Dr. Evelyn Wiltshire Goodenough Pitcher, whose vision and vitality shaped every aspect of what is now the Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Development, died on June 25, 2004 at the age of 89.

Dr. Pitcher came to Boston from Yale University in 1959 to direct the Eliot-Pearson School at Tufts University, formerly the Nursery Training School of Boston. In 1964 the school became an academic department within the University, and Dr. Pitcher had the formidable task of overseeing this transition. She attended to every aspect of the process: she selected new faculty, designed curriculum, negotiated with university officials, raised funds, erected buildings, and inspired an entire community of scholars, teachers, and students over her 22 year tenure. Dr. Pitcher accomplished this during a time when many in the University did not believe the study of young children was a scholarly pursuit. The early years of the department were enormously generative. In an interview shortly before her death, Dr. Pitcher commented on the “spirit of Eliot-Pearson” during those times: “Everyone believed in everyone else; everyone worked together. The faculty meetings were fun. The sense of companionship was good. We were all working for one goal.”

Dr. Pitcher was a gifted observer of children’s behavior and she taught scores of professionals and parents to do the same. This was particularly evident in her assessment course, which reflected how she thought about children: “The thing that engaged me intellectually was the marriage of development and learning—how they fit together. People referred to [my course] as a testing course, but it could have used any material because what it established was that maturity went along with learning.”

Shortly after Dr. Pitcher became chair, the department received a federal grant to train teachers for the new national Head Start program. She quickly realized that a textbook was needed and in just three months the book “Helping Young Children Learn” was printed and in use, a collaborative effort of
many faculty members. This text—now in its 5th edition—is still in print. Dr. Pitcher was also the co-author of three other books, including one on the development of gender differences, initially inspired by watching her own two young children from her first marriage to Dr. Erwin Goodenough. While traveling on a train through Europe, her daughter Ursula went around “talking to everybody,” while her son Daniel “was trying to figure out how the window mechanism on the train worked.” Interestingly enough, both of them ended up as accomplished scientists.

Evelyn met and married Robert Pitcher when he was a trustee of Eliot-Pearson, and together they were a devoted team of fund-raisers for the school and department. Evelyn always envisioned having a state-of-the-art facility for the study and development of curriculum materials for working with young children. With help from Robert, alumni and friends of the department, she realized this goal in the construction of the Pitcher Curriculum Resource Laboratory. Evelyn recognized the importance of a center in which students could work directly with materials and study their impact on children. At the end of her life she gave a generous gift to the Pitcher Curriculum Laboratory and expressed the hope that some of those funds could be used to serve the community’s children. This past May Evelyn reflected on what the lab meant to her: “I always had the dream of the curriculum lab and the availability of materials. It was my dream and my satisfaction that it came about.”

Dr. Pitcher officially retired in 1981, but stayed on teaching part-time for another nine years, reflecting that Eliot-Pearson was a crucial part of her life: “I felt that it was time for me to leave…but I hated to leave. I loved my job and knew it was something I would do whether I was paid or not, and that’s the way people should think about their work.” In fact, she taught child development courses for many years in her retirement community in Sarasota, Florida.

Many members of the community remember Evelyn and Bob’s two wonderful homes, one in Belmont, Massachusetts and the other in Henniker, New Hampshire. These homes were the gathering place for many delightful departmental occasions. It was Evelyn’s practice never to take work home. When asked about this, she remarked that family life and work must be balanced and “in the evenings we listened to music; we took walks; we read books.” During the years when the Henniker home was an active farm, Evelyn delivered a dozen fresh eggs on Monday mornings to each faculty and staff member. Evelyn spent her last spring in Henniker surrounded by family and friends, and Department members visited her there several times. [See photo this page.] Evelyn was still intensely curious about the department and told witty anecdotes that made everyone laugh.

The department is honoring Dr. Pitcher in several ways. At Tufts commencement exercises in May, Dr Pitcher was awarded the first Eliot-Pearson Lifetime Achievement Award, which was presented to her by Chair, Fred Rothbaum, and was received by Evelyn’s son, Daniel Goodenough. A plaque announcing the award, with photos of Evelyn, will hang in the Eliot-Pearson foyer. A memorial service on September 18 was attended by many Eliot-Pearson community members. Later this year, the community will hold an event in Evelyn’s honor. An informal videotape has been made about Evelyn Pitcher, and includes an interview in which Evelyn reflects on her time at Tufts.

