

# The PotomacTerm

The Alumni Magazine of The Potomac School • Spring 2014



## Business With Heart

**Matt Stinchcomb '93**  
and online maverick Etsy  
want to have fun and  
change the world





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## Dear Potomac Community,

I began this school year with an expressed priority to meet as many people in the Potomac community as possible and to learn more about our School's rich history and culture. As alumni, parents, and friends, you have been generous with your time and insights. Whether at a parent event in McLean or alumni gatherings in New York or Washington, I enjoyed many lively conversations and came away inspired by your fierce commitment to the School's mission: to prepare students to achieve academically and, importantly, to lead a healthy, principled, and successful life.

Several stories in this issue of the *Term* feature alumni who are living out the School's mission. Olivia Pavco-Giaccia '12 and Christina Fennell '12 are building the next generation of scientists and engineers, while other young alumni have taken up the cause of a Kenyan school that is doing remarkable work in one of the world's most impoverished areas.

The cover story about Matt Stinchcomb '93 may strike a chord with many of you. Once an indie-rock guitar hero, Matt is now a top executive with Etsy, a booming online marketplace. As he builds this pioneering company, Matt is helping ensure that Etsy devotes itself to more than profits. Business, he argues, has the potential to do more good in the world than even government or philanthropic organizations.

These alumni speak to the essence of a Potomac education. We believe in building strong hearts as well as strong minds. We believe in teaching empathy as well as fostering a passion for knowledge. And we believe that the best education enables students to lead a fulfilling life while helping to shape a better community and world.

This year, we have begun a concerted effort to consider the values that define Potomac. From one generation to the next, Potomac has strived to instill in our students character traits such as honesty, respect, responsibility, and caring. Throughout the years, however, the language that we use to describe our values has shifted. While we know these values are present, we talk about and promote them with different emphasis and language across the four divisions and the community as a whole.

Working with alumni, parents, and students, we are taking a fresh look at what has fostered generations of great leaders—people such as Olivia, Christina, and Matt. Together, we will align the values upon which our community is built so that the words have meaning for our students and take life in the School's culture. We believe that a common, consistent language will better serve



our students and the community. Ultimately, we want to see our commitment to these core values reflected in all aspects of our educational program—in the classroom, on the stage, and on the athletic field. They will become the foundation for our decisions and personal guideposts for our students during their Potomac years, and later when they make their mark on the world.

Best wishes to you and your family,

John Kowalik  
Head of School

# The PotomacTerm

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When the music began



# The Accidental BUSINESSMAN

A decade ago, indie-rock guitarist

**Matt Stinchcomb** fell into a job with an online startup. Today, he's testing the power of business to do good.

**A**s Matt Stinchcomb '93 tells the story, his career as a business executive was born in a most unusual way. In 2005, seven years removed from his Oberlin College studies in art history, he was playing guitar in a New York indie-rock band and making ends meet with a side business in T-shirt screening and printing. A friend who had launched an online startup asked Matt to join the company and handle marketing.

"I don't know anything about marketing," Matt protested.

"Perfect," the friend said.

The story captures in a nutshell the essence of Etsy, Matt's company for almost a decade now. An online marketplace for artisan-crafted handmade and vintage goods, the Brooklyn-based Etsy thumbs its nose at many conventions of business. It's the "antibusiness business," an analyst has said. Founder Rob Kalin, Matt's friend, once declared that maximizing profits for shareholders is "ridiculous."

Yet Etsy today is one of the Internet's hottest ventures, with the website recording sales of more than \$1.35 billion in 2013, its best year ever. And it thrives in part because it breaks from the MBA's blueprint and makes people, not profits, its core mission. More than a million artists, artisans, and collectors sell unique creations through Etsy, and many wouldn't survive without it. Like Whole Foods and other grocers who promote foods from small, independent farmers, Etsy brings the work of the little guy to a mass audience. Over time, the company hopes to spark a movement that upends the big-box retail mindset and remakes the economy, with dramatic benefits for all.

It's Matt job to make sure Etsy hews to these lofty goals. Now the head of the company's Values and Impact team, he works to ensure that company decisions big and small reflect its mission and more than just the bottom line. "We feel our core values throughout the organization, and we talk about them a lot," says Etsy merchandising specialist Emily Bidwell, a friend from Potomac's Class of 1993. "But Matt and his team are sort of an internal watchdog to make sure our actions match our values and what we say."

"My job," says Matt, "is to make sure we keep it weird."









“We wanted **create** a place where  
**people** like us—painters, sculptors, photographers,  
and other creators—felt like they **fit in.**”

**Matt got his start** in the Internet world in 1997, when he arrived in New York with his Oberlin degree but no job. Out for a drink one night, he met up with Sophie Simmons '90, whose boyfriend worked for a digital media company that was hiring. “I knew nothing about the Internet,” Matt says. “I think I had been online once. But it was the height of the first dot-com craze. You could get a job by just walking into a bar.”

Matt stayed in digital media for a few years but quit in 2000 to launch a music career. He had begun playing guitar while at Potomac, and with three friends in New York had started French Kicks, an indie band with roots in garage rock and post-punk music. The four cut their first album in 1999 and soon were touring full time. The “bass is gritty, and drums pop,” wrote one admiring critic, who praised them for picking “substance over flash.”

Living in Brooklyn, Matt became housemates with Rob Kalin, who was just out of New York University with a degree in classics and a nascent business in furniture design. Like Mark Zuckerberg, who started Facebook while at Harvard, Rob was brilliant yet eccentric. He had attended half a dozen colleges, aspired to sell wooden computers, and made his own underwear. He was also visionary. In 2005, Rob seized upon the idea of creating an online marketplace for sellers like him—artists and artisans who lovingly made unique, handmade goods. He dubbed the new venture Etsy after watching the movie *8½* by the Italian director Fellini (*etsy* in Italian means “oh, yes”).

Rob started Etsy with two engineers, then recruited Matt to join them as head of marketing. The timing was good: Matt had left French Kicks and was about to marry his longtime girlfriend, Benedikta Karaisl von Karais. He plunged into building the company and spent long hours with Rob. After he and Benedikta married, Rob came along on their Catskills honeymoon so he and Matt could work.

With few preconceived ideas about business, Matt threw out what he found crass or crazy in traditional marketing and set out to build an Etsy community not too different from the French Kicks following. He and Rob traveled from town to town, organizing meetings with groups of artists and makers. “It was like being on tour trying to build a community of fans for your band,” he says.

Emily joined the company not long after Matt. (Her mother, Cynthia Shea '61, went to Potomac with Matt's mother, Stephanie deSibour '60. Matt's brother, Josh, is part of the Class of 1991.) A fine arts graduate from Hampshire College, she had come to New York to be a part of Brooklyn's growing community of artists and design a line of jewelry. Rob brought her on at Etsy to manage relations with the increasing number of artists sell-

ing through the website. Like Matt, she had little experience in business, but she was an artist who knew the challenges facing Etsy sellers. “We wanted to create a place where people like us—painters, sculptors, photographers, and other creators—felt like they fit in,” she says.

**Today, Etsy has 500 employees**, 30 million members of its online community, and a website available in nine languages. It sells goods from more than 200 countries—decorative pieces, kitchen goods, bath and beauty products, furniture, and much more—and customers can search by category or through storefronts with dedicated pages for each business. There's little ordinary fare, as items range from personalized cutting boards to a Bavarian antique plate emblazoned with a kitschy portrait of a Roswell alien.

As the company has matured, more traditional business execs have arrived, including veterans of Yahoo and Google. Rob Kalin left the company in 2011, amid talk that Etsy was suffering growing pains that had to be managed by professionals.

By that time, Matt was heading up Etsy's European operations. In 2010, he opened its first international office, in Berlin, then another in Amsterdam. But even as he built out Etsy abroad, he began to think about how the company's growing size gave it increasing responsibilities. He read British economist E. F. Schum-



Before joining Etsy in 2005, Matt (second from right) played guitar in the popular New York band French Kicks.





**"We feel our core values throughout the organization," says Emily Bidwell '93, Etsy's merchandising specialist.**

acher's landmark 1973 treatise *Small Is Beautiful: Economics As If People Mattered*, which argues that a business dedicated solely to the hunt for profits can't be sustained. In 2011, he organized Etsy's first conference for small businesses, which concluded with the resolution that focusing only on economic growth "is unethical, unsustainable, and unfun."

Working with new CEO Chad Dickerson, Matt and others developed five core values for the company, including: "We are a mindful, transparent, and humane business" and "We keep it real, always." At the same time, the company launched an effort to earn certification as a B Corp, a seal of approval akin to a LEED certification for a building. Companies that win B Corp certification go through a rigorous assessment that measures their efforts to solve social and environmental problems as well as foster a

happy, healthy workplace. In its initial assessment, in May 2012, Etsy scored 80 out of a possible 200 points, the minimum needed for certification, with relatively low marks for environmental and community impact—a surprise for a company that considered itself progressive. Etsy quickly organized a "Hack Day" to bring all its employees together to plan how to do better, and Matt and his team set to work turning their ideas into reality.

In one of its bigger initiatives, the company now tracks and quantifies Etsy's impact on the environment. Consumption of electricity in the offices dropped about 20 percent in 2013, and the company saw a similar reduction in the waste it sent to the landfill. Matt and his team also developed a Gross Happiness Index based on the work of University of Pennsylvania professor Martin Seligman. When a survey of Etsy employees found that most put high value on acknowledgement of their work, they created the Ministry of Unusual Business, an internal group that anonymously thanks employees for unusual efforts with notes and small gifts. Last year, 80 percent of Etsy workers reported they were satisfied with their job.

Ultimately, Matt believes Etsy can make the biggest impact by helping individuals start and grow their own businesses. Through forums and workshops in artist-rich cities such as San Francisco and London, the company teaches its sellers—known as Etsians—about business and provides tools and data. It's also partnered with the town of Rockford, Ill., to create an entrepreneurship program for underprivileged adults. The goal: help anyone with a craft skill build a business.

Last year, on its second B Corp assessment, Etsy earned a score of 105—just two points lower than Patagonia, a leader among progressive corporations. "Etsy," *Wired* magazine gushed recently, "restores our faith in people."

The work continues. Matt is investigating running Etsy's web servers out of data centers powered by renewable energy sources, and the company recently joined with Kiva, the nonprofit micro-lender, to guarantee that Etsy sellers can get a loan to pay for training, new equipment, supplies, or other essentials—loans that banks and other lenders typically won't make to businesses as small as many Etsians.

Ten years after joining with Rob Kalin and Etsy, Matt has learned a lot about traditional business practices. "I've also grown up a bit in how I think about business," he says. "We have a lot of MBAs here now, and that's not so bad."

Still, he believes Etsy's real work has little to do with conventional business strategies. He will continue to keep it weird, and push the company to always follow its heart. ♦

By Kevin Hollister

## CHANGING THE FACE OF

# Math and Science

Two alumnae are creating new kids' ventures inspired by their days at Potomac.

"Close your eyes and picture a scientist," Olivia Pavco-Giaccia '12 told a room full of executives of Yale's Entrepreneurial Institute. "What do you see?"

At the time, Olivia was a freshman at Yale pitching a new science-related business venture she hoped the institute would help get off the ground. As she expected, her audience conjured exactly the image of a scientist that societal norms have dictated for years: a man, somewhat older, in a white lab coat and goggles, with Einstein-like wild hair.

Olivia has been an exception to this stereotype since she was a

junior at Potomac, when she was a standout student in biology. Now, as she finishes her second year at Yale, she's poised to start a business aimed at making the field cool and exciting for young girls.

Coincidentally, her friend Christina Fennell '12, a sophomore at Spelman College, is launching something that, like Olivia's business, has roots in her high school days. Recently, she began a math-enrichment program in an Atlanta inner-city elementary school that's an offshoot of what she created in Washington during her senior year at Potomac. The goal: build the kids' skills and point them to college majors and career fields where

Olivia Pavco-Giaccia '12 (with folder) recruited several children—including Potomac third grader Ashleigh Watkinson (bottom) and seventh graders Alexis Watkinson (center) and Juju Yonemoto (top)—to model her fashionable lab gear for marketing photos.





minorities are underrepresented.

These two Potomac alumnae are part of a nationwide campaign to boost the number of women, African Americans, Hispanics, and other minorities in science, technology, engineering, and math, the so-called STEM. By one estimate, women hold less than a quarter of all STEM jobs, while African Americans and Hispanics each earn less than five percent of undergraduate degrees awarded in the related fields.

Olivia's love of science bloomed at Potomac in Mary Cahill's sixth grade science course, which Olivia describes as "one of my favorite classes ever."

During the summer after her junior year, mentored by Upper School science teacher Denise Reitz, she worked at a Stanford neurobiology lab researching how alcohol targets a specific neurotransmitter in the brain, a study that earned her selection as a national semifinalist in the prestigious Siemens high school science, math, and technology competition.

While at Stanford, she created the blog LabCandy: A Girl's Guide to Some Seriously Sweet Science, and wrote about her experiences, hoping to get young girls interested in the field. When she posted a photo of bejeweled goggles she designed, girls wrote asking how to get a pair. Here, she realized, was an opportunity: fashionable lab gear could help attract young girls to science.

The idea mushroomed into the venture she dubbed LabCandy, like her blog, and presented last year to Yale's entrepreneurship group, which each year funds and advises a select number of startups. The group loved the idea of cool lab gear for girls and chose Olivia as the institute's youngest-ever fellow, awarding her more than \$10,000 in seed money.

Initially, Olivia will develop LabCandy products for girls in kindergarten through third grade. She's creating stylish sequined goggles, flower-power printed lab coats, and storybooks that recount the adventures of one of five LabCandy animated female characters who solve problems using science. Each story will include instructions for do-it-yourself experiments that demonstrate the scientific principles the characters use.

"I had amazing female science teachers and mentors at Potomac who weren't only great teachers but women I could look up to," Olivia says. "I want LabCandy to deliver the message that they delivered to me: that the world of science is a fun, exciting, and collaborative place for young girls."

Olivia has forged partnerships with several national organizations to promote LabCandy's products. This summer, she



**Christina Fennell '12 runs a math tutoring program in inner-city Atlanta.**

is launching a major crowdfunding campaign to raise money to support LabCandy's next phases.

Like Olivia, Christina became a champion for a STEM field while at Potomac. As a junior, she joined LearnServe International, a local social entrepreneurship organization. Having grown up in Washington, she began thinking about how she could help students in the troubled DC school system. "I was blessed to go to Potomac," Christina says, "whereas I knew people from my church, orchestra, and elsewhere in the city were going to schools that were not

preparing them for college."

Christina's answer: MASTERS, an afterschool math tutoring program she began at Amidon-Bowen Elementary in DC. LearnServe and Ashoka's Youth Venture, a group for young leaders of community service, provided a grant, and she rounded up a handful of friends and Potomac classmates as tutors. Though they taught foundational math skills, they also talked with the kids about careers and showed them the importance of math in college and beyond.

Arriving at Spelman, Christina volunteered in nearby schools and found that, as in DC, math test scores were lagging. This fall, Christina, now a sophomore biology major minoring in public health, re-launched MASTERS with help from Spelman and funding from a national foundation to encourage student leadership in community service. She and a few other Spelman students visit Atlanta's M. Agnes Jones Elementary School once a week and challenge third, fourth, and fifth graders with real-world physics, economics, chemistry, statistics, and engineering projects.

Eventually Christina wants to expand MASTERS to other Atlanta schools and collaborate with similar afterschool programs throughout the country. "I would love if these students eventually pursued a career in the STEM field, but ultimately I hope they learn to value education and seek professions that help improve their socioeconomic status," Christina says.

Though separated by nearly 1,000 miles, Christina and Olivia continue their close friendship and draw inspiration from each other. "We are so fortunate to have been supported and encouraged by the Potomac community," Olivia says. "It's time to try to give a little back." ♦

How Potomac's unofficial mascot became a fixture in the life of John Chester '73.

In 1970, Potomac received an unusual gift from Una Rawnsley Hanbury, the late artist nationally known for her sculptures and busts of animals. The mother of a Potomac teacher and a grandparent of four students, she donated a whimsical sculpture of three llamas, which, when installed on the Lower School playground, became a campus favorite.

John Chester '73 was in the Upper School at the time. He remembers kids scrambling on the

posters. Visiting friends in Vermont, they fell in love with its green hills and open spaces and, with a baby in tow, pulled up stakes and bought a farmhouse in the town of Woodstock to open their new venture, dubbed Wild Apple.

Today, Wild Apple sells and licenses original art to framers and galleries, which in turn sell the works to retail chains, furniture stores, the hospitality industry, and others. The company works with more than 70 artists around the world, and the business has grown so big that John long ago moved operations from their home to a large warehouse.

John and Laurie hauled their first llama—Blanco, an all-white male, like Flash—to Vermont from Wisconsin in the back of a ramshackle trailer. Blanco was later joined by two more, including Flash, gifts from the same uncle, along with a baby born to the lone female in the group. “We had a total of four,” John says. “That was pretty neat.”

When they were young, the Chester children thought of llamas as everyday household pets. “One of my kids was at a friend’s house and asked, ‘Where’s your llama?’” John remembers.

Over the years, the Chesters have learned a great deal about the character of Potomac’s unofficial mascot. Llamas are independent, John says, even a bit aloof, but they’re also fiercely protective and can be trained to keep sheep, goats, and other livestock safe from coyotes and wolves. Around humans, they can be skittish, though Flash lets John get close for the occasional pat. “I think he secretly likes it.”

The last of the Chester’s four llamas, Flash is now in his early 20s. He doesn’t hear much, his vision’s going, and he spends a lot of time lying down in the field, resting. “People say, ‘I think your llama’s dead,’” John says. “An hour later, they see him lying in the same position, but a hundred yards away in a different spot.”

When Flash eventually passes on, the Chesters’ field probably won’t stay empty for long, as they recently put up new fencing. “We are making it known that the llama retirement home is open for business,” John jokes. ♦

# In Love With Llamas



Since the llama statue arrived at Potomac, it's become a beloved campus icon.

sculpture and thinking, I wish the llamas had been there when I was in Lower School.

Today, John has a llama of his own—not a sculpture, but the real thing, a male with all-white fur, deep brown eyes, and the incredibly long eyelashes that are a llama trademark. Flash, as he’s named, is one of four that John and his wife, Laurie, have owned since they decamped from big-city life in 1989 and moved to a

Vermont farm. An eccentric uncle in Wisconsin gave them their first llama as a housewarming present, and ever since, llamas have been a fixture in their lives and back field, with several, including Flash, living well beyond the animal’s 20- to 25-year life expectancy. “Our field seems to be good for the likes of llamas,” he jokes.

John and Laurie met while they were both working in banking in New York City, and they later moved to Boston, where they lived in a three-story walkup. Both, however, wanted to start their own business, and they began to fashion the idea of making and selling art



After John Chester moved to Vermont, an eccentric uncle gave him several llamas, including Flash.





# The Kenya Connection

**Potomac students find inspiration working with children in one of the world's biggest slums.**

**By Jill Lucas**

**It** is a simple but powerful idea. When you walk in the shoes of others and feel their pain and hardships, their hopes and dreams, your life changes. And when you connect deeply with someone, the experience can transform you.

