

The PotomacTerm

The Alumni Magazine of The Potomac School • Spring 2015

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DEAR FRIENDS,

Greetings from The Potomac School! It's spring, and our campus is alive with the beauty and warmth of the season, as well as the bustle of purposeful activity that this time of year always brings.

As you know, Potomac takes a long view on education. While preparing students to achieve academically, we also strive to inspire them to live compassionately and build the skills that will enable them to succeed as adults. Our School's traditions, educational program, and co-curricular activities are all directed toward achieving these ends.

I am particularly proud to introduce this issue of *The Term* because it contains stories that demonstrate some of the myriad ways that we accomplish our mission. It also shines a spotlight on members of our community whose personal and professional lives exemplify the power of a Potomac education.

In these pages, you will read about one of our current priorities, the core values initiative. Under the leadership of Middle School Head John Mathews, our Core Values Committee worked with all segments of the Potomac community to explore and articulate the values that shape our work as educators, guide our School's operations, and underpin the generosity of spirit for which Potomac is known.

This issue also includes an article about The Real Me, a new program to empower sixth grade girls to explore their identities and develop healthy self-confidence in an increasingly complex world. In addition, there is a story about our efforts to build a greater sense of community and shared responsibility among the children who ride Potomac's buses each day.

The arts have always been an integral part of a Potomac education. The talented alumni profiled in this issue are putting their musical, design, and writing skills to creative and inspiring use. And, in a story about our Board of Trustees, you will meet the newest members, who are excited to share their time, talents, and wisdom to help The Potomac School flourish.

This issue also includes profiles of two students whose scientific research has garnered regional and national recognition, our innovative Global Perspectives



and Citizenship program, and a student-athlete whose extraordinary commitment and effort have led to record-breaking success.

Certainly, programs, activities, and initiatives are important. But it is Potomac's people – our students, alumni, parents, faculty, staff, and friends – who are at the heart of all our efforts, and who exemplify the deeper meaning and purpose of a Potomac education. I hope that you will enjoy reading this issue of *The Term*, every page of which celebrates the people who make up our community.

Thank you for your continued friendship and support. Together, we are ensuring that the power of Potomac grows ever stronger.

All the best,

John Kowalik
Head of School

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ON THE COVER: Katryna '84 and Nerissa Nields '82
photo: Sarah Prall | sarahprall.com



ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

Seniors Earn Honors for Independent Research

The Potomac School's Science and Engineering Research Center program was created to give advanced students a chance to do long-term independent research, work in a professional lab, and stretch their minds.

IT'S BEEN A BANNER YEAR for Ashley Rodriguez and Josh Tarplin, two seniors in The Potomac School's Science and Engineering Research Center (SERC) program. Over the past few months, Ashley and Josh's two-year independent research projects have earned them awards and scholarships from some of the most prestigious competitions in the country.

On January 9, Ashley's research on hemangiosarcoma, an aggressive cancer in dogs, placed first in the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium (JSHS) regional finals, held at Georgetown University. She received a \$2,000 scholarship and will advance to the JSHS national competition in April.



Ashley's work was also recognized in the prestigious Siemens high school science, math, and technology competition, where she was named a regional finalist and a national semifinalist. She was one of just 97 regional finalists nationwide, and one of only five Virginia students selected based on their individual research projects. In November, Ashley traveled to MIT to present her findings at the Siemens national semifinals. Although she was not selected as a national finalist, her research impressed many, garnering praise from MIT's dean of admissions and the CEO of Siemens. "Everyone was in awe of Ashley's accomplishments," says her advisor, Dr. Isabelle Cohen. "She truly represented the best of Potomac."

① Josh Tarplin ② Ashley Rodriguez and Josh at the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium ③ Ashley working with her advisor, Dr. Isabelle Cohen

① Staff members and Uppe School students enjoy lunch with young friends. ② Erin Jackson '16 with kindergarten student Jackson Kimsey

Josh also competed in the JSHS regional finals and was awarded fourth place for his work on the effect of hyaluronic acid on human mesenchymal progenitor cells differentiation – a method to improve cartilage regeneration in patients with traumatically obtained extremity wounds. He will present a poster on his research at nationals.

In addition, Josh was named a semifinalist in the 2015 Intel Science Talent Search, a prestigious pre-college science and math competition. He was one of only 300 semifinalists selected from a pool of more than 1,800 entrants nationwide. In recognition of this achievement, Josh received a \$1,000 award from Intel, with an additional \$1,000 presented to The Potomac School.

Now in its fifth year, the SERC program was created to give advanced students like Ashley and Josh a chance to do long-term independent research, work in a professional lab, and stretch their minds. In addition to working with Potomac faculty, students in the program secure mentors in the wider scientific community – experts who agree to assist with their research and provide equipment, materials, or laboratory space. Ashley was mentored by Dr. Jaime Modiano, head of the renowned veterinary lab at the University of Minnesota, while Josh was mentored by Dr. Leon Nesti, a chief surgeon at the National Institute of Arthritis and Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases.

STUDENT LIFE

A New Lunch Bunch



AT FIRST GLANCE, Drew Dockser '15, Erin Jackson '16, and Caroline Spartin '15 look way too old to be Lower School students...but not quite seasoned enough to be teachers. "What are those big kids doing eating lunch with the little ones?" an outsider might think. But it's no mistake. This scene has become commonplace

at Potomac; it's part of the Community Lunch program, a Lower School initiative designed to promote cross-divisional interaction and further enhance the sense of community on campus.

Lower School Head Nancy Powell, who spearheaded the program, says, "My initial idea was to create an environment where adults would be engaged with our children at the lunch table, helping to guide, facilitate, or simply participate in lively conversations." So far this year, Lower School students have enjoyed the company of staff members from several offices around campus, as well as administrators like Head of School John Kowalik, Director of Admission Charlotte Nelsen, and Chief Financial Officer David DeJesus.

The Lower School lunch hour was always filled with smiles and laughter. But with this new initiative, grown-ups have joined in on the fun. "It's the highlight of my week," says Boys Athletic Director Rob Lee '78. Rob sits with Jenni Hoffmann's second graders on Fridays; he usually talks with them about their weekend plans and, of course, sports. "I love hanging out with those kids," he says with a big smile. And, according to the students, it's not just Mr. Lee who's talking sports with his young friends. "We talk about football all the time with Mr. Kowalik," says second grader Nico Leonardo. "Did you know he played in college?" adds Nico's classmate, Evan Phillips.

Senior Class President Caroline Spartin heard about the program for staff and thought that Upper School students might also enjoy being part of the little kids' lunch bunch. So she posted a sign-up sheet, and a dozen of her peers volunteered. Caroline, who usually eats with Molly Berke's first graders, loves the levity of hanging out with the little ones;

popular topics at her table include favorite candies, hair braiding tips, and secret handshakes. "It's fun to have a bigger friend," says first grader Claire McEwen.

For senior Drew Dockser, Community Lunch represents a kind of homecoming: He's been at Potomac since first grade, and Mrs. Powell was his second grade teacher.

Drew observes, "I liked being around the older kids when I was a Lower School student. Now, it's fun seeing that from the other side."



GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

Students Develop a Wider Worldview



IN AN UPPER SCHOOL classroom this fall, the wheels in a dozen juniors’ heads were turning at warp speed. The students – still nearly two years from high school graduation – were working vigorously to develop college-level research questions. And Dr. Emily Hoechst was stoking their intellectual curiosity, encouraging this select group of students not just to think outside the box, but to think *globally*.

Emily heads GPAC, the Global Perspectives and Citizenship program – one of three selective advanced programs in the Upper School (along with the Science and Engineering Research Center and the Visual and Performing Arts Concentration). In just her first

year at Potomac, Emily has injected the program with a rigorous curriculum that draws upon her time teaching political theory to undergraduates at Georgetown University. “My goal is to get these students to produce college-level work,” she says. “And they are showing that they can do it!”

Matt Nagell ’16 decided to focus his research on policy and politics affecting water in the Nile River region. Water security is of interest to Matt, and he settled on the Nile because of the scale and severity of the region’s water issues. “Hydropolitics could affect Nile River basin countries heavily because of how greatly they rely on this one water source,” he explains.

Matt’s GPAC journey began in his sophomore year, when he and the other students accepted to the program took an elective course designed to introduce them to global issues. A supplement to their core history requirement, the course allows GPAC students to broaden their understanding of various political, economic, and social systems. It covers four main topic areas: global economics, global politics, cultural globalism, and global problems that extend beyond political boundaries – like climate change and food security. Emily Hoechst hopes to add a speaker component in the future, bringing professionals from each of these areas to campus to offer her students real-world perspectives. For now, GPAC sophomores broaden their understanding by studying content related to all four topic areas, following current events from around the world, participating in spirited debates, and creating an awareness campaign on a global issue of their choosing.

In the final two years of the program, students get the opportunity to dive deeper into an issue that interests them. During their junior year, they work with their teacher to develop a problem-driven research project. In the spring of that year, the students present their preliminary findings to classmates and revise their research papers. By the fall of their senior year, they are preparing to submit their final papers, which must be

at least 18 pages in length. Before graduation, GPAC students also take one additional elective with a global focus, either in science, history, or world language.

Matt, now in his second year in the program, thought that it would provide an interesting opportunity to learn about international relations, an area he is considering as his college major. He likes the fact that GPAC courses aren’t as structured as typical history classes, noting that they “allow me the freedom to really dig into topics that interest me.”

For Emily Hoechst, seeing Matt and his classmates become engaged with issues that affect people around the world is deeply satisfying. She says, “Our students have chosen to tackle some very complex topics, from educational disparities in South America to the effectiveness of U.N. peacekeeping operations in various countries. For me, it’s a gift to have this opportunity to help them expand their horizons.”

Over the next year, Emily will continue to guide her students as they pursue their research. She wants to see them move beyond citing American news sources and develop the skills to produce a significant social-science paper. She is also working to develop opportunities for GPAC students to travel abroad, intern with globally focused organizations, or attend pre-college global studies programs during the summer months.

As for Matt, he’s become a teenage expert on the water security of the Nile River region. He has concluded that Ethiopia’s rising economic prosperity – not environmental factors like pollution – is the biggest threat to the region’s water availability. GPAC has helped broaden his understanding of an important issue and given him practical knowledge about international relations. He says, “I hope to use what I’ve learned from this project in my future studies and, ultimately, in my career.”

It’s a gift to have this opportunity to help them expand their horizons.



① Matt Nagell ’16 ② Dr. Emily Hoechst

GPAC courses allow me the freedom to really dig into topics that interest me.



FALL AND WINTER NEWS ROUNDUP

EXCITING THINGS Are Happening at Potomac!



① Upper School science and engineering teacher Jonathan Lindsay ② Students enjoy Fall Frolics. ③ Upper School students share their time on Service-Learning Day.

The National Merit Scholarship Corporation recognized 28 Potomac students for outstanding performance on the 2013 PSAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. Seniors Ryan Berman, Michelle Brouckman, Thomas DeSantis, Maggie Fain, James Matthews, Theo Mendez, and Diya Nuxoll were named National Merit Semifinalists.

300+ parent and student volunteers helped make Fall Frolics 2015 a huge success. The event was great fun for all who attended.

At Halloween, more than 50 Intermediate School students enjoyed an evening of fun and games with children from Alternative House, a shelter for at-risk youth.

Matt Spencer and Gianmarco Terrones, two juniors in Potomac’s Science and Engineering Research Center program, participated in the Howard Hughes Medical Institute’s lectures on “Biodiversity in the Age of Humans.” They attended six lectures by leading scientists from Stanford and the University of California, Berkeley, analyzing factors that threaten land and sea ecosystems.

More than 400 Upper School students and their advisors shared their time and talents with nearly 30 different local organizations during Potomac’s fall Service-Learning Day.

Ten girls on the Intermediate School robotics team attended a mentoring event focused on women in science, technology, engineering, and math at the Smithsonian Natural History Museum.

Seventh grader Rohit Narayanan gave a presentation at the Virginia Association of Independent Schools Annual Conference in Richmond. Rohit, a member of a robotics team that won the VEX IQ Middle School Division world championship in April 2014, spoke about how project-based learning and competitions foster students’ pursuit of excellence in mathematics and the sciences.

Fifth graders dazzled with their creativity at Potomac’s annual Invention Convention, organized by Middle School science teacher Ben Buursma. Among the creative solutions to practical problems presented by the young inventors were the “Jolly Juicer,” the “Turn-a-Fridge,” and the “Insta Brush.”

Ninth grader Elise Flick won the Potomac final of the Poetry Out Loud competition and advanced to the regional finals, where she competed against finalists from other area schools.

Upper School science and engineering teacher Jonathan Lindsay was one of 16 Virginia educators selected as a Master Teacher for the Virginia Aerospace Science and Technology Scholars program, an online NASA-based STEM education program for high school juniors across the state.

More than a dozen Upper School students observed open-heart surgery at Inova Fairfax Hospital.

The Upper School robotics team of Jessica Byun and Diya Nuxoll won the Judges’ Award for outstanding performance and effort during a 35-team robotics tournament hosted by Potomac.

As part of a project titled “With My Own Two Hands,” third graders recounted their recent good deeds, ranging from picking up litter to reading to a younger sibling. Their kind acts were also commemorated with colorful handprints on the walls of the Lower School. The project’s purpose was to remind the students that simple, everyday acts of kindness can change the world.

The United States Army Band Tuba-Euphonium Quartet visited campus, showcasing their talents for Middle, Intermediate, and Upper School students and faculty in a series of festive holiday performances.



SPEAKERS

Guests Share Their Time and Talents with Potomac Students

This fall and winter, Potomac students heard from some remarkable speakers and other special guests, including more than a half-dozen alumni. In the span of four months, they learned about political journalism from a former *Newsweek* reporter, heard the inspiring story of a group of lawyers who worked to exonerate a man wrongly convicted of murder, explored the importance of social activism with a well-known musician, and got insights into life in the theater from a professional actor.

Shauna spoke with Intermediate School students about the case of Dewey Bozella, a man wrongfully imprisoned for murder whom she helped to exonerate. Despite a plea deal that offered him freedom, Bozella refused to admit to something that he did not do. “He had so much integrity,” Shauna said. During his incarceration, Bozella earned various degrees and became the prison’s lightweight boxing champion. Thanks to tireless work by Shauna and her colleagues at the law firm WilmerHale, Dewey Bozella was freed in 2009 after 26 years in prison. In 2011, he received ESPN’s Arthur Ashe Courage Award. The lesson Shauna drew from this experience to share with Potomac’s students? “Always do the right thing, even when it’s really hard.”

Grace Becker ’13 and Colton Haney ’13 came back to campus in October to perform with their respective Cornell University a cappella vocal groups. Grace’s coed group, The Chordials, sang a few songs before teaming up with students from Potomac’s a cappella groups to sing Alex Clare’s pop hit “Too Close.” The men’s group that Colton sings with, Last Call, performed the ’60s hit “Build Me Up Buttercup” and the ’70s classic “Lean on Me.”

Later in October, two alums from the Class of 1999, Jonathan Darman and Shauna Burgess Friedman, met with students to talk about their remarkable achievements.

Jonathan, a former *Newsweek* reporter and author of the book *Landslide: LBJ and Ronald Reagan at the Dawn of a New America*, spoke to Upper School students about political journalism, the twists and turns of his career, and the unpredictable nature of almost everything. “Even though you can’t predict the future, don’t ever stop preparing and setting goals,” he advised. “When you work hard and your plans are up-ended, you’ll still have the skills to create a life of meaning and consequence.”



To kick off Potomac’s fall Service-Learning Day in November, alumna and trustee Stephanie Amann Kapsis ’01 spoke to Upper School students about the importance of giving back and how her service experiences at Potomac helped to inspire her involvement in education. Stephanie, an Alexandria City Public Schools board member and a senior advisor for KIPP DC charter schools, talked about how her strong service background, combined with motivation from her Potomac teachers, helped her discover a love for teaching and a commitment to helping low-income students. “Through my service experiences, I found my passion for education,” she said.

In December, musician Chadwick Stokes and his wife and tour manager, Sybil Gallagher, were on campus to talk about their nonprofit organization, Calling All Crows, which partners with musicians and fans to create change through hands-on service and activism. Stokes, who is a frontman for the bands Dispatch and State Radio, played a few powerful songs and talked about his inspiration to leverage music as a platform to engage fans on social issues. “I get fired up about music and its message,” he said.

In January, students interested in acting got a treat when theater teacher Michael Bergman arranged for alums Harlan Work ’03 and Samantha Dockser ’12 to speak in the Black Box Theater. First, sophomores in the Visual and Performing Arts Concentration received advice and perspective from Samantha, an acting major at the University of Miami. She noted that it’s great to study acting because “you’re doing what you love all day!”

Harlan, who is a professional actor, talked with Potomac students about his role in *The Originalist*, a new play about Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, which was slated to open at DC’s Arena Stage in March. He talked about the struggles of auditioning and encouraged the students to work on a wide range of skills in order to become theater “triple threats” (singers, actors, and dancers). Harlan also noted that creating a character on stage involves the mind as well as the body. He assured the students, “Coming from Potomac, you’re already intellectually prepared for the actor’s work.”



① Jonathan Darman ’99 and Shauna Burgess Friedman ’99 ② Musician Chadwick Stokes and his wife, Sybil Gallagher ③ Samantha Dockser ’12 ④ Stephanie Amann Kapsis ’01 ⑤ Harlan Work ’03

WRESTLING

Brendan Ryan '15 Quietly Leaves His Mark on Potomac

THE WALL BEHIND the bleachers in Potomac's wrestling center has more graffiti than a New York City subway car. The phrases "All State" and "MAC Champion" are stenciled there boldly. And the name "Brendan Ryan" appears again and again. He has tagged the wall over a half-dozen times. But Brendan Ryan '15 isn't a vandal; he's left his mark by destroying his competition and the Potomac record books during a stellar wrestling career.



For the last three years, Brendan has completely dominated his Mid-Atlantic Conference (MAC) opponents. He has never lost a conference match. So, when he entered his senior season, his goals were lofty: He didn't want to just be a MAC champion; he wanted to be a state champion and place at nationals. En route to achieving these goals, Brendan hoped to earn more than just a few more tags on the wall. He wanted to see his name under a completely new category: 150 wins.

