Brewster

THE MAGAZINE OF
BREWSTER ACADEMY
FALL 2018
16
Bold Brand, Promise Delivered
With something uniquely valuable and exclusively ours, Brewster evolves its brand.

22
All That Jazz
Despite an emerging celebrity status, Al Simoes finds Donovan Mitchell ’15 the same genuine young man he once coached.

28
Change Maker
From a rural village in Tanzania to the United Nations, 2018 graduate Sioni Ayubu Molley ’18 is empowering young girls.
Head Lines

GETTING BETTER

The work of Brewster and schools like it in the 21st century is complicated. Shifting demographics, rising costs, expensive physical plants, and challenging perceptions drive us endlessly to be better. The challenges are bracing, exciting. They give real life and urgency to our every decision. The challenges are making us better. Quickly.

Getting better takes planning. For those of us who manage Brewster, this past summer was a time to dig into gap analyses, strategy, metrics, institutional objectives, and goals. This past summer was certainly a time when we got a bit bigger, faster, and stronger. Yet we didn’t get better this past summer – we got ready to be better, just as we did the summer prior.

The metrics tell a bit of the story of our getting better. Voluntary and involuntary student attrition are way, way down. We are full of mission-specific students. We had a banner year in fundraising, far surpassing our Fund for Brewster goal and fully funding the beautiful new Toad Hall on the southern edge of campus. Parent surveys reveal that we have improved in every single category related to parent satisfaction. Here’s just one:

“The leadership, the teachers, and the staff – I believe Brewster’s ‘secret sauce’ lies in its people – it’s an educational philosophy animated by extremely competent, thoughtful, and compassionate people.”

Our evolved approaches also reflect how we are getting better. We have developed enviable risk management protocols and crisp marketing and branding materials. Our campus master planning is invigorating and early conceptual renderings are so beautiful I nearly weep. We are evolving our academic and residential life programs and facilities quickly and keeping with a taut, eight-word mission: Brewster prepares diverse thinkers for lives of purpose.

And we are reaching out to our environs to partner in our town and in our region, engaging our current students in the work of the broader Wolfeboro community with purpose and bringing underserved yet promising local students to our campus through the New Hampshire Student Leadership Program, an initiative we started because we saw the need in our community. Finally, we are building partnerships around the globe to provide our students with opportunities to travel and learn.

These changes in focus and evolved approaches are all a consequence of execution by many on strategies that were developed and deployed quickly in service to what is harder to measure: culture.

Our culture grows stronger by the day largely because we challenge our students to define normative behavior for their more impressionable peers and have given them space to define what Brewster should be. We’ve asked and then gotten out of the way a bit. We’ve trusted them more and built relationships with them based ever more on trust and less on reductive rules.

As we’ve relinquished a bit of control to students to shape the community they inhabit, the truth is unassailable: this is a more purposeful place, a more joyous place, a place where culture is increasingly constructed and maintained by students, the very students we’ll send off into the world in ways that we full well believe prepare them to live lives of purpose.

Management guru Peter Drucker once offered that culture eats strategy for breakfast. In light of my recent experiences at Brewster, I have ruminated on this adage and am left thinking that Drucker might have been a shade reductive. Our experiences here strongly suggest on the surface that culture and strategy are happening at different places and at different times and by different players in the organization. Looking more deeply, it seems that the ecology of strategy and culture can’t be reduced to a simple food chain metaphor because they interact dialectically at Brewster – they each feed and sustain and let the other grow.

I invite you to come and experience Brewster ca. 2018. We suspect you’ll find all you loved about it when you first visited or walked the hallways. It is still a warm, nurturing, student-centered place. Still on a lake and embedded in the postcard-perfect town of Wolfeboro. We still strive to serve a diverse student body in an intimate community. Our graduates still thrive broadly in the world with passion, purpose, and talent. And we are growing stronger by the day thanks to the work of students and adults alike, who are squaring up with the challenges the world presents us with and doing so in ways that make me proud to call Brewster my home. /BA/
Brewster Academy graduated 113 students during its Commencement Exercises on Saturday, May 26. Following the processional of faculty and graduates, The Rev. Gina M. Finocchiaro offered the invocation. Head of School Dr. Craig Gemmell then welcomed everyone to the ceremony, beginning: “We are here to celebrate a wonderful group of walking, talking, smiling, thinking, loving adolescent transformations in this ceremony.”

**INVOCATION**

An excerpt from the Invocation delivered by The Rev. Gina M. Finocchiaro

“... Because we sit right now in the liminal – no longer in the midst of what came before, and not yet in the midst of what will be – let us be fully present in this sacred in-between:

To observe the sky above and around, the sun, the birds, the trees, the air, the lake – the symbols of gown and cap, bagpipe and note, to observe the countenance, the emotion, the unspoken and fashion of each one of us.

Let us dwell in this moment, with reverence, with gratitude, with hope, with joy, with courage, with anxiousness, with peace ... and even with pride. Aware of those who are not here, thankful for those who are. Aware of what could-have been, and what indeed is not. Aware of the complexity of joy that this threshold offers. For this day, has been long in the coming. Amen.”

---

**WORDS TO LIVE BY**

Andrew, Deb, and Eli Wheeler – the parents and brother of Lucas Todd Wheeler ’18 who passed away on the first day of classes in September – were present to both celebrate Lucas’ classmates and honor their son by presenting each graduate with a bronze amulet (crafted by Deb, a bronze artist) engraved with some of Lucas’ favorite expressions.
Look around, pay attention, be fully present in the moment, and don’t take it for granted because we never know when our story may twist, turn, or come to an end.

Much like us here in the real universe – generations change, powers evolve, and challenges increase as we all wait to see what happens to the universe. … Generation Z, it’s your turn at the throne. … This generation will easily be larger and more privileged … and it has changed the game quite a bit.
Nick and Dee Dee Wilbur arrived at Brewster in July 2017 with their daughter Brynn, now 2, who is arguably the cutest member of the Wilbur family.

Nick took the helm of the Admission Office where he oversees the admissions team and helps shape the direction and future of Brewster as a member of the school’s senior strategy team. Previously he was director of financial aid and associate director of admissions at Westminster School.

Just steps from Nick’s office is the expansive view of the Brewster fields and lake. A former lacrosse player and coach, Nick admits to frequently commandeering the office binoculars during lacrosse season. The New Hampton games are especially distracting, he says.

Dee Dee Wilbur is the weekend activities coordinator, a community life parent in the newest dorm, Toad Hall, and coach of the competitive equestrian team. Dee Dee is a self-admitted horse collector (we are talking real horses) and thinks that her horses will visit Toad Hall often. After all, horses are effective lawn mowers and provide ample fertilizer, she says.

Fondest memory of the first year: Nick:
Seeing parents truly elated about finally finding a school that is the right fit for their child. Also, watching Brynn assist Craig Gemmell in announcing a Head’s holiday. Her popularity hit new heights on that cold January day.

Dee Dee: Playing Scuttle the seagull in the school’s winter musical, The Little Mermaid, and picking up the cello again as a member of Brewster’s chamber orchestra.

Although Brynn Wilbur has not interviewed for head tour guide, she does make an impact on families. She brings a certain free spirit to her admission office visits and loves to meet new people.

Nick and Dee Dee are thrilled to have the opportunity to bring Brynn to New Hampshire. They were both raised here and cherish knowing that Brynn will have the opportunity to grow up in their home state in an environment they love.
TWF Honoree
The Trey Whitfield Foundation honored Melissa Lawlor at its annual banquet in July. Lawlor, Brewster’s Community and Inclusion Programs director, started a mentor program between Brewster students and students at the pre-K – eighth grade Trey Whitfield School in Brooklyn, New York. In her acceptance remarks, Lawlor explained that the goal was to create a bridge between the two schools, schools who were bound together by the legacy of Trey Whitfield ’89 but whose students were perhaps unaware of the history between them.

Young Entrepreneur
In July ABC affiliate WMUR featured Gus Schoenbucher ’21 for his entrepreneurial spirit. Gus runs a popular food service boat on Merrymeeting Lake in nearby New Durham selling hot dogs, chips, soda, and ice-cream to hungry homeowners and visitors around the lake.

Coach of the Year
The Northern New England Lacrosse Coaches Association named Jason Ouellet Coach of the Year. In his third season as head lacrosse coach for Brewster, Ouellet led the Bobcats to a 14-3 record and their first Lakes Region League title since 2015. Ouellet came to Brewster from Western Connecticut State University in 2015 to lead the boys’ program and teach history.