For a number of Potomac students, volunteering with the Red Rose School in Kibera, Kenya, has been just that sort of experience. Since 2007, some 40 Upper School students have worked in Nairobi's massive slum, helping children in extreme poverty with little to eat and little chance of getting a decent education.

"These kids who have nothing were so excited to be at school," remembers Allison Fisk '08, who went to Kibera before her senior year at Potomac and again in 2011. "When you see all the challenges they face and how very determined they are to succeed, you can't help but be inspired." Allison's work with Red Rose led her to major in international relations at Tufts, with a focus on Africa. She studied abroad in Tanzania and made a documentary film about the school. Volunteering there, says Allison, who's now in filmmaking, can have enormous impact on a teenager: "You can handle what you are seeing, and you have

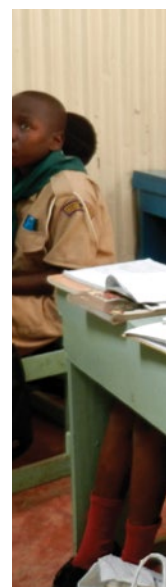
a chance to make a difference."

An alternative to the overcrowded public schools, Red Rose serves about 250 children in Kibera. The slum has no electricity, running water, or sanitation. Still, the kids are happy, says Alex Prezioso '12, a Duke sophomore who volunteered while at Potomac. "They are always smiling and asking questions about you—who you are and why you are here. That stays with you."

Ken Okoth, who grew up in Kibera, started the volunteer initiative when he taught world history at Potomac from 2005 to 2009. As a child, he lived in a 12-by-12-foot shack with five brothers and sisters. Though there was never enough to eat, his mother instilled in her children the importance of education, and Ken pursued every opportunity for learn-

ing. First came a scholarship to a boarding school in Kenya. Next, while doing odd jobs and delivering newspapers in Kibera, he waged a campaign of pleasant persistence in St. Lawrence University's student-exchange offices—which happened to be on his newspaper route—and won a spot at the New York school. In 2005, he earned his graduate degree at Georgetown's School of Foreign Service, and now, at 36, he is a rising leader in Kenya, representing Kibera in Parliament.

Bringing Potomac students to Kibera, Ken says, expands their horizons in a dramatic way. The Kenyan children, meanwhile, gain from their visitors a sense of life outside the slum. "They feel they're part of a larger world, not just street kids trapped in poverty, isolated and marginalized," he says.







Former Potomac teacher Ken Okoth visited campus this fall and returned to Kenya with a portrait of Red Rose student Mercy Ayuma by Caroline Miller '15, part of her work with the Memory Project, a program to create portraits of neglected, orphaned, and disadvantaged youth. ▼



Katie Rosenberg '11 is among the dozens of Potomac students and alumni who have worked with students at the Red Rose School in Nairobi.

Cate Rooney '08 has worked at Red Rose three times, including a stint after graduating from Vanderbilt when she lived in the slum for two months. "We were all amazed that the children at Red Rose were so interested in us." The experience, she says, keeps you humble. "These people are the same as you, except for the circumstances."

Lower School math teacher Sarah Coste organized several Red Rose trips in which Potomac students helped teach and lead classes. They made volcanoes to supplement a curriculum unit, taught how to sketch a portrait, and even sang favorite Potomac songs "Wild Mountain Thyme" and the "Turkey Tango."

"Our students really understood the privilege of their education through their experience at Red Rose," says Coste. For

the Kibera kids, going to high school and on to college was "the single most important thing in their lives, and that made a huge impression."

Apart from teaching, the Potomac kids learned about Kenya through visits to a microfinance project, the U.S. Embassy, and a boarding school. Returning home, they launched a social-media campaign to raise money for Kibera students to attend college. They netted \$27,500, enough to pay for at least 13 scholarships.

"They weren't tourists," says Ken. "They dug in. They worked in a strange environment that was different and new for them, but they connected with the people there. They realized how similar we are in our humanity, and they came back as friends and ambassadors of the children in Kenya." ♦

# *More than just* **Fun** *in the* **Sun**

For more than 50 years, Potomac's  
summer camps have changed  
lives—and the School itself.

By Kevin Hollister

**A**nnabelle Redway Dunn '85 was a Potomac kindergartner when her summer tradition began. Each year, her parents would sign her up for the School's camp program, and about the time when dusk brought out the fireflies, she would return to campus to romp through the woods and splash in the pool. As a teenager, she made the leap from camper to assistant counselor—her first job—and by her early 20s, she was working as a director of one of the camps.

The 20-plus years of summer fun gave Annabelle many sweet memories, but they also pointed the way to a career. "I loved working with kids every summer and wanted to do that as a job," she says. Soon after college, she joined the Lower School faculty, where she still teaches as a reading specialist.

Annabelle's story is not unusual. For a half-century, children have come to Potomac camps for fun and enrichment and left with memorable, life-changing experiences. Today, there are more than 45 summer programs. An extension of the School, they embrace and reflect Potomac's traditions and approach to learning; kids are encouraged to explore, create, and discover. Ties to the School are so strong that, in many instances, campers become students, alumni become counselors, and counselors, like Annabelle, become teachers.







Potomac's summer camps have offered fun and the joy of discovery for more than a half-century.



*"The campers who don't like getting their shoes dirty when they come to camp are the ones trudging through the creek by the end of the summer."*

**P**otomac launched its first summer camp in 1963. It was a traditional program for about 30 kids ages 7 to 12, but almost immediately, there were calls to expand the offerings and invite children from the broader Washington area. The School opened its pool in 1974—a big summer draw—and a program was developed for children as young as three, a fairly revolutionary idea in the pre-daycare era.

Early camps made good use of Potomac's ponds, woods, and nature trails, emphasizing education and fun beyond the classroom. "Campers would go on nature walks and butterfly hunts and play in the streams," says Angela Bullock, a former Potomac teacher who worked the camps nearly every summer for 25 years, beginning in the late 1970s. She says the youngest children loved when counselors created a water slide down the Roly Poly Hill, a slope next to what is now the turf athletic field.

Angela's daughter Alexandra Fischer '96 joined her at summer camp, along with other faculty children. Will Cook '00, son of Potomac teachers Ida and Bill Cook, started camp as a second grader in 1989. "I got a chance to do things I didn't do anywhere else—looking for crayfish up to my knees in a stream, hunting for bullfrogs in the pond, or catching caterpillars," he remembers. By high school, Will was a counselor and headed for a career in science education. He now teaches at St. Patrick's in Washington and spends summers at Potomac running the Nature Science Camp he once attended. "I became a science teacher because of my summer camp experiences at Potomac," he says.

Beth Dunkelberger was teaching art in the Montgomery County public schools when she answered a classified ad for a position at Potomac's art camp in 1992.

"This was the first I heard of Potomac, and I just fell in love with the School," she says. "From the spectacular campus to the enthusiastic child-centered staff, I found myself at a place where I always wanted to be." Four years later, Beth joined the faculty at Potomac, where she still teaches Middle School art.



## Fun, Friendship, and Adventure in 2014

From June through August, **Summer @ Potomac** offers a slate of more than 45 camps and programs for ages 3½ to 17 (or rising high school seniors). Children in the traditional Panther Day Camps and Discovery Camp enjoy a mix of creative activities both indoors and outside. Specialized camps have half-day and full-day options and focus on technology, sports, cooking, outdoor skills, musical theater, sewing, nature, and more. Bus service is included in camp fees, with stops in DC, Maryland, and Virginia.

For details on all the 2014 summer offerings, visit [potomacschool.org/summer](http://potomacschool.org/summer). Interested in becoming a counselor? Visit [potomacschool.org/summer/employment](http://potomacschool.org/summer/employment) to fill out an employment application.

For additional information about the programs or the application process for campers and counselors, please contact the Summer @ Potomac office at (703) 749-6317 or [summer@potomacschool.org](mailto:summer@potomacschool.org).



Program director Greg Mueller





The first camps made good use of Potomac's ponds, woods, and nature trails (left), just as they do today. Will Cook '00, who started camp as a second grader in 1989, still has fond memories of hunting for bullfrogs in the pond.

Over the years, as the summer programs grew, they introduced increasing numbers of families and teachers to Potomac, its expanding facilities, and its culture. Campers from outside the School community now make up more than 90 percent of summer enrollment.

"Many of the School's philosophies and traditions like assembly and generosity of spirit carry over to the summer programs," says Mimsy Stirn, Potomac's director of auxiliary programs. "People who aren't even a part of Potomac know them because they've come to camp."

Today, Potomac's summer programs bring as many as 750 children to campus on any given day during the height of summer. Those who lobbied in the 1960s for a full slate of offerings would be pleased to see the wealth of programs for sports, outdoor adventure, academic enrichment (including writing, math, study skills, and robotics), fine arts, and much more.

Even as summer programs have grown, they have retained the close connection to the School and its philosophies. Outdoor education is still a core element. "I think it's important to use our 90-plus acres to teach children the science end of nature," says Programs Director Greg Mueller, a Potomac

science teacher and 13-year veteran of the camps.

Greg purposefully uses his work in camp to develop new curriculum for the school year. "If something works well during camps, I find a way to incorporate it into my classroom."

Philosophically, summer programs embrace the Potomac mission and show children the joys of discovery and learning. "Like the School itself, camps provide a safety net for kids to try new things and get out of their comfort zone," Beth says. "The campers who don't like getting their shoes dirty when they come to camp are the ones trudging through the creek by the end of the summer."

Says Will Cook: "It's nice watching campers immerse themselves in a world that they might not be able to discover outside of camp."

Although the sun has set on Annabelle Dunn's days of summer camps, she's seeing the value of the programs anew through the eyes of her two fifth grade daughters, Caroline and Emily. "I think that they give kids a real outdoor summer experience in a comfortable, family-oriented place," she says.

Each day, as the girls set off for another camp adventure, she hopes they will create, discover, swim, play, and make friends, just as she did as a child. ♦



# Sand, Sun, and *Great Books*

Potomac teachers pick their  
favorite summer reading

**C**lassrooms and  
offices at the School  
are crammed with  
books—mostly for students, but  
also for adults. We asked the fac-  
ulty which titles they pull down  
from the shelf when school lets out  
and summer rolls in. They selected  
classics, breakthrough novels,  
serious explorations of mind and  
matter, and a few guilty pleasures.

Ida Cook, Upper  
School art  
teacher, and Bill  
Cook, assistant  
head of school





# Fiction

## **Pigs Have Wings**, by P. G. Wodehouse.

A wryly entertaining episode in the life of the ninth Earl of Emsworth and his prize pig, Empress of Blandings. Skullduggery is afoot as both the empress and her leading competitor are pig-napped in the days before the Shropshire Agricultural Show. Who will win the crown in the Fat-test Pig competition? Wodehouse at the top of his form. —*Don Firke, head of the Upper School*

## **Cutting for Stone**, by Abraham Verghese.

I could not put this book down; in fact, my daughter and I read the same copy simultaneously, as neither of us could resist the compelling narrative. A dense, yet riveting novel, it tells the story of twin boys, Marion and Shiva Stone, born at a mission hospital in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where their parents worked. The complicated family saga that follows winds from Ethiopia to Kenya to America and sweeps in the art of medicine, doctors, their patients, political turmoil, love, loss, and secrets kept. —*Hillary Steel, Intermediate School art*

**A Mercy**, by Toni Morrison. This powerful story set in 1680s America tells of a young girl, Florens, searching for love as she navigates life and her mother's betrayal. Meeting a cast of characters, she discovers love has many shapes and forms. In tapestry-woven narratives, Morrison sketches a land and a people on the brink of transformation and at the edge of uncertainty, ultimately examining the birth of a country and national consciousness. —*Donte Tate, Upper School English*

## **The Impeachment of Abraham Lincoln**, by Stephen L. Carter.

In this masterful work of gripping historical fiction, Lincoln has survived Booth's bullet and is being impeached by Congress. An unlikely black female clerk working for the president's lawyer finds herself in the center of a murder plot that leads her through the elite homes and shady slums of 1860s Washington. —*Mike Fishback, Intermediate School humanities*

## **The Cornish Trilogy (*The Rebel Angels*, *What's Bred in the Bone*, *The Lyre of Orpheus*)**, by Robertson Davies.

These are tales of misfits, monks, college professors, art forgers, Roma, and the Nazi theft of great works of art. I reread these books by Davies, a Canadian, every few years to marvel at the intricate plots and the beauty of the narrative and to simply visit the lives of these characters again and again. —*Stuart Cone, fourth grade*

## **Skinny Legs and All**, by Tom Robbins.

This novel weaves together the seemingly disparate stories of a couple traveling cross country in a motor home shaped like a turkey leg; an Arab and a Jew who together own a Middle Eastern restaurant across the street from the United Nations; and a group of inanimate objects—a spoon, a painted stick, a can of beans, a conch shell, and a dirty sock—making its way to the Holy Land before the end of the world. Also: **Cat's Cradle**, by Kurt Vonnegut. The hilarious, thought-provoking tale of an author who tries to write about what the creators of the atomic bomb were doing on the day it was dropped on Hiroshima.

—*Michael Bergman, Upper School theater*

## **Let the Great World Spin**, by Colum McCann.

Philippe Petit's 1974 tightrope walk between the Twin Towers serves as the richly detailed historical frame for warm yet heart-wrenching portraits of characters that intertwine in the most unexpected ways. McCann's cast features an unforgettably shabby and impoverished liberation theology-inspired Catholic priest, a mother-daughter team of prostitutes from the Bronx, a bored Park Avenue socialite heartbroken by a recent loss, and a Guatemalan immigrant. —*Dr. Troy J. Prinkey, Upper School Spanish*



**Annabelle Redway**  
Dunn '85, Lower  
School reading  
specialist



Donte Tate, Upper  
School English teacher

**The Mouse and the Motorcycle,** by **Beverly Cleary**. Bring this one to the beach to read with your kids; it's a classic, and one of my favorite chapter books to read to my kindergartners. Ralph, an adventurous young mouse who lives in a hotel, befriends a boy named Keith and has grand adventures on Keith's toy motorcycle. —**Meredith Murphy Craven '02, kindergarten**

**Master and Commander,** by **Patrick O'Brian**. Read any of the 21 books in O'Brian's Aubrey/Maturin series (*Post Captain*, *H.M.S. Surprise*, et al.); they all revolve around the 18<sup>th</sup>- and early 19<sup>th</sup>-century maritime adventures of Jack Aubrey, a Royal Navy officer, and Stephen Maturin, a surgeon, natural philosopher, political activist, and covert operative. The historical, nautical, and linguistic details are painstakingly accurate, and the personal and professional intrigues make for engaging reading on warm summer evenings, preferably somewhere near the water. —**David Barndollar, Upper School English**

**The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay,** by **Michael Chabon**. Beginning in 1930s New York, this 2001 Pulitzer Prize winner follows the rise and fall of cousins Joe Kavalier and Sam Clay in the comic book industry and in their family lives. —**Jennifer Clarkson, Upper School math**

**Maurice,** by **E. M. Forster**. I recommend anything by Forster, as his harsh criticism of the suffocating social constructs of Edwardian England inspires us all to discover and become that person within that we are truly called to be. *A Room With a View* is the classic, but *Maurice* is the one that I will always carry in my heart. It makes me incredibly angry and happy at the same time. —**Alex Thomas, Upper School academic dean**



**Rules of Civility**, by Amor Towles.

A transporting novel set in late 1930s Manhattan and characterized by smart dialogue, memorable characters, and mesmerizing period details; Fitzgerald and James are apt comparisons, but Towles has his own strong voice, expressed in gorgeous sentences.

—Cindy Swope, Upper School art

**Wonder**, by R. J. Palacio. In this novel for young readers, a boy with a facial deformity goes to school for the first time. The book takes on the perspectives of adults and children alike as it depicts one boy's unique and inspiring journey.

—Annabelle Redway Dunn '85, Lower School reading specialist

**The Count of Monte Cristo**, by

Alexandre Dumas. This is one of my favorites: the story of a man wrongfully imprisoned and his search for justice and revenge. —Michele Maxson, Middle School Spanish

**Go Tell It on the Mountain**, by James

Baldwin. In high school I went through a Maya Angelou phase and a Toni Morrison phase, but something about James Baldwin made the words, lyrics, and spirit of the black church I was raised

in come alive. Every time that you feel an author understands the language of your mind you must lean in. His own frustrations with identity, parental expectations, urban versus rural tensions, and spiritual maturation cry out for audiences who enjoy American literature, the discoveries of autobiographical novels, and the critique of our cultural landscape. Also: **Olive Kitteridge**, by Elizabeth Strout. These short stories weave together a wonderful construct of space and community. Who are we when we live together and strive to combat the routines of real-life struggles? Olive guides us through the challenges of her family and neighborhood over the course of a lifetime. You have already met this woman—flawed, honest, and overwhelmingly charming. Her humor and grit are worth getting to know; walk a spell with her. —Dawn Jefferson, Upper School dean of studies

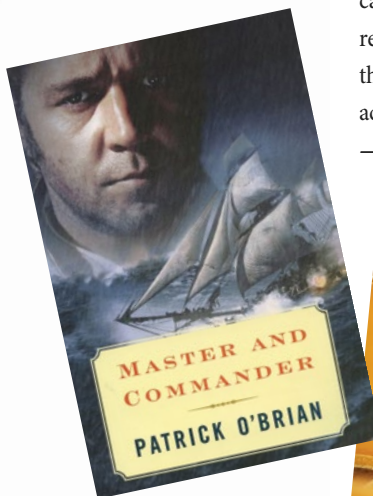
**Americanah**, by Chimamanda Ngozi

Adichie. Follow Ifem's journey from her childhood in Nigeria to the United States for college and her funny and scary trials and tribulations of acculturation. Eventually, her heart calls her back home and to some life-changing decisions. I also loved Adichie's short story collection *The Thing Around Your Neck*. Also: **The God of Small Things**, by Arundhati Roy. A heart-wrenching story of twins in India, separated as children after their actions cause their family to fracture. Eventually reunited as adults, the twins have spent their lives learning that even the smallest act can change everything forever.