Evelyn Pitcher’s contribution to Eliot-Pearson is immeasurable—not only with respect to her achievements but also with respect to the person she was, one who approached life with tremendous vigor and enthusiasm and a deep capacity for love of people, work, and the exchange of ideas. Evelyn was as direct and inspiring in facing death as she was throughout her life. A few weeks before her death she wrote to a colleague who expressed sadness at the news of Evelyn’s terminal illness: “Do not fret! We all must die, and I am ready. But I’m not eager, and I will review all options to enjoy what I can. I’m eager and ready to do all things.”
With the passing of Evelyn Pitcher, it is natural to take time to reflect on the changes that took place under Evelyn’s leadership, as well as the changes since she stepped down from being chair. Those changes have been mostly about making Eliot-Pearson into an academic and interdisciplinary department – a center for research as well as for training. However, this simple characterization of how Eliot-Pearson has changed and developed misses something essential about EP’s development, namely, that EP’s development has been as much about continuity as it has been about change. Perhaps the best way to make this point clear is to re-visit those features that made Abigail Eliot’s school and training program special, and to see that these very same features are what make Eliot-Pearson special today.

First, Abigail Eliot’s school and training program were grounded in research. Before founding her school, and while at Oxford, she studied the Nursery School movement in England, which was itself a product of research. Health studies in England had shown that most young children of that day were entering grade school with significant health problems. This research led Abigail to include in her school a central health component.

Second, Abigail’s school and training program were interdisciplinary from the start. Trained as a social worker, Abigail made sure there was a strong home-school connection such that parents were helped to be better parents even as teachers were helped to be better teachers. Her staff included both a nurse and a social worker.

Third, Abigail’s school and training program stressed service to those most in need. From the beginning, both the school and the training program addressed problems caused by poverty, disability, and prejudice.

From this brief glance back at what made Abigail Eliot’s school and training program special, we see what makes Eliot-Pearson special today. Eliot-Pearson’s interdisciplinary research and service is rooted, then, not in recent developments but in the original work of Abigail Eliot. Eliot-Pearson’s vision has always been a double vision, a vision looking forward to the future as well backward to its origins. The contributions of Evelyn Pitcher stem, in part, from her having this double vision. So too do the contributions that follow Evelyn.
Every two to three years the Department of Child Development awards the “Eliot-Pearson Award for Excellence in Children’s Media” — otherwise known as “the Abby”. This year the award went to Linda Simensky, Christopher Cerf, Judy Stoia, Kate Taylor, Carol Greenwald and Jacqui Deegan for creating three television shows: “Arthur”, “Between the Lions” and “Zoom”. With the help of Julie Dobrow and senior, Child Development major, Parker Perez, whose CMS project was to coordinate this event, the awards ceremony was held on April 16th in the Stevens Library in the Child Development Department.

All three shows are produced by WGBH in Boston, which should come as no surprise. For years, WGBH has been known throughout the country and around the world for its quality educational programs for children.

All three of the award recipients met the tough criteria used to select nominees for the Abby. Those criteria included the following: appeal to diverse groups of children, positive modeling of relationships, absence of gender and ethnic stereotyping, educational in content, and engaging to parents as well as children.

“Arthur” is based on the series of books by renowned children’s author Marc Brown. It chronicles the life and times of third grader Arthur Read, his pesky kid sister DW, baby sister Kate and his parents. In case you have never had the pleasure of seeing “Arthur,” he is an aardvark.

All of Arthur’s friends are different types of animals so that Arthur’s world is one in which everyone is different even as everyone shares the same or similar values, feelings and experiences. Each episode depicts issues that are common in the lives of children. The clear consensus is that Arthur is cleverly written and beautifully animated.

