Allen House renovation to continue this summer

By Christian Cordier ’11

The first all-school meeting of the 2011-12 school year will take place in a sparkling new venue.

This summer Allen Theater and the first floor of Allen House will be totally renovated, the second step in a two-year plan to renovate the entire building.

The project’s architect, Steve Nelson, graduated from Berkshire in 1983 and also helped with the design of the Stewart Athletic Center. The Allen construction is expected to start a week after school ends in May and continue until pre-season next fall, according to Assistant Head of School Bill Clough.

The new plans call for a glass entranceway to Allen and the theater, whose stage will be pulled out and made bigger to allow more space for dance and plays. New green rooms for actors will allow more space to prep and get ready for school plays.

Located in the back of the theater will be a new control room so that director Jesse Howard will not have to run up and down two flights of stairs from the current control room to the stage every time he wants to teach or give directions. The theater will also feature two aisles instead of one down the middle. The seating will also extend to where the fourth formers sit during meeting on the same incline as the rest of the theater. The clumsy folding doors will be replaced by a curtain that can be drawn back for school meetings and closed for performances.

On the second floor, the Barbara Kenefick Learning Center will be redone and added will be two class-rooms for SAT prep and test taking, along with a new conference room. Across the hall, new classrooms for film and theater will be built and the radio station will be renovated and feature large glass windows. Finally, an elevator will also be installed so that the building will be accessible for the handicapped.

Stinson and Associates, a company already employed by Berkshire, will be monitoring the sheep.

Berkshire School is not the first to employ the services of sheep to maintain the landscape of a solar field. SAS, a leader in solar panel technology, is among the companies that already use sheep to maintain their facilities. More than a dozen sheep graze a 12-acre facility in Cary, N.C., owned by SAS.

In fact, SAS claims it employs the only corporate sheepherder in America. Miley Jones is an expert on everything there is to know about sheep and their place on solar farms. Ms. Jones says she likes the idea of having more free time to explore options such as volunteering. With the twelfth longest tenure at Berkshire, she says she enjoys more time with her parents, children and grandchild. She says she likes the idea of having more free time to explore options such as volunteering.

Baa, baa lawnmowers

By Nick Brigham ’11 and Kyle Coven ’11

Next fall Berkshire will welcome its newest maintenance crew: four or five sheep that will graze among the 7,000 solar panels to be placed on East Campus.

This natural alternative to lawn mowers is in keeping with Berkshire’s emphasis on sustainability and environmental consciousness and its efforts to reduce its ecological footprint.

Wil Smith, the liaison between the school and the companies involved with the solar project, says that “we are looking to get four to five sheep from a local farm that will also look after them in the winter months.”

The sheep will go where lawnmowers often could not, to prevent the grass from getting too high and interfering with the functionality of the solar panels.

Located in the back of the theater will be a new control room so that director Jesse Howard will not have to run up and down two flights of stairs from the current control room to the stage every time he wants to teach or give directions. The theater will also feature two aisles instead of one down the middle. The seating will also extend to where the fourth formers sit during meeting on the same incline as the rest of the theater. The clumsy folding doors will be replaced by a curtain that can be drawn back for school meetings and closed for performances.

On the second floor, the Barbara Kenefick Learning Center will be redone and added will be two class-rooms for SAT prep and test taking, along with a new conference room. Across the hall, new classrooms for film and theater will be built and the radio station will be renovated and feature large glass windows. Finally, an elevator will also be installed so that the building will be accessible for the handicapped.

Kenefick Learning Center Director Kristina Splawn said “all the KLC faculty are excited to have bigger office spaces and classrooms.”

“I am very excited about the renovations, which will allow us more space to do what we do at a higher level,” says Mr. Howard of the theater and film space.

“This will give the station a more professional look and make our deejays proud,” adds WBRL faculty supervisor James Harris.

Assistant Head of School Bill Clough says that “Allen was ready for a renovation, just as Berkshire Hall was ready for a renovation. We want to have a space that acknowledges and reciprocates the talent of the people who will be using it.”

Meanwhile, residents of Allen’s second and third floors are very happy with the results of the renovation to the dormitory last summer. One tenant noted that the dorm went “from a haunted house to a five-star hotel,” while Jack Hughes, a four-year resident of the building, said that “Allen has always been the best dorm on campus, and it is finally getting the recognition that it deserves.”

