



Campaign Case for Support

January 16, 2009

The Doane Stuart School Campaign

Case Statement

MOVING FORWARD

A Great School Finds a Great Home

In 1975, the Doane Stuart School made history when it became the nation's only successfully merged Roman Catholic/Protestant school. From the best of two great schools -- Kenwood Academy of the Sacred Heart and The St. Agnes Episcopal School -- Doane Stuart was born, and the result was not only greater than the sum of its parts, it was something new and unique.

A small school with a clearly defined set of values, Doane Stuart has become the area's leading coeducational, nursery through grade 12 independent school. It has distinguished itself by its unparalleled commitment to rigorous college preparatory studies, social responsibility, inclusiveness and the exploration of faith.

"We are *more* proud that we have grown the tradition of inclusiveness -- religiously, ethnically and economically -- than we are of our stellar college placement record, and we are very proud of that record," said Headmaster Richard Enemark, Ph.D. "We believe that young people are better educated if they are educated with those who are not exactly like them. At Doane Stuart, students from every background have a place at the table."

"My kids love their school, and they love their teachers, who truly inspire them to do the best they possibly can," said Doane Stuart parent Dr. Ginna Roeding. "A major theme that runs through everything at Doane Stuart is that one of the most important things in life is how you treat other people. Students here are actively taught to be good people."

The forward-thinking vision that led to the creation of Doane Stuart, set the stage for everything that has come since: the outstanding academic program; partnerships with education and arts institutions throughout the area; the Northern Ireland Exchange Program; the nation's only resident Buddhist congregation in an independent school and the vibrant and richly diverse student body.

Today, after 33 years as a tenant on the Kenwood Academy campus, Doane Stuart is poised at another transformative moment in its history. With the purchase of the historic Van Rensselaer Campus, in the city of Rensselaer, Doane Stuart is preparing to move into the first home of its own.

The Freedom to Fully Live Its Mission

“We are extremely excited about our new home” said Dr. Enemark, of the 117,000-square-foot, Georgian Revival building, with Art Deco influences. “It will be hugely liberating to have only our needs to consider. We can reinvent ourselves adding programs, enhancing science laboratories, changing schedules, reconfiguring the playing fields, or even gathering for an unplanned All-School Chapel. We will have the space to build a new Athletic Complex in the future. Ownership brings a great sense of freedom and allows us to more fully live our mission.”

The Kenwood Academy campus, as well as the Religious of the Sacred Heart themselves, will always hold a cherished place in the School’s history, and in the hearts and memories of the Doane Stuart community.

And now, Doane Stuart moves forward, ready to embrace its new home, confident that the School will thrive and prosper for future generations of students, proud in its joint Catholic and Episcopal heritage and strong in its future as a truly independent interfaith school and member in good standing of the National Association of Episcopal Schools.

Built in the 1930s, with a large addition constructed in 1995, the School’s new home offers a wonderful blend of old and new. “The modern building will certainly serve the students well, but we also needed a space that has some patina to it,” said Dr. Enemark.

The configuration of the classrooms in the 1995 addition - clusters of classrooms, (each with its own bathroom) around a common area - is especially well-suited to the Lower School. The art deco features, brass railings, solid wood cabinets, elaborate plaster, moldings, marble lintels, plaster friezes and decorative tiles in the older sections add great interest and character to the administrative offices, the Upper School classrooms, the Board Room and other spaces.

These architectural details will allow Doane Stuart to make a graceful transition from one historic campus to another and equally expressive one.

Expert Architectural Guidance

To ensure that the renovations, restorations and improvements are done right, accomplished with respect for the distinct integrity of the historic 1930 and 1939 buildings, Doane Stuart engaged the services of Laurence Wilson, partner at Mesick, Cohen, Wilson, Baker Architects.

More than 90 percent of this award-winning firm's projects have involved existing and/or historic buildings. Among its numerous projects are: Thomas Jefferson's home, Monticello, in Charlottesville, Virginia; The Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception; Proctor's Theater; The Fort Orange Club; Cohoes Music Hall; University at Albany Field House; Albany Law School; and Albany Medical College.

"The age of Doane Stuart's Rensselaer campus gives it a certain pedigree," said Mr. Wilson. "It's an admirable old building with a handsome brick façade, good proportions, quality construction and sense of space."

"The challenge with an older building such as this is to find its 'soul,' strip away 80 years of reinterpretation and make it sing. These older buildings were more carefully considered architecturally and more lavish in quality than new buildings. If you can understand the features that are there and how they can be new and interesting, then you can make a much more beautiful building than if you had a blank slate. To build *this* building new, it would cost about \$30 million today. The only limitation to what we can accomplish for Doane Stuart's new home is funding."

The Campaign for Doane Stuart

Thanks to the success of Phase I of the *Campaign for Doane Stuart*, the School was able to purchase the building and property, outright, for \$4 million, a price tag of about half the cost of new construction for a smaller, and inferior facility.

