

BLAIR

BULLETIN

*Remembering & Honoring
the Life & Legacy of*
John C. Bogle '47

'One Man Can Make All the Difference'

[illegible]

Inventor of the index mutual fund and founder of The Vanguard Group, Blair Board of Trustees Chairman Emeritus **John C. Bogle '47** (1929-2019) was a titan of the financial industry and an extraordinarily dedicated favorite son of Blair Academy. His spirit of innovation, drive to excel and vision for a better future led Vanguard to become the world's largest mutual fund organization, and he brought those same sterling qualities to 47 years of unparalleled leadership, philanthropy and service to his beloved alma mater.

IN THIS ISSUE: WINTER-SPRING 2019

02 STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

03 FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL

27 ACADEMICS

Bringing the Best of Blair to the World

41 AROUND THE ARCH

Students Travel with Faculty & Friends
Programs Bring Prospective Faculty
to Campus

46 IN THE NEWS

48 OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Nathan Molteni

52 THE ARTS

Artists Embrace Creativity in
Design Lab
Photos Worth a Thousand Words

65 ADVANCEMENT

Scholarship Memorializes the Howards
Bogle Hall Project Continues
Indoor Athletic Venues Open

71 ATHLETICS

2018-2019 Winter Champions
Get to Know Head Track & Field Coach
Roy Wilson

82 PLANNED GIVING

83 CLASS NOTES

106 IN MEMORIAM

04



John C. Bogle '47: 'One Man Can Make All the Difference'

Blair remembers and honors the life and legacy of Blair Board of Trustees Chairman Emeritus **John C. Bogle '47**, who died in January 2019 at the age of 89.



16 Team-Taught Seminar Explores Human Rights

More than 20 Blair freshmen through seniors are taking advantage of a unique opportunity to dive deep into human rights issues.



22 What's Happening in the Chiang

Blair's newest building is much more than home to the fine arts and technology departments: It is a hot spot for community activities of every kind.

30 Blair & Peddie Share Cup in 115th Year of Friendly Rivalry

More than a century of pranks, pep rallies and athletic contests have led to close bonds between Blair and Peddie alumni. Here, we spotlight Bucs and Falcons who have gone on to become friends, family, co-workers and more.



55 First-Ever Blair Finance Industry Summit

More than 100 Blair alumni, parents and students gathered to build connections and share diverse perspectives at Goldman Sachs' New York City headquarters.



60 Thirst for Excellence

Blair Trustee **Marianne Lieberman '79** shares her passion for artisanal wine and for giving back to the community and the world as vintner of Maple Springs Vineyard.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT

Xiaopei Chen '21

The sophomore photo student captured a normal day in New York City through the eyes of a driver behind the wheel on a drizzly Monday. "It proves that any view can be lively and unique, depending on how you see the world," she said. "In the words of Elliot Erwitt, *'To me, photography is an art of observation. It's about finding something interesting in an ordinary place...I've found it has little to do with the things you see and everything to do with the way you see them.'*"

Volume XC, No. 2
Winter-Spring 2019

PUBLISHED:
January, April,
June & October

PUBLICATION NUMBER:
USPS 057-760

PUBLISHER:
Blair Academy
Blairstown, New Jersey 07825



SUBMIT A LETTER TO THE EDITOR

What do you think about the stories in this issue of the *Blair Bulletin*? Let us know—your letter may be published in the next issue. Please send your comments to bulletin@blair.edu.

Staff

HEAD OF SCHOOL

Chris Fortunato

COMMUNICATIONS STAFF

Suzy Logan '99, Editor-in-Chief &

Director of Communications
logans@blair.edu

Joanne Miceli, Senior Editor & Assistant

Director of Communications
micelj@blair.edu

Brittany Rockenfeller,

Communications Specialist
rockeb@blair.edu

Heather Sprague,
Communications Assistant
spragh@blair.edu

CLASS NOTES EDITOR

Shaunna Murphy

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Timothy Patrick McCarthy, PhD

John Redos '09

Christopher Sheppard

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Douglas Benedict

Xiaopei Chen '21

Thomas Engel '20

Brittany Haines '05

Seth Kim '18

Velma Lubliner

Andrew Marvin '12

Mike Mountain

Elena Olivo

Tyson Trish

ATTENTION:

Send address changes to Blair Academy Bulletin,
P.O. Box 600, Blairstown, NJ 07825

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATORY POLICY:

Blair Academy does not discriminate on the basis of sex, age, creed, race, color or national and ethnic origin in the administration of its education policies, admissions, scholarships, loans or other school-administered programs. Each Blair student is afforded the rights, privileges and social, academic and athletic opportunities that are generally accorded or made available to students of the School.

DESIGN BY:

Snively Associates, Ltd., State College, Pennsylvania

PRINTING BY:

J.S. McCarthy Printers

This magazine is printed on recycled paper.



The very best of Blair's past, present and future has and will always be influenced by the spirit of Jack Bogle. Chairman Emeritus **John C. Bogle '47** served Blair Academy for a remarkable 47 years on the Board of Trustees. When he passed away at the age of 89 on January 16, our community lost one of its most stalwart and faithful champions, a man whose legacy of service and leadership will live on at our School forever.

Throughout his long and illustrious lifetime, Jack expressed in countless ways his great love for Blair and his gratitude for the opportunities his Blair education afforded him. As I consider our School today, I am proud of the myriad opportunities we continue to offer our students in every aspect of their Blair experience. These are opportunities that, as Jack so beautifully put it, help students "learn more than they might otherwise have learned, accomplish more than they might otherwise have accomplished, and develop their character and their values more than they might otherwise have developed them."

One of those distinctly Blair and Bogle values is courage—the courage to stay true to one's moral compass while being brave enough to chart new courses and adventures that help us actualize our true potential.

"Jack Bogle, of course, will always be Blair's patron saint and stand as an exemplar among our many supporters and creators of opportunity."

We must always be bold enough to try new things even as we honor our past. You will read about several of these new, evolving and uniquely Blair opportunities in this issue of the *Bulletin* that invoke and blend Jack's pioneering spirit with a grounded and humble respect for what has come before. And so, I am proud to honor Blair's 171-year history while, at the same time, continuing to offer new opportunities to learn, including our team-taught human rights seminar, our "Foundations of Integrated Science Research" course, and our inaugural Finance Industry Summit. This event, hopefully the first of many industry-specific Blair gatherings, brought alumni, parents and several students together in New York City for an evening of learning, networking and celebrating our treasured Blair connection.

Following the Finance Summit, where a panel of Blair experts spoke eloquently about their careers, I was beaming with pride as I attended our annual TEDx conference, hosted this year by Gill St. Bernard's School. Here, five Blair students shared their views on topics that held great meaning for them, such as triumphing over tragedy and the effects of vaping on today's teens. Having prepared diligently with TEDx advisor and history department chair Jason Beck—and, in the case of the students who spoke on vaping, with an outside expert with whom we are collaborating through a special Blair initiative this year—the students commanded the stage, exuded both strength and vulnerability, and held an audience of peers and adults in thrall.

Opportunities to travel with teachers and fellow students add real-

world perspective to students' Blair experience, and a group that traveled with me to England and France over spring break was able to garner local perspectives as elements of Brexit continue to unfold. With questions germinating during this trip, our student travelers will further benefit from follow-up discussions with a leading Brexit expert later this spring, a one-of-a-kind opportunity orchestrated by a Blair alum. We are immensely thankful for experiences like this one and other faculty-student learning opportunities taking place across the world in Kenya, the Cayman Islands and Cuba, as well as the many that occur right on our campus as we bring the world to Blair.

On behalf of our students, faculty and staff, I humbly express my deepest thanks to all of you—our alumni, parents and friends of the School—who, in every generation, have so generously supported the opportunities that make the Blair experience like no other educational experience. Jack Bogle, of course, will always be Blair's patron saint and stand as an exemplar among our many supporters and creators of opportunity. As we look to the future of the School and our forthcoming strategic plan, we will continue to build upon the strong foundation that Jack and so many others have put in place, and we will continue to provide our students with every opportunity to learn, grow and courageously try new things.

Christopher Fortunato
Head of School

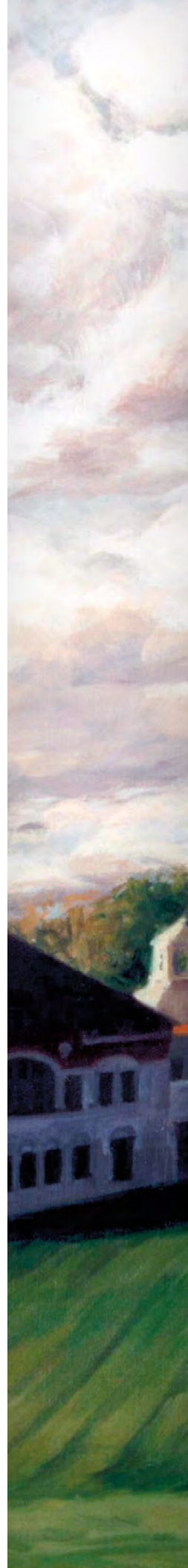
John C. Bogle '47:

'One Man Can Make All the Difference'

When Board of Trustees Chairman Emeritus **John C. Bogle '47** received Blair Academy's highest honor in 1990, the inaugural Citation of Merit proclaimed that, more than anyone in the history of the School, Mr. Bogle "embodied the notion that one man can make all the difference." Among the billions of words Mr. Bogle garnered in the national and international press during his pioneering career in the investment industry, truer ones were likely never written.

As inventor of the index mutual fund and founder of The Vanguard Group, Mr. Bogle made all the difference in the lives of countless individual investors. Vanguard is now the world's largest mutual fund organization, predominantly due to his spirit of innovation, drive to excel and vision for a better future. Mr. Bogle brought those same sterling qualities to 47 years of Trusteeship at

Blair Academy, where he served from 1972 until he passed away on January 16, 2019, at the age of 89. And here, on "this lovely, lovely hill," as Mr. Bogle described his beloved alma mater, his unparalleled leadership, philanthropy and service have made all the difference to every student who ever followed—or ever will follow—in his footsteps.





John C. Bogle '47's portrait, commemorating his service as Chairman of the Board of Trustees from 1986 to 2001, hangs in Armstrong-Hipkins Center for the Arts.



John C. Bogle '47, J. Brooks Hoffman '36 and William R. Timken '53, each of whom served as Chairman of Blair's Board of Trustees, in an undated photo.

An Educational Foundation

Mr. Bogle entered Blair as a junior in 1945, together with his late twin, **David C. Bogle '47**, and following their older brother, **William Y. "Bud" Bogle III '45**. Their family had fallen on hard times during the Depression, and scholarships made it possible for the Bogle brothers to attend Blair, something for which Mr. Bogle would remain forever grateful. As a scholarship recipient, he worked as a headwaiter in the dining hall, and he distinguished himself as a high honor roll student, editor of *The Blair Breeze* and *ACTA*, and class treasurer. He was known for his ready wit and smile, and his classmates—with great foresight—elected him "best student" and "most likely to succeed" as he graduated, cum laude, in 1947.

Mr. Bogle credited his Blair teachers with having made a tremendous difference in his life, later reflecting that they must have seen some promise in him, unpolished student though he was. "The masters of those days...gave me what seemed to be their undivided attention," he wrote in 1991, in his forward to *Blair Academy: A Sesquicentennial History*. "They cared, and they accepted nothing less than my best. They set me on a course of academic achievement at Blair, leading to my matriculation at

“*Jack Bogle's greatness* was born from his profound goodness. Words hardly do justice to the indelible impact he so lovingly imprinted on Blair, not only through his generosity, but, more importantly, by modeling humility, strength and keen intellect matched by singular wit and a humanity that still inspires us to be better people. We marveled at his conviction, his eloquence and his ability to command a stage or a room while making everyone around him feel important and essential. I had the privilege of spending quieter moments with Jack as he devoted hours of time sharing stories, ideas, wisdom and even dreams with students, often one-on-one and with groups of his beloved Bogle Brothers Scholars. While Jack's accomplishments in the financial world and at Blair are virtually endless and exceptional, it was in those smaller moments, when he made each student feel seen, known and valued, that he so beautifully reminded me of what Blair stands for and why we love his 'little school' on the hill.”

—Head of School *Chris Fortunato*

“*Blair would not* be Blair without Jack Bogle. He was so appreciative of the trajectory Blair gave him in life that he never relented on his mission to make sure the School thrived in every way possible. He supported students through scholarship, provided funds to attract and retain the best faculty, and always supported priority facility projects. But, even more important than his financial support, Jack made us proud to be part of the Blair family; his lifelong love of the School was contagious. Blair will forever remember and honor the incredible legacy of Jack Bogle.”

—*Chairman of the Blair Board of Trustees Douglas W. Kimmelman P’12 ’13 ’15 ’22*

Princeton University...in turn leading to a business career that has given me every opportunity to fulfill the promise they saw, and indeed much more.”

A Hero to Investors

At Princeton, Mr. Bogle studied economics and wrote his senior thesis, “The Economic Role of the Investment

Company,” a close examination of the mutual fund industry. That pivotal work launched his career in the investment industry, and his ingenuity and dedication to business integrity and hard work brought him to its pinnacle.

Hired at Wellington Management Company upon his graduation, magna cum laude, from Princeton in 1951, Mr. Bogle rose quickly through the ranks, assuming control of the firm in 1965 at age 36. However, an “extremely unwise” merger led to his dismissal from Wellington nine years later. “It was a huge mistake, and I got fired for my efforts,” Mr. Bogle said with characteristic candor as he described the experience of “going from the top to the bottom” for The Blair Leadership Stories Project in 2015. What could have ended his career proved to be just the beginning for Mr. Bogle, though, as “out of the ashes of that catastrophe,” he created Vanguard in 1974.

“This new company was based on service to investors and the idea of trying to give them their fair share of whatever the stock market returns are, and that included the creation of the world’s first index fund,” Mr. Bogle continued in his Leadership Story. His insistence on the superiority of the index fund and his concern for the individual investor were radical departures for the investment industry, yet he would stay the course his entire life. His wisdom has been borne out in Vanguard’s success, as today it holds \$5.2 trillion in assets and is one of the largest investment management firms in the world.

Mr. Bogle served as Vanguard’s chairman and chief executive officer from 1974 until 1996, the year he underwent a heart transplant. He returned to work as senior chairman until



Mr. Bogle returned to campus regularly, including in May 2017, when he spoke to students at Chapel.

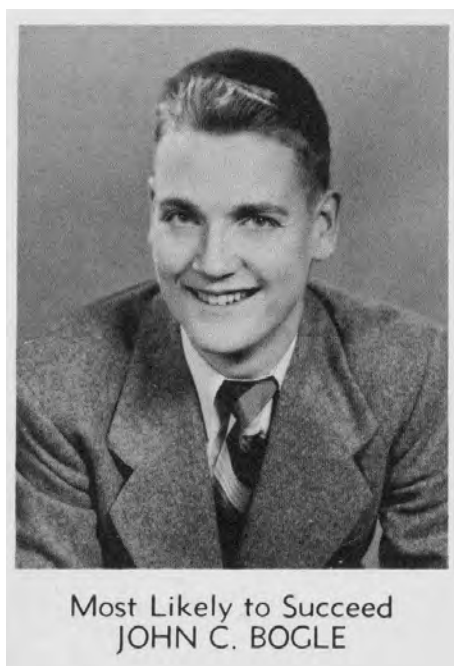


Photo from the 1947 ACTA.



Mr. Bogle and his wife, Eve (1993).

“*Jack Bogle is* the most towering figure in Blair Academy history and the cornerstone of where we are today. While his philanthropy to Blair is legend, he gave us so much more. Over the years, Jack engaged with students on campus. He participated like no other with his frequent visits, speeches, talks with students, encouragement, positive attitude, wisdom and forward-looking point of view. On my watch as Chairman after he retired from that post, we got to know each other so well, and I am grateful for those times.

Jack Bogle is one of a kind, and how remarkable that we were fortunate to have him in our midst all these years. In my mind, Jack's greatest accomplishment was his having given the gift of education to hundreds of bright young students, as it was once given to him.

God bless this incredible man, and, as he would say, 'Stay the course,' and 'Press on, regardless.' This is what we need to do now to honor his legacy.”

—*Former Board Chairman William R. Timken '53*

1999 when he turned 70, the maximum age for a Vanguard board member, and then became head of the firm's affiliate, Bogle Financial Markets Research Center. A prolific writer, he continued to champion the cause of the individual investor as

author of 12 books and countless articles, op-eds and features on investing, financial markets and the investment world.

Recognition of Mr. Bogle's towering contributions to the financial industry came from many quarters over the past several decades. Among the most notable accolades were his designation

John C. Bogle '47's Philanthropy at Blair Academy

1968 Bogle Brothers Scholarship Program: Mr. Bogle established this program in honor of his older brother, *William '45*, and twin, *David '47*. The Bogle brothers attended Blair Academy on scholarships, and the Bogle Brothers Scholarship Program has since supported the education of nearly 200 Blair students.

1989 Bogle Hall: Mr. Bogle generously supported the construction of Blair's science, computer science and mathematics building; it was the first academic facility built on campus since Clinton Hall was erected in 1901. Bogle Hall is named in memory of Josephine Hipkins Bogle and William Yates Bogle Jr., by their sons *William Yates Bogle III '45*, *David Caldwell Bogle '47* and *John Clifton Bogle '47*.



1993 John C. & Eve S. Bogle Teaching Prize: Originally established as the John C. & Eve S. Bogle Chair for Excellence in Teaching, this prize honors outstanding Blair teachers and epitomizes Mr. Bogle's belief that much of the School's success over the years can be attributed to "caring teachers who provide challenging, disciplined education."

1997 Armstrong-Hipkins Center for the Arts: The Bogle brothers chose the Center for their philanthropy in view of their entire family's love of the arts, including music, drama, painting and sculpture. Armstrong-Hipkins Center for the Arts was dedicated in memory of Josephine Hipkins Bogle and her parents, John Clifton Hipkins and Effie Armstrong Hipkins, with love and

gratitude by *William Yates Bogle III '45*, *David Caldwell Bogle '47* and *John Clifton Bogle '47*.



2009 Chandler and Monie Hardwick Hall: The naming of Blair's athletic and activity center commemorates 20 years of friendship between the Bogles and the Hardwicks and honors Blair's benefactor, *John C. Bogle '47*.



2010 Squash Tournament Court: Mr. Bogle was a lifelong squash player, and Blair's Tournament court is named in honor of Mr. and Mrs. *John C. Bogle '47*.

2017 Chiang Center for Innovation and Collaboration: Mr. Bogle was instrumental in making the Chiang Center a reality. Home to Blair's fine arts and technology departments, it was the first new academic facility built on campus since 1989.

2019 Bogle Hall addition & renovation: The first floor of the newly renovated Bogle Hall will be named in honor of Mr. Bogle's twin brother, *David Caldwell Bogle '47*.

Annual support of the Blair Fund

by *Fortune* magazine as one of the investment industry's four "Giants of the 20th Century" in 1999 and his being named one of the world's 100 most powerful and influential people by *Time* magazine in 2004. In 2010, *Forbes* magazine lauded him as the person "who has done more good for investors than any other financier of the past century," and in 2017, Mr. Bogle was the subject of high praise from business magnate Warren Buffett. "[Mr. Bogle] has the satisfaction of knowing that he helped millions of investors realize far better returns on their savings than they otherwise would have earned," Mr. Buffett wrote in a letter to Berkshire Hathaway shareholders. "He is a hero to them and to me."

Blair Leadership & Loyalty

Even as he invested himself fully in his career and, together with his beloved wife, Eve, raised their six children, Mr. Bogle gave generously of his time, talent and treasure to the institutions he held dear, especially Blair Academy. Inspired by his strongly held values and genuine desire to pay back the gift of his education, he answered the call to serve at Blair and was elected to the Board of Trustees in 1972.

At that time, Mr. Bogle's Board mentor, the late Chairman Emeritus *J. Brooks Hoffman '36*, was in the midst of his crucial 16-year Chairmanship, a period during which Dr. Hoffman almost singlehandedly brought the School from the brink of bankruptcy to firm financial footing. Mr. Bogle deeply admired Dr. Hoffman's strong, decisive, energetic and good-humored leadership of the Board, not to mention his indefatigable quest

for financial support. At the conclusion of Dr. Hoffman's Chairmanship in 1978, the School was poised for growth; when the time came for Mr. Bogle to take the helm, he capitalized on the opportunity.

Mr. Bogle was elected Board Chairman in 1986, a role to which he gave his utmost until 2001, and he served as Chairman Emeritus from 2009 on. During his Board tenure and especially his Chairmanship, Mr. Bogle built upon the foundation established by Dr. Hoffman and helped to lead a historic School renaissance, characterized by significant campus enhancements, robust admission, a strengthened endowment and expanded programmatic offerings. Blair's transcendence to a boarding school of national and international prominence is unequivocally a result of Mr. Bogle's leadership and the deep loyalty to his alma mater that enabled him to attract great talent to the Board and the School.