—Julie Wong, Upper School math



Alex Thomas,  
Upper School  
academic dean



# Nonfiction

Sharyn Stein,  
Intermediate  
School math  
teacher

**Girls Like Us**, by Sheila Weller. This fun book chronicles the intertwining lives, loves, and music of Carole King, Joni Mitchell, and Carly Simon. For me, as someone who discovered their music and poetry early on and remains hooked, it seemed like reading about old friends in front of a cozy fire. —*Sharyn Stein, Intermediate School math*

**The Fabric of the Cosmos**, by Brian Greene. A physicist and science popularizer, Greene uses clear and humorous analogies to explain space, time, and the wonders of quantum mechanics and general relativity. It's a great introduction to the ideas of 21<sup>st</sup>-century physics. —*Doug Cobb, Upper School science*

**Killing Kennedy**, by Bill O'Reilly and Martin Dugard. A compelling book that gives deep insight into JFK, the events leading up to his assassination, and the turmoil following his death. —*Jerry Kountz, head of the Intermediate School*

**In The Shadow of Man**, by Jane Goodall. This timeless book tells of Goodall's life among the chimpanzees. She describes the many parallels between chimpanzee and human relationships, with many discoveries about the amazing world of chimps. Also: **Merle's Door**, by Ted Kerasote. The author discovers a young dog while hiking in the Utah desert and writes of their bond and life's journey together. —*Cathie Davis Kaplan '73, Lower School science*

**The Age of Insight**, by Eric R. Kandel. A Nobel Prize winner, Kandel combines his insights as a neuroscientist with an analysis of intellectual culture in early 19<sup>th</sup>-century Vienna to show how authors, physicians, and artists from this period permanently changed how we understand both art and the human mind. He contends that their discoveries





about the influence of the unconscious have altered the course of all future inquiry into how we think, feel, and perceive the world. Also: **The Mindful Brain**, by **Daniel Siegel**. A scientist and educator, Siegel explores the connections between the practice of mindfulness meditation, frontal lobe development, and psychological adaptability. Siegel hypothesizes that the traditional three “R’s” of reading, writing, and arithmetic will be joined by the “R” of reflection. —**Bill Cook, assistant head of school**

**Quiet**, by **Susan Cain**. An excellent study of introverts and their integral yet underappreciated and poorly understood value to our society. This is a must-read for anyone involved in education but also relevant to those in business and more. —**John Mathews, head of the Middle School**

**Holidays on Ice** and **Me Talk Pretty One Day**, by **David Sedaris**. These are simply hysterical, and spooky, as I repeatedly found elements of myself and my family peeking out at me from the pages. —**Alex Thomas, Upper School academic dean**

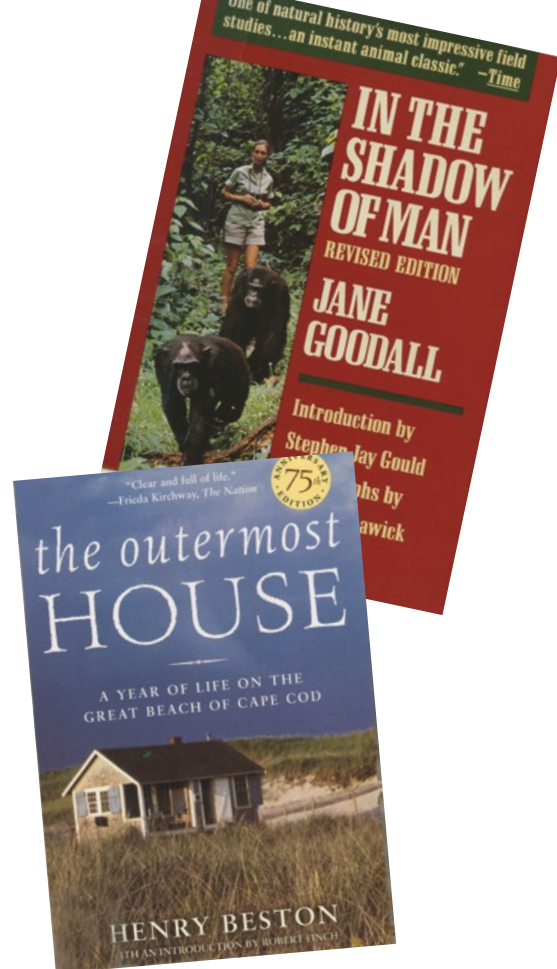
**The Practice of the Wild**, by **Gary Snyder**. A poet, columnist, and naturalist, Snyder has spent a life considering our role in nature. In this challenging collection of essays, he takes us out of ourselves and onto deeply meditative walks through geography, mythology and literature. His methods are indirect; his effects are profound: “With no surroundings there can be no path, and with no path one cannot become free.” Also: **The Outermost House**, by **Henry Beston**. In the 1920s, Beston spent parts of two years alone in a tiny wooden house on the Outer Beach of Cape Cod. From this sojourn he crafted a classic of American nature writing. —**Cort Morgan, art department chair**

**Teach Your Children Well**, by **Madeline Levine**. Levine’s research offers no-nonsense advice to parents and educators on “taking the long view” when supporting children’s growth and emphasizing the importance of values, independence, resourcefulness, and empathy. —**Nancy Powell, head of the Lower School**

**I Must Resist**, edited by **Michael G. Long**. Long traces the life of the courageous and openly gay Civil Rights organizer Bayard Rustin through his letters. The book explores his decision to resist the draft, his relationship with Martin Luther King Jr., and his pivotal work on the March on Washington. —**Dan Falcone, Upper School history**

**The Hidden Connections**, by **Fritjof Capra**. The best-selling Capra builds a framework for applying complexity theory to the broad sphere of all human interactions. Also: **Earth in Mind: On Education, Environment, and the Human Prospect**, by **David W. Orr**. A prominent environmental educator, Orr considers the challenges faced by education as they relate to the environment. —**Bern Hoffman ’86, environmental sustainability coordinator**

**The Pilgrimage**, by **Paulo Coelho**. A Brazilian novelist, Coelho writes of the personal transformation that results from his journey across Spain along the legendary road of Santiago de Compostela (The Way of St. James). “When you travel, you experience, in a very practical way, the act of rebirth,” his guide and mentor says. “You confront completely new situations, the day passes more slowly, and on most journeys you don’t even understand the language the people speak. So you are like a child just out of the womb.” —**Diana Page, Middle School Spanish**



**Raising Cain: Protecting the Emotional Life of Boys**, by **Dan Kindlon** and **Michael Thompson**. In this essential guidebook for parents and educators, expert child psychologists provide comprehensive research that gives insight into the often painful truths that boys face during their formative years. Included are applicable strategies that support the social and emotional well-being of adolescents overall. —**Camille Agcaoili, fifth grade**

**Manhunt**, by **James L. Swanson**. This true story of the hunt for John Wilkes Booth reads like a suspense-filled mystery. Set in and around DC, it offers an interesting view of life in Washington in the mid-1800s. Also: **Making the Mummies Dance**, by **Thomas Hoving**. A former director of New York’s Metropolitan Museum, Hoving gives us a fascinating inside look at the transformation of the Met in the 1960s and 1970s as it becomes a world-class museum. —**Ida Cook, Upper School art** ♦



# news on campus



Jerry Kountz, head of the Intermediate School, leads an assembly in the new Commons.



## STUDENT LIFE

# Intermediate School Gets New Home

Life in the Intermediate School changed virtually overnight. One day in November, after months of noise and workers in hard hats, students arrived to find a building nothing like their old school. Every classroom had been refurbished and spruced up. There were six new classrooms, new main offices, and three new breakout spaces for small group meetings and tutorials. Teachers surprised their classes and moved lessons to one of two new outdoor learning spaces, including an amphitheater near the giant American elm in Pingree Garden.

Best of all, the kids found that for the first time, they had a place to call their own—the two-story Commons at the building's entrance. Kids now gather there as the sun

streams in from the floor-to-ceiling curtain-glass walls. Classes meet there, tapping the intimate feel created by exposed-wood walls and ceiling beams. And the whole division—220 students and teachers—comes together there for assemblies.

Such a transformation in student life was what Potomac planners hoped for nearly 10 years ago, when an expanded Intermediate School was included in a new campus master plan. At a dedication ceremony in January, the community gathered to celebrate the beautiful addition to campus, along with the opening of the Flag Circle Building in 2012. “We already feel right at home,” said Jerry Kountz, head of the Intermediate School.



## Room to Grow...

In the past eight years, Potomac has completed six major capital projects.

- 2013** Intermediate School
- 2012** Additional tennis courts
- 2012** Flag Circle Building ▲
- 2010** Turf Field
- 2009** New Lower School
- 2006** New Upper School

## SPEAKERS

## Alumni Visits Inspire Students

Rising social-media star **Clara Beyer '10** spoke with Upper School students in January about feminism and the creation of her popular Twitter account,

Feminist Taylor Swift. On campus as part of Potomac's Distinguished Speakers Series, she encouraged students to think critically about gender norms. “I’m not telling you to reject gender norms,” Clara said. “It’s more about being comfortable ignoring them and doing what makes you happy.”

In her tweets, Clara, who identifies herself as a feminist and fan of singer Taylor Swift, combines tongue-in-cheek writing with Swift’s lyrics to spark conversation and educate readers about feminism. The account has attracted more than 105,000 followers on Twitter and propelled the Brown University senior into the limelight.

In an October talk to the Upper School, international jewelry designer **Monique Péan '99** spoke movingly of how she gave up a Wall Street career and followed her passion to make jewelry following the death of her sister, Vanessa '07, in a 2005 car crash. At the time of the accident, Monique was a broker with Goldman Sachs. “It changed

everything for me,” she told students. “I decided I had to make a difference.”

Nearly eight years later, Monique has several lines of



Monique Péan '99

jewelry that sell throughout the United States and in Japan, China, Saudi Arabia, and Canada. A pioneer in sustainable luxury jewelry, she uses only eco-friendly materials such as 18-carat recycled gold and platinum, repurposed diamond slices, and fossilized woolly mammoth and walrus ivory. Her company helps to fund wells for clean drinking water in Haiti, Ethiopia, Nepal, and other developing countries. “Buying an engagement ring can pay for

20 people to have clean water for 20 years,” she said.

Meanwhile, math teacher Sharyn Stein has begun an alumni speaker series in the Intermediate School. The first guest, **Dr. Noëlle Sherber '97**, encouraged students to strive for great things and “think higher.” Noëlle, a dermatologist, reflected on how her Potomac classes helped shape her interests and talents today: “Things that seem ‘different’ about you now are what may make you exceptional in the future.”

## PERFORMING ARTS

## Love, Swordplay, and

*Shakespeare*

**T**his fall, Upper School students put on a rousing performance of “Twelfth Night,” one of the Bard’s most outrageous comedies, a tale of mistaken identity, romance, and jealousy. Viola, a shipwreck survivor, comes ashore on the ancient land of Illyria and, disguising herself as a man, enters the service—and love life—of Duke Orsino.

Theater teacher Michael Bergman opted for a dark, character-focused version of the work in 2000 but scripted it as a straight comedy this year—a choice that the cast and crew loved. Here they talk about the play and their characters:

**Aylar Banafshe** on her character, Sir Andrew Aguecheek: “I think he’s cute. He tries really hard to know what’s going on, to be the knight in shining armor and impress the ladies. But in reality, he doesn’t have much experience with women.”

**Billy Hicks**, Malvolio, on his favorite part of the show: “At one point, I wear really bright yellow stockings as part of my way of showing my love for the Countess Olivia.”



**Tabitha Huff '15** took on the role of the boisterous Sir Toby Belch in the Upper School’s “Twelfth Night”—a fun character to “play around with,” she says.

**Mickey Haregot**, who plays Valentine, the officer, and the priest: “It is interesting to take on separate roles and separate identities. Valentine’s nervous about his master, the officer’s very rigid, and the priest is always gesticulating. I like the priest the most at the moment; gesticulating is showy and fun.”

**Tabitha Huff**, on her character, Sir Toby Belch: “Sir Toby is very boister-

ous, and that’s very different from a lot of characters I’ve played before, which makes it a challenge to play him. He’s also a fun character to play around with because he’s so comic.”

**Rosemary Ewing**, Countess Olivia, on the cast: “The cast defines how any play is going to feel. You can definitely see it onstage if the cast works well together. I think this cast is really interwoven, even though we’re all such different people coming from different places. It makes for a really unique experience.”

**Brooke Delaney**, Viola, on producing a Shakespeare classic: “With all of Shakespeare’s plays, there are so many different ways to put on the production. The interpretation can be very open-ended; you can change the time period, the setting. I like how we’re focusing on the winter aspect of the play, which a lot of ‘Twelfth Night’ productions overlook.”

**Kyla McLaughlin**, on her character, Sebastian: “I play a man, and that’s a very different challenge for me. It’s been interesting, because I’ve been learning how to walk and talk like a guy.”



**Thor Schooner '14** (right, with Mickey Haregot '16), who learned the art of stage combat in New York, choreographed a sword fight for the show.



**Elizabeth deButts**, on her character, Antonio: "Learning to walk like a guy is really hard, but it's also fun. Girls tend to walk with their feet facing in more. Men carry more weight in their shoulders, while women have it in their hips."

**Nell Dy Tang**, Feste the Fool: "The Fool is a really fun character. He's always happy, and I've never really played a character who's always happy."

**Thor Schooner**, Orsino: "My favorite thing in the show is the stage

combat. I took a class in New York a couple years ago where they taught us how to do stage fights with foils, broadswords, and bow staffs. There was all kinds of crazy stuff. There's a specific method that you use to choreograph a sword fight, the same way you use a method to choreograph a dance."

**Maggie Ewing**, stage manager, on the cast: "We have a whole slew of inside jokes. In the pocket of the master script, there's a sheet of paper where I write

down every one of them. That's one of the jobs as stage manager."

**Rachel Griswold**, Maria: "My favorite thing about theater is the atmosphere. It's totally different from sports. You're not working together to beat someone else; you're working together to put on the best show you can possibly make. And you're all trying to lift each other up to make sure everyone does the best job they can possibly do. There's something very special about it."

## NEW FACULTY

# Patricia's Big Switch

**P**atricia Edelmann had a dream career in business. She was a corporate finance executive at an exciting Bethesda startup, and her resume featured stints at such brand-name companies as Ernst & Young and Capital One. Yet she felt something was missing, and that feeling grew until one day, while volunteering at the Renaissance Festival in her daughter's fifth grade class in a Fairfax school, she couldn't ignore it any longer. Seeing the beautiful costumes, the kids' smiles, and the joy of the classroom, it hit her: This is where I want to be.

"I literally went to the owner of my business that very day and said, 'I want to move on,'" she remembers.

This fall, three years later, Patricia arrived at The Potomac School to teach third grade and immediately impressed the Lower School's veterans with her intelligence and energy. "I'm blown away by her every day," says Nancy Powell, the division head.

"Career switchers" such as Patricia are not uncommon in the high school classroom. In Washington, lawyers often discover a new passion teaching government or history. But the elementary grades typically draw fewer people from outside education, in part because teaching young children requires special skills.

Patricia's journey to the classroom began almost immediately after her exit from the business world. To get a taste of teaching, she signed on as a substitute in the Fairfax County public schools. In her first long-term assignment, she worked one-on-one with a highly autistic girl at a Vienna elementary school. The work was

hard and emotional—Patricia almost never left her side, taking her to activities and walking her through every lesson—but within a few weeks, the girl had grown increasingly confident and self-sufficient. Through her, Patricia could see the impact she could make as a teacher.

In January 2012, she entered George Mason University's master's program in elementary education, where she dug deeply into instructional methods and creating a classroom environment to foster children's growth. After student teaching and earning her degree, Patricia came to Potomac one day to drop off a resume for an advertised position in the fourth grade. In a fluke, she was confused as a candidate scheduled for an interview with Nancy Powell for a third grade job. Nancy met Patricia in the lobby as a courtesy, but was so impressed that she invited her to interview. Here, Nancy thought, is a sharp, dynamic person with a deep passion for kids, plus three years' experience in the Fairfax schools.

When Patricia returned later to teach a practice lesson, Nancy and the other staff knew the fit was right. "She was so magnetic," Nancy says. "I knew right away that kids would connect to her."

Last summer, before opening her class at Potomac, Patricia attended training in New York and Chicago to learn the principles of the Lower School's math and reading programs. Now, she's crafting lessons to support those principles, and feeling right at home.

"This is something I've always wanted to do," she says. "I'm just glad I had the courage to make the break."



Patricia Edelmann: at home in 3rd grade.

## ACADEMICS

## Of Cancer and Fungi: Science Program Comes of Age

**D**aisy died of cancer when Ashley Rodriguez '15 was a freshman at Potomac. The Rodriguez family's golden retriever, Daisy had been Ashley's companion for almost a decade, and the loss was devastating.

Soon after, Ashley was accepted into Potomac's Science and Engineering Research Center (SERC) program, in which Upper School students conduct independent research for two years. Ashley immediately knew what she would study: canine hemangiosarcoma, the cancer that killed

expenses. "I don't get post-doc applicants as astute as she is."

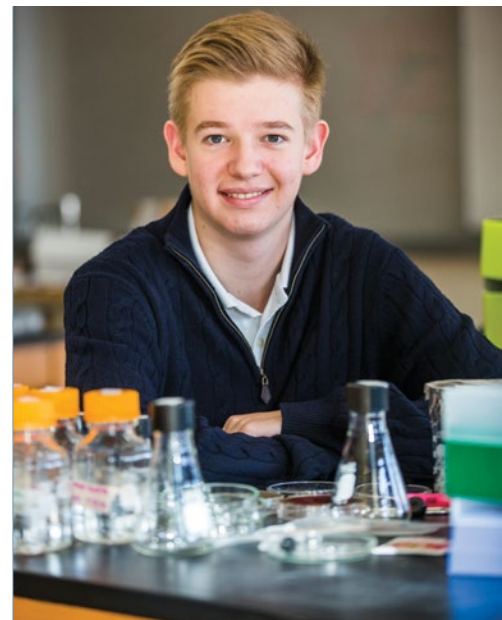
Ashley's success is one of many recent SERC triumphs. This winter, SERC member Caden Petersmeyer, a senior, was one of five Washington-area high school students invited to present his research at the regional Junior Science and Humanities Symposium—the first Potomac student to reach this level of the prestigious competition. Sophomore Madeline Dubelier, who's exploring ways to give robotic and prosthetic hands a sense of touch, was the youngest of three high

at Berkeley.

SERC is one of three application-only advanced programs in the Upper School, along with the Visual and Performing Arts Concentration and the Global Perspectives and Citizenship Program. It was created to give students a chance to do long-term independent research, work in a professional lab, and stretch their minds. "It's for students who want to take on some open questions and do more than just coursework," says Doug Cobb, chair of the Upper School science department.

After taking biology as freshmen, students enter SERC as sophomores, taking two courses—one in accelerated physics and chemistry, and another to develop the proposal for their research. They also secure a mentor—an expert in their topic of study who will assist their research and provide equipment, materials, or lab space.

By the end of his sophomore year, Caden Petersmeyer had designed a project with real-world impact. While the plastic found in bottles can be recycled, polyester polyurethane used in floor varnishes, paint, and glue wears away over time in small quantities, making it nearly impossible to separate out and recycle. Caden contacted a few researchers who are identifying plant fungi that will consume plastic as their sole source of fuel. He decided to test various fungi to determine which might degrade



**Caden Petersmeyer '14**

polyurethane and be part of a cleanup solution.

First, Caden gathered stems and leaves from plants on campus and in the Potomac greenhouse. From these, he cultivated and isolated more than 50 types of fungi, then tested them to determine which might grow on an agar mixed with polyurethane.

Ultimately, Caden discovered two fungi never before documented as capable of surviving solely on plastic. "Caden's findings are novel and exciting," says Kaury Kucera, his mentor in the Yale lab of Professor Scott Strobel, which provided guidance and the plastic for his experiments. "He did some absolutely wonderful, beautiful science."

