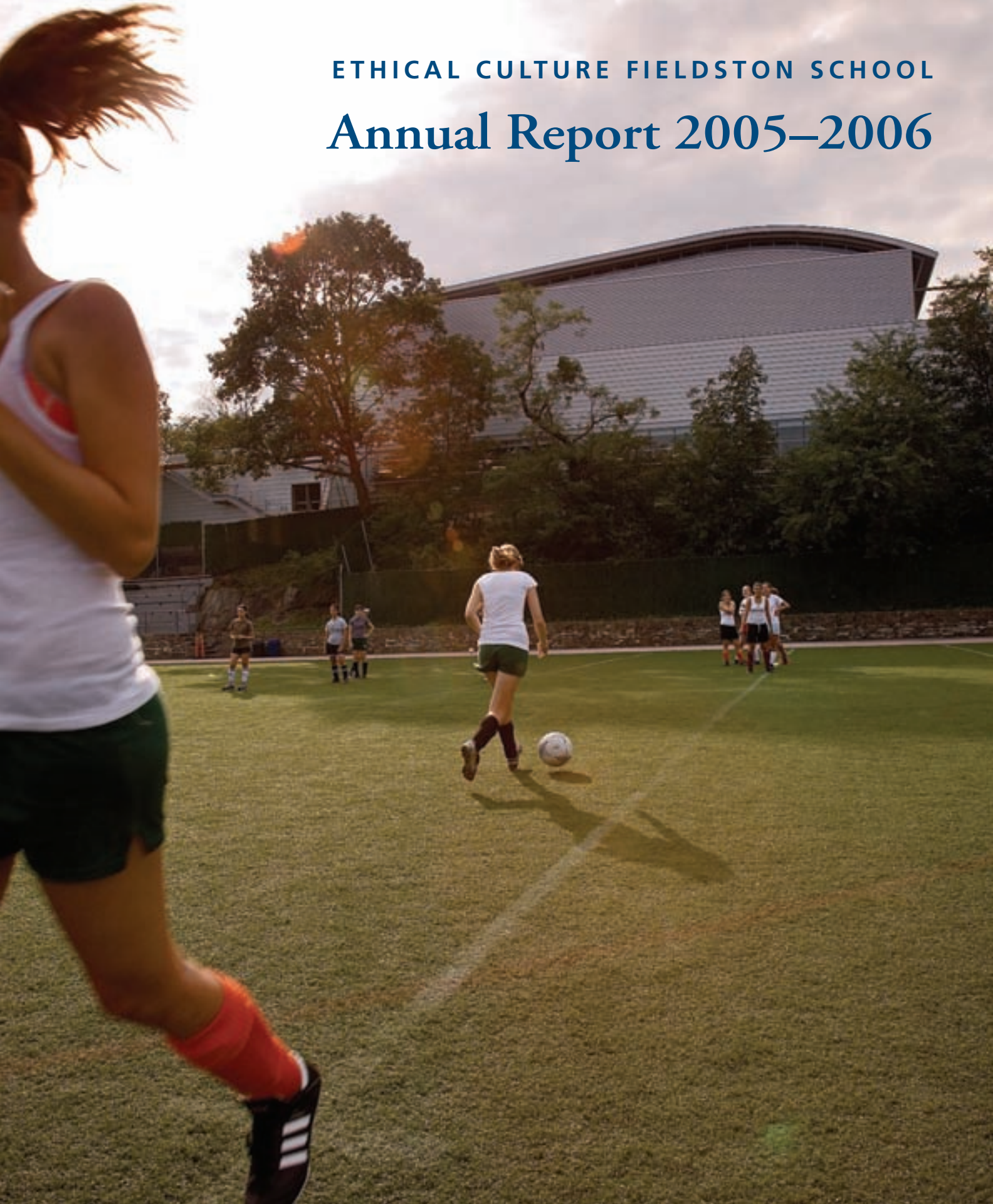


ETHICAL CULTURE FIELDSTON SCHOOL

# Annual Report 2005–2006







## WE APPRECIATE YOUR SUPPORT OF THE ANNUAL FUND!

Tuition covers only 80% of the actual cost of an ECF education, so your contribution supports vital projects all year long. It helps boost financial aid, retain and develop talented faculty, and meet ECF's greatest needs.

## THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL FUND HIGHLIGHTS

- Together we raised \$2.6 million – \$100,000 more than last year!
- Introduction of online giving
- Number of parent agents up 33%
- New parent participation up 12%
- Highest participation – 77% – in Form VI Gift in 30 years

*Every gift counts.*

# THE IMPORTANCE OF GIVING BACK

ONE CONVERSATION that happens a lot in my work is the one that involves alumni talking about their experiences of the school and its effect on their lives. Almost always they describe a positive and important experience. They talk of the impact of the school on their values, on their view of the world, on the issues that shaped their sense of purpose and direction for their own lives. Believe me, it is very gratifying for a head of school to hear.

In the educational world, of course, it's not unusual for people to identify with a school or a teacher or a group of friends that were critically important to them. One of the outcomes of that positive and lasting relationship is that people travel miles to attend a reunion, make sometimes heroic efforts to be with their classmates at important events, constantly write or call or email one another to keep abreast of their activities and families. There is a strong ethic in our culture that reinforces the sense that we should give back to those peoples and institutions that have given much to us. The institutions that shape our life become a focus of our energy and often a focal point for our charity.

This annual report not only reviews the accomplishments of the year, but also celebrates all of you who have given back to the school. As you read through, you'll see the many exciting initiatives that will enable us to maintain our leadership in progressive education. As you browse through the back of the report, you'll also see just how the tradition of community service and ethics is alive and well at ECF, from the youngest to the oldest students.

Naturally, as head of school, I want to encourage your efforts for the year to come, and I especially want to encourage those of you who have been sitting on the sidelines. When I talk with alumni

who are very active in helping the school with its work, they speculate that some alumni feel that the school is "rich" and doesn't need additional help. That is far from the truth, of course; tuition covers only 80 percent of the actual cost of an ECF education, and the annual fund not only bridges that gap, but boosts our critical financial aid budget that supports about 25 percent of our families.

Some others, perhaps as a consequence of being raised with ethical values, argue that the needs of ECF pale in comparison to the greater and more obvious needs that surround us. But I would contend that education offers one of the biggest solutions to the world's problems, and that supporting an ECF education, which encourages its students to tackle critical issues and go out and change the world, offers a unique opportunity to make even more of a difference. Among all the schools dedicated to helping children grow into caring, thoughtful, ethical adults, we have a special place, a special vision, and, I think, a special gift that we give to our students.

In that spirit then, may I urge you to consider among your top priorities this special and unique place that did so much to shape your hearts and minds to do the many wonderful things that you, in fact, do. We are so proud of your accomplishments, and gratified by the way ECF shaped your lives, but we also need your support to help us continue on our journey and educate the next generation of students.



Joseph P. Healey, Ph.D.

*Head of School*





*September 2006: The new pool nears completion.  
Right: September 2005, framework goes up on the pool building.*



**“Education offers one of the biggest solutions to the world’s problems, and supporting an ECF education offers an opportunity to make even more of a difference.”**

# TIME TO REMEMBER



**T**RADITIONALLY we take this opportunity to recount the many highlights of the year passed. This year we want to begin with our greatest sorrow: the passing in late June of our beloved middle school principal and friend, Bill Bertsche. Forever etched in our memory is Bill in his blue blazer, khaki pants, and New York Mets baseball cap, with his never-complaining, always-putting-others-first attitude. He advocated passionately for the unique needs of middle school students, and celebrated with affection and pride all that makes middle schoolers distinctive. Over these past few years Bill had shared with us his wonderful vision for the expanded middle school. He believed that within the middle school, we must have a unique set of spaces, one for each grade where students and faculty would be able to work closely together; he called these spaces “academic centers.” When the new Fieldston Middle School opens in the fall of 2007, you will see those academic centers, one for each grade. In his honor and memory, the board of trustees has chosen to name this concept and these spaces the William N. Bertsche Academic Center.

Throughout this year there were moments that allowed us to challenge ourselves as leaders in independent education and to respond as a caring community. As examples, Fieldston brilliantly premiered the original musical, *un-American Activities*, in March, and throughout the year, there was a fantastic school-wide response, from the youngest to the oldest, to the needs of Katrina victims through many creative initiatives. As a board, we focused our work this year on topics that will shape the future of the school and topics that must be addressed now. Though it hardly seems possible, this is our last year of construction, and the new buildings and renovated spaces are tangible symbols of the exciting program developments of the future. We continue to examine how to keep the school financially accessible – an issue for all independent schools – which is a real priority for us, as is retaining and competing for the best faculty and staff, while supporting present and future program development and facilities improvement.

