



## 🎵 Do You Hear What I Hear?

We hear a swirl of wind as 2008 rushes past! How about you?

This was certainly Emily's year. She graduated from Naperville North in May wearing many colored cords to signify an impressive academic career. In addition to prom and other senior events, Em sang with the madrigal group, girls' vocal jazz, the jazz band and a community cabaret. She also performed as Lady Larkin in "Once Upon a Mattress" at North and as the Ayah in "The Secret Garden" in community theatre. Over spring break Em traveled with the school choir to New York City.

During the summer, Emily was the craft counselor at day camp and finished her Gold Award, the Girl Scout equivalent of an Eagle Award, while preparing for college.

Now at Knox College in Galesburg, IL, Em again sings in choir, is a member of the fencing team, and works part time as a piano accompanist for voice students. She's also meeting new people and lucked out on a nice roommate!

James made a few changes himself this year. He worked at two restaurants that went bankrupt and moved from the house he was sharing here in town. Giving up his beloved car, James became a city dweller, moving into an apartment on Chicago and Noble. (West Town maybe?) He gets around on CTA's Blue Line.

The place he goes most often is downtown to Flashpoint Academy for film and broadcast media. After much searching, James found a school that fits him. It's new—the first class graduates in 2009—but it's already making waves in the industry. The program runs 9 to 5 every day, more like a job than a school, and is very hands-on,



using lots of real-world experience. He'll be able to focus on his interests, like screenwriting, but also be exposed to other careers, like set design, which he found out he liked as well.

James submitted a movie he wrote, directed and shot this spring to Naperville's first Independent Film Fest. The film didn't win, but it was shown in a real theatre!

Don was also involved in the Film Fest, having introduced the founders to each other a couple years ago and then staying involved. He emceed both the opening and closing ceremonies, resplendent in his tux, and hobnobbed with actors like Karen Black and David Proval.

Besides serving on the Summer-Place Theatre board, Don played Ben the Gardener in "The Secret Garden," sang in the cabaret and told Ghost Stories in the Dark. He was also the Lone Ranger with the radio theatre group, among other fun roles.

Kate's having a ball speaking about 1830's Illinois to school and community groups since **Ruth by Lake and Prairie** was published. Especially exciting was traveling to Springfield to accept an award from the Illinois State Historical Society in April.

The second book, **Haunted by History**, came out just in time for Halloween, putting a ghost story spin on Naperville history.

Gnu Ventures continues to evolve and we have plenty of plans for next year. After all, we have two college educations to pay off!

We hope that you are well and happy and as always we look forward to hearing from you. Google us — we're easy to find!

Merry Christmas from

**Don and Kate, James and Emily**