“Between the Lions” picks up where “Sesame Street” leaves off. “Sesame Street” teaches letter recognition, whereas “Between the Lions” fosters a range of pre-reading skills. The lions who live and work at the library, and the large cast of puppet and animated characters who jump in and out of books at will, teach children vowels, consonants, phonic combinations and a love of literature. Through an entertaining mixture of story, animation, pun and song, “Between the Lions” goes a long way toward making viewers see reading as a fun and attainable skill. The curriculum, outreach materials and website activities are all derived from cutting edge research, which may be why current research projects are showing that “Between the Lions” is helping to advance the literacy skills of students in low income school districts.

“Zoom” is a phoenix. Some may remember “Zoom” from its first life in the 1970s. After being off the air for a number of years, “Zoom” is back again, and better than ever. While “Between The Lions” is mostly for preschoolers and Arthur is mostly for grade school children, Zoom’s target audience is “the tweens. The show uses children only. They are affectionately known as “Zoomers”.

“Zoom”, today, retains some of the best characteristics of the old show (like Ubbi Dubbi), while having much of its on-air activities and ideas come from its current viewing audience. The ethnically diverse and always engaging cast encourages those viewing at home to turn off the TV and try one of the activities demonstrated on the show. “Zoom” is, then, all about interactivity.

A lot of time and care is put into the development of each show, and each is based on best practice and current ideas about how to use television to advance educational and pro-social agendas. Furthermore, each show does an extensive amount of outreach and each prepares excellent educational supplementary materials for use by parents and teachers. Finally, each has a website that serves as an interactive extension of the shows by engaging children in a variety of games and activities.

Anyone involved in the study of children’s media, in advocacy for media literacy, or simply in parenting or teaching children is likely to be a fan of each of this year’s recipients of the Abby. Eliot-Pearson is, then, delighted to add to the EP community Arthur, DW, Francine, Cleo, Theo, Cliffhanger, Gwain, Click; and, of course, all the Zoomers.

Thanks to Julie Dobrow, Parker Perez and the Undergraduate Child Development Association for the coordination of this wonderful event.
Last May, Soondarie Barker received the Department of Child Development’s highest award: the Eliot-Pearson Alumni Award. Virtually everyone agreed there was and is no more deserving person. “In many ways, Soondarie is the essence of Eliot-Pearson,” says George Scarlett, the Department’s deputy chair. “Soondarie goes far beyond teaching children reading, writing and arithmetic. Her teaching is about character and community.” Janet Zeller, Director of the Tufts Educational Day Care Center, where Soondarie now works, agrees. “Soondarie is the essence of Eliot-Pearson because her theories and hypotheses about children and families are brilliantly informed by her practice, and her practice is eloquently informed by her theories.” Betty Allen, former advisor to Soondarie, adds, “Soondarie is just a wonderful person and scholar. She has a rare combination of creativity, intellectual power and enduring kindness.”

Soondarie, who was raised in Barbados, cannot remember a time when she did not want to be a teacher. Both her mother and aunt are teachers, and the large family she grew up in supplied her with ready-made pupils — her three little sisters. Now, the classroom is her natural habitat. “It’s where I feel comfortable,” she says. “It’s where I feel most effective and where I find my ‘flow.’”

After completing her undergraduate work at Harvard, Soondarie completed Eliot-Pearson’s MAT program. But she has not stopped studying. She soon will complete the Department’s CAGS program.

As if continuing her graduate work and full-time job as a mentor teacher in the day care center were not enough, Soondarie is a foster care provider. “When we came to America, my mother really wanted to adopt another child. For the past couple years, we’ve had more than 20 children in and out of our home. We’ve helped to place many other children into the welcoming arms of wonderful parents. And recently, we adopted a child — who is now my seven-year-old sister. I want to be able to help as many children as possible have the kind of life they deserve: the kind of life that allows them the opportunity to use their many skills and strengths to address their challenges so that they become formidable human beings.”

Soondarie feels that the experience of being a foster care provider is a humbling one, “It is amazing to see how, despite the often horrific pasts of these children, they maintain quite resilient characters. They know how to survive. Many of us couldn’t employ their survival strategies if we tried. That is truly amazing. They inspire me, and keep me going.”