Mr. Bogle's leadership of Blair, of course, includes his exceptionally generous philanthropy (*see page 09*). His gifts have impacted every facet of the School and enriched the Blair experience for every student, even as they have inspired the contributions of many alumni, parents and friends over the years.

Perhaps most significant to Mr. Bogle was his support of scholarship aid for deserving students. The one-time scholarship student remarked pragmatically in a 2017 interview: "You don't have to be a genius to figure out if you have a debt, you have to repay it!" His Bogle Brothers Scholarship Program, which he established in 1968, has provided the gift of a Blair education

“ *The genius of Jack's leadership was that he inspired all of us, each day, to try and give our best effort. His notes of appreciation, and his belief in us as teachers and students and in the importance of Blair's mission called forth a loyalty and commitment rare even in the best of schools. Jack believed that education was the underpinning of democracy, a pathway to opportunity, and that conviction was made tangible not just in his generous support of scholarship aid but also in the time he dedicated to writing his scholars individually and meeting them on campus each year—even into his 90th year. Jack's commitment to Blair Academy was total, and it was intensely personal.”*

—Former Director of Development Monie Hardwick

“*One of the* most impressive things about Mr. Bogle was his wide-reaching impact on people. There are certainly people who knew him much better than I did, yet he absolutely ranks as one of the most influential and pivotal people in my life. His incredibly generous scholarships to his two most beloved schools, Blair and Princeton, not only gave all of us Bogle Scholars the opportunity to attend these amazing institutions but also allowed us to reach for a goal that we may not otherwise have had the confidence or courage to pursue. That was most certainly the case for me!”

—Trustee *Victoria P. Bailey '97*



Mr. Bogle delighted in meeting his Bogle Brothers Scholars, including (left) **Amanda (Tompkins) Apple '00** and (right) **Jon Smolian '00** (1999).



Mr. and Mrs. Bogle with **William R. Timken '53** and his wife, Judy, in November 2001, celebrating the occasion of Mr. Bogle's retirement as Board Chair. Mr. Timken succeeded Mr. Bogle in that role.

to nearly 200 students to date—the very same gift of education that he credited with giving him the opportunity to make the most of himself. Mr. Bogle delighted in meeting his scholars at an annual luncheon and kept in touch with many of them long after graduation, responding to letters of thanks and updates on life and career with encouraging notes of his own.

'His Shoes Cannot Be Filled'

Mr. Bogle leaves an enduring legacy of care for Blair Academy, one that will live on not only in his many gifts to the School, but, just as importantly, in his legendary leadership, vision and service as a Trustee, and in the memories of his kindness shared by so many members of the Blair family. His Blair legacy also

includes three of his 12 grandchildren, **Rebecca Renninger '04**, **Molly England '09** and **Christopher St. John '10**.

Ever with an eye to a secure future for Blair, Mr. Bogle encouraged everyone to show their care for the institution he so loved. “Blair has played such a wonderful part in my life, and I have done what I could do to support the School,” he said at the Leadership Dinner in 2016, as the School's most loyal donors were recognized as the inaugural members of the John C. Bogle '47 Circle of Benefactors. “Others have done every bit as much to serve Blair, and members of the Blair family certainly continue to build a strong footing for the School whose name we prize. We all must continue to care for Blair, as no institution can survive without a constituency—a family—



Then-Headmaster Chan Hardwick presented Mr. Bogle with a painting of Armstrong-Hipkins Center for the Arts in 1997, the year the building was dedicated.

“*John Bogle will* be remembered as the greatest leader and visionary in Blair history. While still a young man and in the midst of a historic professional career, Mr. Bogle turned his attention to his alma mater, Blair, with an intention to help the School ‘be a little better than it was’ through his efforts of support, leadership and love. A scholarship boy in the 1940s, ‘Jack’ often said that he owed Blair ‘everything,’ yet the truth will always be that Blair owes John Bogle everything. As an alumnus, as the Chairman of the Board for 15 years and as Chairman Emeritus thereafter, John Bogle would most want the School to honor his memory by always striving to make Blair a little better every day.”

—Former Headmaster T. Chandler Hardwick

that cares deeply about the place that helped to nurture them and bring them along in this world.”

When Mr. Bogle stepped down as Chairman of Blair’s Board of Trustees in 2001, the *Blair Bulletin* published tributes to the man whose abiding love for his School was the source of all he did on its behalf. Among those accolades is one

from his mentor, Dr. Hoffman, which captures Mr. Bogle’s incomparable impact at Blair Academy: “With Jack Bogle at the helm, Blair made its greatest advances in the history of the School. His shoes cannot be filled. Although he will be missed, he will never be forgotten.”

Indeed, John C. Bogle made all the difference at Blair.



The Pennsylvania Society awarded Mr. Bogle its Gold Medal for Distinguished Achievement in December 2016. The award recognizes leadership, citizenship and contributions to the arts, science, education and industry.

“*Jack was single-minded* in his goal to make his dear old school a better place for students, faculty and staff. Over the years, he never wavered in his support of Blair. Even on the rare occasion when he couldn't make a Board meeting, he was in the room. Everybody always felt his presence. Jack provided advice and good counsel on everything we did as a Board, and every Chairman who followed him consulted with him on all major decisions. He was always very helpful and constructive; he had his point of view but was always gentle in his suggestions. And, all of us generally heeded his advice. Blair will be a different place without Jack's presence, but, in many ways, his presence will always be felt.”

—Former Board Chairman James P. Jenkins '66

“*Jack was my* dear friend of over 73 years. If Rudyard Kipling had been born in the U.S., his poem, ‘If,’ would have been dedicated to Jack. Especially meaningful are the lines ‘If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue, / Or walk with Kings—nor lose the common touch.’ This was Jack.”

—Honorary Trustee *Herbert J. Siegel* '46



1. Mr. Bogle spoke at the dedication of Armstrong-Hipkins Center for the Arts in October 1997.

2. Mr. Bogle addressed the audience at the dedication of Bogle Hall in May 1989.

3. Mr. Bogle enjoyed his annual visit to campus with his Bogle Brothers Scholars. In 2015, Head of School Chris Fortunato and his wife, Erin, hosted a luncheon for the group at Sharpe House.

4. After speaking at Chapel in May 2017, Mr. Bogle and the Blair Academy Singers led the audience in singing the Blair "Alma Mater."

5. Mr. Bogle (bear in hand) with his mother and twin brother, **David** '47, in 1931.

6. During Alumni Weekend 2017, Mr. Bogle celebrated his 70th Blair reunion with his wife, Eve, and his brother, **William** "Bud" Bogle '45.

7. Former Headmaster Chan Hardwick, his wife, Monie, and Mr. Bogle in an undated photo.





4



5



6



7

“As a Blair Academy Bogle

Scholar, I had the invaluable opportunity to benefit from Jack Bogle’s generosity, as well as the privilege of spending time with him at luncheons for matriculating scholarship recipients. At these luncheons, Mr. Bogle reviewed all the letters that students had written to him. He showed genuine interest in each student’s life, shared some of his own journey, provided guidance and made us laugh. Having attended Blair on scholarship, it seems Mr. Bogle also understood the importance of mentoring. He was an inspiring icon of perseverance, leadership and philanthropy.”

—Trustee Singleton Cox ’90

@ View Mr. Bogle’s Leadership Story at www.blair.edu/leadership-stories by clicking on his headshot. ■



Teaching Trio Guides Student Exploration of Human Rights

More than 20 Blair freshmen through seniors have taken advantage of a unique opportunity to dive deep into human rights issues this year by joining a project- and inquiry-based seminar that launched in late September.



Developed and led by classics teacher Chris Sheppard, English teacher **John Redos '09**, and Harvard Kennedy School professor and Blair scholar-in-residence Timothy Patrick McCarthy, PhD, the co-curricular seminar convenes on Thursday evenings in the Chiang Center for Innovation and Collaboration for focused discussion and work on extended human rights-centered projects of students' design.

The seminar is run in graduate-school style, wherein participants' interests and concerns largely drive the group's discussions and debates. In addition, students have autonomy in choosing the projects they are building and executing—with the instructors' guidance—during the spring semester. Students who are curious about human rights issues are welcome to drop into seminar meetings at any time, but those who regularly attend sessions will receive transcript credit for their efforts.

Dr. McCarthy outlined the goals for the yearlong program. "First, we want students to develop an appreciation and understanding of the history and philosophy of human rights, its origin and evolution over time. Second, we want them to learn how to grapple critically and respectfully with the contemporary implications of human rights, exploring both the possibilities and limitations of human rights theory and practice. And, third, we want students to have the experience of partnering with a real-world institution or organization to develop their own projects for putting human rights into action," he said. "All told, we hope students will emerge from this new seminar better thinkers and scholars and braver doers and citizens."

Here we take a closer look at the human rights seminar through this Q & A with its trio of teachers.

Teaching Trio Guides Student Exploration of Human Rights



Q:

What role do you play as a co-teacher of this seminar? How are you able to bring your particular expertise to students?

Dr. McCarthy: After 23 years of teaching at the undergraduate and graduate levels, this has been a very different—and deeply rewarding—classroom experience for me. John and Chris bring so much of their own energy and expertise to this seminar. They are tremendously gifted teachers who inspire me every week. The three of us have been meeting regularly since the summer to design and plan the seminar. Since this is the first course of its kind at Blair, much of our lesson planning has been experimental and iterative. We have a good road map for the year, but we have also purposefully designed this course to respond to the varied interests and needs of the students, who come from a very diverse range of backgrounds. In addition, we've been building this unique learning community throughout the fall. Since I live and work in Cambridge, [Massachusetts], I have been traveling to Blair to co-teach with John and Chris, who, of course, are both based on campus. Fortunately, I have been able to be there in person for most of our Thursday sessions, but I've also had to join virtually a few times. I vastly prefer being there in person,

to feed off the energy in the room, to work directly with our amazing students, and to bounce ideas around with John and Chris in real time. Because we all come at human rights from different perspectives—mine as both a historian of politics and social movements and a human rights activist—it helps to teach in the moment. That's easier to do when I'm physically, not just virtually, present.

Mr. Redos: I believe that all three of us support each other in such great ways. Already, I have learned so much from working with Tim and Chris, and I have been inspired to take what I've learned and put it into my other classes. My role as a co-teacher in the seminar has been to bring my experiences in creating nontraditional classes to Blair Academy. As a Fulbright English teacher in Montenegro, I created and offered several seminars over the course of my grant on topics such as entrepreneurship and business, teacher education, and leadership surrounding inclusivity. While in Montenegro, I tried to create as many unique and free educational opportunities for Montenegrins of all ages as possible. Upon returning to the U.S., I thought I'd have less freedom to create classes at first. However, as you can imagine, when Head of School Chris Fortunato presented the idea of co-teaching this seminar to me last August, I jumped at the opportunity to work with Tim and Chris.

Lastly, in my travels, I have had the chance to work with many individuals involved in human rights work around the world. So, part of my role is to create connections among my contacts with Blair students during second-semester individual or group project work.

Mr. Sheppard: In the first phase of the seminar, we focused on helping our students examine and discuss a wide variety of human rights issues with complexity and nuance. Many of the questions we have examined are deeply embedded in issues of language and history, both of which happen to be at the heart of studying Latin, ancient Greek and classics. To that end, I have drawn upon my experience teaching a diverse range of students—from underserved, first-generation middle and high school students at a University of Washington summer program, to undergraduates at the University of Oxford, to my students at Blair—to co-design activities with Tim and John that engage our students in critical thinking and empathetic discussion.

Q:

After more than a semester of weekly human rights seminar meetings, what is one session or moment that stands out to you and why?

Dr. McCarthy: It's impossible to identify one moment, as this group of students is totally on fire! One moment that stands out to me happened during our second class meeting, when we had twice as many students in attendance as we did the week before. I joked with the students that every college professor wants more students to add their course than drop it, so I took this to be a very good sign. There is clearly a great deal of interest in human rights issues at Blair. Another thing that's struck me about this class is how many students want to stay after class to continue our discussions. We've had many nights where we have to *strongly* encourage the kids to get back to the dorms to do their homework for other classes. This, too, is a good sign.



Timothy Patrick McCarthy, PhD

- Award-winning scholar, teacher, public servant and human rights activist who has worked with Blair students since 2013.
- Holds a joint faculty appointment in Harvard's undergraduate honors program in History and Literature, Graduate School of Education and John F. Kennedy School of Government, where he is Core Faculty and Program Director at the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy.
- Honors graduate of Harvard College and Columbia University, where he earned his PhD in history.



John Redos '09

- Blair English teacher and director of rowing and head girls' rowing coach.
- Taught psychology and English as a second language at Greene's Tutorial College at Oxford and served as a Fulbright English teacher at the University of Montenegro, where he also taught education workshops and seminars at local nongovernmental and nonprofit organizations.
- Earned a bachelor of science in communication (cum laude) from Cornell University and a master in sociology from the University of Oxford.



Chris Sheppard

- A teacher of Latin 2, 4 and 5 (AP), and ancient Greek at Blair, as well as head boys' rowing coach.
- Taught ancient Greek to first-year Oxford undergraduates and as a substitute Latin teacher at Lakeside School in Seattle.
- Holds a bachelor's degree in classics from the University of Puget Sound and a master's degree in Greek and Latin languages and literature from the University of Oxford, where he was a member of Merton College and earned a distinction (honors) on his dissertation.

Meet the Teachers

Teaching Trio Guides Student Exploration of Human Rights

Lastly, and most importantly, I have been so impressed with how the students have developed the ability and willingness to listen to each other. We have a lot of “starters” in this class—my term for passionate, engaged students who jump right into any discussion or debate—but these students have learned how to share space with less talkative students. What’s emerged from this is a collective recognition that everyone has valuable things to contribute. These are just some of the many things that stand out to me.

Mr. Redos: This is a hard one, as each week seems to get better and better. One moment that stands out to me, in particular, occurred at the beginning of the year. We asked students to define, “What is a human right?” We had about 13 students in the class at that time, and each definition was different. However, while it was fascinating to read what the students wrote, the exact moment that I won’t forget was when the class doubled in size the following week. We were taken aback by the interest in the seminar, and it has been so much fun since.

Mr. Sheppard: One of my favorite moments was an early discussion we had about the [United Nations’] Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Students worked in groups to categorize and prioritize the various rights outlined in the Declaration. Each group developed a completely different set of categories and had compelling reasons for the choices they made. In our subsequent discussion, we saw how intertwined each of the rights is with the others, and how conflicts between rights arise in real-world scenarios.

Q:

What is the most important thing you’d like students to gain from their participation in this seminar?

Dr. McCarthy: I would like each of these students to become braver citizens and moral leaders. When I say “braver citizens,” I mean people who are willing to stand up and speak out in the face of injustice. These are people who want to be upstanders rather than bystanders, people with the courage to speak truth to power—wherever and whenever it is necessary—to combat human wrongs. At their best, that is what human rights advocates do. When I say “moral leaders,” I mean people who have a values-based sense of how to act in the world based on what they know to be right and wrong. These people would rather lead by moral example than lord their power, privilege or ideology over others, and they are willing to listen to others, learn from others, work with others and follow the lead of others. Now, I’m not saying that these students will achieve all of these things in one year. Becoming—being—a brave citizen and moral leader is a lifelong journey. But we hope this seminar will help set some of this in motion for our students.

Mr. Redos: I am very excited to see what happens when our students interact with outside partners. I think everything will become a bit more real at that point. During the fall semester, we built a foundation of knowledge surrounding the field of human rights. However, I really think the experiential learning element of our seminar is something that students and our partners will take with them well after Blair.





Mr. Sheppard: Two things. First, empathy. School often focuses on the individual, but both the nature of human rights issues and the choices we've made in designing the seminar encourage our students to deepen their capacities for empathy by actively listening to and learning from one another—even, or especially, when disagreement arises. Second, when we look at some human rights issues in the world today, it's often easy to feel defeated—to feel that the issues are too complex and too large for any individual to influence. I want our students to see that, regardless of the scope of any individual issue, their voices and actions matter. Even as high school students, they can think about, discuss and act upon the issues that most interest them in meaningful, impactful ways, learning from each phase of the process.



What have you learned from students or about students as a result of teaching the human rights seminar?

Dr. McCarthy: These students give me so much hope. It's easy these days to fall into despair, to submit to pessimism, to become cynical and nasty. To be honest, given some of the work I do in the world, it's a constant struggle to find the light. But these students are bright beacons. Each week, above and beyond all their other commitments, they energetically choose to come together to share their ideas, listen to one another, and debate vigorously but respectfully. They really want to figure out how to change the world, and each week they convince us they will. I'm

happy to report that the kids are all right—and they will lead the way!

Mr. Redos: I've learned quite a bit surrounding high school students in general by teaching this class. I want to specifically focus on students at Blair. This year, I will celebrate my 10-year Blair reunion. It's crazy to see how much has changed since I graduated in 2009. For example, this seminar is taking place in the Chiang Center, which stands on the footprint of Davies and East Halls, the dormitories I lived in for three years. There were many opportunities available to students when I was here, but I feel as though we're on a new level. The students we work with in the human rights seminar are quite mature, and I have to sit back after some of our seminars and remind myself that these are still only high school kids. Some of our conversations would not be out of place in an undergraduate senior seminar, so at the end of the day, I am impressed with how in tune students are with difficult topics surrounding human rights.

Mr. Sheppard: I have learned much from our students (as well as from John and Tim) throughout the seminar—one of the many rewards of teaching it. Like John, I'd highlight how impressed (though not surprised) I am by the level of engagement and commitment our students have shown in understanding human rights issues, many of which are seemingly alien to their day-to-day lives as high school students. Despite their many commitments and responsibilities at Blair, these students are choosing to spend their Thursday evenings thinking about others, doing so with a level of curiosity and engagement that would rival a university seminar. In other words, our students are inspirational. ■



What's Happening in the Chiang



Blair's newest building is much more than home to the fine arts and technology departments. In fact, students and teachers of every discipline have benefited from the facility's technology-rich resources, configurable layout, and light and airy aesthetic. What follows is a roundup of the classes, meetings and events that have made the Chiang Center a hot spot for community activities of every kind.



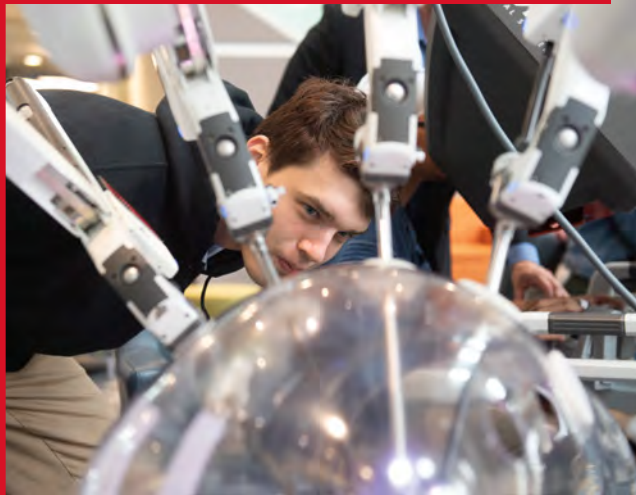
- + Harvard professor Timothy Patrick McCarthy, PhD, is team-teaching Blair's yearlong civil rights seminar in the Chiang Center with Blair classics teacher Chris Sheppard and English teacher **John Redos '09** (see story on page 16).
- + Head of School Roundtables in the Chiang Center have brought the community together to discuss bitcoin, human rights, school safety, presidential politics and more. Other roundtables, such as one focused on why midterm elections matter, are student-run.
- + The yearbook, Blair *Oracle* staff members and underclass councils tackle their work in the Chiang Center's glass-walled conference and team rooms after the class day ends.
- + The Blair community embraced its diversity by sharing cultural and culinary delicacies and traditions at International Weekend, which took place in the Chiang Center for the first time in 2019 after 23 years in the Romano Dining Hall.



