

2 THOUSAND words



Fall 2008

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GRYNN & BARRETT TURNS 60!



As we pass the sixty-year mark at Grynn & Barrett Studios, I can't help but reflect on our beginnings and how far we've come. Thanks to my Dad, Bob Grenier, originally, and the foresight of the second generation, we've grown from a locally known photography company to one recognized more and more throughout the Northeast. Thanks, too, to our terrific Sales Team, our wonderful Finishing Team, our great Operations Team, our amazing Marketing Team, our eye-on-the-future I.T. Team, and our superb Photography Team, who have helped make these sixty years possible and memorable. Thanks, also, to our customers, the schools and families who have chosen to work with us to create their lasting memories. You know,

at Grynn & Barrett, the atmosphere is a highly-charged one of incredible activity. If we're not photographing seniors or undergrads in our studios and on the road, we're getting ready to do just that. Yet, we always manage to have fun doing our jobs and befriend each other. I think our customers sense this and appreciate the vibes here. I know I do. As we look toward the years to come, which we constantly do, I have a vision of a company that continues to grow and expand its model to include new territory and many new, happy, customers. Because we'll continue to stay on the cutting edge in the photography industry, because we'll continue to seek out the best opportunities and employees, and because we love what we do at Grynn & Barrett, I'm really looking forward to the excitement of keeping our "mo-jo" working for many years to come. ■

Larry
Larry Grenier, CEO, Grynn & Barrett Studios



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Zero to Sixty in a FLASH

1948



1948 Robert Grenier and Duke Ducharme open their doors as Grenier-Ducharme Photography.



1955

1955 The company is the first in Holyoke to print a yearbook picture in color.



1965 Duke Ducharme retires, Bob Grenier takes over business.

1965



1971 The Mobile Studio is put into motion to travel to local high schools capturing senior images.



1972 The Studio in Baystate West opens to service working professionals in the Springfield area.

1972

1978

1978 Studio in Springfield

PTO POWERHOUSE



When one thinks of their neighborhood PTO, images of bake sales and book clubs are conjured. The town-wide PTO collaboration in New Milford, Connecticut is proving that Parent-Teacher Organizations can work together and do more than sell wrapping paper. As they met in a classroom around desks arranged in a neat square, PTO Presidents from six New Milford schools gathered to collaborate on ideas, share updates on their respective schools, and tend to new business. Gryn & Barrett was present at this event to meet the dynamic team and get their thoughts on how their system works and why they are passionate about PTO.

"It's a great information-sharing forum," says Trisha Noga of Schaghticoke Middle School. "It's good to be able to come together." Noga stressed how important it is for parents to be involved with their children's education. Having an eighth grader in the school system, she states that her reason for being involved is driven by her child's education. (continues on page 4)

THE Darkroom

PHOTOGRAPHER SPOTLIGHT: JENNA MEDINA

When it comes to getting the perfect shot, Jenna Medina is no newbie. Having worked for Gryn & Barrett Studios for over nine years, she brings a strong grasp of the industry and a creative flair to the company. A 2000 graduate of the Hallmark Institute of Photography, Jenna knows what is really important in the photography industry.

"I like meeting all types of people and being able to capture important moments in their lives," says Jenna as she adjusts the lens on her camera. "I just like to have fun."



And fun she has. With frosted chunks of hair and an infectious laugh, Medina has a way to put her subjects at ease and give them a sense of energetic confidence as she photographs them.