For Caden, the research offered a personal eureka moment. Though history is his favorite academic subject, he will



**Ashley Rodriguez '15 works with teacher Isabelle Cohen.**

Daisy. By the close of her first year in SERC, she had put together a research proposal that impressed Jaime Modiano, head of a top veterinary lab at the University of Minnesota.

"She was asking all these questions that we had missed," Modiano says. Last summer, the scholar invited her to do her research in his lab and arranged a grant to pay her

schoolers nationwide to win research funding from MIT's Think Scholars program. Meanwhile, the roster of scholars working as SERC mentors has grown to include experts at such institutions as Yale, Johns Hopkins, and the National Institutes of Health as well as alumni such as Alexander Brandt '08, a graduate student at the University of California



take science courses and return to the lab when he enrolls at Harvard next fall. "If I hadn't done this project, I wouldn't have ever considered doing anything science- or math-related in college," he says.

Ashley's work with Modiano's lab, meanwhile, is paying off in many ways. She spent a month at the university, and the professor gave her lab space and access to sophisticated equipment. By the end, she had identified an increase within the cancer cells of two proteins that may contribute to the disease. "I loved the hands-on research and getting results," she says.

"You can tell she's been in a professional laboratory," says biology teacher Isabelle Cohen, her advisor. "There's a maturity to her now that comes from having done research with adults in a professional setting."

Ashley's research continues, as she explores whether a drug used for human cancer might have applications with dogs. "It's the beginning of something very cool, and very big," Modiano says.

## CRASH!

Go to [www.potomac-school.org/academics/SERC](http://www.potomac-school.org/academics/SERC) or scan this QR code to see a video of Upper School students in an engineering class load-test bridges built from spaghetti and epoxy.



## NEWS ROUNDUP

# Robotics Triumph, Alumni Visits Highlight Fall and Winter

The GoBots, the sixth grade robotics team, advanced to the state finals of the First Lego League. Team members were: **Kelly Dewberry, Michael Djorup, Hope Donovan, Jun-Young Hong, Ethan Lee, Harper Malesardi, Harry Malesardi, and Kat Plaza**....Nineteen seniors earned National Merit honors, including five selected as semifinalists: **Lauren Abraham, Sarah Chiang, Grant Hoechst, Susan Sidamon-Eristoff, and Eleanor Toff**....Student musicians performed with the

Washington Conservatory of Music, the Northern Virginia Senior Regional Orchestra, the American Youth String Ensemble, and the American Youth Philharmonic....Juniors **Enrique Aliaga, Marissa Colon, Clara Malley, Amir Rachmat-Jones, Nicole Roman, and Gabrielle Smith** joined high schoolers from around the country at the 26<sup>th</sup> People of Color Conference to discuss how students can spearhead diversity efforts on campus. Fifth grade teacher **Camille Agcaoili** helped lead a conference workshop discussing how classroom teachers can implement diversity initiatives....Performing before a packed Engelhard auditorium, 118 Upper School musicians and singers delivered a rousing Fall Concert that featured music ranging from Mozart and Coltrane to Jay Z....Authors and performing artists visiting campus to work with Lower and Middle School students included: folk and dance masters **Peter and Mary Alice Amidon; Tom Angleberger** (*Origami Yoda* series); **Audrey Penn** (*The Kissing Hand*); and **Tom Watson** (*Stick Dog* series)....Following in the tradition of the Upper School's community service day, eighth graders for the first time devoted a day to working at Martha's Table, the Fairfax Ronald McDonald House, the Lisner-Louise-Dickson-Hurt nursing home, and other area nonprofits....More than 400 people from the community turned out to volunteer for Fall Frolics....Sophomores in the Global Perspectives and Citizenship program (GPAC), directed by history teacher **Cara Lavanway**, discussed international issues and participated in Model UN-style simulations during Georgetown University's Diplomacy and International Security Conference....More than 100 people signed up for the Fathers Association of Potomac School's annual Martin Luther King Day community service event, this year



Upper School string ensemble performs at Fall Concert.



Students waltz the day away at the Lower School's Dance Assembly, a Potomac favorite.

working at Coolidge High School in Washington....Professional harpist **Colleen Potter Thorburn** performed for the Middle School and discussed the instrument's evolution through the ages. Among her selections: "Greensleeves," Bach and Mozart concertos, and the theme from the Harry Potter movies.

# athletics highlights

## CROSS COUNTRY

### Hale Ross '14 and the Family Tradition: Winning



**A** Potomac dynasty added to its lustrous history this fall. Hale Ross '14, the youngest of three brothers to earn glory as Panther runners, dominated the state championship cross country race, blazing over the course at Woodberry Forest in 16:40, nearly half a minute ahead of the runner-up in the field of more than 200.

The wind that November day carried echoes of the past. Campbell Ross '11 and Johns Ross '08 had won many races over the years with Hale cheering them on. Seven years earlier, Johns as a senior had claimed a state cross country title on the very same Woodberry course. But on this day, the two older Ross boys were gathered at the finish line to congratulate their baby brother.

Clearly, running is stitched into the DNA of the Ross family. The boys' mother, Susan, has been running for more than 35 years. She started the first women's cross country team at Rockville's Wootton High School and continues to run competitively, recently racing in the masters division of Foot Locker's regional cross country championships.

Susan encouraged Johns to try cross country when he entered Potomac in seventh grade. Johns was a good all-around athlete who played lacrosse and soccer,

**Hale Ross '14 (right, with Kyle Sanok '16) committed to running as a junior. His determination paid off this fall when he won the state cross country title.**





Hale's older brothers, Campbell '11 (front left) and Johns '08 (bib number 639), helped Potomac win the MAC title in 2007. Both earned All Met honors.

but by ninth grade, he had given up other sports to commit fully to running. By his junior year, he was the top runner in Virginia's independent schools; in his last two years at Potomac, he won five state titles in cross country and the 3200-meter event indoors and outdoors. He went on to run for two years at Duke.

Campbell enjoyed success even earlier, earning All Met and All State honors in cross country as a freshman and sophomore. Johns was a senior when Campbell entered the Upper School in 2007, and the two helped anchor a strong Potomac team that won the MAC cross country title that fall and the track title in 2008. In the 3200-meter in the conference track championship meet, Johns paced his teammates throughout the race, pushing them to faster times, then let his brother pass him to finish first.

Even as Campbell established himself as a runner, he felt the pull of football, a sport his father, Jack, played in high school. As a junior, he gave up cross coun-

try to put on the helmet and pads, playing wide receiver on two state tournament teams. "Even though I was best at cross country, I'm glad I had to chance to play football," Campbell says.

Unlike his brothers, Hale came to cross country late in his high school career. During his first two years of high school, he played football during the fall and ran track as a side-light in the spring. He ran a 4:56.55 mile as a freshman—over a full minute faster than his goal for the season—yet he still stuck with football in the fall.

"Hale was a reluctant runner," Potomac cross country and track coach Jason Dwyer remembers. "It was clear he had the talent, because I knew Johns and coached Campbell, but I didn't want to pressure him and scare him away from joining cross country."

Things changed after his sophomore year. Hale was beaten badly in the track conference meet, and it was clear he had

to devote himself to running to reach his potential. Hale decided to join cross country in the fall and dedicated himself to summer training under the guidance of cross country coach Alex Eversmeyer.

This new commitment had an impact almost immediately: Hale earned All Met and All State honors in cross country as a junior that fall and by spring his times in track were among the best in the Washington area. Still, he found himself flagging at the end of some races, and stumbled badly in the state indoor track championships. "I literally collapsed on one of the final laps," he says.

This past summer, Alex focused Hale's workouts on increasing his mileage and stamina. He logged roughly 50 miles per week doing long runs, fartlek training (continuous running with interval sprints), and hill workouts in Washington's Battery Kemble Park.

The workload, plus his determination, paid off in a remarkable fall cross country season. Hale won the Landon Invitational by nearly 45 seconds and finished third among the more than 300 runners in the prestigious Octoberfest regional. He seemed to grow stronger as races wore on; in the MAC championship meet, he pulled away and won by more than 20 seconds.

"He has an unusual ability to push himself farther than most runners I have encountered," Jason says. "He is still delirious 45 minutes after finishing a lot of races. It is a little unsettling."

The crowning achievement of the season was his state title. But the final chapter in the family's legend has yet to be written; Hale will likely contend for MAC and state titles in spring track, and next fall he heads to Yale, where he plans to walk on to the cross country and track teams.

For now, Hale can relish his state title race at Woodberry and the sight of his brothers cheering him on. "It was a really sweet moment to have both of my brothers there to watch me win the state championship," he says. "It was fun to have it all come full circle."

## FALL HIGHLIGHTS

# Panther Teams Make History

**F**ield hockey had a breakthrough year, finishing second in the ISL at 11-4-2—its best record since 1991. The girls made it to the quarter-finals of the ISL playoffs and won or tied 10 straight games during the regular season....The **football** team advanced to the state finals for the third time in four years, losing a 50-44 thriller to undefeated Bishop Sullivan (Virginia Beach) Catholic High School. In a September game against Sidwell Friends, senior Jalen Broome—one of the top running backs in the Washington area—set school records with 368 yards rushing and five touchdowns.... The **golf** team, a coed squad, went 13-2, its best record in Potomac history.



Clockwise from top left:  
Nathan Marcotte '14,  
Noelle Giuliano '17,  
and Jack Peele '17







Clockwise from top: Jalen Broome '14, Tiffany Luehrs '14, and Olivia Wilson '17

## POST-SEASON Awards

### All League

Rachel Granovsky, Hale Ross (cross country); Clare Kehoe, Hannah Repke, Abby Smalley (field hockey); Jalen Broome, Forrest Crane, Josh Hansan, Kevin Havermann, Chris Martin, Naim Rutledge, JP Young (football); Tommy Hansan, Tyler Manderfield (boys soccer); Emily Perkinson (girls soccer); Tammy Vo (tennis)

### All State

Rachel Granovsky, Hale Ross (first team, cross country), Gianmarco Terrones (second team); Jalen Broome, Forrest Crane, Josh Hansan, Chris Martin, Naim Rutledge, JP Young (first team, football), Drake Becka, Kevin Havermann, Hunter Heflin (second team), Brooks Arundel, Andrew Lent, James Matthews, Ben Rietano, Michael Thompson, Josh Walker (honorable mention); Grace Meisel, Tammy Vo (second team, tennis)

### All Met

Hale Ross (honorable mention, cross country); Hannah Repke (honorable mention, field hockey); Jalen Broome (second team, football)

# alumni activities

## The Delights of Winter Lights for Young Alumni

**W**hat better way to spend the beginning of your college winter break than reconnecting with your Potomac classmates and beloved teachers? In December, young alumni joined the Alumni Office for lunch in the Leonsis Dining Commons, then attended the traditional Winter Lights Assembly. Thanks to the host committee: Colton Haney '13, Marie Henneburg '11, Andrew Jones '10, Katie Rosenberg '11, Margo Thronson '10, and Eliza Warner '12.



Above: Quintessence, the a cappella group of (from left) Eleanor Tolf, Gabrielle Cecchi, Kate O'Brien, Claudia Swope, and Tricia Yeonas, sings Billboard favorites.



Left: The Upper School Jazz Ensemble plays seasonal favorites.





# Welcome Back

Potomac celebrated Homecoming the week after Fall Frolics with the traditional bonfire and exciting football, field hockey, and soccer games. At Saturday's football game, a great group of alumni came back to campus to cheer on the team, which was en route to a spot in the Virginia championship game for the third time in four years.

Before the game, alumni who are parents of current students gathered for a barbecue bash at the home of Enrico '85 and Andrea Cecchi. We look forward to making this an annual event. Thanks to the host committee of Keith Ausbrook '73 (Mary Kate '18, Charlie '16, Max '13, Rebekah '12), Enrico Cecchi '85 (Giuseppe '22, Enrico '20, Gabrielle '16), Prentiss Lay '85 (Andrew '23, Caroline '20), Jamie Stump '91 (Josephine '24), and Ally Bloom '92 (Alden '26, Ben '23, Teddy '22).



Above: Patrick Malone '97 and his wife, Cindy, with son Ronan



(From left) Bryan Bennett '01, Win Huffman '01, Annie Harris Kettler '05, and Taylor Kettler '01 enjoy catching up at Homecoming.



## Alumni Basketball Event Makes Its Debut

**D**ozens of alumni and past parents returned to campus for a late January basketball doubleheader, then went to downtown Washington for a get-together dubbed the 5th Quarter.

Both varsity teams recorded big wins; the girls sailed to a comfortable 54-31 triumph over Sandy Spring Friends School, and the boys beat St. Andrew's 50-48 on a late basket and some thrilling last-second defense.

The Alumni Office promoted the games as a chance for everyone to come back to Potomac and rekindle their Panther spirit, and we hope the event is the first of many to come.



The Alumni Office hopes to make the winter basketball doubleheader an annual alumni event.



Boys athletic director Rob Lee '78 greets alums.



## A Beloved Fall Tradition

**A**lumni and their families spent a day filled with food, fun, and games at October's Fall Frolics. People gathered on the Tundra for games and activities, and the Alumni Governing Council sponsored a hospitality tent that was a big gathering spot.





# New York, New York

Over two days in January, Potomac alumni in New York City turned out to meet John Kowalik, Potomac's new Head of School, and connect with one another.

On January 23, more than 70 alumni and current and past faculty gathered at Manhattan's Yale Club, talked with John, and shared their Potomac experiences. Thanks to the host committee: Yar Batmanghelidj '10, Blair Boggs '02, Julie Grass '05, Nish Herat '95, Christen Johansen '65, Aaron Kur '07, Eric Rosenthal '03, and Aileen Shea '08. The night before, a group of alumni in the finance and business industry gathered for an evening of networking. Thanks to event chairs Richard Bennett '02 and Eric Rosenthal '03 as well as the host committee—Christina Bennison Bryan '96, Dan Doty '00, and Aaron Kur '07—for making it a fun and productive evening.



Above: Christen Johansen '65 and Head of School John Kowalik. Top: Shyra Cooper Smart '97 (left) and Leah Cooper '02. Center: (from left) Jonathan Eakin '08, Patrick Eakin '02, Jennifer Eakin Wallach '97, and Shauna Burgess Friedman '99. Left: Samantha Kolker '96 and theater teacher Michael Bergman.

# Better Than the Hunger Games?

Thanksgiving is a time to spend with family and friends creating wonderful memories. It is also a time for Potomac alumni to come back to campus for our beloved Fall Alumni Games tradition. The day after Thanksgiving, more than 100 alumni arrived at Potomac for some friendly competition and the chance to work off their turkey and stuffing. It was a sunny, crisp day filled with camaraderie, sweat, laughter, and fun. Alumni from as far back as the early 1970s mixed it up with current parents and students in squash, soccer, and basketball.

That evening, alumni met in Georgetown at the bar George for our annual After-Thanksgiving Alumni Night. The room was filled with Potomac alums excited to see one another and catch up over drinks in an exclusive area reserved for the group. Thanks to Reed Landry '99 for hosting another successful year at George.

We also extend a special thanks to our Fall Games captains—*Squash*: Jake Gross '04, Charlie Lonaus '07, Zander Nassikas '10, and Justin Stilwell '05. *Soccer*: George Barsness '06, Maddie Brennan '10, Philip Saba '13, and Andrew Warin '03. *Boys Basketball*: Brent Locey '04, Peter Prowitt '04, and Tim Prowitt '08. *Girls Basketball*: Nicole Long '06 and Claire Mattox '10.

Finally, the Alumni Office wants to thank the host committee for helping to organize such a great event: Lauren Banks Amos '94, Page Blankingship '72, Trenholm Boggs '99, Emily Duncan '00, Sandy Gentles '94, Win Huffman '01, Azali Kassum '91, Taylor Kelly '02, Annie Kettler '05, Taylor Kettler '02, Paul Kohlenberger '02, Aaron Kur '07, Reed Landry '99, Carl Lettow '85, Nicole Long '06, Ann Renzy Maclean '86, Robert McDowell '78, Jack Overstreet '10, Cate Rooney '08, Eric Rosenthal '03, Jamie Sullivan '96, Andrew Warin '03, Jeremy White '92, Heather Wilson '96, and Jay Zeiler '93.



Top: Tim Makepeace '77 goes for a shot. Above: Alumni enjoyed taking on current students in squash. See more Alumni Games pictures on the Potomac Panther Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/potomacschool](http://www.facebook.com/potomacschool).





Top: Max Urbany '14 (left), Matias Rodlauer '10, and Max Ausbrook '13 on the Turf Field. Above: Ryan Eckert '12 (left) defends Philip Newsome '15.

## ALUMNI EVENT NEWS

### DC Alums Meet New Head of School

The alumni community in the Washington area welcomed our new Head of School, John Kowalik, on a cool night this past October. John shared his thoughts about his first weeks at Potomac and talked with guests about the School's history and culture.

### Christmas Revels Celebrates Song, Dance, and Drama

In early December, Potomac alumni, past faculty, current faculty, students, and parents packed the matinee and evening shows of the Washington Revels, which was performing "Echoes of Thrace: Music, Dance, and Drama of Bulgaria, Greece, and Turkey." New Head of School John Kowalik and his family attended, and the shows featured several Potomac students and alumni. We extend a big thank you to past Potomac parents Greg Lewis, Revels executive director, and Susan Lewis, Revels company manager.

### Alumni in DC Show Students the Wider World

At the end of February, Potomac sophomores spent two days in Washington exploring careers and their passions with a variety of professionals, including many alumni. The wide range of talent in the Potomac community was on display, as the students met with graduates who work in the arts, media, and business. "All the speakers were amazing," says Elliot Kim '16, who met with three alums pursuing business careers in the District: Marty McNerney '03, who has started a pickle business, Baba's Bread and Butter Pickles; Reed Landry '99, who's opening a restaurant in the city; and investment banker Ben Rose '00.

Thanks to all the alumni who graciously gave their time to participate: Elizabeth Cook '03, Caryn Cramer '97, Malcolm Dille '07, Grace Guggenheim '74, Davis Kennedy '52, Reed Landry '99, Robert Mathias '77, Marty McNerney '03, Willie Morrison '06, Ben Rose '00, and Jonathan Wilson '98.



