

2008-2009

Sarasota / Manatee
Debutante Program

Invitational Tea

March 16, 2008



Miss Elyse Noelle Dalabakis



Miss Rachel Genowefa Dawson



Miss Grier Ferguson



Miss Vera Shigemi Higgs



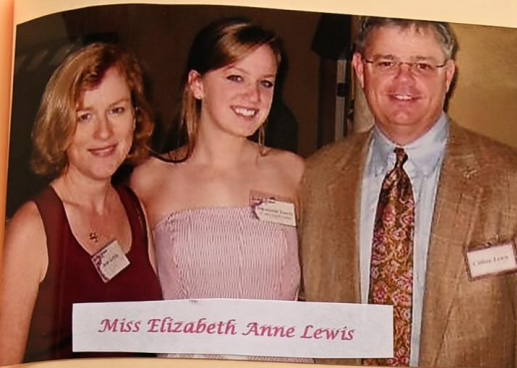
Miss Monica Maria Kelly



Miss Brittany Alexandra Khleif



Miss Christine Leigh LaFrance



Miss Elizabeth Anne Lewis



Miss Melanie Marie Mercurio



Miss Sandra Michelle Montalvo



Miss Jenna Leigh Nales



Miss Kristy Landers Neidernfuer



Miss Kara Catherine Norton



Miss Lauren Alexandra O'Neil



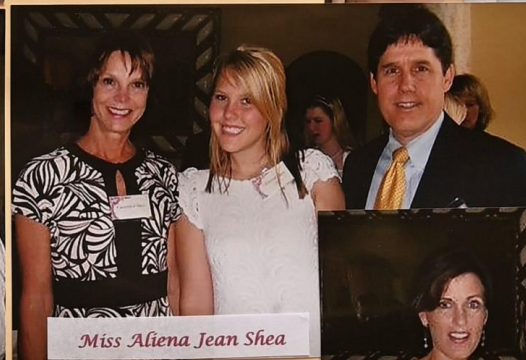
Miss Sarah Louise Platt



Miss Brooke Amelia Saba



Miss Lauren Alexandra Schroeter



Miss Aliena Jean Shea



Miss Maria Elaine Suliminski



Miss Allison Olivia Walters

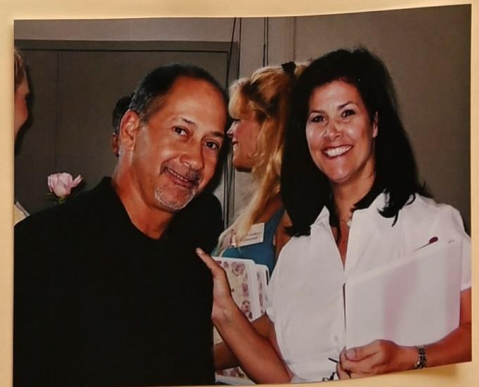


Miss Shelby Larkin Webb



*The Debutante Committee
Requests the pleasure of your
company at the
Debutante Orientation
Sunday, the thirteenth of April
four to six o'clock in the afternoon
Symphony Center/David Cohen Hall
709 North Tamiami Trail
RSVP
Ms. Britney Serbin 234-2239*

*Attire
Mothers & Daughters
Suit or afternoon dresses and heels
Please, no short skirts, spaghetti straps
or slip dresses
Fathers
Sport jacket & tie
Please, no collarless shirts*







Please join us for the
**Mother / Daughter
 Dessert**

Thursday Evening
 May 1st
 7:00 – 9:00 pm

At the home of
 Mr. and Mrs. Edward Valek
 2919 Pony Lane
 (Forest Lakes)
 Sarasota, FL

Dress: Dressy Casual

Please bring your favorite
 Dessert to share

Regrets only:
 Robin Serbin
 350-8579





Check Your "Debutante Etiquette IQ"?

- When you receive a gift card for your birthday from your grandmother, how do you immediately respond?
 - Go shopping of course!
 - Drop her a note in the mail or give her a quick call to say thank you.
 - Say to yourself, "That was nice of her," but wait to say thank you at Christmas dinner. After all, she sends you gifts all the time and that'd be an awful lot of phone calls and thank you notes to make.
- You're at a restaurant with an old friend and your cell phone rings. It's your boyfriend. You...
 - apologize for even having your phone out of your purse and on the table, turn it off, and go back to your conversation. He'll leave a message.
 - say "Excuse me, it will just be a moment," and answer your phone
 - take the call and chat away. After all, why would your friend mind? It's lover boy calling.
- You're at a restaurant with an old friend. You've forgotten your manners and left your cell phone on. You hear the familiar sound telling you have a new text message. You...
 - say "Excuse me, it will just be a moment," and answer the text.
 - grab your phone, read the text, and immediately start texting back. After all, you can do two things at once!
 - Even though it's hard to do, you ignore your phone. That text message will be there when lunch is over.
- Lunch is finished with your old friend, and you desperately need some lipstick and powder. You...
 - excuse yourself to the "powder room" to freshen up.
 - quickly apply some gloss at the table and leave it at that.
 - pull out your compact, apply your lip liner and lipstick, and finish off with a light dust of powder.
- You're attending a casual dinner at a friend's house. Do you bring anything?
 - Yes. You bring your famous, elaborate-to-make dip, and prepare it at their house.
 - No, you wouldn't expect someone to bring something if you were throwing a party, so why would I bring something for them.
 - A nice hostess gift should do the trick, along with a thank-you note afterwards.



Personal Conduct: May 1, 2008 – February 14, 2009: All Debutantes and escorts are required to act honorably and with due regard to high standards of personal conduct; if a Debutante becomes an embarrassment to the Debutante Committee or the Florida West Coast Symphony due to her personal conduct, that Debutante will be withdrawn from the Debutante Program, (for example – but limiting the discretion of the Committee: objectionable photos (of you) or statements (attributed to you) on electronic media, expulsion from school, criminal offense.)

Before the party –

Invitations:
Rsvp ASAP (If your answer changes, call the hostess immediately as well as your escorts)
An invitation is not a "ticket" - It is "non-transferable"

Dress:

Theme? Consult your parents and escorts regarding costumes for the evening. When planning your outfit or costume for a Debutante party or event, as well as what your escorts and parents will be wearing, you remember to keep the following guidelines in mind:

- No exposed cleavage
 - No bare midriff
 - Shoes must be worn
 - Skirts/shorts must cover the upper leg
- Noncompliance will result in you being asked to leave the party

At the party –

Arrival and departure:
Coordinate transportation to and from the party with escorts and parents. A Deb and her escorts arrive together and leave together. Period. You should arrive no later than 20 minutes after the stated start time of the party and remain at the party until at least 15 minutes before the stated ending time stated on the invitation. No re-entry. Remember to thank your hosts and hostesses as you depart.

Party Conduct: speak and act like a lady. When in doubt, choose to be more polite than you think could ever be required.

Food –

- use utensils unless you are sure the food is finger food
- Chew with your mouth closed
- Do not overload your plate in the buffet line. Do not eat in line
- Use a napkin
- Don't play with food
- Do not remove any party decoration unless specifically asked to do so

Dancing – Remember that Debutante parties are multi-generational, "PG" events, and you don't want to be responsible for anyone feeling uncomfortable. Nothing you do on the dance floor or anywhere at a party should embarrass or shock Deb parents and grandparents, or members of the Deb Committee. If you miscalculate your actions and an adult request that you change your style of dance, you must comply with the request or you will be asked to leave the party.

Electronics – Simply stated, it is rude to talk to others on the phone, listen to personal MP3 players, or text while in a social setting.

Zero Tolerance Policy re: alcohol/drug use. If you miscalculate this area, you will be removed from the Program.

After the Party:
Thank you notes. Thank you notes. Thank you notes.

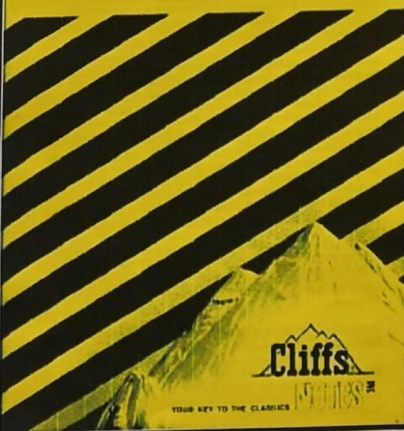
Question about any of this? Call Mrs. Boedecker, 955-8369, or email her at jboxes@comcast.net.