Balla Kouyaté



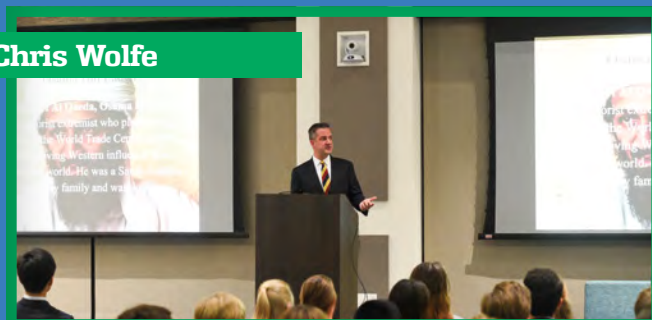
da Vinci® Surgical System



- ✚ Free speech and open dialogue advocate Zachary R. Wood met with the Inclusivity Committee and Young Democrat and Young Republican Clubs in the Chiang Center to talk about how to engage in uncomfortable conversations and issues such as intellectual controversy and freedom of speech.
- ✚ Blair's Black and LatinX Club celebrated National Hispanic Heritage Month by screening *Coco* and holding a discussion on immigration in the Chiang Center.
- ✚ The Blair community enjoyed an evening performance of internationally recognized balafon player Balla Kouyaté. Brought to Blair courtesy of the Rev. Lisa Durkee, chaplain and chair of the religion and philosophy department, Mr. Kouyaté and his band World Vision perform around the world practicing the ancient art of the balafon, which dates back to the medieval era.
- ✚ Students gathered in the Collaboration Forum to try out the da Vinci® Surgical System with Dr. Benjamin Schwartz P'21, regional director of obstetrics and gynecology for Northwell Health's eastern region and chairman of the department of obstetrics and gynecology at Northwell Health's Southside Hospital in Bay Shore, New York.

SOCIETY OF SKEPTICS lectures take place in the Forum every Tuesday night, and presentations have focused on everything from the war in Afghanistan to world-class nature photography to current politics.

Chris Wolfe



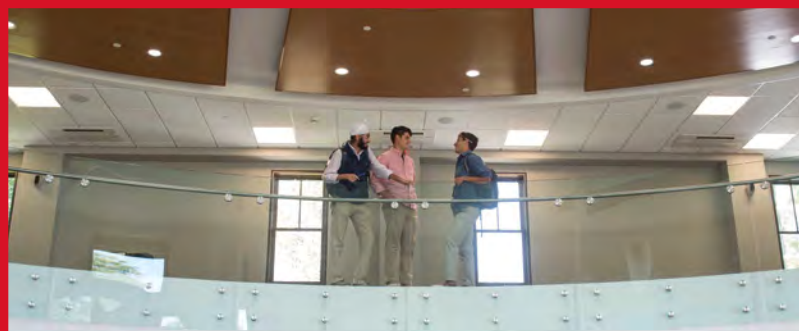
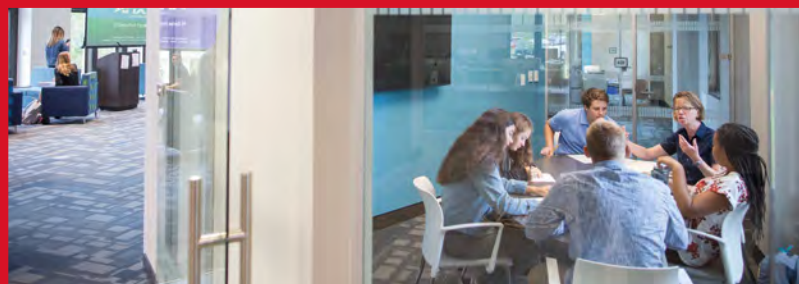
Alan Moskin



This year's speakers:

- Former equities trader **Chris Wolfe '85** shared personal recollections of the 9/11 terrorist attacks on the twin towers in New York City.
- *Roads* author Marina Antropow Cramer talked about challenges faced by Russian families following the 1941 invasion by Nazi Germany.
- *National Geographic* photographer Alison Wright took attendees on a journey around the world.
- Gynecologic oncology and minimally invasive surgery specialist Ben Schwartz P'21, MD, explained how Intuitive's da Vinci® Robotic Surgical System is changing the future of healthcare.
- McAfee strategic consultant Frank Angiolelli addressed cybersecurity and took a closer look at hackers' behavior.
- Senior scientist at Fermilab Dr. Don Lincoln asked the audience to consider issues in physics.
- Seventeen-time Tour de France racer George Hincapie talked about his experiences as a world-class bike racer.
- Author, lecturer and retired Army Maj. Jason Howk delved into America's longest war in Afghanistan.
- Olympic gold medalist and executive director and head coach of the University of Philadelphia's Pennsylvania Regional Training Center Brandon Slay shared advice about achieving dreams and leadership.
- CNBC contributor Ron Insana P'16 '20 '21 analyzed recent political happenings.
- U.S. World War II combat veteran Alan Moskin gave witness to the horrific reality of the Holocaust and urged students to work to overcome hate and bigotry.
- Video producer and writer Rob Montz analyzed political correctness on college campuses.
- Normandy Allies president and program director Marsha Smith described a remembrance tour of 1944 D-Day beaches, cemeteries, museums and villages.
- Blairstown's Ridge and Valley School administrators detailed the pros and cons of charter schools.
- Licensed professional geologist Betsy Schamberger P'22 spoke about environmental cleanups and considered what is clean enough.
- Grand View Hospital physician Dr. Jane Ferry P'11, described her experiences during past medical missions to Africa as part of the independent nonprofit "Blair in Kenya."
- Dr. **Lucienne Ronco '80** talked about her work in translational medicine, drug discovery, biotechnology and pharmaceuticals in her role as vice president of translational medicine at Fulcrum Therapeutics.
- Young Alumni Skeptics speakers **Christopher Gatsch '05**, **Winnie (Adrien) Lizardo Orbe '06**, **Sam Tilney '08** and **Jack Januszewski '13** reflected on their career success, life on the hilltop and finding fulfillment after Blair.
- McChrystal Group partner and former Navy SEAL **Chris Fussell '92** discussed the importance of leadership and teamwork.
- Brother of Ted Kaczynski (also known as the Unabomber) David Kaczynski talked about his infamous brother, the justice system and capital punishment.
- The final Skeptics of the year focused on **John C. Bogle '47's** legacy in the world of investing. The 2019 Herman Hollerith Lecture on Entrepreneurship and Innovation was moderated by Gina Moore P'19 of AJO Partners, and included panelists Joanne M. Hill P'10, PhD, of the CFA Institute Research Foundation Board and Cboe Vest LLC, Bill McNabb, former CEO of The Vanguard Group and Jason Zweig, personal finance columnist for *The Wall Street Journal*.

- + Following a Forum presentation from multimedia and print artist *Tim Fite '95* about his Romano Gallery exhibit “Quick Draw,” students and teachers joined the artist in Armstrong-Hipkins Center for the Arts to view his work.
- + Blair’s ceramicists spent a day in the Chiang Center’s pottery studio creating bowls to be used at the local food bank’s annual Empty Bowls fundraising event.
- + The Chiang Center was home to a number of sessions honoring the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The campus-wide January program annually highlights topics such as identity, race relations and inclusion.
- + Blair’s robotics team meets in the Chiang Center robotics classroom five days a week as members prepare for weekend competitions. Blair robotics has become a well-regarded FIRST Tech Challenge team in New Jersey just two years after the team was founded.
- + The Collaboration Forum was the scene of the Headmasters’ Societies Games’ robotics contest, which brought into the competition some of the technology department’s most cutting-edge equipment.
- + Students hone their ability to write, record and produce original, professional-quality songs in Blair’s digital music course. The class meets in the Chiang Center’s media lab and recording studio, where students leverage professional quality software and equipment.
- + Blair’s Young Republican and Young Democrat Clubs met to discuss immigration and U.S. border security and screened U.S. midterm election results in the Collaboration Forum as the news media called each race on Election Day.
- + Freshmen got comfortable working in the Chiang Center shortly after arriving at Blair: Ninth-grade orientation took place there, as did the yearlong Freshman Seminar, which builds connections and baseline skills with two half-year modules on health and wellness and design-and-maker-space training.



AT ALUMNI ROUNDTABLES this year, Blair graduates discussed careers in film, medicine, the food and events industries, and journalism.

Ashley Thompson



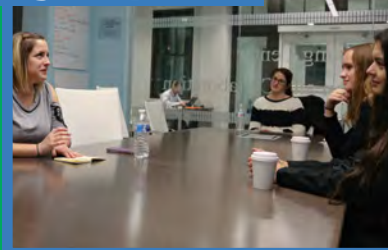
- Executive producer **Andrew Hutcheson '08** discussed his work at the film production company Voyager.
- Entrepreneur **Ashley Thompson '08** spoke about her overnight oats company, MUSH.
- Pediatric nurse **Sarah Bugen '10** gave students insights into the medical profession.

Chrissy Devenny



- Reporter **Megan Fry '06** discussed her career as a feature writer.
- **Chrissy Devenny '08** talked to students via Zoom about her career as founder and CEO of Los Angeles-based Dynamo Events.

Megan Fry



After the academic day ends, the Collaboration Forum also serves as a place for students to simply hang out and enjoy each other's company—as well as a venue for weekend activities such as dance marathons!



In the fall, Blair college counselors host visiting college reps in the Chiang Center on Monday and Thursday evenings.



The Classics Club convened in the Chiang Center to celebrate ancient holidays—wearing togas, of course! Other student groups, including the Investment Club, Business Club, Writing Club, Girl Up Club, and Black and LatinX Club, regularly meet there, too.



Parents met with faculty members at a host of Parents' Weekend receptions in the Chiang Center.



A number of standing Blair committees, including those focused on diversity and inclusivity, come together in the Chiang Center. ■

Clubs in Collaboration Forum





Mr. Fortunato (pictured above with students) and Blair's scholar-in-residence Timothy Patrick McCarthy, PhD (pictured on page 28), partnered with colleagues from Miss Porter's School at The Association of Boarding Schools global symposium in a session on establishing connections and empowering students to make a difference in the world.

Bringing the Best of Blair to the World

Faculty Share Expertise & Best Practices

Ask any alum why Blair is so transformative and he or she is likely to tell you a story about teachers who broadened horizons, introduced new ideas, and offered encouragement at critical junctures of his or her high school experience. We all remember the faculty members who shaped us most, not just because they knew us well and pushed us to reach our full potential, but because they were experts in their respective fields and helped us succeed across disciplines.

That's truer than ever at Blair today, and the School remains committed to supporting teachers as they share best practices, pedagogies, and techniques by leading sessions and networking

with colleagues from other institutions at educational conferences and programs around the United States. Here are just a few of the ways in which Blair faculty members have shared their knowledge and experience this year.

.....

Head of School Chris Fortunato partnered with Blair scholar-in-residence Timothy Patrick McCarthy, PhD, and colleagues from Miss Porter's School to lead an interactive session on empowering students to become thoughtful and impactful global citizens at The Association of Boarding Schools' (TABS)



Assistant Head of School and Dean of Faculty Lorry Perry presented on authentically giving and receiving feedback at Carney Sandoe's Women's Institute.

April global symposium in Newport, Rhode Island. Mr. Fortunato and Dr. McCarthy, who is a professor at Harvard Kennedy School and program director of the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, detailed how Blair is enhancing learning by establishing global connections and empowering students to proactively generate knowledge, astutely curate information and make an immediate difference in the world. Attendees left the joint session with a framework for launching similar programs at their own schools.

This fall, science teacher Caroline Chamberlain presented at the New Jersey Science Convention in Princeton, sharing with colleagues how to best use Classcraft to motivate classroom learning. Ms. Chamberlain, who teaches biology and environmental science, talked about the benefits of using the gaming platform in lesson planning.

Associate Dean of Students Andee Ryerson joined colleagues from The Loomis Chaffee School and Episcopal High School to talk about the importance of inclusivity programming at TABS' December meeting in Washington, D.C. Mrs. Ryerson specifically talked about how Blair's inclusive and connected



Blair's scholar-in-residence Timothy Patrick McCarthy, PhD, joined Mr. Fortunato in an interactive session about empowering students to become thoughtful and impactful global citizens.

community expands students' horizons through curricular and co-curricular programs such as the School's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. seminars. This spring, she teamed up with Blair history teacher Hannah Higgin to present on the topics of diversity and inclusion at a New Jersey Association of Independent Schools (NJ AIS) conference.

Associate Head of School and Dean of Admission Peter G. Curran and Chief Advancement Officer Craig Hall teamed up with colleagues from Mercersburg Academy at TABS' annual meeting for a collective discussion about how boarding schools' externally facing offices are no longer able to meet market demands alone. They led a session on educating faculty and staff about specific advancement and admission office opportunities and challenges and shared with participants actionable ideas for promoting buy-in and engagement from internal stakeholders.

Blair's coordinator of health education Erin Fortunato presented at two NJ AIS conferences this fall. In mid-October, she attended "Grit and Grace: An Institute for Female Leaders in Education," where she served on a leadership panel. A

couple of weeks later, Mrs. Fortunato partnered with Dean of Campus Life and Director of Blair Leadership Programs **Carolyn Conforti-Browse '79** to focus on promoting emotional health and wellness. The duo led a session on the importance of training and certifying high school peer health educators, adapting a college-level program, and the challenges of conducting peer health education in a high-school setting.



At last summer's Carney Sandoe Women's Institute in Boston, Blair's Assistant Head of School and Dean of Faculty Lorry Perry presented on effectively and authentically giving and receiving feedback with colleagues from Carney Sandoe & Associates, Belmont Day School and Westminster School. In addition to being a regular attendee at that conference, which contributes to the overall development and empowerment of women in all stages of their careers in the field of education, Ms. Perry was a panelist at a job fair promoting diversity in Morristown, New Jersey, at which she shared with attendees her independent school experience and answered questions from the audience about career options. She also served as a panelist at the February session of the NJAIS "Grit and Grace" institute.



Dean of Academics Nathan Molteni traveled to Boston to attend the October meeting of OESIS, the leading network for innovation that includes 600 independent schools from around the world. Mr. Molteni was invited to participate in an academic leaders panel, during which he provided his perspective on learning and transcripts and answered questions from fellow attendees.



Associate Dean of Admission and director of financial aid **Teddy Wenner '96** coordinated, facilitated and led sessions at the Erdmann Institute, a professional development conference for senior-level independent school admission professionals. The annual summer program, now in its fifth year, draws more than 60 admission officers from around the country to Sebago Lake, Maine, for three days of meetings focused on marketing, office cohesion, team dynamics, financial aid and collaboration with program leaders. Mr. Wenner, who has been an institute council member since 2015, also plans to present with Assistant Dean of Admission Timothy Goggins at the September 2019 Enrollment Management Association Meeting. They will focus on cultivating admission office relationships with program leaders to further a school's overarching strategic goals. ■



Associate Dean of Admission and director of financial aid **Teddy Wenner '96** has been an Erdmann Institute council member since 2015.



RIVAL RELATIONSHIPS

BLAIR & PEDDIE SHARE CUP IN 115TH YEAR
OF COMPETITION & CONNECTION

BY SUZY LOGAN '99
DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS &
BLAIR BULLETIN EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

In the 115 years since the Buccaneers and the Falcons first faced off on the gridiron in 1903, beginning what is now the oldest prep school rivalry in New Jersey, the traditions associated with “Peddie Day” and “Blair Day” have become a deeply rooted and quintessential part of school life at both institutions. Ask most alums about their favorite boarding school experience, and they are likely to tell you a story about celebrating the Blair-Peddie rivalry and detail epic victories or heartbreaking losses on that first Saturday of November.

After more than a century of pranks, pep rallies and bonfires—and, of course, in more recent years, competition for the coveted Kelley-Potter Cup—it is perhaps not surprising that the special relationship between the two schools has led to lifelong connections among their graduates.

Here, we spotlight the close bonds that exist between Blair and Peddie alumni who have gone on to become friends, family, co-workers or employees of their respective archrival. These ties have been forged despite—or in some cases, because of—the

friendly spirit of competition that underscores the strong foundation of care, respect and sportsmanship that exists between the two schools.

The stories in this feature, co-created with the editors of the *Peddie Chronicle* in a weekslong collaboration that had us jointly conduct research and interviews, were inspired by a *Peddie Chronicle* class notes photo of longtime friends Don Mattucci, Blair class of 1945, and Clarence Kugler, Peddie class of 1963. The friendship between the south Florida residents who met at a dog park 14 years ago led us to search for other relationships between former Buccaneers and Falcons. And find them we did!

Although work on this piece began months before the early November athletic competitions ended in a tie (only the fourth one ever!), it seems fitting that this article be published during a year where Blair and Peddie share the Kelley-Potter Cup. Clearly, this is a rivalry defined not just by intense athletic competition but also by generosity of spirit and close connection.

RIVAL FRIENDSHIPS

B DON MATTUCCI '45

P CLARENCE KUGLER '63

HOW THEY MET

At a south Florida dog park. The military veterans bonded over their shared Blair-Peddie history, joking that their dogs, Mikey and Marley, intuitively knew something about the rivalry and "sensed hostility from the get-go." After 14 years, their pets have learned to tolerate each other, their wives, Eleanor and Ali, have become friends and the foursome enjoys dinner together at the same Deerfield Beach restaurant every Wednesday evening.

ACTIVE ATHLETES

Both Don and Clarence lettered in football during high school, with Don captaining the Blair team in 1944, the year that the Blair-Peddie game was canceled due to a polio outbreak (Blair ended up playing Lawrenceville and won). Don's other sports included swimming and tennis, while Clarence also wrestled and captained the lacrosse team. As he prepares to celebrate his 74th high school reunion this year, Don jokes that he was elected captain of the football team because his teammates "saw longevity in the position."

Clarence reminisces about playing Blair during his senior year, when a Blair running back stepped on his face mask and, yet, Peddie was able "to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat"—an indelible memory about which Clarence tries to remind Don frequently.

Don: That's one of the things Clarence and I kid about. He played with a face mask. We didn't have face masks in my day. We had leather helmets and high-top shoes.

Clarence: And Don is *still* remarkably good looking.

LIFE PARALLELS

Clarence: We have a lot in common: Don served in the Navy in World War II, and I was in the Army, serving in both Vietnam and Iraq. We have those war stories in common, although Don's are much more exciting than mine, and he even attended college [at Oberlin College in Ohio] in his Naval uniform!

The two men continue to meet up at the dog park, where they talk about Blair and Peddie memories and, of course, who takes home the Kelley-Potter Cup each year—although Don points out that whoever's school most

recently lost is usually not the one to bring it up.

Clarence: Don is sort of my mentor for "old-old" age. I mean, a guy that will have two scotches for cocktails...that's the way I want to age!

HOW THEY KEEP THE RIVALRY FUN

Clarence: The Blair-Peddie rivalry enhances our friendship, and it certainly helps to have a Blair man who you see three to four times a week to keep the sparks going. Despite the disparity in our ages, Don gives no quarter in kidding me, and I try to return his serve.

Don: We let Clarence run with the ball.

ADVICE FOR YOUNG BLAIR-PEDDIE ALUMS ON BECOMING FRIENDS

Don: Buy a dog!

Clarence: Don is one of the kindest guys I know, and that helps. You don't need much of an interview process for a friend who is kind.



Don Mattucci (right), Blair class of 1945, with Clarence Kugler (left), Peddie class of 1963, on Veteran's Day 2017.

B TODD SMITH '90

P PETE MCCLELLAN '90

HOW THEY MET

Although they wouldn't remember until they ran across each other again at Lafayette College, they first met on the soccer field at Blair, where they squared off and got into a heated exchange that sent them both to the bench with yellow cards. They instantly connected as college freshmen, when Pete saw Todd wearing a Blair sweatshirt at a party. They became fast friends, roomed together sophomore year and became fraternity brothers. Close to this day, Todd served in Pete's wedding party, and Pete's kids call Todd "Uncle Todd."

THEIR SIMILARITIES & DIFFERENCES

Todd: Pete saw this outgoing, energetic, charismatic guy from Blair, and he knew to stay close to him if he wanted to make friends at Lafayette. Seriously though, we both came from similar boarding school experiences where our academic and social foundations were formed, and we learned what it was like to get involved, work hard, play hard and take advantage of opportunities that came our way. I think both of us were well prepared for the rigors, demands and challenges of college life, and we can thank Blair and Peddie for that.

Pete: We obviously had our differences. For example, Todd was an excellent tennis player who looked like an intimidating football player,



Todd Smith (left), Blair class of 1990, with Pete McClellan (right), Peddie class of 1990, at their college graduation in 1994.

while I was a great Ping-Pong player who looked like an average Ping-Pong player. Still, the common experiences we enjoyed in boarding school helped to cement a relationship I cherish.

KEEPING THE RIVALRY FUN

Todd and Pete have traveled to Blairstown and Hightstown to watch the Bucs take on the Falcons since their college days, a trip that always involves good-natured ribbing and some fun side wagers. The fact that one of them has been working at their beloved alma maters since 1994 keeps their friendship alive and kicking: Todd was a faculty member at Blair for five years after graduating from Lafayette before moving to Montclair Kimberley Academy, where he now serves as athletic director, while Pete began his career at Peddie, where he now serves as assistant head of school for student life.

Todd: We have been lifelong friends, but I am not sure if that would have

happened if we didn't have that initial encounter from our Blair-Peddie soccer days. By the way, it still stings Pete to this day that he never beat my Blair teams. He may have beaten us in baseball, but that doesn't count because I didn't play. I was too busy going undefeated against Peddie in tennis, too.