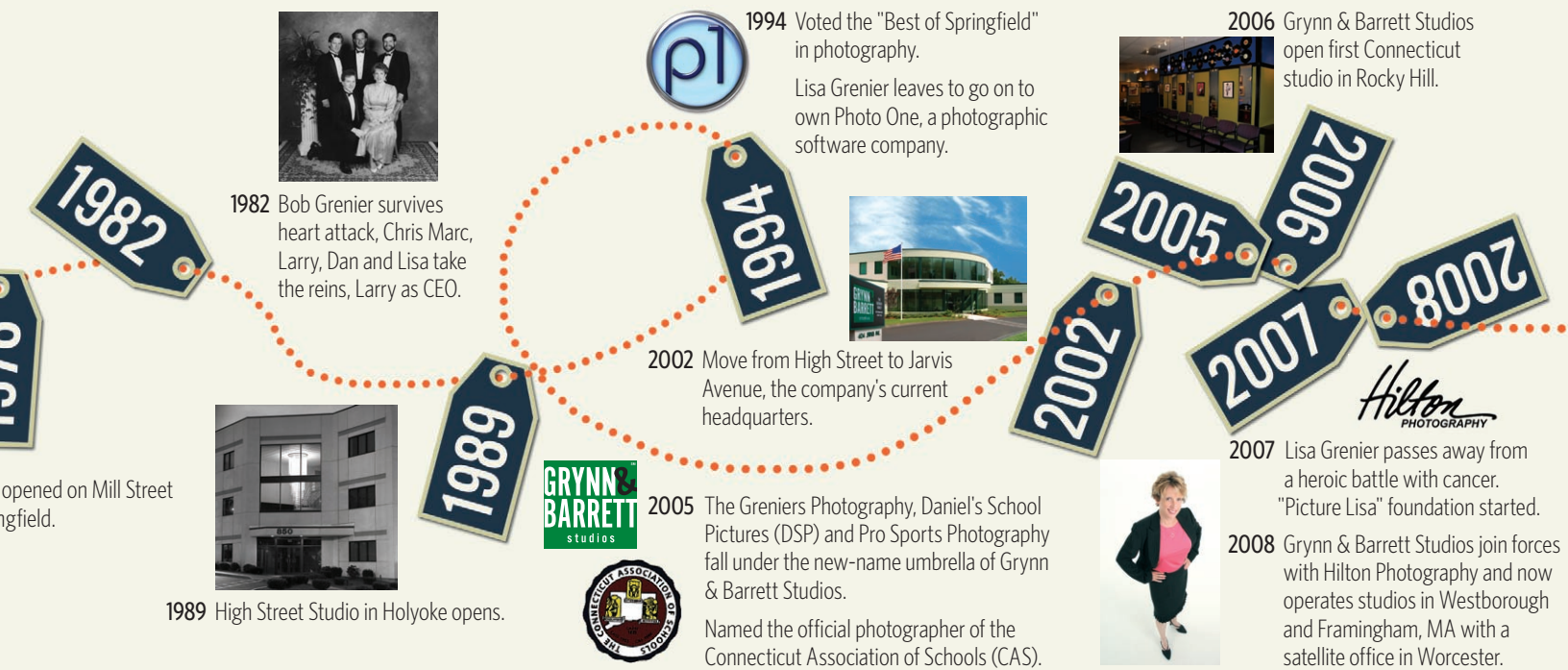
"It's important to get the shot right the first time," says Mary Jacobs, the Director of Photography for Gryn & Barrett, "and that is what Jenna is always focused on."

Assisting Mary and coordinating the schedules and routines of over 100 photographers and assistants traveling to photograph students in six states, Jenna has her work cut out for her. Ensuring photographers get to their destinations with the equipment they need is her top priority.

"Our customer is not only the student being photographed, but it is the school that chose us as their photographer, and that's what I try to hit home when training our staff." Says Jenna, who takes over 10 classes a year and attends seminars to keep current on photography techniques and best practices.

When Jenna is not on the road, you can find her in the Holyoke and Rocky Hill studios, capturing unique senior images and training others how to do the same. From family photography to a ten minute business session, Jenna will help anyone in front of her camera to be comfortable, look amazing, and have fun. ■





Cheryl Forster
IPSWICH MIDDLE SCHOOL

BEST OF THE BEST

CHERYL FORSTER // IPSWICH MIDDLE SCHOOL

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE THE BEST? Is it being able to remember 525 names and faces on a daily basis? That's what Cheryl Forster-Cahill strives for every day as principal of Ipswich Middle School in Ipswich, Massachusetts.

"I absolutely love my job, but I didn't want to come here at first," Forster comments. Fourteen years ago, she was asked to leave a job she loved and join the school, which had previous problems with principal turnover. "I feel honored and grateful to be here now."

Throughout her tenure at the school, Forster has welcomed change in her building and encouraged her faculty to celebrate the little successes throughout their careers in education. Identifying herself as a painfully shy child, Forster also urges educators to look beyond what children appear to be at the moment, whether they are acting appropriately or not.