Veteran faculty, staff moving on

By Michael Procida ’11

Faculty members Kate Garburt (math), Virginia Watkins (English), and Laura and Steve Soden (math and ceramics), along with longtime staff member Judy Ullrich, will leave Berkshire in May.

The five are leaving for vastly different reasons. While Mrs. Ullrich heads for retirement after twenty-years in the school book store, Ms. Garburt will embark on a new career path, Ms. Watkins will spend more time with her children and teach yoga, and Mrs. Soden teach at Greenwich (Conn.) Academy with Mr. Soden helping more at home.

A native of Sheffield, Mrs. Ullrich says she will stay in the area and enjoy more time with her parents, children and grandchildren. She says she likes the idea of having more free time to explore options such as volunteering. With the twelfth longest tenure at Berkshire, she says see the school change and grow.

continued on page 2
Ms. Watkins

Among her favorite memories was recording a radio commercial for the Bookstore with her coworker and best friend, Martha Williamson. Mrs. Ulrich says she will miss “working with the kids—the kids are the best part of the job.” Mrs. Williamson says that over the years, she and Mrs. Ulrich have become “the best of friends, almost like twins. We can finish each other’s sentences and read each other’s minds.”

The Sodens have been at Berkshire for five years in a variety of roles. Mr. Soden has taught ceramics and English and has been the house head of both Stanley and de Windt and a dorm parent in de Windt, the head varsity football coach, a thirds hockey coach, and a track coach. A math teacher, Mrs. Soden has also been a dorm parent in Stanley and Godman and house head of Godman and has coached crew, recreational skiing, volleyball and basketball. She is a Junior Engineering Technical Society advisor and a regular advisor. They say they will remember all the people here and the connections with other families with children the same age as their daughters Lucy and Caroline, who were both born here. They will also carry fond memories of Winter Carnival, the Piattelli Dinner, and Sage Dining Service’s infamous General Tiao’s chicken.

The wife of English teacher A.J. Kohlhepp and the mother of Ali and Max, Ms. Watkins says she will spend more time with her children, volunteering, teaching yoga at Fusion Yoga in Great Barrington, and focusing on writing. Like the Sodens, Ms. Watkins noted the strong sense of community at Berkshire. She says she will miss teaching here because it gives more of a connection to the community and the constant contact with students. Ms. Watkins said that “the students are the life of the school, and once contact is lost you don’t feel a part of what’s going on.” Ms. Watkins says that in her ten years of teaching at Berkshire she has felt she has learned more then she has taught. Evan Clary, head of the English department, said in an email to the English department that Ms. Watkins’ “work in the Center for Writing, with burgeoning creative writers, and especially with a certain kind of student who gravitates toward and benefits from her magnanimous and nurturing spirit will be sorely missed.” Mr. Clary told this reporter that working with Ms. Watkins was edifying and that her wry sense of humor made her a remarkable teacher.

Mrs. Garbutt will be forging ahead outside of the “Berkshire bubble” to find a new life, in a career outside of education in a more corporate setting. Ms. Garbutt hopes to land a job in which she can use her excellent mathematics skills, such as market research or consulting. Unlike all the other departing personnel, Ms. Garbutt doesn’t want to stay in the East. Instead, she hopes to head West to work in San Francisco, Boulder, or Vancouver and re-establish connections she has developed while earning her B.S. from the University of British Columbia. Ms. Garbutt says that while she will miss the teachers, students, and the mountain, the thing that has made a lasting impression on her is the sense of community among the faculty members. “It will be hard to find anything that will compare,” she says. Mr. Bujaklin, who has known Ms. Garbutt for the four years they have been here together, said that Ms. Garbutt was “the perfect blend between colleague and friend,” adding that the math department is losing a valuable teacher and a good role model for young females. The person to follow her will have big shoes to fill.”

Wednesday schedule may stay

By Trevor Mingoia ’11

The new and improved Wednesday academic day schedule is causing a lot of commotion throughout the Berkshire School community. When asked what the reasoning behind this new schedule was, Mr. Smith responded with, “To break the cadence of the monotony during the winter months that tend to be long. It was a good little break. I do believe that it has been effective, and students seem more refreshed than usual.”