Wrestling is one of the oldest forms of sport, dating back to the ancient Greeks and Romans. To the untrained observer, it looks dangerous. The holds, the takedowns, and the pins can seem brutal, and the shouting during matches brings the movie *Fight Club* to mind.

Some mothers might discourage their children from taking part in such a seemingly primal and painful sport. Not Karyn Ryan. In fact, Karyn had no problem signing her young son up for the Great Falls and McLean youth wrestling leagues when he expressed an interest in the sport. That's because she knows first-hand how wrestling creates men of character.

Karyn's college classmate, Eric Brugel – now a close friend of the whole Ryan family – introduced Brendan to the sport in fourth grade. An All-American wrestler at Penn State in the 1980s who won two gold medals in the 1982 Junior Pan American Games, Brugel told Brendan that success as a wrestler hinges on preparation, discipline, and the desire to compete to the best of one's ability. Cultivate those things, he said, and winning will follow. As his career progressed, Brendan found that all of his wrestling coaches followed the same philosophy.

Generally, wrestlers go about their business quietly. They are disciplined, they train diligently to achieve their goals, and their successes are often met with less fanfare than in other sports. Brendan is no different. He is humble despite his many athletic accomplishments. He blends in with his friends and classmates, and – though he certainly looks athletic – his stature offers no indication that he frequently pins his opponents (who are sometimes two weight classes heavier than him) in mere seconds.

But this level of success didn't come easily. Brendan recalls with a grin, "When I was younger, I was getting beat up in the Beltway League. I lost the majority of my matches." The Beltway League, or Capital Area Wrestling League, is where most



of the best DC-area wrestlers under the age of 16 develop their skills. Brendan notes that, even when he lost, going up against such strong competitors helped him to improve.

In the lower grades, Brendan was the kid who played everything. Every day in elementary school, he'd show up lugging his wrestling bag, his baseball bag, and/or his soccer bag. By the time he arrived at Potomac in the seventh grade, Brendan was already one of the School's top young wrestlers; he just hadn't fully committed himself to the sport. In Intermediate School, he dabbled with lacrosse. His freshman year, he played soccer. But, for Brendan, neither sport could top wrestling. He loved the atmosphere and the sense of brotherhood that he felt with other wrestlers. Although he was the team's only freshman, the upperclassmen – particularly Sebastian Corrochano '12 and his brother, Gabe '13 – took Brendan under their wings. "And before the end of the season, I realized that I just wanted to wrestle," Brendan recalls.

Sebastian and Gabe were the brothers that Brendan – a middle child with two sisters – never had. The three boys would lift weights together, building muscle on Brendan's 90-pound freshman-year frame and adding much-needed strength to his already sound wrestling technique. (Brendan admits that his older sister, Abby – a former national-level gymnast – was stronger than him for a long time.)

This hard work, combined with the guidance of former Potomac wrestling coach Ryan Snyder, elevated Brendan to MAC champion in his first year on the varsity team. Coach Snyder, a former Army Ranger and Green Beret, taught Brendan the importance of mental toughness, as well as healthy eating and cardio work. As a sophomore, Brendan won his second consecutive MAC title, wrestling at 120 pounds, while the team won its



As a sophomore, Brendan (front row, far right) was a member of the wrestling team that placed 6th at states.

first-ever MAC tournament title and finished as regular season co-champion. The team placed 6th at states that year, earning recognition for exemplary performance by a mid-size school.

In Brendan's junior year, he developed a close bond with new head coach Thomas Wilson, a former wrestler at Ohio State University. Under his guidance, Brendan advanced to the Round of 16 in the 126-pounds division at the National Prep School Wrestling Championships at Lehigh University. As Potomac's team captain, he finished 6-1 at states and had a record of 42-8 on the season, surpassing 100 wins for his career. "Passing 100 wins is something rarely accomplished by a junior," Coach Wilson says. Brendan ensured his third-straight MAC title by pinning every conference opponent he faced.

But Brendan wasn't satisfied. The losses at states and nationals gnawed at him; he needed to get better. This past summer, he enrolled in camps and clubs where he wrestled top-tier high school and college-freshman competitors. His dad, Ken, says that most of Brendan's summer opponents were Division I caliber – similar to the competition he faces at states and nationals. Ken notes, "For Brendan, it's not just about winning. It's about meeting and overcoming the toughest challenge that's out there."

The extra work paid off. Despite wrestling up a weight class most of his senior year, Brendan capped off his MAC career with his fourth-straight championship, pinning every opponent he faced at the tournament to improve his undefeated conference record to 32-0 and become the only Potomac wrestler to finish his career with an unblemished record. In February, he placed second in the 138-pounds division at states – the highest state placement by a Potomac wrestler in six seasons. A week later, Brendan made his second-straight appearance at nationals. In four years, he achieved a School-record 149 wins, a mark that will likely stand for a long time to come.

While Brendan fell just short of the ambitious goals he set for himself at the beginning of this season, it's the near misses that will continue to motivate him. He has been invited to wrestle at the Division I level for Coach Kevin Dresser at nationally-ranked Virginia Tech, and he is also talking with the coaches at Penn State, Harvard, Princeton, and Duke. It's a sure bet that, whichever school he chooses to attend, Brendan Ryan's quiet commitment and unflagging dedication to his sport will soon have him tagging his name on a collegiate wrestling room wall. 📷

FALL HIGHLIGHTS

Panther Soccer Teams Win Conference Titles, Girls Tennis Dominates



Both the boys and girls soccer teams captured conference championships to push Potomac's all-time championship total to 116.

GIRLS SOCCER (8-6-1) claimed a share of the Independent School League (ISL) title in thrilling fashion by defeating Episcopal 1-0 in penalty kicks in the ISL A tournament championship.

BOYS SOCCER (13-4-3) won the Mid-Atlantic Conference (MAC) regular season championship; the title was the team's fifth overall and its first since 1998. Led by sophomore All-State forward Tommy Hansan, the team advanced to the state quarterfinals, its best finish since 2010.

FIELD HOCKEY finished its season 9-7 and advanced to the ISL quarterfinals.



Grace Meisel '15 led **GIRLS TENNIS** to a 12-4 record, which included a seven-match win streak and a trip to the state quarterfinals. Grace, the team's captain, was named to the All-State team.

Kyle Sanok '16 finished third overall in the state **BOYS CROSS COUNTRY** championships, while Gianmarco Terrones '16 came in 13th; both runners earned All-State honors. In November, Kyle won the Foot Locker Cross Country South Regional junior boys championship in Charlotte, NC.

After a slow start, the **FOOTBALL** team (4-5) won four out of its last five games, including a 21-7 Homecoming game win against two-time defending conference champion and rival Flint Hill.

GOLF TEAM captain Jack Chason '15 accomplished a bucket list feat in a September match when he shot a hole-in-one on the 9th hole at Oak Marr Golf Course.



① Addie Stansbury '15 ② Jack Chason '15
③ Herbert Padilla '17 ④ Josh Hansan '15
⑤ Michelle Brouckman '15 ⑥ The football team takes the field or the 2014 Homecoming Game.
⑦ Kyle Sanok '16 ⑧ Lauren Long '17

postseason awards

Congratulations, Potomac Panthers!

ALL-LEAGUE

Kyle Sanok, Gianmarco Terrones (cross country); Michelle Brouckman, Abby Smalley (field hockey); Josh Hansan, James Matthews, Stuart Read, Naim Rutledge, Mike Thompson (football); Tommy Hansan, Matt Nagell, Herbert Padilla, Jack Peele (boys soccer); Courtlynne Caskin, Tracey Mills (girls soccer); Grace Meisel, Kate Thomas (girls tennis)

ALL-STATE

Kyle Sanok, Gianmarco Terrones (cross country); Naim Rutledge (first team, football), Brooks Arundel, Josh Hansan, Steven Logan, James Matthews (second team, football), Jack Repke, Jasper Tyner (honorable mention, football); Tommy Hansan (second team, soccer); Grace Meisel (second team, girls tennis)

ALL-MET

Tommy Hansan (honorable mention, soccer)

looking ahead

What's in Store for Spring Sports

GIRLS LACROSSE finished last season 12-8 claiming both the ISL regular season and tournament titles in the A division. Led by junior Sheila Rietano '16, who scored 80 goals last season, the Panthers will look to continue their success this spring after moving up to the ISL AA division.

After losing All-Met Player of the Year Josh Hublitz '14, **BOYS TENNIS** will try to repeat as state champs and win a seventh-straight MAC tournament title.

In **BOYS OUTDOOR TRACK AND FIELD**, thrower Grant Voeks '15 qualified for the New Balance Nationals and won MAC titles, setting school records in discus and shot put last season. Grant is hoping to toss some more records and rack up more titles in his senior season.

For sports schedules and highlights, visit www.potomacschool.org/athletics.

SISTER ACT

by Kevin Hollister

Music has been the lifeblood of the Nields family. As children, sisters Nerissa '82 and Katryna Nields '84 remember singing folk songs with their father – Nerissa tackling the harmonies while Katryna mastered the melodies. When Nerissa wrote her first song at 13, she shared it with Katryna almost immediately. “I wanted my sister to be a part of it,” she says.

It came as no surprise when the two formed their own folk-rock band, The Nields, in 1991, ensuring that they'd go on sharing the music. Now, more than two decades later, they continue to perform together, and their melodies and harmonies have become triggers that evoke fond memories of a lifetime of song and community.

In fact, it was a sense of community that attracted Nerissa and Katryna to Potomac. Both remember visiting the campus in 1974 with their parents and watching Lower School students sing during an assembly. Seeing the entire Lower School sing together convinced Gail and John Nields that Potomac was the place for their daughters. Once enrolled, the Nields sisters say, their love of music deepened with each new grade. They benefited from the School's rich music curriculum – both learning the recorder in second grade and the violin in third grade, then joining the band in Middle School. At the time, Potomac offered only kindergarten through ninth grade; Nerissa and Katryna left for The Madeira School after eighth grade. (The sisters joke that they left so that they wouldn't get their mother, Gail, as a teacher in ninth grade; she, too, had joined the Potomac community, becoming a well-loved history teacher and tennis coach.)

photo: Sarah Prall | sarahprall.com

Nerissa '82 (left) and Katryna Nields '84



Those formative years helped the Nields sisters develop their musical ability and maintain their sisterly bond. “We’ve been close our whole lives,” Katryna says. After being together throughout their years at Potomac and Madeira, it seemed only natural that when Nerissa enrolled at Yale, Katryna soon followed her to Connecticut, to attend nearby Trinity College. The close proximity allowed the sisters to continue their musical journey together, with Nerissa playing rhythm guitar and singing harmony while Katryna sang lead vocals. By the late 1980s, the two were playing open mics regularly in Connecticut and back home in DC.

After finishing her undergraduate work, Nerissa was thinking about enrolling at Yale’s Divinity School. But it was also around this time when the Nields met David Jones, a graduate student and guitarist

who joined them at open mics. The trio began to gain momentum within the coffeehouse scene, and Nerissa decided that it wasn’t the right time for grad school. She remembers thinking, “I’ll try this rock band thing, instead.”

Nerissa and Katryna never wanted to be ROCK STARS; they simply wanted to bring music to the community – a desire rooted in their time at POTOMAC.

And with that, the three decided to go all-in and start a band, The Nields. They moved to Connecticut and recorded two

albums. Before long, two of Katryna’s Trinity College classmates were added to the band: bassist Dave Chalfant – who is now Katryna’s husband – and drummer Dave Hower. By 1994, The Nields were a full-fledged alternative folk-rock band.

“The Nields are young. They are hip. They are hot,” *The Boston Globe* declared that fall. Thanks to the Internet and a large underground folk-rock scene, the band had developed a healthy and enthusiastic fan base. It was clear that The Nields had reached prominence in the New England area when they were booked to open the prestigious Newport Folk Festival in 1994, sharing top billing with the Grammy Award-winning folk music duo The Indigo Girls.

The Nields pumped out album after album, and Nerissa, Katryna, and the rest of the band spent nearly a decade touring the country in an aging Dodge van that they called “Moby.” With

each show in each city, they collected email addresses of fans to add to their mailing list. “When I think about how much easier it would have been if we’d had Facebook in the ’90s, I get sad,” Katryna jokes. But even without today’s social media technology, The Nields attracted enthusiastic crowds to shows all over the country – from the Freight & Salvage Coffeehouse in Berkeley, California, to the Barns at Wolf Trap, a northern Virginia venue not far from Potomac. They were on the road over 300 days a year, playing more than 150 shows.

During their days on tour, The Nields enjoyed engaging with fans who felt connected to them through their music. Nerissa and Katryna never wanted to be rock stars; they simply wanted to bring music to the community – a desire rooted in their time at Potomac. “Making connections is practically our mantra as musicians,” Katryna says. Both sisters were a part of Christmas Revels with former Potomac music director Jack Langstaff. Katryna says that their experience with Revels brought home the importance of connecting with an audience.

That desire for deeper connection ultimately motivated the Nields sisters to stop touring with the band and pursue family life in the early 2000s. Although Nerissa and Katryna were still making music and recording albums as a duo, they wanted to try out new creative directions. A few years after Katryna’s daughter, Amelia, was born, the sisters recorded their first children’s record, *Songs for Amelia*. Then, in 2006, when Nerissa had her first child, the Nields created HooteNanny – a program that offers weekly music lessons for children and their parents.

“We really have a common vision,” Nerissa says. “It’s not static, either; it continues to morph as we grow.” Nerissa and Katryna now each have a daughter and a son, and their music reflects the lifestyle changes that parenthood brings. They have recorded several children’s albums and written three books, including *All Together Singing in the*

“We want to continue doing what we love as long as we can do it, while also taking care of our families, our relationships, and our community.”



The cover of The Nields’ latest album, *XVII*, released in February 2015

Kitchen, which offers creative ways to make and enjoy music as a family.

Now, The Nields try not to play more than four shows a month. They’ve performed together in more than 40 states, but their favorite venue is the one closest to their homes: the Iron Horse Music Hall in Northampton, Massachusetts. When they’re on stage, the place is always packed with energetic crowds. Over the years, their fan base has grown and expanded beyond the underground folk-rock scene; adults and kids alike are attracted to the warmth and sense of community the duo bring to each performance.

This February, The Nields released their 17th album, titled *XVII* – a name that reflects their shared sense of pride and accomplishment in a long and very successful collaboration. Each of their albums is a time capsule, a sharing of songs that reflect one stage of the sisters’ lives. *XVII* is no different: It’s a musical portrait of two artists at mid-life, looking back with fondness and forward with anticipation. “We still have a lot of music to make,” says Katryna. “We want to continue doing what we love as long as we can do it, while also taking care of our families, our relationships, and our community.”



photo: Kris McCue



BY KEVIN HOLLISTER

"*Girls* want to talk about the challenges they're facing. And having a safe, supportive place to do that can make a *real* difference."

FOR MANY GIRLS, sixth grade can be a confusing time. As a young Britney Spears once sang, "I'm not a girl, not yet a woman." These lyrics speak directly to the awkwardness and angst that girls often feel in early adolescence. But this time in life is as developmentally essential as it is challenging. It's a critical period for the formation of identity, confidence, and healthy relationships.

Many parents and educators are concerned about the media images and cultural influences that girls encounter on a daily basis. Too often, women are portrayed in ways that promote unhealthy perceptions of beauty and sexuality. And adolescent girls' self-esteem can suffer when they compare themselves to the unrealistic images popularized by music, movies, and ads.

When John Kowalik became Head of School, he wanted to ensure that Potomac offers all students opportunities to grow emotionally and socially. Given the challenges facing adolescent girls, he felt that it was particularly important to develop a program to help them explore their identities and develop healthy self-confidence.

John says, "I wanted to offer young women a safe and fun environment here at Potomac, where they could think together about the potentially negative influences around them – and about what constitutes real beauty and real character. It's vital that they clarify their values and remain true to themselves during these years." Though Potomac has long participated in the national Girls on the Run program – which teaches girls in grades three to eight life skills through running and interactive games – John envisioned a homegrown initiative designed specifically for adolescent girls, starting with the critical sixth grade year.

Potomac counselors Weezie Parry and Josie Woods volunteered to bring his vision to life. Last spring, the two combined their decades of experience in counseling, psychology, and social-emotional development to create a program to address John's goals.

After months of planning, Weezie and Josie presented their concept: an eight-week pilot program designed to help girls discover their authentic selves. The program would make an impact through a curriculum combining discussion, age-appropriate activities, and interaction with female student leaders and successful professional women from within, and outside of, the Potomac community.

John Kowalik was extremely pleased with their plan and appreciative of the thought and effort they put into developing it. Slated to launch in fall 2014, the new program had everything it needed – except for a name.

At the start of the school year, Weezie and Josie introduced their program to potential participants as, simply, "The Sixth Grade Girls Club." To garner interest and entice students to register, they brought in some help closer to their target audience's age: recent graduate Hanna Repke '14. Hanna had heard about the program and felt so strongly about its goals that she volunteered to speak at the group's interest meeting. The former All-Met field hockey player spoke passionately about her experiences, relationships, and challenges. She concluded by advising her listeners, "Be the real you." Hanna's admonition lit a fire under the sixth graders. It also gave Weezie and Josie the perfect name for their program: The Real Me.

< Emily Dunn and Maya Sardar



Amid all the fun and friendship-building, the girls were absorbing important *life lessons*.



The two counselors were pleasantly surprised when more than half of the sixth grade's 34 girls stayed after school for the program's first session.

Weezie, Josie, and 20 sixth grade girls laughed and learned their way through the next eight weeks. With each session, the girls developed leadership and interpersonal skills that would not only help them navigate the first months of sixth grade, but also set them on the path to being strong, confident young women.

Weezie says, "We wanted to make our time together as exciting as possible." But amid all the fun and friendship-building, the girls were absorbing important life lessons. During one session, which Weezie and Josie designed to encourage each girl to "shine as the beautiful person you are," the group watched the music video for Colbie Caillat's "Try," an inspiring song that promotes positive self-image and natural beauty. "Put your makeup on; get your nails done; curl your hair; keep it slim so they like you," Caillat sings, as the video shows women with heavily made-up faces. Then, over the next four minutes, each woman in the video slowly removes her various beauty accessories to reveal her true self – her perfectly authentic self. "You don't have to try so hard; you don't have to change a single thing," Caillat sings in the chorus.