The Director’s Prize Goes To …
The 2017-2018 prep basketball team earned the Director’s Prize this May. The Director’s Prize recognizes one interscholastic team each year that has excelled in the classroom, community, and during their season. For consideration, a team must have had a winning season and from this field the team with the highest cumulative team GPA and highest combined recognition scores earns the award.
**New Hampshire Student Leadership Program Launches**

The New Hampshire Student Leadership Program at Brewster launched this summer with 18 students. This initiative developed out of a desire by school leadership, and spearheaded by Head of School Craig Gemmell, to reach deeper into surrounding communities to provide middle school students a path of opportunities for confidence building, mentorship, and leadership skills.

“The driver for this program came from our strong belief that independent schools in our area have an opportunity and responsibility to impact the educational landscape within our regions,” Gemmell explained. He added that with a generous $75,000 – greater than 1:1 matching grant – from the E. E. Ford Foundation, Brewster became the first school to successfully enroll and run this program during its inaugural year.

Director and Brewster faculty member Michelle Rafalowski-Houseman, along with assistant director AK Walker, visited with local elementary schools in the Lakes Region and Seacoast to introduce the program. They then thoughtfully reviewed 30 applications of rising seventh grade students who were nominated by members of their school systems and who demonstrated leadership potential with limited access to a full range of education resources.

The program included a one-week residential experience at Brewster, living in a dormitory environment (Mason and Spencer houses) with student mentors and experienced educators leading team-building and training components. The program continues throughout the school year with goal-setting check ins for the program participants with both Brewster student and faculty mentors as well as three seasonal workshops and a return for year two in the summer of 2019.

The students have continued to strengthen their sense of self while realizing the value of service to others and building a strong awareness of how their leadership, through education, can support and benefit their own communities. We look forward to sharing their personal stories of success. – Lynne M. Palmer

**Q + A**

**WE ASKED:** How did you spend your summer?

**SOPHIE MAZRI ’20 (WINDHAM, NEW HAMPSHIRE)**
I travelled to college soccer camps, like Duke, Clemson, and Harvard, to get a feel for what it would be like to live on the campuses and be a part of college programs. It was great because the college coaches coached, along with some of the players. I loved it!

**ROBBIE ROHRBAUGH ’20 (WOLFEBORO)**
I worked as a camp counselor for the Wolfeboro Parks and Rec Department. We spent time at the beach, took field trips throughout the state, and I played a lot of basketball with the campers who love shooting hoops.

**MONICA ZHANG ’19 (JIAXING, CHINA)**
I travelled to Italy, France, Japan, and within China. I’ve also been doing a lot of research on colleges and visited some campuses. And spending time with my parents!
For project period in May, a team of juniors combined their interest in photography with natural and cultural resources for a two-week photography intensive.

“Since all of the students were new to photography, they all had very different areas they wanted to focus on,” explained faculty project advisor and photographer Barb Thomas. “The students were introduced to and required to experiment with the different settings – aperture, shutter speed, ISO, program, manual vs. automatic – on their cameras, as well as the techniques of theme, composition, perspective, blur, action, reflection, lighting, nature, landscape, and portraits. Likewise, the students experimented with the editing programs of Lightroom, Photoshop, and VSCO to enhance their photos,” Thomas said.

To practice using different techniques and enhance creativity, the group travelled by boat to capture crew practice and the nesting grounds of eagles; hiked Mt. Caverly and the waterfalls at Castle in the Clouds; waited patiently on the shore of 19 Mile Bay for sunset and wildlife; travelled to the Maine coast to shoot Nubble Light and the Atlantic Ocean; captured the energy and spirit of a Best Buddies’ fundraiser in the state’s capital; and chronicled the bustle of downtown Wolfeboro.

View photos at www.brewsteracademy.org and click on the Flickr icon.

Monica Zhang (Jiaxing, China) and Asal Mohamed (Muscat, Oman) were part of the experiential photo group.
“The people of the town were very open to sharing incredibly personal life experiences with us, and it honestly seemed like it was a moment of relief for some of the interviewees as they finally talked about things they hadn’t in years.”

Emma Culver ’18, on interviewing people for Humans of Wolfeboro

On View
Seniors Tanisa “Putt Putt” Quanpadung (Bangkok, Thailand), Nate Clark (Readfield, Maine), Isaiah Mucius (East Patchogue, New York), and Emma Culver (Concord, New Hampshire) at their Humans of Wolfeboro exhibit at the Wolfeboro Town Hall.
Toad Hall Opens

A day before Commencement last May, the Brewster community celebrated the opening of its newest campus residence, Toad Hall, a name chosen by the Liautaud family who made a $2 million gift to initiate this special project.

Leslie and Jimmy John Liautaud, from Champaign, Illinois, are the proud parents of three Brewster graduates, Spencer ’13, Lucy ’17, and Fred ’18.

In her remarks at the ribbon cutting ceremony, Leslie reflected on the Brewster pillars of Respect, Responsibility, and Investment. “I wholly believe those pillars are not just meant for the students at Brewster but they’re meant for all of us as a greater way to live life.”

She noted that their donation to this project is the largest they have made to any one project; a reflection of the faith they have in the Academy. Leslie added: “We watched our children arrive nervous, frightened, and insecure about their future away from home during their very fragile high school years. But during those years they grew, they developed confidence, they developed trust, they developed a solid moral base, and they developed respect for those around them and for themselves. I want to say a heartfelt thank you to the faculty and Brewster team for walking beside our kids physically and emotionally while they were here.”

The name of the new dorm, Toad Hall, reflects the humor and humility of the Liautaud family. As Leslie explained: “We decided on the name because our last name has a silent D – Liautaud – but is most frequently pronounced Liautoad, hence Toad Hall.”

The facility was fully funded with generous additional gifts from other parents, alumni, and alumni parents, and ground was broken in late July 2017. Toad Hall is located on the southern end of campus along Clark Road.

On opening weekend in September, Toad Hall became home to the first group of Brewster students: 20 freshman girls. Additionally, four faculty apartments within the complex house six faculty members, including the two community life parents of the freshman girls.
From Trying Something New to the World Championships

During the fall of his sophomore year, Chris Carlson ’15 joined the crew team at Brewster Academy just to try something new. He had played multiple sports growing up, but his love for the water and affinity for teamwork spurred him to give the new sport a shot. Six years later, he has rowed all over the nation and the world, even competing – and winning – at the U23 World Championships.
A native of Bedford, New Hampshire, Chris came to Brewster as a sophomore in 2012, inspired to attend by his grandfather, David Carlson, a member of the Class of 1954 and a former trustee. The rowing team was one of the biggest teams on campus, and Chris says he immediately fell into a wide network of friends.

“I had great friends that I still keep in touch with today,” Chris said, reflecting on his time at Brewster. “It was a wonderful community.”

Chris rowed all three years at Brewster and was recruited by Marist College on an athletic scholarship; his rowing career was just getting started. That freshman season at Marist, Chris earned a seat on the top varsity boat and set a school record for the 2KErg test, an extremely trying test of endurance and sprinting that rowers use to compare their fitness levels. He continued to improve and even added a few inches to his already 6-foot stature.

His hard work and success next earned Chris an invite to the USRowing U23 National Team Selection Camp in 2017. He was selected for the USA team and was off to compete in the World Championship in Bulgaria during the summer following his sophomore year. The team took fourth place, with Chris sitting at the five seat of the men’s eight boat. The race also opened up new possibilities for Chris. Driven to compete at a higher level, he transferred to the crew powerhouse University of Washington, where he is now a senior.

“The UW coaches talked about this idea of having to earn your spot on the team – that nothing was going to be given to anyone,” Chris says. “I really liked that.”

Chris certainly understands putting in the work. Perhaps more impressive than his work ethic, however, is his dedication to his teammates.

“For Chris, it’s not just about winning, but winning with his team,” his mother, Catherine Campbell Patterson, says proudly about her son. “He has always been humbled and grateful for the accomplishments in his life.”

And that list of accomplishments is a long one. This past year, he was named Newcomer of the Year for the PAC-12 Conference. He competed on the U23 National Team again, this time rowing in the third seat with five of his UW teammates and coached by Washington’s head coach Michael Callahan.

His USA team competed against senior-level teams at the World Rowing Cup III in Lucerne, Switzerland, and took fourth place. Later in July, they traveled to Poznań, Poland, where the men’s eight won the gold medal and set a new U23 world’s best time in the 2000-meter at 5.22.48.

“I think I was really dialed in during this regatta,” Chris says of the winning race. “We knew that if we wanted to win it would have to be our best race, and we accomplished that.”

After Graduation

While he is not trying to look too far ahead, Chris knows that he wants to keep rowing after his senior year. He has even thought about trying out for the 2020 Summer Olympic team.

His grandfather David has no doubt about Chris continuing to pursue his passion. “If he gets the opportunity, he will row after graduation,” he says. “He’s dedicated.”