The challenge now is to raise the \$11 million needed to preserve, restore and enhance the historic features, as well as to renovate, upgrade and outfit the campus so that it fosters the academic rigor, intellectual discourse, social responsibility and opportunities for self-discovery that are hallmarks of a Doane Stuart education.

Having an outstanding and welcoming campus is especially important in an area such as the Capital Region, where there is fierce competition for independent school students.

“Owning our own facility gives us a wonderful sense of empowerment,” said trustee Ellen Jakovic ’78. “We can now plan for the future knowing that we have the basic infrastructure from which to launch amazing programs - academic, athletic, artistic - for our students. It will open up creative license that, previously, was not available to us. It will be a home we can make our own.”

A Brief History of Doane Stuart’s New Campus Home

The original structure. Built as the Rensselaer High School, the historic Van Rensselaer School was built in two phases beginning in 1930. When completed in 1939, it was more than 61,000 square feet, rising over three stories. The solidly constructed structure is steel-frame with concrete and brick exterior walls. The front of the school features a beautiful slate gabled roof, with a signature copper cupola that now will become the central feature of our School’s logo. The interior includes a main corridor with terrazzo floors and plaster walls. In the early 1970s, the high school was relocated and the building became the Van Rensselaer Elementary School.

The addition. In 1995, an \$8.5 million, 56,000-square-foot addition - steel-frame with concrete block and brick exterior walls – almost doubled the size of the building. Care was given to ensure that the addition’s exterior would seamlessly blend with the original buildings. The classrooms in the addition are outfitted with amenities such as their own bathrooms and ample cabinetry for storage. The new section of the school also includes a light-filled library, gymnasium, cafeteria and kitchen. About \$500,000 was spent to upgrade and consolidate both the original and new structures with a central heating plant. Windows were replaced throughout the campus structures with operable, double-pane insulated glass.

The property. The 24-acre property is located in a quiet area with easy access from 1-90 east and west (exits 7 and 8). The School will have a strong visual presence from the highway. While residential properties neighbor the school on the north, south and east, the property slopes down toward the Hudson River, to the west, with views of the Albany skyline. The acreage will allow for future expansion of playing fields, gardens and nature trails.

The Campaign for Doane Stuart: Phase II

The goal for Phase II of the campaign is to receive gifts and pledges of \$11 million by September 2009 so that the new campus will be ready to welcome the next generations of Doane Stuart students. With the funds to accomplish this, Doane Stuart will be able to begin a new school year by welcoming students to their beautiful and fully repaired, renovated and updated home.

Limited Restoration:

Partial Roof Replacement

The flat portion of the roof, over the 1930 section, and the roof over the 1939 section of the building must be replaced.

General Maintenance

The 1930 and 1939 sections require brick pointing on the facade, and some stone work repair.

Exterior Improvements:

Front Courtyard/Formal Entrance

As befitting a school of its stature, Doane Stuart will have a beautiful and welcoming “gateway” at the front of its property. The area will serve as a formal entrance, featuring a paved circle and a fountain reminiscent of the fountain by which generations of our students have gathered on the Kenwood Campus. The circle will provide a space for the entire School to gather for ceremonies and events. Beyond the circle, will be benches and extensive landscaping, to create outdoor spaces for study and contemplation. The city of Rensselaer’s historic World War II monument will remain on the property and be incorporated into the design. The entire area will be enclosed by a wall constructed of brick sections, with limestone caps. In between the sections, which step down as they get closer to the building, will be graceful open iron work repeating the Art Deco patterns of the interior iron stair treatments. These fence sections will provide views of the building from the street. This elegant forecourt was designed to present Doane Stuart as a private and very special school but, also, as very much a part of its new community.

Interior Upgrades

Building Systems

A systems upgrade – heat, ventilation, air conditioning – is required for the oldest section of the building. The large, effective boilers, installed in the 1995 addition, will serve as the heat source.

Refurbishing the Administrative Wing

The Administrative Wing will be welcoming to visiting families, prospective students and returning alumni. For every with its numerous architectural details, will offer The spacious offices, parlors and corridors will be painted and exhaustively cleaned and polished until they gleam.

The Chapel and Performing Arts Center

One of the most beloved and iconic features of the Kenwood campus has been the magnificent chapel. While we will remember it fondly, at the top of our priorities is the transformation of the former auditorium/gymnasium into a new and equally distinctive interfaith chapel of our own. This soaring space can accommodate the entire School population. It has basilica-like qualities, with a central nave and clerestory windows, which cast a beautiful light into the room. The room requires some major repairs, such as fixing the four-foot hole in the ceiling. The chapel will be outfitted with pews and the friezes and decorative molding will be repainted in a stepped, polychromatic color scheme typical of the Art Deco period. To add richness and warmth to the space, we will replace the acoustical tile ceiling and add wood paneling over the brick walls. New Art Deco light fixtures will replace the gymnasium lights. To provide Doane Stuart's many talented musicians, actors and dancers with an appropriate performance space, we will renovate the existing stage; add a new stage curtain, new stage lighting and a new sound system. For the comfort of the entire School community, the chapel will be equipped with its own heating and air conditioning system.