Pete: Understanding that Todd is sensitive and perhaps even a fragile man, I rarely talk about the rivalry in terms of school records. In all seriousness, there is not a great deal of heckling. Even when we were in college and making the trip for a Blair/Peddie Day, I don't remember us giving each other gibes. Rather, we were enjoying each other's company, hanging out with folks from other schools, and getting a yearly reminder of our good fortune—our alma maters have a rivalry that is the envy of every other high school in the nation.

B CATERINA GLEIJESES '13
P MEGAN ZUCKERMAN '12

HOW THEY MET

At Nike Communications, a small New York City-based agency that specializes in marketing luxury and prestige brands, where Caterina is an account executive specializing in travel and real estate clients and Megan works as part of the fashion and lifestyle team.

The pair never met during their high school years, not even on Peddie/Blair Day, which they both cite as among their favorite boarding school memories (Caterina played tennis, and Megan was on the field hockey team). The two went on to attend college hundreds of miles apart, with Caterina graduating from the University of Chicago with degrees in sociology and international studies, and Megan majoring in communications and media studies at Fordham College at Lincoln Center in New York, not far from where they now work.

Today, their desks are adjacent to one another, and they discovered their Blair-Peddie connection while planning the company's holiday party together last year. Although their office has a sleek design that doesn't invite displaying school memorabilia, they both admit to having "many Blair and Peddie sweatshirts at home."



Caterina Gleijeses (*right*), Blair class of 2013, with Megan Zuckerman (*left*), Peddie class of 2012, work at desks adjacent to one another at a New York City public relations firm.

**ADVICE FOR OTHERS WHO
DISCOVER THEY ARE WORKING
WITH AN ALUM FROM A
RIVAL SCHOOL**

Caterina: You can still be friends with an alum from a rival school. If anything, finding out we went to rival schools was a reason for us to become friends. The head of my team is also married to a Peddie alum, so my supervisor was really excited to learn that we were able to experience the friendly rivalry as students.

Megan: The rivalry is really good-natured and, while I know everyone is really passionate about their own

team, they are also really excited for the other team when they win.

**CONNECTION &
SHARED EXPERIENCE**

Caterina: It doesn't come up often at work, but people think it is cute that we went to rival schools and ended up at the same firm. We have a connection in the office that we don't share with anyone else because, even though we didn't know each other at the time, we have so many shared experiences. It bonds us together and gives us another reason to be friends.



Sovann Stark (left) and Rebecca Seman (right), who graduated from Blair and Peddie in 2014, at their North Brunswick townhouse last fall.

B SOVANN STARK '14

P REBECCA SEMAN '14

HOW THEY MET

At Hilltop Country Day School in Sparta, New Jersey, where they attended elementary and middle school together. Best friends since first grade, Rebecca is from Blairstown and Sovann is from Branchville, so even when they decided to attend separate New Jersey high schools, they saw each other regularly. It helped that they both played the same fall sport (tennis), even though they found it "weird" to play on opposing teams after so many years of being on the same side.

The duo reunited after high school as fellow Rutgers students and became roommates last fall in North Brunswick.

Rebecca, a recent Rutgers graduate, is working at a law firm in Princeton while Sovann finishes her final year of college.

FRIENDS WHO BECOME FAMILY

Sovann: We were both really sad that we weren't going to be together, but it was also time for us to separate because we were inseparable...But we knew we would still see each other since Rebecca lived in Blairstown and because of the Blair-Peddie rivalry. What I always cherished about our friendship is that we wouldn't see each other for months, but we could pick up where we left off.

Rebecca: And we both played tennis, so we knew we would see each other at tennis matches. I would come over to the Blair side for a bit during Blair Day. You have to laugh because it is all just fun and games. This isn't a mean rivalry; it is good-natured. At the end of the day, we care a lot about the other school.

Sovann: It is kind of hard to explain to someone who didn't go to boarding school, but Blair and Peddie students are friends as much as rivals, and that's been true for generations.

KEEPING SCORE

Sovann's senior year was the last time the Bucs took home the Kelley-Potter Cup, after a winning streak that made Rebecca's class the only one at Peddie that never won a Blair Day.

KEEPING THE RIVALRY FUN

Sovann: We always respected our friendship and knew that any competitiveness wasn't personal. People would sometimes comment, "Oh, you know someone from Peddie?" But it was obviously friendly and funny.

Rebecca: People would say, "Not only are you from Blairstown, but your best friend goes to Blair. Can we trust you?"

Sovann: We kept it fun and spirited, made jokes, but also knew that, at the end of the day, our friendship was going to triumph.

B JENNA FAUST '16

P KATIE CLARK '16

HOW THEY MET

At the airport on their way to a pre-orientation weekend at Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee, the summer before freshman year.

Jenna: We were both sitting, waiting for a heavy rain to stop, and I noticed she looked about my age, so I figured I would walk over and ask if she was going to Rhodes as well. We got to talking and found out we are both from New Jersey and went to schools that took their rivalry very seriously.

When Jenna asked what school Katie went to, her mouth dropped nearly to the floor when she said Peddie.

Katie: We were instantly connected through our similar experiences at boarding school. I went from being nervous and worried about getting to know my future classmates to being excited and confident that Jenna and I would be friends (and, who knew, eventually sorority sisters!). A few hours later, we even shared our cab to campus from the airport!

Jenna: What are the chances that we are on this same flight, the only two in this airport and going to the same college? We were inseparable the rest of that weekend and have made a point to stay connected on campus since.

FROM COLLEGE FRIENDS TO SORORITY SISTERS

Now juniors at Rhodes, the duo pledged the same sorority (Kappa Delta) while they pursued different



Jenna Faust (left) and Katie Clark (right), who graduated from Blair and Peddie in 2016, pose together at a Kappa Delta gathering at Rhodes College.

interests—Jenna singing in the choir, working on behalf of their sorority and volunteering in Memphis, while Katie excels at all things sports-related (she walked on to the lacrosse team), actively supports RUF (Rhodes College's Christian ministry), and works as a fellow for the Memphis Center for the Arts.

Although they no longer see each other regularly because Katie is spending her junior year in Copenhagen, both Jenna and Katie appreciate how their high school rivalry has brought them together. And, in further proof of the fact the world is incredibly small, during her time in Denmark, Katie has befriended **Tiffany Sharma '16**, another former Buc who sang with Jenna at Blair.

Jenna: On bid day, we were so thrilled to see each other at the same sorority house; I think I jumped into Katie's arms a little bit because I was so excited that we went from being

at rival schools to being in the same sisterhood! I don't think a relationship like Peddie and Blair's is something many students from other places have ever seen before. When we tell our sisters about it, we feel even closer because it helps us process how special and rare it really is.

ADVICE FOR OTHERS ON TRANSFORMING RIVALRY TO FRIENDSHIP

Jenna: You never know, your high school's rivalry could help you find your best friend!

Katie: Remember that friendly rivalry is healthy, and our connection through Peddie and Blair has really allowed us to get to know each other through memories and talking about Peddie and Blair's similar rituals related to the rivalry. It was a connecting point for me and Jenna, and for that, I am so thankful!

B LUKE CORRADO '18

P ELLEN TIMKO '18

HOW THEY MET

At a New Hampshire summer camp when they were 9 years old. They spent many summers together before discovering one would end up at Blair and the other at Peddie.

With a long history of competing against each other and arguing about the Buccaneer-Falcon rivalry, Luke calls going 0-4 against Peddie during his high school years "tough." They've continued their spirited sparring as they finish their freshman year (Luke at Fordham University in New York City and Ellen at Villanova University in Pennsylvania).

ADVICE FOR OTHERS WHOSE FRIENDS ATTEND BLAIR/PEDDIE

Luke: Make new friends; it's not worth it. I'm kidding...It's a unique connection that not many people are fortunate enough to have. Just be prepared to lose a friend during the first week of November.

Ellen: Of course, we had heated arguments over whether it was "Peddie Day" or "Blair Day," but it was really cool how we bonded so quickly over our schools' strong history rather than allow ourselves to be divided by the rivalry.



Luke Corrado (left) and Ellen Timko (right) at Peddie Day in 2016, two years before they graduated.

KEEPING THE RIVALRY FUN

On Peddie/Blair Day, the duo would watch each other's soccer games, cheering loudly while still rooting for their own teams (sometimes sporting the other school's T-shirts).

They also sometimes saw each other for spring sports or student

council visits, and Ellen remembers fondly one trip to Blairstown during sophomore year for the Mid-Atlantic Prep League (MAPL) music festival, "a sweet, unexpected visit" during which she and Luke got to spend time together.

RIVAL FAMILY MEMBERS

B SUSAN LONG P'13 '16 '20

P BILLY LONG '84

HOW THEY MET

As undergraduates at Washington College in Maryland in 1988. A native of Andover, New Jersey, Billy grew up not far from Blair, although he chose to attend Peddie because his father worked for [former Peddie Board of Trustees Chair] Finn Caspersen and pushed him to check the school out. Susan had attended boarding school at Foxcroft in Virginia, and the two met through Susan's high school roommate during her junior year in college. Susan now serves as Blair's assistant director of advancement for parent relations.

SWITCHING SIDES

Although the Long family has lived a few miles from Blair's campus for 20-plus years, they used to cheer on the Falcons before Susan began working at Blair more than a decade ago. In recent years, Susan and their sons (**Conner '13**, **Wyatt '16** and **Garrett '20**, all of whom are Bucs) have since changed their loyalties and are staunchly in the Blair bleachers come early November. And while Billy, of course, supports his very athletic sons, he has been known to



Blair's Assistant Director of Advancement for Parent Relations Susan Long (left) with her husband, Billy (right), Peddie class of 1984.

wear his Peddie T-shirt under his gear on Peddie/Blair Day.

Susan: It is hard not to get caught up in the excitement. I remember going to Blair Day (which I now call Peddie Day!) when my oldest, Conner [now 24], was in sixth grade. We parked on the front hill and walked across campus, and as he took in all of the excitement, he said, "I wish I could go to school here." Blair's beautiful campus had something to do with that, of course, but the rivalry is a big part of the boarding school experience.

A FALCON IN A BLAIR FAMILY

Billy: It has gotten brought up a lot over the years and there has been a lot of good-natured ribbing, but it is all in good fun. I get a lot of heat from my friends on Alumni Day. They ask, "How could you do this to us?" I tell them we live two-and-a-half miles away, and my wife works there! At my 20th reunion, everyone was like, "Are you serious?" But I will say that my Peddie clothes are

used every year in Blair's Peddie Day Eve pep rally.

Susan: When people find out he went to Peddie, it is not quickly or easily forgotten. Regardless of whether we are in Blairstown or Hightstown, Billy bops into both hospitality tents and embraces the best of both worlds.

WHY THE RIVALRY IS SO SPECIAL

Susan: We have such a long history and, although we are the fiercest of competitors, at the end of the day, regardless of who won or lost, we all come together. It has always been a positive and fun rivalry. I think this comes from the top down, and the culture is carried down over the years. As much as we want to win, we are all friends.

Billy: The relationship between our two schools is fantastic. The rivalry is intense, but there is something endearing about it. Deep down, the schools are connected and care for each other.



Blair's Chaplain and chair of the religion and philosophy department Lisa Durkee is a cousin of the late F. Edward Potter Jr., Peddie's beloved 13th headmaster.

B LISA DURKEE

P F. EDWARD POTTER JR.

CAREER INSPIRATION

Blair's chaplain and chair of the religion and philosophy department, the Rev. Lisa Durkee, is the first cousin of Peddie's beloved 13th headmaster, the late F. Edward Potter Jr. (1943-1988). Although there was a large age gap—"Eddie," as she called him, was 22 years older—they were close, and Lisa fondly recalls spending summers with him in Vinalhaven, an island off the coast of Maine, a place she saw him more than any other.

In fact, Mr. Potter, who became Peddie's headmaster when he was in his mid-30s and died of a sudden heart attack at the age of 45, was the first person to suggest to Lisa that she pursue a career as a triple-threat (teacher, coach and housemaster)

at a boarding school. Then an undergraduate at Wellesley College, she says his rationale for why she'd excel at the job are still the reasons she loves boarding school life today: connecting with adolescents and "meeting them where they are."

Lisa: When I interviewed at Blair in 2017, I thought of Ed the whole time. I called his brother, John, and said, "You'll never guess where I had an interview." Ed was so dynamic—larger than life. He loved people, and his day-to-day joy was so authentic and infectious. To say he was a people person is a gross understatement. He was always beaming. I can remember the last time I saw him at Vinalhaven and the smile on his face.

EDUCATOR & CHAPLAIN

Having spent years as an independent school teacher in New York, Connecticut and Massachusetts, Ms. Durkee attended seminary, earned a master's degree in divinity from the

United Church of Christ and served in churches for a decade before returning to boarding school in 2017. At Blair, she develops and teaches religion and philosophy courses, facilitates weekly Vespers and Chapel, coaches girls' JV lacrosse and serves dorm duty in Mason Hall.

Lisa: Having watched Ed's model of being an administrator, I used to think that would be my path as well. But that was *his* gift: to know all of the facets of how things run and be hands-on without getting your fingers in the pie. People knew he cared about what they were doing, but he didn't meddle. I am grateful for the gifts I have grown into, and Ed and his brother were two strong role models of my generation who shaped who I became as an adult and educator.

BLAIR & PEDDIE CONNECTIONS

When Lisa was young, she only ever heard about Blair in context of the school being Peddie's archival. Now, as a faculty member concluding her second year as a Buc, she has had fun discovering family connections and learning more about Ed's legacy at Peddie and in the independent school world at large.

Lisa: Going to Peddie Day last year made me wistful, and I asked a lot of people I met there, "Did you know him?" Our family is filled with talkers and storytellers who are engaged with the world. It is no surprise that Ed became a headmaster who did that...as evidenced by the fact he even met the Queen of England during his time as Peddie's headmaster...I am two degrees of separation from the Queen!

////////////////////
B JASON NEWMAN '17

P DANIEL NEWMAN '17

L SCOTT NEWMAN '17

TRIPLETS AT SEPARATE SCHOOLS

Having lost their mother in sixth grade, the Newman brothers decided to attend three different New Jersey private high schools with the goal of establishing their individuality and charting their own course to college: Jason chose Blair and went on to Claremont McKenna College in California; Daniel opted for Peddie and enrolled at Brown University; and Scott went from The Lawrenceville School to Princeton University.

Jason: We're all actually very different people. You can tell by looking at us, too. We've got very different interests... As great as it is being Daniel's brother and Scott's brother, I didn't want that to be the basis of my reputation, and none of us really did. At Blair, people knew me as Jason, the guy who likes to ski and enjoys hanging out with friends. It was great to have that individual experience.

WHY BLAIR/PEDDIE

Jason: I felt immediately Blair was a place I could spend four years. Everyone was so friendly, smiling and happy. I really wanted to go to a school with a community of people who wanted to be there, who wanted to engage with each other. And that's exactly what I got out of Blair. I got a family.

Daniel: I really liked the relaxed environment [of Peddie]. Also, it

was close to New York and close to home...I just felt at home when I first visited campus.

A FAMILY EXPERIENCE

The brothers took a very lighthearted view of the Blair-Peddie rivalry, cheering each other on during the Peddie/Blair Day contests and enjoying the opportunity to be together. Their dad, Jerrold, stayed neutral, avoiding apparel from either school, and always rooting for his son's respective teams (football for Daniel and soccer for Jason) to prevail.

Jason: As much as I wanted Blair to win, I was rooting for Daniel...None of my friends were ever mean-spirited that I had a brother going to Peddie. They actually thought it was pretty cool. They said the Newmans are going to take over the Mid-Atlantic Prep League, since we represented three of the six schools. Peddie won the Cup all three years Daniel was there [after having transferred from St. Andrew's School in Delaware], and I was happy for him.

Daniel: I just enjoyed seeing my brother and my dad that day. And I thought it was cool to have a family experience.

Jason: It's neat that we'll always have that rivalry as part of our story. In 50 years when we are 70, we'll drive up together to Peddie or Blair Day and just enjoy the good old times and see what has changed since. I think this rivalry will always be a part of us.

TWO COMMENCEMENTS, ONE DAD

With two of his three sons graduating on the same Sunday in 2017, the boys joked with their dad that he



The Newman brothers all graduated in 2017 from different high schools. *From left to right:* Daniel (who went to Peddie), Scott (who attended Lawrenceville) and Jason (who went to Blair).

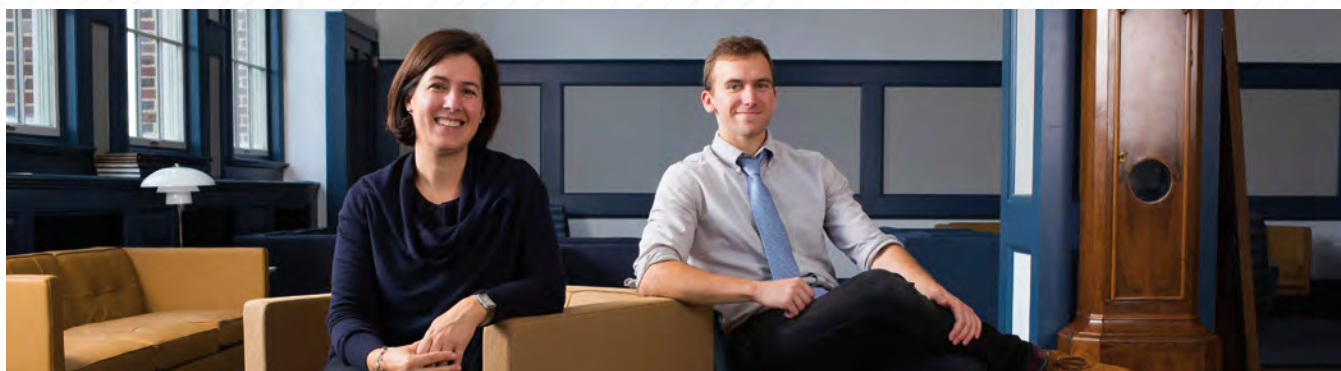
would have to pick his favorite son. But Jerrold had a different plan: He got the schools to agree to have Scott walk first at Lawrenceville and Daniel to walk last at Peddie so he could attend both ceremonies (Jason had graduated from Blair the preceding Thursday and attended Daniel's commencement, while their grandmother attended Scott's). Daniel had already taken off school to attend Jason's Blair graduation.

Daniel: They had a parking spot reserved for Dad right in front of Annenberg Hall by the graduation tent, so he could pull into the parking spot quickly, and he sprinted from there. You just saw this parent breathing heavily and fully sweating in his suit at graduation.

Jason: We were there, ready to take pictures in case Dad didn't make it, but he ended up arriving on time. It all worked out. ■

RIVAL EMPLOYEES

BLAIR ALUMS WORKING AT PEDDIE:



B MOLLY DUNNE '93

director of admission at Peddie

B ANDREW MARVIN '12

manager of multimedia strategy &
production at Peddie

PEDDIE ALUMS WORKING AT BLAIR:



P GWYNETH CONNELL '96

dean of teaching & learning at Blair



P BRAD STRAUSS '91

athletic trainer at Blair

P SARAH NEWBURY '11

math teacher at Blair

BLAIR TRIPS 2019: EXPLORING THE WORLD WITH FACULTY & FRIENDS

Blair students have the opportunity to explore an exciting variety of cultures, locales and activities during six trips offered by the School in 2019. Each excursion features a unique itinerary at a distinctive destination, yet all of them have one thing in common: a shared experience with Blair teachers and fellow students. Read on for a look at the trips that happened over the long winter weekend and spring break and previews of those scheduled for the summer.

Cayman Islands

Marine science, community service and daily exploration of the pristine beaches of Grand Cayman were on the itinerary for the annual long winter weekend trip to the Cayman Islands. Science teacher Rod Gerdson and history teacher Marianna Paone accompanied 16 freshmen through seniors to this "little piece of paradise," where everyone enjoyed the warmth of the weather and the Caymanian culture.

The trip included many opportunities for students to get up close and personal with marine life, especially while snorkeling at the beach and at Stingray City and visiting a turtle farm. For the third-consecutive year, the Blair group also volunteered at an island primary school, where they assisted with an after-school program for nearly 50 students.

This year marks Mr. Gerdson's 12th Blair trip to the Caymans, and, as always, he enjoyed introducing students, whether or not they are currently studying marine science, to the islands' native tropical wildlife and habitats. "I hope students returned to Blair with a healthy

respect and love for the marine world of the Caymans and for the culture of this island nation," he said.

Memphis, Tennessee

Eight service-minded students traveled with history teacher Joanne Brandwood and Blair's registrar, Kecia Tillman, to Memphis where they volunteered at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Their mission over the long winter weekend was to brighten the spirits of young patients, who are battling life-threatening illness, and the entire Blair group brought smiles and good cheer to crafting sessions at the hospital. Teachers and students also played games and made crafts with patients' families and helped prepare and serve meals at the nearby Ronald McDonald House.