# children of alumni



## Kindergarten (Class of 2026)

**Alden Gerkin** (Allyson Bloom '92 and Daniel Gerkin)  
**Ayden Hodge** (Gillian Kilberg Hodge '97 and Yuctan Hodge)  
**Tyler Langman** (Nicholas Langman '94 and Jennifer Langman)  
**Maria Lerner** (Renee Lettow Lerner '83 and Craig Lerner)  
**Sebi Malawer** (Eric Malawer '92 and Erin Malawer)  
**Gus Tierney** (Andrew Tierney '80 and Laurel Tierney)  
**Brody Wiltshire** (Ashley Gerstenfeld Wiltshire '90 and Ashton Wiltshire)

## 1st Grade (Class of 2025)

**Cormac McDowell** (Robert McDowell '78 and Jennifer McDowell)

## 2nd Grade (Class of 2024)

**Charlie Lettow** (Carl Lettow '85 and Alexandra Lettow)  
**George Stooddy** (Anne Metcalf '79 and John Stooddy)  
**Josephine Stump** (James Stump '91 and Sarah Stump)

## 3rd Grade (Class of 2023)

**Ben Gerkin** (Allyson Bloom '92 and Daniel Gerkin)  
**N.J. Langman** (Nicholas Langman '94 and Jennifer Langman)  
**Andrew Lay** (Mark Lay '76 and Prentiss Vallender Lay '85)  
**Parker Longwell** (Natalie Washburn Hawkins '86 and John Longwell)  
**Miles Malawer** (Eric Malawer '92 and Erin Malawer)  
**LuLu Tierney** (Andrew Tierney '80 and Laurel Tierney)  
**Sage Wolf** (Steven Wolf '69 and Lisa Kelly)

## 4th Grade (Class of 2022)

**Sam Bennett** (Frank Bennett III '73 and Teri Bennett)  
**Giuseppe Cecchi** (Enrico Cecchi '85 and Andrea Cecchi)  
**Natasha Edwards** (Anita Winsor-Edwards '79 and William Edwards Jr.)  
**Teddy Gerkin** (Allyson Bloom '92 and Daniel Gerkin)  
**Harrison Kehler** (Charles Kehler '84 and Margaret Kehler)  
**Jennifer Kitchen** (Erik Kitchen '68 and MaryAnn Kitchen)  
**Robbie Lee** (Robert Lee V '78 and Kelly Lee)  
**Elias Lerner** (Renee Lettow Lerner '83 and Craig Lerner)  
**Madeline Schermerhorn** (Sarah Kilberg Schermerhorn '95 and Scott Schermerhorn)  
**Riley Schermerhorn** (Sarah Kilberg Schermerhorn '95 and Scott Schermerhorn)

## 5th Grade (Class of 2021)

**Caroline Dunn** (Annabelle Redway Dunn '85 and Jackson Dunn)  
**Emily Dunn** (Annabelle Redway Dunn '85 and Jackson Dunn)  
**Will Fearey** (Paul Fearey '78 and Gretchen Fearey)  
**Anabel Kadri** (Sarah McClure '82 and Jamal Kadri)  
**Marisa Kadri** (Sarah McClure '82 and Jamal Kadri)  
**Elisabeth Oskoui** (Ramin Oskoui '78 and Katrina Oskoui)  
**Jackson Schermerhorn** (Sarah Kilberg Schermerhorn '95 and Scott Schermerhorn)  
**Isabel Tierney** (Andrew Tierney '80 and Laurel Tierney)





### 6th Grade (Class of 2020)

**Mikaela Catto** (William Catto '78 and Kristina Catto)  
**Enrico Cecchi** (Enrico Cecchi '85 and Andrea Cecchi)  
**Holly Crowley** (Ayse Uzer Crowley '85 and Kenneth Crowley)  
**Michael Johnson** (Alisa Hyman '00)  
**Caroline Lay** (Mark Lay '76 and Prentiss Vallender Lay '85)  
**Anna Lerner** (Renee Lettow Lerner '83 and Craig Lerner)  
**Mary-Shea McDowell** (Robert McDowell '78 and Jennifer McDowell)  
**Kate Newton** (Virginia Young-Newton '83 and David Newton)  
**Annabel Resor** (James Resor '75 and Catherine Scott)  
**Jack Stoodly** (Anne Metcalf '79 and John Stoodly)

### 7th Grade (Class of 2019)

**Ellen Oskoui** (Ramin Oskoui '78 and Katrina Oskoui)  
**Keeley Schulman** (Andrew Saltonstall '82 and Tamara Saltonstall)  
**Megan Sharkey** (Christine Rosenhauer Sharkey '83 and William Sharkey)  
**Megan Tierney** (Christopher Tierney '79 and Ann Tierney)

### 8th Grade (Class of 2018)

**Mary Kate Ausbrook** (Keith Ausbrook '73 and Kate Ausbrook)  
**Courtlyne Caskin** (Christopher Caskin '77 and Cameron Caskin)  
**Hayden Cherouny** (Merrell Redway Cherouny '82 and Preston Cherouny)  
**Rebecca Crawley** (Anne Sprunt Crawley '69 and Drury Crawley)  
**Lily Longwell** (Natalie Washburn Hawkins '86 and John Longwell)  
**Nicholas McKalip** (Hope Jewett McKalip '81 and Frederick McKalip)  
**TJ Sharkey** (Christine Rosenhauer Sharkey '83 and William Sharkey)  
**Miles Wilson** (Speke Wilson '79 and Julia Wilson)

### 9th Grade (Class of 2017)

**Cece Catto** (William Catto '78 and Kristina Catto)  
**Maggie Ewing** (J.C. Ewing '78 and Ruanne Ewing)  
**Trey Schulman** (Andrew Saltonstall '82 and Tamara Saltonstall)  
**Ted Tierney** (Christopher Tierney '79 and Ann Tierney)

### 10th Grade (Class of 2016)

**Gabrielle Cecchi** (Enrico Cecchi '85 and Andrea Cecchi)  
**Tyler Crowley** (Ayse Uzer Crowley '85 and Kenneth Crowley)  
**Wyatt Lindsey** (Jennifer Lindsey '81 and William Lindsey)  
**Catie Mathias** (Robert Mathias '77 and Sarah Mathias)  
**Konrad McKalip** (Hope Jewett McKalip '81 and Frederick McKalip)  
**Grace Moses** (David Moses '76 and Daphne Barbour)  
**Toby Robinson** (Farida Moreau Robinson '80 and Scott Robinson)

### 11th Grade (Class of 2015)

**Brooks Arundel** (Peter Arundel '75 and Brady Arundel)  
**Christopher Caskin** (Christopher Caskin '77 and Cameron Caskin)  
**Grace Cherouny** (Merrell Redway Cherouny '82 and Preston Cherouny)  
**Kelly O'Gorman** (Scott O'Gorman, Jr. '76 and Melissa O'Gorman)  
**Emma Resor** (James Resor '75 and Catherine Scott)  
**Max Speil** (Jane McAllister '70 and Steven Speil)

### 12th Grade (Class of 2014)

**Nicholas Arundel** (Peter Arundel '75 and Brady Arundel)  
**Liam Catto** (William Catto '78 and Kristina Catto)  
**Rosemary Ewing** (J.C. Ewing '78 and Ruanne Ewing)  
**Adam Moses** (David Moses '76 and Daphne Barbour)  
**Anna Regan** (Nina Howard Regan '78 and William Regan)  
**Sydney Robinson** (Farida Moreau Robinson '80 and Scott Robinson)

# class notes

## Be Connected

Class Notes is the most popular and well-read section of the *Term*. It provides a forum for classmates to share news of their personal and professional lives, ranging from accolades and personal accomplishments to news of births, deaths, and anything else fellow alumni might find interesting.

We want to thank you, the alumni community, for sharing your news and photos with your classmates over the years. This section would not be possible without the leadership of the class correspondents. As you know, class correspondents serve a vital role in helping alumni maintain a lifelong affiliation with Potomac. Throughout the year, they gather class news and photos for the fall and spring issues of the *Term*. So when you get an email calling for news, make it a priority!

Send your notes to your class correspondent, whose contact information is listed at the top of each class column. If no class correspondent is listed, send your class notes directly to [term@potomacschool.org](mailto:term@potomacschool.org) or Alumni Office, 1301 Potomac School Road, McLean, VA 22101.

## Don't See Your Class Year?

If your class year doesn't appear in Class Notes, it means we didn't receive any notes from your year. We really (really) want to hear from you! Send your notes and photos to [term@potomacschool.org](mailto:term@potomacschool.org).

## Be a Connector

**Don't be the class without notes!** If your class does not have a class correspondent and you would like to fill that role, please contact Laura Miller, director of alumni relations, at (703) 749-6356 or [lmiller@potomacschool.org](mailto:lmiller@potomacschool.org).

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### REUNION YEAR 70TH

*Reunion 2014 is May 2 and 3. Sing some of your favorite Potomac songs with the Middle School students at May Day and reconnect with your classmates and friends. Register online at [www.potomacschool.org/alumni](http://www.potomacschool.org/alumni).*

#### Class Correspondent

Judy Gill Davis  
[julietdavis50@gmail.com](mailto:julietdavis50@gmail.com)

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#### Class Correspondents

Jerrie Kohlmeier Bartlett  
[allen.jerrie@gmail.com](mailto:allen.jerrie@gmail.com)

Nancy Hamilton Shepherd  
[nhshepherd31@gmail.com](mailto:nhshepherd31@gmail.com)

**Betsy Silver Alexander** writes, "I'm in the middle of helping plan the 65th Reunion for our Class of 1949 at National Cathedral School, so I'll be back (from California) the first week of May."

**Judy Blair Green** writes from Cincinnati, where she has married an old friend and widower, Tom McDonough. Most of their combined families of eight children, spouses, and grandchildren live in the area. (Judy now has two great-grandchildren!) Reading, puzzles, a book club, and a library discussion group keep her busy. "My other diversion is frequent coffees and lunches with women friends to discuss both personal and political matters. Health issues have curtailed the many volunteer activities I've enjoyed over the years; my only political activity is writing checks." Her children include daughter Macie, who "was in the first

class of women graduates from Princeton" and is now at Johns Hopkins. Son Jim, a Princeton graduate with a PhD in physics, suffered a near-fatal aneurysm in 1994 and is now confined to a wheelchair and living nearby. "His mind is still sharp and sense of humor wry, and the family has rallied around," especially son Charlie, a Kenyon College graduate, who with wife Constance has "numerous pets but no kids." Son Matt went from Oberlin College to Southern Ohio/BP to Eaton Co. in Amsterdam; he and Fiona live in Shaker Heights, outside Cleveland.

Judy reflects, "My greatest joy is that all of them are close, enjoy each other, and have a compassionate outlook on life. I've had an interesting 82-plus years, certainly with some bad choices and tragic events, but it's hard to imagine any other life. Thirty years in



politics was eye opening and gave me a different perspective than one would imagine from the life we shared 68 years ago at Potomac, as well as friendships and understanding of urban issues that make me who I am today. It would be interesting for the Class of '46 to share its accumulated wisdom from these past decades as a way to connect, having had basically the same very important grounding experience in childhood. We were a protected, privileged group who had emerged from World War II and then lived through challenging years of rapid change in our adolescence and adulthood."

**Mildred Coe Huffman** writes, "My memories of Potomac are strong—loving every creative moment on California Street with super-good friends and riding the public bus up and down Connecticut Avenue. How many kids can jump out the classroom to get to the playground? We were so lucky!"

**Rose Kean Lansbury** writes of her apartment in New York: "All the windows, including the kitchen, look out over Central Park—my own glorious backyard! I read a lot, paint, see friends and family, and go to classes and lectures. I am retired from almost everything that required regular meetings."

**Shelah Kane Scott** says, "I still keep up, mostly by phone, with **Julie Merrell Harris '46**. Neither of us drives out of town, but we have long chats regularly. I have three grandchildren who live in Charlottesville, so I see them quite a bit, go to school plays, etc."

**Maria Somary Twaalfhoven** writes, "After 60 years of a very international life (my husband ran factories that repaired parts of jet engines for the airlines), we landed back in Holland, his homeland, a couple of languages richer. Also richer for the experience: our eight wonderful children and 22 grandchildren. Some have returned to America to pursue their lives there, and it's always a feast when we have a reunion."

1949

**REUNION YEAR 65TH**

*Spend May 2 and 3 on the Potomac campus for Reunion 2014.*

1952

**Class Correspondent**

Louise "Beebe" Graham  
lbgraham@myfairpoint.net

**Julie Hamm Finley** reports, "Nothing new going on these days."

**Ann Walker Gaffney** shares, "My health has been weak, but I am still going out and about in Brooklyn and Rehoboth Beach. My son is head of real estate for the public schools of St. Louis, and my daughter's second novel, *When the World Was Young*, will be published in July by Random House. Hello to Potomac friends."

**Louise "Beebe" Graham** writes, "Your class correspondent is still happily in New Hampshire, very involved in some local community groups, especially those running programs for young teens whose lives have been disrupted. I'm also working with a new initiative to create a local emergency shelter for families whose children attend local schools. My children are doing well, as are the grandchildren, four of whom live in New Hampshire, which means I get to see them quite regularly. The three New York City grandchildren are here less often, but usually for longer visits—fine fun. Best to all of you, and when you think of it, send me news; I will save it for the next issue of the *Term*. Also, please send me your email address unless you are communicating directly with the School."

**Debby Owen Turner** writes, "We seem to be dividing our time fairly equally between London, Westleton in Suffolk, and Uzes in France, coming less and less to the United States now that Pippa is living in London. I do all the driving. We see the children and grandchildren regularly. Pat

is trying to publish three things online—more about that next time. I keep busy in the three places with school meetings, lots of gardening, seeing friends, and trying to make the most of my Samsung Galaxy 4, especially its camera."

1953

**Class Correspondent**

Mary Murray Bradley Coleman  
mcolema2@maine.rr.com

1954

**REUNION YEAR 60TH**

*Calling the class of 1954. Come back to campus to celebrate your 60th reunion on May 2 and 3. Go to [www.potomacschool.org/alumni](http://www.potomacschool.org/alumni) to see the weekend's schedule.*

1955

**Gretchen Becker** writes, "I'm older, shorter, dumber, and stiffer. Other than that, no big changes."

**Eliza Kellogg Klose** shares, "I married Harding Bancroft on October 1, 2011. He is the twin brother of **Mary Jane Bancroft '57**, who was a great friend of my sister, **Celia Robbins Moore '57**, in third and fourth grade."

1959

**REUNION YEAR 55TH**

*Spend time with classmates and friends at Reunion 2014 on May 2 and 3.*

**Share with us!**  
**Triumphs, promotions,  
adventures, good news...**

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1961

**Alexandra Villard de Borchgrave** shares, “On the night of September 11, 2001, as anguish hung in the air like a veil of tears, I began to pray for a way to bring some small measure of comfort and healing to the families who had suffered the most devastating loss of their loved ones. Then, on the first anniversary of that day of sorrow, as I watched the children call out their parents’ names at Ground Zero with great courage, a space opened in my heart that made way for earnest verses about love, hope, and courage to flow out of me. I had never written poetry, but I felt I was being shown a way to bring comfort to those families in need, and the result, three years later, was the publication of *Healing Light: Thirty Messages of Love, Hope, and Courage*. That book was sent as a gift, through the kindness of John C. Whitehead, then chairman of the Lower Manhattan Development Corp., to all the survivors’ families.

“Encouraged by those who had found *Healing Light* to be soothing in troubled times, I wrote *Heavenly Order: Twenty-Five Meditations of Wisdom and Harmony*. Now, with *Beloved Spirit: Pathways to Love, Grace, and Mercy*, I have come to believe in an intimate moment of surrender, a time when the soul may connect with a higher being, light, spirit, or God, a part of which I am convinced resides within all of us. I believe this instance of release allows us to be open to creativity, take a step forward into the unknown, make untold mistakes along the way, and learn from them. It permits us to be vulnerable to sorrow and accepting of criticism, and fosters a willingness to do better. It provides untapped courage in the face of terror and ultimately the peace with which to depart this life. This philosophy has led me to found the Light of Healing Hope Foundation in the hope it will help light a new pathway to comfort. I have given my rights, titles, and interests in my three books to the foundation so that it may continue the work of bringing hope and healing to those in



Alexandra Villard de Borchgrave '61 recently published her book *Beloved Spirit: Pathways to Love, Grace, and Mercy*.

need. I am thrilled to say that our gifts are being distributed at Johns Hopkins, the National Institutes of Health, and Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, among other hospitals and hospices.”

**Julia Williams Robinson** became a grandmother for the first time with the birth a year ago of Otis Clayton Robinson Griffin to her daughter, filmmaker Esther Robinson, and Esther’s husband, composer Todd Griffin. She is finding great joy in her new role. Also, her oldest son Sasha’s new product, the Firefly vaporizer, is finally on the market. Of her twins, Benjamin continues to work at Whole Foods in Jenkintown, Penn., and Thomas works with autistic preschoolers at Fraser School in Minneapolis. Julia is still working full time as a professor of architecture at the University of Minnesota and is completing a book on contemporary Dutch housing (taking longer than she thought). She lives in Minneapolis with her partner, Didier Tellier.

1962

#### Class Correspondent

Deborah Johansen Harris  
debjohansenharris@gmail.com

After an archeological trip to Turkey

last summer, **Betsy Davison** returned to her profession as a land-use planner and taught real estate and commercial planning at Georgetown University. She also worked part time with Washington’s Dumbarton Oaks Conservancy on the 27-acre lower section of Dumbarton Oaks Park that is now managed by the National Park Service and under restoration. Betsy says she loves working part time, which allows her to pursue fiber arts projects at the cooperative Potomac Fiber Arts Gallery at the Torpedo Factory in Alexandria, where she shows her work. Her wall hangings have also been displayed at the Mitre Corp. in McLean and at two exhibitions.

**Deb Johansen Harris** retired as communications director and missionary of the Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts and is enjoying her new freedom. She is taking watercolor classes at the Worcester Museum of Art and has plans to travel with husband Ted in the spring—including a trip to Washington to catch up with Potomac classmates. “My mother—the ever-ready energy bunny—is still hale and hearty.”

**Wendy Wisner Hazard** says, “What a great bunch of girls we were: feminists-in-the-making, for sure! I have the fondest memories of Potomac, from stitching that old ‘medieval’ tapestry and designing our personal warrior shields with Ms. Seamans to wonderful walks and bird-watching with Mr. Morton. Like you, I would so love to be in touch with **Antonia Caccia**. If you haven’t seen her documentaries *Voices From Gaza* or *Bethlehem Diary*, I highly recommend both. She’s ever been an activist, committed to social justice. As for me, I live with my husband, Bruce, on a farm in Belgrade, Maine, where we raised our son and daughter, along with horses, pigs, cows, and gardens and now host four grandsons whenever they choose to hang out, pitch hay, or hike Mount Katahdin. I’m now just retired after years of teaching history



at the University of Maine, Augusta. I earned my PhD at Boston University and had my dissertation, *Cold War Crucible*, published, if anyone wants a dark, dense read. Now, free at last from the day to day, my husband and I took to the road across the United States in mid-March, in Steinbeck-ian or Kerouac-ish spirit.”

**Rachel Kitzinger** says she enjoys “phased retirement” from her professorship at Vassar, where she teaches ancient

Greek. She has embarked on translating three plays by Euripides into English for Modern Library, to be published in three years. (“I will have my nose to the grindstone,” she says somewhat ruefully). However, she enjoys spending July through October on the west coast of Ireland: “It’s a wonderful place to work and walk.” She has three grandchildren, “all within striking distance, which makes it easy to visit them.”

**Bobbi Lanahan** reports that she has

made no new films but has gone back to painting portraits, which she did before she started moviemaking.