Topics like body image and self-confidence don't often come up organically in conversation, yet these

are important struggles that most young girls face. By using something as simple as a song, an insightful quote, or a short YouTube video, Weezie and Josie got the girls to engage in open and thoughtful discussions about difficult topics. "Everyone felt comfortable sharing their experiences," Sarah Erickson says. "It wasn't judgmental; we all just listened."

The discussions took place on Mondays after school, but the learning didn't stop there. On Fridays during lunch, The Real Me participants met again, to hear from some powerful female role models. The speakers shared their passions and struggles and reflected on what advice they would give their sixth-grade selves now.

Throughout the program, Weezie and Josie invited a number of Upper School students to share their personal journeys with the group. Grace Meisel '15, a co-founder of the Upper School women's empowerment club X-Alliance, spoke about her extracurricular involvement at Potomac and participated in an activity with the girls that involved writing positive messages like "Be yourself" and "You're a shining star!" on colorful paper cutouts. Grace was impressed with the sixth graders' positive attitude and their knowledge about self-image and combating negative stereotypes. "I wish this group was something I had as a sixth grader," she says.

Claudia Swope '17, Rachel Warren '16, and Olivia Wilson '17 – three students

who are involved in the arts – encouraged the group to be creative and take risks; science and math students Madeline Dubelier '16, Madeline Lui '15, and Anna Wasserman '16 advised the girls to always keep an open mind; and Sheila Rietano '16 talked about her athletic successes and the importance of not giving up on the field or in the classroom. These visits from Upper School girls gave the younger students opportunities to get to know some inspiring role models. "It made me really want to be like those girls," says Anna Mathews.

Weezie and Josie also arranged for professional women to share their wisdom. Intermediate School Science Teacher Sarah Hollingsworth and Service-Learning Coordinator Heather Wilson '96 talked to the group about how they've exhibited confidence and leadership in their careers and everyday lives. They told the girls that there are all types of leaders, and that each woman must figure out the type of leadership style that works for her. Sarah advised that they take pride in their strengths but also take the time to reflect on areas that need developing.

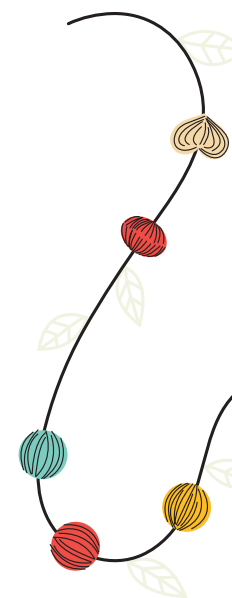
Another alumna, Amanda Shaver Van Emburgh '96, who is a clinical psychologist with a degree in women's studies, used a unique tactic to teach the girls about keeping things in perspective. She gave each participant a Warhead – an extremely sour candy. The girls popped them in their mouths and, for the first minute or so, every face in the room

was puckered up from the candy's tart taste. But the sourness eventually wore off. "Big feelings don't last forever," Amanda told the group. The Real Me girls found the exercise both funny and memorable, and its lesson hit home: Any emotion or experience – good or bad – is likely to be of limited duration and doesn't have to shape your life.

After each session, the girls processed their experiences by writing their thoughts down in a folder provided for that purpose. Their pages include affirmations like "Stay positive, no one can bring you down" and "Smile – you've got style!" Josie says that the folders, which also include hand-outs on a variety of topics, can serve as handy toolkits of strategies and support for dealing with whatever emotional, social, or physical struggles the girls encounter going forward.

In addition, after every class the girls received a bead representing the week's theme. In week six, for example, the bead was shaped like a heart, representing empathy. Weezie notes, "We want the girls to remember that it's important to be kind, to themselves and to others." At the end of the program, each girl used her beads to create a piece of jewelry as unique and beautiful as herself.

Last fall's pilot program was so successful that Weezie and Josie are offering The Real Me again this spring. They also hope to develop similar programs for Potomac girls of other ages, perhaps beginning with seventh graders – another important transition year. Josie observes, "Girls want to talk about the challenges they're facing. And having a safe, supportive place to do that can make a real difference." 📷



① Senior Grace Meisel '15 with Sophia Scharpf

② Participants in The Real Me program smile for the camera on the last day of the fall session.

THE LONG ROAD TO STARDOM

THREE ALUMNI,
TWO BANDS,
ONE GOAL:

MAKING IT IN MUSIC

by Kevin Hollister

Truman '03 and Willie Morrison '06 spent New Year's Eve rocking out at the Carnegie Library in Washington, DC. Instead of singing "Auld Lang Syne," Truman, Willie, and the rest of The Morrison Brothers Band rang in the New Year playing their unique brand of country-rock for an enthusiastic capital-area fan base. "I won't get no sleep tonight with Little Miss Whiskey on my mind," sang lead vocalist Willie.

As it happens, Truman and Willie really didn't get much sleep in January. They were soon packing their suitcases and loading their instruments and equipment into a tiny trailer, preparing to head out for Nashville.

Coincidentally, musician Will Runge '05 was also hoping to accomplish big things in 2015. Will, who plays keyboard and guitar in the band Fort Lean, had been hard at work writing and recording songs for the past two years. As the new year dawned, he wasn't headed to Nashville, or anywhere else for that matter. He was hunkered down in a Brooklyn studio, creating promotional materials in advance of Fort Lean's forthcoming debut album, *Quiet Day*.

Truman, Willie, and Will aren't the first, and won't be the last, Potomac alumni to pursue careers in the music industry. They know that making a living playing music is improbable, but not impossible; they've seen it happen in their own backyard. Another set of Potomac alumni brothers – Kofi '76 and Oteil Burbridge '79 – went on to achieve Grammy Award-winning success playing in the Tedeschi Trucks Band. And just like Will, there have been Potomac-bred NYC-based indie rockers that went from middling to mainstream – most notably, multi-instrumentalist Rostam Batmanglij '02, whose band Vampire Weekend won the Grammy Award for Best Alternative Music Album in 2014. With their talent and hunger, there's no reason the Morrison brothers and Will Runge can't have similarly great careers in music; all they need is that one big break.

The Morrison Brothers Band at DC's 9:30 Club, July 2013

photo: Allison O'Brien | aobphoto.com

THE MORRISON BROTHERS BAND



photo: The Lookout Collective

Well before the sold-out concerts, the tours, and a move to Music City, Truman and Willie Morrison found their musical niche at Potomac. For his senior project, Truman recorded a CD with Leila Batmanghelidj '03, Rostam's cousin, covering songs by artists like Eric Clapton and the Smashing Pumpkins. Willie also used his senior project to polish his musical passion. Instead of covering another artist's songs, he decided to write his own. Despite their three-year age gap, the brothers realized that they struck a natural musical balance.

The harmony continued even after Truman traveled across the country to Los Angeles to attend Occidental College in 2003. "We'd email each other back and forth with song ideas," he remembers. A few years later, Willie joined Truman at Occidental. With that move, The Morrison Brothers Band was formed. For a year, the brothers had themselves a makeshift band, sampling their music at venues across Los Angeles; their first show was at The Roxy, a legendary theater along Sunset Boulevard. Those Cali years helped the brothers gain

confidence as musicians and continue to grow their already-strong friendship.

In 2008, after moving back to the East Coast, Truman and Willie attended the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, expecting to draw inspiration from some of the world's best musicians. They found what they were looking for and more, for it was in the Big Easy that they met two future band mates: Kevin and Matt Nolan. Like Truman and Willie, the Nolan brothers were DC natives. They were also alums of Gonzaga College High School, a prep school for boys less than 10 miles from Potomac. It was the perfect match, and after hanging out together in New Orleans, the two sets of brothers decided to work together once they got back to Washington.

Matt became the band's drummer, while Kevin took over at bass. The band was mainly a summer hobby for a while, booking small gigs around DC and northern Virginia. But things accelerated quickly in 2009, after they headlined and sold out at The Birchmere in Alexandria.

Over the next few years, The Morrison Brothers recorded two albums and cemented themselves as a mainstay in the

DC music scene, often selling out venues like the 9:30 Club, one of the city's best-known intimate concert halls. "It's like a Potomac reunion every time we play in town," Willie says with a laugh. But The Morrison Brothers aren't just trying to make waves in their own pool.

The band's catchy country-rock sound, mixed with their energetic stage presence, has earned them opening-act spots with Country Music Hall of Famer Merle Haggard and Rock & Roll Hall of Famer Leon Russell. In 2014, their single "Little Miss Whiskey" won first place – chosen from 8,000 submissions – in a music competition for unsigned artists. A month before the Nashville move, the band wrote and recorded the theme song for their hometown hockey team, the Washington Capitals. Now, before Capitals games on Comcast Sportsnet, Willie can be seen harmonizing as Truman strums the chords for the song "Ice on Fire" during the pregame video.

With all their successes, Truman and Willie admit that it's hard to monetize their talents. While social media and music-streaming sites like Pandora and Spotify make it easier to promote the band's music, this kind of visibility doesn't translate to profits. Touring, live shows, and merchandise sales are still the ways bands make money. "It's feast or famine in the music industry," Truman says.

That's why the band decided to go all-in: The move to Nashville is a bold step forward. The four band members have trusted their talents, and their friendship, enough to move in together. They've found a small house in the city to live in while they focus full-time on making a record. "We haven't hit a ceiling yet," Willie says, "and until we do, we have no intention of stopping."



photo: Phil Tran | www.PhillTranPR.com

Like Truman and Willie, Will Runge used his senior project at Potomac to scratch the surface of his musical talent. With a band made up of 2005 classmates Hunter Craighill, Jim Hollenbach, and Yale Yng-Wong, Will recorded five songs for the assignment. "It sounded pretty good for a bunch of high schoolers," he remembers. After Potomac, Will took his talents in songwriting, playing, and performing to Wesleyan University, where he met four new friends and future band partners.

Despite studying sociology, Will always felt that his next step after college would be to move to New York City and play in a band. In 2010, he was treading water in the Big Apple and playing keyboard in a band with Yale when

of two self-released EPs and was quickly gaining traction in New York. In 2011, the band caught the attention of the *New York Times* for its sets during the CMJ Music Marathon, a weeklong festival of independent artists that takes place at venues across the city. "That's a big band playing small rooms that, especially compared with many of the acts performing this week, feels comically out of place," Jon Caramanica wrote in 2011.

Fort Lean rode the wave of positive publicity from the festival and released another EP. Its electronic pop-rock sound resonated with critics, so the band started touring and building its fan base beyond the boroughs of New York. "We played a show in New Jersey, and it was amazing to see the place

FORT LEAN



photo: Phil Tran | www.PhillTranPR.com

his Wesleyan buddies approached him with their new project: Fort Lean. Although Will had played guitar in college, his friends wanted him primarily for his keyboard skills. He could tell this endeavor was serious, so he worked hard to tighten up his talents and become more professional. "No more tangled cables in a duffle bag," he says.

Within a year, Fort Lean had recorded its first

packed full of teenagers who knew all the words to our songs," Will recalls. They even licensed some of their music to television shows like *Vampire Diaries* and *Private Practice*, and played at the annual South by Southwest music festival in 2013.

But being critically acclaimed mid-level musicians doesn't pay the bills. All the members of Fort Lean work at least one day job, including Will, who is a research assistant at a hospital. Some days, they all break from their day jobs to work on a song, which is a collaborative process for the band. "Our sound wouldn't be the same if any of us weren't part of the group," says Will.

Fort Lean is a business, and it's still growing. Last fall, they signed with Ooh La La Records and premiered a single from their forthcoming album, *Quiet Day*. The album won't be released until later this spring, but its two already-released singles have gotten positive reviews.

Like The Morrison Brothers Band, Will and Fort Lean are currently stuck in the unfortunate purgatory between musical feast and famine. Fort Lean has a record label and has met fans in small towns that somehow know their music. *Quiet Day* may be the band's big break, but for Will, the focus is on making progress. "That record could be a giant leap or just a solid step," he says. "It's all about moving steadily forward." 🎸

① The Morrison Brothers Band (left to right): Truman Morrison '03, Kevin Nolan, Willie Morrison '06, and Matt Nolan ② Will Runge '05 ③ Fort Lean (left to right): Keenan Mitchell, Jake Aron, Will Runge '05, Zach Fried, and Sam Ubl



Creating

◦ COMMUNITY ◦

on Wheels

by Kevin Hollister



THE POTOMAC COMMUNITY extends well beyond the School's 90-acre campus. Every morning during the school year, hundreds of students from neighborhoods throughout the DC metro area take the bus to McLean, and every afternoon, they take the bus home again.

Lower School Head Nancy Powell notes, "Our students' school day is punctuated on both ends by a bus ride. Those rides can color a child's whole day, so it's important that the bus ride be a positive experience."

Of course, riding the bus to school isn't unique to Potomac students; what *is* unique is that almost all Potomac students take the bus to and from school. The only exceptions are kindergartners, who may be driven by a parent; juniors, who have the option of parking at a nearby church and taking a shuttle to campus; seniors, who enjoy the privilege of driving

to school; and siblings of kindergartners and seniors, who can ride along with them. Everyone else rides the bus, and the trips to and from campus with friends, neighbors, and classmates are an integral part of the Potomac experience. Whether it's the bus from Chevy Chase, Reston, or Temple Hills, each ride is an extension of the school day.

It's hard to imagine Potomac without its ubiquitous buses, but for the School's first 30 years there was no need for them. During Potomac's early years in DC, students used trolleys and other public transportation or walked to campus. It was not until 1947 – a year before purchasing the McLean property – that Potomac got its first school bus. But shortly after breaking ground in McLean, the School realized that an extensive fleet of buses would be essential to growing and maintaining the student population, while minimizing the impact of traffic in the residential neighborhoods surrounding campus. By the early 1970s, Potomac owned a robust 22 buses and vans; today, the School has 52 buses driving more than 35 different daily routes. It's one of the largest bus fleets for a K-12 independent school on the Atlantic seaboard.

This fall, Potomac's Lower and Middle School leaders initiated a special effort to ensure that every student on those 52 buses enjoys a safe, calm, and comfortable ride to and from school. Nancy Powell and Middle School Head John Mathews decided to team up to encourage Potomac's younger students to display the School's core values while they enjoy their daily bus rides.

In September, Lower School students read and signed a bus charter, which set forth several conditions to help make the bus ride safe and happy for everyone – such as using a quiet voice and kind language, and staying seated during the entire ride.

Nancy and John also wanted bus riders to develop relationships across divisions, so that everyone could keep an eye out for everyone else. So they came up with the idea for a series of cross-divisional bus-community meetings.

In October, Lower and Middle School faculty members facilitated the first meeting, which a number of bus drivers also attended. Together, the participants talked about what a peaceful, friendly school bus ride looks and sounds like. The students then split into groups based on their bus routes, to do a "Getting to Know You" activity. Middle School riders partnered with their Lower School bus-mates to compare responses on topics like favorite hobby, sports team, and ice cream flavor.

"We were forging connections," John Mathews says, "and everyone was on board right from the start."

The two divisions convened again in January, giving students an opportunity to discuss their first-semester bus-riding experiences. Working in small groups, the kids debriefed with faculty facilitators and rated how their bus ride has been going on a scale of 1 to 10 (with 10 being best). "I'd give it an 8," said Monica, a Lower School student on the Marlow Heights bus route. "I like talking to my friends, but sometimes the bus gets too loud." After others shared similar experiences, the students in Monica's group brainstormed solutions for quieter conversation, such as politely asking fellow students to keep their voices down.

Later, students paired up across divisions once again, to fill out a worksheet addressing their future hopes for their bus ride. Together, they filled in the blanks about what they might

do differently and how they could help their fellow riders, and even the bus drivers, enjoy the bus experience more. The meeting culminated with each bus-community group giving their bus a fun or silly name.

These meetings were designed to mesh with each division's social-emotional learning curriculum. Although the conversation and activities centered on bus issues, many of the situations discussed had broader applicability. While formulating ways to improve their bus ride, the students were also developing the tools to improve their School community as a whole.

Nancy and John believe that the bus-community meetings will empower students to help make their rides to and from Potomac as enjoyable and safe as possible. In fact, they hope that every bus ride will punctuate the start and end of a school day with a bold and cheerful exclamation point.



Potomac Buses A SNAPSHOT

52

buses, with more than half fueled by biodiesel

400

square miles served by Potomac's bus fleet

847

students bused to campus daily

16,320

round trips made per school year

251,000

miles driven by Potomac's buses last school year

*Proud to be
one of the largest K-12 independent school bus fleets
on the Atlantic seaboard!*



Character *at the* Core

by Shelley Dutton

Ask anyone who knows The Potomac School, and they will tell you that this institution has always had a strong foundation of shared values. But ask what specific values unite the Potomac community and drive the School's operations, and you are likely to hear a wide variety of answers. This is the reality behind the core values initiative – an effort that has involved hundreds of members of the Potomac School community during the past year and a half.

Head of School John Kowalik explains, "Since its founding, Potomac has been committed to providing a values-based education. This School has always seen academic achievement and character development as complementary, and equally essential, goals. Yet, when you gather a group of Potomac people and start talking about the values at the heart of this work, the conversation can go in many different directions. There are various perspectives on what our School's core values – or first principles – are, and people often use different words to express similar ideas."

He continues, "We decided that clearly defining the values that shape our work is a critical effort. We believe that having a shared understanding of these principles – and a common vocabulary to talk about them – will help us to move forward even more purposefully in the future."

And so it was that the core values initiative was born. Middle School Head John Mathews, who chairs the Core Values Committee, explains, "Shortly after John Kowalik joined Potomac in the summer of 2013, he convened the administrative team for a planning retreat. We talked about the most critical areas of focus for our School; excellent teaching, safety and security, and core values quickly rose to the top. We all agreed that these areas are of central importance for Potomac's current operations and future success."

He adds, "These three areas are being addressed by various working groups. I was honored to be asked to provide leadership for our work on core values."