With this annual report comes a welcome opportunity to formally thank everyone in our ECF community for their commitment to the school, for giving back with gifts of time, talent, and treasure. Your willingness to speak up and volunteer helps enormously in furthering the mission of the school and extending our reach into the larger community. Special thanks go to the collective leadership of our faculty, staff, and administrative team, those who serve tirelessly on school committees and our board of trustees.

With your help, we look forward to accomplishing many great things together in the coming year!

Nina P. Freedman '73

G. Angela Flemister Henry '75

*Co-Chairs, ECF Board of Trustees*

*Opposite page: The new middle school in September 2006. Inset: Bill Bertsche with middle school students at groundbreaking, May 2005.*



# ADVANCING THE MISSION



*Franci Girard '04 returned to Fieldston this spring, greeting art teacher Richard Rudich. She was one of the alumni at a Promises to Keep event, who spoke about the difference ECF made in their lives.*

**W**E ARE DELIGHTED to report that ECF met its annual fund goal of \$2.6 million, our most ambitious goal ever – \$100,000 more than the previous year. This is a terrific accomplishment in any year, but particularly so during the second public year of the capital campaign, *Promises to Keep*.

The annual fund is the heart of the school's advancement program, and this year our community, once again, responded generously. This annual fund provides the critical bridge between what it costs to educate each student and the revenues generated by tuition and endowment income. Full tuition covers only about 80 percent of the cost of educating each ECF student, and we rely heavily on the annual fund to make up the difference.

Many people helped us achieve our goal this year. Special thanks go to Carla Solomon '71, our board co-chairs Nina P. Freedman and G. Angela Flemister Henry, the Form VI gift committee, and our tireless parent agents (up from 38 to 52 this year). Led by the all-school fundraising committee, the P&T sponsored a wonderful party, the Chinatown Chill, in early February, raising about \$43,493 after expenses to benefit the Annual Fund. The students also helped our efforts with two phonathans, and the graduating class of 2005 and their families did an outstanding job raising needed dollars to benefit ECF's Fieldston Enrichment Program (FEP) and the establishment of an Outdoor Classroom. We are happy to point out that the Form VI Gift reached the highest percent of participants in 30 years – a grand 77 percent – and that new parent participation was up 12 percent. These are all statistics to cheer.

The institutional advancement department has worked hard to make sure that giving back comes easy to alumni, parents, and friends of the school. One way was through the advent of online giving on the school website. Instituted five months into the school year, online giving is becoming a popular

way to contribute. Another was through the launch of the special planned giving section of the school website (<http://www.ecfs.org/alumni.asp>). Our planned giving program has been aided immeasurably by Jed Bernstein '76, John R. Firestone '76, Samuel C. Florman '49, Sheila Ullman Goldman '51, Arthur Sarnoff '44, and Rosalind Schoenfeld Singer '42, the advisory committee of our Felix Adler Circle

Throughout the year, the institutional advancement committee of the board of trustees worked successfully to raise both the size and numbers of major gifts to the school. Our thanks go to Robbie Bent, John Beres '81, Tracy Chutorian Semler '82, Ruth Colp-Haber '77, Jon May '84, Greg Racz '87, and Paul Schnell '72.

Between efforts of the institutional advancement department and the new alumni volunteer network (AVN), over 52 special events were held last year, all to reconnect parents, friends and graduates to the school. Led by John Beres '81, the AVN has encouraged alumni from every decade to help with friend-raising, fundraising, and the yearly reunion process. As a result, there has been a dramatic increase in alumni events, from drama parties to private museum tours, dinners, pizza parties, lunches, and even a combined 30th birthday party for the class of 1994.

The *Promises to Keep* Capital Campaign remains in the forefront of our efforts. By the end of June, we had raised almost \$30 million toward our \$52 million campaign goal, raising nearly \$8 million this past year. The campus expansion funded by this campaign is a major architectural endeavor that will help ECF maintain its commitment to academic excellence and expand the realm of learning for each student, now and in the future. It has been exciting to watch the progress on the Fieldston campus – the gym and pool will open in January, the middle school and renovated areas will open in September. We will be reaching out to the community for continued

support for the campaign in the coming months.

