

## A PART OF HISTORY

The Gunnery community gathered together in the Dining Hall to watch the swearing in of Barack Obama as the 44<sup>th</sup> President of the United States. While most of the students and faculty saw history being made via a screen and projector, a select few witnessed it in person. Four members of the history department, Craig Badger, Jen Badger, Jarrod Sisk, and Ari Baum '03 bid successfully for the inauguration trip at The Gunnery Parent Council Auction in October. The trip donated by trustee and parent Peter Slone '73 also included a spot for Haley Slone '11. Jessica L'Heureux '10 attended a five day Presidential Youth Inaugural Conference (PYIC) which included a viewing spot on the mall for the Presidential Inauguration.

Jessica, who also attended the National Leaders Conference in 2007, was nominated into this program by a Gunnery faculty member. She, along with 15,000 middle school, high school, and college students, were invited to the PWIC last spring. "I knew whichever way the election turned out, it would be a milestone," said Jessica. In addition to attending the Inauguration, she listened to several guest speakers including Lisa Ling, Colin Powell, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, and Al Gore. "The speakers had a huge influence on me. At the end of every speech, kids had the chance to ask questions."

Regarding the inauguration, Jessica said, "It was amazing. The second President Obama appeared, there was a burst of energy. Everyone there was happy. Even if you weren't a fan of his, you couldn't help but be happy. For that twenty minutes, everyone was connected. "

"Going beyond its historical importance," said Ari Baum, "It was just a lot of fun for the four Gunnery faculty members lucky enough to attend. While it was an excruciating physical experience – huge crowds, logistical nightmares, and extremely low temperatures – it was unparalleled in its meaning and value; one of those rare "where were you when...?" moments. The four members of The Gunnery history department were not exposed to history on this day; they were a part of it."