



Oratio

Studium

Labor

The Standard

A publication of St. Andrew's Academy

Commencement 2008

This Spring, St. Andrew's Academy said goodbye to her largest graduating class yet. Sarah Waterman, Joseph Salvatore, Amanda Kelley, Serena Howe, and Andrew Bradley all received their hard-earned diplomas May 31st, 2008.

The commencement exercises were set in the context of a traditional evening prayer service, with hymns and canticles sung by the St. Andrew's Academy Choir and the congregation. Though new to many, the service earned such comments

Four Types of Students, Four Types of Decisions: College Placement as a metaphor for Life

Dr. John Seel, M.Div., Ph.D.

Few decisions in a young person's life are more fraught with indecision and anxiety than the decision as to where he or she applies to college. A great deal is publicly revealed

St. Andrew's Academy 2008 Graduates: l-r, Sarah Waterman, Joseph Salvatore, Amanda Kelley, Serena Howe, Andrew Bradley



afterward as "beautiful," "different," and "the best graduation I've been to."

Equally praised was Dr. John Seel's commencement speech. Dr. Seel is a well-known author, speaker, and teacher, who

in the process. Students generally fall into four types: drifters, surfers, sanctuary seekers, and sailors.

Drifters have no navigational points. Passively they rely on others to tell them what to do. Most students who apply to

Commencement Continued...

has studied philosophy, business administration, divinity and history, written on topics from education to parenting to society and culture to music and movie reviews. He traveled from Cohasset, Massachusetts to speak at this commencement.

Before beginning his speech, Dr. Seel asked the graduates to move their chairs to the very front, so he could face them directly as he addressed them. He then encouraged them in his address to pursue excellence in all areas of life, not just the great and noticeable areas. It is in these small and seemingly insignificant actions, decisions, and habits that character is formed. Furthermore, because tomorrow never comes, we must live well today. One guest at commencement commented that "Dr. Seel's words animated a grand vision for life,...so that everyone there was provoked to think and act differently."

Three of the graduates received a special merit award for achieving cum laude in their courses of study, as well as demonstrating exceptional character and acts of service within the community.

Help St. Andrew's

- Need: 5 new tablet arm chair/ desk combo's--\$90 each.
- iPhones: Please donate used and working iPhones for St. Andrew's faculty.
- Need: Some upgrading in Mac laptops for faculty. Call for more info.
- Donations to help cover Fall Choir Trip to Canada.

New Video

Email the school to have a DVD sent to you or visit the website to view:

[standrewsacademy.org/
st_andrews_the_video.html](http://standrewsacademy.org/st_andrews_the_video.html)

College Placement Continued...

college are drifters. It's the next thing; what is generally expected after high school. But the process or purpose has no real interest to them personally – except the freedom and fun that endless partying vainly promises. What most high school seniors do not know is that one-out-of-every-three college freshman flunk out of college in their first year. Drifters become dropouts.

Surfers catch the next wave. They follow the crowd. If their friends are applying to Chico State, then they will too. Surfers get the job done – they catch the wave – but their navigational points are based on whatever is popular, whatever is the next thing, whatever is immediately in front of them. They lack a long-term vision, a strategic purpose. They follow the tide, not the North Star, because in the end they are not going anywhere. They'll put in their time in college only to return home with little to show for four years of expensive learning. Surfers eventually wash up on the beach.

Sanctuary seekers always make the safe choice. They never get out of their comfort zone. Risk avoidance is paramount. It takes many forms. Some avoid applying to selective schools for fear of rejection. Others avoid applying out of state because they have never cut the emotional umbilical cord with their family. Sanctuary seekers never leave harbor.

But then there are also sailors. They are going somewhere and they plot their course against fixed navigational points. These are students who know who they are, what they are about, and have disciplined themselves to the task at hand. They stand out from the crowd. They are the high school student every college admissions officer is looking for. If

"Drifters become dropouts...."

"Surfers eventually wash up on the beach...."

"Sanctuary seekers never leave harbor...."

there is one thing we have witnessed in the Olympics is the determination and discipline that every athlete has embodied. No couch potatoes here. They had a dream and set their mind and heart to the task. Sailors plot a similar course.