That work began in earnest in fall 2013, when a committee of faculty and staff representing all four divisions was charged with developing a plan to clearly identify and effectively promulgate The Potomac School's core values. Laura Miller, director of alumni relations, was a member of that committee. She notes, "Part of my responsibility was to serve as a liaison between this group and the Alumni Governing Council. From our earliest conversations, it was clear that the values we were seeking to articulate were not new; they are ideals and modes of behavior that are familiar to generations of Potomac students, even if people describe them in different ways. So it was very important to have alumni input in our conversations. We needed to hear how our alums from the various decades experienced and understand Potomac's values."

Input from parents, students, and current and past faculty and staff was equally important. So, over the course of the next several months, more than 30 focus groups were convened, giving the School's administration and members of the Core Values Committee opportunities to hear from all constituencies. In addition, committee members scoured school documents and policies, compiling lists of terms and concepts that seemed to go to the heart of the Potomac experience.





TRUSTEESHIP A Labor of Love

by Shelley Dutton

John Mathews says, “By April of 2014, we had assembled a massive list of ideas, words, and phrases. The next step was to look for commonalities. We grouped related concepts together and eliminated redundancy. Eventually, the committee was able to pare the master list down to about 30 concepts.”

At that point, John Mathews took the list and closed his office door. He says, “I needed to think carefully about this very important endeavor, and where our efforts had brought us to that point. Patterns and consensus were definitely emerging, but we still had far too many terms on the table to comprise a manageable list.”

He continues, “John Kowalik had asked me to present the committee’s work to the Board of Trustees at their meeting in June. So – sometimes in consultation with my colleagues and sometimes alone at my desk – I spent the next few weeks paring that list down even farther. By June, I had 10 key concepts ready for the Board’s consideration.”

John Kowalik remembers, “There were lively and helpful discussions at every forum – with parents, alumni, faculty, students, and board members. In the case of our trustees, it was clear that this effort had the board’s wholehearted support. They saw the importance of articulating Potomac’s core values and working to ensure that those values are understood and embraced by everyone in our community.”

With input from the trustees, John Mathews and his committee returned

to the drawing board at the start of the 2014-15 school year. They continued working to refine the list of core values and shared their thoughts with the entire faculty at a meeting in September. Ultimately, through continued discussion and collaboration, a clear picture emerged, and a list of five core values was adopted:

Courage
Humility
Integrity
Perseverance
Respect

John Mathews says, “A lot of thought went into the selection of these words. One might ask, ‘Why *integrity*, rather than *honesty*? What’s the difference, and why is one term better than the other?’ My answer is, neither term is inherently better. But I think this example provides a good illustration of our thought process: Being honest (or truthful or whatever synonym you like) is *one part* of having integrity. But integrity is a somewhat broader term; it encompasses more than just telling the truth or avoiding lies. These are the kinds of things we talked about as we worked to distill the ideals at the heart of Potomac into a manageable, memorable list.”

He adds, “Happily, I have noted that these five terms come to life in my work as an administrator. This fall, I had maybe 20 meetings with students about disciplinary issues. Every one of them involved behaviors that relate directly to one or more of the core values. I found myself bringing these terms into those conversations: ‘Was what you did respectful?’ ‘Did your mistake stem from a lack of courage?’ ‘How does that behavior reflect on your integrity?’ These concepts can be used to help students understand the School’s expectations and think carefully about their own choices.”

So what’s next for the core values initiative? This spring, the five key terms are being rolled out through a series of assemblies and activities designed to engage the Potomac community in conversation about the values and how they are realized in the day-to-day operations of the School. John Mathews notes, “We are especially excited about introducing these ideas to our students and having them think about ways that the values are manifested here at Potomac – and in their lives in general. We’re planning some fun and creative activities to engage students in all of the divisions in this effort.”

John Kowalik observes, “These words should be part of our daily vocabulary. But this is about more than words. Our core values are foundational elements of the Potomac experience. Like the ground we stand on and the air we breathe, they underpin and infuse everything that we do.”

What would you call a group of busy men and women who accept a high level of strategic and fiduciary responsibility for an organization, spend hours of their time attending meetings and events in support of that organization, and generously share their connections and resources to help the organization achieve its goals – all with no remuneration and little or no fanfare? At Potomac, we call them our Board of Trustees.

And why do they do all that? Board Chair Larry Culp, who has been a Potomac trustee for eight years, explains it this way: “Once you get involved and, as a trustee, see the opportunity to work with like-minded people to help build and improve the School, it’s a labor of love.”

Potomac’s board is 24 members strong, with current and past parents and alumni occupying the majority of the seats around the table. The board fulfills diverse functions in support of the School’s mission, goals, and daily operations.

Asked to describe its major areas of focus, Larry notes, “First and foremost, it is the board’s responsibility to ensure that the School is well led. We must have a great Head – a person of integrity and vision, a strong leader, and an educator who is deeply committed to Potomac’s mission and values.” He continues, “In the recent past, much of our attention was focused on this task. When Geoff Jones let us know that he would be leaving Potomac, we began a nationwide search for the right person to step into the role of Head and take our School to an even higher level of excellence. We are confident that we found that person in John Kowalik, and it has been our pleasure to work with him throughout his first two years at Potomac.”

Larry continues, “The board’s second major responsibility is to ensure that the Head, the senior staff, and the trustees themselves have a great strategy to move the institution forward and are working together well to achieve key goals. Again, I feel confident that we are fulfilling this responsibility.”

“Finally,” he adds, “the trustees must provide leadership on the advancement front. Currently, 81% of Potomac’s operating

budget is derived from tuition. Being so tuition-dependent is not ideal; we need to increase the revenue the School receives from philanthropic giving – whether it’s general support for the annual fund, gifts designated for specific projects, or funds raised through a capital campaign. Certainly, Potomac is not alone in needing to focus on fund raising in order to expand what it is able to accomplish, and providing leadership for such efforts is always a part of the trustee’s job. I would add, though, that ‘advancement’ means more than fund raising. It also means friend raising and working to increase our School’s visibility in the wider community. Every trustee has a responsibility to be an enthusiastic ambassador for The Potomac School, doing all that he or she can to increase awareness of, and support for, this wonderful institution.”

At the start of this school year, five new members were added to the trustee ranks; three of them are Potomac alumni – significantly increasing the alumni presence on the board. Larry observes, “These individuals bring a unique perspective to our work. They embody institutional memory and have a personal understanding of the School’s history and traditions. They also know firsthand what a Potomac education can do for a child. So a strong alumni presence adds great value to the board.”

He concludes, “Whether you are an alum, a parent, a neighbor, or just a friend of Potomac, being a trustee means bringing that experience to the table yet, at the same time, taking off that particular hat in order to look at the big picture. All of us, whatever our backgrounds or connection to the institution, are working together for the good of the School, its students, and all members of the Potomac community.”





Robert M. McDowell



Rob McDowell '78 was appointed a commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission by President George W. Bush in 2006 and reappointed by President Barack Obama in 2009; each time, he was unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate. He served as a commissioner until 2013.

Currently, Rob is a partner with Wiley Rein, LLP, providing strategic legal, business, and public policy counsel on matters in the telecommunications, media, and technology industries. He is also a Senior Fellow with the Hudson Institute, a non-partisan policy research organization, and serves as a senior advisor to Berenson & Co. in New York and Dubai. Prior to his appointment to the FCC, he held leadership positions in the telecommunications industry for 16 years.

Rob's involvement in civic and political affairs spans four decades. He was appointed by Virginia Governor George Allen to the Governor's Advisory Board for a Safe and Drug-Free Virginia, as well as to the Virginia Board for Contractors, where he served for eight years. He is also a former chairman of the board of the McLean Project for the Arts, on whose board he served for 14 years.

Rob holds degrees from Duke University and the Marshall-Wythe School of Law at The College of William & Mary.

■ **What is your connection to Potomac?** My family's connection with Potomac goes back to the fall of 1962, when my oldest brother enrolled. My three siblings and I all attended. And now I'm a Potomac parent, with a seventh grader and a second grader, both of whom are thriving! All in all, when it comes to Potomac, I have a lot of skin in the game.

■ **What do you most value about The Potomac School?** Potomac's core mission, which combines academic achievement and character development, is very personal for me. Our School is nurturing the leaders of tomorrow, and this is work that matters.

■ **Why were you interested in serving as a trustee?** I previously served on the Alumni Governing Council, and I remained closely involved with alumni activities even when I wasn't a member of that group. When a couple of the trustees approached me about the possibility of serving on the board, I was surprised and flattered. I have been on a number of boards, and I see board membership as an opportunity to bring my personal and professional experiences to bear in a way that makes a positive difference. Every trustee brings a mosaic of experiences to the role, and different perspectives and connections all contribute

something valuable. So I was very pleased to join Potomac's board and have the opportunity to do what I can to help ensure that our School remains a healthy, vibrant, and successful institution, today and into the future.

- **What has your experience as a trustee been like so far?** I can say with confidence that this board works tremendously well. The operating structure is efficient; each member brings a different, enriching perspective; and the interpersonal dynamics are first-rate. It's clear that everyone in the room has the best interests of the School as their top priority.
- **What have you learned as a result of being a trustee?** Since becoming a board member, I've been better able to grasp the breadth of the task involved in making the School's mission a

reality. Potomac's footprint is really quite jaw-dropping. I have more respect than ever for our administration, faculty, and staff – because I have a new perspective and appreciation for what a big job this is, and how much of a team effort is required. Everybody has to have their oars in the water in a coordinated fashion to keep this ship afloat and moving steadily forward.

■ **Any thoughts about Potomac's future?** I'm incredibly optimistic about Potomac's future. This is a school with a tremendous tradition; a beautiful, expansive campus; and a wonderful region from which to draw talented students, teachers, and administrators. I am confident that The Potomac School will continue to fulfill its educational mission and achieve excellence for many, many years to come.

Michael L. Davis



Michael Davis is director of institutional client relationships for Calvert Investments. In this role, he directs the firm's global institutional strategy and manages the team responsible for developing Calvert's institutional relationships. Previously, Michael served four years as Deputy Assistant Secretary in the U.S. Department of Labor's Employee Benefit Security Administration. He has also held senior positions in asset management and investment banking with Prudential Financial and JPMorgan, where he spent 17 years.

Michael holds a B.B.A. in finance from the University of Texas at Austin and a Master of Public Policy from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. He has been honored as a Distinguished Alumnus by the Greenhill School, recently received the Heman Marion Sweatt Legacy Award from the University of Texas at Austin, and was named one of the 75 "Most Powerful African-Americans on Wall Street" by *Black Enterprise* magazine. He currently sits on the Investment and Finance Committee and the Strategy Committee of the board for the Christus Health System, based in Dallas.

- **What is your connection to Potomac?** We moved to the DC area in '09 so I could join the Obama administration. While our home is in McLean, our daughters were initially enrolled in private schools in DC. But we began to hear good things about Potomac. We did our research and the more we learned, the more impressed we were. Now, both of my girls are at Potomac; they are in seventh and fourth grade, and they love it! I will also note that living near campus creates a special relationship to the School. I am involved with my neighborhood association, and Potomac is part of the fabric of our community. I hope to be able to help build linkages that are beneficial to both.
- **What do you most value about The Potomac School?** I grew up as an inner-city kid in Dallas. As a teenager, I was fortunate to be able to attend the Greenhill School, which is similar to Potomac in many ways. I was bused there (two hours each way!), and support from the local Boys & Girls Club helped make that possible. Attending Greenhill was life-altering for me; as a result, I place a high value on the excellent academic programs and the supportive, nurturing community that Potomac provides.
- **Why were you interested in serving as a trustee?** I was impressed by Potomac's work to build an exceptional student body, and I wanted to give back. I had served in leadership positions on similar boards in the past and hoped that I could be helpful to Potomac in some way. After responding to an open call for board nominations, I wasn't sure how I would be received, but I was impressed by the thoroughness of the trustee search process and the respectful consideration that my expression of interest was given. I enjoyed learning more about the School and talking with various trustees and, in the end, I was invited to join

the board. My relationship with Potomac, both as a parent and as a neighbor, motivated me to seek out the opportunity to become more involved.

- **What has your experience as a trustee been like so far?** It's been great. I serve on the Investment and Audit committees, and I enjoy dealing with the wide range of interesting and important issues that come before the board as a whole. I have been very impressed with the level of professionalism – the diligence and gravitas – with which the trustees approach their responsibilities.
- **What have you learned as a result of being a trustee?** This is a brand-new environment for me, so I'm learning all the time. I have really appreciated how welcoming people have been, generously sharing their time to help me get up to speed. Certainly, I have learned more about the operations of the School, and I have gained a new level of respect for the exceptional quality of its administration.
- **Any thoughts about Potomac's future?** Potomac has built a regional and national reputation for excellence and leadership. Key to that leadership has been its commitment to diversity. Diversity is particularly relevant in education, since education is designed to challenge conventional thought and, by doing so, inspire growth. It's hard to achieve that without a broad range of perspectives and backgrounds to enrich the student experience. Going forward, it's important that our School continues to embrace diversity; this hinges in part on preserving Potomac's accessibility – both financially and geographically, through its extensive bus system. I know firsthand how transformative such efforts can be.



William J. Kilberg

Bill Kilberg is a partner with Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, LLP. He has served on the firm’s Executive Committee and Management Committee and as partner-in-charge of the Washington office. He is the most senior partner in the Labor & Employment Law Practice Group, representing clients in all aspects of employee and labor relations, as well as employee compensation and benefits.

In 1973, Bill was appointed by President Richard Nixon as the Solicitor for the U.S. Department of Labor, becoming the youngest person ever to be confirmed by the Senate for a sub-Cabinet post; he served through the Ford administration. Prior to becoming Solicitor, Bill served as Associate Solicitor of Labor, General Counsel of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service, and a White House Fellow and Special Assistant to Secretary of Labor George P. Shultz. He is also a founder of the Palmer National Bank, now part of United Bank.

Bill is a charter Fellow of both the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers and the American College of Employee Benefits Counsel. He is the immediate past-president of the College of Labor and Employment Lawyers and a Fellow of the American Bar Foundation. He also serves on the Virginia Israel Advisory Board and is president of the Mid-Atlantic Region Board of American Friends of The Hebrew University.

Bill is a graduate of Cornell University and Harvard Law School.

- **What is your connection to Potomac?** All five of our children attended Potomac. They received an outstanding education and went on to great colleges. Now, we have four grandchildren enrolled – in kindergarten, fifth grade, and sixth grade. My wife, Bobbie, served as a trustee back in the ’80s, and now it’s my turn. I think you could fairly say that being connected with Potomac is a Kilberg family tradition!
- **What do you most value about The Potomac School?** It’s a toss-up between the focus on academic excellence combined with sports, art, and music and the School’s culture, which emphasizes tolerance, respect, civility, good citizenship, and tradition. It would be very difficult to say which of these I “most value” because these aspects are equally important and inextricably intertwined.
- **Why were you interested in serving as a trustee?** The values that I just mentioned – for Bobbie and me, those really are family values. They are ideals that we respect and want to help foster for coming generations. Involvement with Potomac offers an opportunity to do that.
- **What has your experience as a trustee been like so far?** This is a very active board; the various committees are busily engaged with

an array of issues, working to ensure that the School continues to move forward strategically. I have found my fellow trustees to be caring, committed people who are exceptional in terms of achievement and capability. I am honored to be associated with this group.

- **What have you learned as a result of being a trustee?** There’s more to managing a school like Potomac than I realized! You have academics, admissions, safety and security, buildings and grounds, athletics, human resources, budgets, fund raising, and so much more. Being on the board has given me enormous respect for the Head of School, the faculty, the coaches, and the staff. I’ve come to appreciate all that goes into running a top-flight school.
- **Any thoughts about Potomac’s future?** I am very optimistic about Potomac’s future. I think that one question we need to focus on, going forward, is “How do we continue to do all this and provide it in a way that people can afford it?” We have to maintain, and even enhance, our level of quality, without letting costs accelerate to the point where a Potomac education is out of reach for far too many families. We want to be able to ensure that students of all socioeconomic backgrounds can continue to benefit from all that Potomac offers; this is an important area of focus for the future.



Stephanie Amann Kapsis

Stephanie Kapsis ’01 has dedicated her career to helping to strengthen public education and close the academic achievement gap. She currently serves as a senior advisor at KIPP DC, a growing network of open-enrollment college-preparatory public schools in Washington, DC, with a track record of preparing students in underserved communities for success in college and in life. Additionally, Stephanie became an elected member of the City of Alexandria School Board in January 2013. Previously, she worked as a dual language elementary school teacher in Brooklyn, New York, as a

Teach for America corps member. She has also served in various leadership roles on Teach for America’s DC Region Administrative Team.

Stephanie graduated *cum laude* from Princeton University, with a bachelor’s degree in politics and certificates in Spanish and Latin American studies. While working as a teacher, she received her Master of Science in Teaching with a bilingual extension in Spanish language from Pace University.

- **What is your connection to Potomac?** I’m a Potomac “lifer,” having attended the School from pre-K through twelfth grade. During those years I formed very close relationships with my teachers. I was inspired by the interest they took in me and their ability to push me to be my best. These experiences shaped who I am and motivated me to pursue a career in education.
- **What do you most value about The Potomac School?** Again, it’s the people and the relationships. There is a strong focus on academic excellence, yet each student is seen and

known as an individual. There’s a powerful sense of community at Potomac – and that’s the basis of a lifelong connection for many alumni. Based on my experiences in a wide array of school settings, I can tell you that, unfortunately, you don’t find this level of connection and community everywhere.

- **Why were you interested in serving as a trustee?** It is an incredibly special experience for me to return to Potomac in this new role and see the School through a different lens. Being a trustee gives me the opportunity to contribute, to give back to a place that

has been such an important institution for me. I bring to the table the elements of the Potomac experience that were so valuable to me as a student...but I also bring my extensive experience with teaching, administration, and governance roles at other schools.

■ **What has your experience as a trustee been like so far?**

Amazing! It has been wonderful to form relationships with my fellow board members. I have found them to be very welcoming and genuinely interested in my ideas. I’ve also discovered that we have many shared interests and connections outside of Potomac, through our various involvements in education, business, and nonprofits. I will tell you that this board is a powerhouse group of people that are doing tremendous things for kids and our broader community across all sectors.