Chris’s dedication has certainly taken him far. When asked if he ever anticipated the impact rowing would have on his life, Chris says no. “At Brewster, I just really enjoyed rowing on the lake. It was beautiful and I had some great teammates,” he says. “I’ve gotten more and more into rowing as the years go by. I’m really excited to see where it goes.”

And so is U.S. Olympic Coach Mike Teti who says Chris and his teammates are candidates for the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo.

This story that began with a new boy in the boat on Wolfeboro Bay is not over yet. Check back in two years (or more) for the sequel. /BA/

Kara McDuffee is a Brewer English teacher and coach.

ON THE LAX WORLD STAGE

In July in Netanya, Israel, former Bobcats Alex Weiss ’16 and Matt Gilray ’14 competed on the biggest stage the sport of lacrosse has to offer, the 2018 FIL World Lacrosse Championships. Gilray played for Canada, which finished second behind the United States team while Alex Weiss suited up for Germany, which took ninth place overall.
Evolving a brand, delivering a promise

BREWSTER ACADEMY LOOKS FORWARD

BY LYNN M. PALMER
As the Academy approaches its bicentennial in 2020 and the leadership reflects on its vibrant public and independent school history, it is clear that the initial values set forth for the learning community nearly 200 years ago by the Academy’s founders, remain the same as they were on opening day in 1821. And, while staying true to its mission of educating a diverse and honorable student body in preparation for lives that are meaningful and fulfilling, Brewster has always been able and willing to adapt its program to stay relevant with the changing times and needs of its students.

Now is no different. Looking forward, we choose to secure our position as an educational leader and commit to programs of educational excellence. To articulate our vision, which is both farsighted and responsive, we decided to undertake a branding initiative to:

- honor our sense of place and future path;
- be bold in our affirmation that Brewster is The Way Education Should Be;
- nurture a sense of pride and accomplishment in our community through a unified voice and image; and
- be recognized with contemporary visuals for today’s digital reality but reflective of our history.

That journey began last summer when we researched and then recruited Neimand Collaborative to direct a branding initiative. The Neimand team came to campus and met with faculty, staff, parents, students, and alumni to research our strengths and weaknesses. They conducted comparative research...
and evaluated trends. The team impressed us with their ability to really grasp Brewster’s added value and break down both the industry realities and the messaging realities that were negatively impacting our marketing results.

The good news from Neimand was that our program, and more importantly, our mission, delivered on our promise with depth and distinction. The bad news was that people could get buried in the details and weeds with how we were describing our added value. There were important messages that did not resonate with prospective families, alumni, donors, and important stakeholders.

**Our strengths were noted:**

- a warm and welcoming community
- diversity in teaching practices
- success for each student
- collaborative culture
- support for optimal success
- real-world preparation

**Our challenges were recognized as:**

- misperception of our strengths as weaknesses
- brand recognition
- inaccurate reputation
- complexity of descriptors
- fragmented constituents

Their advice was to be bold and proudly advance the fact that we have something uniquely valuable and exclusively ours – an inclusive education model and the expertise that goes into its practice. Communicate the high standards, warmth, and passion of our community in every point of touch or conversation. Tell the stories of Brewster students doing great things as alumni. Show the pride of a school that is willing to adapt to the times to prepare students for their future and not a place that has not changed in hundreds of years. Validate that a nurturing environment encourages excellence from all without encouraging students to compete over each other. Demonstrate that personalization is about challenge and higher achievement without standardization.
A BOLD, CONCISE LOOK

Working with Neimand we developed a message framework that now gives us the tools and the language that reflect our strengths and will help us focus on what is most important to communicate with all of our constituents.

Along with this framework, we pursued a graphic identity coordination to complement this effort and to build a system that would ultimately create a recognizable brand structure for Brewster. This new graphic identity incorporates Brewster’s long ago established primary school colors and iconic images with a contemporary feel that we believe will help us strengthen visual recognition and our reputation as a school.

When I think of notable brands, it is easy to conjure up familiar iconic images. From the golden arches of McDonald’s – one simple M that is recognizable from afar. To the stainless steel apple – you might not want to bite into it but you wouldn’t say no to some healthy stock options.

These logomarks are immediately recognizable and the businesses they represent have consistently and successfully incorporated them into marketing strategies for decades. After 63 years for McDonalds and 42 years for Apple, these steadfast visual identities have stood the test of time.

Throughout Brewster’s almost 200-year history, the school has witnessed many visual changes. The name has evolved from Wolfeborough-Tuftonborough Academy to Brewster Free Academy to Brewster Academy; thus, images, events, and communications bear witness to an evolution of this change. Pennants have displayed bright red, maroon, black, and blue with a lonely B, a crowded BFA, or the classic couple – BA. The Brewster Bobcat has stood with a ferocious growl, offered a side profile image, and been mistaken as a wildcat, a cougar, and the occasional mountain lion!

Marketing efforts will place emphasis on Brewster to encourage that name recognition along with a refreshed emblem, seal, and Bobcat logo.

As we developed this branding initiative, we also were developing a new external website, which launched in July. We took the guidance from this effort and applied both message and visual identity to the final product. The feedback that we have received has been overwhelmingly positive. (See feedback on right.)

As we continue to tell the stories of our alumni creating and seizing opportunities, serving others, and living lives of meaning, we will roll out this message platform in new materials and articulate it in every day conversations with visitors and our local community. We will celebrate our successes and inspire our extended Brewster community to be a part of our momentum and vision for the next 200-year journey. / BA /

Lynne M. Palmer is Brewster’s director of external affairs.
VISUAL IDENTITY FAQ

We appreciate and encourage your active voice in our efforts and we know that there are typical questions that community members have when organizations and communities make changes in their program or visual identity. Here we try to answer these frequently asked questions.

WHY HAS BREWSTER UPDATED ITS VISUAL IDENTITY?
Over the years, offices and departments have independently designed and produced numerous logos and visuals for events and programs. Such work hasn’t always reflected Brewster’s official school graphics or visual identity, leaving some to ask “what is Brewster’s visual identity? Thus, in part, this “brand or identity creep” prompted the school’s marketing team to take an in-depth look at what was out there representing Brewster. The review revealed a lack of cohesiveness in many areas.

HOW WAS THE VISUAL IDENTITY DETERMINED?
Brewster enlisted an outside creative firm that sent a team to campus to become immersed in the Brewster experience. Team members then conducted on- and off-campus interviews with students, parents, alumni, faculty and staff, and trustees to offer personal perspective on the Brewster experience.

Out of this effort, Brewster’s messaging and voice arose (loud and clear we are happy to report) and our creative partners went to work crafting a brand framework from which they built primary and secondary messages while their creative team incorporated the existing Brewster family crest and school seal into a fresh emblem that represents the school’s history and connection to the Brewster family with a more modern look.

WHY DOES THE LOGO WORDMARK DEPICT BREWSTER AND NOT BREWSTER ACADEMY?
Brewster is still Brewster Academy. But we think Brewster is strong enough to stand alone, and it is a common branding approach to focus the visual emphasis on the one word that you want people to remember and recognize.

DOES THIS AFFECT OTHER AREAS OF THE SCHOOL?
From the beginning, the goal was to make sure that each corner of campus and each school program would position Brewster clearly, boldly, and cohesively. We will continue to roll out this effort in all aspects of our communications, our programs, and our external presence. We want to make sure that we have the most cohesive effort possible to ensure that Brewster Academy has a well-known and identified brand in the world.

WHAT YOU SAID:

The site looks absolutely amazing. Great job.

The website looks fantastic!

Just looked through the whole thing. Very impressive, nicely done, really shows off IS and SEL programs, which I believe are the schools selling/differentiating features.

Fabulous!

Love the new logo and brand.
Donovan Mitchell ’15 rises above the competition while remaining grounded

BY AL SIMOES

PHOTO COURTESY OF SPORTS ILLUSTRATED
In a flash of blue an imposing athletic figure confidently rushed down a crowded hallway in the Barclays Center in New York City, encircled by four all-business security personnel and followed by a host of vocal enthusiastic fans all calling his name. He was undeterred as he focused on the destination ahead, the ESPN interview platform. Just as he was about to pass the security checkpoint, one voice echoed above the others and caught his attention, “Donovan! Donovan! Coach Simoes is here!” He suddenly turned, his eyes widened, and he flashed that unmistakable grin when he recognized me. “Coach!” He pressed beyond the security detail. He gave me a hug and asked if I could wait “just a bit” while he took an interview nearby. Soon he called me over for a warm welcome and a quick photo.

