



Joyce Evans

## CHANGES AT ECF

In early November, Mark P. Stanek, head of the Ethical Culture Fieldston School, informed the board of trustees that he had accepted the appointment as director (head of school) at the Shady Hill School, a progressive PreK-8 learning community in Cambridge, Massachusetts, effective July 1, 2010. He characterized the decision as a difficult one, influenced by the wish to work in a smaller setting (a prek-8 school on one campus) and to return home to the Boston area, where he and his spouse had both worked for years. Stanek will continue to work with the ECF board, administration, faculty and staff on mission-driven initiatives for the remainder of the 2009-2010 school year.

The ECF board of trustees has appointed Joyce Evans to serve as ECF's interim

head of school for the academic year 2010-2011. Evans, who is currently serving as interim principal of Ethical Culture, has a long and distinguished history in educational leadership, including 10 years as head at The Town School in New York City and five years as head at Redwood Day School in Oakland, California. She has served on the board of trustees of the New York State Association of Independent Schools and the National Association of Independent Schools, and many other organizations.

The co-chairs of the ECF board, Laura Jacobs Blankfein '71 and Tracy Chutorian Semler '82, wrote in a letter to faculty, parents, and alumni, "We are saddened by Mark's decision, but we remain fully committed to carrying on the vital work that we have begun together – including, among other items, strengthening our commitment to diversity, addressing issues of affordability and student support, and renewing our commitment to progressive education. We are lucky to have Joyce's great wisdom and expertise. She will work with Mark on the transition."

The board will immediately begin the search process and will stay in constant

communication with the community as a search firm is selected and the search committee is formed. Said Blankfein and Semler, "We are confident that this early start to the process will ensure that we find a candidate who will continue the important work of the last year and a half."

## ALUMNI TALK ACTIVISM AT HEAD OF SCHOOL ROUNDTABLE

On Tuesday, October 6, 25 alumni joined head of school Mark Stanek for a conversation about community service and social activism at ECF. Alumni shared how ethical learning and moral problem-solving influenced their life choices, recalling memorable classes, assignments, and forums. Many said they learned at an early age that their voices

mattered. Stanek talked to the group about the formal ethics curriculum these days at ECF. From first grade through high school, the curriculum adapts to student needs and issues. In the high school students can enter the Community Service Advisory Board program, a three-year course of leadership and service projects, or take elective courses like "Advocacy for Social Justice" or "Ethical Issues in Science." All students must complete 60 academic year hours or 120 summer hours of community service to graduate.

## FIELDSTON ALUMNI CONNECT ONLINE

In April 2009, Toby Himmel, director of alumni relations, and Wendi Huestis in the office of institutional advancement and alumni launched

*From left to right: Mark Stanek with Akin Dorsett '88, Gaby Moss '93, Lauren Wechsler Horn '87, Nero Persaud '90, and Ralina Cardona '88.*



TOBY HIMMEL



## HONORING THE LIFE OF JAKE SHAPIRO '01

On October 4th, the Fieldston community gathered on the lower field to honor the life of Jacob Aron Shapiro '01. Jake was a man of many talents and loves, but one of his greatest passions was the game of soccer. In his memory, alumni of Fieldston and Hamilton (Jake's college), family, and friends played three soccer games, and had a BBQ lunch. His mother, Cathy Shapiro, made a beautiful speech, and everyone in attendance relished the opportunity to hang out, catch up, and most importantly, share memories of their dear friend. Special thanks to Jon Cotton '01 and Will Kiersky '01 for organizing the event.

*From left to right, Will Kiersky '01, Cathy Shapiro, Jake's mother, Jon Cotton '01, and Keith Lee '01.*

the Fieldston Alumni Facebook group, which already boasts 1,069 members, the most robust membership of any independent school in the city. The Facebook group is a fun and casual virtual space for Fieldston alumni to stay in touch, and includes a number of exciting interactive features such as a discussion board, photo gallery, event announcements, and a links section. Noted Huestis, "It's like a cocktail party, a place to find out where alumni are and to share stories."

Himmel frequently adds content to her profile with announcements of events featuring alumni. Facebook was also integral to the success of the Jake Shapiro '01 memorial soccer game. There were no paper invitations, just committee organizers and word of mouth spread through the site.

Under the 'Basic Informa-

tion' section of Himmel's profile, in the 'Looking For' field, she lists "Networking." Indeed, that's one of Facebook's major benefits – an arena where expanding your professional and social network is a happy inevitability. Those looking for another site to do some professional networking can turn to Fieldston's LinkedIn page, which was started by Dave Bunzel '92, and now boasts 202 Fieldston alumni. Recently, alumna Naya-Joi Martin '05, who graduated from Williams College in 2009, reconnected with ECF through LinkedIn; she interviewed and got a job in the office for institutional advancement and alumni as the development assistant.

If some of the lingo is confusing you here (if you're

wondering what it means to 'friend' someone), then consider checking out the site and joining the Fieldston Alumni group. It's simple for Facebook novices and aficionados alike to get started. Just point your browser to [www.ecfalumni.org](http://www.ecfalumni.org), and on the right you'll find a tab including both the Facebook and LinkedIn logos; click the logo of the site you'd like to visit and you're on your way.

## NEW DIRECTOR OF ANNUAL GIVING AT ECF

ECF extends a warm welcome to Teresa S. Weber, who on, November 16, joined the office for institutional advancement and alumni as director of annual giving. Weber, who has worked in philanthropy since 2002, comes to us from Manhattanville College, where she was director of annual giving. From 2006 to

2007, she was the assistant director for Yale College annual giving at Yale University.

Upon her appointment to ECF, Weber noted: "Ethical Culture Fieldston represents the most well-rounded of educations, one where each student is celebrated for his or her unique strengths. To me, though, what really sets the school apart is the value we place on community, service, and social justice. I am so excited and humbled to join this distinctive community, and I look forward to working with everyone here." Weber is a graduate of Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service. She already is familiar with ECF; Weber is married to Fieldston Middle and Upper performing arts teacher Scott Latzky.