McKenzie Belton '16, a longtime St. Jude advocate, organized Blair's first service trip to the world-renowned research hospital in 2015, and she and her mother,



Lori Belton, joined the group again this year. While in Memphis, the Blair volunteers also took some time to explore the city's rich history during visits to the National Civil Rights Museum and Sun Studios, and they thoroughly enjoyed the food and music at B.B. King's Blues Club.

England & France

An eight-day adventure through London and Paris brought those magical cities to life for a dozen students during a spring break trip led by Head of School Chris Fortunato, who was accompanied by his children. Together with co-chaperones Director of Health Services Tara Parker, language teacher Kate Lavalle and her husband, Blair operations analyst Tom Pomeroy, the group explored historic and cultural sites, attended theatrical and musical performances, and relished the culture and cuisine of both countries. The travelers also had the opportunity to meet members of the extended Blair family, including alumni/ae.

"Whether through discussions about the unfolding Brexit plan while in London, touring the Louvre or traversing the Champs-Élysées in Paris or attending a soccer 'football' match, our group built terrific Blair memories together," Mr. Fortunato said. This was the third Fortunato family trip that brought students to Europe, many for the very first time.



Kenya

History teacher **Quinten Clarke '87**, founder of the independent nonprofit "Blair in Kenya," is leading a summer trip to Kenya, where students will experience



cultural immersion, engage in community service and observe Africa's magnificent wildlife at the famous Masai Mara Game Reserve. The Blair group will include several American medical professionals, and during the trip, students will help with logistics as doctors and nurses attend to villagers' medical needs. The travelers will also gain an appreciation for the simplicity of village life as they live with families in Kisumu and Iten, and they will work with children at the local "Blair in Kenya" schools. Assisting in classrooms, conducting daily soccer and basketball clinics, and just having fun with local kids are some of the activities Blair students have planned.

Cuba

Language teacher Tim Devaney and photography teacher Tyson Trish will lead a Blair contingent to Cuba from June 2 to 10 for a firsthand view of life in the island nation. Homestays, conversations with local officials and residents, and tours of historically significant sites will all be part of the culturally rich experience for seven students, many of whom will likely join Mr. Trish in documenting their journey with photos of their colorful surroundings.

This will be Blair's second trip to Cuba, and visits to community arts projects will once again be a highlight of the week. During collaborative sessions with Cuban dancers, visual artists and musicians, students will witness how the arts can make a difference in people's lives.



Among the artists the Blair group will spend time with are the young guitarists from Clave Sol Vocal & Orquesta de Guitarras, some of whom visited Blair in 2016 during the ensemble's first-ever American tour.

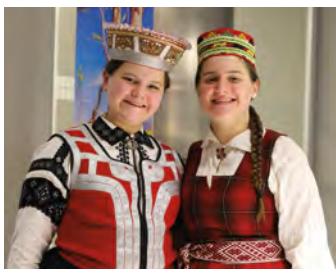
Normandy

This summer, language teacher Sharon Merrifield and several students will journey deep into the history of the Allied Forces' 1944 D-Day landing at Normandy Beach during two weeks in France. The trip, facilitated by Normandy Allies Inc., includes tours of battle sites and the surrounding region, and priceless opportunities to speak with those who lived through the war, all of which will highlight the Allied soldiers' courage and the Norman citizens' enduring gratitude.

Normandy Allies is a nonprofit founded to promote greater historical understanding of the 1944 Normandy invasion and the liberation and reconstruction of France that followed. Blair students have taken part in Normandy Allies experiences for nearly two decades, thanks in

large part to **Archer Martin '42**, a Bronze Star- and Purple Heart-recipient who fought in the Normandy campaign when he was just 19 years old. His desire to give Blair students a firsthand look at Normandy and an understanding of the importance of the events that took place there inspired his generous annual gifts to the School that help fund Normandy Allies trips.

From July 14 to 27, the Blair contingent will commemorate the 75th anniversary of the D-Day landings as they follow a travel itinerary crafted by Normandy Allies' expert historical team. They will learn about Norman history and culture through exploration of chapels, cathedrals and museums; witness the magnitude of Allied lives lost at the Bayeux British Cemetery, Normandy American Military Cemetery and several others; and visit key landing and battle sites, including Juno Beach, Omaha Beach, Utah Beach and the hedgerow country around Saint-Lô. ■



To read about some of the winter's campus highlights, including International Weekend and Headmasters' Societies Games, visit www.blair.edu/winter-highlights.



Faculty Open House attendees engage with a panel of current Blair faculty members who shared their experiences at the School.

WELCOME TO BLAIR: NEW PROGRAMS BRING PROSPECTIVE FACULTY TO CAMPUS

by Brittany Rockenfeller

With strong student-teacher relationships at the heart of a Blair education, it has always been important to share Blair's unique values and ideals with prospective faculty members. This year, the School instituted two programs aimed at giving potential teachers a more personalized view of boarding school life and the many rewards of becoming a member of Blair's close-knit and dedicated faculty. The "Winternship" for competitively selected college students and Faculty Open House both took place in January and were pieces of a more-targeted effort to create a pipeline of outstanding faculty candidates who are prepared to fully embrace a career at Blair.

A Unique Approach

Assistant Head of School and Dean of Faculty Lorry Perry noted that a majority of private boarding schools in the United States, including Blair, utilize placement firms to hire new faculty. She hopes to bring a more personalized approach to recruiting through events like the Winternship and Faculty Open House.

"We would like to identify professionals at all stages of their careers who are a perfect fit for the culture and specific openings here at Blair," Ms. Perry said. "By inviting these prospective faculty members to campus, we also hope to demystify the private boarding school world and really show them the benefits of teaching at a school like Blair."

Part of this effort includes building stronger, deeper relationships with undergraduate and graduate programs around the country to provide young professionals

with insight into careers at a private boarding school.

"By approaching colleges and working with their career offices, we will be able to identify potential faculty members while they are still in school and help them prepare for a career at Blair," said Ms. Perry.

The three-week Winternship that took place from January 5 to 26 put this plan into action.





Wintern Bri'ana Odom of Davidson College assists a student with an assignment.



Wintern Emily Dentinger of Lafayette College meets with robotics students about a project.

A Working Winter Break

The Winternship is a uniquely Blair program that brought Davidson College senior Bri'ana Odom and Lafayette College junior Emily Dentinger to campus during their winter breaks. Selected from more than a dozen applicants, Bri'ana and Emily lived with faculty members and experienced every aspect of Blair life, from academics and athletics to student life and professional development throughout the month of January. The two "Winterns" contributed to the community as they assisted teachers in class, helped coach a team, and just talked to students about life in college and their experiences.

"I hope this opportunity helped Bri'ana and Emily see themselves as boarding school teachers, especially once they experienced all that's involved," Ms. Perry said. "As we continue the Winternship program in the coming years, I'd love to develop a pipeline of college students who know about boarding school teaching as a career option and who are enthusiastic about entering this very rewarding field."

A Short Course in All Things Blair

Blair's Faculty Open House was another opportunity for prospective teachers to learn more about the boarding school experience and the many professional and personal benefits the School's community has to offer. On January 19, over 50 potential faculty members toured Blair's historic campus, visited classes, engaged in student and faculty panel discussions, and networked during lunch in the Romano Dining Hall.

"My hope was that this open house would give attendees the opportunity to truly see Blair, including our warm, welcoming and diverse community," said Ms. Perry. "I believe that we succeeded. We were so excited to welcome these professionals to campus and share the opportunities that are available to them here."

As Blair continues to build on this more-personalized recruiting approach, Ms. Perry is looking forward to introducing many more potential faculty members to Blair. After all, she noted, the best way to fall in love with Blair is to become a part of its community, if just for one day. ■

A Rising Design Star on Her Authentic Style & Family Legacy

Brittany Haines '05 was one of 10 designers selected from around the country by the magazine *Traditional Home* as “Rising Stars of Design” in 2018. Calling the recognition “a complete surprise and honor,” she had the opportunity to share inspiration and ideas with the other nine designers at an autumn New York City gathering that included roundtable discussions and panel speakers. “These designers were all so talented, fun and are taking their businesses in their own authentic directions,” said Ms. Haines, who launched ABD Studio in 2013, a San Francisco-based firm that specializes in high-end residential and boutique hospitality interior design. “I walked away from these couple of days with a huge wave of excitement for all the possibilities my career has before me, as well as feeling very supported by and grateful for the design community.”

Raised in New Jersey, where her father, Jeffrey B. Haines, still owns and operates Butler’s of Far Hills—the interior design



firm that decorated the Blair Room and Blair’s Head of School’s office in 2007—Ms. Haines admits that growing up in and around beautifully designed spaces certainly impacted her career choice. In 2001, three years before she became a freshman at Blair, her longtime historic family home was destroyed by fire, and she recalls closely observing her parents carefully renovating the house where they moved next. “I began thinking that, one day, I would pursue interior design,” she said.

But she wouldn’t take her first formal design class until she was a student at Lehigh University, where she majored in art, architecture and design and studied textile design while studying abroad in Sydney, Australia. After graduating college in 2009, she relocated to San Francisco and began working for some of the city’s top interior designers. “I was learning a lot very quickly, but I realized that my true passion for design continually comes back to the connection to the client, which I felt was not being prioritized in the design process,” Ms. Haines explained. “Shiny magazine pages, antique shopping trips and beautiful chandeliers can lose their allure to me if the end result doesn’t feel authentic to the personalities and lifestyles of those who dwell within the home.”

That’s why, as principal of ABD Studio, her goal goes far beyond just recreating the same design style over and over again for each client. “Ideally, our clients hire us for our knowledge





of the industry, ability to gracefully maneuver the sometimes tricky construction process, and our enthusiasm for getting to know their family and creatively enhancing life's moments through design," she continued. "In the end, our projects have a consistent level of quality and elegance that is customized for each individual client and speaks to the style that makes them feel the most at home."

As she works on projects from San Francisco and the Bay Area Peninsula to Napa Valley and Lake Tahoe, tackling everything from ground-up builds to large-scale remodels, she



continues to find her own authentic style while always tapping into the inspiration of her father's designs. "I am continually amazed by my father's eye for detail and ability to create a complete ambiance within a space that is more than a visual experience," she said. "He also has a way of making the process seem effortless and not overthinking it all, which I admire!"

Ms. Haines loves that her dad created warm and welcoming spaces at Blair and appreciates their thoughtful nods to school culture and history and classic elements that speak to the architecture of the original campus buildings. "The Blair Room, in particular, is such an important part of many people's first impression of the School," she said. "When waiting in this space for their first interview or to meet a tour guide, the hope is that all visitors feel at ease, welcome and simply at home." ■

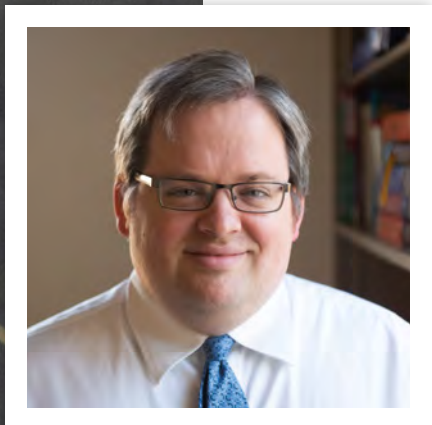
Read the *Traditional Home* article

@ www.blair.edu/brittany-haines

Read more about Brittany, her style and clients

@ www.abd-studio.com

Nathan Molteni



Dean of Academics and math teacher Nathan Molteni is an expert at working out the intricacies of academic scheduling and solving complex quadratic equations, but he shared a simple formula for happiness: Embrace what is in front of you and value what you have. "That," he concluded, "is where happiness lies."

He applied this formula to life as an undergraduate at Villanova University—a school that he did not expect to attend—and had a phenomenal college experience. A Villanova Presidential Scholar, Nathan embraced the opportunity to study philosophy and math in a community of engaged students and teachers. He had a blast on the Wildcat Quiz Bowl team and went all in for Villanova's signature service trips, participating in nine fall- and spring-break experiences that shaped his desire to find a career in which he could work alongside mission-focused colleagues to make an impact.

By the time his junior year rolled around, Nathan, who grew up in a family of teachers, decided to become a teacher himself. His philosophy professor and mentor, John Immerwahr, suggested he investigate independent schools with placement firm Carney Sandoe & Associates, and that connection led him to Blair, where he joined the faculty as a math teacher in 2008.

In the 10 years since, Nathan has certainly embraced each opportunity that has come his way and, as a result, has found happiness in a community he deeply values. In addition to teaching math classes from algebra 1 to AP calculus, he has, at various times, coached

thirds soccer and JV baseball, advised Blair's History Bowl and Quiz Bowl teams, taught sophomore Blair LEADS and orchestrated the annual Headmasters' Societies Games as co-commissioner. He and fellow Villanova alum Andrea Magat-Molteni married in 2010, and, together, they served as housemasters on Flight Deck for five years. Now, Nathan and Andrea, who taught mathematics and advised the yearbook in her first several years at Blair and now is a full-time mom, live in Lakeside Hall, home to 40 junior boys. They are parents to Jeremy, 3, and Gavin, 1, and Nathan serves as one of Lakeside's assistant housemasters.

In 2015, Nathan was appointed Blair's dean of academics, a role that is an excellent fit for a self-described "tinkerer" who thoroughly enjoys the intellectual challenge of refining a process to make it better. He oversees Blair's academic process, and his responsibilities include management of the School calendar and daily schedule, and coordination of the place and time of the academic experience. His colleagues in the academic office—including Assistant Head of School and Dean of Faculty Lorry Perry, Dean of Teaching and Learning Gwyneth Connell, registrar Kecia Tillman and administrative



Dean of Academics Nathan Molteni continues to teach a section of math every year.

assistant Erika Croat—are among his chief collaborators, and he also works closely with Associate Head of School **Ryan Pagotto '97** and Director of Academic Support Allison Leddy to oversee student academic support.

The myriad demands of the academic office understandably take a great deal of Nathan's time and energy, but he continues to teach a section of math every year. "My heart will always be in teaching," he reflected. "I especially value the direct interaction with students in the classroom. For me, that's where relationships start, and that's where the most immediate, impactful change takes place."

Read on to learn more about Nathan Molteni, outside—and inside—the classroom.

Q. You had a great high school experience at Saratoga Springs High School in your New York state hometown. How did that experience begin to shape you as a teacher?

A. I have always been very grateful for the opportunities I had in my public high school. While the school itself had over 500 students in each grade level, a number of academic programs existed to challenge us as students. I had many teachers that I still recall fondly to this day for their investment in my learning and in who I was becoming as a person. I learned about seeing the bigger picture of ideas from my humanities teacher, about finding passion in the structure of ideas from my Latin teacher and the importance of overcoming the initially impossible from my physics teacher.

I could not necessarily tell you what I learned in their classes today, but I remember the joy they helped me tap into as a student, particularly the joy of learning something with purpose and enthusiasm. That has been long lasting for me and part of what shapes the teacher I have always wanted to be in my career.

Q. You characterize your undergraduate study of philosophy as "the most important training I ever had." Why is that so?

A. Philosophy instilled in me the importance of understanding the principles or ideas behind our actions and the value of seeking to understand the reasons why we make choices in our lives. Perhaps the most important lesson I learned

is that a good life is one in which what we believe and how we act are in alignment. It's an easy rule to fall back on when I'm considering a new challenge or a situation.

Q. As a Villanova student, you went on several Habitat for Humanity service trips to Slidell, Louisiana, to help with recovery from Hurricane Katrina. What was that experience like and what did you learn from it?

A. My participation on Habitat for Humanity trips began as a more self-interested pursuit. It was an opportunity to meet new people and to do something over spring break that was unique and fun. As part of these experiences, students spent a lot of time in reflection each night about the purpose of our actions and involvement. In those discussions, I found out how much I valued the collective experience of service and the connections I formed with others over the work we shared. This has been such a large part of my desire to work at a school like Blair, as its small size and shared mission help me replicate aspects of those service trips that I deeply loved. Traveling to Slidell as a trip leader offered a unique experience, as I discovered my capacity to embrace a leadership role when called upon and to convey to others the experience that I valued so deeply. These trips were challenging for us all due to the magnitude of damage caused by the hurricane and the way the damage exposed the fragility of residents' lives in the 9th Ward and other districts. Even with so many groups working around the clock to provide opportunities for residents to return to the area,



Nathan and Andrea with their sons Gavin (left) and Jeremy (right).

many simply stayed away. Each return trip over an 18-month period reinforced the goodwill that we possess to help others in need, as well as the limitations of that goodwill to overcome systemic issues in parts of the world.

Q. What was it like for you and Andrea to run Flight Deck, a dorm of 18 freshman boys, for the first five years of your marriage?

A. Five years flew by for us on the Flight Deck! We were lucky to work with some wonderful faculty and senior prefects while building a community. Since Flight Deck is the first home for many students at Blair Academy, we wanted to impart the principles of empathy, enthusiasm and respect that are essential for Blair students while giving the boys time to grow up in the ways each of them needed. It was a lot of time spent in

conversations with and about the dorm residents and a lot of time spent convincing students that the smallness of the rooms meant nothing about the greatness of the dorm. We have so many memories about the people and experiences that occurred in that small hallway. It often felt like a world away from the bigger community at Blair, which helped us all feel connected to one another on a daily basis. While we are very appreciative of the facilities in Lakeside Hall and being able to easily step outside into fresh air (in ways other than climbing out the window onto the roof of an apartment), there was something truly special about the Flight Deck experience. It was certainly not something we built solely on our own, but we inherited that sense of community from those who had developed it before us and passed it forward to the faculty who now also care deeply for it.

Q. You describe teaching as “daily service to others.” Why is that important to you? How do you put that into practice as dean of academics?

A. As a teacher, my aim is always to give others the opportunity and skills to do what comes more naturally to me; namely, dissect and understand mathematical ideas. Learning, to me, is not accumulating a specific set of problems you’ve mastered but establishing a framework for future understanding in the discipline. Focusing on that as a teacher forces me to consider the ways in which student accomplishment (and difficulty) are rooted in their own efforts in response to instruction, not the instruction itself. Service is always a word that has resonated with that idea in my head. It is not to say that we don’t extract some personal benefit from the service of teaching, but the true value lies in how it is received and carried forward. It’s a reminder that keeps me moving forward at all times as a teacher, even when class didn’t go perfectly or the week feels long; there is always another chance to do valuable work for someone on its way. As dean of academics, a large portion of my work is about building the structure in which our academic experience happens, especially as it relates to time, place, people and opportunities. Finding optimal solutions for the way we spend time in our daily schedule, as well as creating opportunities for learning that align with our overall mission, keep me in touch with that idea of “daily service” that I find personally fulfilling.

Q. You and Andrea are major foodies. What is a recent memorable food-centric experience?

A. We were in Charleston, South Carolina, this past summer and had the opportunity to enjoy a dinner of locally sourced Charleston specialties like oysters, Charleston gold rice and locally sourced fish. This window into the city’s culinary history was a great experience and part of the way we like to get to know any place we travel to that has a deep food culture.

Q. What is your favorite place to vacation and why?

A. We love to vacation at Disney World. Both of us have fond memories of visits growing up, and Andrea and I went to the parks together multiple times even before we had kids. Now, sharing the experiences and traditions we love with Jeremy and Gavin adds an extra layer of enjoyment for us all. Trips to Disney World provide balance to life at boarding school; while both communities are very familiar to us, Disney World offers a nice anonymity for the week that is restorative and appreciated after life at Blair.

Q. What are some small things that make the day better?

A. There are so many aspects of work at Blair that I appreciate and seek out on a daily basis. Hearing about student accomplishments, either from students themselves or from their teachers, always elevates my spirits and affirms the work we try to do in our classrooms. I’m thankful for my

colleagues in the academic office. We share our mission and vision for the School and enjoy great camaraderie and fun as we work together and challenge ourselves to help Blair improve on a daily basis. Erika, Kecia, Gwyneth, Lorry and Allison are part of what makes Blair such a great place to be every day. The best part of any day, though, is always the time I spend with family. Jeremy and Gavin are now growing up in this world of school that Andrea and I have known for most of our lives, and their wonder at what goes on around them on a daily basis gives me renewed sight for the experience.

Q. What is the best single day on the calendar?

A. Peddie Day has always been the day I look forward to most in the Blair calendar. Although I focus primarily on academics in my work at Blair now, I coached thirds soccer for several years. That taught me a lot about how valuable a feeling of importance is to students in any experience. Thirds soccer players always were a bit more committed when they understood what Peddie Day might mean. Our shared support of every team on Peddie Day and excitement for each other’s successes reinforces the spirit of community that I love about Blair every day of the year. ■

Art in Action: Artists Embrace Creativity in Student-Led Design Lab

Some of the most groundbreaking artistic works are created when artists with knowledge and experience from different disciplines collide to spark new ideas. The give-and-take of collaboration can spur them to create something incredible. Here at Blair Academy, one student recognized the power of artistic collaboration and the impact it can have on students.