Mark J. Sullivan

Jamie Sullivan ’96 is CEO of Summit Communities, an owner and operator of manufactured housing communities, based in Florida. Prior to founding Summit, he served in roles at Goldman Sachs and at the White House. Jamie holds a B.A. from Princeton University and an M.B.A. from Dartmouth University’s Tuck School of Business.

■ **What is your connection to Potomac?**

My sister and I are both Potomac “lifers.” In fact, attending this School is a tradition in my family: I’ve had a parent, aunts, an uncle, grandparents, great aunts, and even a great-grandparent attend Potomac!

- **What do you most value about The Potomac School?** In my experience, Potomac does a great job of preparing well-rounded individuals. I’ve had friends who encountered Potomac alumni in college and in professional settings tell me how impressed they are with the people who attended our School. A big reason for that is the quality of the faculty and staff. Whenever I’m on campus, I run into teachers and staff members who had a meaningful impact on my life.
- **Why were you interested in serving as a trustee?** Potomac has meant a great deal to me, and I’ve always been interested

■ **What have you learned as a result of being a trustee?** It’s fascinating for me to see how a high-functioning, beloved educational institution like Potomac operates. I found myself holding this school up against the public and charter schools that I work with; it’s an instructive study in similarities and differences.

■ **Any thoughts about Potomac’s future?** I’m excited about Potomac’s future. I believe that, as we move forward, we will continue to retain and build on our School’s history, traditions, and values, while keeping our eyes open to current realities and future opportunities. I am confident that there are great things ahead for Potomac!

- in supporting the School. I previously served on the Alumni Governing Council, and now it’s my privilege to be a trustee.
- **What has your experience as a trustee been like so far?** It’s been amazing to see the dedication that the members of this board have for Potomac. It’s a very thoughtful, impressive group of people, and they commit a lot of time and energy to the School.
- **What have you learned as a result of being a trustee?** I have been very impressed by Potomac’s leadership. The administration and the trustees have a clear vision for the School. The extent of the leadership’s commitment and effort is something I didn’t appreciate until I experienced it first-hand.
- **Any thoughts about Potomac’s future?** Our School is in great shape. From the administration to the faculty and staff, from operations to finances, Potomac is flourishing, and I have every confidence that it will continue to do so.

The Potomac School thanks its trustees for their leadership and commitment.

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the word *on design*



from DIY to Capital Elegance

by Laurie Callahan

A beautifully designed room, creative use of a difficult space, repurposing something old to give it renewed vitality and usefulness – these are elements of interior design that everyone can appreciate. We want the spaces we inhabit to function well and reflect who we are.

Today, there are myriad online resources to help us achieve these goals. The design blogosphere is vast and continues to grow, with bloggers covering every niche imaginable. Whether your style is quirky or classic, whether

your spaces are tiny or grand, whether you are interested in green design or DIY, there's something perfect waiting for you online.

Two Potomac School alumnae have carved out their own distinct niches in the world of design blogging. Charlotte Martin Smith '93 began her do-it-yourself blog, *Ciburbanity*, in 2012, after moving from New York City to Connecticut. Jennifer Maddox Sergent '84 started her blog, *DC by Design* in 2010; it takes a journalistic approach to showcasing great interior design and architecture with a DC connection.

< Living room by designer Susan Nelson in the Del Ray section of Alexandria, featured on alumna Jennifer Maddox Sergent's blog

Charlotte Martin Smith and Ciburbanity

When asked about her blog's name, Charlotte laughs and says, "The first thing I would tell aspiring bloggers is to learn about branding before choosing a name!" "Ciburbanity" is a little hard to spell... and remember. Charlotte explains that the name is a hybrid of "city," "suburb," and "sanity." Despite any challenges, the name has stuck, and it exemplifies the changing circumstances that led to the blog's creation – the move from NYC, where Charlotte had a career as a school counselor, to live with her growing family in an old suburban house that needed lots of TLC. The name also reflects her style, which she describes as "a sense of eclectic fun and whimsy – but with character."

At loose ends in a new environment, Charlotte took the advice of friends who suggested that she blog about navigating the changes in her life. "It was the first time in my life that I didn't have a job," she explains. "I realized that a lot of people have the same issues of dealing with a change in lifestyle. And I do love writing. Writing was an emphasis throughout my education."

She began by writing about what it was like to be in the suburbs, but the blog quickly became more about home décor and the DIY projects that she was undertaking, including refinishing and reupholstering furniture, renovating a powder room, and designing a living room to meet her family's needs.

DIY was something that Charlotte had dabbled in previously, mostly out of necessity. She says, "I was

broke and lived in little apartments. So I'd think, 'Let's see if I can tackle this myself.'"

In Connecticut, having acquired a 100-year-old house with major needs (plus adequate space to store flea-market finds and work on projects), Charlotte quickly became passionate about doing – and writing about – home design projects. She says, "I asked my friends on Facebook, 'What blogs do you read?' I learned about other blogs and how sites were laid out." She also emailed fellow design bloggers and found a warm community, willing to share ideas.

Charlotte points out, "The more familiar I got with the blogging community, and the different blogs out there, the more I saw what was possible. I want to keep myself challenged. Now, I think about what would be exciting for people to read about, not just what would work in my house."



To expand her reach, Charlotte shares her write-ups with other design blogging sites, which can lead to some high-profile visibility. For example, Charlotte's projects have been featured on the *Good Housekeeping* site (a kitchen island renovation) and *Oprah.com* (an organization center on the side of the fridge).

She also partners with companies that sell products related to home improvement, including Home Depot, Rugs USA, and Online Fabric Store. These works well for all parties. Readers who connect with Charlotte will often turn to these vendors, who advertise on her site, for supplies to undertake their own projects.

The companies provide Charlotte with opportunities, as well. Home Depot recently asked her to do a plywood challenge, and she created a reading nook for a child's room. Delighted with the result, Charlotte notes, "It's the kind of place I would have liked as a kid." With four children of her own (and having taught first grade for four years at The Potomac School early in her career), she has maintained a keen sense of fun and adventure and a willingness to experiment.



A favorite project of Charlotte's is the powder room that she renovated in her home. Comfortable with power tools, she explains, "I did it myself, nuts-to-bolts – tiling the floor, replacing the toilet and sink. I took a disgusting, cramped space that was really dated and gave it a clean point of view."

Like home-improvement projects, writing a blog requires focus and discipline. Charlotte has found, "You have to write on a schedule and love doing it. It's a marathon, not a sprint. You have to be concerned about content and tone, and the photos need to be great!"

Now Charlotte is expanding her knowledge to new areas. She says, "I'm buying books on coding and how to layer ads. There is a cerebral component to all this. I'm learning about business, marketing, and branding." She has also begun adding how-to videos to her site.

In her blog, Charlotte strives to be the voice of experience but not a know-it-all. Her writing style is informal. It's a chat with friends, sharing experiences – what has worked for her – and providing easy-to-follow, how-to tutorials.

Ciburbanity has evolved, as has Charlotte herself. *Apartmenttherapy.com* was the first external site to feature a project that she submitted, and that was just the beginning. Charlotte has been featured on HGTV's *Flea Market Flip*, and she now has a monthly, five-minute television segment on WTNH-News 8's *Good Morning Connecticut*. Her segments cover such topics as decorating ideas for the holidays and how to keep your kids entertained when they're stuck indoors. And the March 2015 issue of *Better Homes and Gardens* magazine includes a spread on the purple ombré filing cabinet that Charlotte created for her dining room!



Now, Charlotte is looking forward to tackling the redesign of a restaurant owned by friends. With the blog in mind, she says, "The potential for 'before and after' is amazing!" What began as a way to share thoughts on a change in lifestyle has become less a hobby and more a business.

Today, Charlotte sees her blog as a springboard. She can envision possibilities that were previously unimaginable – perhaps getting into commercial design or doing more with photography. She has even designed the website for fellow Potomac alumna Michelle O'Hara Levin '93, a children's book author. Charlotte reflects, "You never know where an endeavor can lead. My attitude has been, 'Try it, and do your best.' And that seems to be working out so far."

① The purple ombré filing cabinet that Charlotte made for her dining room ② The reading nook that Charlotte created for a child's room, in response to a Home Depot "plywood challenge"





Jennifer Maddox Sergent and DC by Design

mother worked in the Johnson White House, for the first lady, and was able to get the Johnsons' decorator, renowned interior designer Bob Waldron, to design her family's home. Jennifer

says, "I was lucky to grow up in spaces that were beautifully decorated."

Her love of writing is also a family legacy: Her maternal grandmother, Dorothy McCardle, was a *Washington Post* society reporter who covered the White House. Jennifer's career evolved from the local news beat for a small paper in Florida to covering Capitol Hill for the Scripps Howard News Service. Scripps owns HGTV and the Food Channel and wanted to spread those brands across its print properties. So Jennifer switched her beat to the features desk, writing about homes and food and using personalities from the two networks as resources. "It was a happy change for me," she explains. "I never loved covering politics."

Jennifer especially enjoyed writing about home design and eventually moved on to write for *Washington Spaces* magazine. It was her dream job, and part of it involved creating a blog for the magazine, where she posted five days a week. In the process, she made great connections with area designers. Unfortunately, the magazine folded in 2009. "I didn't know

what would be next," she recalls, "but I did know that I wanted to start my own blog and stay visible in the DC design community."

And so *DC by Design* was born. A labor of love, it also provides material for stories that Jennifer can pitch to magazines – freelance writing for which she is paid. While Jennifer does sell some ad space on her blog, she doesn't regard it as a money-maker. "It's fun, and it's a great way to learn what's going on," she notes, "and that really helps my freelance business."

Jennifer says that her own design aesthetic trends toward "contemporary lines, but with a rich, warm flavor." She adds, "I love contemporary styling, but I don't think I can ever get away from my traditional roots. I'll go into a really modern house and say, 'This is the best I've ever seen!' Yet, when I'm making choices for my own home, I find myself coming back to more classic profiles, but with cleaner lines."



Living room designed by Marika Meyer, featured on *DC by Design*

With so many contacts in the design world, Jennifer receives emails about projects all the time. What gets covered in her blog depends on whether the pitch makes her pause. She likens it to walking down the street: "If something puts a break in your gait – makes you stop – that's kind of my bar."

Jennifer adds, "The work can be super traditional or super modern; what matters is if there's an interesting story or person behind it. And the photos have got to be gorgeous."

She adds, "I also love writing about how designers are able to solve spatial challenges." Jennifer recalls one designer who was faced with a bland, cluttered living room with toys everywhere that just wasn't working for the family. "This designer came in and totally reoriented the room, had built-ins put in, and added carved doors with a great chevron pattern to hide the TV. It was unique but so much

more functional – a space where you would want to spend all your time."

Jennifer has seen the DC design scene evolve in the past 10 to 15 years. She says, "At *Washington Spaces*, we would increasingly get more contemporary homes. It's the same for fashion; DC used to be so frumpy!" Jennifer notes that along 14th Street, a whole district has grown up around hip, high-end design. "People are more aware of design today," she points out. "It's a more beautiful city."

One trend that she's seeing now is white kitchens, with more marble and more paneled appliances and less stainless steel. "It's a sophisticated, classic look," she says. "In general, I'm seeing a lot of beautifully edited, restrained room design; rather than a ton of little knick-knacky things, there will be one beautiful piece." She notes that heavy oriental rugs are less popular today, neutrals are in, and wallpaper

is back in fashion, whether used on an accent wall or in a powder room.

Jennifer is a strong advocate for professional designers. She says, "As much time as I have spent covering the design scene, I still can't do it on my own without help. Designers are artists." She adds, "People don't think twice about paying money for a lawyer or doctor, because the outcome is really important to their life. But I think that what you surround yourself with in your home is perhaps even more important, because it sets the tone for everything else that you do." 📷

Check out Charlotte's and Jennifer's blogs:
www.ciburbanity.com
www.dcbydesignblog.com

Fall Fun at Two Great Events

Alumni, students, family members, and friends swarmed Potomac's campus in October for a fun-filled weekend of two great events: the 38th annual Fall Frolics and Homecoming. Fall Frolics, one of the School's most beloved traditions, featured games, prizes, food, and plenty of smiles. Once the frolicking was finished, alumni gathered on the new Intermediate School Deck for a pregame party before the Panthers' Homecoming football game against conference rival Flint Hill. The day culminated with an exciting 21-7 Potomac win! We look forward to seeing everyone back on campus next October.



ALUMNI Fall Games

For many alums, the Thanksgiving holiday has become synonymous with more than just turkey and stuffing. Potomac's day-after-Thanksgiving Fall Games have become a spectacular tradition, bringing friendly competition



between alumni and current students to the squash courts, soccer field, and basketball court.



Alumni from all decades came back to campus this year, to burn off some calories and get their competitive juices flowing. Varsity Squash Coach Mark Lewis organized matches featuring captains Cameron Bahadori '14 and the Keatings – Bryan '10, Geoff '12, and Kira '14. Boys Varsity Soccer Coach Marcelo Valencia worked with captains Maddie Brennan '10, AJ Jones '10, Churchill O'Connell '10, and the Danilack brothers – Geoff '12, Hugh '11, and Matt '14 – to organize some exciting games against current players. Finally, a group of alumni captained by Brent Locey '04 and Tim Prowitt '08 took to the hardwood to play a team of current basketball stars. Boys Varsity Basketball Coach Levi Franklin made sure that the alumni didn't win this year's match up, coaching his players to a hard-fought win.

The day was capped off with the annual After-Thanksgiving Alumni Night in Georgetown at Chinese Disco (the refurbished bar previously known as George). Thanks to Reed Landry '99 for hosting another fun evening!

- ① Anthony Correia '13, Spencer Gopaul '08, and Ned Mandel '11 cheer on their teammates.
- ② Soccer players pose for a photo during half-time.
- ③ Alumni and current students take a break from their squash matches.
- ④ Keith Ausbrook '73 dribbles down the field.

CONNECTING THE COASTS



Aly Sudow Bailey '00, Mark Caine '06, John Mullenholz '00, Jake Cohen '05, and Upper School Academic Dean Alex Thomas

In November, Head of School John Kowalik, Upper School Spanish teacher Tracy Swecker Jaeger, and Upper School Academic Dean Alex Thomas left the chilly East Coast to connect with alumni in sunny California. Alums from Los Angeles to San Francisco spent the evening sharing stories and laughter. John spoke with the guests – whose class years ranged from the late 1960s to 2011 – about his vision for Potomac's future and listened as they shared their fond memories of the School. Special thanks to the Los Angeles host committee of Danny Adrien '96, Maria Bissell '06, Kate Chiu '08, James Hawthorn '03, Matt Kline '01, Clark Landry '95, Eric Lodal '94, and Wil Stiner '04, and the San Francisco host committee of Andrew Duncan '03, Rachel Dyke '03, Elizabeth Fabiani '03, Gary Hill '79, Mike Kirkman '03, Lizzie Nelson '06, and Peter Prowitt '04.

Christmas Revels.

BRING HOLIDAY CHEER

On December 6, Potomac alumni, students, and parents enjoyed the Washington Revels' performance of *An Irish Celebration of the Winter Solstice*. This was the 32nd annual production of The Christmas Revels. Special thanks to past Potomac parents Greg Lewis, Revels executive director, and Susan Lewis, Revels company manager, for providing discounted tickets for the Potomac community. (Their children are Kip '98, Marc '02, and Trevor '06.)

Congratulations go to the members of the Potomac community who performed in this year's show: fifth graders Andrea Villafuerte and Margaret Taylor; alumni Kip Lewis '98, Patrick Malone '97, Katherine Nevius '69, and Terry Winslow '58; and Joe Serene, parent of Stephen '08.

Save the date for next year: December 5, 2015!



① Patrick Malone '97, actor Sam Game, and past parent Greg Lewis ② Members of the 32nd annual production of The Christmas Revels enjoy continuing this special tradition.



Young Alumni Lunch & Winter Lights Assembly



In December, more than 50 young alumni spent one of their first days home from college reconnecting with their former classmates and teachers at the Young Alumni Lunch in the Leonsis Dining Hall. Afterward, they enjoyed Potomac's traditional Winter Lights Assembly.

① Class of '13 alumnae Maisie Aines, Grace Becker, Rachel Chason, and Victoria Waldo at the Winter Lights Assembly

② Alums from the Class of 2014 reunite with Upper School English teacher Blake Howard at the Young Alumni Lunch: (from left) Ben Cashin, Kira Keating, Alexandra Ingram, Grant Hoechst, Hale Ross, Gabriel Maalouf, Mr. Howard, Megan Graves, Kathleen Wilson, and Nell DyTang.



① Suzanna Gluck '10, Griffith Roberts '06, and Blythe Roberts '10 ② Nick Kensinger '13 and Soraya Batmanghelidj '13

Alums Span Half-Century in the Big Apple

In February, alumni from classes ranging from 1965 to 2013 got together in New York City at the Del Frisco Double Eagle. Head of School John Kowalik, Upper School art teacher Ida Cook, Upper School physical science teacher Bill Peery, and a number of past faculty and past parents were on hand to chat with the alums.

RING! RING! Potomac's Calling

Over the Winter Break, college-age alumni came back to campus to participate in Potomac's annual Phonathon. This paid internship provides a fantastic opportunity for young alums to reconnect with their classmates as they make calls on behalf of the Potomac Fund. Thanks go to Jeffrey Billingslea '13, Enoch Davis '14, Hana Ford '14, Kira Keating '14, Matt Kimm '14, Parker Kobayashi '13, Vanessa Luehrs '14, and Allegra Wilson '13 for their hard work and dedication this year! Young alumni interested in participating in December 2015 should look for emails about the program this fall or reach out to Courtney Stout at cstout@potomacschool.org.

As the spring term got underway, more than 20 seniors participated in Phonathon. For many of these students, it was their first experience interacting with the Alumni Office and learning about the Potomac Fund. Thank you to all of our callers!