Will it stick throughout the rest of the year? According to Mr. Smith, “It is not official until the faculty meets and discusses this, but I have a feeling that it is going to stay.”

After asking many students what they thought of about the situation and there was nothing but good and positive talk about the schedule. Coming from sophomore Sam Brown, a Philadelphia native, “I like it because I get to sleep later and not having meeting is a plus as well. I get a better night of sleep so I am not going through first period in a drowsy state.”

“I go to bed even earlier now knowing that I am going to get an extra 45 minutes of sleep and that helps me concentrate in my classes better. It is much easier to wake myself up and go to breakfast now that I can get more rest too,” says Steve Puffer.

“I like the new schedule, but I am on duty Tuesday night so I do not get to take full advantage. The kids in my class act pretty much the same to me so I can’t really see a difference,” says Mr. Blauss.

Mowers

continued from page 1

happy with the work that the sheep do to maintain the fields, they do an excellent job, and we have not had to use machinery for over a year.”

Carolina Solar Energy is another company that uses sheep to maintain their solar farms. According to Ariel Schwartz from Fast Company the sheep at Carolina Solar Energy “grubble up weeds around the solar panels to keep them more receptive to the sun. Believe it or not, they’re more effective at trimming weeds than traditional landscaping equipment, as they can stick their necks out into hard-to-reach nooks and crannies.”

When asked their opinion on whether or not the sheep will be successful in keeping the grass short enough for the solar panels to be efficient, Berkshire School faculty member R.G. Meade and sixth-former Scott McMillian were both very supportive of the idea.

Mr. Meade said: “I think it is a good idea to use sheep as lawn mowers. Using sheep not only fits in with the history of the school because Berkshire School was built on a farm, but unlike lawn mowers sheep won’t send debris flying into the panels.”

Scot was also in favor of using sheep to maintain the fields. “Why wouldn’t they be good at eating grass? They’re sheep.”
The Godman bridge, which has been closed to foot traffic since last spring, is still blocked by caution signs and boards under two feet of snow. The bridge itself was removed last fall.

According to Tim Fulco '78, director of facilities management at Berkshire, the permitting process is the reason for the delay. He says that thirty years ago at Berkshire, bridges were built without any permits. Since the Godman bridge is considered a public bridge, the school has to get paperwork approved and signed by Sheffield's building inspector in order to get a building permit.

He says that once the snow melts, construction will begin. Also scheduled for replacement is the de Windt bridge, which was closed for two days in December. “There were mats placed on the metal bridge, but with all the moisture from the winter, the mats started to eat away at the metal,” said Mr. Fulco.

Meanwhile, residents of MacMillan and Godman have suffered the most from the delay. “I have to wake up earlier and leave Godman earlier to get to class on time because the bridge is out,” says third-former Jackie Pape.

A third new bridge, this one for both vehicular and pedestrian traffic, is also on the horizon. According to Mr. Fulco, a bridge will be built over Glen Brook to connect the new math/science building with the upper end of the driveway above Chase House and north of MacMillan.

Berkshire School failed to finish first in the Green Cup Challenge this year. But don’t blame the Jackman Stewart Athletic Center, which uses more energy than any other building on campus.

In fact, the building, which wasn’t built when Berkshire won the GCC in 2008, actually helped Berkshire’s chances, according to Director of Sustainability Frank Barros.

The Green Cup Challenge is based on a school’s electricity reduction, comparing electricity use in February to the average use in February over the past three years. The average February use in the past three years in considered your baseline,” says Mr. Barros. “When the Jack was first built, we were not managing the energy use very efficiently. We are doing a much better job now, so it makes us look better.”

But, Mr. Barros, added, eventually that first year of the Jack will not be included in Berkshire’s baseline. “Once that happens, it will be very difficult to get that much over 1 or 2 percent decrease in electricity, until we start targeting energy efficiency more intentionally on our campus,” he says.

Mr. Barros says his sustainability class has audit sheets for other buildings on campus and plans to audit the Jack so suggestions can be made for even greater energy savings in the massive building.