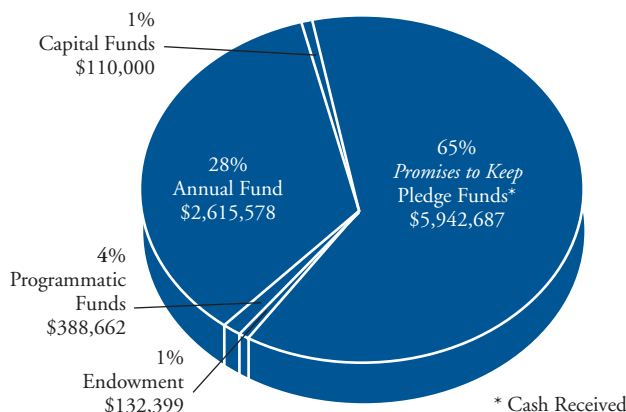
We salute each and every individual who contributed to the annual fund this year. As you review the lists of names in this report, you will notice we have taken special care to recognize those who have given to the fund over the last 10 years or more. We are particularly proud to honor this loyalty.

Laura J. Blankfein '71  
Robert A. Pruzan '81

*Co-Chairs, Institutional Advancement and Alumni Committee*  
*Co-Chairs, Promises to Keep Capital Campaign*



**Gifts to ECF 2005–2006**  
total raised \$9,189,326



# BUILDING THE FUTURE



I AM PLEASED TO REPORT that we are ending our fiscal year for the fifth year in a row with a balanced budget. This year was another year of change and innovation, in a conscious, deliberate, and thoughtful effort to keep us moving forward towards the next five years and beyond.

There were a number of key initiatives this year. We instituted a shift in our tuition policy, to bring all grades to a uniform tuition over the next five years, without penalizing the current parents in grades 1-6. We negotiated our contract with the Faculty Interest Committee (FIC) for the next three years. We also implemented new ways of securing, maintaining, and operating our campuses. After careful study and considering the impact of 100,000 square feet of new space on campus, we hired two professional service companies to provide our security and cleaning and maintenance operations while ensuring that our current facilities workers be hired by the new companies at the same salary and seniority. We also made the move to online stores for ordering textbooks and gym clothing this fall.

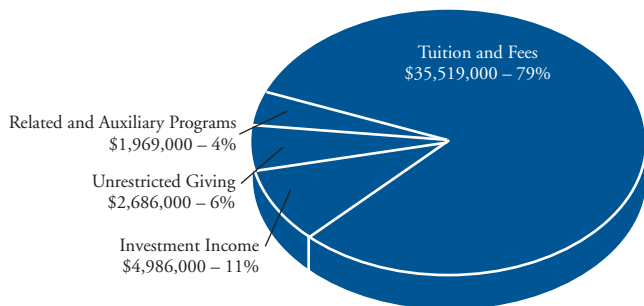
We lived with heavy construction during the whole year, and maintained our summer programs where we had temporarily located them a year ago, using as much of our midtown campus as we could. We continued to improve and maintain our exist-

ing facilities, scheduling them around the campus expansion project at Fieldston. Throughout the school we invested in upgrading our technology infrastructure, including laptops and Smartboards. At EC, we continued to upgrade classrooms by replacing chairs and cabinets; we renovated the kitchen and completed waterproofing the building's perimeter. At Fieldston, we repaired roofs, upgraded windows, and improved the general conditions of our existing buildings. We have also begun to study how we can best use the space that will become available in the existing buildings as a result of the opening of the new buildings and the renovated space.