Seniors enjoyed participating in their first phonathon with the Alumni Office.



children of alumni

KINDERGARTEN (Class of 2027)
LuLu Black (Adria de Leonibus Black '83, William Black)
Hughie Davidson (Tildy Lewis Davidson '94, Duncan Davidson)
Ayden Hodge (Gillian Kilberg Hodge '97, Yuctan Hodge)
Caden Levin (Michelle O'Hara Levin '93, Jeremy Levin)
John McElroy (Charisse Mortenson McElroy '91, Michael McElroy)
Mary Parker Stump (James Stump '91, Sarah Stump)
Brody Wiltshire (Ashley Gerstenfeld Wiltshire '90, Ashton Wiltshire)

1st GRADE (Class of 2026)
Alden Gerkin (Allyson Bloom '92, Daniel Gerkin)
Tyler Langman (Nicholas Langman '94, Jennifer Langman)
Maria Lerner (Renee Lettow Lerner '83, Craig Lerner)
Sebi Malawer (Eric Malawer '92, Erin Malawer)
Gus Tierney (Drew Tierney '80, Laurel Tierney)

2nd GRADE (Class of 2025)
Cormac McDowell (Robert McDowell '78, Jennifer McDowell)

3rd GRADE (Class of 2024)
Charlie Lettow (Carl Lettow '85, Alexandra Lettow)
George Stoodly (Anne Metcalf '79, John Stoodly)
Josephine Stump (James Stump '91, Sarah Stump)

4th GRADE (Class of 2023)
Ben Gerkin (Allyson Bloom '92, Daniel Gerkin)
N.J. Langman (Nicholas Langman '94, Jennifer Langman)
Andrew Lay (Mark Lay '76, Prentiss Vallender Lay '85)
Parker Longwell (Natalie Washburn Hawkins '86, John Longwell)
Miles Malawer (Eric Malawer '92, Erin Malawer)
Lulu Tierney (Drew Tierney '80, Laurel Tierney)
Sage Wolf (Steven Wolf '69, Lisa Kelly)

5th GRADE (Class of 2022)
Sam Bennett (Frank Bennett III '73, Teri Bennett)
Giuseppe Cecchi (Enrico Cecchi '85, Andrea Cecchi)
Natasha Edwards (Anita Winsor-Edwards '79, William Edwards)
Teddy Gerkin (Allyson Bloom '92, Daniel Gerkin)
Harrison Kehler (Charles Kehler '84, Margaret Kehler)
Jennifer Kitchen (Erik Kitchen '68, MaryAnn Kitchen)
Robbie Lee (Robert Lee V '78, Kelly Lee)
Elias Lerner (Renee Lettow Lerner '83, Craig Lerner)
Madeline Schermerhorn (Sarah Kilberg Schermerhorn '95, Scott Schermerhorn)
Riley Schermerhorn (Sarah Kilberg Schermerhorn '95, Scott Schermerhorn)



6th GRADE (Class of 2021)
Caroline Dunn (Annabelle Redway Dunn '85, Jackson Dunn)
Emily Dunn (Annabelle Redway Dunn '85, Jackson Dunn)
Will Fearey (Paul Fearey '78, Gretchen Fearey)
Anabel Kadri (Sarah McClure '82, Jamal Kadri)
Marisa Kadri (Sarah McClure '82, Jamal Kadri)
Elisabeth Oskoui (Ramin Oskoui '78, Katrina Oskoui)
Jackson Schermerhorn (Sarah Kilberg Schermerhorn '95, Scott Schermerhorn)
Isabel Tierney (Drew Tierney '80, Laurel Tierney)

7th GRADE (Class of 2020)
Mikaela Catto (William Catto '78, Kristina Catto)
Enrico Cecchi (Enrico Cecchi '85, Andrea Cecchi)
Holly Crowley (Ayse Uzer Crowley '85, Kenneth Crowley)
Michael Johnson (Alisa Hyman '00)
Caroline Lay (Mark Lay '76, Prentiss Vallender Lay '85)
Anna Lerner (Renee Lettow Lerner '83, Craig Lerner)
Mary-Shea McDowell (Robert McDowell '78, Jennifer McDowell)
Jacqueline McElroy (Charisse Mortenson McElroy '91, Michael McElroy)
Kate Newton (Ginna Young Newton '83, David Newton)
Jack Stoodly (Anne Metcalf '79, John Stoodly)

8th GRADE (Class of 2019)
Ellen Oskoui (Ramin Oskoui '78, Katrina Oskoui)
Keeley Schulman (Andrew Saltonstall '82, Tamara Saltonstall)
Megan Sharkey (Christine Rosenhauer Sharkey '83, William Sharkey)
Megan Tierney (Christopher Tierney '79, Ann Tierney)

9th GRADE (Class of 2018)
Mary Kate Ausbrook (Keith Ausbrook '73, Kate Ausbrook)
Courtlynne Caskin (Christopher Caskin '77, Cameron Caskin)
Hayden Cherouny (Merrell Redway Cherouny '82, Preston Cherouny)
Rebecca Crawley (Anne Sprunt Crawley '69, Drury Crawley)
Lily Longwell (Natalie Washburn Hawkins '86, John Longwell)
Nicholas McKalip (Hope Jewett McKalip '81, Frederick McKalip)
TJ Sharkey (Christine Rosenhauer Sharkey '83, William Sharkey)
Miles Wilson (Speke Wilson '79, Julia Wilson)

10th GRADE (Class of 2017)
Cece Catto (William Catto '78, Kristina Catto)
Maggie Ewing (J.C. Ewing '78, Ruanne Ewing)
Trey Schulman (Andrew Saltonstall '82, Tamara Saltonstall)
Ted Tierney (Christopher Tierney '79, Ann Tierney)

11th GRADE (Class of 2016)
Gabrielle Cecchi (Enrico Cecchi '85, Andrea Cecchi)
Tyler Crowley (Ayse Uzer Crowley '85, Kenneth Crowley)
Wyatt Lindsey (Jennifer Hoare Lindsey '81, William Lindsey)
Catie Mathias (Robert Mathias '77, Sarah Mathias)
Konrad McKalip (Hope Jewett McKalip '81, Frederick McKalip)
Grace Moses (David Moses '76, Daphne Barbour)
Toby Robinson (Farida Moreau Robinson '80, Scott Robinson)

12th GRADE (Class of 2015)
Brooks Arundel (Peter Arundel '75, Brady Arundel)
Christopher Caskin (Christopher Caskin '77, Cameron Caskin)
Grace Cherouny (Merrell Redway Cherouny '82, Preston Cherouny)
Kelly O’Gorman (Scott O’Gorman, Jr. '76, Melissa O’Gorman)
Emma Resor (James Resor '75, Catherine Scott)

FELLOW ALUMNI,

2014-15 has been an exciting year, with a significant increase in the number of alumni who are actively engaged with Potomac. Leaders came forward to serve as class correspondents, class agents, class reunion chairs, and host committee members, and they have done those jobs with tremendous diligence and enthusiasm. Even more impressive is the positive impact that alumni are having on today's students. Many have come back to Potomac as speakers and mentors; others, too far away to make it to campus, have Skyped to help students and younger alums with their various passions and professional journeys. Thank you, and keep up the good work!

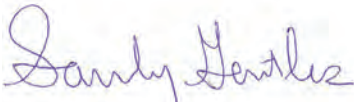
As president of the Alumni Governing Council (AGC), I collaborate with a fantastic group of leaders to host local and regional social programs and networking events for Potomac alumni. We also partner with the whole School community to enhance such traditions as Fall Frolics, Homecoming, Revels, and the Distinguished Speakers Series.

I am often asked how we have such a robust lineup of events. We are fortunate to have a terrific alumni Office to keep things moving in the right direction, but it's really the alumni themselves who supply the spirit and energy that make these events successful. A few years ago – after not having been back to Potomac for nearly eight years – I attended a speaker event on campus. During that visit, I saw the enthusiasm of the community and reconnected with old friends, rekindling my memories and starting my journey toward the Alumni Governing Council.

I'm very proud to be affiliated with The Potomac School and the AGC. And I am excited about creating opportunities that connect Potomac alumni to the School and to one another. One way that the AGC accomplishes this is by having members who represent a wide range of class years. Currently, we are seeking **nominations for new AGC members**. Please consider nominating yourself or a friend for this important leadership role. To do so, contact Laura Miller, director of alumni relations, at lmiller@potomacschool.org or (703) 749-6356.

I also highly encourage you to join us for **Reunion 2015** on May 1 and 2. We will be celebrating milestone years for classes ending in 0 and 5, and all classes are invited to share in the fun and friendship. Please take advantage of this opportunity to catch up with your classmates and connect with Potomac. We look forward to seeing you there!

All the best,



Sandy Gentles '94
sandygentles@gmail.com



The Alumni Governing Council Executive Committee: Reed Landry '99, vice president; Cate Rooney '08, secretary; Sandy Gentles '94, president

UPCOMING ALUMNI EVENTS

Reunion
Friday, May 1, and Saturday, May 2

PreUnion for Seniors
Wednesday, June 3

Alumni Governing Council (AGC) Meeting
Wednesday, September 16

Fall Frolics
Saturday, October 17

Homecoming
Saturday, October 24

Winter Lights Assembly and Young Alumni Lunch
Thursday, December 17

Note: Events are subject to change. Visit www.potomacschool.org/alumni and click on the Alumni Calendar for up-to-date event information.

Alumni Governing Council

The AGC meets approximately once a month from September through May, at 6:45 pm in the Flag Circle Building conference room. All alumni are welcome. Visit www.potomacschool.org/alumni/volunteer and click Alumni Governing Council to see the 2015-16 meeting dates.

class notes

Be Connected

Class Notes is the most popular and well-read section of *The Term*. It provides a forum for alumni to share their news, from professional accomplishments and accolades to marriages, births, and anything else that fellow alumni might find interesting. Thank you for sharing your updates!

This section would not be possible without the leadership of our class correspondents, who play a vital role in helping their classmates maintain a lifelong affiliation with Potomac. Throughout the year, they gather news and photos for the fall and spring issues of *The Term*. So when you get an email calling for news, please make it a priority! You can send your notes directly to your class correspondent, whose contact information is listed at the top of your class year. If no class correspondent is listed, please send your information to term@potomacschool.org.

If your class does not have a class correspondent and you would like to fill that role, contact Laura Miller, director of alumni relations, at (703) 749-6356 or lmiller@potomacschool.org.

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! Please send your notes and photos to term@potomacschool.org.

1940 Reunion YEAR 75th

On May 1 and 2, come celebrate your 75th Reunion! For more information, visit potomacschool.org/alumni.

Elizabeth Huidekoper Clark writes, "The Class of 1940 (9th graders) graduated from high school during WWII. Those of us who did not go directly to college trained to volunteer in an exciting variety of organizations. I chose the Red Cross, training to work at the Children's Hospital four days a week and working three days at the office, serving our prisoners of war. Other class members held similar jobs.

After the war, with a full nest of young ones at home, volunteering had become a habit and I had the privilege of helping to found a mental health agency, and then a Boys Club, in my county in Florida. Later, I had to persuade our mostly male Board of Directors to transition the organization to a much-needed Boys & Girls Club."

1944

Class Correspondent
Judy Gill Davis
julietdavis50@gmail.com

1945 Reunion YEAR 70th

On May 1 and 2, come celebrate your 70th Reunion! For more information, visit potomacschool.org/alumni.

1946

Class Correspondents
Jerrie Kohlmeier Bartlett
allen.jerrie@gmail.com
Nancy Hamilton Shepherd
nhshepherd31@gmail.com

Betsy Silver Alexander writes, "I helped to organize my class of 1949's 65th reunion at the National Cathedral School last May. We had a wonderful time. Since October, I've been teaching English to a foreign student through Menlo Park Library's Project Read. I expected to be given a recent immigrant working toward a green card or citizenship, but instead was assigned the beautiful young wife of a Japanese Ph.D. student at Stanford who herself already has a Ph.D. in psychology. Her aim is to translate her research papers into English in order to attend academic meetings and seminars. So she is driving the study and lesson plans, not I, and I'm thoroughly enjoying learning as much as I am teaching."

Jerrie Kohlmeier Bartlett reports, "I recently got together with Caroline Estey, daughter of our classmate **Maggie Glenn Estey**, who died in Philadelphia in her early 50s. Caroline and her two teenage daughters were delighted to see our 1946 Potomac yearbook, which said that Maggie left a "legacy" of brains, and her ambition was to be an "actress"! I hope you all still have a copy of that yearbook because it is really fun to read what we projected for

ourselves in those days. For myself, I laugh at the thought of becoming a concert pianist, which I listed as my ambition. At least I got as far as working in the Music Division in the Library of Congress after college, then teaching piano for many years. Now I greatly enjoy playing some simple duets with my granddaughter in California!"

Katie Alexander Grimes writes, "We are still in our home on the coast of Rhode Island and very lucky to have our three married children in New England! Our six grandchildren range from one who is in med school at UVM and was married last summer in VT, to one who is a lieutenant flying Navy jets on the West Coast, to twin grandsons who are finishing grad school after Colby, to the two youngest at home in RI. How lucky can we be!"

I've had some nice conversations with **Julie Merrell Harris**, as have several other classmates. Julie says that she is doing well and loves her life in her comfortable house, built as a retirement home by her parents, with her son Dave in the basement apartment and Puss, her beloved cat who carries the "spirit of Forest," her late husband. She finds great support in a bereavement group."

Judy Blair Green McDonough writes, "Tom and I have moved to independent living. I'm still getting used to it, but being able to drive has kept me sane. Everything's lovely here, but the lifestyle change is pretty dramatic. My other

news is that 2014 produced two great-grandsons, Luke in Nashville and Charlie in Shaker Heights. I now have four children, four grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. I particularly enjoy seeing my daughter Macie being a doting grandma.”

Marjorie DeWitt Robertson reports, “I am doing well, knock on wood! It is sad about the recent trouble in France. I was born at the American Hospital in Paris while my father was attending the French Cavalry School at Saumur. I came to the U.S. at about one year of age. I was so blessed that as a teenager, my mother took me on a special tour of Paris. I couldn’t have had a better guide – a fluent French speaker from her five years at a Swiss boarding school. I got to see the city before it began changing forever.” She ends with, “My garden is very much on my agenda!”

Shelah Kane Scott shares that she and Jim moved to their retirement home several years before he died in 2009. She notes, “I was really glad to have been here and even more so now. It is a big adjustment, I agree, but as I look at friends who made different decisions and are having health and help problems, I am even happier. Except for not seeing or hearing as well as I would like, I am fine. My daughter and I went to Norway last June, traveling the coast on a mail boat. My three grandchildren (12, 9, and 6) are living with their parents in our old house, so I see them a lot.”

Nancy Hamilton Shepherd says that during the blizzards in late January, with more than 30" of snow on the ground, “Tom and I got our exercise shoveling the path to the house and bringing in wood for the woodstove. Does anyone remember **Mrs. Hotson** encouraging us to memorize Shakespeare’s lines, ‘When icicles hang by the wall, and Dick the shepherd blows his nail, and Tom bears logs into the hall, and milk comes frozen home in pail’? It seemed appropriate. Our children and grandchildren are well, as are we. Hannah, our eldest grandchild, is engaged to be married next August – a first for us. A year ago Tom moved his office to a room in our house. It makes for a short commute. I continue to volunteer at a nearby federal men’s prison (also a medical center) with two other women. We do a Bible study one morning a month and a service of Holy Communion on another morning. Instead of having a sermon, we reflect together on how the readings speak to each of us. It is a satisfying thing to do. This brings warm greetings to all of you.”

Maria Somary Twaalfho en reports she had a joyous family reunion for her 60th wedding anniversary: 42 children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and in-laws from America and Europe got together for 10 days in the Swiss Alps!

1950 **Reunion YEAR 65th**
On May 1 and 2, come celebrate your 65th Reunion! Take a tour of the School, go back to class, enjoy the songs of May Day, and walk the trails. For more information, visit potomacschool.org/alumni.

1952
Class Correspondent
Louise Graham
lbgraham@myfairpoint.net

Ann Walker Gaffney shares that her daughter, Elizabeth, has published her second novel, *When the World Was Young*. Ann has been “kinda poorly” with serious arthritis but managed to publish her 20th consecutive Brooklyn Heights calendar with only a few repeats of photos used in a previous year. She also reminisced about Potomac: “I remember my early days on the concrete playground, the iron stairs leading up to the classrooms, the balcony above the gym, the cots for naps on the gym floor from which I watched the termites crawl in and out between the boards, making a quite beautiful rabbit in class which was fired and still enhances a shelf in my house. And Catherine who checked our coming and going at the California Street entrance. Recently, I bought a 1928 copy of the *Shady Hill Play Book*, which includes *Aucassin and Nicolette*, the play we did in the 5th grade with **Barbara Gaylord** in a major role.” She adds, “Interesting things to do and friends to do them with is my recipe for older age. Family drama, local politics, and several nonprofit board memberships keep me busy, as well as an eclectic collection of friends. Best to all, and keep in touch.”

Sorrel Mackall McElroy writes, “Potomac still means a lot to me, especially since four of my 13 grandchildren are attending or have attended. We are having fun going back and forth from Richmond to Chestertown, MD, where we have a family farm. So much for downsizing, but great for family gatherings, especially during duck and goose season!”

Jane Anderson Moon shares that she and her husband both retired several years ago and still enjoy their house in Orange, CA, where the recent project was improving the gardens. Their oldest son, Doug, lives with them and is recovering from a serious accident a year ago. Cary, their other son, is director of a medical practice and lives in northern California with his wife, Linda, a radiologist, and their 15-year-old daughter, who is an accomplished student and athlete. Daughter Diana and her family also live in northern California; she has three sons who are active Boy Scouts, two college age and one in high school. Jane volunteers as an instructor at a local university in a program for retired people that has

about 1,500 members; she really enjoys teaching such interesting and diverse people. She also does some volunteering at Cal State.

Belle Van Devanter Sawhill’s new book, *Generation Unbound*, was well reviewed in both the *New York Times* and the *Atlantic Monthly*; she is now a senior staff member at the Brookings Institution.

Debby Owen Turner’s life continues to be good, with time spent with the children and grandchildren. The Turners’ garden is open to the Suffolk Red Cross once each year. They still travel – this year to Essaouira in Morocco and to France.