CLIFFS NOTES on

54.95

You Are What You Post:

MySpace, Facebook,
and other Electronic Media
Connect You with Infinity





Debutante Dads and Escorts

Please join John and Valerie Schaub, Escort Advisors,
and members of the Debutante Committee at the

Escort Orientation for the 2008-2009 Debutante Season

Sunday, August 17, 2008

4:00 – 6:00 PM

At the Florida West Coast Symphony Center

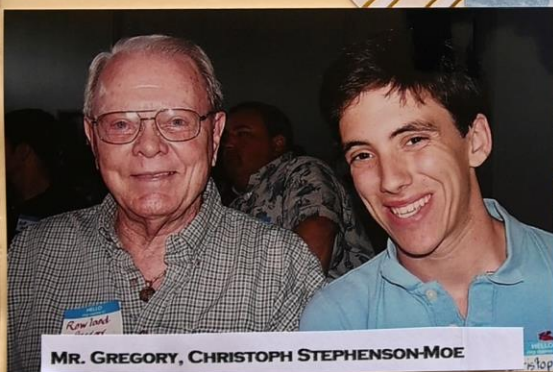
Directions to the symphony center on the back of this page

Dressy casual: collared shirts, no jeans, no flip-flops

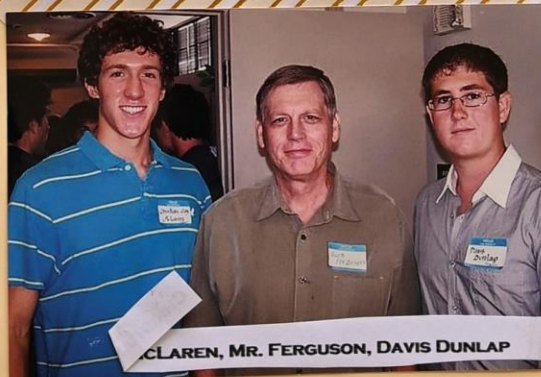
Light refreshments will be served

R.S.V.P. to Mrs. Schaub, by August 15th
941-365-0813 or Vjdavis519@aol.com

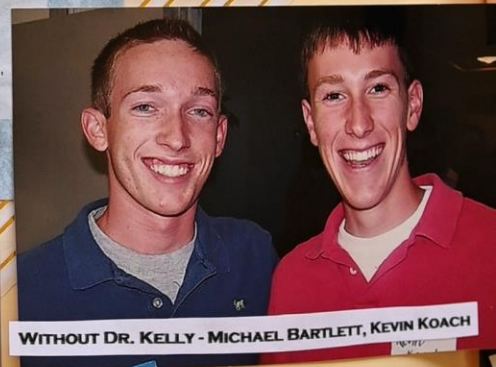
The Debutante Committee is an affiliate of the Florida West Coast Symphony.
All funds raised benefit the FWCS Youth Orchestra programs.



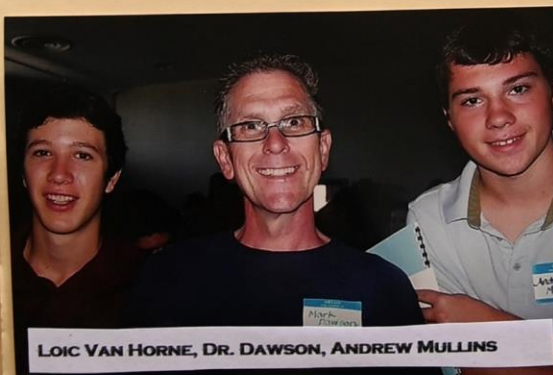
MR. GREGORY, CHRISTOPH STEPHENSON-MOE



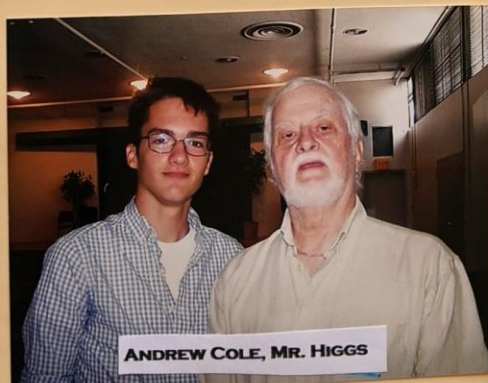
McCLAREN, MR. FERGUSON, DAVIS DUNLAP



WITHOUT DR. KELLY - MICHAEL BARTLETT, KEVIN KOACH



LOIC VAN HORNE, DR. DAWSON, ANDREW MULLINS



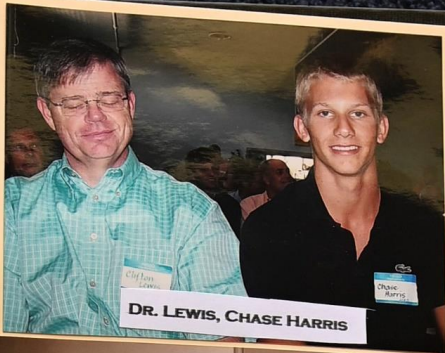
ANDREW COLE, MR. HIGGS



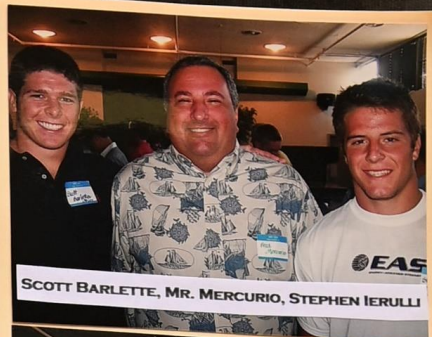
LOGAN STAR, MR. KHEIF, ALEX HOLBERT



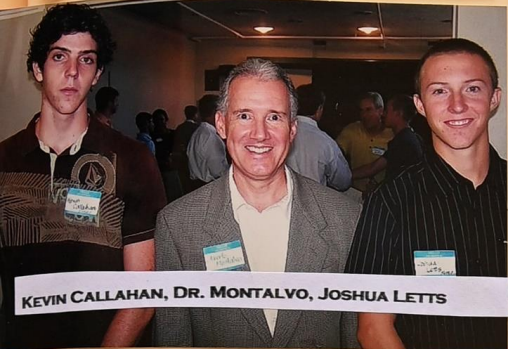
OUT MR. LAFRANCE — STEVEN LAFRANCE, TONY GURRY



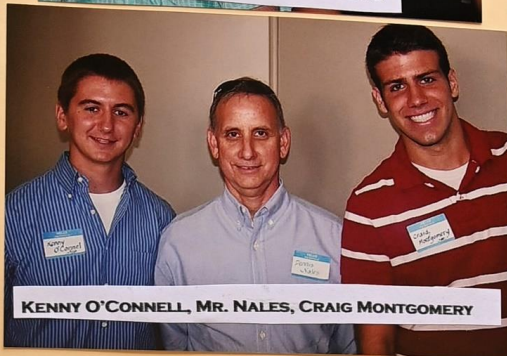
DR. LEWIS, CHASE HARRIS



SCOTT BARLETTE, MR. MERCURIO, STEPHEN IERULLI



KEVIN CALLAHAN, DR. MONTALVO, JOSHUA LETTS



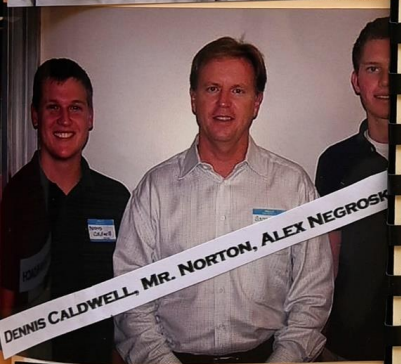
KENNY O'CONNELL, MR. NALES, CRAIG MONTGOMERY



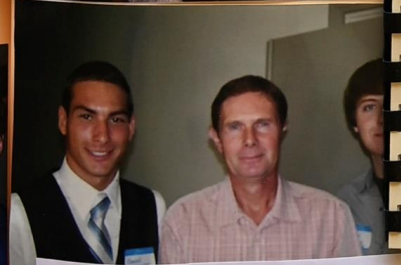
CHRIS GOLDSTEIN, MR. NIEDENFUER, GRIFFIN VALENTICH