Janet Zeller may have summed up Soondarie best: “Twenty-four hours of every day is spent with her eyes on a single prize: the care and nurturing of children, especially children at risk.” No wonder, then, that Soondarie received the Eliot-Pearson Alumni Award.
Marina Bers, Assistant Professor, has been selected as a Faculty Fellow by UCCPS. The project that she will be working on aims to study if and how the integration of a technology that supports the formation of virtual communities purposefully designed to promote positive youth development (i.e. Zora) into the lives of freshman on campus, has an effect in their face to face civic engagement and their long-term success in their academic/social experience throughout college.

Julie Dobrow, Lecturer, spoke on “Beyond Big Bird: Myths and realities of Children’s Television” at this years Tufts Community Day on September 19th.

Ann Easterbrooks, Associate Professor, was recently elected co-President of the Boston Institute for the Development of Infants and Parents.

David Henry Feldman, Professor, was given an award in April, 2003 for “Outstanding Contributions to Graduate Education” by the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences at Tufts. Professor Feldman’s work in advising, mentoring and directing the graduate programs at Eliot-Pearson was recognized as contributing to the excellent reputation of Child Development’s MA and Ph.D. programs nationally and internationally.

During the month of October, Professor Richard M. Lerner presented a talk entitled “Thriving and civic engagement among America’s Youth: Current Finding from the 4-H Study of Positive Youth Development” at the Positive Psychology Summit in Washington, D.C. The presentation was prepared in collaboration with Erin Phelps, Jason Almerigi, Pamela M. Anderson, and other colleagues at the Institute for Applied Research in Youth Development. Dr. Lerner is also the co-convener and organizer of the first of a series of conferences on positive development at the Center for Applied Developmental Science (CADS) at the University of Jena, Germany. The conference is entitled “Positive Development: Linking Individuals, Communities and Social Policies.” Dr. Lerner chairs the board of the CADS.

In September, Dr. Lerner, along with Institute colleagues and students, and colleagues at the Fuller Theological Seminary, Michigan State University, and the Search Institute, submitted a special issue to the Journal of Early Adolescence on the topic of Positive Youth Development. It is expected out in the Spring of 2005. Other recently published works include the Handbook of Adolescent Psychology (John Wiley & Sons), Nature and Nurture (Lawrence Erlbaum Associates), and Liberty: Thriving and civic engagement among America’s youth (Sage).

The Institute for Education Science and the American Psychological Association sponsored an exciting new postdoctoral fellowship program for the first time this year to propel training in large-scale, theoretically based educational research. Each postdoctoral fellow is paired with a mentor who is conducting well-known research in fields related to education. Thirteen fellows were selected across the country, and Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Development will be home to one: Dr. Sasha Yampolsy will train with Professor Maryanne Wolf at the Center for Reading and Language Research.

This past winter, the Center for Applied Child Development Outreach Program held a four-part evening workshop series on the Tufts campus for early childhood educators from Medford and Somerville. CACD Outreach staff and early childhood leaders from the two communities worked together to plan a professional development series focused on how teachers can support English language learners in early childhood settings. Forty educators from Medford and Somerville were invited to participate. Eliot-Pearson Associate Professor Chip Gidney and Children’s School Head Teacher and Lecturer, Heidi Given joined Phyllis Hardy, a bilingual special educator from Framingham, and Shelley Michaud, a kindergarten teacher in the Lawrence Public Schools, to present workshops for the series. Participants completed a reflection project to connect the workshop content to their teaching and received a Continuing Education Unit from CACD. CACD looks forward to future collaborations with the Medford/Somerville early childhood community.

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News of Eliot-Pearson Faculty and Students, Continued....

On November 11-13 three groups from Eliot-Pearson Children’s School are presenting at the annual National Association Education for Young Children (NAEYC) conference in Anaheim, California. The titles of the three sessions are: Center-wide curriculum investigations: using the overhead projector and blocks to engage children, teachers and parents in long-term inquiry (a joint presentation with the University of New Hampshire lab school); Inclusion, balancing special needs and special interests: tackling the hard questions of children, parents and teachers in an early childhood school; and Can two mommies make a family? Can a boy wear a dress? Respecting diversity in the early childhood classrooms—the perspectives of a teacher, parent and graduate teaching assistant. It is a great honor to have this opportunity to share our work with over 30,000 colleagues. Presenters from Eliot-Pearson include Debbie LeeKeenan, Betty Allen, Maryann O’Brien, Heidi Given, David Robinson, Ben Mardell and Elisabeth Anderson.