A Small Dream

When **Wils Acker '19** came to Blair Academy in September 2017, he carried with him a serious passion for art. While attending the Hong Kong International School, he grew his love for music and design through arts programs. Prepared to continue his growth here at Blair, he wanted to surround himself with the same creative energy he had experienced overseas where, he observed, “teenagers seem more encouraged to embrace their artistic side.”

Inspired by other Blair programs and clubs created and run entirely by students, Wils had the idea to develop a creative lab activity. He asked Director of Vocal Music Ryan Manni to sign on as faculty advisor, and then set to work creating the activity’s curriculum and a proposal to present to Blair’s administration.

“Wils did this entirely on his own, from the idea to the actual development of the lab, which was unbelievable to observe,” said Mr. Manni. “He created everything from scratch, then worked with other faculty members to prepare a presentation for approval.”

In spring 2018, Wils presented his proposal for a music and design lab to **Carolyn Conforti-Browse '79**, Blair’s dean of campus life and director of leadership programs, and **Ryan Pagotto '97**, associate head of school. With their enthusiastic approval, the lab was set to launch in fall 2018 as an after-school activity.

“What started as a late-night dream finally became real, and I couldn’t wait for the opportunity to help other students explore different genres of art,” Wils said.

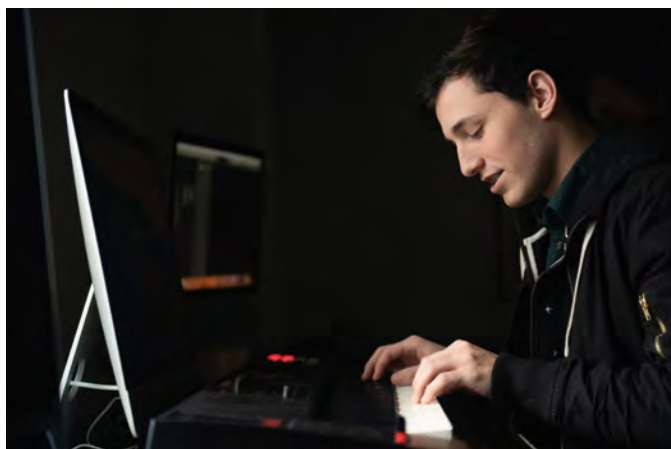


Wils Acker '19 reviews a project with a student as Director of Vocal Music Ryan Manni looks on.

A Lab Is Created

From September through November, six students participated in the lab, meeting in the Chiang Center for Innovation and Collaboration after class four days a week. They worked with a range of digital art mediums, including music production, music composition and graphic design. Each student was responsible for forming his or her own long- and short-term projects throughout the season, and they showed their work to Wils at the end of each week to track progress. As this was a brand-new experience for everyone involved, it included a lot of trial and error to iron out the kinks.

“Students differed in the types of art they chose to pursue and in their individual levels of experience. Because of this, it



Wils Acker '19 (pictured above) works in the design lab of the Chiang Center for Innovation and Collaboration.

was really up to participants to push and teach themselves,” said Wils. “Although I was the leader, I was only there to help guide and push them to become better versions of themselves. We really worked together to fix all the problems and take this lab to the next level.”

Each Monday, the first meeting of the week, the group explored an artist “spotlight” to inspire that week’s project. Spotlights were often musical performing artists, such as the Beatles, Tyler, the creator, and Jhené Aiko.

During subsequent meetings, some students would begin to compose and record pieces using the keyboards in the Chiang Center’s recording studio, while others would put the works through musical production using Logic or use Adobe Illustrator to create digital art. Together, they were able to collaborate and share their creative skills to create success.

Lula Mantegna '20, an avid piano player, was comfortable learning music rather than creating it when the lab began in September. By the end of the season, however, she had composed and recorded her own works. Another lab member, **Sofia Sorensen '19**, began working with Adobe Creative Suite to explore her graphic design skills. After creating and printing stickers as her first project, she is now creating jewelry using the 3D printer and wood cutter in the Chiang Center’s maker space.

Looking Back

When asked about the best part of this amazing experience, Wils remarked on students’ independence during their creative process and the opportunity to guide them as they learned more about themselves. He also noted the bond the group formed during their time together.

“Everyone was basically a stranger when we started back in September,” Wils said. “Now, the shared interest of the students has created a strong bond between everyone.”

Although Mr. Manni took a backseat role during this activity, his best memory was observing Wils’ growth as leader and creator. Mr. Manni also noted that he was only present to supervise in the event something went wrong or a question needed to be answered. Mr. Manni remarked on the struggle of wanting to help students while realizing the necessity of letting Wils have control as leader.

“Wils served as both student and teacher, and I was so proud to watch him construct this amazing project from the ground up while I took a step back,” Mr. Manni said. “Each student supported the others to grow their individual craft.”

When thinking about the most challenging part, Wils observed that it became harder to keep focus as the group got more social. Students enjoyed spending time together, and there were a few meetings where they liked to talk a little more than focus on their work. Wils also remarked on the growing pains of a new program and how everyone worked together to help it run smoothly.

Wils graduates from Blair this spring, but he will undoubtedly take great memories of this successful program with him to college. He hopes the lab will continue and that another student is willing to step up to lead it, noting that it is important that the activity remain student-led to create an ideal forum for collaboration.

There are many lessons to be learned from the contribution Wils brought to Blair’s campus. The most important according to him? Bring that idea to the front burner, dust off that piano, sharpen your pencils, find a collaborator and create. ■

Worth a Thousand Words: The Arts in Photos



On January 10 and 11, internationally recognized balafon player Balla Kouyaté performed at Chapel and held workshops for Blair instrumentalists. Mr. Kouyaté and his band Crocodile River Music perform around the world practicing the ancient art of the balafon.



Blair's vocal ensembles performed a diverse repertoire at the Fall Concert in November. Musical numbers ranged from gospel to more contemporary American pieces.



In October, the Blair Academy Players presented *The Fantasticks*. "Try to Remember," the show's opening number, reminds us that "without a hurt, the heart is hollow."



From January 14 to February 9, multimedia and print artist **Tim Fite '95** displayed his work in The Romano Gallery. The Blair community had the opportunity to chat with Mr. Fite about his work during an artist's reception on January 17.



Blair's Symphony Orchestra, String Orchestra, Chamber Ensemble and Jazz Ensemble delighted the audience at the Fall Concert. A bluesy version of Richard Rodgers' "My Funny Valentine" and numbers from Leonard Bernstein's *West Side Story* were among the performance highlights.



To view more arts photos, visit www.blair.edu/performing-arts-photos and www.blair.edu/fine-arts-photos.

FIRST- EVER BLAIR FINANCE INDUSTRY SUMMIT

More than 100 Blair alumni, parents and students kicked off the new year by networking and learning from one another at the School's inaugural Finance Industry Summit at Goldman Sachs' New York City headquarters.

**BUILDS
CONNECTIONS &
SHARES DIVERSE
PERSPECTIVES**



From left to right: **Akhil Garg '02**, Doug Kimmelman P'12 '13 '15 '22, Allen Gibson P'20 '20 '22, **Victoria Bailey '97**, Liz Robinson P'22 and Peter Santoro P'22.

Organized by hosts **Emmanuel Bello '04**, Blair Trustee and vice president at Goldman Sachs, and **Akhil Garg '02**, Goldman Sachs managing director, the late January event began with a welcome from Head of School Chris Fortunato, a keynote address by Stephen Scherr, Goldman Sachs' chief financial officer, and a panel discussion with five Blair finance industry professionals who shared perspectives in various areas of expertise.

MR. SCHERR WELCOMED attendees to Goldman Sachs and offered his thoughts on managing risk in today's financial markets and the importance of balancing the observed fundamentals of the economy with public sentiment.

Mr. Fortunato moderated the first part of the panel discussion. "What we are doing here tonight has important implications for Blair," said Mr. Fortunato. "Not only do we always strive to bring the best of the world to Blair, but we also must bring the best of Blair—our students—to the world.

We have six students here with us tonight, and they will no doubt benefit from the wisdom of our alumni and parent communities as we learn together."

Acknowledging the recent loss of Blair's favorite son, Chairman Emeritus **John C. Bogle '47**, who died on January 16 at the age of 89, Mr. Fortunato expressed gratitude for Mr. Bogle's long years of service to his alma mater and shared his Blair Leadership Story (to watch it, visit www.blair.edu/leadership-stories and click on Mr. Bogle's headshot). "Jack has always been a guiding hand at Blair

“My journey started at Blair and then continued at New York University. When I was a freshman, I went to a Blair young alumni event in Manhattan and met a faculty member’s husband who worked as a trader at the New York Mercantile Exchange. That opened my eyes to the world of finance, and all of the things I learned at Blair—especially how to work hard, manage stress and think on my feet—have been invaluable to me in my career since.”

AKHIL GARG '02,
MANAGING DIRECTOR AT
GOLDMAN SACHS



“Don’t assume the people you are working for know all of the answers, and don’t be afraid to ask questions. It is incredibly important to find great people to mentor you and to learn from the best.”

TRUSTEE
VICTORIA BAILEY '97,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR &
PRIVATE WEALTH ADVISOR AT
MORGAN STANLEY

Academy, and he always will be,” Mr. Fortunato said. “As Jack would say, we must press on, and we must embrace divergent opinions as we find the right course.”

He then proceeded to do just that by introducing the panelists, which included Blair Trustee **Victoria Bailey '97**, Executive Director and Private Wealth Advisor at Morgan Stanley; **Akhil Garg '02**, Managing Director at Goldman Sachs; Trustee Allen Gibson P'20 '20 '22, CIO of Centaurus Capital; Liz Robinson P'22, former Global Treasurer of Goldman Sachs; and Peter Santoro P'22, Global Head of Equities at Millennium Management.

The ensuing discussion covered a wide range of topics, including seminal career moments; tips for those just starting out in the field; the habits of highly successful professionals; the importance of relationship building, networking and being well-versed in subjects other than finance; how each navigated the 2008 financial crisis and what they learned from the experience; the overall changing landscape of the industry; and the impact of regulation and deregulation.

Blair Board Chairman Doug Kimmelman P'12 '13 '15 '22 then shared the unlikely story of how he entered the field as a Goldman Sachs associate (having secured an interview by introducing himself to a company executive at a hockey game). He went on to work at Goldman for 22 years, starting in 1983 in the firm’s pipeline and utilities department within



“When you find a job you want, don’t send an email to the HR department; call the person you’d be working for. And keep calling them until they tell you to go away. Find what you want to do and then find who is the best at it. That’s who you want to work for. And then learn to think like the person who owns the business.”

TRUSTEE

ALLEN GIBSON P’20 ’20 ’22,

CIO OF CENTAURUS CAPITAL



“I am someone who likes breadth and seeing things from different angles. My best advice is to be unique in what you do. Working in this business is not a sprint but a marathon, and if you can keep your head when no one else can, you will win.”

PETER SANTORO P’22,

GLOBAL HEAD OF EQUITIES AT

MILLENNIUM MANAGEMENT



“Working as Goldman’s treasurer through the 2008 financial crisis, I learned just how important it is to be prepared. Be thoughtful about risk, look around corners and never lose sight of your own character. The best way to survive a crisis is to be prepared for navigating it before it happens.”

LIZ ROBINSON P’22,

FORMER GLOBAL TREASURER OF

GOLDMAN SACHS



the investment banking division and, ultimately, being named partner of the firm in 1996. He left Goldman to found the private equity firm Energy Capital Partners in 2005, which is now one of the largest owners of power plant and pipeline assets in the U.S.

Answering questions from attendees about his own career trajectory, as well as his thoughts on the future price of natural gas, Mr. Kimmelman called his decision to start his own company “the best decision I ever made.” “You never want to have a ‘what-if’ moment,” he explained. “It will gnaw at you forever. I cherish my firm and my partners, and thank God I took that risk, embraced my entrepreneurial spirit and never looked back.”

The evening closed with a cocktail reception and an opportunity to network with fellow attendees. The event’s hosts, Mr. Bello and Mr. Garg, were thrilled to see so many attendees engaging with one another and exchanging contact information so that conversations could be continued in the weeks and months to come.

“Our goal in planning this event was to offer our alumni, parents and students the opportunity to connect and leverage the power of the extended Blair family,” said Mr. Bello. “Without a doubt, the Summit made it exceptionally clear that our Blair network is a powerful one, and it was gratifying to see that at work firsthand.” ■



“Do the unexpected, think creatively and prove your value by working hard. How do you become a partner? Act like one, work hard and don’t coast. This is the most competitive industry, even more competitive today than when I started out, so you need to be prepared to hustle and deliver, day in and day out.”

BLAIR BOARD CHAIRMAN

DOUG KIMMELMAN P’12 ’13 ’15 ’22,

FOUNDER & SENIOR PARTNER OF

ENERGY CAPITAL PARTNERS

Thirst for Excellence:

Marianne Lieberman '79



by Joanne Miceli



Marianne Lieberman '79's favorite wine is chardonnay, so, naturally, it was the first wine produced at Maple Springs Vineyard, her award-winning boutique winery located amid the beautiful hills of Bechtelsville, Pennsylvania. And, because she especially loves chardonnays from the Chablis part of the Burgundy region in France—"fruit forward, tasting of the rocky soil's minerality, not over-oaked and very little butter," as she describes it—that's the style of Maple Springs' now-flagship wine.

Her passion for fine wine and the attention she gives to its handcrafting are only part of the story behind Marianne's success in the wine industry. As Maple Springs' vintner ("a fancy name for owner," she explains), she has built a company that not only produced the 2017 Sommelier Judgment Day's "Best White Wine of Pennsylvania" but also incorporates her love of family and friends, her commitment to hard work, joy in lifelong learning, business savvy and, of course, her generous philanthropic spirit.

"I've always believed it's critical to have passion for your work in order to find satisfaction and be successful—however you personally define that," she said as she considered her path to winery ownership. "Inevitably, most of us will spend much more time involved with our work than any other part of our lives, so do it all in! My advice to anyone is to create a career that taps into your passions and mold it to fulfill your goals."

Clearly, Marianne has followed her own counsel over the past 10 years, as she has blended all of her passions into Maple Springs Vineyard and cultivated the business from the ground up.

"I've always believed it's critical to have passion for your work in order to find satisfaction and be successful."

A Dream Takes Root

Marianne's first career was in advertising, and, over two decades, she traveled the world for agencies in Washington, D.C., Manhattan and, finally, as co-CEO of Interspace Airport Advertising, a family company she operated with her brother, **Mark Lieberman '74**. Although she loved much of her career, including the hard work that paid off in the exponential growth of Interspace and the eye-opening global experiences she regularly enjoyed, her constant travel took its toll on family life, especially after she and her wife, Carolyn Grant, adopted their daughters, **Meghan Grant '17** and **Clare Grant '19**.

However, Marianne had a plan for a second career that would keep her closer to home. She envisioned opening a microbrewery—both sides of her family had once been in the beer business, after all—but, over time, that dream changed to owning a vineyard and winery. Her family's growing appreciation for

fine wines played a role in the mind shift, as did the time Marianne spent in places like New Zealand and Australia, countries that were coming on strong in the world wine scene.

"Vintners there were proving you could make great wine outside of France, Italy and California, and forging the way for sustainable new-world growing and winemaking," Marianne observed. She believed the same could hold true in Pennsylvania, and she and Carolyn purchased their Bechtelsville farm property in 1995, with the goal of one day creating estate wines that could compete on a world stage. Just over a decade later, the winemaking dream began to actually take root.

“Good fortune found us,” Marianne said of the 2006 sale of Interspace, a milestone that allowed her to turn her attention to Maple Springs Vineyard. Two years later, after transitioning Interspace to its new ownership, she “bought a big tractor” and planted the vineyard’s first chardonnay vines.

A Growing Enterprise

It takes three years for a vine to bear fruit, and, as those first vines grew, so did Maple Springs’ production facility and professional team. One of Marianne’s key early hires was award-winning winemaker Jef Stebben, “a winemaker extraordinaire, part scientist, part artist,” Marianne said, noting, “We are fortunate to have him.” Under Jef’s guidance, Maple Springs produced its first 100 cases of chardonnay in 2011, which sold out in two months. The vineyard and winery have only grown from there.

Today, Maple Springs has 11 acres under vine, including varietals of pinot noir, albariño, grüner veltliner, syrah, rosé and other grapes used for blending. The winery boasts high-tech wine production equipment and an outdoor covered crush pad, plus a covered deck with a fireplace, outdoor patio and pool, catering kitchen and tasting room for private parties and events. Production of its handcrafted wines stands at 1,700 cases annually and will likely reach 2,000 cases in the next several years.

The entire business has been built with an eye to sustainability...The Maple Springs team reuses everything it possibly can, right down to the wash water and grape skins.

The entire business has been built with an eye to sustainability, a model Marianne observed in her travels and took to heart. Forty-eight solar panels generate all the electricity needed, while seven geothermal wells tap the springs that bubble under the property to provide the 30-plus gallons of water it takes to produce every gallon of wine. The Maple Springs team reuses everything it possibly can, right down to the wash water and grape skins, which become fertilizer in the vineyard. Wine bottles feature recyclable screw caps and, recently, “kegging” some of the wine has reduced the need for bottles.

Maple Springs operates a unique business model in its

Wine Case Club, which gives members (300 families at present) a hands-on, educational experience of vine growing and winemaking. Each fall, member families help harvest the grapes and learn how to sort them on the production floor. In the winter, they taste their wine from barrels and discover the distinct aromas and flavors of

new French oak versus Hungarian oak versus neutral oak. They taste again from the tank after the wine is prepped for bottling, and, when summer rolls around, they enjoy a pool party when they pick up their case of wine. “These are opportunities rarely offered to consumers,” Marianne pointed out, “and they are really fun experiences to share with family and friends.”

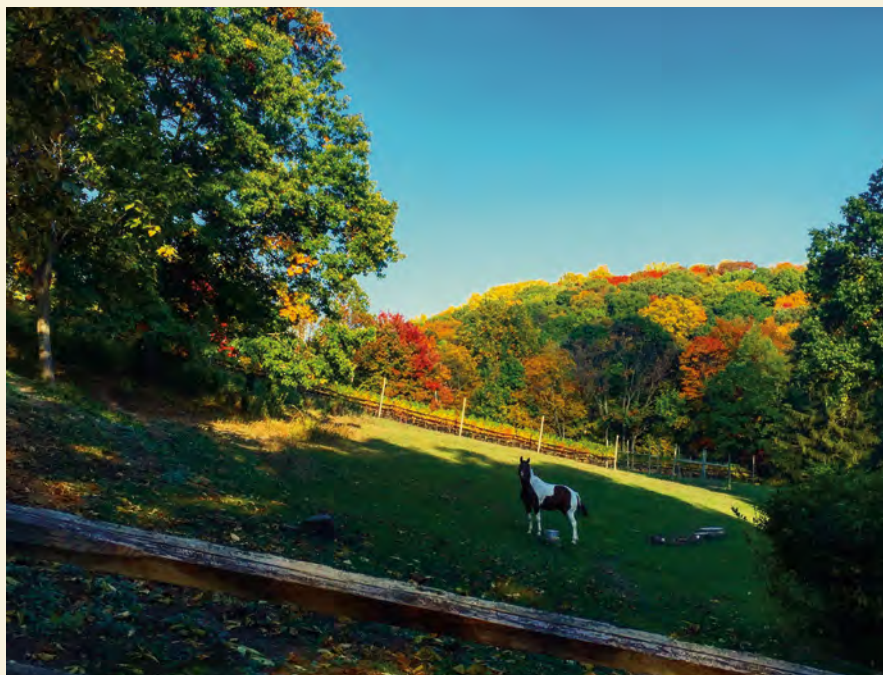
Even with all the distinctive touches she has made part of her company’s DNA, Marianne proudly asserts that the wine itself



Marianne trains Wine Case Club members to harvest grapes.



The Maple Springs name honors Marianne’s grandmother, Helen Maple Doern, mother of **John O. Doern '48**.



Clockwise from top left: Giant syrah clusters; Maddie the horse shares her field with rows of pinot noir vines; Hellcat Vineyard.

is what sets Maple Springs Vineyard apart from its competitors. “Our product is truly great,” she said. “That we are on the wine list in top restaurants in Philadelphia, resorts in the Poconos and across Pennsylvania attests to our quality. Restaurants bring their serving staff to Maple Springs for training, and sommeliers and chefs love our wines, especially because they are farm-to-table.”

