

## Suzanne Skjold '93



### Alumni Spotlight Questionnaire

#### 1. What are your fondest memories as a student of AWHHS?

My best memories of Archie's are of the terrific friends I made there—I guess I took it for granted then, but after college and living in several cities, I have often missed that group of people who know me better than anyone in the world, who share your sense of humor and are always there for you. It is rare to find.

I also really appreciated how Archie's made it so easy to become involved- in sports, arts, community service, leadership, and other school activities. It gave me a chance to find things I really cared about, like community service, and also gave me the chance to try things that I would never have done otherwise. While at Archie's I travelled to Maine and Ecuador on service projects, built stage sets, wrote letters to free political prisoners, served meals to the homeless, ran cross country, played softball, took AP History and English classes, and learned how to paint and draw. I haven't kept up with all those activities, but having the chance to try them made me a more confident and well-rounded person.

I still smile whenever I think of my favorite class- Mr. Coughlin's art class, the "banned" books a certain English teacher slipped me to read at home, Principal Barnes letting "We are the Champions" play on the loudspeaker after our hockey team won the State finals in 1991, and the mayhem that was our school plays.

#### 2. Have you stayed close to the friends you made at AWHHS? If so, why?

I still regularly talk to several friends from Archie's and see them whenever I visit Boston, but I still wish I kept in touch with others. I have not lived in the area for most of the time since high school, so when I attended our 10 year reunion, I was so happy to see many people, but also a bit sad to realize they see each other all the time. I think I value my Archie's friends

more and more every year, and also hope I can reconnect with the ones I was so close to in high school, but have lost touch with.

**3. What are your impressions of AWHHS today? Strengths? Areas of potential growth?**

I am so impressed with how Archie's has grown. I think becoming an independent school was a great move for Archie's. I always read the C-emails and the newsletters, and sometimes barely recognize my school, but in a good way. Today's students have so many opportunities, so many ways to learn and connect with the world, and Archie's does a great job of preparing them, as well as grounding them in real values—honesty, service, community.

**4. How might our alumni best serve AWHHS?**

I think most of us, myself included, need to get more involved. We need to help with more fundraising and ensure our school stays strong and makes us all proud. In the last few years, I have felt much more connected to AWHHS. I think the school is doing a great job of trying to involve the alumni more and I hope there is a good response. If all alumni sat down and answered the questions you asked me—what are your fondest AWHHS memories and tell us about the friends you made there, and one you did not ask- do you think attending Archie's made you a better person— I think almost every alumni would see the value of their education and would want to give more of their time and money so more can benefit from this unique education.

**5. Please include a brief biography including:**

My husband Robert and I moved to Hawai'i in 2008, where I work as Executive Director of Hawaii Literacy, a statewide non-profit organization that helps adults and children from low-income families learn to read and write. I've worked in non-profits ever since moving to Key West after graduation from Williams College, when I began working at Boys & Girls Clubs. I did return to Boston for several years, and got an M.A. from Boston University, but after a few winters, decided to head back to the island life! We love it in Honolulu, and we enjoy hiking, snorkeling, kayaking, and spending our weekends at the beach. I've also recently taken up racquetball and I hope to start learning to sail this summer. My younger sister, Christine, AWHHS Class of '94, is married now and living in Cincinnati, Ohio, where she just bought a gorgeous house and got two cute kittens.