IN MEMORIAM

Margaret Schirmer, 89, (Eliot-Pearson, MAT, 1968)
a gentle, urgent voice for peace, justice
By Gloria Negri, Boston Globe, 8/19/2004

For decades, Peggy Chirner was a beloved member and the heart and soul of the Greater Boston early childhood education community and Eliot-Pearson is proud to have had her among our alumni.

For most of her life, Margaret (Fellows) Schirmer took part in protests and marches for social justice and peace, making her point in a restrained yet dogged manner that got her arrested only once, in 1987, when she was 72. “Getting arrested for protesting was a very proud moment in Mom’s life,” said her daughter, Abigail of Cambridge, who was arrested with her for trespassing when voicing opposition to Harvard University’s investments in apartheid South Africa.

Mrs. Schirmer, whose final protest — which she attended in a wheelchair last winter — was against the war in Iraq, died of heart failure on Aug. 8 at her Cambridge home. She was 89 and suffered from Parkinson’s disease.

Her lifelong commitment to peace and social justice was a family affair. She met Boone Schirmer, her husband of 65 years, when they were students — she at Radcliffe, he at Harvard — while stuffing envelopes for the politically active American Student Union.

She came to this country in 1938 and worked as a volunteer for the Boston YWCA, investigating working conditions in Boston industries. She also volunteered at the former Window Shop in Cambridge, helping refugees get settled here. She enrolled at Radcliffe to study US history and met Boone.

The couple lived in Boston with their family, moving to Cambridge in 1960. When Boone’s activism took him away from home for a period of years, Mrs. Schirmer worked as a seamstress and was a union representative for the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, negotiating wages and prices for piecework.

When her husband returned, Mrs. Schirmer enrolled at Tufts University in the Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Development, where she earned a degree in early childhood education in 1968, and worked, first as a teacher at Tufts and then as director of the Radcliffe Child Care Center and the Cambridge Headstart program.

Her interest in early childhood education took her many places. In 1970, she went to Mexico to study Spanish and then to Cuba as part of the Boston Teacher Education Project to work with the Cuban Ministry of Education. In 1985, she went to China, the Netherlands, and Denmark to learn about child care in other cultures.

In Cambridge in 1979, Mrs. Schirmer, who had been a preschool teacher, founded the Concerned Educators Allied for a Safe Environment (CEASE), an antinuclear, antiviolence, and antimilitary group of parents, teachers, and concerned citizens.

“She was just a wonderful, strong, quiet peace activist.”

Besides her husband, son, and daughter, Mrs. Schirmer leaves another daughter, Audrey of Montreal; a sister, Judith Bell of England; and eight grandchildren.
Hello everyone! The Child Development Graduate Student Association (CDGSA) is a group of graduate students who have come together to continue to make a difference in the Child Development Department. We are committed to bringing social, service, and academic events to the department as well as becoming involved in university wide programs and opportunities. During the fall semester we will be hosting social events with the faculty members, academic events with alumni speakers, service events to bring holiday gifts to local community members in need, and a wine and cheese party at the end of the semester to congratulate the mid-year graduates. We hope that any graduate students who are interested in becoming involved with the GSA will join us at our next meeting on Wednesday, November 29 at 5pm. If you have any questions before then, please feel free to email me at jessica.saltz@tufts.edu.

Thank you and we hope to see you at our next meeting or some of the upcoming events!

-CDGSA

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**Invitation to a Teachers’ Round Table**

Are you enjoying or struggling with the challenges of teaching in Pre-K to Grade 6 settings?

Would you like to get together with other Tufts alums doing the same?

This year at Eliot-Pearson we are offering first and second year teachers a Round Table opportunity to get together and talk about your experiences in your classrooms and schools. Our aim is to provide collegial support for new teachers, and also to learn from you about the realities of your work as teachers.