A Vintner's Life

So what does a workday entail when you own a winery? “What’s great is there is no typical day!” Marianne said enthusiastically. As the leader of Maple Springs’ talented, hardworking team, she might be tending the vineyard, running a sales meeting, bottling wine, hosting an event for 150 members, calling on restaurants, harvesting grapes, preparing a budget or doing something else entirely. “I make sure we’re all paddling in the same direction,” she said, “and that everyone has the resources to do what they do best.”

While the variety of her days suits Marianne, she also finds comfort in the annual rhythm that naturally encompasses the vineyard and winery. Fall harvest leads to winemaking, holiday events and budgeting. January brings bottling and barreling of Maple Springs’ various wines, and then member barrel-tasting events and the release of the newly bottled wine. Next, it is on

to early spring pruning in the vineyard. May brings bud break and the start of the busy growing season, while June features blending events with tastings from the tanks and bottling of chardonnay and reds. Veraison—when the grapes change color and build sugars—happens in July, and August wraps up the year with new wine releases and Wine Case Club pool parties. Then the cycle begins again with harvest in September.

Learning as much as she can about the industry has been a big part of Marianne’s life as a vintner, and she concedes that there is no end to what you can learn about wine. She recently completed a winemaking certificate at the University of California Davis, and she and her family visit vineyards and wineries around the world.

“We’ve been from Spain to Chile trying to learn, and we’ve experienced great camaraderie with other winemakers,” she said appreciatively. “As soon as they find out we’re in the business, we get a soup-to-nuts tour and taste their best and worst. They graciously share all their vineyard challenges and winery secrets, too, and then send us off with free wine!” Those experiences, as well as the warm reception she and her family have received at restaurants that serve Maple Springs’ wines (“they treat us like royalty!”) are among the most pleasant surprises Marianne has realized since becoming a winery owner.

Working Hard to Give Back

Besides developing high-quality, artisan wines, Marianne's biggest goal for Maple Springs at its outset involved her family. "I wanted our kids to see old-fashioned, dirt-under-the-nails hard work, and the vineyard has that in spades," she said. "Meg and Clare have not only worked with us in the vineyard, they've also been part of the building of a small business and they've experienced what that takes. They both have a great work ethic," she added with obvious pride, and, 10 years into the business, she is happy to have met that goal.

Another Maple Springs goal that is close to Marianne's heart is just coming to fruition: This year, the company formally launched its Maple Springs Foundation that supports annual charitable giving.

Her plan since founding Maple Springs has been to share its profits with local, regional and global causes that enrich the lives of others, and, in doing so, share the principles of philanthropy with her daughters, Wine Case Club members and everyone who enjoys Maple Springs' wine. "It's all about working hard to give money to our communities and the world," is how Marianne succinctly sums up a big part of Maple Springs' mission.

Blair Academy is among the beneficiaries of Maple Springs' philanthropy, and that comes as no surprise when you consider

Marianne's love for her alma mater and her deep and ongoing involvement in the School as a former class representative, a dedicated Blair parent and a Trustee since 2009. She credits Blair with a role in her success today, noting that the leadership opportunities and classroom experiences she enjoyed as a student certainly helped her in her first career that made Maple Springs Vineyard possible. "Blair helped me gain the confidence to build businesses unafraid, to pursue passions

to their fullest, and to enjoy and find satisfaction in my work," she said. "In addition, Blair made me a lifelong learner."

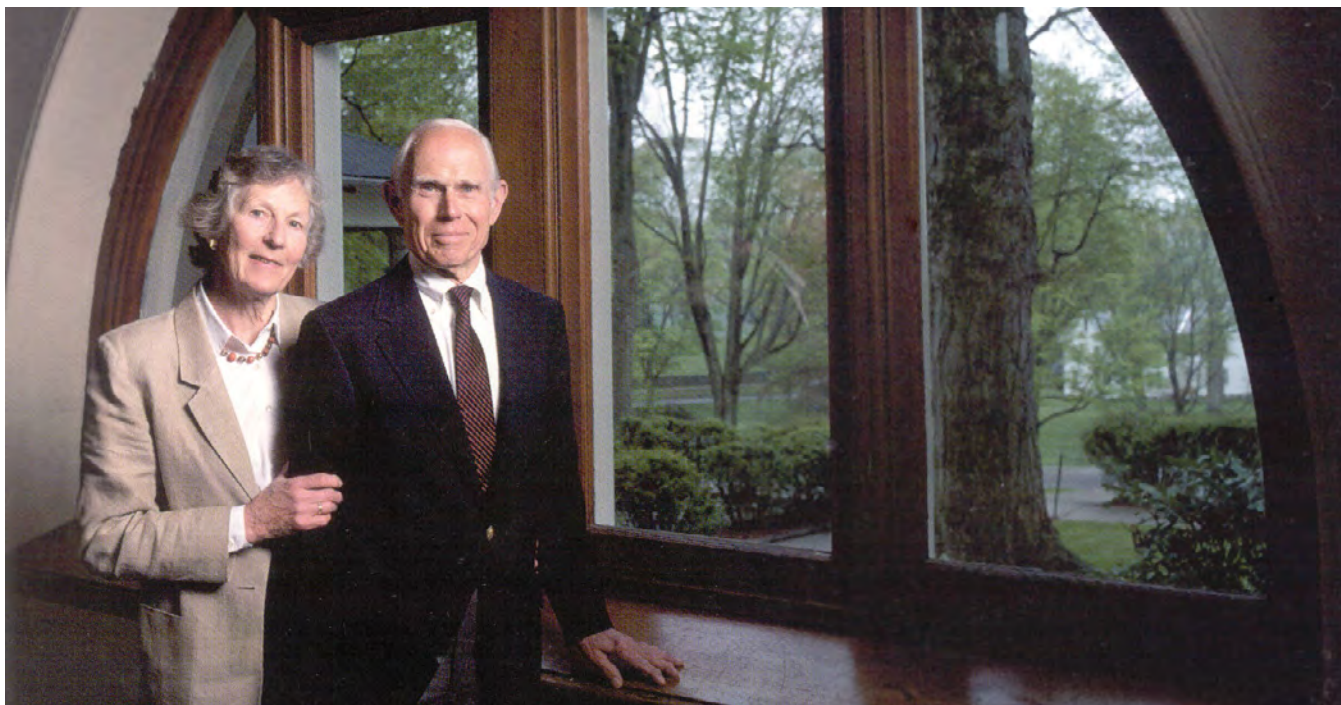
Among the many gifts Marianne has shared with the Blair community has been her

passion for wine. She has hosted alumni and parent receptions at Maple Springs Vineyard and provided wine for special adult events at Blair. "I'm very proud of the wines we produce at Maple Springs, and it's really very special to me to serve them to faculty and fellow alumni, parents and Trustees. These are my peers, my friends and my School—it's quite a thrill!" she said. In June, Maple Springs' kegged wines will be tapped at her 40th reunion, and there is no mistaking the excitement in her voice when she adds, "I can't wait!" ■

"It's all about working hard to give money to our communities and the world."



Maple Springs' "Dinner under the Stars" event celebrated the 10th anniversary of the vineyard's Old Dutch field.



New Scholarship Memorializes **James & Selena Howard**

As Blair's Headmaster from 1954 to 1976, James M. Howard Jr., together with his wife, Selena, demonstrated time and again their mutual, deep belief in education and in making a positive contribution to the world by sharing their time, talent and compassion. Thanks to a generous gift from Selena Howard's estate following her death in 2018, a new endowed scholarship was established last fall, ensuring that the beloved couple's legacy will live on for future generations of Blair students.

Jim Howard served as Headmaster during a period of great growth and change for the School, as Blair became coed and student body diversity increased. Dedicated to excellence in academics, the arts, athletics and School life, he was a big proponent of the importance of writing across the curriculum. Selena embraced her role

as Headmaster's wife, participating fully in the life of the School and frequently hosting students, Trustees, parents and visitors at Sharpe House, as well as being active on local community boards.

Following their Blair tenure and move to Westport, Massachusetts, the Howards maintained close ties to the School even as he pursued his writing and started a Christmas tree farm, and she became deeply involved in the community and the causes she held dear. After Jim's death in 2002, Selena continued to visit the School when she could and stayed in touch with Blair friends and faculty. She came to campus in 2008 for the dedication of Howard House, which the class of 1958 named to honor the Howards' many contributions to the School, and in 2009, established the Mollie Howard Conklin '71 Memorial Scholarship

in memory of their daughter, ***Mollie Howard Conklin '71***, who had recently lost her valiant battle with cancer.

The James and Selena Howard Memorial Scholarship will support students who demonstrate passion for learning and leadership, and who engage enthusiastically in the life of the School and in the larger world. The scholarship will also help ensure that a Blair education is accessible to talented, deserving and diverse young men and women, regardless of their financial circumstances. The Howard family, including daughters ***Eleanor Howard '74*** and Alida Woods, son-in-law ***Huxley Conklin '71*** and grandson ***Jamie Conklin '98***, believes that creating opportunity for deserving students to attend Blair is the most meaningful way to honor the Howards' legacy. ■



Enhanced Science Opportunities on the Horizon as Bogle Hall Project Progresses

As the project to expand and renovate Bogle Hall continues this spring, Blair teachers are preparing to make the most of the science center's highly anticipated new laboratories, dedicated research space, upgraded classrooms and leading-edge technology. Science department chair Kelly Hadden is especially looking forward to the flexibility these state-of-the-art enhancements will provide to implement a variety of curricular elements, including long-term individual and team research projects, all designed to enrich learning across the science curriculum.

"Students will have many advanced, hands-on laboratory experiences in the renovated Bogle Hall, which will help immerse them in the science behind the theory and reinforce concepts learned in the classroom," she said. "In addition, expanded research opportunities will help connect students to studies that are currently underway in industry and academia; and soon, they'll have a platform to participate in that research right here at Blair."

Independent Research Elective Introduced

Science teachers began last year to map out plans to create new electives, to reshape existing electives and to integrate additional technology into labs and projects in classes at every level. One of the new courses they developed during Blair's 2018 summer

Faculty Institute is already underway. This spring, 10 motivated and scientifically curious sophomores enrolled in "Foundations of Integrated Science Research," a semester-long introduction to the world of independent research. Following this course, students may have the opportunity to embark next year on a research project of their own choosing in the department's new Integrated Science Research (ISR) program.

In the foundation course, students are examining scientific writing, exploring current industry research, learning how to contact mentors and gaining in-depth knowledge of cutting-edge laboratory techniques. The course culminates in the writing of independent research proposals, which students will submit to the ISR committee. If accepted, students may pursue independent research during their junior and senior years in the ISR I and II courses.

"We want students to ask questions and find ways to answer those questions through research," Mrs. Hadden explained. "We would also like them to get a realistic idea of what it is like to be a scientist by introducing them to current primary scientific literature and helping them connect with working research scientists. The ISR course is an exciting, hands-on opportunity for Blair students to engage in real-world research while they are still in high school."



Culmination of Recent Campus Academic Projects

Even as the science faculty plans for good things to come, the bigger-and-better Bogle Hall continues to take shape around them. Once construction is complete (*see box*), Blair will celebrate the success of its third academic-focused campus project in the past three years. Generous contributions have already supported creation of the Chiang Center for Innovation and Collaboration, home of Blair's technology and fine arts departments, and the renovation of Weber Hall for the teaching of math. The Chiang Center and Weber Hall opened at the start of the 2017-2018 school year, and students, faculty and the entire Blair community have benefited from the classes and programs taking place in these state-of-the-art academic facilities. ■

If you would like to support the Bogle Hall project, please contact Chief Advancement Officer Craig Hall at (908) 362-6121, ext. 5640, or hallc@blair.edu.

Plans for Bogle Hall:

A three-story addition, which includes:

- three new classrooms
- labs for AP biology, physics and advanced chemistry
- dedicated research space for sustained independent projects and collaborative work with outside experts

Work is currently underway on the following enhancements:

- Gutting and rebuilding all existing laboratories
- Refurbishing all existing classrooms
- Creating a new chemistry lab prep space
- Creating a new department office
- Installing new lighting and mechanical systems in Cowan Auditorium
- Upgrading technology throughout the facility

@ View a video fly-through of the new Bogle Hall at www.blair.edu/bogle-hall.

Bucs Practice & Play in **New Indoor Athletic Venues**

Winter brought its usual snow and frigid temperatures to Blairstown, but two new indoor sports facilities gave Blair athletes warm, dry places to practice no matter what Mother Nature threw at them. The golf training center and seasonal winter sports complex were completed in December, and students began taking full advantage of both venues as soon as they returned from winter break.

“We’re grateful to the current and past parents, alumni and Trustees whose generous contributions funded construction of these outstanding athletic facilities,” said Chief Advancement Officer Craig Hall. More than \$400,000 has been raised for the golf training center, which represents phase one of Blair’s planned golf improvements. Concurrently, donors have contributed nearly \$1.3 million for the winter sports complex, with fundraising for that project propelled by a generous 3:1 challenge gift from Blair Board of Trustees Chairman Doug Kimmelman P’12 ’13 ’15 ’22.

Throughout the winter, Blair’s golf team members worked on their swings in the golf training center using professional-grade simulators, while the climate-controlled winter sports complex provided ideal training conditions for track, softball,

baseball, lacrosse, football, soccer and tennis athletes.

Director of Athletics **Paul Clavel ’88** was excited about the new opportunities both venues afforded students, whether they were improving their athletic skills or staying active by playing a pick-up game or throwing a ball around. “These facilities add another positive aspect to the overall Blair experience,” he said. “Our community is very fortunate to have such athletic venues, and I am thankful to all those who supported these projects.” ■



Blair’s golf training center is located near the first tee, at the crest of the hill from the School’s golf course entrance. It is the first of many upgrades planned for Blair’s golf facilities.



Blair’s boys’ and girls’ golf team members practiced putting and chipping throughout the winter in the golf training center. The putting green floor is undulated to mimic actual course conditions, while the “rough” (far right corner) provides a realistic chipping environment.



Two hitting bays in the golf training center feature Foresight simulators that allow golf team members to play their choice of 20 top courses worldwide. The simulators also function as driving ranges.



The “bubble”-enclosed winter sports complex is a new seasonal landmark on Blair’s campus during the coldest months of the year. Created by enclosing a portion of the tennis center under an air dome, the facility features two tennis courts and a turf field.

“The ‘bubble’ has provided the winter track team with more space to perform more workouts during practice. Our hurdles can be set at further distances, and we can really build up speed without worrying about running into walls. It’s a great space, and it’s awesome not being in Hardwick Hall hallways.”

—Girls’ track team member **Ashlyn Alles ‘20**



The turf field in the winter sports complex is installed over three tennis courts, giving teams plenty of room to train and practice. Beyond the barrier (at the far end), the “bubble” also encompasses two tennis courts for indoor play.

Fundraising continues for the winter sports complex, golf training center and golf course enhancements, including green enlargement, bunker reconstruction and tree removal. If you would like to make a gift to support these projects, please contact Chief Advancement Officer Craig Hall at (908) 362-6121, ext. 5640, or hallc@blair.edu.



Blair Dance Band, 1955



Blair Orchestra today

STRIKE UP THE BAND FOR DEAR OLD BLAIR!

Please consider joining the growing ensemble of alumni, parents, grandparents, faculty, staff and friends who help ensure that future generations of Bucs will enjoy a finely tuned educational experience at Blair. Through instrumental planning, members of our John C. Sharpe Society have provided generous gifts for conducting curricular and extracurricular programs. Such programs create pitch-perfect learning opportunities in tempo with Blair's history of shaping and transforming students' lives.

To discuss your lasting legacy at the School or learn about the John C. Sharpe Society, contact Velma Anstadt Lubliner, assistant director of advancement, at (908) 362-6121, ext. 5634, or lubliv@blair.edu, or visit www.blair.edu/planned-giving.

BUCCANEERS



01



04



05



08



02

01 *Thuraya Abdul-Hamid '19* scored 12 points in the Lady Bucs' January win over Lawrenceville. The team earned its ninth-straight MAPL title.

02 In the varsity boys' MAPL championship win over Hill, *Jabri Abdur-Rahim '20* scored 11 points.

03 Season highlights for varsity girls' squash included wins over several MAPL opponents (*Megan Donaghy '22* pictured).

04 *Nick Incontrera '19* (152 lbs.) had a come-from-behind victory in Blair's defeat of #2 Wyoming Seminary.

05 *Olivia Miles '21* led the way with 34 points in the girls' varsity basketball team's win over Life Center Academy.

06 Girls' skiing finished in first place in their second giant slalom race on January 22 (*Marty Dericks '22* pictured).

07 The swim team competed in five meets at home in Wallace Pool this year.

08 *Brian Park '19* earned a victory in the boys' varsity squash team's 9-0 sweep of CitySquash in December.

09 Among his accomplishments this season, *Shayne Van Ness '21* earned championships at 132 lbs. at Ironman and Beast of the East.

10 Winter track participated in indoor meets at Ursinus College, the New York City Armory and other venues this season (*Savannah Lee '20* pictured).



09



03



06



07



10

Winter Champions Exemplify Best of Blair Athletics

Throughout the winter season, Blair athletes competed in more than 150 contests in the pool, ski slopes, basketball and squash courts, wrestling mat and indoor track. The Bucs exhibited exceptional sportsmanship, dedication and teamwork, noted Director of Athletics **Paul Clavel '88**, marking another successful season in School record books.

"I am very proud of our student-athletes this season, as they achieved team and individual milestones while working hard with grit and integrity," Mr. Clavel said. "When faced with adversity, our student-athletes rose to the occasion and persevered. As we enter the spring season, we will continue to strive for this level of excellence."



Historic Seasons for Boys' & Girls' Basketball

Blair's varsity girls' and boys' basketball teams won their respective Mid-Atlantic Prep League (MAPL) championships in mid-February. The girls defeated Lawrenceville 76-47, securing the team's ninth-straight conference title, while the boys overcame Hill 65-56, marking their fourth conference title in five years.

The boys' varsity basketball team then made history on February 21 with its 86-64 win over New Jersey rival St. Benedict's Prep in the New Jersey Independent Schools Athletic Association (NJISAA) prep "A" state championship. This marks the first time ever that the boys' varsity basketball program has clinched both the MAPL and state titles during the same season.

"We played at a high level this season, overcoming some very strong teams," said head boys' varsity coach Joe Mantegna.

"Our seniors finish undefeated in the MAPL regular season and tournament play for their final two years." In addition to four state titles, Blair boys' basketball has now won a total of 11 MAPL championships.

Meanwhile, the girls' varsity basketball team finished second in the nation at the 2019 independent school national championship, held February 22 and 23 in North Carolina. Having placed fifth at last year's prep nationals, the Lady Bucs notched three key tournament wins to achieve second place this year.

"We played one of the most challenging schedules in the country, and it was so gratifying to play our best basketball late in the season," said head girls' basketball coach **Quint Clarke '87**. "More than our players' obvious talent, I was impressed with the girls' character, poise and grit as they rose to this level on the biggest stage. This is a special group of people, and I'm fortunate to work with them."

Blair Wrestling Brings Home 40th National Title

It was a historic season for Blair wrestling as well: In late February, the team won its 40th national prep title in 45 years. The Bucs scored a total of 354 points, followed by Wyoming Seminary in second place with 325 points. Blair tied the all-



time record for the number of individual champions with a remarkable nine champions, including four seniors, three juniors, one sophomore and one freshman.

Earlier in the season, the Bucs won their fourth-straight Walsh Jesuit Ironman tournament by 100 team points in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio. Blair had two champions in the tournament, **Trevor Mastrogiovanni '20** (120 lbs.) and **Shayne VanNess '21** (132 lbs.). Runners-up included **Michael Colaiocco '19** (126 lbs.), **Julian Ramirez '19** (170 lbs.) and **Owen Trephan '19** (220 lbs.).

Head wrestling coach **Brian Antonelli '93** reflected on the season with pride in and excitement for his wrestlers. "Wrestling one of the toughest schedules in the country and going through it undefeated is a huge accomplishment for our guys," Coach Antonelli said. "They competed hard and represented the School with class. We are thankful for all of the support we received from parents, alumni and friends. Without it, we would not have concluded the high school season with another national championship."



Varsity Ski Team Dominates the Slopes

The varsity ski team braved frigid temperatures to compete in a number of slalom and downhill races. During the first race of the season on January 15, the girls' team placed first and the boys' team finished third. As the winter progressed, the girls' and boys' teams continued to place in the top three.

"Our student-athletes achieved team and individual milestones while working hard with grit and integrity."

—Athletic Director **Paul Clavel '88**

The girls' team traveled to Mountain Creek on February 28 and earned four trophies, winning the New Jersey non-public state championship. The team earned second place in both the giant slalom and slalom races, marking its second non-public state championship in three years.



