

# Profile in Giving

Steve Thorne '70

## **“Riverdale was a kind of Camelot for me.”**

*Steve Thorne graduated from Riverdale in 1970. He completed his BS in economics in 1974 from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania. He is a corporate officer and a vice president for global staffing at General Electric. Steve lives in Fairfield, CT, with Sherry Thorne, his wife of 35 years. They have two children, Kali and Jared, and a granddaughter, Brynn. This year he served on Riverdale's reunion committee and was instrumental in planning his 40th high school reunion celebrations.*

### **What was your time at Riverdale like in the 1960s?**

I refer to my time at Riverdale as my years of “Camelot.” Outside of my immediate family it was the one environment that was nurturing and caring. The beauty of Riverdale was that the school expanded your horizons across multiple planes: academics, sports, and the arts. The end result was a rich balance in my life.

### **Was there a particular teacher or coach who made a lasting impression on you?**

Yes: Coach Frank Bertino. It was Mr. Bertino who taught me the value of knowledge, diligence, dedication, passion, and vision. I learned from him that flawless execution when consistently applied was the key to success.

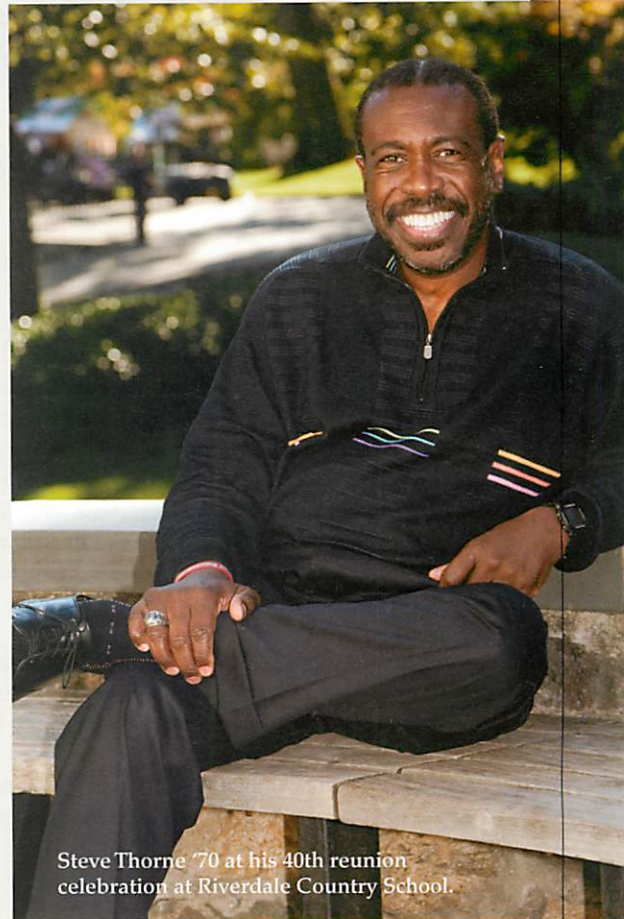
### **You just celebrated your 40th reunion at Riverdale. What was the experience like for you?**

I think our reunion surpassed the expectations of everyone who attended. There was a genuine outpouring of affection among all of the 1970 alums. Many of us had not seen each other for 40 years and it was a great time to get reacquainted.

### **You are a donor to Riverdale's Annual Fund. Why do you give?**

One of the reasons I give to the Annual Fund is because it supports Riverdale's financial aid program, which I understand now tops \$7 million. I hope that my gift will lead to another child who comes from humble means (I grew up in the South Bronx, in the Millbrook projects) having the opportunity to enjoy the benefits of a community that values him or her and helps that child realize his or her potential.

*Steve Thorne in the cast of the musical **Wonderful Town** in his junior year at Riverdale.*



Steve Thorne '70 at his 40th reunion celebration at Riverdale Country School.





# NEW DEAN on CAMPUS

This fall Roxanne Leff joined Riverdale as the Dean of the Sixth Grade after 10 years of experience in education and six years at hilltop neighbor Fieldston. There, she taught sixth grade English, history, and math, as well as seventh grade history. Prior to Fieldston, she worked at a school in Boston, teaching in the eighth grade.

In addition to her teaching role at Fieldston, she also played an important role in the administration as a “team leader” for the sixth grade and as the diversity coordinator for two years.

At Riverdale, Roxanne enjoys having a new community and culture to learn and understand. Sixth grade is particularly close to her heart, as all her students are new to the Hill Campus, making her role even more important in helping them get organized and make good decisions.

For parents, she enjoys playing the role of the “connector,” helping to discipline students but also helping parents relax as their children make the transition from the Lower School to the Middle School.

In the future, she hopes to work more with her fellow colleagues, perhaps serving on the admission committee, coaching a sports team, or going on study abroad trips.



**ROXANNE LEFF**

**Q: Working in education is great, but if you didn't have to work, what would you do?**

A: I'd be a jazz dancer with Alvin Ailey or an Olympic sprinter.

**Q: Do you have any hidden talents that would impress your students?**

A: I have double-jointed shoulders.

**Q: If you could only have three things on a deserted island, what would they be?**

A: Family, iPhone, and Pirate's Booty [snacks].

**Q: Where is your favorite place in the world?**

A: Jamaica, Paris, or Amsterdam.

**Q: What crazy activity do you dream of trying someday?**

A: Parasailing.

**Q: If you could go on a road trip with any person (dead or alive), who would you go with and where would you go?**

A: I would go with my friend Khali; we would drive all over Africa.

**Q: What is the weirdest thing you have ever eaten?**

A: Snails.

**Q: If you were an animal, what would you be and why?**

A: A cheetah: they are fast, fearless, and graceful.

**Q: Name three things you miss about being a kid.**

A: Not having responsibility, laughing a lot more, and living in Jamaica.

**Q: If you could re-live your middle school years now, would you?**

A: Yes, absolutely. I had a blast!