The sessions will meet on the first Friday of each month, November through May, from 5:00-7:00pm, in the Evelyn G. Pitcher Curriculum Resource Lab at Eliot-Pearson. You are welcome to attend any or all of the sessions, which will be without charge. Refreshments will be served. Sessions will be hosted by Lab Director Mary Eisenberg, with participation by Marion Reynolds and other members of the Tufts teacher education faculty.

For more information or to RSVP contact Mary Eisenberg; in the Curriculum Lab at 617-627-2829 or by email: mary.eisenberg@tufts.edu

### Dates for 2004-2005

* November 5, 2004
* December 3
* January 7, 2005
* February 4
* March 4
* April 1
* May 6

All meetings are from 5:00 to 7:00pm on the first Friday of the month

Refreshments will be served

Please RSVP by Wednesday (TWO DAYS!) before each session!

*There is no charge to attend these roundtables
A Celebration for Eliot-Pearson graduates and alumni!

graduation and alumni brunch - May, 2004

Sophia Hubbell, R04, and her family.

Cristina Mendoza, R04, and her family.

Rika Nagaoka, R04, and her family.

Jessica Saltz, J04, R06, and her family.

Eliot-Pearson Alums, Pat Schindler, R54, Sylvia Garnett, R48 and Harriet Koch, R48 with Department Chair, Fred Rothbaum.

Eliot-Pearson Alum, Jean Astrup Folsom, R54.

Rosa Ayres, R04, and her mother.
ALUMNI NEWS

Denise Abadi, J’78, has moved to Charlotte, NC with her husband, Michael, where she is currently the Director of the Charlotte Jewish Preschool. She says, “I am proud that we serve so many children and provide the warm, nurturing, unhurried atmosphere where any child can thrive.” Her own children, Sara and Mark, are getting ready to finish high school and to start college.

Jeri School Freels Brower, J’56, is still managing her small training facility in Wellington. She loves her teaching duties, both human and animal.

Susan Butler, R’04, is an Early Childhood Specialist for Child Care Resources Inc, in Union County, NC. She is also teaching a community college class for early childhood educators in Union County (Child Development II), as well as providing on-site technical assistance to child care centers and family child care homes. In addition to that she provides training for early child care professionals and develops and distributes a monthly newsletter.

Emily Ehrenberg, M.S., graduated from Tufts in 1998 and majored in Child Development. After graduating from Tufts, she received a Master of Science in Speech from Emerson College. She is currently working as a speech-language pathologist at Minute Man ARC Early Intervention Program in Concord, Massachusetts. Emily was married to Michael Blumber on October 9, 2004. They got married at Temple Emanuel in Closter, New Jersey.

Susan Gannon, R’78, in the last two years has added a new subspecialty to her coaching practice, ADHD/ADD. She was asked to be on the Executive Committee of SEPTA, Special Education Parent Teacher Association for Mamoraneck Schools. She feels like she has returned to her Eliot-Pearson roots.

Betsy Glaser, J’77, R’79, PhD ’84, is a clinical psychologist practicing in Wellesley, MA. Recently, a former patient of hers, Terry Wise, wrote a book about her treatment with Betsy called “Waking Up: Climbing through the Darkness.” An author, Rabbi Harold Kushner wrote the forward. According to Betsy, “It is an in depth look at Ms. Wise’s recovery from a near fatal suicide attempt and depression. Reviews have been extraordinary.” They have been speaking at a variety of forums promoting suicide prevention and education. “I was the Eliot Pearson Student of the year when I graduated. I have it framed and hanging in my office. I am still most proud of this accomplishment.”

Liz Cranes Grossman, J’81, G’83, is running her own tutoring business in the Washington, D.C metropolitan area. She tutors children from Kindergarten through grade 8 who have learning disabilities, executive functioning disorder, ADHD. In addition to her undergraduate and graduate degrees from Eliot-Pearson, she also got her Master’s Degree in Italian from Middlebury College and the University of Florence in Italy, (1982). She has two sons, ages 13 and 16, and her husband, Jim Grossman, is also a Tufts graduate, A’79 and G’81.