Swim Team Dives Into Victory

Varsity swimmers traveled to Franklin & Marshall College for the Eastern Interscholastic Swimming & Diving Competition in mid-February. During the meet, **Camille Williams '20**, **Rachel Ninomiya '19**, **Anna Insana '21** and **Summer Will '19** all qualified for finals in the 200 medley relay and 200 free relay. **Andrew Brooks '19**, **Nate Castimore '20**, **Jake Leddy '19** and **Aidan Stockhausen '20** qualified for finals in the 200 free relay.

Camille had personal best times in the 100 free and 100 backstroke races and competed in the individual finals. Jake broke five minutes in the 500 free relay with a career-best time of 4:56.58. Another highlight of the season was Anna breaking her own school record in the 500 free relay with a time of 5:11.49. ■

Head Track & Field Coach Roy Wilson: 'Any Individual Can Improve'



Head track & field coach Roy Wilson and his wife, Angie.

"I can talk Blair track and field all day," said Roy Wilson, physics teacher and head coach of Blair's winter and spring track and field teams. That's a fact. And, having been part of Blair's track program since he joined the faculty in 2009, he can reel off a decade's worth of statistics, including times, measurements, records, best efforts, events won and lost, and specific meets where it all happened.

Yet, while stats are important to Coach Wilson, they are not his sole measure of coaching success. As leader of a program that engages more than 50 athletes over two seasons, he finds just as much meaning in the relationships he is forging with each of those students and in the personal growth they experience by participating in Blair track and field as he does in fast times and big jumps and throws.

"I've been through huge ups and downs with this program; we've celebrated many successes and traveled to indoor and outdoor nationals with individuals and relay teams. But the things that happen outside of meets are a bigger deal to me," he reflected. Things like seeing kids learn to manage disappointment and mature through the experience. Helping them understand personal strengths and weaknesses and figure out how to work on them. And seeing them realize *why* it's important to show up for practice day after day, even when they know they'll face a demanding task that will likely cause, as he puts it, "some level of discomfort."

When students show up for Blair track and field in the winter and spring, Coach Wilson is there, ready with a systematic training plan for any event and ready to

help them get stronger, faster or simply more fit. “Any individual can improve” is the mantra that drives him as a coach, and, whether that is as an athlete or as a person, he finds fulfillment in being a part of it.

Teaching & Coaching

Coach Wilson’s involvement in track began during his high school days at John F. Kennedy High School in the Bronx and continued at Colby College, where he was a four-year member of the winter and spring track teams. A sprinter, long jumper and triple jumper, he captained Colby’s team as a senior in 2007 and was inspired by the great coaching he received from sprint coach Jared Beers to start thinking about himself in that role someday.

During his first year out of college that thought became reality. Preparing to graduate with a degree in physics and not quite sure what career path to pursue, he landed a math teaching position at Cushing Academy in Massachusetts, where he also became a dorm parent and coach of girls’ cross country and track. “The boarding school world soaks you in immediately,” Coach Wilson said thoughtfully. “I found working with kids very fulfilling and learned while I was teaching that I wanted to be a teacher.”

Two years later, looking for an opportunity to teach physics closer to his family in New York City, Coach Wilson discovered Blair, and he has been a Bogle Hall mainstay ever since. He teaches every level of physics from general to AP, manages the AP physics curriculum and, from 2014 to 2017, served as science department chair.



A member of Blair’s science faculty, Roy Wilson teaches every level of physics at Blair.



The winter track team practiced in the winter sports complex from January through early March.

When class is over for the day, though, Coach Wilson dons sweats and sneakers and heads to practice.

He started his Blair coaching career with football and spring track, but as

sprint coach, he soon realized that the 10-week spring season gave his runners little time to learn new skills and see improvement. He decided in 2012 to “tag along” with then-winter track head



coach R. Latta Browse as a volunteer coach and talked to kids about why it was a good idea to start their training during winter track. The next year, Coach Wilson switched to coaching winter and spring track, and, bringing his own brand of intensity, focus and training to Blair's track teams, he has since spent two seasons each year helping athletes see results.

'Steps Along the Way'

"A student's development as a track athlete is tied to a patient, long-term process," Coach Wilson explained. "We focus on steps along the way—you can't do everything at once or even in a single year." Winter track marks the critical start of the training calendar, especially for would-be college recruits. For them, Coach Wilson creates annual

and four-year training calendars, with the goal of achieving peak performance in the junior year so college coaches see those results during the recruiting and admission process.

Coach Wilson's priority for all team members, however, is to help them become as athletic as possible and, at the same time, "great on the track." That goes for football, baseball, softball and lacrosse players who join winter track for off-season training just as much as it goes for core track athletes who are committed to running, jumping and/or throwing in the winter and spring. "I try to invest everything in every student who comes out for track, including strength, endurance, speed and conditioning," he said. "These kids have made the choice to be part of the team, and, ultimately, I

want them to be successful. Besides," he added, "you never know when someone will surprise you. Even when a student's goal is to get in shape for another sport, he or she might become competitive on the track."

With support from the School, Coach Wilson regularly attends coaching seminars and has earned U.S. Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) certifications in technical coaching, strength, sprints, hurdles and jumps. He uses this in-depth knowledge to design and execute specific training protocols to help students develop skills for their particular events. He also consults his network of fellow coaches on training programs, especially two men who have served as his coaching mentors: Irving "Boo" Schexnayder, 2008 U.S. Olympic team jumps coach



Coach Wilson cheered on his former team members (left to right) **Brennan O'Connor '14** (Princeton '18) and **Ekrem Ayhan '17** (Yale '21) at the 2018 Ivy League Heptagonal Outdoor Track & Field Championships at Franklin Field. Both men competed in the 4 x 400: Brennan ran the third leg for Princeton, and Ekrem ran the second leg for Yale.

and an internationally regarded expert in training design, and Harvard University's award-winning associate head coach Kebba Tolbert, a fellow Colby alum and an authority on women's sprint protocols. Coach Wilson acknowledges that while there is "no holy grail in training," there are "certain decisions you make to try to help kids see the most improvement." Those are the decisions he tries to get right as often as he can.

Competitive Camaraderie

Coach Wilson gives the same attention to each of his track athletes, no matter their level of interest or ability, because he knows that, in this sport, "you have to go hard or you're guaranteed to see

no changes." Along with that focus on individuals, though, he also promotes a team culture of mutual respect and support, combined with competitive camaraderie. Stopwatch ever at the ready, he even injects a bit of fun into practice by timing everything—right down to tying your shoes.

"I want my athletes to be competitive all the time but be positive and supportive teammates, too," he said. That means making sure everyone on the team has an appreciation for the demands of each event. Emphasizing the fact that individual improvement leads to team improvement because everyone starts to work a little harder. And gathering after meets to celebrate every success, whether it's a new record, a personal best or just

progress achieved. "Everyone likes the attention," Coach Wilson said with a grin, "and they know that sooner or later, they'll all be in the spotlight."

Winter into Spring 2019

The spotlight is shining a bit brighter overall on Blair's track and field program these days, thanks to the 2018 opening of the School's new winter sports complex. The "bubble," erected over a portion of Blair's tennis center from December through March, provided the winter team with dedicated, climate-controlled practice space for the first time ever. As a result, more team members were able to work on skills in more events with greater efficiency than ever before.

“I expect the winter sports complex to have a huge impact on Blair track and field going forward,” Coach Wilson said, describing how, up until now, the winter team practiced in the hallways of Bogle and Hardwick halls or dealt with injury-inducing cold weather outside. In the “bubble,” all of the team’s equipment, including jump mats, hurdles, weights, pulleys, sleds, medicine balls and bands, is readily available, and there is plenty of room to practice jumps, throws and running events. Dedicated space makes scheduling easier and allows for increased organization and intensity at practice. Moreover, all of this translates to a full training cycle during which athletes can improve in every bio-motor area: strength, endurance, speed, flexibility and coordination.

“These are the areas we seek to improve each day, in some capacity. The speed ingredient, in particular, should be more possible than ever with the ‘bubble,’” Coach Wilson noted. “Kids’ ability to learn more skills earlier in the year and earlier in their careers should help us in competitions, too. I’m excited to find out just how much we can gain.”

Heading into spring, Coach Wilson was especially looking forward to the team’s annual spring break trip to the National Training Center in Davenport, Florida, a thrilling opportunity for training and team building at the training home of Olympic gold-medalist Shaunae Miller-Uibo and other elite athletes. He instituted the trip several years ago to add a week to the all-too-brief spring track season, and he believed



Coach Wilson works on the mechanics of sprinting with **Morgan Jones '21**.

the team’s stepped-up training regimen facilitated this year by the winter sports complex would put athletes “well ahead of where we usually are by the time we are in sunny Florida.”

Coach Wilson hoped the new excitement around winter track would mean more students signing up for spring track, too. With an experienced and expanded coaching staff in place—including assistant throwing coach (and head football coach) Jim Saylor,

science teacher Caroline Chamberlain and fine arts teacher Evan Thomas on sprints/jumps, and math teacher Sarah Newbury and science teacher Suzana Markolovic working with endurance athletes—he knew they would have the capacity to give every member of the team individual attention. If all goes to plan, Coach Wilson hopes to see kids experiencing growth in their athletic abilities, especially several promising



(Left) **Justes Nance '17** (University of Georgia '21) and (right) **Ekrem Ayhan '17** (Yale '21) caught up with Coach Wilson during Peddie Day 2018 at Blair.

returning team members. “I am eagerly anticipating this spring season more than any in recent years,” he said.

This Is Why

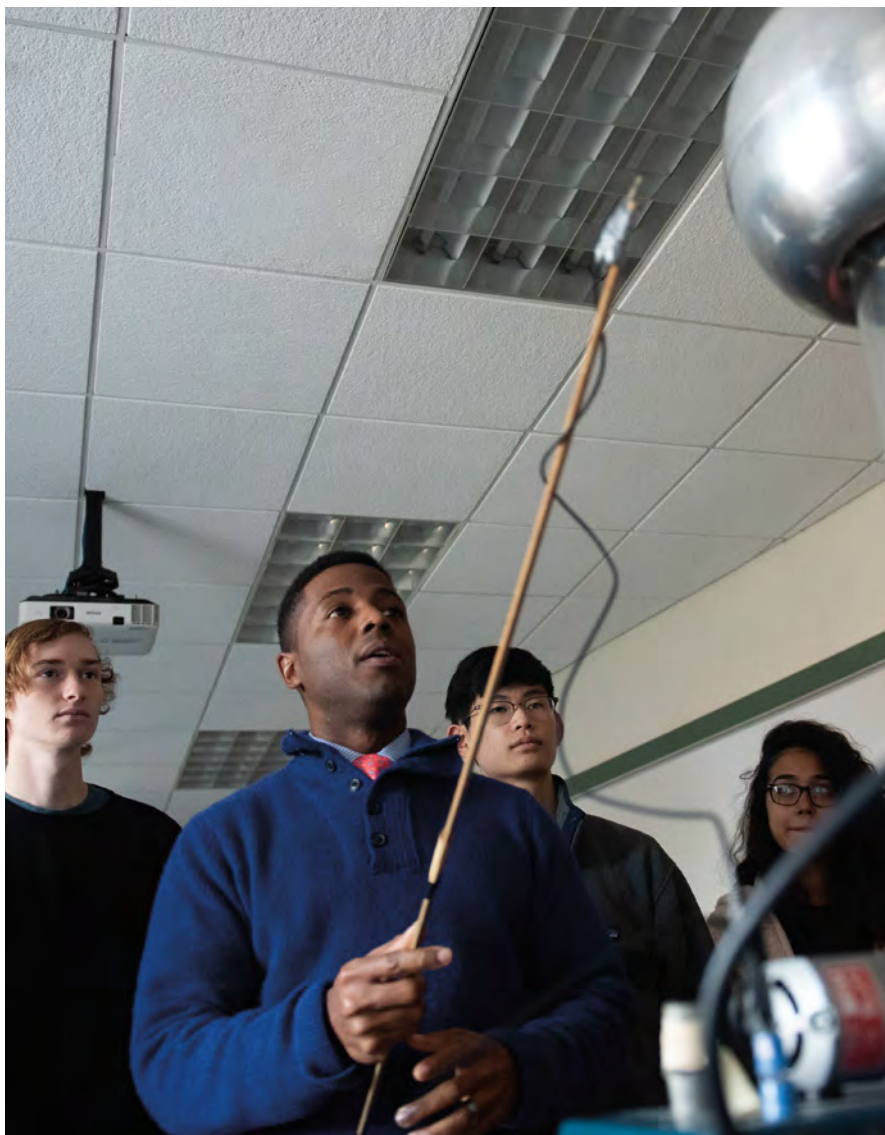
Coach Wilson is obviously energized about the very real possibility of returning to the New Balance Nationals Outdoor (NBNO), a competition that is recognized as *the* national high school track and field championship for athletes who are often the best in their state or in the nation at their events. He is also

looking to return to the vaunted Penn Relays this spring, where, among the country’s elite track and field athletes, he hopes to see Blair team members advance to the second day of competition. A trip to the Penn Relays would likely bring back memories of his proudest experience as a coach—ironically, an experience that began with a gut-wrenching defeat.

Justes Nance '17 (pictured above), one of Blair’s winningest track athletes ever, an All-American high school long jumper and one of the top long jumpers in New Jersey track and field history

(see page 81), was set to showcase his tremendous long jump at the Penn Relays during his junior year. One of only 16 athletes nationwide to qualify for that contest, Justes—and Coach Wilson—arrived at Philadelphia’s Franklin Field with the highest of hopes, only to be dashed when Justes barely fouled on his final and best jump and never made it out of preliminaries.

“Recovery from that level of disappointment was unbelievably hard



for both of us,” Coach Wilson said, acknowledging just how much he wants his athletes to achieve the outcomes they desire for themselves and how difficult it is to see them have to cope when they don’t hit the mark. “But despite the disappointment, Justes understood the big picture,” he continued. “He never lost trust in the process, the training system or the goals we had achieved together.” And so, after finding some consolation in cheesesteaks, fries and milkshakes at Gino’s as they left Philadelphia, the recovery began.

Coach Wilson described how, back at Blair, Justes conducted himself as a leader and team captain, continuing to put others first and training harder than ever. That spring, Justes, who had already reset every Blair record in sprints, went on to break School records as part of the 4 x 100 and 4 x 400 relay teams with teammates *Ekrem Ayhan '17*, *Devyn Saylor '16* and *Harley Wedholm '17*. In addition, Blair’s 4 x 400 team qualified for the NBNO for the first time in program history, an enormous accomplishment for all four athletes.



In March 2019, **Ashlyn Alles '20** competed in the New Balance Nationals Indoor competition, held at the New Balance Track and Field Center at The Armory in New York City.

“Justes’ winning at the Penn Relays would have been awesome, but the way we handled the adversity and disappointment of that situation means more to me today than how much we would have enjoyed the win,” Coach Wilson reflected. That speaks clearly to his ultimate goal as a coach—fast times aside, he wants to help kids mature and grow as people.

And, when former team members return to the School for Peddie Day, Alumni Weekend or at any other time, excited to reconnect with him, to talk about Blair track, college track and life, Coach Wilson knows he—and they—are on the fast track to success. ■

A Track Record of Success: Highlights of the Past Decade of Blair Track & Field

From Blair Track to College Track:

Ekrem Ayhan '17 - Yale University
Kerem Ayhan '19 - Lehigh University
Veronica Blair '18 - Allegheny College
Justes Nance '17 - University of Georgia
Brennan O'Connor '14 - Princeton University
Zach O'Connor '14 - Colby College
Elyse Pettaway '13 - Bucknell University
Na'im Pretlow '15 - Moravian College
Kelvin Serem '13 - Lafayette College
Alec Valle '18 - Pace University
Harley Wedholm '17 - Franklin & Marshall College

Justes Nance '17 represented Team USA at the World Youth Games (long jump, 2015). His 25' 0" jump at the event made him one of only four New Jersey high school athletes in state history (including legendary Olympian Carl Lewis) to achieve a 25' long jump.

2016 New Balance National Outdoor championship competitors:

Boys' 4 x 400 - **Ekrem Ayhan '17, Justes Nance '17, Devyn Saylor '16, Harley Wedholm '17**
 Boys' 100 & 200 - **Justes Nance '17**
 Boys' 400 - **Ekrem Ayhan '17**
 Freshman Girls' 100 - **Madison Jones '19**

2018 New Balance National Outdoor championship competitors:

Girls' 4 x 200 - **Ashlyn Alles '20, Veronica Blair '18, Madison Jones '19, Savannah Lee '20**

School Records During Coach Wilson's Tenure (2009 to present):

Boys' 100 - **Justes Nance '17** 10.79 (NBNO 2017)
 Boys' 200 - **Justes Nance '17** 21.63 (NBNO 2017)
 Boys' 400 - **Ekrem Ayhan '17** 48.74 (Eastern State Champs 2017)
 Boys' 4 x 100 - **Ekrem Ayhan '17, Justes Nance '17, David Ojabo '19, Jayson Oweh '18** 42.01 Mid-Atlantic Prep League championships (MAPLs) 2017 MAPL record holders
 Boys' 4 x 400 - **Ekrem Ayhan '17, Justes Nance '17, Devyn Saylor '16, Harley Wedholm '17** 3:22.74 (East Coast Relays 2016)
 Boys' Long Jump - **Justes Nance '17** 25-0 (2015)
 Girls' 100 - **Madison Jones '19** 12.32 (MAPLs 2018)
 Girls' 200 - **Madison Jones '19** 25.91 (MAPLs 2018)
 Girls' 400 - **Elyse Pettaway '13** 58.31 (States 2013)
 Girls' 4 x 100 - **Ashlyn Alles '20, Veronica Blair '18, Madison Jones '19, Savannah Lee '20** 49.17 (East Coast Relays 2018)
 Girls' 4 x 200 - **Ashlyn Alles '20, Veronica Blair '18, Madison Jones '19, Savannah Lee '20** 1:43.58 (East Coast Relays 2018)
 Girls' 4 x 400 - **Elyse Pettaway '13, Morgan Klein '13, Ali Surdoval '13, Maiya Gibbs '15** 4:01.60 (States 2013)
 Girls' Long Jump - **Ashlyn Alles '20** 18-3 (2019)
 Ranked 8th in New Jersey & qualified for New Balance Nationals Indoor (2019)

ROGER GERSHMAN '82

'NOTHING SHAPED MY LIFE MORE THAN BLAIR'

With nearly four decades of experience in the financial services industry, **Roger Gershman '82**, Founder and CEO of WealthGuard, Inc., is deeply knowledgeable about money matters, philanthropy, and the intricacies of wealth management and estate planning. However, the advice he shares with anyone considering how to make best use of their assets after their lifetime is simple and straightforward.

"You have a choice: You can pass your money on to the government for taxes. You can pass it on to your kids. You can pass it on to something that is important to you, something that shaped your life," he said. "For me, nothing shaped my life more than Blair." In 2016, he followed his own advice by making a generous bequest to the School.

"A bequest is a neat way to give since you don't have to immediately take funds out of discretionary income to make a substantial gift," Roger observed. "Say you want to give \$10,000 to Blair, but you don't currently have the means to make that gift. With a bequest, the money comes out of your estate well after you've earned it, perhaps 30 years or more from now. A bequest allowed me to give Blair the gift that I wanted to give."

Roger came to Blair as a freshman in 1978 and enjoyed an "immeasurable and extraordinary" four-year experience. A four-season varsity athlete, he was a member of the soccer, skiing and track teams, and he fondly remembers the fun he had playing ultimate Frisbee in front of East Hall, trekking to New York City on weekends and just hanging out with great friends. History and art courses were among his favorite classroom experiences, and it all added up to an impactful education that continues to resonate with Roger to this day.

"Blair builds your character in so many ways," he reflected. "I gained maturity, social skills, an appreciation for sports and teamwork, and a network of friends for life. When I got to Syracuse University, I already knew how to live in a college environment, thanks to my experience at

"A bequest allowed me to give Blair the gift that I wanted to give."

—**Roger Gershman '82**



Roger Gershman '82.

Blair. The life lessons I learned there have even impacted my career."

Following in his father's footsteps, Roger headed to Wall Street after college where his first job was at Hambrecht & Quist. He became the firm's first financial advisor in 1988 and continued in that role at top investment firms for 25 years before joining his family's financial advisor recruiting business. In 2012, he created WealthGuard, Inc., a company whose tagline is "We watch the people who watch your money." Wealthguard matches high-net-worth investors with wealth managers who will best serve their needs and monitors them.

These days, managing his businesses and raising his teenage daughters keep Roger "super busy," yet he keeps in touch with Blair through his network of friends, by returning to campus for major reunions and by serving on the John C. Sharpe Society Planned Giving Advisory Council. He hopes his bequest will help Blair create an even better educational experience than the one he enjoyed, and, as a seasoned financial advisor, he shared this final advice: "If Blair impacted your life as much as it did mine, show appreciation for that experience by giving back to the School. Family, friends and life all pass us by, but Blair lives on." ■