Despite so many accolades and an emerging celebrity status that would have inflated so many, Donovan Mitchell ’15 was still the Donovan many of us who taught and coached or played and studied alongside him knew. This is Donovan Mitchell, the talented, gregarious, charismatic, and fiercely loyal young man that I knew through my teaching and coaching experiences at Brewster Academy.

The fact that this young man has accomplished so much in such a short time is surprising only considering the environment that surrounds celebrity for so many gifted athletes. We live in a time when too many athletes are merely interested in pounding their chests and touting their own individual accomplishments rather than seeking more self-actualizing goals. At too young an age, promising players are repeatedly told how great they already are, giving them an inflated sense of where they truly are developmentally and where they need to go to fulfill that ever-elusive target of “full potential.”

As a result it is difficult for athletes to appreciate and completely comprehend the complexities and challenges involved in becoming successful and the selfless and indefatigable diligence and dedication it takes to get there. Potential is a pretty empty word unless it is fulfilled through dedication and hard work, especially in the NBA where so many falter for reasons beyond talent and opportunity. Since the
average career lasts statistically only four to six years, the window of opportunity is extremely brief. Although the rewards are certainly considerable for those who actually make it, the perils in making poor decisions are equally great especially considering the many pitfalls that are associated with the process. These difficulties are especially true for parents trying to make the best decisions for their children. Today parents have to compete with the barrage of ambitious AAU coaches and in some cases unscrupulous “handlers” or “life coaches,” who promise the world and too often only deliver poor advice and heartache. In more than 30 years of coaching I have seen first hand that it happens all too often where promising prospects are kicked to the curb when they are no longer of financial use to those who seek to exploit them.

Donovan is unlikely to fall prey to this fate because he has a great support system beginning with his mom, Nicole Mitchell.

Donovan has had the good fortune to have such informed support at home, particularly from his mother who is a dedicated educator. She knows the value of setting rules and priorities and then sticking by them. Nicole has been steadfast in the face of great pressure to emphasize the importance of a strong work ethic and the development of a rock solid educational foundation in Donovan’s academic endeavors. She chose to keep him in Greenwich to go to school even

**THIS IS DONOVAN MITCHELL, THE TALENTED, GREGARIOUS, CHARISMATIC, AND FIERCELY LOYAL YOUNG MAN THAT I KNEW THROUGH MY TEACHING AND COACHING EXPERIENCES AT BREWSTER ACADEMY.**

---

**DONOVAN MITCHELL**

**QUICK STATS**

- **HEIGHT**: 6’ 3”
- **AGE**: 22 years
- **FROM**: BREWSTER ACADEMY, LOUISVILLE
- **NBA DEBUT**: 2017
- **YEARS IN NBA**: one

---

PHOTO BY TREVOR REID
though she was under constant pressure to take him closer to New York City from well-meaning friends and so-called experts who felt that he needed to be more challenged athletically. Like many parents she worried about making these difficult decisions but her instincts served her well, because in the end, they allowed him to benefit from both worlds and instilled in Donovan an appreciation for those who helped along the way.

He initially went to school in Connecticut but played AAU in the city. When the time was right she sought out a prep school that could provide the academic environment that he needed as well as the competition necessary for him to grow athletically. Although she worried about him being away from her direct supervision, she chose Brewster Academy for its nurturing environment, strong support system, and a top basketball program. Brewster’s ongoing communication with parents and team approach gave her the confidence that Brewster was the right place for Donovan to grow as a student, as an athlete, and as a leader in a richly diverse community.

**DONOVAN ALWAYS COMPLETED ALL OF HIS WORK, I MEAN ALWAYS, EVEN DURING THE GRUELING BASKETBALL SEASON WITH ALL OF THE LONG ROAD TRIPS. HE WAS SUCH A YOUNG MAN OF INTEGRITY – ACCOUNTABLE FOR EVERY ASSIGNMENT, EVERY QUIZ, AND EVERY ESSAY.**

*T.J. PALMER, U.S. History Teacher*

**SEIZING OPPORTUNITIES**

Donovan took advantage of every positive opportunity. He learned to become more independent and responsible for his own success in the classroom and enjoyed interacting with all of his classmates. He took an active role in student government...
eventually being voted in as senior and school prefect. In this role he and another classmate served as leaders of the senior class and student representatives for the whole school. A few important duties expected of this position are leading morning meetings and assemblies, delivering administrative messages to students, and providing input to the head of school and the academic dean especially in terms of the general consensus of students in a variety of situations.

Prior to student leadership at Brewster, he took advantage of the arts at previous schools, playing drums in the band, singing in the chorus, and even performing a duet in a production of Oliver. At Brewster, he was so much more than just a high-profile athlete. Yes, he played basketball for the top prep school in the country and was named team captain, but Donovan also was highly respected by his peers and teachers. He was an active participant in his classes and connected with the whole Brewster community who still follow his career with admiration and support.

Donovan and I met in the fall of 2013. He arrived as a junior with a world of raw but untested physical talent and a unique blend of genuine enthusiasm and sincerity. What I loved about him was his playful optimism and his willingness to listen. He was attentive but not so hard on himself that it interfered with his progress. There was also an intangible quality about him that made me believe in him. It was that look of “Coach I can do it!”

I was in the fortunate position of assistant so I found myself in more of a mentorship role for the players. Our head coach, Jason Smith, had to worry about his overall development including the delicate balance inherent in knowing when to encourage and when to demand.

At Brewster Donovan was coming into a nationally recognized program that played in the toughest league in the country. Coach Smith knew that Donovan needed to reach beyond what was easy and comfortable for him. He had to become more focused than ever before and to apply himself as ardently and consistently to his classwork as well. He took on these challenges in both arenas and it all came together even better than all of us hoped. According to his junior U.S. History teacher, T.J. Palmer, “Donovan always completed all of his work, I mean always, even during the grueling basketball season with all of the long road trips. He was such a young man of integrity – accountable for every assignment, every quiz, and every essay.”

To his credit, Donovan seemed to know intuitively that to listen intently and to accept criticism gracefully meant he could climb that ladder of success to a higher plane. Above all, he loved to compete. I remember on one occasion early in his first basketball game at Brewster Donovan, at only 6’3”, drove to the basket, elevated above the rim, and slammed home an explosive dunk over a stunned 6’10” opponent. I looked over at Coach Smith and just smiled. Coach Smith recognized his talent from the start, but we all knew he was going to be someone really special.

In the end, Donovan led our team to two straight National Championships. When he graduated from Brewster he was truly a well-rounded scholar-athlete. Ultimately Donovan accepted a full scholarship from the University of Louisville, where he excelled as one of the nation’s most promising guards and went on to be drafted 13th by the Utah Jazz in the NBA.

At every level he has not only met expectations but exceeded them. Donovan’s attitude and work ethic propelled him to new heights in the NBA. His workouts with NBA teams preceding the draft were so outstanding that many coaches were amazed by his abilities and his basketball IQ. When I found out who drafted him I was thrilled that he landed in such a strong program as the Jazz. I remember meeting one of their recruiters a few years ago who told me that they actually recruited within the league for players who were of high character. Any team that placed such a high premium on character had to be a great place for Donovan and it has been just that.

Early on coaches marveled at how quickly Donovan progressed and were impressed by the respect he earned especially from veteran players like Rick Rubio. In his first year in the NBA, he broke the record for 3-point shots, won the NBA Dunk Contest, led his team to key playoff wins, was voted as Rookie of the Year by the players and most recently, was awarded an ESPY for being the “Breakout Player of the Year.” Despite being one of the hottest commodities at the NBA Draft this year and with all of his other accolades – Donovan is still Donovan, a warm, sincere, witty, appreciative, and charismatic phenomenon, and I look forward to watching his career unfold. / BA /
CHANGE MAKER

FROM RURAL TANZANIA TO BREWSTER AND THE WORLD STAGE, SIONI AYUBU MOLLEL '18 IS EMPOWERING YOUNG GIRLS WITH POSSIBILITY

BY MARCIA ELDREDGE
IONI AYUBU MOLLEL ’18 was amused that some of her Brewster peers complained about the five-minute walk to downtown from campus. And she had good reason. For six years she awoke at 4:45 a.m. and by 5 a.m. she was on her way to school – an hour and twenty-minute walk through the arid landscape of the Monduli Hills of northern Tanzania. This journey, along with her disciplined study habits, would eventually take Sioni to the Orkeeswa School in her native Tanzania and then to a postgraduate year at Brewster, 12,000 kilometers from her family, and now to her freshman year at Franklin & Marshall College.

Sioni is Maasai, a tribe of semi-nomadic pastoral people who live along the border of northern Tanzania and southern Kenya on land that once belonged to the Maasai but now is mostly home to wildlife reserves and national parks.