**Carol Mattusch** says, “My handbook *Enduring Bronze* will be published by the Getty Museum in June. I wrote it last year with my left hand after Tiger threw me and broke my right collarbone and dislocated my right shoulder. In May, I am going to retire from teaching at George Mason University, where I have been since 1977, the only

## Funny Guy

**E**ric Abrams '99 can be himself at work—quirky, with an off-the-wall sense of humor. This makes him a natural fit at Comedy Central, the cable channel that’s home to Stephen Colbert and Jon Stewart.

### Q. What is your role at Comedy Central?

A. I work in development and focus on the digital side of things, which means that I hear pitches from talented writers, stand-ups, actors, directors, etc., and decide which projects to buy and distribute online. I then oversee the development of these projects from script to casting and, ultimately, to production and distribution.

### Q. Is there a teacher who inspired you?

A. I had Dr. Brown for U.S. history in 11th grade. One day, before class began, he pulled me aside to say, “You are a damn good writer.” He said it in such a serious and private and intense way—like he was urging me to believe him. And I did. He really sold me on the idea, and I’ve never forgotten it. That moment—those few seconds—had a profound impact on the path that I’ve traveled. He was really a great person. I’ve often recalled the inspiration of that moment, and the way he changed how I thought of myself.

### Q. Did you always know that you wanted a career in the entertainment industry?

A. Not exactly. Upon finishing college, I had a “crisis” of sorts and found myself applying to law school even though I didn’t want to go. I had spent my senior year in college making a show with friends on the campus cable network, and one of my friends pointed out to me that this show was the only thing he really saw me put my full heart into. In retrospect, it seems pretty silly that I hadn’t put the pieces together myself, but shortly thereafter, everything started to click.

### Q. What do you like best about your work with Comedy Central?

A. I get to be myself. It’s a relief to not have to hide my harsh—or weird, or dark, or mean—sense of humor. And I love being around funny people all the time. I love watching a funny idea transform into a funny show, and watching talented people become successful talented people.

### Q. What upcoming projects or work are you most excited about?

A. We just released our first animated project, and we have two more in the pipeline. One is sort of a modern *Beavis & Butt-head* with female leads. I’m a big fan of *Beavis & Butt-head*, so I’m into that one. We also have some live-action scripted shows on the horizon. I realize I’m not selling those well, but they haven’t been announced yet, so I’m keeping my big fat mouth shut.



Eric Abrams '99 and wife Sam Saifer

## The Kilberg Family Admission Suite



Bobbie and Bill Kilberg with their grandchildren: (clockwise from left) Riley, Jackson, and Madeline Schermerhorn and Ayden Hodge

## Admission Suite Named for Kilberg Family

The year was 1979. Jimmy Carter was president. *Saturday Night Fever* was Record of the Year. And Bobbie and Bill Kilberg joined the Potomac community as parents.

Since then, Bobbie and Bill's five children (Jonathan '94, Sarah '95, Gillian '97, Cameron '98, and Andrew '06) have become Potomac alumni and moved on to build careers and families. The torch has been passed, as four of Bobbie and Bill's grandchildren (Jackson '21, Madeline '22, and Riley Schermerhorn '22, along with Ayden Hodge '26) are students at the School today.

Bobbie and Bill contributed generously to all the School's capital campaigns, and last spring the Admission Suite in the Flag Circle Building was named for the Kilberg family. "Potomac has been a constant and important part of our lives for 35 years and a major influence on our children," Bill says.

Bobbie, a former member of the Board of Trustees, notes, "Our five children and the next generation—our four grandchildren at the School—all have benefited enormously from Potomac's academics, values, culture, and traditions. Potomac is an exceptional institution and the Kilberg-Schermerhorn-Hodge children are grateful for the privilege of being part of the Potomac family."

Standing, left to right:  
Riley Schermerhorn,  
Jackson Schermerhorn,  
Yuctan Hodge II, Bobbie  
Kilberg, Bill Kilberg, Julia  
Osellame (Andrew's  
fiancée), Andrew Kilberg.  
Seated, left to right:  
Madeline Schermerhorn,  
Ayden Hodge, Sarah  
Schermerhorn, Gillian  
Hodge, Brooke Hodge  
(baby on Gillian's lap),  
Mackenzie Hodge,  
Cameron Kilberg, Dory  
Kilberg, Melissa Kilberg,  
Jonathan Kilberg





job I could get and one that I have enjoyed. I'll get to travel more, ride more, and write more."

**Rosemary Merriam** reports, "My husband and I are retired and doing some traveling. Our next trip is to Cuba, which we are excited about. Still living in Austin, Tex., and although the city has grown, I still love it."

**Liz Murray Platts** says that she is having a very quiet winter because of a fall on New Year's Day that resulted in a fractured ankle and the other foot broken: "Life in a wheelchair is challenging, but wonderful neighbors and friends have filled both my freezer and bookshelves. When up and around, I still work part time at Maret School and take a class in pastel portraiture and another in French conversation (remember Mme. Hoge?). I love long visits with my 27-month-old grandson when he and his art historian parents are in the United States. My older son works in Seattle. Catching up with Potomac friends is wonderful; last summer **Carol Eakin-Burdette**, **Peak Mason Power**, and I went to see **Marianna Merrill Russell**, who gave us a tea party and a tour of her fantastic garden."

**Marianna Merrill Russell** flew to Los Angeles this spring to welcome a fifth grandchild into the family.

**Anne Darneille Snodgrass** writes, "My husband and I continue to divide the year between Hillsboro Beach, Fla.; Naples, Maine; and Washington. We love all three locations. Our past year was busy with two daughters getting married, one by Sebago Lake in Maine last June and the second in Chevy Chase in November. Our son also got engaged, though no wedding date is set. We bought a new house on Brandy Pond in Naples, moving from Bridgton, just one town to the east. I still substitute teach when I am in Washington and am involved in water quality issues in Maine."



Chalmers Wood '62

**Chalmers Wood** reports, "It's Spring Festival and Chinese New Year of the Horse here in Nanjing. So may your next Year of the Horse be fortunate. I'm working on a book currently dubbed *The Rise and Fall of the American Phoenix*. Though it's autobiographical, my focus as a diplomat and amateur anthropologist is the reader. It opens with the Marshall Plan and the rebuilding of Europe, covers half a century of private diplomacy, and concludes with the rise of China and various other unfolding current events. Of course, since I'm also a teacher, the schools I attended will be heavily featured. Potomac will glow in shimmering relief with 'The Big Tree on the Hill,' a timeless totem of the best of our generation's hopes and dreams."

## 1963

### Class Correspondents

Marisa Knowlton Domeyko  
[mdomeyko@comcast.net](mailto:mdomeyko@comcast.net)

Anne Williams  
[annegw200@yahoo.com](mailto:annegw200@yahoo.com)

**Wendy Neel Ellsworth** took her seventh trip to Kenya to work with women's cooperatives. She and her husband, David, were fortunate during the Colorado floods—their access to "the outside world" was cut off for two weeks, but their house survived.

**Dede Fryer Hacking** is enjoying her new home in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario.

**Amanda Kreglow** has moved back to Santa Rosa, Calif.

**Kim Sellon Newhart's** new play, "A Gentleman's Guide to Love and Murder," is a huge hit on Broadway.

**Jenn Taylor** is busy at work and loves

being a grandmother to Wyatt, who is almost a year old.

**Edie Warner** and her husband, Denny Kinch, are in the final stages of remodeling their new house in Mercer Island, Wash.

**Anne Williams** is babysitting several days a week in Pennsylvania for her new grandson and working remotely for Wildlife Conservation Society in Afghanistan.

## 1964

### REUNION YEAR 50TH

*Join Class Reunion Chairs Ellen Peirce and Gail Weinmann on May 2 and 3 as your class celebrates its 50th. Take a tour of campus, watch May Day, enjoy the special Golden Dinner in honor of your class, and more. Register today at [www.potomacschool.org/alumni](http://www.potomacschool.org/alumni).*

### Class Correspondent

Alison Peake  
[alidee1@aol.com](mailto:alidee1@aol.com)

## 1965

### Class Correspondent

Sallie Ayers Barker  
[s2barkers@yahoo.com](mailto:s2barkers@yahoo.com)

## 1967

### Class Correspondent

Tom Macy  
[Potomac67@gmail.com](mailto:Potomac67@gmail.com)

**Share with us!**  
**Joy, enchantment,**  
**mischief, melancholy...**

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1968

**Kim Holdsworth** writes, "Yes, it's true, living in the Virgin Islands keeps you young, partly because nature is smiling on these calm, clear, and quirky outposts every day. We're happily sharing new travels with old friends, plus crashing among friends, ex-neighbors, family members, and clients we've enjoyed as our own houseguests during these 30 years in the tropics. With our son, Nick, in California, our daughter, Zan, in Australia, and a family property we maintain (as in 'maintenance!') on Cape Cod, it seems we're on planes pretty often. Bob and I celebrated my 60th in the corner of the world where 'ancient' is normal, immortal, and still astonishing: Istanbul and the Greek islands. This was a good harbinger for the next decades to come! All that said, it's still nice to come home. For the past decade I've been producing the *USVI Kids Count Data Report*, the annual report on the well-being of children, youth, and families in the U.S. Virgin Islands. And, nurturing the 'calm, clear, and quirky,' I've returned to making art and paint regularly with five other women in a studio we share here in St. Thomas."

**Peggy Gill Schaaake** writes, "My husband, David, and I are heading south in our sailboat again. We are a little late for 'snowbirds.' We are on a heavier boat this time; we sold *Journey* and now are on *Wanderin' Star*. We will explore western Florida until May. Love going home to everything in bloom. Nothing like chasing the warm weather! Hi to all."

1969

## REUNION YEAR 45TH

*Join Class Reunion Chair Steven Wolf for two days of festivities on the Potomac campus. To see the schedule and find out more, go to [www.potomacschool.org/alumni](http://www.potomacschool.org/alumni).*

## Class Correspondent

Alexander "Sandy" Dominick  
[aldominick@cox.net](mailto:aldominick@cox.net)

1971

## Class Correspondent

Ann Edgeworth  
[annledgeworth@yahoo.com](mailto:annledgeworth@yahoo.com)

1973

## Class Correspondent

Liza Gookin Hodskins  
[lhodskins@yahoo.com](mailto:lhodskins@yahoo.com)

1974

## REUNION YEAR 40TH

## Class Correspondent

Ann Brown  
[annanna.brown@gmail.com](mailto:annanna.brown@gmail.com)

**Ann Brown** writes, "Hope 2014 is treating you well. **Sarah Holmes** and I were honored last year to attend the delightful memorial service for **Polly Pittman's** father in Davidsonville, Md. It was lovely to see Polly and all of her family, including **Ros '66**, **Romey '80**, and **Tammy Pittman '68** and **Ben Warnke**. My tall,

delightful child Anna, age 10, is thriving in fourth grade at St. Patrick's in Washington. Work is going fine, despite the insurance industry's efforts to rebuff most of my efforts to get paid. The highlight of our year, and the last decade, was an unbelievably fun trip that we were given last summer to go to Europe for a month. We frolicked and ate our way through Paris, Provence, Venice, Rome, Florence, Athens, and Santorini. Returning to real life after coming home proved almost unbearable. So, this year we're going back, thanks to my kind brother's frequent flyer miles. We are so lucky and excited. We're hoping to visit Paris, Naples, Pompeii, Sicily, Istanbul, and Ephesus. Really looking forward to the amazing, interesting class of '74's big reunion this spring. Hope all of you will try to make it. It's been too long. I know that I speak for our class in sharing my sincere condolences to **Polly Pittman** and **Errol Train**, whose father **Russell '33**, died in 2012.

**Carroll Carter** writes, "I just spent the early morning digging my car out of the remnants of storm Nika and having blood drawn for my physical. Double joy!"

**Blake Cook** reports, "My husband and I are still living in New Jersey but trying to spend more time at our house in Folly Beach, outside Charleston, S.C. Our kids have all flown the coop and are gainfully employed, two in New York and one in Bethesda. I am continuing to manage Furnishing Solutions, the nonprofit

## in memoriam

## Olive Watson Cobb '41

Sister of Alice Watson Faulkner '46

## Talaat Moreau

Past faculty, mother of Farida Moreau Robinson '80, and grandmother of Sydney Robinson '14 and Tobias Robinson '16

## Elizabeth (Betsy) Hyde Patterson '50

## Wendy Osten Terry '95

Daughter of Dr. Stephen and Mary Osten and sister of Kristina Osten Cook '93

## Rosemary (Rosie) Turner

Past faculty

## Katherine (Kitty) Newcomb Warner '65



furniture resale store that I started two years ago. I see **Errol Train** occasionally, but that's about it. I wish that I got to Washington more often. I hope to make it to our 40th Reunion. Yikes."

**Nina Chapin de Rochefort** reports, "We have now been living in Switzerland for 20 years, and while we still don't have any real Swiss friends (especially in the UBS Bank) we continue to enjoy the mountains, chocolate, and fondue with other foreign nationals who live in the Geneva area. Red Cross work takes both my husband and me out of this nearly perfect environment to places like the Philippines to work endless days following the destruction left after typhoons and earthquakes. It's fascinating and rewarding, but for short periods of time. And, like many classmates, our nest is emptying as our daughter began her first year at college in the United States, which she loves despite culture shocks such as the drinking age. Thank goodness our son still has two years left before college, so we don't have to think quite yet about our next move. Should we stay or should we go? I'll miss you at the reunion, but hope to see you sometime soon."

**Jamie Engert** writes, "I live in Montreal with my wife, Lise, and 13-year-old daughter, Catherine. I'm a professor at McGill University working on the genetics of cardiovascular disease. I occasionally visit Washington and get together with **Harold Singletary**, **Gray Rosse**, and **Andy Hyde**. I was also able to visit **Alex Neuhoﬀ** on Maui in 2012. I hope any classmates that visit Montreal will look me up."

**Grace Guggenheim** writes, "Congratulations to all my classmates of 1974. We will have made it to our 40th this May! This is a big year for our class and for Potomac, which has been blessed with an exceptional new Head of School, John Kowalik. I hope those of you who

can and have the interest will come and meet John and support Potomac into its next phase of progress and change."

**Sarah Holmes** writes that her work has returned "to the diplomatic circuit, with frequent social events at the Australian, British, and Canadian embassies. Husband John has been busy working on policy responses to the Edward Snowden leaks. All my stepkids keep me hopping, and my mother and I will cruise the Caribbean this February. I feel busy and content."

**Jennifer Moses** writes, "I'm going to be a mother-in-law, which I'm way too young to be. Our eldest, Sam, is engaged to be married this summer in Jerusalem, where he and his fiancée live. In other news, every time I look in the mirror, I see my late, beloved mother staring back at me. Genes."

**Jane Day Rich** writes, "We continue to enjoy life in Boulder, Colo., what with the skiing, hiking, splendid sun, and clean air. I like to be close to sisters **Annie '76**, and **Isabelle '79**. We have to figure out a way to get our sister **Mary '84** out here, too."

**Jonathan Willens** says, "Oh my goodness, it's our 40th and I need to write really good notes! The Brooklyn nest has been empty for a while now, as boy number two is studying physics at college in Florida, and boy number one is teaching math and basketball to some very lucky children in New Orleans. We are happy that they picked such fine places for us to visit. My wife, Julia, is expanding her 10-year-old advertising agency, hiring talented young people, and trying to keep them busy. My law firm is representing whistleblowers in courts around the country—great clients except that they have no money and their cases take decades. In my spare time, I'm playing drums at home and sitting well behind Jay Z and Beyoncé at Brooklyn Nets games—classic middle-age stuff. Which reunion do we get grandchildren?"

## 1975

### Class Correspondent

Peggy Griffin Begor  
pbebor@gmail.com

**Laura Blakeslee** checked in from Madison, Wis., in the middle of the winter's polar vortex. She is in the final stages of writing her dissertation about the "social context of vaccine hesitancy." She hopes to have her PhD in sociology and demography from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in May. Then she will be on the job hunt if anyone is looking for "an over-educated academic in (my) 50's!"

**Susan Holmes** wrote that she and her husband, Matt, will be relocating to Washington from New York City in the spring and is "looking forward to reconnecting with area friends and making new ones."

**Edward Jewett** wrote that he is teaching American history and ancient history to high school students and finds teaching "fun and engaging." He sees **Michael Richardson** almost every week and talks with **Chipper Chapin** once a month in his effort to stay connected to Potomac classmates. He writes that he hopes we will all get together soon.

**Lisa Peaslee McGovern's** husband, Gene, has passed away. She is living in Boca Raton, Fla. The Class of '75 sends its condolences.

**Share with us!**  
Breakthroughs, innovations,  
inventions, tomfoolery...

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1977

**Class Correspondent**

Wendy Arundel  
wendyarundel@comcast.net

**Class Agent**

Audrey Baxter Young  
audrey.young@verizon.net

**Wendy Arundel** shares, "Facebook connections with classmates are the best. If you haven't found us, hope you do."

**Four Hewes** reports, "My child, Violet, enjoys ninth grade and her new high school experience. She has good friends and is outside nearly every day on the Nordic ski team. Violet also enjoys Shakespeare, math, and poetry. I'd like to ask help from alums building my network in Boston, New York, and Washington for jobs in software, technology management, and sports marketing and events management. Also, I'm looking for guest presenters for small workshops on 'user experience' for senior management."

**David MacDonald** is in the Broadway cast of "Rocky," playing Miles Jergens, the main fight promoter. The performance is having a long run at the Winter Garden Theatre in New York City.

1978

**Class Correspondent**

Julie Twiname Warder  
jtwdean@cox.net

**Rob McDowell** writes, "Greetings to my classmates from The Great '78! Having left the Federal Communications Commission last May, I've had a delightful time working on several projects, all very different. Helping Potomac is high on that list. I'd love some help building ties to alumni from the '70s. Please email me at [usa.mcdowell@gmail.com](mailto:usa.mcdowell@gmail.com) with ideas. No bellbottoms required!"

1979

**REUNION YEAR 35TH**

*Anne Metcalf and Anita Winsor-Edwards have volunteered as Class Reunion Chairs. Plan to spend May 2 and 3 on the Potomac campus reconnecting with classmates and friends. For the schedule, go to [www.potomac-school.org/alumni](http://www.potomac-school.org/alumni).*

1982

**Class Correspondent**

Jimmy Corrigan  
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**Nerissa Nields and Katryna Nields '84** continue to sing and record and perform all over the country. Their 16th CD, *The Full Catastrophe*, is an album about motherhood, marriage, and the ongoing struggles to be women, artists, and folders of the never-ending laundry. They have written several books, including *All Together Singing in the Kitchen: Creative Ways to Make and Listen to Music as a Family* and *How to Be an Adult: A Musician's Guide to Navigating Your Twenties*. They have created a music program for kids eight years old and younger called HooteNanny, and they spend much of their time nurturing and cultivating folk music in their communities, leading group sing-alongs, and teaching guitar and chorus. Most recently they have been showcasing "Wasn't That a Time: The Life and Songs of Pete Seeger," a 45-minute act that weaves biography and 20th-century American history together with folk songs, which the sisters lead and teach.

