

THROUGH
The Arch

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2003



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St. Mary's Hall Murals
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Class Notes



SHATTUCK-ST. MARY'S

SPOTLIGHT ON ALUMNI FROM SHATTUCK

SSM'S OWN FIND SUCCESS IN FILM

by Renae Ronayne

Hollywood can be a small world. Just ask **Niki Williams '98**. While working at DreamWorks SKG, Niki met a fellow SSM graduate – **Blake Herron '81**.

Our writer, Renae Ronayne, actually helped Niki make the connection. In interviewing Blake, Renae learned that he was working on a script for DreamWorks. Renae told Niki, and before long, the circle had been completed and two strangers in Hollywood were acquainted with the common experience being their SSM education.

This feature highlights six stories of alumni enjoying careers in filmmaking. –Editor

A HOLLYWOOD WARRIOR REMINISCENCES

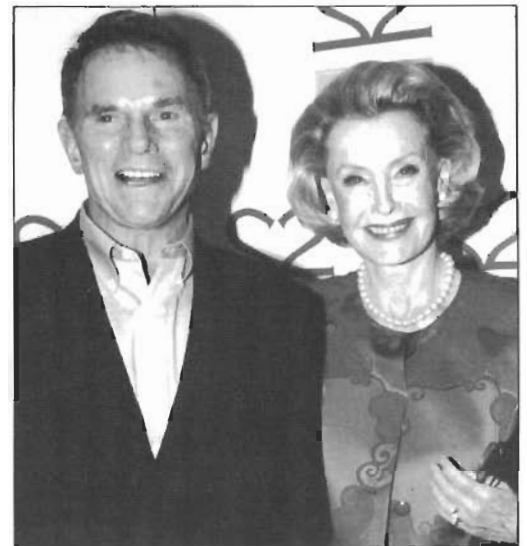
by Ted Hartley '42

Ted Hartley '42, was a graduating senior when *LIFE* magazine covered the Shattuck School Commencement. The article, published in 1942, is titled, "Life Goes to a Military School: Fun and Fervor Mark Commencement at Shattuck." Pictures with the article show the seriousness of the Shads, as well as lighter moments that come with graduation. Ted Hartley (see cover) is photographed standing next to a young woman with a caption that reads: "Sitting out a dance in the gun room, Ted Hartley of Des Moines impresses his girl by telling her that he has just won appointment to Annapolis, will go east immediately." Ted wrote about his youth, the time he spent at Shattuck School, and other significant times in his life, in this reflection.

"I was an Iowa farm boy transplanted by my widowed mother to the big city of Des Moines for a better education. My maternal grandmother, after schooling me in Rudyard Kipling and European history, urged a prep school education as the proper stepping stone for a gentleman-in-the-making. Shattuck School was a three-hour train ride away with a fine scholastic reputation and a generous offer of financial help. Raw-boned, scared, and wobbly I sensed that this was my ticket out and I reached for it timidly. On a bright autumn afternoon, I boarded the silver Rock Island Zephyr for Faribault.

I was pretty much a misfit. I had come from a simple but cozy environment doted on by an adoring mother, sister, and grandmother. Ill at ease in a world of men and boys, I made few friends, even in sports. It would have been bleak beyond bearing had it not been for the tough, inspiring presence of one gifted teacher who changed my life and who still influences me in subtle ways today.

Mr. Wagner, "the Duke," gave me the gift of Browning, Keats, and Shakespeare. He chided me, rode me, took me out of my self-absorbed loneliness and



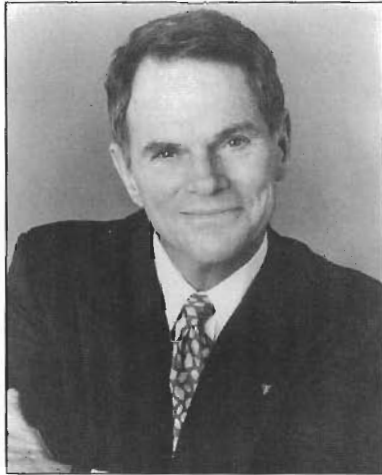
Ted with wife Dina Merrill (top) and on the set of *Mighty Joe Young* with actor Bill Paxton and grandson Morgan Hartley (future director)

pushed me into the world of literary minds and golden words. "So, Mr. Hartley, can you help us understand what the poet meant by *breaking into a mist with bells*? What could he mean by that?" The Duke expected me to figure that out and I stretched my mind to do so.

Many unmarried masters had apartments in the dorm. The Duke's was on my floor. Every evening at 9:15 when we were freed from study hall, the Duke would open the door to his apartment. Sometimes there was milk or coffee, and German cookies. Barron, ugly and slob-

SHATTUCK-ST. MARY'S IN HOLLYWOOD

bery, sprawled at his master's slippered feet. The Duke regaled us with stories and the thrill of the curtain going up on a Broadway show. How those wondrous evenings enriched our student lives, and how much they made literature seem glamorous and desirable.



Ted Hartley '42

After graduation from Shattuck School, I entered Annapolis. There were lots of ways that the senior midshipmen made life miserable in the name of discipline. But I got through it. My experience at Shattuck School helped a lot, and by the third year I had stripes on my arm and was well up the list in class standing.

I enjoyed my Navy flying career. For a short time, I was stationed in Morocco flying A2Js. I fell hopelessly in love with a French beauty and sired a son whom I later raised in California. I received a medical discharge after a training accident off Cuba. The Navy had sent me to Harvard Business School, but I was a confused, unprepared civilian. I did get a job with Gulf and Western running one of their subsidiaries but then in a merger downsizing, I became surplus.

So I went to Hollywood and became an actor. This was an unexpected and happy surprise. When Cary Grant approved me for a key role in the final film of his life – *Walk, Don't Run* – it seemed an incredible development. I had stumbled into a new career without preparation or qualifications, but I loved it. For five or six years, I thought I might just have the

fortune to play big film or TV roles all of my life. However, I starred in a TV series that received bad reviews and suddenly the agents were not calling me anymore. I turned back to the theater and performed in a play directed by Henry Fonda. When a group of investors decided to resurrect RKO Pictures a decade ago, they invited me to become head of production. I became a significant stockholder and have been helping to build the company ever since. Now I find myself wanting to be more “hands on” again, and this year will produce a couple of films. This may lead me to sell my RKO stock and do more projects on my own.

One of my next films is from a short story I wrote about offshore oil exploration drilling into a lost city at the bottom of the Borneo Straits. It is a bit of Indiana Jones in a new character and a new environment. I hope it may become a franchise once I have the first film completed in 2004. I am also producing a stage musical reconceived from the Fred Astair/Ginger Rogers hit film *Swingtime*, which is scheduled to open in L.A. in November, followed by a Broadway opening in March 2004.

I live in a section of Los Angeles called Brentwood on a street made famous by the O.J. Simpson debacle, Rockingham Avenue. I am married to an endlessly beautiful lady named Dina Merrill who was and is a film *great* on her own. My son, Philippe Hartley, lives not too far away with his two young, world-beater kids, who of course speak fluent French to their Parisian grandmother, who has never quite forgiven me. I have a great life.”

MARION GORTON EDWARDS '68



As the Executive Vice President for 20th Century Fox Television Distribution, **Marion Gorton Edwards '68** is in the distribution end of the film business. Her clients include U.S. and international networks in addition to the basic cable channels outside of the United States. It's a complex job that involves management of seven international offices and a staff of about 125 people. It's also a job that requires about four months of world-wide travel each year to visit clients and negotiate broadcasting agreements. Marion says, “Whenever you see any Fox movies on a U.S. network you can think of me.”