Linda Verduin Hirsch, J’69, “Since 2001 I have been traveling to Cienfuegos and other parts of Cuba, under a license to do Jewish related work. Enthusiastic and proud of my religious and spiritual heritage, using my psychology and photography skills to document and assist a small but feisty Jewish community outside of the mainstream in Cuba was a challenge I welcomed and continue to meet. In 2002, I returned to strengthen the bond between my own congregation and the Jewish community of Cienfuegos. In between trips, I have been in touch by e-mail, through personal couriers, and through a cousin who lives in Havana. I have held several fundraising events to gather support, expand awareness, and stimulate collaborative possibilities. My color and B&W photographs have been juried into national and regional shows, with sales helping to benefit a Cuba fund, established by myself and my husband under the aegis of Congregation Beth El, Sudbury. Monies from this fund provide religious materials, educational, art, cultural, medical, and nutritional assistance and supplies for the Jewish community of Cienfuegos and surrounding areas. In February 2004, I returned once again, this time, together with my husband, Gary, leading a group which included Rabbi Al Axelrad, his son ~ a teacher, cantorial soloist, high school student (who brought his guitar), and 3 older, well raveled Jewish activists. Through a series of Shabbat observances and other activities, we sustained the hope that this community has for living and leaving a Jewish life and legacy. Through my documentary images, I hope to interpret and communicate this story as it evolves. One major development is the upcoming Bar Mitzvah of two of the community’s young men, one of whom is the older son of Rebeca, the communal leader. This was the top priority goal decided upon by the Jews in Cienfuegos, whom we have been proud to successfully assist. Recently, I attended the Houston Foto Fest where my recent prints received encouragement and praise from numerous international photography reviewer. I am actively seeking audiences for slide shows, talks, and exhibitions of this growing body of work.”


Kit Langdon, J’60, has completed her last year of teaching with many ambivalent feelings. She plans to create and record a video of the special children’s music in the classroom. She was married on August 7th in Santa Fe to Jimmy Osterhart. They will be living near Kingman, AZ until they build on some property they’ve bought near Flagstaff, AZ (near the Grand Canyon.) She is hoping to go back to Art classes, study Dahn Han Jujo and sing in Hospital/Hospice.

Laurie Leventhal-Belfer, J’79, It was great to be back on campus last summer with my son, who was looking at colleges, and see the growth of the department. As we approached Eliot-Pearson my children took one look at the playground and knew that this was where I went to school. As I was thinking about what to say, I skimmed over my honors thesis, “The Playroom: A Diagnostic and Therapeutic Environment,” and with amazement realized that my work has not changed that much in the past 25 years. I received an MA at the University of Chicago in 1983 and a PhD in clinical psychology at Berkeley in 1991. Since then I have been involved in clinical work,

Howard and I celebrated our 25th anniversary, our son, Isaac, graduated from high school and will be attending Brown in the fall and our daughter, Jessie, became a Bat Mitzvah. I think of my introductory to Child Development class each year when I teach the Observation of Young Children class at Stanford and assign 2 child psychiatry fellows the task of observing the same child, without telling them!

Mariela Paez, R’95, “I have finished my first year as Assistant Professor of Early Childhood at Boston College in the Lynch School of Education. After finishing my masters in Child Development at Eliot Pearson in 1995, I did my doctorate work at Harvard University and graduated with a doctorate in Human Development and Psychology in 2001. I am currently Co-investigator for a research project entitled “Early Childhood Study of Language and Literacy Development of Spanish – English bilingual students from preschool through second grade to investigate how they develop their dual language skills. I live in Newton, MA with my husband, Miguel and my two children Miguel Juan (3 years old) and Isabella (2 years old). My children make the field of Early Childhood very real and always push me to think in practical ways. I loved reading the Spring news and look forward to the next issue.”

Margaret Picardi, R’75, is currently working for Head Start as an Education/Disabilities manager in New Bedford, MA. “I’ve come ‘full circle’ in my career since I worked in this same job capacity in the mid 70’s in Fall River,” she says.