The daughter of a farmer and a school teacher, there was never a question in the Ayubu family that all the children – sons and daughters – would get the best education possible, even if that meant walking nearly 90 minutes to and from the only “nearby” school in the region.

A SECONDARY OPPORTUNITY
Peter Luis, founder and executive director of the Indigenous Education Foundation of Tanzania, founded Orkeeswa School in 2008. In a country where less than a quarter of the population has access to secondary school, the tuition-free Orkeeswa School is the only opportunity for most of the students in the underserved Orkeeswa Village community to continue their education beyond the primary level.
It was evident to Peter early on that Sioni would seize her education opportunity not just for the betterment of herself but for her community as well. “I always knew that Sioni had the intellect and curiosity for success,” Peter said. “She was the hardest worker, the best leader. We looked for Sioni to be a role model here.”

In turn, Sioni has proven Peter an astute judge of character. She has impacted her local community by opening up dialogue about long-held cultural norms. Along with a few classmates and staff, she wrote and helped produce a film that depicts the struggle between culture and education in their community. As members of the first generation to attend school, girls can struggle with expectations of Maasai traditions such as arranged marriages in early adolescence. Although education is now available to girls and boys beyond the primary school level, not all families see the opportunities afforded their daughters as advantageous or the right path for their families and daughters.

In fact, most of the girls with whom Sioni graduated primary school are now married with multiple children, Peter said.

“I want to be someone that can be looked up to. I want my fellow Maasai girls to see that marriage is not the only option they have, that they could be so much more than they even know about! I want to be a role model.”

SIONI AYUBU MOLLEL ’18
This dialogue was opened thanks in part to the expert guidance of independent film maker Elizabeth Nichols, director of strategy and special projects at Orkeeswa. While Sioni was at Orkeeswa, Nichols had asked two students if they could make a film, what story would they want to tell. “They told me they wanted to tell a story about early marriage in order to educate their community and encourage them to take girls to school. They gathered a few of their classmates and, during a two-week long filmmaking workshop, we wrote and produced Black Head Cow,” explained Nichols on the school’s website.

Sioni became a writer on the film, which follows Naserian, a primary school girl faced with the prospect of an arranged marriage. At the film’s conclusion, viewers are left to wonder what happened to Naserian. Sioni explained that the point of the film wasn’t so much to reveal Naserian’s future, a choice that ultimately wasn’t hers, but rather to show the struggles of long-held tribal traditions against
Sioni explained that the point of the film wasn’t so much to reveal Naserian’s future, a choice that ultimately wasn’t hers, but rather to show the struggles of long-held tribal traditions against the encroaching modern world and the opportunities it brings.

THE LEADERSHIP TEAM AND TEACHERS AT ORKEESWA KNEW THAT SIONI NEEDED CHALLENGES BEYOND HER NATIVE TANZANIA. WITH AN ESTABLISHED PROGRAM BETWEEN ORKEESWA AND THE GROTON SCHOOL IN LAWRENCE, MASSACHUSETTS, SIONI WAS ABLE TO SPEND PART OF A SEMESTER ABROAD IMMERGING HERSELF IN A NEW SCHOOL WITH NEW CHALLENGES AND NEW FRIENDS. GROTON TURNED OUT TO BE A LAUNCHING PAD FOR MORE OPPORTUNITIES TO STUDY IN THE UNITED STATES. UPON GRADUATING FROM ORKEESWA, A SCHOLARSHIP WOULD HELP SIONI COMPLETE A POSTGRADUATE YEAR AT BREWSTER AND PREPARE HER FOR COLLEGE IN THE UNITED STATES. WITH THE HELP OF BREWSTER ALUMNA CARLY MANKUS ’03, SENIOR ASSISTANT DEAN OF INTERNATIONAL ADMISSIONS AT FRANKLIN & MARSHALL, SIONI RECEIVED A FULL SCHOLARSHIP TO ATTEND THE PENNSYLVANIA COLLEGE.

But before Sioni would walk across the Brewster stage to receive her PG certificate and the Arthur J. Mason Award, the world stage was waiting. Out of discussions with Brewster faculty around her year-end research project – on girls’ education and empowerment in Tanzania – came an invitation to speak about child marriage and her work on Black Head Cow. The occasion was a parallel event to the 62nd Annual United Nations Commission on the Status of Women titled: It’s Time! A Collaboration to End Child Early Forced Marriage and Female Genital Mutilation.

So, one late-winter morning this past March, Sioni sat among panelists at the Roosevelt House in New York City as part of the collaborative conversation among civil society organizations, policy experts, and girl and young women activists. The panelists included two girls who survived the horrific abduction by Boko Haram in 2014, and Zahra Wakilzada, Girls Learn International leader and member of the Afghan Women’s Writing Project.

And like any smart change maker, Sioni knows where real change begins. She returned to Orkweesa school this summer to lead girls’ empowerment workshops. Lucky girls. / BA /
1887–1930
BREWSTER FREE ACADEMY

Nedro othecolog of William Brewster, John Brewster’s son born in 1851, became the first president of the Brewster Academy Board of Trustees and served until his death in 1894. The board immediately hired Belknap’s first principal, Edwin H. Lord. While Edwin Lord led the Academy, trustees began implementing its vision and focused on developing the property bequeathed by John Brewster. Trustee Arthur F. Eustis donated a summer home and by 1890 a neo-Gothic style school building had been constructed with classrooms, recreation rooms, laboratories, offices, and restrooms.

An 1888 Information for Patrons pamphlet reads: “Applicants for admissions, unless personally known to the teachers, must present satisfactory evidence of good moral character.” They should be prepared for examination in the elements of arithmetic, with special attention to fractions, both common and decimal; in English Grammar, including the writing of a few connected sentences on an assigned subject, and in Political Geography and United States History. Textbooks and text-books are all free.

After the War
1919 saw the highest enrollment to date with 171 students.
1820–Present

The Timeline project marks the beginning of Brewster’s bicentennial celebration and proudly reflects the origins of the Academy’s formation, the notable moments in our evolution, and the momentum of our contemporary vision. This chronicle of Brewster Academy past and present will provide visitors, new and returning, a space to reflect on events that have sustained their embrace within our community, to admire moments of institutional courage, and to appreciate the unwavering core values of a school continuously centered around the student. We hope that you will take the time to reflect on the Academy’s deep history and place in the community during your next visit to campus.

The timeline introduction (not pictured) greets visitors as they arrive through the main doors of the Academic Building.
(3) The timeline serves as an open history book for current students.
Reunion 2018

Reunion 2018 did not disappoint – those who made the trip to Brewster enjoyed a delightful weekend of sunshine and celebration. Things kicked off on Friday as a spirited group of alumni from the Class of 1998 hosted an event at Nolan’s Bistro in Wolfeboro while Brewster hosted the Class of 1993 (25th reunion) and Class of 1968 (50th reunion and other pre-1968 graduates) on campus. Alumni in attendance from other years also took the opportunity to head downtown for some camaraderie at the newly-opened Lone Wolfe Brewing Company.

Saturday had a brisk schedule of offerings, starting with a 5K campus fun-run; “Coffee & Conversation with Craig” in our newly-built dormitory, Toad Hall; a lunch in Estabrook Hall celebrating decades of athletics at Brewster; and other uplifting offerings that celebrated Brewster past and present.

The main event was Saturday night out on Lake Winnipesaukee aboard the M.S. Mount Washington. Laughter, dancing, and meeting and re-connecting with fellow alumni ruled the night as Head of School Craig Gemmell worked his way about the decks saying hello and sharing updates.

(Turn page for photos)
For Freddy
Two friends run the Boston Marathon in memory of a friend

Emma Jones ’11 and Jackson Callahan ’11 have a story to tell – about friendship, camaraderie, and the love they had for their friend and classmate, the late Freddy Tonsberg ’11. They’ve told it through words, photographs, shared memories, and combined strength. Together, on a cold wet day last April, Emma and Jackson ran the 2018 Boston Marathon in Freddy’s memory. Here is why.

Can you recollect the time you first met Freddy? Emma: I met Fred at the start of our junior year at Brewster. Within minutes it felt like we had known each other for years. I think what made Freddy stand out as someone I wanted to be friends with was his infectious laugh and his way of making people around him smile. I can still remember our first class together; we had an assignment to create and film a music video. Naturally, Freddy played the lead role, and we ended up with far more footage for bloopers than we did the actual assignment.

Jackson: I met Freddy my first day of junior year in Sargent Hall. We shook hands and introduced ourselves. “Hi, I’m Freddy. I play hockey.” Ten minutes later, I was outside playing lacrosse when Brandon (Freddy’s little brother who was also new to Brewster and a year younger) came up to me and introduced himself. My response was, “I know, I met you ten minutes ago.” I quickly came to realize that Freddy had a brother who looked exactly like him. Thankfully, Brandon forgave me after my not so warm welcome, and we’re still best buds to this day. And, thankfully, Freddy made this, and so many other lasting friendships, possible.