1983

**Class Correspondent**

Jennifer Webber  
[jwebber3@maine.rr.com](mailto:jwebber3@maine.rr.com)

**Adria de Leonibus Black** writes, "Hello, Class of '83! Hope everyone is doing well. I love catching up with many of you on Facebook. I can't

'83



Top, clockwise from left: Adria de Leonibus Black '83 on Christmas with Wells, husband Will, and LuLu. • Above, from left: Alison Kirk Long '83, Jeanette Matheson Lussi '79, and Prentiss Vallender Lay '85 play hockey together weekly.

believe it has been a year since our wonderful reunion. We recently moved back to McLean and love being 'in the country,' as my LuLu calls it. Trying to balance raising young children (LuLu is 5 and Wells is 2 1/2), work, and caring for an elderly parent has proven challenging over the year but amazing at the same time. Hope our paths cross soon."

**Eric McGuire** writes, "I have four more



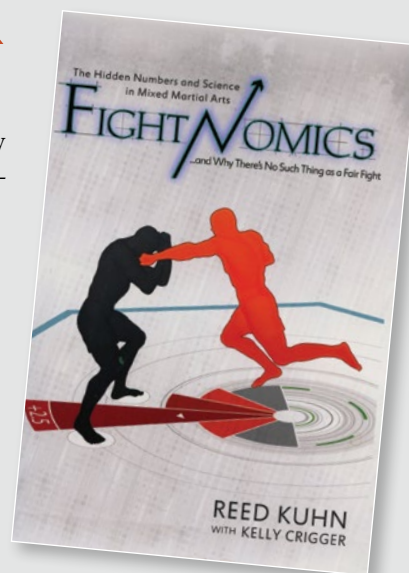
## Go For It!

**R**eed Kuhn '95 mixes statistics, science, and fun in his new book, *Fight-nomics: The Hidden Numbers and Science in Mixed Martial Arts...and Why There's No Such Thing as a Fair Fight*. Just as Michael Lewis used quantitative analysis to challenge baseball tradition with his book *Moneyball*, Reed debunks a number of myths in MMA—and even one from football, where conventional wisdom says it's almost always best to punt on fourth down.

Analysis by Berkeley economist David Romer determined that “going for it” on fourth down actually maximizes overall team performance. Analysis weighing expected point outcomes of fourth down decisions against the expected scoring potential of opponents based on field position reinforced the rationality of aggressive fourth down strategies. In layman's terms, you have a much better chance converting fourth downs than you think. And even if you don't the other team isn't guaranteed to gain from the field position you give up. But coaches are generally unwilling to risk perception of poor decision-making due to our natural loss aversion, and instead ignore the evidence by actually employing suboptimal strategies. They don't want to look like idiots and simply avoid getting into situations where it might happen, even though it costs them in the long run.

All, except a few. Coach Kevin Kelley of Pulaski Academy in Arkansas has forsaken kicking altogether, never punting and only executing onside kicks for kickoffs. Analysis of Pulaski's performance confirmed this as the optimal strategy for his team. He has led his undersized private school squad to an impressive record and several state championships following this by-the-numbers approach.

While no team utilizes rational play quite like the Pulaski Bruins, one NFL team goes for it on fourth down more than any other: the New England Patriots. Since assuming the reins as head coach, Bill Belichick has built nothing less than a dynasty, winning three titles and three Coach of the Year awards in his first five years. Success earned Belichick the flexibility to be a “riskier” coach, further reinforcing his aggressiveness. The irony: although perceived as risk-seeking, he's actually implementing a more rational and optimal strategy.



years until I turn 50 and am eligible to retire from the DC Fire Department. If any of you want to bring your kids (or yourselves) by the firehouse to sit in the fire truck behind the steering wheel, you need to do it soon. I have been married to Stacy for a few years, and am happy to report that my brother **Matt '84** has moved back to Washington from Chicago, along with his wife and two daughters, so I get to see them on a regular basis.”

**Alison Kirk Long** reports that she plays ice hockey twice a week with **Pren-tiss Vallender Lay '85** and **Jeannette Matheson Lussi '79**. Alison recently started a business developing hockey training aids using broken hockey sticks and has partnered with Total Hockey, a national hockey retailer. Visit her

website at [www.reustix.com](http://www.reustix.com). Alison enjoyed seeing **Louise Shaw Coffelt** in February.

1984

### REUNION YEAR 30TH

#### Class Correspondent

James Quigley  
[jspquigley@gmail.com](mailto:jspquigley@gmail.com)

After two years teaching in the upper school at Brooklyn Friends School in New York City, **Trevor Corson** will be a 2014-2016 teaching fellow in the undergraduate writing program at Columbia University, where he also hopes to find time to work on a new book.

**James Quigley** writes, “All right '84,

in the amazing but true category we have our (ahem) 30th reunion May 2 and 3. Please clear the decks and mark your calendar to attend. The venue for the Saturday night class party is yet to be determined, but we'll make certain to secure the classiest backyard we can find. In the meantime, visit our reunion page on Facebook, The Potomac School Class of '84. Come on! You know you want to marvel at our collection of '80s photos. In fact, post a picture of your sixth-grade manuscript. Better yet, your majestic year-book page. If you currently reside in the 'where are they now column' of our class, please join our Facebook page. You'll be surprised to see what everyone is up to. And so much better than a phone call from me.

"I bumped into **Rebecca Baldwin Fuller** and her family this fall at the Waterford, Va., fair. She is well and quite busy raising her three children. In December **Mary Day Fitzgibbon, Emily Eden Trotman, and Sarah Howard** gathered at Mary's old house on Watson Street. Emily resides in Old Greenwich, Conn., Sarah in Washington, and Mary in Albany, N.Y."

**Charles Saltzman** is well in Austin, Tex., and expecting a visit any day now from **John Stump**.

Out west, **Antonio Cecchi** reports snow in Vail, Colo.—lots of snow.

In January I found **Charlie Kehler** at breakfast with his family and he kindly converted his placemat into a paper airplane for my son Tanner. He still has it, Charlie.

**Jennifer Maddox Sergent** reports, "I continue to write about design and architecture for several magazines in addition to my blog, DC by Design. My two boys are 9 and 12, and it's very weird talking to a child (my 12 year old) who is taller than me! We live in the same house in Arlington where we've been for 15 years, but it's always a work in progress—we're loving the new front porch we added last year! I'm looking forward to seeing classmates at the reunion in May."

**Dodi Wexler** lives in London with her three boys (ages 4, 6, and 8) and her husband, Luke. She is getting more and more time to do artwork, which is something to anticipate. She spends summers in Manchester, Mass., where she enjoys seeing any Potomac friends who will make the voyage. The door is always open (literally)!

## 1990

### Class Correspondent

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### Class Agent

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**Sophie Simmons Little** writes, "I have been living in the South since 2008. My son, Lucas Little, was born on June 1, 2010. My father, Huston T. Simmons, passed away in November."

## 1991

### Class Correspondent

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## 1992

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**Pascal Cooper** just released his first movie, *Gone Dark*. He also relocated his real estate team, The Sunshine Group, to Keller Williams Beverly Hills. It's one of only four branches in Southern California to reach a billion dollars in sales in 2013. His owner was named to the top 200 most influential people in real estate in America.

**Jeremy White** shares, "I recently enjoyed the honor of singing the National Anthem at the halftime show at the Washington Wizards game on Martin Luther King Jr. Day with my church choir. An added bonus was connecting with Potomac schoolmate **Reed Kuhn '95**, who was sitting courtside. After all the basketball I played in

Chester gym, ironically my first steps on an NBA court had to do more with Mr. Rich than Coach Lee."

## 1994

### REUNION YEAR 20TH

Check out the event schedule at [www.potomacschool.org/alumni](http://www.potomacschool.org/alumni).

### Class Correspondent

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### Class Agents

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Perry Aldige Shure  
*perryshure@me.com*

**Lauren Banks Amos** writes, "My son, a burgeoning jiu-jitsu champion (thanks **Reed Kuhn '95** for suggesting he take up the sport), turns 11 this spring, which means I've been moonlighting as an assistant track coach at Potomac for nearly a decade. This past summer, we proudly took our girls 4x100 and 4x200 relay teams to nationals! I'm also approaching my 10-year mark with the American Institutes for Research, where I've recently shifted much of my focus to data visualization and research on juvenile justice and school discipline. One of my latest projects is the launch of the National Clearinghouse on Supportive School Discipline. Speaking of decades, it's hard to believe it's been nearly two decades since we graduated from Potomac. I look forward to catching up with the Class of '94 at the reunion!"

**Sandy Gentles** shares, "The kids and I had an amazing holiday, with a much-needed staycation thrown in for good measure. Looking forward to seeing all of '94 at our big reunion. Please reach out to me if you have a new email or any questions about reunion weekend. I am at *sandygentles@gmail.com*."



'94



'95



Top: The family of Sandy Gentles '94 celebrates the holidays. • Above: Ben Jordan-Downs '95 with sons Knox (right) and Knile. • Right: Chris DeMuth '95 and his wife, Elizabeth (pictured), welcome baby Sebastian Laing.

**Perry Aldige Shure** writes, "I'm looking forward to the reunion. It's been a long time! Not sure if I'll be bringing Benjamin and James (ages 3 and 2)

from Texas; I'm leaning toward using the reunion as an excuse for a weekend away. Hope a lot of you are planning to come."

1995

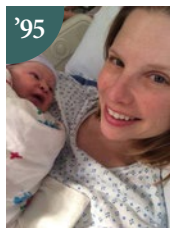
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**'95 Chris DeMuth** is splitting time between working for Rangeley Capital in New Canaan, Conn., and Rangeley, Maine. He shares, "At Rangeley Capital our current focus is on investing in innovative therapies for the treatment of multiple sclerosis. Over the past year, I have begun to write about our investments, including a recent article in the *Wall Street Journal*. In family news, Sebastian Laing was born December 28, just in time for a 2013 tax deduction."

**Ben Jordan-Downs** and family welcomed Knile Daly Jordan-Downs. He reports, "Mama (Kate Jordan-Downs) and youngest son are well. Knox surely is getting used to his little brother and showing him the ropes since he has a 2-year, 9-month, and 13-day head start."

1996

**Class Agent**

David Jankowsky  
davidjankowsky@gmail.com

**Margot Martin Angstrom** writes, "Stopped by Potomac School on my trip to the East from Hood River, Ore.,

with kiddos Angus (3) and Brooke (1½). Loved reminiscing with Mary Cahill, Cort Morgan, **Heather Wilson**, and Brian Parry and exploring the new campus. Glad to feel the old spirit of Potomac School mixes with the new campus."

1997

**Class Agent**

Noelle Sherber Rad  
noelle.sherber@gmail.com

**Alyson Cambridge** made her London acting debut at The Royal Albert Hall this past February as Mimi in "La Boheme."

**Dave John** and his wife, Wendy, welcomed their first son, Thomas Falcon John, into the world on January 14. He weighed a hearty 8.5 pounds, and mom and baby both are doing great. Dave is a major in the Air Force, currently attending the Army's School of Advanced Military Studies in Fort Leavenworth, Kan. Dave's brother **Steve John '01**, wife Kristin, and 3-month-old son Benjamin dashed out to visit so the baby cousins could meet for the first time.

**Michael Kleeblatt** writes, "All is well here. I am living in McLean with my wife, Katie, and our 5-year-old son, Fordham; our two-and-a-half-year-old son, Hunter; and 8-month-old daughter, Casey. Life is a bit hectic, but all around great. I am still in the government consulting world, and on the side continue to officiate lacrosse games for 9-year-olds

**Share with us!**  
Adventure, transformation,  
revelation, discovery...

**W**e want your notes! If your class has a Class Correspondent, send your notes to him or her. Contact information can be found at the top of each class column. If no Class Correspondent is listed, send notes to: [term@potomacschool.org](mailto:term@potomacschool.org) or Alumni Office, 1301 Potomac School Road, McLean, VA 22101.



David Hawkins '01 teaches Upper School students the artistic technique monotype.

## Portrait of the Artist as a Teacher

**D**avid Hawkins '01 was back in the Upper School art room recently—not as a student but as a guest speaker. David, a landscape artist living in Charlottesville, returned to Potomac to teach Ida Cook's and Kristin Enck's art students how to make a monotype.

Monotype is an artistic technique that powerfully “bares an artist’s ideas, emotions, and opinions,” according to David. Working with students, he fluently demonstrated how to paint onto a plexiglass plate and then carefully press a piece of Stonehenge printing paper onto the plate—an image-making process that often creates interesting and surprising effects.

“I think it’s really helpful for students to meet someone who is a working artist and also has a connection to Potomac,” Kristin says.

Ida, who taught David while he was a student at Potomac, remembers him as a talented artist and a well-rounded student. In addition to creating art, he was an athlete, musician, and member of the debate club. At Middlebury College, he continued to swim competitively.

“Potomac embraces the idea that students should do lots of things,” Cook says. “If you don’t have a lot of experiences, then what do you really have to say as an artist? The more you know and the more you have to appreciate, the more you have to say in your work.”

During David’s visit, students from outside art class came by to participate in his monotype lesson. Junior Tessa Smalley said, “I thought it was interesting and inspiring that someone who has gone to Potomac was able to make a career out of art. David’s advice was to take as many art classes as you can—a variety of them—so that you can experience a bunch of different things.”



Juniors Tessa Smalley (front) and Ouisee Miller dry their paintings after the art workshop.





Above: Dave John '97 (left) with wife Wendy and son Thomas. Steve John '01, wife Kristin, and their son Benjamin. • Right: Clay Whitehead '98 and his wife, Pria, welcomed twins, Grace Kikeri and Thomas Sinha Walton.

to college Division I. I still venture by Potomac on occasion to let the kids exert some energy, and even embarrassed myself last year at the alumni lacrosse game. Happy New Year to everyone."

**Dericka Scott Oddoye** writes, "The 'Be What I Want to Be' magazine, which aims to engage students in grades 6 through 12 in career exploration and academic preparation, interviewed me about what inspired me to become an electrical engineer. I mentioned that part of my inspiration came from those who tried to deter me from the engineering field, stating that it isn't a good field for women. I made proving those people wrong one of my goals. In the interview, I also discuss that my favorite subject in school was math,



and how I use those math skills today as a logistics engineer with Northrop Grumman. My takeaway for students is to always exude confidence in everything you do. People will pay attention to the words and actions of a confident person."

## 1998

### Class Correspondent

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### Class Agents

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**Jessica Ohly** reports, "Many members of our class are sharing exciting news about new babies! **Brian Carney** was elected to join the partnership of Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld in its New York City office, where he practices litigation and gaming law with a focus on investment funds and their portfolio companies. He lives with his wife, Kristine, and son, Brandon, on Manhattan's Upper West Side, only a few blocks away from **Cliff Cone**. Brian and Kristine are expecting twins in June!"

**Clay Whitehead** and his wife, Pria, are now proud parents! Pria gave birth to Grace Kikeri and Thomas Sinha Walton Whitehead on January 3. They are over the moon. Grace and Thomas mark the third set of twins for our class (to the best of my knowledge),

following in the footsteps of **Kate Coyne Coyle** and **Coley Andrews**.

**Whitney Duncan** and her husband, Joel, welcomed their baby daughter, June Wallace Johnson, into the world on December 12, 2013. They live in Denver, where Whitney is an anthropology professor at the University of Northern Colorado. When she is not in Denver she travels to Oaxaca, Mexico, to conduct her research.

**Frank Murphy** writes, "In November I moved to Texas to work in the oil industry. I have connected with **Kyle Brookshire '96**, who lives in Dallas."

## 1999

### REUNION YEAR 15TH

*Trenholm Boggs and Sarah Murphy Starr are working hard as Class Reunion Chairs to ensure a great reunion. Spend May 2 and 3 at Potomac seeing your friends, classmates and teachers. The schedule is posted at [www.potomacschool.org/alumni](http://www.potomacschool.org/alumni).*

### Class Correspondent

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### Class Correspondent and Agent

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## 2000

### Class Correspondent

Maura Myers Bisogni  
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### Class Correspondent and Agent

Jon Haworth  
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**Jon Andrews** shares, "I am currently living in the San Francisco Bay area, where I work as an operations and supply chain coordinator for F'real Foods in Emeryville, near Berkeley and Oakland. On the side, I continue

to build on my passion for writing and recording original music across a variety of genres. I currently play in two San Francisco-area bands a few times a week. The biggest revelation for me over the past four years has been my rekindled love of football. Initially, I volunteered for Team Up for Youth, the Berkeley coaching corps chapter, as a middle school flag football coach. I have coached a tight-knit group of seventh graders for two seasons, and am happy to report that I have been named the head coach and offensive coordinator for the Berkeley High School freshman program.

"Over the past two seasons, I have coached defensive linemen at the freshman level and quarterbacks at the junior-varsity level, in addition to tracking in-game statistics and play calls for the varsity head coach. Off-seasons have become shorter for me, as I obsessively attend coach's clinics and assist with monitoring conditioning programs for Berkeley High's student-athletes. I spend much of my free time following closely the careers of my coaching idols, Chip Kelly and Mike Leach, both of whom followed unorthodox paths to football coaching success that did not include playing at the collegiate or pro levels.

"Two years ago, I returned to Potomac to meet with Rob Lee, boys athletic director, who coached me at Potomac. Our conversation inspired me to pursue careers in both football coaching and athletic administration. At some point, I would love to return to the Panther community and coach the football program to Virginia state championships!"

**Emily Duncan** and **Matt Meenan** welcomed their first child, Robert Harrison Meenan, known as "RH" or "Harrison" to his friends, on February 17. Weighing in at 7 pounds, 1 ounce, and measuring 20.5 inches long, Harrison looks forward to play dates with lots of Potomac alumni little ones in the near future! Matt will graduate



from Georgetown University's Business School in May. He and Emily enjoy seeing Washington-area alumni often.

## 2001

### Class Correspondents

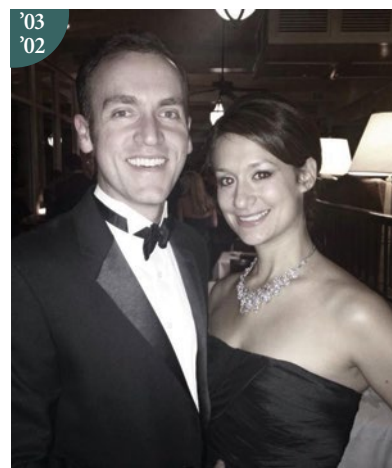
Daphne Chester  
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### Class Correspondent and Agent

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**Win Huffman** visited **Skipper Calvert** on his base in Fresno, Calif., where they went head to head in the F-18 Simulator (Skipper won) and watched the planes practice landings on the runway. The two also went to Yosemite National Park and hiked, camped, and fly-fished for two days.

