Dancing Through the Decades
On Sunday afternoon, May 17th, the ballroom was once again filled with music from the 1920s, 30s, and early 40s typical of the era of the school dances. Starting with some professional instruction in waltz, fox trot, and swing, 100 guests moved around the dance floor to the period music.

As a special treat in honor of former NPS student Irene Foote Castle, the instructors Marc Shepanek and Ellen Engle (shown in middle photo above) demonstrated the Castle Walk, a dance originated by the famous dance duo of Vernon and Irene Castle.

Whether they danced or not, everyone seemed to share in the delight of a dance in the stunning ballroom at NPS. As the fundraising event of the year, the dance also netted $3,000 for the continuing preservation and education work of SOS.
Mark Your Calendar for Our Fall Programs
SOS will be presenting two more programs this year to continue highlighting various aspects of the history of the National Park Seminary property. We look forward to seeing you at these programs that are free to SOS members and $5 for non-members.

Thursday, September 17, 7:30 pm
Movie Night - Esther Williams
Esther Williams was a national swimming champion and movie star who entertained the World War II recuperating soldiers at Walter Reed, including swimming with them in the gymnasium pool at Forest Glen. We will screen one of her most famous films, Million Dollar Mermaid, whose title later became her nickname.

Wednesday, November 11, 7:30 pm
History of Medical Services at Walter Reed Forest Glen Annex
Through archival materials, publications, photographs and displays, you will learn how medical technologies and treatments evolved during the Army years and the role of Forest Glen in these advances.

Miss Our Spring Program?
A Fine Education was presented in March and focused on the educational philosophy and academic program of National Park Seminary and how it transitioned to a junior college. Starting with a brief history of U.S. education, the talk described the school’s curriculum in the context of national trends in women’s education.

If you weren’t able to attend this program, you can still see and hear it on our website Past Events page at http://www.saveourseminary.org/events/past-events/ where you’ll also find our other past programs.

Renovation Progress

Gymnasium
The renovation of the gymnasium into 12 condominiums is proceeding at a quick pace. Rooms are taking shape with drywall, lighting, and other fixtures. The front is looking especially grand and imposing with its Corinthian columns.

Colonial House
Digging out more of the basement for utility connections and added space has started on the Colonial House, the only sorority house other than the castle still to be renovated into a single-family home. With its beautiful large arched windows and verandahs overlooking the glen, this house will be stunning when completed.

Two More Awards
To highlight another successful renovation at National Park Seminary,
SOS nominated the firm of Steadfast Investments for an award for its restoration of the Spanish Mission sorority house. We were pleased that Montgomery Preservation, Inc., the countywide non-profit preservation organization, granted Steadfast the award for “restoration and reuse of a 20th century historic resource” at their annual awards ceremony in March. The gymnasium will be next on our list to nominate!

Save Our Seminary itself was honored in June with an award from Montgomery County Civic Federation, the 90-year-old organization of civic groups working on significant issues of public interest. SOS was given the Wayne Goldstein Award for outstanding service to the people of Montgomery County for our “25 years of perseverance and success at saving this national treasure.”

We were very honored to be presented with this award by Gwen Wright, the director of the Montgomery County Planning Department, who has been a valuable resource and supporter of our efforts for many years.

Treasure in the Archives
Coincident with our ballroom dance in May, SOS received donations of two dance cards used by National Park students. Such cards were used at the school from the 1920s to the early 40s.

Small with celluloid covers and a pencil on a tasseled cord, they were a formal way to assure that girls would have a partner for the various dances by writing their names next to a specific dance. The last dance was usually saved for a special someone.

Do you know…?
Several of our readers did know the answer to the movie trivia question we asked in the last newsletter: Who was a former World War II patient at Walter Reed Forest Glen who is the only person to win two Academy Awards for the same performance?

The answer is Harold Russell, who lost both his hands in a wartime accident. He won the two awards for the 1946 movie *The Best Years of Our Lives*. One award was for best supporting actor and the other for “bringing aid and comfort to disabled veterans through the medium of motion pictures.”
Russell was selected for the movie by the director, who saw him in an Army film, *Diary of a Sargeant*, in which he tells the story of his rehabilitation at Walter Reed. You can watch this film on YouTube and see scenes at Forest Glen, including of the swimming pool.

Congratulations to the several members who quickly responded with the correct answer. The film is a powerful one that still has relevance today.

AmazonSmile Donates to SOS Through You
Do you shop on Amazon? If so, you can designate Save Our Seminary as the charitable recipient of 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases made through AmazonSmile. Amazon, not you, makes the full 0.5% donation to the organization of your choice. Here is the link with more details on this donation program and to support SOS when shopping at AmazonSmile: [http://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-1643912](http://smile.amazon.com/ch/52-1643912).

Thank you for considering this easy, no-cost way to provide a little extra support for SOS!