When charting one's life direction, it's best to determine which fixed navigational points will successfully get one to one's destination. There are only four options: self, society, statutes, or something beyond. Most students follow their own selfish desires – getting a good job, finding Mr. Right, pursuing the American Dream, embracing the illusory pleasures of the hook-up culture and the like. Others do what is expected. They follow the social norms, what dad and mom expect. Others just follow the rules – whatever they are, wherever they are. They are good Boy Scouts, but they don't really know why. And then there are the exceptions – those students who have oriented themselves to something larger than themselves, something transcendent, something that embodies the Good, True, and Beautiful.

These are students who have a personal calling and are shaping their lives in answer to that calling. They are ambitious, but not for self. Their deepest passions are connected to the world's deepest needs. For them, college is not four years to be wasted, but to be strategically embraced in order to hone these passions for greater service.

The next Olympic games are in 2012. Four years from now. There is a young aspiring athlete who after watching the games on television even now has set his or her sights on becoming an Olympian. From one perspective four years seems like a long time. From another, it is no time at all. The only thing we share in common is time. What we do with it, the choices we make, shape our future. Novelist Annie Dillard writes, "How we spend our days is, of course, how we spend our lives." Her point? You want to know what you will be like in four years, take a good look at yourself now. You will make your choice of where to go to college based on what kind of person you are and what are the criteria of your navigational points.

As goes this decision, so goes your life.

John Seel is on the National Advisory Board of St. Andrew's Academy and is their volunteer college counselor. The former headmaster of The Cambridge School of Dallas, he has extensive experience in guiding students in their college selection process. John is the author of Special Forces for Kingdom Service: The Calling of Prophetic Schools (Canon Press, 2009).

An Ideal Dandy:

The St. Andrew's Academy Players produce Oscar Wilde's Play

LORD GORING: *I'm sorry, Father, but the truth is, this is not my day for talking seriously.*

LORD CAVERSHAM: *Well, what do you mean, sir?*

LORD GORING: *I mean that I only talk seriously on the first Tuesday of every month. Between noon and three.*

...

LORD CAVERSHAM: *Do you always understand everything you say?*

LORD GORING: *Yes... if I listen attentively.*



GERTRUDE: *Lord Goring, you are talking quite seriously.*

LORD GORING: *You must forgive me, Lady Chiltern. It won't occur again.*

GERTRUDE: *No, I like you to be serious.*

[Enter Mabel]

MABEL: *Gertrude, please don't say such a dreadful thing to Lord Goring. Seriousness would be very unbecoming to him. Good morning, Lord Goring. Pray be as trivial as you can.*

Lord Arthur Goring is the very image of the late 19th-century London rich and idle gentleman. A dandy who only speaks seriously when he forgets

himself, he has a witticism for every occasion, says he is 32 because 36 is just too old, and devotes his life to the pursuit of the perfect "buttonhole," or corsage. He is also one of the main characters of what was this year's drama production at St. Andrew's Academy, *An Ideal Husband*.

Goring is not himself the ideal husband, nor any husband at all, though Mabel Chiltern is in love with him for the entire play. He is the best friend of Sir Robert Chiltern, whose wife believes him to be the ideal husband, or, in other words, Practically Perfect. The strain of this worship threatens to break Chiltern when he is blackmailed concerning a scandal in his early life, and Lady Chiltern finds out. It is then up to the scheming of Goring, Miss Mabel, and all the rest of them to fix things up again. In the midst of all the activity, Mabel finally gets her declaration of love from Lord Goring:

LORD GORING: *I love you... I love you.*

MABEL: *Is that your reason then?*

LORD GORING: *Mmm. Mabel, I said...*

MABEL: *I know.*

LORD GORING: *Well? Couldn't you love me just a little bit in return?*

MABEL: *Arthur, you silly! If you knew anything about anything, which you don't, you would know that I absolutely adore you.*

LORD GORING: *Really?*

MABEL: *Mmm.*

LORD GORING: *Well, why didn't you say anything before?*

MABEL: *Because, dear boy, you never would have believed me.*

Behind all Goring's light and humorous dialogue, however, are deeper issues of love, ethics, and philosophy. The seemingly mindless dandy speaks what is the most profound

line in the play: "It is love, and not German philosophy, that is the true explanation of this world." For all Gertrude's ideals about her husband, concerning both what he is and what he ought to be, she doesn't show him forgiveness, believing herself incapable of the sins which he has committed. She doesn't have love.