The Jack, which opens daily for housecleaning at 4 a.m. and closes at midnight, currently uses over a third of the school’s total electricity, according to Mr. Barros. John Alden, Berkshire’s chief financial officer, says that Berkshire’s total electricity bill runs over $700,000. We finished in the top 20, which is very good because we have been competing for many years and it is never easy to reduce energy use.

Motion sensors, triggered by motion and noise, control most of the lights inside the Jack. Some lights throughout the building are set to stay on for many years and it is never easy to reduce energy use.

Despite Berkshire’s no winning the GCC, Mr. Barros is encouraged. “We’re competing against over 100 schools and posted at number 15 and 30 minutes, according to Director of Facilities Manager Tim Fulco. Despite Berkshire’s no winning the GCC, Mr. Barros is encouraged.

“We’re competing against over 100 schools and posted at number 15 and 30 minutes, according to Director of Facilities Manager Tim Fulco. Despite Berkshire’s no winning the GCC, Mr. Barros added that “the fact that you have to login to the site is annoying,” said fifth-former Connor Pelkey. Sixth-former Lexi Palladino added that “the fact that you have to login to the site and then the email and Moodle is too repetitive. I hope they can make it easier.”

Third-former Ian Rasmussen noted that “the Web site is nice, but I don’t like how the sign in doesn’t take me straight to my email.”
Out of their element
By Jake Farrell '12

Olivia Morrow of Jamaica, Jason Shrubb of Bermuda, and Alexander Arjoon of Guyana are experiencing one of the most severe Berkshire winters in recent memory. The Green & Gray recently checked in see how they're doing.

A wedding under the mountain
By Katie Kernnode '11

On January 27, while most of Berkshire was struggling to get through the heart of winter, Ms. Rodriguez and Mr. Bjurlin were sharing a table for two in a French restaurant, celebrating a new development in their long-established relationship.

Introduced in the summer of 2003 by coworkers at the law firm where they both worked, Mr. Bjurlin and Ms. Rodriguez had their first date at a particularly frigid May 2004 Chicago Cubs game, which Ms. Rodriguez describes as a date that "should have been a total disaster."

"Everything went wrong," she says, "or rather I should say I was a nervous fool and somehow left my purse at work," which unfortunately held essentials such her ID, house keys, and money.

Ms. Rodriguez says that Mr. Bjurlin drove her back downtown at the end of the night to get everything she had forgotten. Ms. Rodriguez describes as a date that "should have been a total disaster."

"It made us realize we stood and to what lengths we would go to make it work." In Ms. Rodriguez' eyes, "it made us realize we turned out to be a "nice test of what we could withstand and to what lengths we would go to make it work."

"We've enjoyed making a life here at Berkshire," Mr. Bjurlin says, "and we're excited to take the next step in our relationship and start a family here."

How do you feel about snow?
Olivia: The first snowfall is about the only one I enjoy. After that it's just a long wait until the spring.
Jason: I have nothing against snow its more than I know that when there is snow that means its going to be cold, and I am no fan of the cold.
Alex: I don't like the fact that you have to wear lots of layers. Every time you enter a building you have to take them off and when you leave you put them on again. It's a hassle.

What do you miss about the weather back in your home country?
Olivia: The weather is always warm, so you never have to worry if your hair is going to freeze when you walk outside.
Jason: Knowing that it will never get below 50F and if for some unknown reason it does, the whole island will come to a stop.
Alex: Walking around in just short pants and a t-shirt.

What are your favorite activities in the snow?
Olivia: I love skiing and had the chance to go up to Vermont with my family over February long weekend.
Jason: I'm a big fan of sledding. Sand isn't the best for sledding so I hadn't done it much before I got here. It was a fun surprise.
Alex: I don't have any favorite activities in the snow. I rather stay indoors.

What are your favorite activities back home?
Olivia: Spending time with friends and family and just enjoying the warmth before I have to come back to cold weather up here.
Jason: Studying, of course.
Alex: Spending time with friends and playing squash.
Opinions

Obama budget a joke: Republicans don’t do much better
By Matt Steiner ’12

Last month, the Obama administration released its proposed budget for the 2012 fiscal year. While many around the country have clamored for deficit cutting measures, the president’s budget would mark the fourth consecutive year with a $1 trillion annual deficit.