1954
Class Correspondent
Tina Knox Radigan
eradigan@va.metrocast.net

John Casey reports, “I’m on a roll! *Beyond the First Draft* came out last year, a year or so before that *Room for Improvement: A Life in Sport* was published, and a couple of years before that *Compass Rose*. The first two are often funny. *Compass Rose* is a novel, part of the Rhode Island series that started with *Spartina*. Now back to work on the novel in progress. I’m still teaching at the University of Virginia in our Master of Fine Arts program. No mandatory retirement. Website: www.johnndcasey.com.”

Margaret Cooley shares, “I feel lucky to open my eyes every day in a beautiful spot with plenty of friends and my precious siblings still part of the mix. Life is invigorated by raising my grandson, now 16, who has been with me for 11 years. I’m much less spry, patient, or ‘with it’ than the first time around – simultaneously besotted with him and despairing that I’ll need to cling to the perch ‘til at least our 80th reunion to see him successfully launched. I’ve retired from paychecks but still deep in the affordable housing work that has fascinated me for the past 30 years. I miss the freedom to travel, but expect even adolescence must end and am trying to learn Italian just in case.”

1955 **Reunion YEAR 60th**
Want to reconnect with your classmates and friends? Register for Reunion 2015 and celebrate your milestone. If you’re interested in getting involved, contact Laura Miller at lmiller@potomacschool.org.

1956
Nerissa vom Baur Roehrs shares, “Last August we had the joy of the birth of our first grandchild, Henrietta Alice Heppenstall, in DC, no less. At last we have another American in the family.”

Diana Hardin Walker writes, “I have had a wonderful career as a contract photographer for *TIME* magazine, spending a lot of time as one of two photographers covering the White House. I was there from Carter through Clinton. I covered Hillary Clinton’s 2008 run for the presidency, then began to retire, though I couldn’t resist an offer from *TIME* in 2011 to cover a most interesting trip of Secretary of State Clinton’s to Libya, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. I came home, even with the excitement of a *TIME* cover, realizing it was time to hang up my photojournalist’s vest and equipment for good. As exhilarating as it was, physically it was too much. In looking over my work in retirement, I realized I had covered Hillary Clinton from first lady, to senator, through her campaign for the presidency, and as Secretary of State, often having exclusive access to her. This past November, Simon & Schuster published *Hillary: The Photographs of Diana Walker*. No matter what the future holds for Mrs. Clinton, she is a remarkable public servant, and I am proud and delighted with my book.

Now Mallory and I travel a lot and vacation in Sun Valley, Idaho. Our son Taylor and his wife, Jane Timberlake, live in San Francisco with Zoe, 11, and Sam, 6; son Willy and his wife, Sheila Walker, have three boys – Jack, 12, Charlie, 10, and Wyatt, 8 – and live on Newark Street, three blocks from us. We feel blessed.

I started taking pictures and built a dark room in our house on P Street in the early 1950s. I was encouraged with my photography by Potomac School’s then most-wonderful science teacher, **Duryea Morton**. I cut my teeth on our yearbook of 1956. Clearly, I had a long way to go. I loved my nine years at Potomac and have great friends, as well as a rewarding and exciting career, with a husband and family helping me along the way. It was a grand ride.”

1957
Leigh Stewart Estabrook shares, “All is well in Champaign, IL. My youngest daughter, Helen, is nominated for an Academy Award for best picture for *Whiplash*. A win is unlikely but hope you’ll see it! All the hype is fun. And, in my humble opinion, it is a great movie.”

1960 **Reunion YEAR 55th**
Class Correspondent
Stephanie deSibour
sdesibour@ivymount.org

Register today at potomacschool.org/alumni for Reunion 2015 on May 1 and 2. Celebrate your 55th milestone with classmates and friends on campus while enjoying the songs at the May Day celebration and then a special reception for classes from 1965 and above.

Becky McCandlish Burckmyer reports, “Life is rocking here. I continue to spend time indulging my passion for opera. I am reading a fair bit and trying to write a memoir about my few years doing the Bed and Breakfast – a fun but ultimately exhausting experience. I think so often of past faculty member **Jack Langstaff** and the difference he made in my life. I am currently taking voice lessons, which I love. My children live close by: Charlie and friend Denise just a mile away and Sarah with her husband, John, and Charlie, 9, and Eliza, 7, less than four miles from me. This is wonderful.”

Louisa Parker Caffrey shares, “My husband David and I divide our time between our desert house in 29 Palms, CA, and our condo in Palm Springs. We love hiking in adjacent Joshua Tree National Park and just sitting on the porch watching sunsets and wildlife. David is an Episcopal priest, Diocese of L.A.; he has been retired for two years but remains busy teaching and leading workshops and retreats. I am a mentor to high school girls as part of the Ophelia Project. I go as often as possible to New York, where I lived for 33 years, to see my son Nick, his wife Christine, and their adorable two-year-old daughter, as well as to see my daughter Emily, an actor. You can’t take the East Coast out of me, but I do love the mountains and open spaces here. I got to introduce **Stephanie deSibour** to all of it when she came for a visit to Palm Springs in February. It was great to have her here.”

Connie Casey writes, “I am a contributing editor to *Landscape Architecture Magazine*, writing a column called Species, and also do a series called *Revoluting Creatures* for *Slate*. It is easy to find if you Google my name plus vultures. After a career of writing about books and authors, then politicians, I’ve happily circled back to the natural history **Duryea Morton** taught us. I think of him often, with gratitude. I am living in New York, Upper West Side, near son Jacob, a professional trumpet player, and Christopher, a social worker. Husband Harold Varmus commutes between the National Cancer Institute (at NIH) and his real home, the Upper West Side.”

Adelaide (Lolly) MacMurray Cooper reports, “I seem to measure time in terms of family



events, particularly those that involve our 10 grandchildren. I had a photography show at The St. Botolph Club in Boston, helped Westover surpass its campaign goal, tracked bird migration in Mount Auburn Cemetery, and am writing poetry and volunteering for hospice, in addition to a lot of travel.”

Stephanie deSibour shares, “Life is really good here with much to be thankful for; namely, wonderful children (I guess we call them adults now), engaging work, good health, and good friends. I continue to work for Ivymount School, which serves students with developmental disabilities, including autism. My husband, Marc Miller, continues to practice law in DC and, more importantly, added two wonderful adult children to the family. Between his two daughters and my two sons, we have six (exemplary) grandchildren between the ages of two months and five years. My sons both live in Brooklyn, so I am a regular on Route 95N to visit them. They, like their mother, stay in touch with Potomac friends. In the past year, I have spent time with **Eve Auchincloss Lilley**, **Louisa Parker Caffrey**, **Belinda Winslow**, **Edie Kauffmann**, and **Lolly MacMurray Cooper**, including playing online Scrabble (with **Annie Shields** among others), to which I am obsessively attracted. There is something very satisfying, after all these years, about occasionally beating Lolly at the game. We have a house in Dorset, VT, which is completely wonderful and allows on average about four weeks a year (as it rents much of the time) for hiking, tennis, cooking, and other preferred activities. I hope to see many of you in May.”

Eve Auchincloss Lilley reports, “Life is good. I am still working in the field of learning disabilities – testing children and supporting parents and teachers. I’m also still taking ballet classes, which provide the ultimate thrill. My four stepchildren are all married and dutifully employed, and Bill and I have 10 grandchildren, ranging in age from 6 to 23. I’m still involved with The Washington Ballet, as vice chair of the Board of Directors, and other volunteer ventures. Not much traveling of late as Bill had a health scare last year that slowed us down a bit. But all is well now and we shall see what 2015 holds. In summary, much to be grateful for and I look forward to seeing many of you in May.”

Lyn DuVal Phipps shares, “In May I’ll be starting my 29th year at the McLean Farmers Market, where I sell plants and cut flowers. Daughter Christina, now 46, is doing well. She has a nice boyfriend and works in retail.”

Annie Rickert Shields sent in, “Pat (a retired minister) and I are restoring a 135-year-old church built by free slaves, located in one of our pastures. I am still involved with Icelandic horses. I have two daughters, Jesslyn and Allison, both pursuing creative interests.”

Louisa Thoron shares, “I am seriously considering attending the May Reunion. A quick survey of the last 50+ years: Foxcroft to the University of Colorado to Johns Hopkins School of International Studies; Defense Analysis staff at Brookings Institution; started pre-med, completed in 1979; entered Columbia College of Physicians and Surgeons, trained in internal medicine, hematology/oncology, and practiced in Philadelphia. I’m now living in Jaffrey, NH, with two labs and a much-too-large garden. I’m active in a number of organizations, including National Council of McLean; Philadelphia Committee on Foreign Relations; and the Garden Club of Dublin, NH, of which I am currently the president.”

Anne Dunbar Walston reports from the UK that she is still working at the Picture Gallery, trying to get in as much music (singing and recorder playing) as possible, and hiking (Morocco, Italy, Turkey, and Oregon to name a few spots). “Grandchild number 5 will have arrived upon publication of *The Term*. We are moving after 45 years in our farmhouse, 25 yards away to the gatehouse, allowing our son to move into the ‘big’ house.” With her middle daughter in a cottage 100 yards away, Thriplow Farm becomes “more and more like South Fork.” She sends best wishes for a happy 2015.

Caroline Von Schrader Winslow writes, “I am currently, and have been for the past 20 years, a volunteer manager at the Smithsonian’s National Zoo. The job is a perfect mix of dealing with wonderful people who give their time as educational and behind-the-scenes volunteers, and being in the midst of so many aspects of the amazing world of animals. I am divorced with two sons, Christopher and Andrew. They are soon to take me to Ireland for a 70th birthday present.”

1962
Class Correspondent
Deborah Johansen Harris
debjohansenharris@gmail.com

Deborah “Deb” Johansen Harris counts this past winter as a “healing season, having lost my stepmother, Ati Gropius Johansen, to cancer. I broke my leg tripping on the same carpet as last spring and breaking the same bone – made winter doubly difficult. Ted and I plan to lift our spirits cruising through the Cyclades Islands in late June and traveling down the Danube in late August. I trust my news will be more upbeat in the next bulletin. I am still trying to get to DC to see my Potomac pals, my leg withstanding (no pun intended).”

Snowden (Snowdy) Wainwright Kirby-Smith reports that things are “very low key,” as she was ill this past fall and winter. She writes, “I felt like I was losing memory space, and it turned out to be true. I had a brain tumor taken out in December

and almost immediately felt better. I will get some radiation done where the tumor was and will have chemo and work done on my lungs as weeks go by. I’ll keep you posted, as my travels might be sped up so I can have time to do and see all I want to.”

Carol Mattusch continued to work last fall in her chosen field of research – early Roman antiquities – at the American Academy of Rome for six weeks. She writes, “I am working on a new book project, now that *Enduring Bronze* has been published. Before that, I retired in spring 2014 from teaching at George Mason University.”

Liz Murray Platts shares, “Greg and I are enjoying semi-retirement, which allows us more time to visit our son James in Seattle and son Christopher in San Diego. Chris and his wife, Charlotte, had a second son in October; we feel very lucky to have Thayer and now George as grandchildren.”

Marianna Merrill Russell writes that she has been teaching Shakespeare and The Bloomsbury Group to retirees at the Renaissance Institute for the past few years. Her 10 years as a docent at the Folger Library in DC have given her a great background for teaching the Shakespeare course. Her daughter gave birth to Marianna’s sixth grandchild in March. She says that she and **Peak Mason Power**, **Liz Murray Platts**, and **Carol Eakin-Burdette** tried to get together last summer when Peak came to DC but it didn’t work out. They are planning to try again this coming summer.

Anne Darneille Snodgrass says, “All is well with husband Tony and me. We still live in Florida, but spend part of the year in DC and Maine. We enjoy gardening and playing tennis. We have also done some traveling. We are off to the Galapagos and Machu Picchu this spring and Southeast Asia in the fall. All four children are now married. Two live in Houston, one is in New York City, and the fourth is in DC. We have one grandson in Houston. He is three-and-a-half years old and is adorable. A second is due in late June.”

Chalmers Benedict Wood reports, “I’ve been in good old Nanjing nine happy years now and had some success. Time to kick back and look back on it all: It’s been interesting! I’m writing about it with Gibbon, Buchan, and Jeeves (etc.) as my guiding lights.”

1963
Class Correspondents
Marisa Knowlton Domeyko
mdomeyko@comcast.net
Anne Williams
annegw200@yahoo.com

Marisa Knowlton Domeyko reports, “Our granddaughter, Pandora, graduated from high school last May and is now at Shepherd University. How time flies! I saw **Maria Franco Granquist** a week ago. She has a new grandson, Charles, now seven months old. I also saw **Carroll Rogers Rooth**’s daughter, Liv Rooth, in *Lives of the Saints* in NYC. Fantastic!”

Wendy Neel Ellsworth shares, “My mom, **Mary Wilson Neel** ’32, died in October 2014 at age 96. One of my fond memories of her is when she sang on stage with my dad in *Pirates of Penzance*, one of **Jack Langstaff**’s annual musicals. She had a trained operatic voice and later in life enjoyed running the Metropolitan Opera Washington, DC, regional auditions.”

Barbie Franklin writes, “Have been to Europe and returned on emergency late in 2014. I am working on settling into a retirement community.”

Dede Fryer Hacking shares, “As I write, New York is bracing for record-breaking wind and snow. So many of us and our children live there, including my eldest, Jack. Our younger son, JB, and Naseem and Leila continue to live in Lesotho, where the latter just celebrated her first birthday. Meanwhile, life in Niagara-on-the-Lake is most enjoyable for Jeremy and me. We like attending the theatre and the occasional vacation, as well as entertaining many houseguests attracted by our local wineries and breweries. We plan to meet up with Jeremy’s two brothers in Spain this spring.”

Diane Kefauver says, “Still working for Democratic House Leader Nancy Pelosi, and still an honor. Thrilled to have my two sons back in the San Francisco Bay area for a while; Ben is back from Curacao and Davey from Vancouver.”

Amanda Kreglow shares, “I am continuing to do research for and work with my editor on my novel, *White Smoke*. (The story of a woman during the settlement of the Rocky Mountains, who discovers her astounding gifts through shocking personal tragedy, and her son, who spends his life trying to find her.) I choreographed a new dance, *Flocking*, with music by Zoe Keating, for the UPSide Dance Company. We had a studio performance in December in preparation for the March concert. They are wonderful dancers who are a delight to work with.”

Wendy Millar Phillips shares, “John and I are waiting out the nor’easter here in sunny San Francisco, babysitting our little 10-month-old



’63

grandson, Lucas. We had a wonderful family Christmas in Austria with 10 adults and three grandchildren. So much skiing behind our little five-year-old granddaughter! Nothing like an Alpine Christmas. We are going to Cuba at the end of March.”

Leni Chapman Preston writes, “Phillipe Villers, president of Families USA, presented me with their 2015 Consumer Health Advocate of the Year Award in recognition of my outstanding contribution on behalf of our nation’s health consumers. Yes, it was really cool, and it was great to have **Ned Preston** ’56 and Erica and **Caroline Preston** ’98 there.”

Jennifer Taylor reports, “I am excited about retiring in April, after 30 years in human resources and organizational development. This summer I’ll be moving to Seattle to be near my daughter Sara and her family. Wyatt, almost two years old, has a baby brother due in May, right after I retire. Lucky me!”

Edie Warner shares, “Denny and I spent months renovating our ‘new’ home on Mercer Island – tons of decisions to make and lots of construction dust, but it’s finally done (except for the gardens). It’s beautiful, and the one-story house should allow us to age in place, should we so desire. I continue to do lots of local hiking and hope to join a ‘hut-to-hut’ hike in the Colorado Mountains this summer.”

Anne Williams says, “I babysat for my grandson Easton (age 15 months) over New Years. His parents would not let me take him to Times Square, but we had fun anyway!”

1964
Class Correspondent
Alison Peake
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1965 Reunion YEAR 50th
Class Correspondent
Sallie Ayers Barker
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We’re looking forward to seeing the first coeducational graduating class at Reunion 2015! Come back to campus to enjoy the May Day festivities, a special reception honoring your class, trail walks, and more!

1967
Class Correspondent
Thom s Macy
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John Wolf writes, “Greetings from outer Cape Cod! I managed to get off of the peninsula over

Kate Holmes Caldwell ’68 > and husband Harry on the border of Switzerland and France, summer 2014

Leni Chapman Preston ’63 with husband Ned Preston ’56 and daughters Erica and Caroline Preston ’98
v



’63

the holidays and had some great family time in DC, Charlottesville, and Virginia Beach. My son, Alexander, is about a year-and-a-half into his doctoral program in nursing practice at UVA, where brother **Andrew Wolf** ’72 teaches and practices medicine. My son, my sister Sal, Andy and his family, and I spent a wonderful Christmas Eve and Christmas Day at Andy’s lovely home in the foothills of the Blue Ridge in Free Union; then off to brother **Steven Wolf** ’69 in DC for a family-tradition Boxing Day party (my mom used to call it the ‘young people’s party’ – yeah!) where, among others, **Lucy Hanes Masemer** ’68 stopped by.

After a round-about trip to Virginia Beach and then out to St. Louis with my son for New Years, it was off to West Virginia to look up a former musical colleague in Berkeley Springs. On the spur of the moment, we decided to make a surprise visit to fellow Potomac classmate **Debbie Tucker** at her top-notch Shepherdstown eatery, Bistro 112. Not only was the visit loads of heartwarming fun (all the more so for being a surprise), but the culinary offerings of the Bistro mark it as a true destination for anyone who values a meal prepared with great care and skill. Debbie has really outdone herself! Then off to the Berkshire region of western Massachusetts, where I lived during the ’70s, and a chance to play and record with musicians I hadn’t played with for about 40 years, before returning to Wellfleet and taking up where I left off with work.

Business continues to be good; I’ve never worked harder in my life! The mechanical services I provide the restaurant industry keep me hopping, as does the oil heat service at this time of year. My sailing charters got off to a late start last summer; hopefully, this year I’ll get the old catboat into the harbor a little earlier. I also enjoyed a busy performing season, playing with several bands on Nantucket, where I got to spend a good bit of time with classmate **Tom Macy** and caught up with his brother, **Richard Macy** ’77.



’68

This year also marked my fourth Thanksgiving with Tom, sister **Mary D. Macy** ’70, and her charming husband, Bernie Civitarese. I’m in the final stages of renovating my second floor. It would be lovely to see any classmates who feel like venturing to the outer Cape (you may want to wait ‘til after the ice has melted). By all means, get in touch if you’re headed this way!”