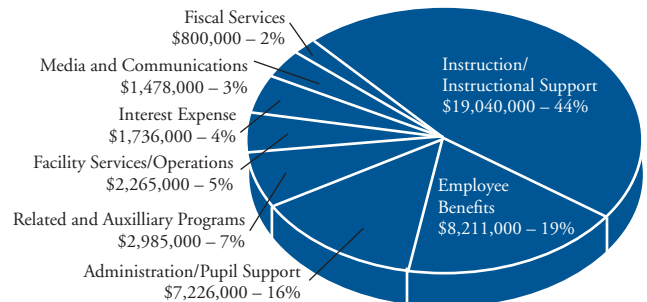
During these last five years, the school has been through remarkable change while keeping stable. By change I mean transformation, and by stable, I mean firm in resolution. This transformation is undeniably visible at the Fieldston campus, where the Campus Project is in its last year of construction. At the same time, we have managed to keep our financial standing strong and viable, and our operations smooth and as "normal" as can be. To a large extent, our resolve has won the respect and trust of our neighbors, and hopefully, our own community.

The fact that we've come as far as we have is a tribute to us all, and I am personally humbled and grateful for the cooperation and support from

Total Operating Revenue \$45,160,000



Total Operating Expenses \$43,741,000



my staff – Helen Fialkoff, Gene Kivlan, Joe Piselli, and Art Thomas, and everyone who works in their departments. Our volunteer board committees have continued to tirelessly guide and support our efforts, and I'd like to acknowledge the buildings and grounds committee, chaired by trustee Brad Wechsler '69; the investment committee, chaired by trustee John Feingold '74; the finance committee, chaired by trustee John Masten; and the audit committee, chaired by trustee Nino Maglioco.

The next five years will continue to test, more than ever, the firmness of our resolve, and our ability to continue to transform. We have to seek and find thoughtful and creative ways to improve and sustain the highest possible quality of life at ECF for students, faculty and staff, while maintaining financial and fiscal responsibility. We will continue to have to make difficult, and more often than not, painful decisions, keeping our mission and Felix Adler's vision alive. And we will.

## Fieldston Campus Project Update

### THE NEW GYM, POOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL BUILDINGS

It's hard to believe that it was only in the summer of 2005, that we started to aggressively embark on our construction activities. We installed all the perimeter fencing and protection around the construction sites, built the temporary construction road from Manhattan College Parkway, and reconfigured the upper parking lots and driveways. When school opened in September 2005, we hired a valet service company to help alleviate the tight parking situation resulting from our construction activities. Between the summer and the fall of 2005, we completed excavations for the pool, the gym, and the middle school, and erected steel in all the three buildings. In an effort to restore natural habitat disturbed by the summer construction activities, last fall Peter Mott, Gene Kivlan, and our volunteers and facilities



*A view of the new middle school building from the Fieldston Lower playground.*

personnel planted 470 native shrubs in the upper parking lot. And despite the heavy rains last fall, we managed to finish erecting steel at the gym and the roof deck was mounted on the pool. The big crane arrived in December, 2006 to help complete steel erection, and by the time we all returned from winter break, we were ready to celebrate the traditional “topping off ceremony” – putting the last piece of steel on the building. This was a wonderful community ceremony held on January 6, 2006.

Through the winter and spring, we started and completed the exteriors of the gym and the pool, installed rooftop air conditioners, and started the exterior walls of the middle school and continued interior work on all three buildings. In May 2006, we celebrated and thanked the work of the various committee volunteers who have helped us get here – the community advisory group, the green committee, the safety committee and the transition committee.

We continued the work of completing the electrical, plumbing and mechanicals as well as exteriors of the three buildings through the summer of 2006. By the time you are reading this report, we expect to be in the midst of completing the exteriors of all the buildings, all interior finishes, and the sitework surrounding the gym and the pool. We are on schedule to open the gym and the pool in January 2007 and the middle school in September 2007. Along the way, we have had to make some difficult changes in design decisions to stay within our budgets, while

remaining true to the principles that have guided us from the start. We have made sure that we continue to be proactively inclusive, communicative, and sensitive to our community’s concerns, within the Fieldston community as well as among our neighbors. We have maintained a safe and secure construction site. We have done our work always in an environmentally responsible way. We are proud of what we have accomplished so far. We are thankful to our volunteers, our building partners, and our benefactors for being with us every step of the way.