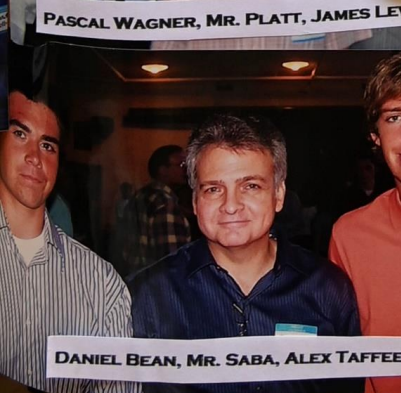
JEILL - JAMES FALLON, DAVID GOOD



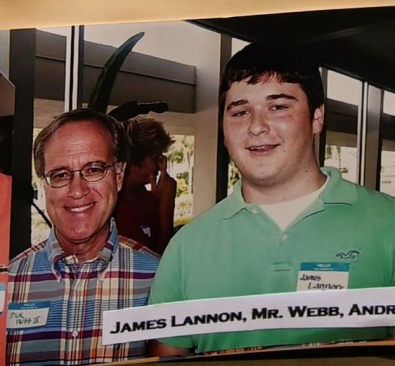
DENNIS CALDWELL, MR. NORTON, ALEX NEGROSKI



PASCAL WAGNER, MR. PLATT, JAMES LEWIS



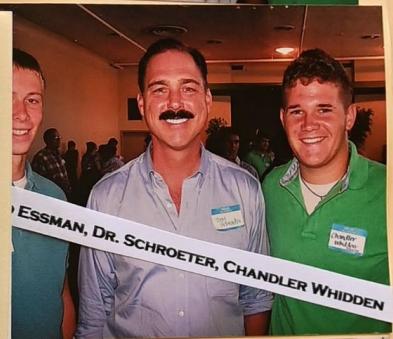
DANIEL BEAN, MR. SABA, ALEX TAFFEE



JAMES LANNON, MR. WEBB, ANDREW SCHNEIDER



PATRICK MURPHY, MS. WALTERS, REED LEEING



MESSMAN, DR. SCHROETER, CHANDLER WHIDDEN



RYAN MCCOMB, MR. SHEA, CRISPIAN GREEN

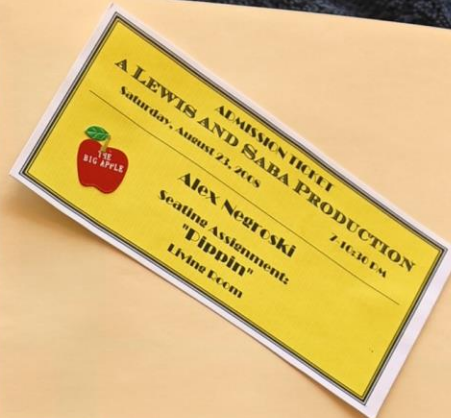
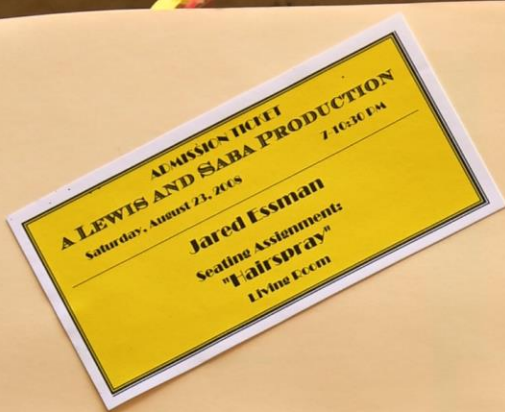


ERIC HAMLET, MR. SULIMIRSKI, NATHAN KAILIN

RESPONSIBILITIES AND GUIDELINES FOR DEBUTANTE ESCORTS

2008 – 2009

*The Debutante Committee
of the
Florida West Coast Symphony*



It's Opening Night as the curtain rises for our
2008 Debutantes...

Join
Lizzy Lewis
and
Brooke Saba

for an evening of dancing, food and fun
Broadway-Style!

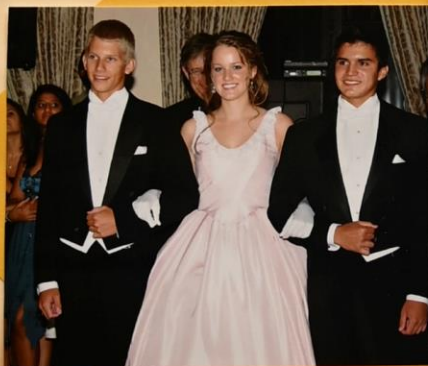
Saturday, the twenty-third of August
The Field Club
1400 Field Road
7-10:30 PM

The Footlights are Calling!

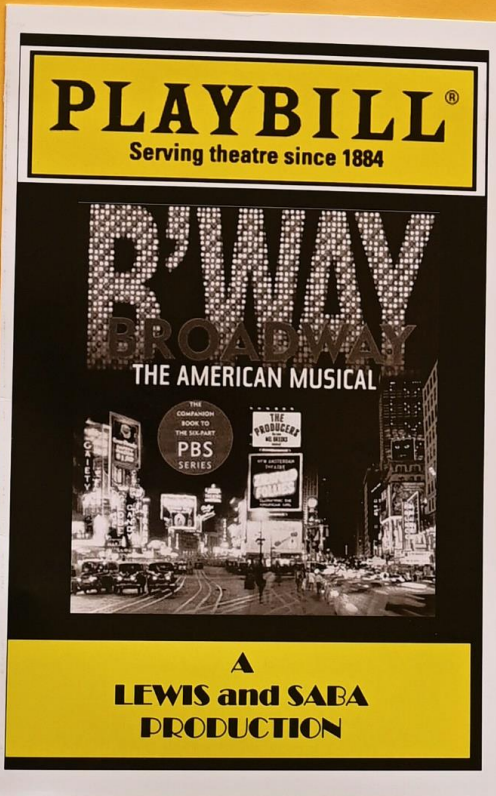
Dress:
Lizzy and Brooke will make their stage debuts as the stars
of *Phantom of the Opera* and *Wicked*.
Please choose any of your other favorite Broadway
characters, or NY Chic (black, of course) or cocktail attire

Kindly respond by August 13th to Mrs. Clifton Lewis
953-4653 or slewis0357@aol.com

Guest list at the door



ADMISSION TICKET
A LEWIS AND SABA PRODUCTION
 Saturday, August 23, 2008 7:10:30 PM
Jack Corry
 Seating Assignment:
"Les Miserables"
 Online Room

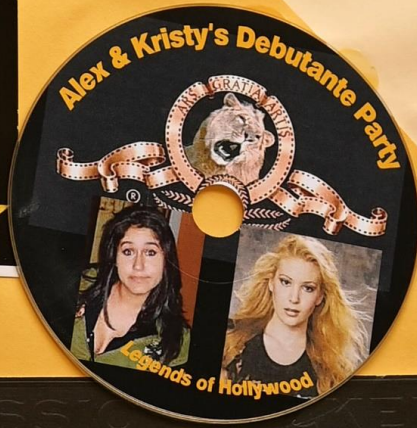


ADMISSION TICKET
A LEWIS AND SABA PRODUCTION
 Saturday, August 23, 2008 7:10:30 PM
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lindsay
 Seating Assignment:
"Tidder on the Ever"
 Commemorative Room





Alex
and
Kristy's
Debutante
Party



DATE: AUGUST 31st, 2008

SHOWTIME: 7:30-11:00 pm

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND
A DEBUTANTE PARTY
IN HONOR OF