How did you stay connected with Freddy after you graduated from Brewster? Jackson: I had the pleasure of going to college with Freddy. I’ll never forget, it was senior year at Brewster, and we were at one of Fred’s hockey games, when his dad came up to me and said, “Jackson, you have to check out High Point University, it’s amazing.” A few days later I applied, and the rest is history. Freddy was my new roommate. I got to spend nine years with Freddy - nine years of memories our Brewster friends will cherish forever.

Emma: I think it’s pretty remarkable how well connected our friends have stayed since graduating. Not only do many of our Brewster friends live in Boston and see each other regularly, but we have always spent time together for things like Christmas parties, New Year’s gatherings, our birthdays, or the Waldocon (a party at Jackson’s where we all dress up in a Where’s Waldo theme).

Tell me about the organizations for which you ran? What was the selection process? Emma and Jackson: We ran for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP) and the Samaritans, respectively. The AFSP educates the public on suicide and suicide prevention while supporting families affected by suicide. Samaritans provides a 24-hour helpline, educates the public about suicide prevention, and helps those who have lost a loved one to suicide. Both organizations aim to reduce the stigma associated with suicide. We had similar selection processes; we each shared Freddy’s story with them, through an essay and an interview, and we explained what running the Boston Marathon in honor of Freddy would mean to us. In November 2017 we both got the news that we had been selected to be a member of the organizations’ marathon teams.

What did you take away from this journey? Emma and Jackson: Not only did we learn that we can run in any kind of weather but we were blown away by the support of our family and friends. It was an amazing experience in every way. Setting fundraising goals of $15,000 (Emma) and $10,000 (Jackson) is daunting. I think we were surprised by the fact that we not only reached our goals but exceeded them. It was surprising, but yet not surprising at the same time, what we were able to raise. The amount of support was incredible. Our friends and family made this experience all the better and much easier at times. After the race a big group of BA friends gathered to celebrate Freddy. We brought the Easy Button that Freddy loved. We made it in high school and the hockey guys would skate by and hit it when they scored. We still have it. We made a giant one for the marathon that everyone signed at the party.

They say training will give you the first 20 miles and heart will give you the last six and that was certainly true this past April. We love you Fred!
Dan McCoy ’93 began his career at the University of Wyoming (UW) 19 years ago developing its outdoor program, which was part of the recreation department. He was charged with engaging students, faculty, and staff in the outdoors through outings, the indoor rock-climbing facility, the year-long outdoor leadership development program, and promoting the program’s rental equipment to outdoor enthusiasts.

His good work and efforts put Dan in a position to develop a bachelor’s degree program in Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management, which launched at UW this fall. Dan was part of the program’s curriculum development and in August 2017 was hired to administer and teach in the new degree program. The degree is a collaboration between UW’s Haub School of Environment and Natural Resources and the College of Business. Dan is uniquely qualified to manage this new degree program, as he has the experience and interdepartmental relationships that give him a strong foothold in both colleges.

Over the program’s two-year development, Dan travelled considerably to evaluate best practices, promote the program, and liaise with industry across the state. He also explored possible field course options abroad, including travels in Patagonia, Chile. Dan’s successful leadership in the degree development culminated with the unanimous approval by the university’s board of trustees in support of this new interdisciplinary B.S. degree.

This degree program is seen as a way to diversify and grow Wyoming’s economy, while at the same time attract and retain students to work in state. Program graduates will be well qualified to work in the state’s tourism industry – Wyoming’s second largest economic sector – or in governmental agencies where their work will impact decisions about the future of natural resources, recreation, and/or tourism.

While the university already has a number of established courses focused on natural resources, business and the environment, over the next few years, Dan will oversee the addition of 11 new program courses and the appointment of two new faculty members. Course offerings combine business management, entrepreneurial strategies, ethical leadership, and natural resource stewardship disciplines. He believes students will gain a deeper understanding of stewardship of cultural and natural resources, tourism’s best practices, and will concurrently strengthen their own commitment to conservation and passion for outdoor recreation. Within four years, the program’s enrollment is anticipated to reach 150 students, according to Dan.

Dan credits Brewster for his early “connection to the outdoors,” from his activities with Mr. (Eric) Chamberlain’s Outing Club to his involvement on Mr. (Reggie) Seller’s snowboard team. His love for the outdoors grew, becoming a key catalyst in his decision to choose a college in the west, the University of Montana in Missoula, as his next step.

In addition to his job, Dan plans to complete a Ph.D. in educational administration at UW this fall. He continues to embrace living out west, residing in Laramie, Wyoming, with his wife, Melanie Arnett and their two sons, Thomas and Beckett. The family hits the mountains for snowboarding or skiing during the winter months, and when the snow melts their adventures turn to camping, mountain biking, and white-water rafting. It’s clearly four seasons of outdoor adventures for the McCoy/Arnett family.
The Evolution of Exams

Ah, the anxiety of final exams – both for the students and teachers. The student worries *I can’t remember everything we studied all year*. What if I totally blow it, probably worth a huge chunk of my grade! The teacher worries, Can I cover the year’s work fairly in two hours and grade all of my classes by grade report deadline? Surely this dilemma has been ongoing at Brewster since 1820.

Having taught sophomore English at Brewster for over 20 years, my answer to the fairness and anxiety concern was to try to make final exams fun. In the grammar section I teased the students with the examples I used, making jokes and using students’ names. In the literature section students had to write an opening of a story in the style of one of the authors we studied, using a minor character named Buffoon Hoopes. I also scotch-taped chewing gum and candy to the backs of the scary Blue Books! The students seemed relaxed, and I had fun grading their masterpieces. In more recent times, however, Brewster has discovered a better way to evaluate students’ work, exchanging final exams for curriculum-based measures (CBMs) and presentations of research projects.

CBMs test students on the material they have covered during a trimester and are now taken before Thanksgiving break and during the last week of school. CBMs test how effectively the students have mastered subject skills and content. CBMs are not taken at the end of the winter trimester, as the weeks before spring break are reserved for interim studies – on and off-campus research and projects. Students select their own topics (which must be approved) and work closely with a faculty advisor.

CBMs test students on the material they have covered during a trimester and are now taken before Thanksgiving break and during the last week of school. CBMs test how effectively the students have mastered subject skills and content. CBMs are not taken at the end of the winter trimester, as the weeks before spring break are reserved for interim studies – on and off-campus research and projects. Students select their own topics (which must be approved) and work closely with a faculty advisor.

Nora O’Keefe ’18 (Foxborough, Massachusetts) explained, “I don’t know of any students who do not prefer CBMs and projects over traditional exams as they feel they’re a better option and more fair in the long run. The teachers can see what skills we’ve mastered in the trimester. They also like the project period where they help students with their individual projects. They enjoy seeing us engaged and excited about our topics.”

While a little anxiety probably remains, CBMs and interim studies programs are popular with both students and teachers, though with students, there remain some similarities with the old exam periods – late nights, frazzled looks, and hopefully, care packages from parents! (Mine sent tins of caviar, claiming it was “brain food.”)
SUBMIT A NOTE! We’d love to hear from you. Send a note and/or a photo to alumninews@brewsteracademy.org and we will do our best to include it in the next issue of Brewster.

WAYS TO CONNECT
There are so many ways to connect with Brewster Academy. Here are a few options:

FACEBOOK
facebook.com/BrewsterAcademyAlumni

TWITTER
@BrewsterAcademy

INSTAGRAM
@BrewsterAcademy

FLICKR
flickr.com/photos/brewster_academy

VIMEO
vimeo.com/brewsteracademy

EMAIL
alumninews@brewsteracademy.org

MAIL
80 Academy Drive
Wolfeboro, NH 03894

UPDATE INFO
Make sure we have your most recent address and email at alumninews@brewsteracademy.org

1948 Geraldine (Drew) Sullivan writes: “To my alma mater, a note of gratitude for the recent Brewster magazine – it is very beautifully done. Now nearing my 90th birthday, my memories of my life and times at Brewster are strong and lingering. How I loved it all! Burtis Vaughan gave me three years of Latin; Geraldine Paige, senior English and literature; Mr. Piper, French. Blessings and love to a great future.”

1975 Scott Swann writes: “I’m living in northern California, working as a general building contractor. My son is in college.”

1978 Scott Mason writes: “Life is wonderful! Candace and I travel as much as we can and love summers at the lake. I’m a database analyst for a health care system. We’re enjoying grandkids and taking care of our elderly parents.” / Chip Tothill writes: “I moved to Vermont in 2017, went through a self-designed rehabilitation program for neck and spinal injuries, and then moved back to New Hampshire.”