**Noah Miller** is still living and working in Sacramento, Calif., and loving every minute of it. His job kept him too busy to travel last year (so much for hiking Romania's mountains with a group of college friends), but his new hobby is filling in for the fun! He traded in his four-wheeled dream, a '69 Chevelle SS-454, for eight wheels: Noah is now a mountain-blading



Clockwise from top left: Robert Harrison Meenan, the first child of Emily Duncan '00 and Matt Meenan '00. • Win Huffman '01 (left) and Skipper Calvert '01 enjoy time in Fresno, Calif. • Stephanie Amann Kapsis '01 and husband, Jim, enjoyed spending time with their daughter, Cora (pictured), over the holidays. • Sam Lee '03 and Victoria Sylos-Labini '02.



enthusiast! The sport is essentially mountain biking on rollerblades. Asked how it's going, he says, "Well, I spend a lot of time on my knees."

2002

#### Class Correspondents

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Victoria Sylos-Labini  
*VictoriaVSL@gmail.com*

Kate House Previti  
*kchouse@gmail.com*



#### Class Agent

Blair Boggs  
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**Kate Buchanan Brame** married William Brame in June 2013 at her parents' house in Newport, R.I. Bridesmaids included **Elizabeth Cheek, Jenna Linden, Tracy Phillips, and Kristy Zimmerman.**

Friends since they met on the tire swing of the Big Toy in second grade, **Sam Lee '03** and **Victoria Sylos-Labini** enjoy time together at the Central Park Boat House.

**Meredith Murphy Craven** writes, "My husband, Eric, and I are expecting our first baby (a girl) in April. We are beyond excited!"

2003

#### Class Correspondents

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#### Class Agent

Andrew Warin  
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**Elizabeth Cook** writes, "I started working as a film project specialist at Kickstarter over the summer and am really enjoying it. I work with filmmakers on their projects for the site and also do outreach within the filmmaker community. I live in Brooklyn with my boyfriend, Sam Mowe, and our puppy, Jules."

**James Hawthorn** reports, "I'm excited to announce that I'll be pitching a TV show I created to networks in Los Angeles beginning in February. It's a documentary series called LEAP. Links to an extended look will be available through my Facebook page and the show's website, [www.leapthemovement.com](http://www.leapthemovement.com). In other news, I'm training for my 10th consecutive Boston Marathon, on April 21, and my second Ironman Triathlon. Keep your eyes peeled for two national commercials for DISH Network and Planet Fitness in which I play a customer and employee, respectively. I hope the New Year brings all of you new adventures, laughter, and love. I'd love to hear from you via email or Facebook."

**Maya Jaafar Lena** lives in Portland, Maine, with her husband, Sean, and often sees **Alex Hernandez '05**, who lives two doors down. Maya is teaching art at Maine's Scarborough Middle School and recently became adjunct faculty at the University of New England in Biddeford, Maine, where she teaches drawing to undergraduates. She continues to teach telemark skiing to Bowdoin College students in Brunswick, Maine, on weekends! Those willing to brave the cold are always welcome in Maine.

**Marcus Meikle** writes, "I've been working as a financial consultant for the past seven years. I'm now working as an agent with New York Life Insurance Co. My job includes reviewing clients' life insurance potential and then talking about the life insurance coverage they expect to have. I help fill in any gaps in life insurance coverage. I work out of New York Life's Bethesda office, but often meet clients at locations



Top: (from left) Adam Wendelboe, Kate Jackson-Wendelboe '01, Kwok Ng, Emma (Jackson) Ng '03, and Henry Jackson '08 at Emma's August wedding. • Above: Kate Buchanan Brame '02 celebrated her wedding with Potomac classmates Elizabeth Cheek, Jenna Linden, Tracy Phillips, and Kristy Zimmerman in Newport, R.I.

convenient for them. My number is (301) 476-4414.”

**Natalie Namrow** got married to Fred Mason on March 9, 2013, at Union Station in Washington. Potomac School friends who attended were **Chelsea Emsellem**, **Mica Gutierrez**, **Elizabeth Hussey**, **Eliza Jones**, **Maya Jaafar-Lena**, **Jessica Liu**, **Mary Thomas**, and **Jenny Redding-Ullman**.

**Emma Ng (formerly Jackson)** shares, “In August I got married to Kwok Ng, whom I met at university. We had a traditional wedding near Cambridge, England, in the village where my parents now live. Bridesmaids included my sister **Kate Jackson-Wendelboe** ’01. Kwok and I live in London and love to see fellow alumni whenever they’re in town. It was great to see both **Ben Gillespie** and **Sam Lee** as they passed through the city this year.”

**Adam Wallwork** writes, “I recently received the inaugural Ridwan Mukti Prize for outstanding contribution to the study of economics and comparative law in 2014, as well as Distinguished Scholarly Achievement Awards from the faculty of law at Indonesia’s Islamic University, University of Surakarta, and the University of Surabaya.”

## 2004

### REUNION YEAR 10TH

*Help your Reunion Chairs Delara Derakhshani and Katie Johnson Critchfield make it the best reunion yet. Register today at [www.potomacschool.org/alumni](http://www.potomacschool.org/alumni).*

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**Lucia Abramovich** has been living in the fabulous, funky city of New Orleans for the past two-and-a-half years, where she is working on her PhD at Tulane University. She is also working at the New Orleans Museum of Art as its curatorial fellow for Spanish colonial art.

After five years in the Prince George’s County public schools, **Britney Cuffee** is teaching in DC’s public schools.

**Robbie de Picciotto** graduated with an MBA from INSEAD, a leading international business school with campuses in France and Singapore. In February, he was to start work for Google in Europe, based out of Dublin.

In February **Drew Durbin** and **Edmund Rucci** traveled to Torres del Paine in Chile.

**Christopher Heather** completed three years with the Peace Corps in Peru and is now living in Mountain View, Calif., and working at Coursera, an education technology company.

**Jasmine Morgan** traveled to Haiti and Dominican Republic for missions, where she was inspired to pursue a career in medicine and is preparing to take the MCAT this summer! She writes that she was “able to serve the people by encouraging them and helping supply



Clockwise from top left: Adam Wallwork ’03 receives an award for his academic achievements. • Natalie Namrow ’03 at her wedding with classmates Chelsea Emsellem, Mica Gutierrez, Elizabeth Hussey, Eliza Jones, Maya Jaafar-Lena, Jessica Liu, Mary Thomas, and Jenny Redding-Ullman. • Marcus Meikle ’03 works as a financial consultant for New York Life.

basic necessities like food and water.”

**Sumner Powell** is living in Pensacola, Fla., and working in the horse business.

**Derek Thompson** is a senior editor at *The Atlantic* magazine, but little in his life has changed in the last 10 years. He still lives with his common-law husband, **Drew Durbin**. He still sings often, although a small shower now stands in for the Engelhard Performing Arts Center. And he still prays on a nightly basis to keep his hair. If you are looking for more Derek in your life (who isn’t), he can be heard Thursdays on National Public Radio.



## A Rising Star in Music

Influenced by Fiona Apple, Elliot Smith, and Jimi Hendrix, 22-year-old alternative-pop singer and songwriter **Naïmah Muhammad '09** has found herself as a musician. Her recording debut, the EP *Reverie* (GMG World Media), will be released soon. For Naïmah, a recent graduate of the University of Southern California who has written songs since she was a young girl, it's hard to imagine her life without music.

### Q. Who are your influences as an artist?

A. In terms of songwriting, definitely Fiona Apple and Elliott Smith. On the artist side, I've always been a fan of Jimi Hendrix—not just of his music, but also of his style and the way he carried himself. I read an old quote of Hendrix talking about how he felt he transformed on stage as he embodied himself as an artist. I always think of this when I think about myself on stage and entering that different world.

### Q. What's it like to perform on stage?

A. Performing in front of an audience is one of the greatest rushes, but I still get nervous every time. My songs are very personal and open, whereas in my everyday life I'm pretty shy. I guess my songs are a way of communicating all the things going on in my life and the lives of those around me that I don't really talk a lot about.

It's taken me awhile to get comfortable as an artist delivering songs with subjects so close to me in front of people I do and don't know. But it's an amazing moment when I realize that I've touched upon something someone might be experiencing or have experienced in the past, and to see that connection happen in person; that's where the thrill comes in. My goal as a songwriter and artist is to not only write songs to express what I'm going through but to provide a means for others to navigate their way through their own thoughts.

### Q. What inspires the songs you write?

A. They stem from personal experiences and the experiences of those around me. Beyond that, music inspires me. I could be playing guitar or piano and instantly the sound of the music creates a certain feeling and words start falling into place. It's a pretty magical process.

### Q. What's your favorite part about being a musician?

A. I'm doing something I love that feels so innate to my very nature. I've written since I was a little girl, and have played music just as long. I'm not myself without music. No matter how much time I spend in the studio recording a song, or weeks developing just three lines to capture what I'm really trying to say, it all feels worth it because I love it. I also love that I'm exploring and merging sounds and styles. I grew up listening to different genres, and I think that's how many of my peers are. We love everything. So in my music I hope to capture those different influences and show how they can come together.

### Q. What advice would you offer someone who wants to make a career in music?

A. Make sure you have the solid support of those close to you, a very good attorney, and learn the business for yourself. Additionally—and this is very important—know that time and consistency will reveal your style and who you are. You don't have to force it; it will come.

Singer and songwriter Naïmah Muhammad '09



## 2005

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**Hunter Craighill** has launched the Brooklyn design company General Manufacturing, which makes blankets, wallets, handbags, and other small utility goods. See the story about him at [www.potomacschool.org/llamanotes](http://www.potomacschool.org/llamanotes).

**Will Runge** plays the keyboard for Fort Lean, a five-man band coming out of Wesleyan University. The band will play at the music and film festival South by Southwest and tour this spring with The Joy Formidable and Guards. It also will begin recording its first full-length album.

## 2006

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## 2007

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'08



Aaron Kur  
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**Aaron Kur** writes, "It was great seeing so many Potomac alumni in New York City at January's networking event. I'm looking forward to seeing even more alumni back on campus during May's reunion."

## 2008

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**Caitlin Black** was recently accepted to graduate school in England. Though currently studying penguins in Antarctica, she finds ways to stay warm.

**Charlie Sullivan** heads to France starting in March to work out of the Paris office of L.E.K. Consulting. He will be there until September; anyone with leads on apartments for rent in Paris is welcome to get in touch!

**Nick Thieme** is in the process of publishing two articles. One describes how strains of tuberculosis stay latent in the body for different periods of time, and the other describes the masses and velocities of 10 different binary star systems.

'11



Top: Caitlin Black '08 did graduate research on penguins in Antarctica. • Jackie Pfeiffer '11 goes scuba diving in Australia.

## 2009

**REUNION YEAR 5TH**

*Class Reunion Chairs Isabelle Conner, Phillips Mitchell, and Caroline Schmidt are looking forward to celebrating at Reunion 2014 on May 2 and 3.*

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**Class Agent**

Caroline Schmidt  
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**Phillips Mitchell** is working for the Fullbridge Program in Cambridge, Mass. Any college-aged alumni interested in business, entrepreneurship, and/or exploring internship opportunities should contact her at [phillips.mitchell@fullbridge.com](mailto:phillips.mitchell@fullbridge.com).



**Luca Passamonti** writes, "I have recently moved to Geneva to start my first job as an oil analyst at Mercuria Energy Trading. In December, I completed my master's in management science and engineering at Columbia University. I've enjoyed running into Potomac alumni all over the world, so if you happen to stop by Geneva please contact me."

## 2010

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### Class Agents

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Over the summer, **Ann Bellinger** will be working in software development for Redline Trading Solutions, a small Boston company.

**Katie Chockley** will graduate this spring from Yale, where she's majoring in American studies and economics. This year she was the president of the women's rugby team and head peer liaison with the office of LGBTQ resources, and she has been involved with activism around LGBTQ athletes and anti-sexual violence.

**Shivani Kochhar** will begin working at Mathematica Policy Research in Princeton, N.J., this fall.

**Tori McCaffrey** will begin working for IBM Global Business Services in Washington this fall.

**Hanna Rocks** will soon take the Certified Public Accountant exam. In the fall, she will begin working at the PricewaterhouseCoopers federal advisory practice in Washington.

**Paul Taylor** is a senior at Williams

College majoring in mathematics and minoring in environmental science. Paul interned in Boston this past summer, where he was thrilled to meet up with other Class of 2010 alums who were interning in the city.

**Margo Thronson** will take the Certified Public Accountant exam and begin working at Ernst and Young's audit practice in Washington in the fall.

**David Will** is attending the University of Virginia School of Law in the fall.

## 2011

### Class Correspondent

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Aarti Rishi  
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**Nick Diewald** has an internship with PricewaterhouseCoopers advisory office in Tysons Corner this summer. He is excited about working close to home and hopefully coming back to Potomac to visit!

**Charlotte Gerchick** writes, "I am a sophomore at Tulane University and am privileged to have made honors. I serve on the chapter counsel of Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority."

**Ian Kuzmik** and **Chris Lee**, inspired by their spirited advisor, Mr. Morgan, have begun preliminary discussions on their soon-to-be hit television series, *Providence*.

**Claire Paganussi** writes, "This past semester I interned for Michael Kors in the retail development department, aiding in the acquisition of footwear shops throughout the country. Currently, I work as a visual merchandising intern with the company and am really enjoying myself!"

**Jackie Pfeiffer** participated in a study abroad program in Australia.

**Aarti Rishi** writes, "This past fall, I studied abroad in London through a program called Foundation for International Education. I traveled throughout Europe and explored different cultures, cities, and foods! I also interned with StartJG, a creative ad agency in London. Studying abroad was the best four months of my life and is something I think everyone should do if they have the opportunity."

## 2012

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## 2013

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**Share with us!**  
**Delights, recollections,**  
**escapades, victories...**

**W**e want your notes! If your class has a Class Correspondent, send your notes to him or her. Contact information can be found at the top of each class column. If no Class Correspondent is listed, send notes to: [term@potomacschool.org](mailto:term@potomacschool.org) or Alumni Office, 1301 Potomac School Road, McLean, VA 22101.

**Brendan Abraham** writes “I’m loving my time at the University of Virginia. I’m in the engineering school, and while it’s challenging, Potomac did a great job of preparing me. My favorite class so far is Intro to Engineering, which gives us hands-on experience with power tools and shows us the process of entrepreneurship. Our group made a collapsible long board that could fit in a backpack. Academics aside, I’m planning on rushing this semester and am super-pumped for it. I’m also in the parkour (movement sport) and Lebanese clubs and plan to play intramural basketball this spring. This summer I plan to take a two-month Arabic program at the university.”

**Max Ausbrook** is at Indiana University and enjoying learning a new language, Italian. Max joined Phi Kappa Psi on campus.

**Soraya Batmanghelidj** is thoroughly enjoying her time and loving her classes at New York University. She is a section editor of *Baedeker*, a university magazine, and this summer, she plans to intern at Freud Communications in London.

**Jeffrey Billingslea** (Ohio University) is president of the university’s NAACP chapter. He is studying political science and plans on adding political communications.

**Jamie Davidow** (Colorado College) spent the fall as a crew member on a tall ship that sailed from Woods Hole, Mass., to Bequia, one of the Grenadine islands, while doing oceanographic research. She is back on Colorado’s campus for the spring semester.

**Ellie Gilbert** is loving Southern Methodist University. She has joined a volunteer group (Mustang Heroes),



Britt Nelson '13 (left) and Ellie Gilbert '13 pledged Kappa Kappa Gamma at Southern Methodist University.

and races with the club sailing team, and pledged to Kappa Kappa Gamma with fellow alum **Britt Nelson**.

**Russell Goldman** (Wesleyan) has just finished writing an original musical and plans on directing on campus this semester.

**Mary Kate Hall** is enjoying everything the University of Virginia has to offer, especially her sociology of family class.

**Sebastian Johnson** writes, “While living in Pamplona, Spain, I have interacted with people from all over the globe. I am far more advanced in Spanish than I was before I came here. I ran with the bulls and have been traveling to countries whenever possible. I plan on backpacking through Europe, participating in the Camino de Santiago, and partying in San Fermines this summer.”

**Peyton Kettler** (Elon University) plans on majoring in psychology and is enjoying playing club lacrosse and getting ready for rush.

**Tatiana Kersten** (William and Mary) is playing on the club soccer team, joined the Sports Business Club, and plans on attending the business school. She has also

pledged Kappa Kappa Gamma; **Fallon Bridgeland** '12 is her big sister.

**Shing-Wai Koo** (Case Western Reserve) is working hard and looking for financial support for a mission trip to a university in Croatia to share the gospel with the community.

**Caroline Meisel** (Vanderbilt) is assistant editor of the sports section of the *Vanderbilt Hustler*, the student-run newspaper. She plans on double-majoring in political science and communications and has joined Kappa Alpha Theta on campus.

**Britt Nelson** (Southern Methodist) is majoring in computer science and is very involved with Relay for Life.

**Natasha Preston** is off to a great start at Kenyon College. In February, she declared a drama major. After working more than 160 hours in Kenyon’s theater department through acting, stage management, and costume design, she gained membership into the Kenyon College Dramatic Club. Currently she is acting in “Baby With the Bathwater.” She also is an intern writer for Kenyon’s student blog, The Kenyon Thrill.

**Tyler “Tiger” Ricchetti** has joined an a cappella group and is now the assistant music director. He has been in three shows on both the main stage and in small theatres. He also has been working on writing and recording music.

**Emma Scott** (Washington and Lee) plans on majoring in business administration. She is also involved in her sorority, Kappa Delta, and Relay for Life.

**Devon Winsor** (Davidson College) leases a horse and continues to ride almost every day. She is enjoying everything Davidson has to offer (particularly the weather) and plans on becoming a political science major.





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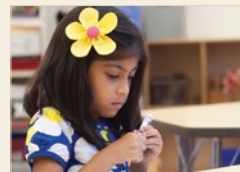
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# When the Music Began

In 1952, Nancy Poore Tufts, a church organist and choir director in Washington, went to a concert in Boston and heard handbells for the first time. Determined to bring such beautiful music to the DC area, where churches did little with handbells, she bought a set of 14 from the famous Whitechapel Foundry in London and created an ensemble that's believed to be the area's first.

Mrs. Tufts brought her Whitechapel bells to Potomac a short time later. In this photo, three students—Nancy Pittman Pinchot, Margaret Martin, and Nicola Rose Walder from the Class of 1964—use them in a concert. The bells were retired in the 1990s and donated to the Washington Revels. Potomac students today play 119 bells made by Pennsylvania's Schulmerich, the world's largest handbell company. Mrs. Tufts died in 2012, having led music groups in Washington for more than 60 years.







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### Upcoming Alumni Events

#### Reunion

Friday, May 2, and Saturday,  
May 3

#### Networking Event

Friday, May 22

#### PreUnion for Seniors

Wednesday, June 4

#### Fall Frolics/Homecoming

Saturday, October 18

#### Winter Lights Assembly and Young Alumni Lunch

Thursday, December 18

Visit [www.potomacschool.org/alumni](http://www.potomacschool.org/alumni) and click on the Alumni Calendar for a list of all alumni events. Note: events are subject to change.

### Alumni Governing Council (AGC)

The AGC meets approximately every month from September to May. Visit [www.potomacschool.org/alumni/volunteer](http://www.potomacschool.org/alumni/volunteer) and click Alumni Governing Council for a list of 2014-15 meeting dates.