Alex B. Khleif
and
Kristy Landers Niedenfuer

AT: THE CHELSEA CENTER
2506 GULF GATE DRIVE

ATTIRE: YOUR FAVORITE MOVIE CHARACTER,
OR OLD HOLLYWOOD GLAMOUR

RSVP: BY AUGUST 10th
JUDY: LANDERSMILE@AOL.COM
MELIN: 941-928-9989

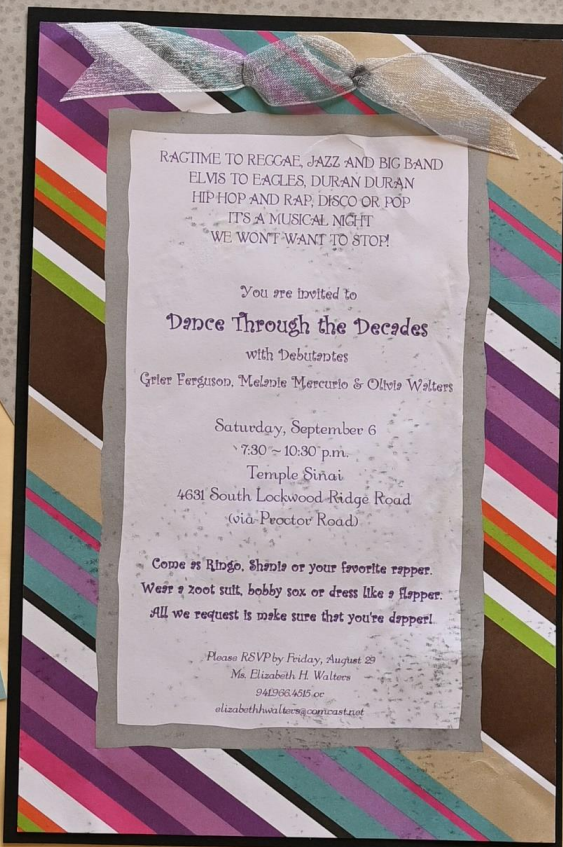
HOSTED BY: TOM NIEDENFUEER,
JUDY LANDERS NIEDENFUEER,
ROD KHEIF AND
MELIN KHEIF

HOORAY FOR



HOLLYWOOD









BOOM!

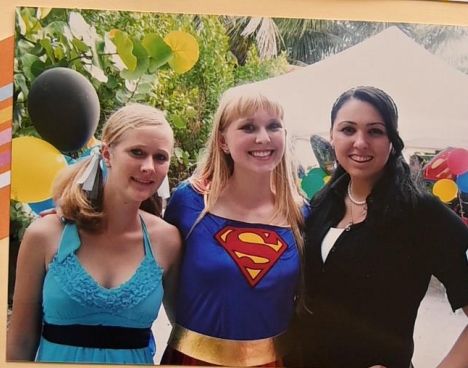
WHAM!



KAPOW!

ZOK!





The Debutantes....
Lauren Schroeter
Rachel Dawson
Sarah Platt

**WELCOME YOU TO AN EPIC
BATTLE OF HEROES
VERSUS VILLAINS**

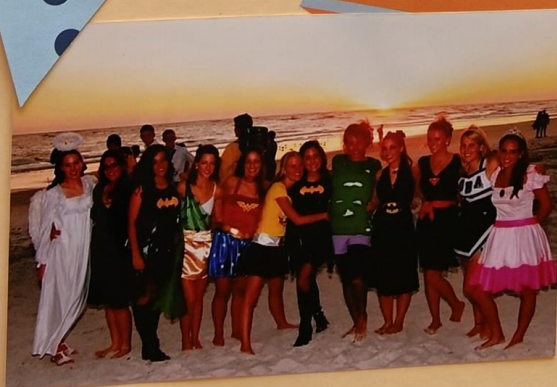
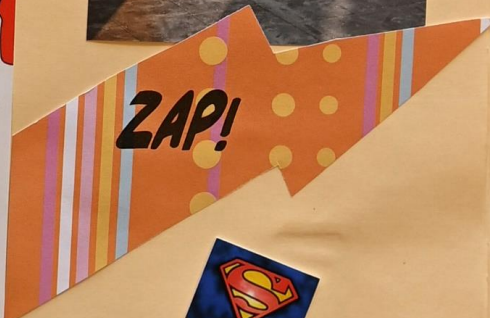
Which side will you choose?



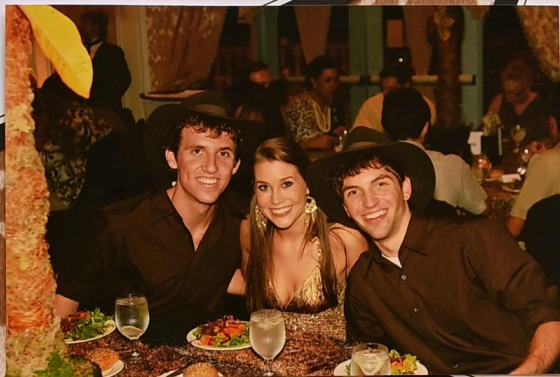
When: September 14th from 6pm-9:30pm
Location: Sandbar Restaurant/Wedding Pavilion
on Anna Marie Island
Attire: Your favorite Superhero or Villain

RSVP by September 5th
To Marilyn Schroeter at mslks@aol.com or
941-545-7777

*Front Image attributed to the artist Francis Manapul from the
issue Superboy and the Legion of Super-heroes #224



**MONKEY
BAY**



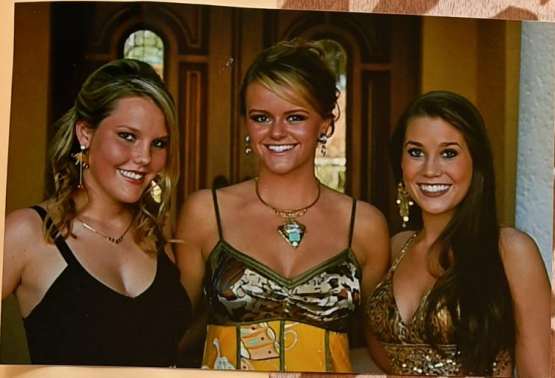
**BANKS OF
THE MIGHTY
ZAMBEZI**

SERENGETI



**VICTORIA
FALLS**





Calling All Party Animals
for an evening in the jungle
to honor our daughters

Christine LaFrance
Aliena Shea
Maria Sulimirski

Dinner and Dancing
Saturday, September 20, 2008
7:00 - 10:30 pm
Lakewood Ranch Golf and Country Club

Tribal Leaders
Lynn and Tom LaFrance
Cassandra and Norman Shea
Diane and Adam Sulimirski

Roar by September 6th
*923.1698 or sanners7@aol.com

Safari Chic or
Cocktail Attire



Menu

Hors D'oeuvres

*Salad of Field Greens
Dates, Cranberries, Roasted Pine Nuts
Balsamic Vinaigrette*

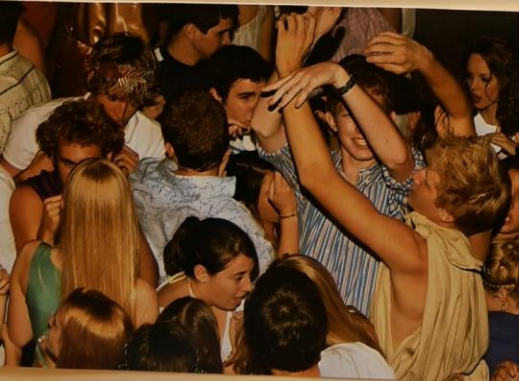
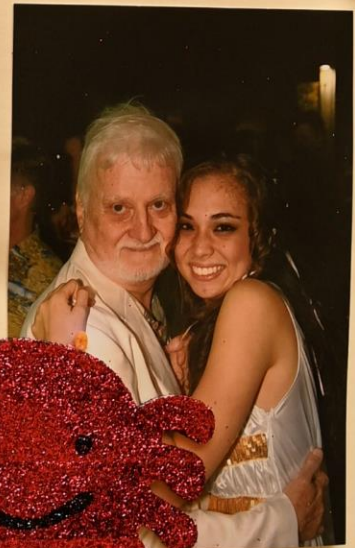
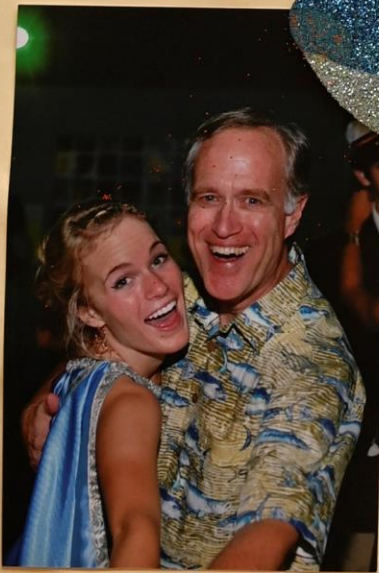
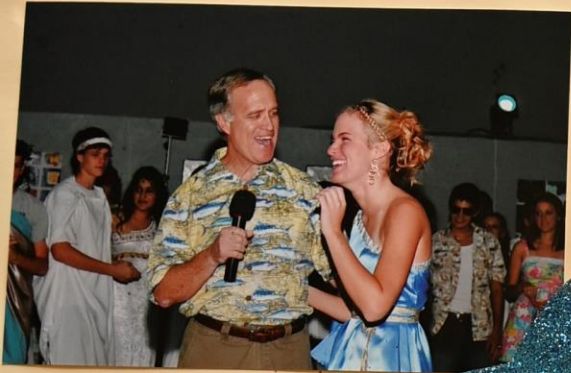
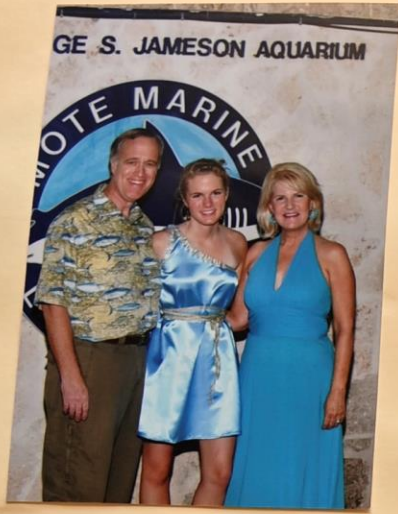
*Mango Honey Chicken with Basmati Rice and Apricot
Roasted Plantains and Asparagus*