1980 Matt Keeney writes: “While you haven’t heard from me in years, I’m still alive. My wife Tammy and I have two kids, 16 and 12. My daughter is into gymnastics and my son attends Pope Francis School in Chicopee, Massachusetts, and enjoys it very much. He is also learning to drive, which is contributing to more gray hair for me! I’m looking to start a small hedge fund or perhaps try freight farming, but right now I’m busy being retired.” / Neal Panasky writes: “After retiring to Chesapeake, Virginia, in 2008, I took a job in Kittery, Maine, and I lived in Portsmouth, New Hampshire. I am now back in Virginia taking care of my parents and watching my freshman son play football.”

1982 Harold Parker, formerly a state legislator and special assistant for intergovernmental affairs for New Hampshire Governor Chris Sununu, was nominated by President Trump to become the next federal co-chair of the Northern Border Regional Commission. The commission administers economic development grants that serve rural communities in the northern New England states and upstate New York.

1983 One of Cliff Goodman’s fondest memories of Brewster is playing drums for the rock band formed by four students, The Choads. Cliff graduated from University of Hartford with an economics and finance degree and a minor in music management in 1987, worked various bank and finance jobs at Shawmut Bank and Fidelity Investments, and got into technology at Au Bon Pain and Boston Corporate in 1993. “I was married and in 2002 we had son, now 16, who is profoundly autistic, but receiving treatment that is providing relief and hope. In 2007 I married my present wife, Mary, and in 2009 we had a son. All four of us live in Salem, Massachusetts. I recently started a home improvement company in the North Shore of the Boston area.”

1985 Elizabeth (James) Malcolmson writes: “I went to Gordon College and graduated summa cum laude with a B.A. in English, and married. I’m director of operations and chief compliance officer for a small investment
counsel firm. Our family includes two boys, 13 and 15, and two Bernese Mountain dogs. Home is in Rockport, Massachusetts.” / **Joel Coffman** has a new job. “I am the location manager for a bus company called First Student. Working out of Plymouth, Massachusetts, I run the maintenance shop, taking care of 77 school buses with 95 employees reporting to me. A real plus is that I have nights and weekends off, a real change after killing myself in retail my entire life. Our oldest daughter finished a year-long study in England and received her master’s degree; our next daughter graduated from Bridgewater State; and our 6’2” baby graduated from Southern New Hampshire University. My wife Karen and I recently celebrated our 29th wedding anniversary!”

**1986 Jonathan Brown** writes: “All my kids are out of the house and on their own. They’ve done well and seem to be happy with their lives and jobs. My wife, Moi, is still teaching at a local college, and I am still working in the tech field. About a year ago I started a new business, Smoke Shack Jerky. It’s doing well and so much fun to make and sell something people really like.”

**1988 Craig Hess** sent a note describing his recent trek in the Himalayas of Nepal. Everyone had advised him not to go alone, but he ventured off anyway. After being alone for six days, he arrived in a small town and found his way to the small inn’s restaurant, longing for a hot meal. Browsing the dinner menu, “My eyes popped. Guess what’s on the menu list beside a bowl of Ramen soup and beer? A Hot Bath!”

---

1. John Catherwood ’68 and Peter McGinn ’68 reminiscing with their former teacher and coach, Mal Murray, during their 50th Reunion.
1991 Laurence Seiterle writes: “My wife Jeannie and I have three kids. Our 9-year-old son loves soccer, our four-year-old daughter loves dance, pink, and candy, and the baby loves to laugh and smile. I still have a one-eyed dog, still play box lacrosse, and still enjoy work. We’ve just broken ground on an adaptive reuse project that will house 100 percent local companies, including a bank, wood fired pizza, brewery, and we hope a butcher shop, wine shop, and a vegan bakery. I’m also raising money for The Leukemia and Lymphoma Society.”

1993 25th Reunion Class Melissa Bernardin works in politics organizing and lobbying in New Hampshire’s state capitol. In her spare time, she enjoys hiking and road or mountain biking in the White Mountains. / Michael Bradley lives in Marshfield, Massachusetts, with his wife and three sons. Ten years ago he started Bradley Legal, a family law practice, and is active in local community service work. / Courtland Brannen lives in the Boston area with his wife of six years. He travels extensively in his position as director of sales and service for the educational non-profit, Road Scholar. / Patrick Brogan’s professional life has led him to investing in startup tech companies and real estate. He is “playing as much as possible” with his two sons. He and his wife are raising their family in Connecticut. / Mark Carlson and his wife live in Marblehead, Massachusetts. When they’re not traveling the globe he works at Breckinridge Capital Advisors where he has been for the past 10 years. / When not in Laguna Beach, California, Danya (Chazan) Grosman lives abroad raising two young boys. She works part time doing marketing and translations for a gold jewelry designer in Tel Aviv, having left her international career planning events around delegation visits. / After living and working in China for three years, Teddy Choueke has returned to live in Mexico City with his wife and 1-year-old son. / Jennifer (Ferguson) Evelyn lives in Bermuda, having raised her two children there with her husband, Dirk. “Being a parent is possibly the most fulfilling job there is.” Now that the children are older, she is working in the Catastrophe Reinsurance industry and spending more time travelling outside of Bermuda during vacations. / After working in the music, mobile, and database marketing industry for 17 years, Shea (Purdy) Gerhardt is starting her own business, an earbud company called Buderflys (patent pending). The company is expected to launch next year. “It’s been the most fun and exciting thing I’ve done in my career to date.” She lives in Denver with her husband and three sons, who are all involved in Colorado skiing, hiking, fishing, and camping. / Rob Hibbitts is enjoying life in Jackson, Wyoming, where he is a property manager and in property management sales in Jackson Hole, following his many years in commercial real estate in the San Francisco area. He’s an avid skier and white-water rafter, having been an instructor and guide for both. / Stacy Hunter’s most recent work in the accounting/finance field as treasurer at GE Capital Global Legacy Solutions takes her frequently to Dublin for work. She writes: “When I’m not traveling or working, I spend time with my chocolate Lab who has been my constant companion and greatest joy for the past 13 years.” She lives in Connecticut. / Suzy Kaufman is living in a small town in Arizona with partner, Rosie, whom she met while working at an Ohio veterinary clinic, Just Cats. Suzy is now a student at Arizona State University, pursuing a bachelor’s in information technology. / Whit Lee, who works with his wife, is president of Maine Industrial Plastics and Rubber Corp, which sells industrial conveyor belts. Outside of work he and his family ski, snowboard, wakeboard, and motocross on Maine’s slopes or waterways. He also coaches his son’s soccer team (undefeated for the past three years!) in Newcastle. / Dan McCoy lives and works in Laramie, Wyoming, with his wife and two boys. For the past year he has been involved in establishing a new degree program in Outdoor Recreation and Tourism Management at the University of Wyoming. For 18 years prior to that he was running the Outdoor Program at the university. Read more about Dan and his program on page 40. / Walter Newell, a PGA member for more than 10 years, is now a head golf pro in Florida. He lives in Hernando (Citrus County) with his wife Kristi and three boys (ages 6-15). He is patiently waiting on a list for a kidney transplant. / As an artist, Mary Nott has a fascination with the effect of light. “I had a solo gallery show for the month of February. I started doing the unprecedented black on black about 15 years ago. Less than two years ago, needing new work for juried shows, I began the representational black on blacks simplified with seven values.” / Timothy O’Connor writes: “After attending Greensboro College in North Carolina, I returned to Connecticut to start my own contracting company. My wife Jenny and I married in 2008 and have two children. I love being a dad and can now relate to my dorm parents because I have kids sneaking out of their rooms and causing havoc at all hours. We love RV-ing with the kids. After years on the board of directors, I became the executive director of my family’s foundation. We award grants for pre-K through 6th grade educational programming in Connecticut.” / Jason Reaume writes: “I’ve spent the last 17 plus years serving in the Army. Currently, I am a Sergeant First Class, and hopefully will be promoted to Master Sergeant within the year. I’ve been deployed overseas twice and have had three combat tours to Iraq and Afghanistan. I’ve been awarded numerous medals; my highest being the Bronze Star. I’m still on active duty and am currently an ROTC instructor at Auburn University. I’m married to my wonderful wife, Kelly, who is also an Army veteran.” / Justice Rines has
been married since 2005 and is the proud father of “two smart and beautiful girls. I’ve been an attorney for the past three years and am now embarking on a new adventure as an in-house counsel for a startup located in Kennebunk, Maine, and Cambridge, Massachusetts. I love working with software, tech-related business, and entrepreneurs, but the best thing about my life is being a dad – never thought I’d say that back in 1993.” / Mat Roberson and his wife Alexis (Gallagher) ’95 are both navigating full-time self-employment and parenting – making long days and great rewards. “Our daughter is 12 and our son is 3. I’m still settled in the great state of New Hampshire and trying to find the time to enjoy it.” / In reflecting on life after Brewster, Sara (Berger) Rosenbaum shared her memories of binge watching North and South with the late Lauren Malkin Olson in between going to separate schools. Later on she owned a floral business with her father in Chicago. “In between hanging out with my friends and working and traveling I have developed skills in being a good wife, a good mom, and a great business woman.” / Justine Siegal writes: “I’m pretty much the same person I was 25 years ago and still play baseball. I am the first woman to coach for a Major League Baseball organization (2015) and to throw MLB batting practice (2011). I founded the national non-profit, Baseball for All, to provide opportunities for girls to play, coach, and lead in baseball. My Ph.D. is in sport psychology from Springfield College. It was a huge honor to be inducted into the Brewster Academy Hall of Fame in 2017. I’m forever indebted to the teachers at Brewster who believed in me and gave me the confidence to follow my dreams. My greatest joy in life is my 20-year-old daughter, Jasmine.” / Paulo Simoneau writes: “Greetings from beautiful Centennial, Colorado. Since I left Brewster I have seen many amazing things and met so many great people. I’m dumbfounded by just going over all the memories. I spent time in the south, then to California where my roots were, and finally settled in Colorado with my wife, Tracy and our amazing three children.” / Dan Smith writes: “All is well! Since leaving BA, my boyhood backyard, my high school stomping ground, I headed out to Colorado for college and enjoyed exploring the Rocky Mountain west (shout out to Eric Chamberlain and the BA Outdoor Skills crew!). I worked in San Francisco for awhile leading up to the 2000.com crash, an amazing time in a fantastic city. I then...
MICHAEL MEANS ’98
Since graduating from Brewster and the University of Mississippi, Michael Means has pursued a career in business and is currently vice president of Strategic Partnerships at BriteVerify, an email verification business.

