

The Putney School Board of Trustees bid adieu to Putney parent and marketing whiz Janet Pardue P'01 at the June meeting, and welcomed back, after a mandatory year off required after every second term, Tim Daly '74, P'07; Joan Williams Farr '49; Bill New, and Franz Paasche '79. Also voted onto the board in June was trustee emerita Mary Calder Rower '58, P'80,'81,G'07 and our newest members, to whom we offer a warm welcome:



**Wilfredo Benitez '81** Wilfredo Benitez '81 hopes to be a Putney trustee for life. Wilfredo is the principal officer of the law firm Wilfredo Benitez, LLC in Montclair, NJ, practicing in real estate, sports and entertainment, general corporate, securities, and municipal law. Born in Puerto Rico and raised in Harlem, Wilfredo attended Putney on "A Better Chance" scholarship. He did not have an easy time adjusting to life at a private boarding school. Still, Putney set him on a path that took him to Columbia College and Rutgers Law School, and from there into a full and broad adult life that includes a family (wife Kristi Payne Benitez and children Kaya, Jonah, and Luchah) and abundant community involvement.

"I feel indebted to the school. When on the board, I want to help students who are struggling to acclimate to Putney. I want to talk to those kids, one-to-one. I want to convince them that Putney is a life-changing experience that they're not going to regret."



**Judd Burstein '71** Judd Burstein '71 is a highly experienced litigator with a national practice. Having begun his legal career as a criminal defense lawyer, Judd has developed an unquestioned reputation for toughness. He holds no specialty per se. Instead, by developing his ability to communicate with judges and jurors, his trial skill of cross-examination, and his ability to create overall litigation strategy, he has accumulated successes in complex commercial litigation, sports and entertainment litigation, matrimonial litigation, and white collar criminal litigation. His client list has included Donald Trump, Sally Jesse Raphael, Carl Icahn, The Backstreet Boys, and the boxer Terry Norris. Norris' case was one of a string that Judd pursued against boxing promoter Don King, and in it Judd garnered a \$7.5 million settlement for Norris. During this string of cases, King famously called

Judd "an insidious insect" and "the man who shot Liberty Valence." King later became a client of Judd's. Judd lives with his wife, Laurie Lister, in Westport, CT. He has hosted a Putney student for the past two years for an internship, one of whom also worked with him this past summer. Judd hopes to help the board navigate some of the difficult business decisions they will need to make in these challenging financial times.



**Anne Stephens**, who directed the Mountain School of Milton Academy in Vershire, VT, from 1994–2002, was seventeen and a freshman at Mt. Holyoke College when she met David Stephens '54, who died in November 2008. "Dave was a senior at Amherst. He introduced me to Putney, and I fell in love with him and the wonderful school that was a farm on a hill and had Vivaldi playing over the loudspeaker. "When we were at Harvest Festival in '94, then-board chair John Wirth '54 asked me to join the Putney Board. I declined at the time, wanting to focus my attention on my first year at Mountain School. I am excited to join now, and I bring with me so many happy memories of the

school, including of the conference on progressive education that I attended in 1984. I feel fortunate now to be helping with the planning for the conference for the summer of 2010!" Anne's career has included Seattle's Lakeside School (24 years), Washington Governor's School for Citizen Leadership (a 9-year summer affiliation, including a stint as the director), and Chelsea High School, where she taught philosophy and English part time. Anne also runs retreats for school administrative teams, consults in leadership training for students, and works with the Vermont Intercultural Semester. She served on the Proctor Academy Board for six years and is currently on the board of Yestermorrow. Anne brings to the Putney Board a knowledge of schools and their processes and of organizational behavior theory and practice. She also brings a great admiration for Emily Jones.



**James E. Thompson '74** has done considerable work in the child welfare field. He has managed or administered children

programs and youth organizations including emergency shelter, foster care, adoption services, and behavioral health treatment facilities. He has provided child and family counseling. Since 2005 he has been a contractor to the military services. Currently he provides victim advocacy services to the National Guard Bureau, headquartered in the Capitol region. He is responsible there for training military service members as first responders to address the needs of victims of sexual assault. He is actively involved in the effort to eliminate sexual assault and sexual violence perpetrated on military service members, especially women. James is married to Viola Maxwell-Thompson. They have a daughter, Brittany, who graduated from Georgetown University in May of 2009. The Thompsons live in Mableton, Georgia, a suburb of Atlanta. James is enthusiastic about his appointment to the board of trustees. Bringing with him boundless energy and the passion to make a difference through service, he is committed to expanding Putney's reach to untapped sources for student recruitment. He also hopes to help the school identify new donor opportunities.

# New Trustees