Flourless Chocolate Tart with Mixed Berries

Coffee - Tea









Come dive into Atlantis
the city under the sea
honoring the Ocean's 3

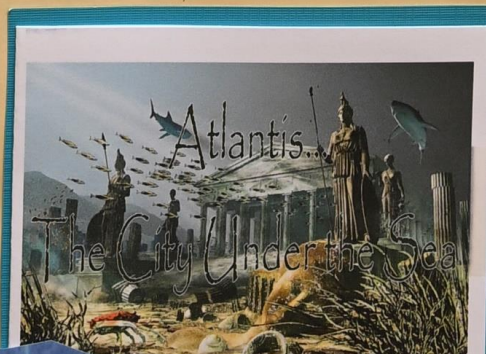
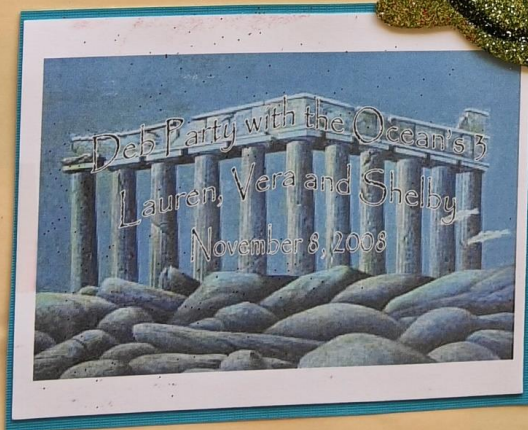

Debutantes:
Vera Higgs
Lauren O'Neill
Shelby Webb

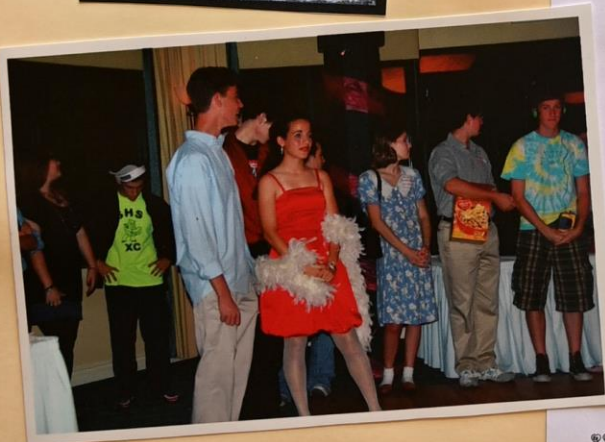
Mote Marine will be the scene
for a magical evening of food and fun
as we dance the night away
in our tropical hideaway

Saturday, November 8, 2008
7:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.

R.S.V.P. by October 20th
to Stacie O'Neill 286-1221
or Onell1221@verizon.net

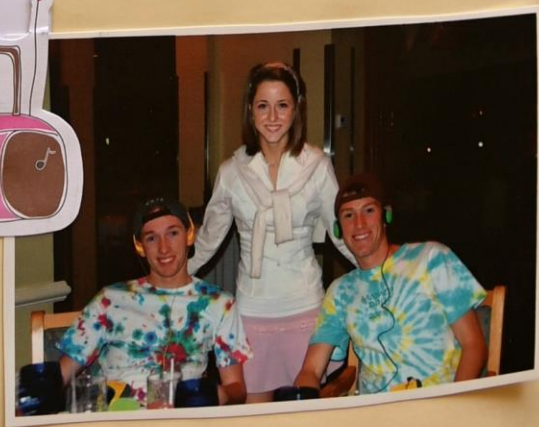
Dress: smart casual island wear
or Atlantis themed wear





Attire
90'S POP CULTURE DRESS
Reference Ideas
 SCARY, BABY, GINGER, POSH, and SPORTY
 •SPICE GIRLS•
 •URTEL CHIC•
 •FAMILY MATTERS•
 •ULTRA PRETTY•
 •CLUELESS•
 •FRESH•
 •PRINCE OF BEL AIR•
 •GRUNGEY•
 •WAYNE'S WORLD•

***Please: As much as the 80's were an era of denim, substitute any jeans for khakis or slacks. And be sure that your attire is appropriate.
 Thank you!



Flower Power

(a 60's Scene)

A NIGHT OF PEACE & MUSIC...

honoring our debutante
KARA CATHERINE NORTON

Saturday, January 31
Hors d'oeuvres • 7:00
Dinner & Dancing • 8:00 - 10:30

Laurel Oak Country Club
2700 Gary Player Boulevard, Sarasota

Jane & Sam Norton

If you're feelin' hip: Hippie chic (Peasant blouses & skirts, tie-dye & bell bottoms)
If you're feelin' square: Cocktail attire

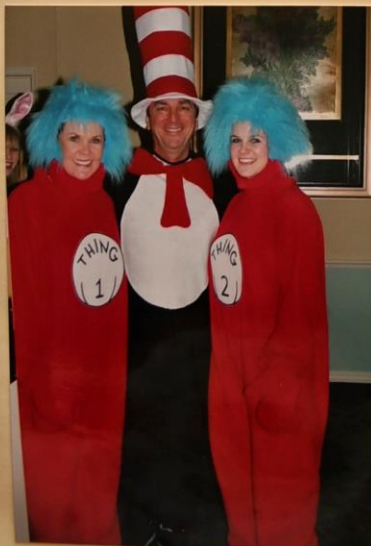
Please respond no later than
January 23rd

Name _____

_____ far out, I can't wait

_____ bummer, can't make it







The Debutante Ball
December 20, 2008





Mr. and Mrs. Rob Moran
2008 Ball Chairmen



The Debutante Committee
requests the pleasure of your company
at
The Debutante Ball
Saturday evening, the twentieth of December
Two thousand and eight
City of Sarasota
Municipal Auditorium



The Waltz

M _____
_____ accepts with pleasure, or _____ is unable to accept
the kind invitation of

(Your host has provided for your reservation and seating)
for
The Debutante Ball
Saturday, the twentieth of December

Donations in honour of the Debutante are gratefully accepted, but are neither expected nor required.

Donations benefit the Youth Orchestra of the Sarasota Orchestra
the new Florida West Coast Symphony.

Donors are acknowledged in the Debutante Ball Program. Kindly make checks payable to The Debutante Committee.

The Debutante Organization, an affiliate of the Sarasota Orchestra
the new Florida West Coast Symphony,
fosters the cultural and social commitment of a select number of young women of
Sarasota and Manatee Counties, their families and extended families.
All monies raised benefit the SO Youth Orchestra Programs.

Mrs. Donald A. Berg
Reservation Chairman
941-925-8809

The Debutante Ball

Benefiting the Youth Orchestra of the Sarasota Orchestra
the new Florida West Coast Symphony

I am pleased to attend the 2008 Debutante Ball.

Enclosed is my check payable to The Debutante Committee for the following reservations:

Patron \$225 (\$100*) Junior (under 21) \$100
Adult \$200 (\$75*) Post Debutante \$100

(Kindly name the above guests on the reverse side of this card.)