Now Ms. Obama, if you just lost sixty-two seats in the House of Representatives and are on the verge of losing the Senate in two years, let alone the presidency, don’t you think that it’s time to listen to everyday Americans who have told you to put the breaks on spending?

Instead, the president thought that a five-year cap on spending would be enough to satisfy the public, a move that citizens of Middle America see right through. So much for the fiscal responsibility, Mr. President. Well, I guess it’s safe to say that we knew all along that the president’s “Bill Clinton style rhetoric” since the midterm elections was far different from his “FDR lite policies” in reality.

While it’s certainly safe to say that Mr. Obama’s budget brings no fiscal responsibility to the federal government, Congressional Republicans are just as laughable. The House GOP set out to cut a measly $60 billion from the federal budget, a far cry from the nearly $1.6 trillion annual deficit. Worse yet, nearly every member on the right side of the aisle refuses to even lay a finger on defense spending.

But the real question is, what was all the hubbub from the left over the Republican budget about? It wasn’t that Democrats felt that more cuts were necessary. In fact, it was that they screamed and whined over trimming the budget by two tenths of a percent, and yes, two tenths of a percent. Now I bet I could cut two tenths of percent off my own human body from my fingernails and nothing would happen, but I guess Democrats like their pedicures.

Matt Steiner is the host of The Liberty Hour Friday night at 7 on WBSL.

Problems with parietals
By Jessica Powell ’11

Over the years it has become increasingly harder for friends of the opposite sex to hang out using parietals without rumors spreading about flings on the horizon. The strict rules governing the hours in which two students of the opposite gender can hang out in dorm rooms create a divide among the community and causes these hours to be categorized for students who are romantically involved.

The rules are instilled to provide private time and should never be used romantically, but with the strict rules, it causes simple hang-out time to become awkward. Not only does this cause a divide in co-ed relationships, but also tempts students to sneak around.

Berkshire senior Kendall Joyce agrees that the strict rules throughout the community make normal situations awkward. She says, “If you go over to a buddy’s house to watch a game, it’s normal to just hang out. Here it’s like, ‘Oh, my gosh, they’re dating.”

Along with limited freedoms regarding parietals, we are also denied privileges that are stated in the handbook, such as receiving parietals in the fall. This past year we were given parietals in late January despite being on good behavior. Berkshires parietals are as follows, “Fifth and sixth-former parietal privileges will begin in the fall, after the Head of School has spoken to the School and outlined the School’s expectations with regard to student conduct. House Heads will also go over the procedures listed below to eliminate confusion about the details of signing in. Fifth and Sixth-form students must sign a contract stating that they understand the School’s expectations regarding this privilege before visitation privileges may be used. Fifth and Sixth formers may visit each other’s rooms from 7:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. on Saturdays and from 3:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. on Sundays.”

Westminster and Hotchkiss have similar parietal rules to Berkshires, but with the extra freedoms of using common rooms at any time to hang out with others. As long as there is supervision from a faculty member who checks in occasionally and the door is open, Westminster students can invite as many visitors as they want to a dorm room. Natalie Biedron, a junior at Westminster, says, “Last year there were boys who during parietals would have dance parties and anyone who was a junior or senior would go and just have this fun, relaxed hang-out going on in their room.”

With slightly relaxed rules, students can interact and feel more comfortable with monitored privacy. Peter Briggs, dean of students at Westminster, confirmed Natalie’s comment, adding that “there must be a cap. We don’t want it to turn into a party. There is not a written rule, so it is up to the discretion of the dorm parent.”

At Taft they refer to parietals as “interdorming” policies. According to a junior girl at Taft, senior students of the opposite sex have permission to study with their classmates in their rooms during study hall hours from 7 to 10 every night by filling out a sheet or notifying a teacher. Dan Murphy, corridor head at Taft, says that both seniors and juniors can interdorm from 9 to 11 on Saturday nights and juniors can interdorm one hour every other night of the week. Unlike Berkshire, freshmen and sophomores have the opportunity to “interdorm” on Sundays, Wednesdays, and Fridays for one hour. The common room is open to all visitors of the opposite sex all hours of the day as long as students are hosted by members of that dorm. Although policies are still strict, the rules give Taft students the ability to work together as friends in a private environment and to feel more relaxed in opposite-gender situations to benefit the community in a healthy, safe, responsible way.