### THE RENOVATION PHASE

In the spring of 2006, we hired Stamack Corporation to manage the renovation phase of the project, since Tishman is completely immersed in the construction of the three new buildings. Stamack has had a lot of experience in handling construction at schools while they are in session, including Packer Collegiate. Our renovation phase is indeed monumental and includes the conversion of existing space in the 700s and 800s buildings into the new kitchen and cafeteria; the conversion of the present dining hall into a student commons; an expanded and refurbished performing arts and music space; and the creation of new school-wide admissions offices and a new nurse’s office/clinic. Over the summer of 2006, Stamack started their preparations for the renovation work which is scheduled to begin in earnest during the winter break, 2006 and completed



*On January 6 the final beam for the new middle school was hoisted into place. Earlier in the week, Fieldston Lower students were among those signing the beam.*



by summer, 2007. We will continue to be guided by the same principles we followed throughout this project – pro-active communications, inclusivity and consultations with our communities; safety and security first; and environmental sustainability.

#### **PROJECT FINANCING**

As we reported last year, we are financing this project through a judicious mix of fundraising and borrowing. Of the \$66.595 million we borrowed in June 2005 through the New York Industrial Development Agency, we have disbursed a total of \$39.5 million as of the end of this fiscal year. To date, we have also raised a total of \$28.9 million in gifts and pledges from our *Promises to Keep* capital campaign, of which we have collected \$15.8 million.

Terry S. de Guzman

*Chief Operating & Financial Officer;  
Associate Head of School*

*In May all the volunteer committees – the community advisory group, the green committee, the safety committee and the transition committee – celebrated the progress of the campus expansion with architects, construction team, and staff.*

# CLASS OF 2006: COLLEGE CHOICES

At ECF, looking for the appropriate college is treated as a continuation of a student's education; each is encouraged to be self-reliant and thoughtful, making choices that are individually suitable and challenging. The caliber of this senior class is clearly reflected in the broad range of excellent schools they have chosen.

The following colleges drew the graduates from the class of 2006:



1 American University	2 Columbia @Chicago	3 Princeton University
4 Amherst University	1 Connecticut College	1 Rhode Island School of Design
1 Art Institute of Chicago	4 Cornell University	1 University of Richmond
1 Barnard College	1 Davidson College	2 University of Rochester
1 Barnard/LIST	2 Duke University	1 Simon's Rock College (entered 2005)
3 Bates College	1 University of Edinburgh	3 Skidmore College
1 Brandeis University	1 Emory University	2 Stanford University
6 Brown University	3 George Washington	1 SUNY Purchase
2 Boston University	1 Hamilton College	1 Temple University
2 Bowdoin College	2 Hampshire College	1 Trinity College (Connecticut)
1 University of California/Berkeley	2 Harvard University	1 Trinity University (San Antonio)
1 University of California/Santa Barbara	2 Haverford College	4 Tufts University
2 Carleton College	2 Indiana University	2 Vanderbilt University
1 Carnegie Mellon University	2 Johns Hopkins University	5 Vassar College
1 University of Chicago	2 Macalester College	1 University of Virginia
1 Claremont McKenna	1 University of Miami	1 Washington University
1 Clark University	2 University of Michigan	1 Wellesley College
2 Colgate University	1 Middlebury College	7 Wesleyan University
1 Colorado College	1 Mount St. Vincent	1 Williams College
1 Columbia University	2 Northwestern University	9 Yale University
	2 New York University	
	5 Oberlin College	
	1 Parsons School of Design	
	3 University of Pennsylvania	
	1 Pomona College	

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Joseph P. Healey, Ph.D.

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*Additional Photography*  
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Nathaniel Homer, Diane Silverman

This annual report reflects gifts made to the Ethical Culture Fieldston School from July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006. Every effort has been made to ensure accuracy; should any error have occurred, please call the office of institutional advancement and alumni at (212) 712-6245 with any corrections.

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Anita Haber, *Director,  
Office of Home & School*

Committed to academic excellence, progressive education, and ethical learning, the Ethical Culture Fieldston School has sustained the integrity of Felix Adler's original mission for over 125 years. Founded in 1878, it now serves 1,616 students on two campuses. Its two lower school divisions, Ethical Culture and Fieldston Lower, teach grades PreK through 6; Fieldston Middle teaches grades 7 and 8; Fieldston Upper teaches grades 9 through 12.

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Council  
2005–2006**

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*Head of School*

Beth P. Beckmann, *Associate  
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George Burns, *Fieldston  
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*Parents of alumni: If your children are no longer living with you, please notify the alumni office of their correct addresses. Thank you.*