Goring shows his nobility of

character in continuing to protect Gertrude even to his own detriment. Earlier in the play Lord Goring had been expecting Lady Chiltern to come to him for help one evening, but really the villainous Mrs. Chevely arrived and was concealed in a room adjacent to the study. Sir Robert found the wicked woman there, and assumed the worst. When he later confronts Lord Goring concerning this, Goring doesn't explain what had really happened, because it could cast Gertrude in a bad light. Fortunately, Gertrude herself reveals the truth, in essence acknowledging that she herself is not above the reproach of scandal.

Many in the audience this year said the production was the best one yet by the St. Andrew's Players. The drama team enjoyed performing it, as well. It was edited and adapted by Serena Howe and Elena Salvatore, with Miss Salvatore helping Miss Allison Steinberg as director.



Our Graduates of 2008!

By Miss Allison Steinberg, Professor of Classical Languages

As I write this, one of our 2008 graduates is on her way (by train!) to college; one left yesterday, and three leave tomorrow. We are very pleased with these students for completing their course of studies at St. Andrew's, even though we miss them already. (They may not know this, but their diplomas were actually conditioned upon future visits, and will not be finalized for about ten years....)

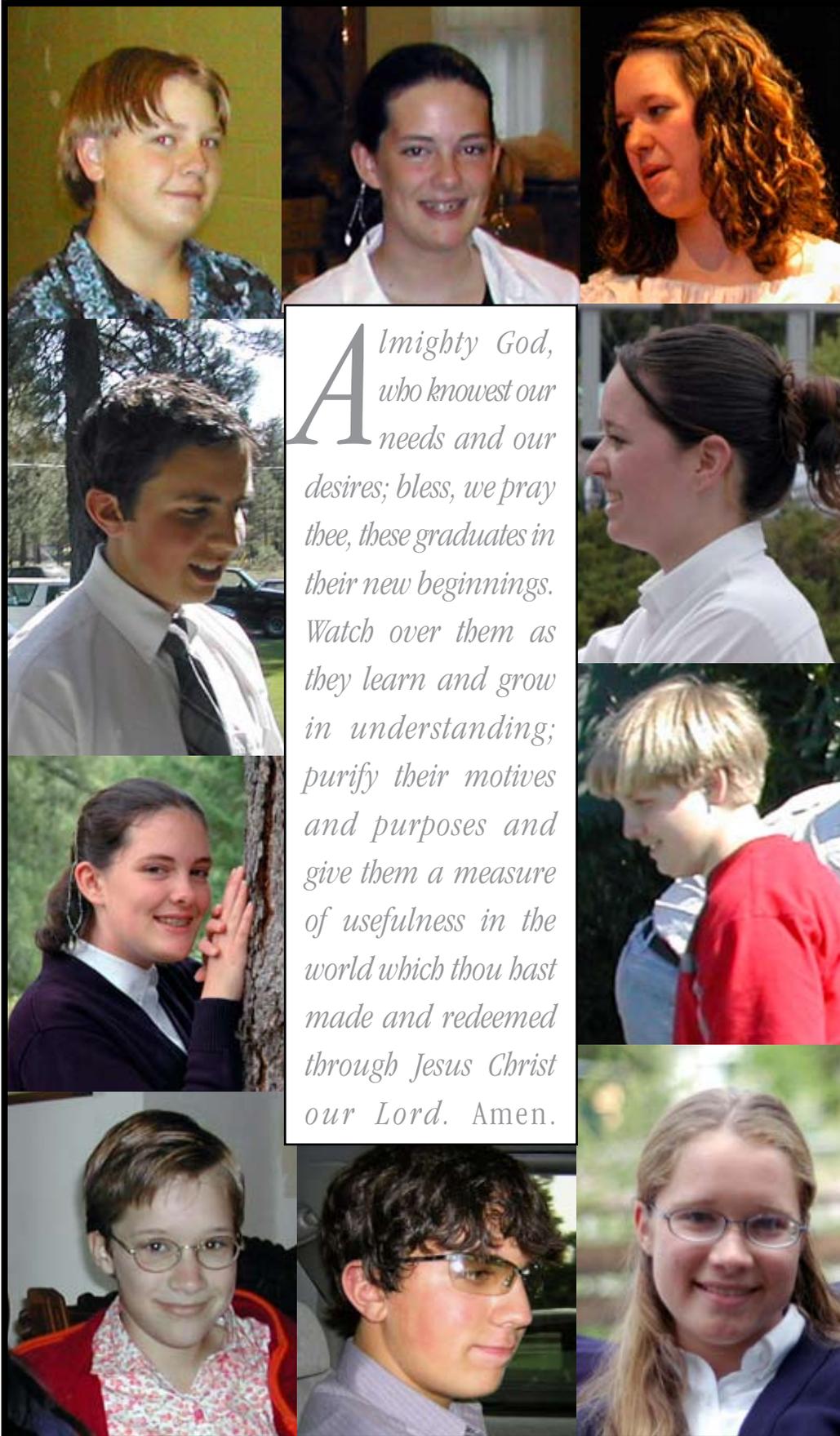
Andrew Bradley came to us late in 2003 as a 7th grader, with a soprano voice that belied the bass he would become. He got to pretend to be an ideal husband in this year's drama presentation, and we decided to graduate him partly because he won the fencing tournament in May, and we didn't want to be run through. His thesis was called "Global Warming: The Effects on Man." Andrew is attending California State University, Monterey Bay.