Overall, the community would benefit from slightly relaxed parietal privileges or at least privileges that cater more towards students who want to study or simply hang out as friends.

The “dress code experiment”
By Marchesa Bergman ’11

The latest experiment on campus doesn’t include a chemical equation or intricate math problem. Rather, it concerns what Berkshire students wear when they attempt to solve such problems.

For years, Berkshire has been plagued with inconsistency between the dress code for boys and girls. Consequently, at a recent all-school meeting Associate Director of Admission Jean Maher challenged the girls to reconsider their dress code, noting that it concerns what Berkshire students wear when they walk into Berkshire Hall.

“Conversation amongst faculty” had reflected a need for change. As a mother of two Berkshire students, she says it is important for girls to give the shorter end of the stick. As one third-former said, “It doesn’t seem fair that the girls seem to be given the shorter end of the stick. As one third-former said, “It doesn’t seem fair that the girls seem to be given the shorter end of the stick.”

She promised that at the end of this trial period she would have a clearer understanding of girls’ dress code, but with the extra freedoms of using common rooms at any time to hang out, it is difficult to prove once and for all, that “dress code does matter” at Berkshire.

“Dress code should set a tone to help prepare students for their lives (as Berkshire’s motto sets the tone of Pro Vita—learning for life).” She also remarked that Berkshire students are “professional, athletic and personal areas of life should be distinct, by way of different outfits.” Mrs. Maher noted that this has been an issue apparent for some time, but rather than dwell on why the issue had not been resolved, she sought to answer why dress code is so difficult to follow?

As the Dress Code Experiment hopes to clearly prove once and for all, that “dress code does matter” at Berkshire. “Dress code should set a tone to help prepare students for their lives (as Berkshire’s motto sets the tone of Pro Vita—learning for life).” She also remarked that Berkshire students are “professional, athletic and personal areas of life should be distinct, by way of different outfits.” Mrs. Maher noted that this has been an issue apparent for some time, but rather than dwell on why the issue had not been resolved, she sought to answer the pertinent question: Why is dress code so difficult to follow?

As the Dress Code Experiment hopes to clearly prove once and for all, that “dress code does matter” at Berkshire. “Dress code should set a tone to help prepare students for their lives (as Berkshire’s motto sets the tone of Pro Vita—learning for life).” She also remarked that Berkshire students are “professional, athletic and personal areas of life should be distinct, by way of different outfits.” Mrs. Maher noted that this has been an issue apparent for some time, but rather than dwell on why the issue had not been resolved, she sought to answer the pertinent question: Why is dress code so difficult to follow?
Traditionally, students in advanced journalism are assigned to review the school’s theater productions. And they can be brutal. To wit: writing about a Shakespeare play a couple of years ago, one reviewer wrote, “The play was so bad that most of the students left at intermission and went to study hall.” No such editorial rotten tomatoes were hurled at the recent production of Little Shop of Horrors. One indication of how good it was: Michael Procida liked it!

“I went in, being my cynical self, not expecting much. In my four years I have seen a lot of talented actors and actresses on the Allen Theater stage, but never have I been more entertained.” — Michael Procida ’11

“The play was truly the talk of Berkshire’s campus throughout the weekend despite many exciting athletic events that usually take the spotlight. Well done and congratulations to Berkshire’s theater program.” — Billy Sullivan ’11

“I was impressed with and surprised by the talented singers. It was humbling to see that one school could produce so many great voices.” — Kendall Coyne ’11

“Not only has Mr. Howard revamped the entire theater department, but he has also set the bar higher for Berkshire’s actors. Every member of the cast exudes talent, despite this being the first time on the stage for several of them.” — Jessie Powell ’11

“From the exciting opening to the final fall of the curtain, I never had the urge to open my cell phone or check the time. Truth be told, that is probably the best review I can give to any show in this media-obsessed world. Without a doubt, this is the most expertly put on school play that I have ever seen.” — Marchesa Bergman ’11

“The greatest show to hit the Berkshire School stage since Chicago.” — Viola Clark-El ’11

The Day Boarders
By Alex Perkins ’11

Going to a boarding school, but not boarding. It just doesn’t sound right. Going to boarding school is supposed to be a whole new experience than going to a regular school, where you still live at home.