For the past eight years, however, Mike’s passion has been serving as co-chair of the RPM 5K 9/11 Race, held annually in Atlanta on the Sunday closest to September 11. The race was named in memory of Mike’s brother Ryan who enlisted in the military after 9/11, and, at age 33, became the oldest person selected as a Green Beret. After Ryan died of cancer in 2009, Mike and their other brother Alfie started the race to honor Ryan and raise money for the Shepherd Center’s SHARE Military Initiative. The race, which draws 800 runners annually, has raised $425,000 to date.

It was the Atlanta community who motivated Mike to found this event, he said. “Ryan was truly a hometown hero, and we thought this was a meaningful way to carry on his legacy.”

To learn about the race, visit rpm911race.com

became director of technology/teacher/advisor/rock climbing/telemark ski/fly fishing instructor at a private boarding school outside of Aspen, Colorado. Since then I’ve been living and working in Boulder where I met my wife. We now have two small kids. I think of BA often and all the good people I had the luck to meet there, as well as the beautiful campus I had the privilege of growing up on. There is no doubt in my mind that I’ve been carrying a small piece of my BA experience with me since taking that diploma from our ol’ headmaster 25 years ago. It’s been my guide and standard to live by. All the best to my 1993 classmates! 25 years, really?” / Monica Sichel-Kirztnus writes: “After Brewster I went to the Universidad Metropolitana back home in Caracas, Venezuela. I graduated with a minor in languages and a major in teaching. When I moved to Florida I discovered Montessori education. I relocated to New York where I taught and continued my studies, earning a master’s in education from Columbia University. Since then I have lived and taught in Boston, and I now live in Miami with my children. In 2013 I was offered the opportunity to venture into an unknown professional as a licensed financial planner and since then I’ve worked for Guardian Life Insurance of America. I ran a full marathon in 2013 in Berlin and have run about 10 half marathons, although I enjoy spinning and Pilates more than running. I remember my days at Brewster with a smile on my face.” / Emily Stewart writes: “I am married and have a five-year-old son. I live in San Diego, California. I’m constantly on the go because I own a preschool (a family business), and I work part-time at a law firm in Long Beach where I practice immigration and employment law. I love to travel, mostly recently to Australia and New Zealand.” / Elizabeth (Palmer) Traverso writes: “I can’t believe it’s been 25 years! I was married in 2003 following graduate school in Boston where I earned a master’s in education. We live in Healdsburg, California, with our two children. My husband is in the wine business, and I’m currently writing a cookbook, catering, and building my blog, Healdsburg Table. You can follow me on Instagram. We also belong to Single Malt Scotch Society, which allows us to travel and source single malt scotches from Scotland. We would love to have you stop by if you find yourself in Healdsburg – for a glass of wine and fresh pizza from our pizza oven, or stop by in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, for a glass of wine at my family’s 100-year-old homestead.” / John Tretter writes: “After being a chef for the past 20 plus years, working six days a week, I’m now managing a restaurant. I hope everyone’s doing well on easy street!

1994 Jeff Pricher shared: “After I received my paramedical certification and climbed all over the Cascades, I got a job with the National Science Foundation for six months working at the South Pole and McMurdo Station. I did medical, fire and was part of multinational rescue team. Next I worked for the U.S. Forest Service, working on engines, crews, and for a few years, as a helicopter rappeller. In 2001 I joined the Oregon Disaster Medical Team, one of the federal medical response teams, and respond to large scale disasters. Currently I am a safety officer on the Disaster Medical Assistance Team and have responded as far away as American Samoa for a tsunami, and my team was the first in following Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans.”

1995 Nate Bibeau writes: “My girlfriend and I have been together for nine years and I’ve been in medical sales, primarily in spine implants, for 14 years. I travel a lot for work. When I have time off I try to do a little fishing, get on my Harley, or get into my latest hobby, smoking meats.”


1999 Tim Croes writes from Nashville, Tennessee: “I am currently working on self-
publishing a photography book (publication date May 2019) that coincides with my 20-year class reunion from Brewster. Here is a link to my blog: timcroes.wordpress.com. I also write for The Baysider newspaper in Alton, New Hampshire. I will have a monthly column titled: “Croes Control: Granite State of Mind,” where I will highlight outdoor adventures by myself and other Granite State citizens. I will be starting up a podcast with my best friend from NH called, “The Dan and Tim Show,” where we will be interviewing newsmakers from the Granite State and from down here in Tennessee.”


2010 Dylan Miller married Catherine Mudd in Baltimore in June. Classmates Charlie Silverstein, Connor Dunn, and Ben Goldlust also celebrated their nuptials.

2013 Jasmine Towns completed her studies at North Carolina A&T State University with a degree in biomedical engineering. “I started an amazing job at Microsoft and moved out west to Bellevue, which is outside Seattle, Washington.” Patrick Wallace wrote that “Brewster Academy holds a special place in my heart! It changed my life. I am a graduate assistant at Northwestern University for men’s basketball.” Will Foote writes: “Hi all! I have been back in Maine working on the start-up of the nonprofit Documentary Songwriters (docsong.org). Through people’s stories, we develop lyrics and songs that reflect and bear witness to real lives. We just had someone in Cyprus documenting songwriting along with other places.”

2016 Sif Dagbjartsson, who has been working hard at her modeling career, writes: “Since I graduated Brewster I have seen and done more than I would have imagined. I have been lucky enough to have lived in Miami, Paris, New York, and Los Angeles, which is where I live now. I do work with a lot of Spanish speaking clients so I am very thankful that I managed to make my way to Spanish 5 while attending Brewster. I have been lucky enough to receive multiple covers of magazines, which is always such an accomplishment for me, and to have worked for some great companies. Last fall I did a campaign with Kendra Scott and work frequently with Pacsun, Dillards, and Goop. I also did a makeup campaign last winter, which was incredible; it was disco styled and very glam. My most recent accomplishment is getting the cover of Harper’s Bazaar in Turkey. It just came out in July, and I can say that I felt proud because I had set a goal for myself after I left Brewster and this means that I am getting closer and closer to achieving it. It’s so important to have ambition and drive no matter what you do and not to give up.”
1960

LIVE MUSIC
Student entertainers circa 1960.
HOW CAN I HELP BREWSTER?

- Write a Review (Yelp, Niche, Facebook, Google)
- Share a Testimonial on brewsteracademy.org/testimonials
- Attend Reunion May 31st–June 2nd, 2019
- Recommend a Family to Brewster
- Mentor Students During the Interim Studies Period
- Provide a Class Note brewsteracademy.org/alumni/update-your-information

Become a Brewster Ambassador!