Upper School Classrooms

The 1939 section, which will serve primarily as the Upper School classroom wing, gives us the opportunity of creating a classic college preparatory atmosphere. The section will be cleaned and painted, and all classrooms will have new flooring, new finishes and new lighting. Most of the classrooms, which are quite large, will feature seminar tables. Many of the antiques from the current campus, including the iconic Steinway grand piano, will be found in the new Upper School wing, where students will be encouraged to use them.

Science Labs

To provide Doane Stuart students with a scientific learning environment commensurate with our excellent science faculty and curriculum, one of our top priorities is to renovate completely the existing primitive science rooms and create state-of-the-art Middle and Upper School science labs. The Middle School lab will be large enough for each student to conduct his or her own experimentation. New scientific equipment purchased by Doane Stuart, only a few years ago, with assistance from the E.E. Ford Foundation, will enhance the new science wing.

The Commons

At the geographical center of the school, next to the doors where students enter and exit each day, is the cafeteria, a large, vaulted space (with great potential), added in 1995. The two-story room, which can be viewed from interior windows on the second floor corridors, has no natural lighting, a suspended acoustical tile ceiling and vinyl flooring. We have an exciting plan to transform the cafeteria into a Commons, where students of all ages can get together to eat, socialize, discuss group projects or debate the day's issues. Installing large skylights to flood the space with natural light, planting trees at the four corners of the room and adding a brick floor, will create a beautiful indoor courtyard that could become the stunning centerpiece of the School.

Soccer Fields and Tennis Courts

To support two of Doane Stuart's favorite sports, a regulation soccer field and four tennis courts are planned to be ready for play in the coming school year.

The Time for Doane Stuart is Now

An extraordinary school, an extraordinary event

After the surprising announcement in 2005 that its current location was to be sold, the Board of Trustees put painstaking effort into exploring all the options for a future home for Doane Stuart.

On September 11, 2006 the Board held a meeting to present the proposal of another independent school to merge with Doane Stuart. After the presentation, the floor was opened for reaction from the Doane Stuart community.

What happened next was extraordinary.

Parents, faculty and alumni rose from their seats and formed a long line that extended the length of the chapel. One by one, they expressed a remarkably deep love for Doane Stuart, its educational philosophy and the profound role it has played in their lives and in the lives of their children. By the end of the meeting, it was clear that the passion and the will existed to raise the money needed to preserve an independent and singular Doane Stuart.

That night, spearheaded by George Carpinello (parent of Lexi '08), the *Campaign for Doane Stuart* was launched, and five weeks later, an astounding \$4 million had been raised.

We did it once, we can do it again

Bouyed by that success, Doane Stuart has entered the second phase of the *Campaign for Doane Stuart* with great energy and excitement.

The time is *now* for Doane Stuart to have a facility equal to its outstanding program and reputation. We are grateful to the many generous individuals who helped us raise \$4 million, and purchase our new building. Now, we are redoubling our efforts to raise the additional \$11 million required to renovate and update the new facility – to make it our own, to transform it into a school space that supports and reflects the extraordinary work in which our students and faculty are engaged every day.

The time is now to transform lives

“*Doane Stuart is a jewel of a school,*” said trustee and alumna Ellen Jakovic '78. “It provides students with an incredible grounding in academics. Beyond that, a Doane Stuart education offers students meaningful exposure to other cultures, which helps them begin to explore where they fit in the world.”

“*Doane Stuart serves a very important purpose: it changes children’s lives. That is why we intend to continue to give to the School long after our children graduate,*” said Dr. Ginna Roeding. (parent of Emily '11 and Robert '14)

Make your transforming Gift to Doane Stuart Today

“We are living in an economy where people have to make choices about their spending, and about their giving,” said Dr. Enemark. “We hope that everyone will consider the enormous impact on the lives of young people a gift to Doane Stuart will make. If we want to build a better, braver world, we have to get past divisiveness, narrowness and hate. This is a place where that effort underpins all that we do.”

All gifts are important and deeply appreciated. \$100 or \$1 million will make a difference that you can see and feel at Doane Stuart. The faculty understands that, which is why 100 percent of them made a gift to the first phase of the campaign.

Make a difference, make your gift today.

Gifts to the *Campaign for Doane Stuart* may come in many forms: a single cash gift, a multi-year pledge, or one of several alternative gifts, such as stocks or securities, a bequest through your will, or life insurance. To learn more about how you can be a part of transforming the future of Doane Stuart, please contact The Development Office (development@doanestuart.org; (518) 465-5222, ext. 248). We will be happy to speak with you about how you can support Doane Stuart in the way that best meets your needs.