Serena Howe began St. Andrew's in the Fall of 2005. She was president of our rocketry program, going to the Team America Rocketry Competition in Virginia in the Spring of 2007, and produced our first promotional DVD this year. She also headed up the student-run Media Club. Her Thesis, "Musical Meaning and the Image of the Church," was excellent and enjoyable. Serena is attending Hillsdale College.

Amanda Kelley also joined us in the Fall of 2005. She won second place this year for the Greenville Rotary Speech Competition, and sang alto in the choir. She is attending California State University at Monterey Bay, where she will enjoy lots of seafood for her Latin and Greek teacher. Her thesis was "Classical vs. Progressive Education."

Joseph Salvatore has attended St. Andrew's since 6th grade. Sometime between then and the present he found his voice, and hasn't been quiet since. Last year he went to Reno for the area level Rotary Speech

*Almighty God,
who knowest our
needs and our
desires; bless, we pray
thee, these graduates in
their new beginnings.
Watch over them as
they learn and grow
in understanding;
purify their motives
and purposes and
give them a measure
of usefulness in the
world which thou hast
made and redeemed
through Jesus Christ
our Lord. Amen.*



Above, clockwise from top left: Andrew Bradley, Sarah Waterman, Amanda Kelley (twice), Andrew Bradley, Serena Howe, Joe Salvatore, Serena Howe, Sarah Waterman, Joe Salvatore



Congratulations St. Andrew's Academy Class of 2008!

Competition, and has been the lead tenor in the choir for the past few years. His thesis was "Ethanol: A Feasible Alternative," and he is attending Villanova University.

Sarah Waterman joined St. Andrew's in the 6th grade. This year she won first place in both the local and district level Rotary Speech Competitions. In the past few years, she has gone to Africa and to Ecuador for short-term missions trips. Sarah is pursuing medical studies this fall at CSU Monterey Bay, and her senior thesis was, appropriately, "Alternative vs. Conventional Medicine."

We send them with our best wishes and blessings, and may they continue to follow Christ their Lord and Friend during the next phase of their lives.



Thirteen Concerts, Fourteen Days, Three Thousand Miles

During the first two weeks of June, 2008, the St. Andrew's Academy choir sang its way through the South East, starting in Baltimore and ending up in Orlando. They performed concerts and led evensongs in Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, Arkansas, Mississippi, and Florida. Most of the students had never visited those states, so the trip was not only a concert tour, but a tour of the country. Many days were



spent in the car, racing across the country to get to the next place on time, like the mad dash across Tennessee to get from Highlands, North Carolina to Jonesboro, Arkansas before five o'clock for a concert at St. Timothy's.

