletter.

Sandy Ross ('79) loves London and lives here still. A two-time Fanshawe grad, she worked in group homes and at Labatt's until, in 1992, she launched her own business, Word's Worth, which satisfies her love of wordsmithing. In her personal life, she has no children,

and describes herself as "happily single while romantically optimistic."

Mark Eramian ('93) married Nicole Casselman on 16 Jun 2001 in London, Ontario. In October 2002 they moved to Saskatoon, Saskatchewan where Mark took a job as an Assistant Professor of Computer Science at the University of Saskatchewan.

Marjorie (Lister) North, who was in grade 9 in 1928 when the "new" *South Collegiate* first opened, and graduated in 1932, celebrated her 90th birthday on November 13, 2003 at her apartment at *Grand Wood Park* (just a stone's throw

away from *South*).

Jeremy Jonckheere ('97), a graduate of the Ivey Business School at *UWO*, and an all-Canadian with the Mustang Volleyball Team, is currently playing professionally in Belgium with the *Everbeur Volleyball Club* in Averbode, just outside Brussels.

Marie (Saugstad) Andersen ('39) worked for some years at *London Life*, then after World War II married a serviceman from Alberta and moved to Airdrie (Alberta), where she still lives today.

Alumni Awards Fund

By Pete Telford (Staff '78-'98)

Just over three years ago, a campaign to generate significant funds for awards and scholarships at *South* became a major project of the *Alumni Association*. By the end of the 75th Anniversary year (31 December, 2003), *South* Grads had contributed over \$45,000 to this fund.

In February 2004, a Committee of Alumni and current *South* teachers will draw up an administrative plan for the annual granting of scholarships, bursaries, and subject awards using the interest from this fund.

All Alumni who have contributed to this fund can be justly proud of the size

and scope of the new Alumni Awards Program which they have made possible. A list of all donors is posted on the Alumni website (www.southalumni.ca), and also in the first-floor hall of the school.

Since we last published a list of recent donors in September 2003, we have added the following: Charles Hoare 1937 (in memoriam); Allan Robinson 1949; Beverly Fowler 1951; Donald Brown 1958; Carol (Hodgins) Howard 1963; Brian Dunbar 1967; Peter Lemon 1969; Karen Burnet 1976; Dan Booth 1987; and Astrid Jurgensen 1989.

Alumni Awards Reach Record Numbers

The *Alumni Association* has, for many years, given special awards to all *South* graduates who attain over 90%. At the most recent Commencement, in October 2003, because of the unusual "double cohort", where both a 4-year group and a 5-year group graduated together, there were 58 such recipients!

An additional Alumni Award, given to the "Scholar of the Year" (highest marks overall), was also doubled up in 2003. We honoured both Karolina Rowinski (from the 4-year program), and Andrea Browning-Gill from the 5-year program for this top award.

Upcoming Events

Alumni Association Executive Meeting

25 February 2004 at 7:00 p.m.
Room 104

A Celebration of Shakespeare

21-24 April 2004 at 7:30pm in the Auditorium. Featuring scenes from several of Shakespeare's most famous plays, such as *Romeo and Juliet*, *Macbeth*, *Hamlet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Othello*, and *The Taming of the Shrew*, and starring current *South* students.

Count me in!

If you enjoy this newsletter, please help cover our costs. Join SCAA for just \$10.

Full Name		Maiden Name
Home Address		
City	Province/State	Postal/Zip Code
Home Phone	Email	
Graduating Year	Clubs while at South	

\$10 annual dues for a limited time. Please include a cheque made payable to the South Collegiate Alumni Association and mail to the address at right. **Thank-you!**

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SCAA President: **Pete Telford**,
petetelford@sympatico.ca

Editor: **Alayne Dieter** ('93),
alayne.dieter@rogers.com

Graphic design courtesy of:
Ken Steele ('82), ken@steele.ca
steelecommunications inc.

SCAA c/o South Secondary School
371 Tecumseh Avenue East
London, Ontario N6C 1T4
tel. (519) 679-9833
fax. (519) 452-2879
contact@southalumni.ca
www.southalumni.ca