Iris Rave, J’99, is Founder and Executive Director of Camp Kesem National which is in its fourth year of operation, and kicking off camps at four locations around the nation. The camps are geared to provide a magical experience for children who have a parent with cancer (Kesem means magic in Hebrew). In 1999, Iris landed a job at Hillel on the Stanford University campus. Just a year after joining Hillel, Iris came up with the idea of bringing college students together with children. This idea became Camp Kesem. In exploring the possibilities for her first camp at Stanford, Iris and her team of four students found that the children of cancer patients were especially underserved. The first session of Kesem was held in June, 2001, making dreams come true not just for the kids, but for Iris as well. The next year, students at Notre Dame expressed interest. Today, Camp Kesem can be found at Notre Dame, UC San Diego, Duke, and Stanford. Iris serves as Executive Director of the national organization, doing everything from recruiting volunteers to advising camp directors. More information on Camp Kesem National, and participating campuses can be found at: http://www.campkesemnational.org

Lisa Richtmann, J’87 “My husband and I moved to Winchester, Massachusetts last summer with our twins, Peter and Juliette. They were born February 21, 2003. We are enjoying life with toddler twins; they keep us on our feet! I am teaching French part-time at The Children’s Own School in Winchester, one of the nation’s oldest Montessori schools. I continue to be involved with the planning of the Tufts Foster Children’s Holiday Party. It’s very gratifying to be giving back to the community and staying connected with friends from Tufts!”

Rosa Maria Ares Roman, R’04, was awarded a United Nations Fulbright Fellowship and will be in New York City this fall at the UN working at UNICEF. She will be working on a project dealing with infants at risk. Rosa came to Eliot-Pearson from the Dominican Republic and intends to return there after her fellowship.

Jason Sachs, R’93, in May of this year, Jason who is the Research and Policy Consultant at the Massachusetts Department of education, was elected to the Governing Board of the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

Ellen Thompson, J’81, is working as an Education and Program Manager at Boston’s Children’s Museum. She is also working as a mom to her 12 year old daughter, Remy.

Evan Wecksell, A’01, is currently Program Director of the New York Road Runners Foundation. The mission of the Foundation is to promote health, well being, and personal achievement through participation in the sport of running in New York City communities and populations with little or no access to structured athletic programming. Whether doing administration or working in the field, Evan enjoys making a large impact in the lives of the over 3,000 New York City youth the Foundation serves every week.

On October 2003, ten members of the Class of 1968 gathered together for a 4-day 35th Reunion in Boulder, Colorado. Thanks to the warm hospitality of Diane Merker, a fabulous time was had by all. Not only did we renew old friendships while exploring the region, we also gleefully shared fond memories of Tufts. Equally revealing were stories about family and work. Not counting our own children’s marriages, there have been 9 husbands, 18 kids and 262 plus years of marriage among us, as well as lots of talk about life’s on-going challenges.
Michelle L. Acker
Salima S. Alibhai
Deborah S. Ameele
Dr. Michelle E. Anthony
Betsy J. Arnold
Carol E. Atkins
Virginia S. Atkinson
Stephanie J. Atlas
Teri L. Atwell
Sara M. Ausman
Sheri L. Azer
Kathleen R. Babcock
Nicole M. Bach
Sari E. Bahl
Megan H. Bair
Miriam Alexander Baker
James P. Bandler
Susan Diane Barker
Joyce L. Barsam, Ph.D.
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Barbara A. Bassett
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Deborah L. Bobek
Sandra W. Bondi
Susan R. Bookbinder
Borax Family Trust
James Borax
Jennifer L. Borden
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Ruth H. Brawerman
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Diane E. Brundage-Ray
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Degree and year of graduation: ______________

Send to: Janie Orthey Rockett, Eliot-Pearson Department of Child Development, Tufts University, 105 College Ave., Medford, MA 02155 or e-mail: janie.orthey@tufts.edu

THANK YOU!
Keep In Touch!

Eliot-Pearson maintains an **alumni listserv**. Our periodic email messages include information on department news and events or career and fellowship opportunities.

If you would like to add your name to our list, please contact Janie Orthey Rockett at janie.orthey@tufts.edu. Be sure to include your name, class year and degree.