Have any of you boarders ever wished to be a day student here? Getting to go home every day, no study hall at night, no strict campus rules, seeing friends from home regularly.

There are at least three students at Berkshire who have lived in both worlds.

Max Babigian, a senior in his third year at Berkshire, began as a boarder in Allen. Following that year, he decided to become a day student, and he has once again jumped the fence to be a boarder for his final year here.

“I prefer being a boarder,” says Max. “Living on campus means I’m surrounded by my friends most of the time, and I also think it’s easier for me to do better in school.”

Max, who lives in the neighboring town of Salisbury, Conn., says he misses going home whenever he wants, and thinks day students get away with everything.

“When you’re a day student you can always be late and out of dress code. Then day students get snow days too, which is fun.”

The biggest thing Max misses about being a day student? “Mom’s cooking is so much better. No offense, Mike.”

Chris Bowman, in his third year as a Berkshire student, was a boarder as a freshman.

“I like being a day student, because there are less rules and we get to sleep more,” he says. Chris says he misses some aspects of his boarding life, but would still rather be a day student. “Being a boarder gives you a bit more of a social life, so there is a good and bad with both, but overall I’d rather be a day student.”

Four-year senior Georgia Johnston, who boarded as a sophomore, prefers being a day student. “I have my license now, so it’s a lot more fun. I don’t have to eat, sleep and spend every minute of my life at Berkshire anymore. I also get to have a life.”
Valentine Vignettes

At eight a.m. on February 14th, Green & Gray reporters roamed campus in search of love stories. Here are three they returned to class with.

Never Boring
By Christian Cordier ’11, Kendall Coyne ’11, and Jake Farrell ’12

It was New Year’s Eve twenty-two years ago when our very own head of school, Mike Maher, proposed on a snowy night at the Econo Lodge in Burlington, Vermont. The night started off at Gutterson Fieldhouse, where the Catamounts were in a holiday hockey tournament. Between periods the couple had to return to Econo Lodge to walk their puppy, a Siberian husky named Misha. On that walk Mr. Maher asked his now-wife, “Just wondering if you would want to marry me,” while glancing at his watch to make sure he wasn’t late for the second period of the Catamounts game. To top everything off, Mr. Maher said to Mrs. Maher, “I can’t promise you a lot, but I can promise you it will never be boring.” Mrs. Maher says he has lived up to that promise to this very day.

Going on a decade
By Nick Brigham ’11, Kyle Coven ’11, and Alex Perkins ’11

Kelley Bogardus doesn’t celebrate Valentine’s Day because she believes that romantic days can happen at any time, and should be unexpected. Her most romantic memory is that of her husband’s wedding proposal. The day before Mrs. Bogardus went to England for the summer while working at Taft, her current husband Mr. Bogardus took her for a walk through the fields on the campus. At first Mrs. Bogardus did not know of his intentions, but quickly realized he was proposing to her. The wedding took place on August 18, 2001, at Holderness School. Today, the Bogarduses are living happily as they enter their 10th year as a married couple. This story goes to show that any day can be romantic, and that you don’t always have to wait for Valentine’s Day.

Goodbye Diana, hello Laurie
By Colin Chang ’11 and Billy Sullivan ’11

In the summer of 1989, Dary Dunham decided to accompany “a new female acquaintance who had designs on me,” a boat-builder named Diana, on a group adventure to New Brunswick. Sitting by a fire on the banks of the St. John’s River, Mr. Dunham, who was divorced after twenty-two years of marriage, overheard one of the women talking about Lake Forest, Ill. Mr. Dunham’s son was dating a girl from Lake Forest, enough reason for him to start a conversation with the woman. “We became very close, and I asked her if she wanted to spend a weekend with me back home,” says Mr. Dunham, with a big grin on his face. To his surprise Laurie offered to stay with him for two weeks. The rest, as they say, is history, and today the two are happily married.
Two winners, kids at a castle, and a mountain girl

Congratulations to Kellogg Travel Grant winners Clay Splate and Maggie Taylor, pictured with Mrs. Maher.

RKMP worker Grace Fowler ’13 is wrapping up the winter season with tubing for maple trees.

The Green & Gray reporters at the John Dewey Academy in Great Barrington.