* Denotes tax deductible donation

I regret that I cannot attend, but have enclosed a donation of \$ _____

Donations are gratefully accepted, but are neither expected nor required.
Patrons and Donors are acknowledged in the Debutante Ball Program.

Respondent: _____ Telephone: _____

The Debutante Ball



Saturday evening, the twentieth of December
Two thousand and eight



LeBlanc Studios



limelight

PHOTOGRAPHY BY REBECCA BAXTER



DEBUTANTE ball

There may not be anything quite like the sight of 21 beautiful, clad-in-white young women taking their curtsies to turn on the parental waterworks, so some proud tears were shed at the 27th annual Debutante Ball. The radiant debs and their handsome escorts were all smiles, though, dancing up a storm and raising \$50,000 for the Sarasota Orchestra's Youth Orchestra. And deb Elyse Dalabakis celebrated her 18th birthday as midnight struck.

1 Rachel Dawson, Chris Cover, Brooke Saba, Lizzy Lewis, Lauren O'Neil



2 Ryan McComb, Dan Bean, Nathan Kalin, Eric Hamlet and Chris Goldstein

February 2009 | SARASOTA 37

Sarasota Magazine

Post Debutantes



Miss Adelaide Boedecker and her escort, Mr. Christian McLaren



Miss Bailey Herring and her escort, Mr. Bryan Croushore

Read all about it...

The Observer

THE SARASOTA OBSERVER
THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 2009

www.yourobserver.com

Black Tie 1



Andrew Cole, Chris Goldstein, Chris Cover and Chandler Whidden



Rachel Dawson and Kristy Landers Niedenfuer



Shelby Webb



Debutantes and their escorts have a good time waiting for their portrait to be taken.

by Stephanie Hannum | Black Tie Editor

Darling Debutantes



Davis Dunlap, Grier Ferguson and Chris Cover



Nathan Kalin



Sandra Montalvo, Kevin Calahan and Tyler Leppeck

Elegantly dressed in white, 21 lovely young ladies from Manatee and Sarasota counties were formally introduced into society at the Sarasota Orchestra Youth Orchestra's Debutante Ball Saturday, Dec. 20, at Sarasota Auditorium. The ladies included: Miss Elyse Noelle Dalabakis, Miss Rachel Genowefa Dawson, Miss Grier Ferguson, Miss Vera Shigemi Higgs, Miss Monica Maria Kelly, Miss Brittany Alexandra, Miss Christine Leigh LaPrance, Miss Elizabeth Anne Lewis, Miss Melanie Marie Mercurio, Miss Sandra Michelle Montalvo, Miss Jenna Leigh Nales, Miss Kristy Landers Niedenfuer, Miss Kara Catherine Norton, Miss Lauren Alexandra O'Neil, Miss Sarah Louise Platt, Miss Brooke Amelia Saba, Miss Lauren Alexandra Schroeter, Miss Aliana Jean Shea, Miss Maria Elaine Sulmiski, Miss Allison Olivia Walters, and Shelby Larkin Webb.

Right: Sarah Platt and Pascal Wagner

Photos by Stephanie Hannum



Sarasota Community Central

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www.heraldtribune.com



Debutante season will begin with a ball

After the doors open at an elegantly decorated Sarasota Municipal Auditorium on Saturday, 21 young women from Manatee and Sarasota counties will be formally introduced to society at the 27th annual Sarasota Orchestra's Debutante Ball.

White gowns and gloves, proud fathers in white tie and tails, curtsies and handshakes will shape the evening of pageantry and culture. The affair is part of the yearlong Debutante Program, which raises money for Sarasota Orchestra's Youth Orchestra. More than \$500,000 has been raised since the program began in 1981, said **Robin Serbin**, program president.

Participants are chosen for their academic success, leadership ability and community service work.

"Through service, they learn the importance of giving back their time and talent," said **Ashley Worth Hamlet**, the program's publicity chairman.

The year of events include a demanding schedule of social and cultural commitments for the debutantes and their families. They attend vault lessons and themed parties, serve as docents at a youth orchestra performance and are presented again at the Valentine Pops Concert.

"It is a special way for the parents to spend time with their daughters before they go off to college," Serbin said.

The debutantes are:
Elyse Noelle Dalabakis is the daughter of **Susan Gregory** of Sarasota and **St. Petersburg**. Elyse is a senior at Pine View School for the Gifted, is a member of the National Honor Society and is enrolled in the early admission program at Manatee Community College. She is violinist with the Sarasota Orchestra's Youth Philharmonic and Youth Chamber Program.

Rachel Genowefs Dawson, daughter of **Dr. Mark and Grace Dawson**, attends the International Baccalaureate program at Southeast High School in Bradenton. Rachel is a member of the National Honor Society, president of the Science Club, a Mote Marine intern and chairwoman of the American Red Cross Youth Corps in Manatee County.

Grier Ferguson is the daughter of **Scott and Gady Ferguson** of Sarasota. She attends Sarasota High School, where she is student body president, an editor of The Sarasotan newspaper and member of the School Advisory Council and the National Honor Society. At Church of the Redeemer, Grier has performed in several musicals and is a member of the Canterbury Choir.

Vera Shigem Higgs is the daughter of **Dan and Shigem Higgs** of Sarasota. She is a straight-A student at Pine View School for the Gifted and was named a National Merit Scholar Finalist. Vera is a concert pianist and is a three-time winner of the Sarasota Orchestra's Edward and Ida Wilkof Young Artist Competition. She won the state's Youth Concerto Competition for the Tampa Bay Symphony. Vera has been a student lawyer for Sarasota County Teen Court for three years.

Monica Kelly Kelly is the daughter of **Dr. Thomas and Jacqueline Kelly** of Sarasota. She attends Cardinal Mooney High School, where she is a varsity cheerleader and president of the Pep Club. She has played piano for 12 years. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Key Club and Respect for Life.

B. Alexandra Klieff, the daughter of **Rod Klieff and Mel Klieff** of Sarasota, attends Riverview High School and Manatee Community College. Alex formed a production corporation, "Forevermore Music Inc.," and recently produced an AIDS benefit concert. An intern with Sovereign Ventures Inc., she also has volunteered with The Tiny Hands Foundation and participated in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

Christine Leigh LaFrance is the daughter of **Thomas and Lynn LaFrance**. She attends The Out-of-



Fathers and daughters rehearse for the Debutante Ball, which will be Saturday at Sarasota Municipal Auditorium.



INTERESTED?
WHAT: 27th annual Sarasota Orchestra Debutante Ball.
WHERE: Saturday cocktails at 6:30 p.m., post-debutante presentation 7:30 p.m., post-debutante introduction at 8 p.m., and dinner and dancing at 9 p.m.
WHERE: Sarasota Municipal Auditorium, 601 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota.
TICKETS: \$200 each for the formal event, \$100 for people younger than 21.
INFORMATION: 488-0900.

Door Academy, is a two-year captain and four-year starter on the varsity basketball team, is captain of the varsity volleyball team and also runs track. She is president of the National Honor Society.

Elizabeth Anne Lewis is the daughter of **Frederick and Anne Lewis** of Sarasota. She attends Cardinal Mooney High School, where she is co-captain of the swim team. At Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, she is an acolyte and participates in youth activities.

Melanie Marie Mercurio is the daughter of **Frederick and Cindy Mercurio** of Sarasota. She attends Cardinal Mooney High School and is president of Interact Club. She participated in the Seminar for Tomorrow's Leaders sponsored by Rotary International. She is a four-year member with the Sarasota YMCA READS program.

Sandra Michelle Montalvo is the daughter of **Dr. Alberto and Sarita Montalvo** of Bradenton. She attends Manatee High School, where she is in the AP Program, a member of the varsity soccer and tennis teams, plays alto saxophone in the Jazz Band and Wind Ensemble and is a section leader in the Marching Band. Sandra has played soccer for

Manatee Magic for 10 years and plays tennis at Bradenton Country Club. She is president of Man Seles, a service club for high school girls.

Jenna Leigh Nales is the daughter of **Dennis and Yana Nales** of Sarasota. She attends Cardinal Mooney High School, where she is student body president and National Honor Society member. She is a four-year varsity basketball player and captain the past two years. She was a member of the 2007 USSSA National Championship club basketball team.