"We often didn't have time to stop anywhere other than gas stations to fuel up, but you'd be surprised how much you can learn about a place from the gas stations," said Serena Howe, a 2008 graduate. "One in Star, Mississippi sold fried gizzards; the man at the counter said that Faith Hill had grown up a few blocks away."

For the five graduates, this was their last time traveling and singing with the school, and it was a wonderful, memorable trip. They slept on parish-hall floors and in a four-story mansion (in Virginia), ate food from a gas station deli for lunch and catered banquets for dinner. They met the man who ran against Clinton for governor of Arkansas and the former tax preparer for John Lennon and Paul Simon. "We had such a wonderful time singing in beautiful churches and enjoying food and fellowship with all these really interesting people. I never realized what a variety of people and cultures we have right here in the U.S.," Serena Howe continued.

Visiting with the host families topped the lists for more than a few students when asked what they enjoyed most. Elena Salvatore said that her most memorable part was "hanging out at all

the different peoples' houses," while Rebekah Waterman listed "meeting the host families and being able to talk with them" as her favorite part. Josiah Bartel added, "I enjoyed visiting with the people at my table at the Synod banquet." Also memorable for students (and faculty!) was being rained off the beach in Florida by a sudden mid-morning thunderstorm, complete with bolts of lightning. (Even those faculty members who may have been trying to avoid the water ended up as wet as anyone!) Later in the day, however, the group went to another beach and had a good swim (well-sunscreened—thanks, Fr. Zwingert!), in the 90 degree, very salty Atlantic. Also mentioned were "seeing the Mississippi," "walking in Annapolis in the rain," "Highlands, NC," and "Woody's buckwheat pancakes."

Everywhere the choir went, they were shown very generous hospitality. One family from the cathedral in Oviedo were brave (crazy?) enough to take the entire choir one night, and everyone got to go swimming (thank-you, Sibleys!). Many churches cooked both dinner and breakfast for the choir; the group was also able to go out for lunch with Fr. King. Thanks to all of the families and the parishes who gave of themselves so freely.

And what about least favorite parts? Rebekah Waterman's tops the charts for excitement-factor. What was the memory? "The alligator singing under my window all night."

The tour was a huge success, enjoyed not only by those who attended the concerts, but equally as well by those who sang. The choir sold CDs and received donations from many of those who attended the concerts and services. When all was said and done, the choir paid for the cost of the trip, which was about \$12,000. Thank you to all the supporters and concert-goers, and especially to all those who provided hospitality on the trip—everyone returned a little rounder!



The Oracle

An Academic Calendar insert for *The Standard*.

Upcoming Events at St. Andrew's Academy for the months of

September & October 2008

Please call the School if you need more information.

Thursday, September 4

Back to School Night!

6:30 pm, St. Andrew's Academy

Come learn, for the first time or again, about the Academy and what your year may look like.

Friday, September 5 & Saturday, September 6
School Work Days

8 am

Monday, September 15

First Day of School

Students should be in their seats in chapel by 7:30 am each day; since this is the first day, they may want to arrive early to get backpacks put away and to be seated in time.

Friday, September 19

Family Lake Day

11am to 3pm, Canyon Dam recreational area.

Bring your own main dish, drinks, and the means to consume them, and a side dish to share. This is a great opportunity for newer families and "veterans" ones to get to know each other!

Friday, October 3

Study Hall

7:30 - 11:30 am

Friday, October 10

Outing - Mt. Lassen

More details forthcoming

Wednesday, October 15

Convocation

6:30 pm. St. Andrew's Academy

Wednesday & Thursday, October 15 & 16

Picture Days

Be sure to comb your hair!

Monday, October 20 - Friday October 24

Special Fall Break - No Classes

Upper School choir students traveling to Synod in Victoria, BC, Canada

Monday, October 27 - Thursday, October 30

Midterm Exams

Thursday, October 30

Colloquy

Our colloquy is a twice-each-term scholarly debate, formal discussion, or presentation. The public is welcome; because of space issues, it is helpful for visitors to call in advance. Topics are announced shortly before the colloquy.

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