"It's the 'Jell-O-on-the-wall' moments that I love the most," she confesses. "These are completely unfinished people."

Forster, 59, would probably not have been pegged, as a child, to have received the award she was presented this past April. The Massachusetts Secondary School Administrators Association (MSSAA) identified Forster as the state's Middle School Principal of the Year, an award sponsored by MetLife.

Donning a glittery tiara and white evening gloves, Forster was in true form. The whimsical touches were presented by a colleague who knows Forster likes to have fun. Gryn & Barrett was there to capture the receipt of this prestigious award.

"Cheryl is truly a remarkable woman and it has been an honor working with her," said Chris Grenier, Vice President of Gryn & Barrett Studios. "And the tiara is perfect."

So what will Cheryl do next? Apparently, she is taking her efforts globally. She and her husband Barry Cahill, who is coincidentally the Principal of Ipswich High School, are taking 22 high school students and 16 middle school students to China. Having personally taken an academic trip there, Forster is dedicated to broadening the horizons of her students through educational exploration abroad.

"It's important to show them the shrinking world and begin exposing them to the global economy," Forster states emphatically. She and six other school faculty members will accompany students to China to learn about Chinese culture from music genres to the Chinese educational process.

With a fun-loving attitude and touching dedication to helping kids flourish through every step of their education, it is easy to see how Cheryl Forster-Cahill certainly is the best middle school principal in the state. ■

“It's the 'Jell-O-on-the-wall' moments that I love the most.”

PTO POWERHOUSE (CONTINUED)



With the challenge of orchestrating the involvement of representatives of six schools in one room, Angie Chastain has her work cut out for her. As the new president of the Town-wide Executive Board, and having served as PTO President of Northville Elementary School, Chastain is no rookie. She was proud to report the organization has overseen the raising of \$150,000 in funds as well as 17 scholarships for students in grades kindergarten to high school seniors. "That's what is really exciting," says Chastain who has held the seat as president since June. She thinks being an active PTO member is a great way to be involved in her community. "It's how I stay connected."

With an increased economic awareness when making budget related decisions, Grynn & Barrett was curious to pick some PTO brains as to how important it actually is for organizations such as theirs to stay "local" when selecting vendors for their schools.

"It's important because with Grynn & Barrett, there is that personal touch," commented Trisha Noga, who was photographed by Grynn & Barrett Studios (then Grenier Photography) 28 years ago on her wedding day. "This is a small town and people can appreciate that."

Although Grynn & Barrett's headquarters are located in Massachusetts, the company is no stranger to Connecticut territories. With a studio located in Rocky Hill, the studio serves the greater Hartford community and supports the company's efforts to provide service to schools in Eastern Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and even New Jersey. Grynn & Barrett is also the official photographer for the Connecticut Association of Schools (CAS), a venue that keeps the company highly involved in the Nutmeg State.

Chris Grenier of Grynn & Barrett works directly with the Association and is excited about his company's involvement. "It's important for a company to be involved in the communities where they do business," Grenier comments. "It's a great honor to be here," he adds, regarding his attendance at the New Milford PTO meeting.

When asked if utilizing local businesses is of high importance, Denise Smith, former President of the Town-wide Executive Board and current Chairperson of the Board, nods and smiles enthusiastically. "It's important to see the business stay in the community and come full circle." Smith also indicates local companies may tend to care more. "The flexibility {of Grynn & Barrett} on picture day is great."

Olga Rella agrees. "They know how to pose kids naturally and how to prevent forced smiles." Rella, PTO President of Sarah Noble Intermediate School also expressed how important photography service items are to a school. "The large group picture is a hit." She refers to the larger than life panoramic print Grynn & Barrett offers as a product to their school accounts.

Using one vendor in a multi school community also has its advantages. Grynn & Barrett is able to offer family discounts since many households have multiple children in various schools of the New Milford School system. "Frankly, that's important," says Denise Smith seriously. "It makes a difference to parents when looking for a vendor."

As Grynn & Barrett's camera snapped images of the New Milford PTO group during their meeting last month, smiles erupted into laughter as the group gathered to be photographed. Cohesiveness and collaboration seem to be the backbone of this PTO powerhouse, not to mention a strong commitment to change the lives of children through parental and community involvement, and have a little fun doing it. ■