Kristy Landers Niedenfuer, daughter of **Thomas and Judy Niedenfuer** of Sarasota, attended Pine View School since second grade and is in her senior year at Florida Virtual School. Kristy composed and performed the No. 2 hit song through out Asia and several European countries. She also has performed in a children's show that benefits needy youth. She is a member of PETA.

Kara Catherine Norton is the daughter of **Sam and Jane Norton** of Sarasota. She attends Riverview High School's International Baccalaureate program. She is a member of the varsity soccer team and several service clubs.

Lauren Alexandra O'Neill is the daughter of **James and Stacie O'Neill** of Sarasota. She attends Riverview High School and is president of the Marine Science Club and treasurer of Future Business Leaders of America. Lauren also is a member of the Cotillion Club of Sarasota and Sarasota Baptist Church.

Sarah Louise Platt is the daughter of **Michael and Susan Platt** of Longboat Key. She attends Southeast High School's International Baccalaureate program. Sarah is involved in extracurricular activities and is a community volunteer. She rides horses and enjoys traveling.

Brooke Amella Saba is the daughter of **Richard and Lisa Saba** of Sarasota. She attends Pine View School, where she is a member of National Honor Society, Tri-M Honor Society, received the Principal's AP Scholar with Honors and captain of the tennis team. A member of the Sarasota Youth Opera since age 8, she was principal soloist in the U.S. premiere of Dean Burry's "The Hobbit" and has been a soloist with the Sarasota Mainstage Opera.

Lauren Alexandra Schroeter is the daughter of **Dr. Thomas Schroeter and Marilyn Schroeter**. She attends Saint Stephen's Episcopal School, where she leads the Honor Council and is a member of the National Art Honor Society and received the National Maxima Cum Laude Latin, Langenager Art, Saint Stephen's Book and Art Excellence awards. Lauren has participated in Girls State and service activities.

Aliena Jean Shea is the daughter of **Norman and Cassandra Shea** of Sarasota. She attends The Out-of-Door Academy, where she is captain of the varsity cheerleading and tennis teams. Aliena is involved in mission work to Honduras through the Central Church of Christ and is team captain for the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life.

Maria Elaine Sulminski is the daughter of **Adam and Diane Sulminski** of Sarasota. She attends The Out-of-Door Academy, where she is student body and Tri-M National Honor Society president, National Honor Society secretary, Student Choral director, member of Cum Laude Society, recipient of Yale University's Book Award and honor member of International Thespian Society. She has performed with Sarasota Youth Opera, Sarasota Opera and Venice Performing Arts Series.

Allison "Olivia" Walters is the daughter of **Richard and Leigh Ann Walters** of Sarasota. She attends Booker High School's Visual and Performing Arts Program, where she is a Film Club member. Olivia has been involved with the Sarasota Film Festival, Teen Court, Relay for Life, Historical Spanish Point and is a volunteer videographer. She attends The Bridge Church in Nokomis.

Shelby Larkin Webb is the daughter of **Richard and Leigh Ann Walters** of Sarasota. She attends Riverview High School. She is senior class president, member of the National Honor Society and a Student Advisory Council appointee. She received the Talented Twenty Award, was an AP Scholar and nominated for the National Young Leaders Conference. She is involved with First Presbyterian Church Youth Group and American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. She is an intern at WWSB-TV.

Contact Yvette Kimm at yvettekimm@aol.com.

scene | social

27th Annual Debutante Ball

View all photos at scenesarasota.com

Twenty-one young ladies from Sarasota and Manatee Counties in beautiful white gowns and long gloves were formally introduced into the social community at the 27th Annual Debutante Ball at the Sarasota Municipal Auditorium. The debutantes are selected by a committee based on academic merit, extracurricular activities, leadership ability and commitment to community service. The Debutante Program benefits the Sarasota Orchestra's Youth Orchestra. More than \$500,000 has been raised for the Youth Orchestra since the Program began in 1981.



Monica Kelly, Elizabeth "Lizzy" Lewis & Jenna Nales



Melanie Mercurio



Kristy Landers Niedenfuer



Rachel Dawson



Dr. Alberto & Sandra Montalvo



Monica Kelly, Christine LaFrance, Melanie Mercurio & Jenna Nales



Norm Shea III & Aliena Shea



Ivy Webb



2009 Debutantes

scene January/February 2009 63

Scene Magazine



2008-09 DEBUTANTES

Debutante Ball, Dec. 20, Sarasota Municipal Auditorium

The debutante program benefits the Sarasota Orchestra's Youth Orchestra; more than \$500,000 has been raised since the program began in 1981. Tickets are \$200 for adults and \$100 for those younger than 21. Dress is formal. For information, call 486-0900.

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Miss Ellyse Noelle Dalabak is the daughter of Susan Gregory of Sarasota and St. Petersburg. Ellyse is a senior at Pine View School for the Gifted in Osprey, and is enrolled in the early admission program at Manatee Community College, where she earns high school and college credits contemporaneously. She is a member of the National Honor Society. Ellyse is an accomplished violinist with the Youth Philharmonic and the Youth Chamber Program of the Sarasota Orchestra. She also volunteers as a student coach for the Sarasota Chamber Strings Youth Orchestra.



Miss Rachel Genowefa Dawson, the daughter of Dr. Mark and Grace Dawson, attends the International Baccalaureate program at Southeast High School in Bradenton. Rachel is a member of the National Honor Society and is president of the Science Club. She is also a Mote Marine high school intern and the chairperson of the American Red Cross Youth Corps in Manatee County.



Miss Grier Ferguson is the daughter of Scott and Cady Ferguson of Sarasota. She attends Sarasota High School, where she is the student body president, an editor on the staff of The Sarasota and a member of the School Advisory Council and the National Honor Society. Grier is active at the Church of the Redeemer, where she has performed in several musicals and is a member of the Canterbury Choir.



Miss Vera Shigemi Higgs is the daughter of Dan and Shigemi Higgs of Sarasota. She is a straight-A student at Pine View School for the Gifted in Sarasota, and was named a National Merit Scholar Finalist. Vera is a concert pianist and is a three-time winner of the Sarasota Orchestra's Edward and Ida Wilkof Young Artist Concert Competition. She won the State of Florida's Youth Concerto Competition for the Tampa Bay Symphony. Vera has volunteered her talent to various local organizations and fund raisers for the past ten years, and has been a student lawyer for the Sarasota County Teen Court for the past three years.



Miss Monica Maria Kelly is the daughter of Drs. Thomas and Jacqueline Kelly of Sarasota. She attends Cardinal Mooney High School in Sarasota. Monica is a varsity cheerleader, president of the Pep Club, has played piano for the past 12 years, and has studied dance for six years. She also is involved in National Honor Society, Key Club and Respect for Life.



Miss B. Alexandra Khleif is the daughter of Rod and Melin Khleif of Sarasota. She attends Riverview High School in Sarasota and Manatee Community College. Alex has formed a music production corporation, Forevermore Music Inc. Alex was recognized in local media for producing a benefit concert for AIDS, showcasing six bands, with numerous local sponsors. She has aided in the production of numerous events through her internship with Sovereign Ventures Inc. Alex has been involved with feeding families for the last four years with The Tiny Hands Foundation, and participated in the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life.



Miss Christine Leigh LaFrance is the daughter of Thomas and Lynn LaFrance. She attends The Out-of-Door Academy in Sarasota. Christine is a two-year starter on the varsity basketball team, is captain of the varsity volleyball team and also runs track. She is president of the National Honor Society and devotes her time and effort to many charities, with the fight against cancer being her main focus.



Miss Elizabeth Anne Lewis is the daughter of Dr. Clifton and Anne Lewis of Sarasota. She attends Cardinal Mooney High School in Sarasota, where she is co-captain of the swim team. Elizabeth is a member of the Episcopal Church of the Redeemer, where she is an acolyte and involved in youth activities.



Miss Melanie Marie Mercurio is the daughter of Frederick and Cindy Mercurio of Sarasota. She attends Cardinal Mooney High School in Sarasota. Melanie is president of Interact Club. She participated in the Seminar for Tomorrow's Leaders sponsored by Rotary International. She is a four-year mentor with the Sarasota YMCA READS program.



Miss Sandra Michelle Montalvo is the daughter of Dr. Alberto and Sarita Montalvo of Bradenton. She attends Manatee High School and is in the AP-A Program. She is a member of the girls' varsity soccer team and varsity tennis team. Sandra plays the alto saxophone in the jazz band, in the high school's wind ensemble, and is section leader of the alto saxophones in the marching band. Outside of school, she has played soccer for Manatee Magic for 10 years and enjoys playing tennis at the Bradenton Country Club. Sandra is the president of Mam'Selles, a girls' Christian service club. Sandra is the youngest sister of three past debutantes.



Miss Jenna Leigh Nales is the daughter of Dennis and Yana Nales of Sarasota. She attends Cardinal Mooney High School in Sarasota, where she is student body president and a National Honor Society member. Jenna is a four-year varsity basketball player and has been named captain the past two years. She was also a member of the 2007 USSSA National Championship club basketball team.



Miss Kristy Landers Niedenfuer, daughter of Thomas and Judy Niedenfuer of Sarasota, attended Pine View School since second grade and is completing her senior year at Florida Virtual School. Kristy has a successful music career; she composed and performed the number 2 hit song throughout Asia and many European countries. She also has performed across the country in a children's show that benefits underprivileged youth. Kristy is an active member of the PETA organization.



Miss Kara Catherine Norton is the daughter of Sam and Jane Norton of Sarasota. She attends Riverview High School in Sarasota, working toward her International Baccalaureate Diploma. She is a member of Riverview's varsity soccer team, as well as several service clubs at Riverview.



Miss Lauren Alexandra O'Neill is the daughter of James and Stacie O'Neill of Sarasota. She attends Riverview High School in Sarasota. Lauren is president of the Marine Science Club and treasurer of the Future Business Leaders of America Club at school. Lauren is a member of the Cullman Club of Sarasota and Sarasota Baptist Church.



Miss Sarah Louise Platt is the daughter of Michael and Susan Platt of Longboat Key. She attends the International Baccalaureate program at Southeast High School in Bradenton. Sarah is involved in lots of extracurricular activities and is an avid volunteer within the community. She also is a keen horse rider and enjoys traveling in her spare time.



Miss Brooke Amelia Saba is the daughter of Richard and Lisa Saba of Sarasota. She attends Pine View School in Sarasota, where she is a member of National Honor Society and Tri-M Honor Society. She received the Principal's Creative Achievement Award, is an AP Scholar with Honors, Scholar Athlete and captain of the Riverview High School tennis team. A member of the Sarasota Youth Opera since age 8, Brooke performed as the principal soloist in the U.S. Premiere of Dean Burry's The Hobbit and has performed as a soloist with the Sarasota Mainstage Opera. She will attend Wake Forest University in the fall.



Miss Lauren Alexandra Schroeter is the daughter of Dr. Thomas Schroeter and Ms. Marilyn Schroeter. She attends Saint Stephen's Episcopal School in Bradenton. Lauren chairs the school's Honor Council. Her memberships include the National Art Honor Society, National Maxima Cum Laude Latin Award, Saint Stephen's Honor Roll and Director's List. Lauren is also the recipient of the Langenberg Art Award, Saint Stephen's Book Award and the Art Excellence Award. Lauren has been involved with Girls State and many community service activities.



Miss Allena Jean Shea is the daughter of Norman and Cassandra Shea of Sarasota. She attends The Out-of-Door Academy in Sarasota, where she is captain of the varsity cheerleading team and captain of the varsity tennis team. In the community, Allena is involved in mission work to Honduras through the Central Church of Christ, and is team captain for the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life.



Miss Maria Elaine Sulmiski is the daughter of Adam and Diane Sulmiski of Sarasota. Maria is student body president, Tri-M Music Honor Society president, National Honor Society secretary and student chorus director at the Out-of-Door Academy, where she is a member of Cum Laude Society, recipient of Yale University's Book Award and a member of International Thespian Society. She has performed with Sarasota Youth Opera as lead soloist in Dean Burry's The Hobbit, in Sarasota Opera's Attila, and with Venice Performing Arts Series. Maria chairs "Thunderpaloza," a talent show to fund music therapy for children with Down's syndrome.



Miss Allison 'Olivia' Walters is the daughter of Elizabeth Haynes Walters and Richard Walters. She attends Booker High School in Sarasota and is in the Visual and Performing Arts Program. Olivia has been involved with the Sarasota Film Festival, Teen Court, Relay For Life, Historical Spanish Point, and is a volunteer videographer for her service-related projects, including a weekly literacy promoting video. Olivia is a member of the Film Club at Booker and attends The Bridge Church in Nokomis.



Miss Shelby Larkin Webb is the daughter of Richard and Leigh Ann Webb of Sarasota. She attends Riverview High School in Sarasota, where she is president of the senior class, member of the National Honor Society and a Student Advisory Council appointee. She has received the Talented Twenty Award, has been named an AP Scholar and has been nominated as a national scholar to attend the National Young Leaders Conference. In the community, Shelby is involved with the First Presbyterian Church Youth Group and the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life. She is an appointed intern at WWSB, ABC Channel 7 News Station.

a final bow...
The Valentine's Pops
Ned Auditorium
February 14th

SO
sarasota
orchestra
the new florida west coast symphony

Leif Bjelund • Artistic Director



Valentine Pops
Andrew Lane, conductor
Carol McCartney, vocalist

60 TH ANNIVERSARY

JANUARY HOLMES
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...ve is in the air, and it's also in the music.

Several special concerts are taking place this Valentine's weekend that will provide a romantic atmosphere for you and your sweetheart. They include the biggest, romantic ticket in town—the Valentine Pops concert presented by the Sarasota Orchestra 8 p.m. Saturday at the Performing Arts Center on campus of Manatee Community College, 5840 26th St. W., Bradenton.

What makes this concert extra special is that this year it actually falls on Valentine's Day. *Cupid couldn't have planned it better himself.*

The concert, conducted by Andrew Lane, will feature sweet music for your ears: works by Irving Berlin, George Gershwin and other composers of musical romance. "I think it's going to be a nice event," said Lane, who has enjoyed conducting the Valentine Pops for the past six years.

"It tends to give a warm, fuzzy vibe—an incomparable experience to the traditional Valentine's Day dinner out, he said. A year past, the event has sold out, leaving potential attendees well-listed, hopeful that pot will become available at last minute.

"This year's concert may be the most sentimental yet, as it offers a couple new features that will hit the heartstrings. For starters, a love letter will be presented by actors to introduce each song instead of reading a dedication, said Lane. Plus, the crowd will be serenaded by Carole McCartney, a Canadian jazz vocalist, whose voice, Lane said, complements each song.

Melodies include "Fascinating Rhythm" and "Porgy and Bess"—with "Strike Up the Band" thrown in. "Strike up the band does not directly have anything to do with love songs," Lane admitted. "But it will be a fun, exciting piece."

Also during the event, 2 debutantes from Manatee and Sarasota counties will be formally presented by their parents. The debutante program benefits the Sarasota Orchestra's Youth Orchestra Program. This year, the debutante program plans to donate more than \$80,000 to the organization. Tickets to Valentine Pops are \$30-\$40.

Giving back to the community...

Youth Orchestra Docents



FLORIDA WEST COAST SYMPHONY, INC.

Debutante Committee
of Sarasota
Sarasota, FL

April 18

Pay Sarasota Orchestra
Fifty-Nine Thousand and No/100



**THE BIG BANK
ANYPLACE, USA**

Benefitting the Youth Orchestra

March 20, 2009

Mrs. Kenneth Boedecker
1607 North Drive
Bradenton, Florida 34239

Dear Jacki,

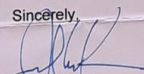
I wanted to personally thank you and the entire Debutante Committee for your extraordinary efforts this year.

The Sarasota Orchestra is so appreciative of your contribution of time, talent, and this year, the largest single year gift made by the Debutante Committee in support of the Youth Orchestra Program. Your achievement is noted by many and will certainly touch the lives of all involved in our Youth Orchestra Program.

In the midst of these challenging times, we do have much to celebrate. The spirit, commitment and dedication of the Debutante Program is without question one of the shining stars in our community.

Thank you again on behalf of an appreciative organization and the many students who have been and will be touched to your exceptional generosity.

Sincerely,


Joseph McKenna
President & CEO

709 N. Tamiami Trail | Sarasota, FL 34236 | SarasotaOrchestra.org

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