1968
Class Correspondent
Kim Holdsworth
kimsworth4@gmail.com

Kate Holmes Caldwell shares, “My work with estate planning for the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra continues to be good fun, with the added benefit of attending Symphony concerts each weekend. My vocal trio, Trinitas, completed our third CD, *Circle Round*, last year (all three CDs are available through www.cdbaby.com), and I now enjoy leading community sings – echoes of **Jack Langstaff**! Harry and I continue to enjoy keeping in shape through long hikes, tackling the Tour du Mont Blanc last year, with plans to walk the West Highland Way in Scotland in May. Our eldest daughter, Alexandra, 28, lives and works in Geneva, Switzerland, and will be returning in 2016 to marry a great guy from Minnesota who will start his residency soon. Our son David, 26, teaches English at a boys’ high school in Seoul, South Korea, while our daughter Meredith, 23, works at Johns Hopkins in Baltimore.”

Chip Hitchcock writes from Brighton, MA, “I’ve retired from my paid career, but I’m still keeping up with choral singing, archery and thrown weapons, medieval court dancing, and a heavy dose of science-fiction fandom. I’m doing the layout for the World Science Fiction Convention in Spokane this summer – fitting a very random assortment of exhibits and activities into a

football-shaped space – and continue to wear multiple hats for the local convention and sit on the board of another convention. No children, but after 20 years married we’ve an assortment of mostly-grown nieces and nephews; we’ll be traveling to the first marriage of that generation this May.”

Lucy Jewett Lowenthal was involved in child and family advocacy for a number of years. She writes, “I moved from business into fund raising and was number two at Martha’s Table, a large homeless center with child care and other facilities on 14th Street in DC. I then went to work as number two and head of development and outreach for a big drug rehab.” Now she’s working at the George Washington University, in the dean’s office, and has been managing a new school building project. Lucy earned a master’s degree in theology in late 2014. This year opens up new opportunities for her to be involved as a lay leader in spiritual development activities at work and in ministry.

Peter Lowenthal has been amassing decades of experience in the solar energy field. He’s now working at Nextility, a young startup company in DC, where he is “double the age of almost everybody” and enjoying the work. His and Lucy’s two children, Rachel and Max, have been working close by in DC – at least during this past year, before graduate school takes them elsewhere next year. Peter and Lucy have enjoyed traveling to New York and New England for celebrations with extended family.

Edith Fryer Racine, reporting from St. Petersburg, FL, shares, “I stay busy with church activities, including being the thrift shop assistant manager, a choir member, a Lay Eucharistic Minister, and anything else that comes up that I can lend a hand to.



I also volunteer at Suncoast Hospice, one of the very best hospices in the country. I work in the welcome center, make bereavement calls, and sometimes assist in one of our inpatient facilities.

I’m married to a very nice guy named Jay, and we have fun fishing, eating out, and hosting picnics for our neighbors. I also sit on a low-income housing board for a local organization. I miss Maryland because it has hills and green grass and big trees; it’s very flat and sandy here. Oh well, I guess that’ll be good when I can’t climb anymore.

I recently celebrated my birthday by visiting Sarasota, FL, with Jay and two friends, Sylvie and Eric. We had lunch at an Amish restaurant, then

went to the Mable and Roger Ringling estate, where we enjoyed a delightful exhibit about circuses and strolled the grounds surrounding the mansion at sunset.”

1969

Class Correspondent
Alex Dominick
asdominick@yahoo.com

Alex Dominick reports, “First, I finally left Arizona and moved back to Colorado. I love it and have taken up fly fishing! Second, I decided, after many years, to change my name to Alex; so far so good. I tried this in high school but got into trouble with teachers who would call my name and get no response unless I was looking right at them. Third, I was married on March 1 to my soul mate – I wasn’t sure there was such a person until I actually met her. We are very happy and grateful that we’ve each been given this chance to experience what true love really can be. Finally, I am sorry to have to share that my mom died on February 3, at the age of 95. Her death was peaceful, and she can finally reunite with her husband, her brother, and her two sons who went before her.”

Charlotte Bucknell Reilly shares, “I live in Pennsylvania. I still ride and will until I am too old to move. I retired my thoroughbred and started riding Icelandic horses, which are gaited. What better place to ride an Icelandic horse than in Iceland? I have been going back for years, every summer and a fall or two. It is my therapy. My daughter, Lauren, is at the University of the Arts in Philadelphia. She is getting her B.F.A. in acting and someday, I hope, we will see her on Broadway; at least, that is the plan for the moment. You never know where the road will lead or which turn will be chosen. Maybe she will end up on the London stage? She does love London.”

Julie Symington says, “I live in San Francisco in a house near the ocean, where I raised my two daughters. We have made it back to DC every now and then but not often enough to really catch up with old friends, which I do regret! My children are now grown and finding their way in the world. Evie is a writer and works in L.A., and Hayley is getting her Ph.D. in history at UC Berkeley. As for me, I am a musician, a writer, and an artist. I attribute my love of music in large part to the inspiring teaching of the great **Jack Langstaff**. We were all so lucky to have him at Potomac! Best wishes from the Far West!”

1970 Reunion YEAR 45th

Reunion 2015 registration is now open. Come back on May 1 and 2 to reconnect with your classmates and friends! Visit potomacschool.org/alumni for more information.



Nina Chapin de Rochefort '74 and Jane Day Rich '74 in Boulder, CO

1973

Class Correspondent
Liza Gookin Hodskins
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1974

Class Correspondent
Ann Brown
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Nina Chapin de Rochefort writes, “I had the chance to visit **Jane Day Rich** in Boulder last summer. My condolences to **Josephine Kalmus Miller** regarding her mother’s death. I remember her from birthday parties and occasional play dates but knew that she was a wonderful and interesting person.”

Lee Hass notes, “I will be settling in Richmond and hope to catch up with classmates, and maybe for once have the opportunity to attend a class reunion!”

Sarah Holmes reports that she and her husband joined a small education-focused tour group to Myanmar/Burma in January: “The country is going through a remarkable period of transition and the sights were extraordinary. These included thousands of pagodas in view in one central plain, the incredible villages on stilts above Inle Lake, and up-close engagement with elephants in Kalaw.”

Andy Hyde shares, “I am enjoying a year of being a student again. The State Department has sent me to a primarily military-oriented senior course at the Eisenhower School at National Defense University to learn about national strategy, defense resources, and the energy industry. I am undertaking some independent research on Asia and traveling to Japan this spring. I will return to the State Department in July for a two-year gig in the Bureau of International Organizations. Diana is building on the earlier work that she did at our Embassy in Vienna. My twin boys are finishing their junior years at Columbia and Carnegie Mellon and starting to contemplate what life might have in store for them after college. It was great seeing many of you last year.”

Sarah Lejeune writes, “Life bubbles on. I think my biggest news is sad: My father died on November 15, the day after my mother’s birthday. We all miss him; even 96 years seems too short.

On the upside, I continue to work for the City of Santa Monica as a principal strategic and transportation planner, scrambling to get ready for the arrival of light rail, which has been a 35-year-long saga in which I have been a key player for the last five years. **Josephine Kalmus Miller** and I have lunch regularly.

My daughter, Zoe, started high school. Wow. After much back and forth, we decided not to send her to the Potomac-like little private school with liberal values, but to the giant public high school, where she is thriving as an athlete and a student.

I finished my first novel and it is out circulating. Let’s hope by the next class notes it will be published!

Last year’s Reunion was wonderful; I am so glad I got a chance to reconnect. I was able to tell my father about everyone, all of whom he remembered fondly. He took pleasure in hearing the Potomac Class of ’74 news before he set out on his next great adventure. Love to all.”

Jennifer Moses writes, “Our eldest, Sam, was married last summer in Jerusalem to his longtime sweetheart, Dara Hadassah Frank, after having served in the IDF for three years, including in Gaza. Our twins, Rose and Jonathan, are to be graduated from their respective colleges in May, praise the Lord. I continue to write, most recently as a regular for *TIME*. My husband, a law professor, is working on a book about vice crimes, particularly around sex, so our dinnertime conversations tend to be lively. My 85-year-old father, with whom I stayed for our Reunion weekend, wanted to know if both **Nina Chapin de Rochefort** and **Nina Bohlen** were to be present and asked after quite a few others by first and last name as well. As others have said, **Grace Guggenheim** couldn’t have been a more gracious hostess.”

Jane Day Rich says, “I feel blessed that Kevin, Isabel, and I are in good health and employed. Kevin and I are now proud parents of a teenager!”

1975 Reunion YEAR 40th

Class Correspondent
Peggy Griffin egor
ppegor@gmail.com

*Come back and spend time with Class Reunion Chair **Peggy Griffin egor** and classmates on May 1 and 2 to celebrate your 40th milestone! Register today at potomacschool.org/alumni.*

Margaret Evans Beers writes that she has her own business as a Carlisle consultant. Her husband of 34 years, David, also owns his own remodeling business, and they both work out of

the house. Their three girls are busy living their own lives. Parker, 32, is married and working in Boston. Daphne, 28, is living and working in Pittsburgh, and Charlotte, 26, is married and living in Oberlin, OH. That just leaves their son, David IV, 16, at home. Now that she is almost an empty-nester, Margaret is working hard on her solo singing pursuits. Her latest project is to make a new YouTube video of Puccini’s *Vissi D’arte* aria. It will be up on Facebook when it is ready to go. You can see her other YouTube video if you search for the live performance of *Kaddish*, Margaret Beers. She is looking forward to seeing all of you this May.

1976

Stephen Hill has been busy working as an executive for BET, helping to launch successful shows like *Real Husbands of Hollywood*. This past December, Stephen was promoted to head of programming at BET.

1977

*Thank you to **Wendy Arundel**, class correspondent, and **Audrey Baxter Young**, class agent, for their service. We’re looking for volunteers to be the Class of ’77’s next correspondent and agent. Will YOU help your classmates stay connected to one another and to Potomac? If interested, please contact **Laura Miller**, director of alumni relations, at lmiller@potomacschool.org.*

Dawn Renzy Bellinger writes, “2015 will be a big year for me, with both girls out of college and into the workplace – hopefully, off the mommy payroll too! **Catharine Bellinger ’08** will launch and head up the DC office of Democrats for Education Reform, and **Ann Bellinger ’10** will be an entry-level programmer for a Boston-based online trading software company called Redline Trading. Next year will also be the first full year of my new business. In late 2014, I formally launched my consulting firm, Small Bytes LLC, which provides ‘smart software solutions to small businesses.’ You can find us on the web at www.smallbytesllc.com.”

1978

Class Correspondent
Julie Twiname Warder
jtwdean@cox.net

Alan Calfee shares, “2014 was a banner year for me. ‘Life begins at 50’ is my motto! I was honored to receive the Vermont Tree Farm of the Year Award in September, and I married the woman of my dreams in October, with **J.C. Ewing** by my side as my best man. Life is good in Vermont, but cold – about 0 degrees right now in February. We are building a house in a fantastic spot in East Rupert, which is not far from Dorset. I saw **David Greenewalt** and his sister, **Barbara**

Greenewalt ’79 (whom I hadn’t seen since Potomac), on a hike I led up Haystack Mountain in Pawlet, where I was involved in a conservation project to protect the summit of the mountain a few years back. We had a few yucks talking about the Potomac years. Other than that, I am skiing as much as I can, traveling as much as I can, and staying busy with my forestry business. I get back to DC occasionally and often stay in Georgetown, which seems so different from the days when we roamed those streets.”

Tony Evans and his wife, Stephanie, are starting a new chapter in their lives as empty nesters. He writes, “Our eldest is a kindergarten teacher just outside Cincinnati, while our second is studying for her physician’s assistant degree, and our youngest is a junior at Denison University. We have been in the Chicago area for 25 years and love it. I still stay in touch with **Tim Gould** and former teacher **Bill Doswell** and his wife Suzanne and have also had some contact with **Bill Rademaekers**. I am sure I am missing a few.”

Ann Addison Freniere writes, “I had an incredible time at the DC Christmas Revels show, which brought back so many memories of our years at Potomac. Luckily, I also had the chance to get a quick conversation in with **Lola Singletary** at the end of the concert. My two daughters, Katharine and Maddie, are working their way through their teen years. Katharine is currently at Montgomery College, working on the required courses and thinking about where she would like to go after she gets her A.A. Maddie is a sophomore in high school, taking advantage of sleeping as much as she can and hanging out with her three best friends.”

Angus Kerr reports, “I suppose in my case ‘mid-life’ is getting into a routine I enjoy. For what news I have to share, it is much like last year. After successfully finishing my dissertation in historical archaeology, I still teach Special Education in New York City. I still live in Long Island City, summer in Newport, and sail. My wife, Tomoko, still designs for Marc by Marc Jacobs, and life is ‘groovy,’ to resurrect an old but appropriate saying.”

Julie Twiname Warder writes, “Any mid-life crisis that I might be experiencing is being overshadowed by teen angst. My oldest, Ben, is a senior in high school, and Jack and Sophie are 13. I was a little better at understanding early childhood (I have a B.A. in it) than I am with teens. As challenging as it can be, I wouldn’t trade my parenting job for anything! I feel blessed!

I finally made it back to DC this fall. I had a wonderful reunion with **Lola Singletary** and **Sally Anne Epstein** at the National Gallery. After touring the photography exhibit that my niece worked on, we headed to the café. A couple of hours later, we failed to notice the

gallery closing around us and had a guard escort us out of the building! I am looking forward to a visit when I can see more of our classmates.”

Hildreth Willson writes, “We attended the California Revels show in Oakland. My daughter, Gillian, had a walk-on one night, and my husband is a regular in the Christmas show. It has become a family tradition that, like **Ann Addison Freniere**, I particularly cherish because of all the happy memories of singing at Potomac. I sing with the Revels in the off-season the rest of the year, and Chas gets to grab the limelight. That way, there’s somehow always a parent to ferry and minister to the kids year-round. The kids are doing great. Meredith is in seventh grade, and boy has there been a change between ages 12 and 13! Style has become very important, along with volleyball and texting. Gillian is enjoying Girl Scouts, sewing, and drawing. My husband got his amateur pilot’s license a year ago and loves it. I have gone back to school to study interior design, a big change from finance and systems work. I am also treasurer for one of our PTAs. Life is busy, and we are all well.”

Arthur Woolverton is starting a new chapter in his life along the job front: “After eight great years working for Honeywell, I decided to move on and take on a new challenge as the North American marketing leader for IDEXX Laboratories’ Water Division. So I am now slowly becoming an expert in the world of microbiology and water quality testing. The push by the incredible teachers at Potomac to become a lifelong learner is really paying off.

Family is doing great! Matthew is finishing up his senior year in high school and looking forward to heading off to college. Meg is now in fourth grade and has discovered the power of persuasive writing. Her four-page paper persuaded her curmudgeon of a father to allow her to have a rabbit to go along with our new puppies (yes, puppies – what were we thinking?)

Getting old is rough, but I am enjoying life’s simple pleasures. I just had rotator cuff surgery on my left shoulder, which had taken years of abuse from this wannabe athlete. The procedure has given me a new respect for those involved in the medical world and the hope that someday soon I am actually going to be able to raise my arms at TSA checkpoints without pain!”

1979

Oteil Burbridge will be playing at the Peach Music Festival in Scranton, PA, this summer.

1980 Reunion YEAR 35th

Register today for Reunion 2015 on May 1 and 2. Come walk the trails, spend time in the classrooms, and reconnect with your friends! Go to potomacschool.org/alumni for more information.

1982

Class Correspondent
James Corrigan
jcorrigan@brownadvisory.com

Merrell Redway Cherouny joined the Potomac School’s Admission Office this year and sees her sister, **Annabelle Redway Dunn ’85**, who works in the Lower School as a reading specialist. Merrell’s daughter Grace is a senior and son Hayden is a freshman at Potomac.

Jimmy Corrigan shares, “I occasionally see **Tris Carlisle**, **Janie Haynes Steuart**, **Brenda Brophy Pivirotto**, **Merrell Redway Cherouny**, **Rachel Renzy Meima**, **Ann Luskey**, and **Hope Norman Bass** around town. All are doing well and would love to read more about our classmates.”

Lewie Hamady shares that he is enjoying retirement while fly-fishing in the Southern Cone in pursuit of the ever-elusive *Grande Salmo Trutta* (monster brown trout). The initial reports from his Uruguayan basecamp are that the species actually does exist, but they are few and far between. However, Lewie has selflessly committed personal time and significant resources for the sake of science, to identify each and every Argentinean and Chilean river that provides a suitable habitat for the species to thrive in. His motto is “fish until I die or the river runs dry!” He does entertain visitors, so reach out the next time you are in Patagonia.

Francesca Hunt Jewett is living on a beautiful farm in Hume, VA, with her three children, Hunter, Finley, and Chanler. When not helping with homework or mucking stalls, she continues her passion for culinary arts as a baker for Whoopies in Middleburg. When school is out, the family is likely to be found hiking and fishing in the Adirondacks, in addition to Hunter diligently preparing for a future in golf.

John Muir reports that he is practicing real estate law in DC and lives in Bethesda with his wife, Laurie, and their three children, Avery, Caroline, and Alden. John’s recent enthusiasm for learning the bagpipes in support of his Scottish heritage often results in banishment to the basement. While any progress has yet to be reported, John assures all that are willing to listen that it only gets better with Belhaven Scottish Ale. (By the way, he keeps a secret keg on tap in his basement.)

Nerissa Nields shares, “Our 17th album is out, and bringing us out and about, too. We’ll be at Jammin Java on April 25 for our album release party. Initially inspired by the life, music, and activism of Pete Seeger, our album *XVII* is about life in community, hope and perspective in midlife, and faith in love in all its forms. I’m

looking forward to seeing old friends at reunions and on the road as we tour this album.

Meanwhile, life in Northampton is sweet. Lila is almost nine and Johnny is six. Tom and I are going to Paris in May to celebrate our 10th wedding anniversary and our combined 100 years (between his 53rd birthday in April and my 48th in June). So great to see so many of you on Facebook and to share your joys vicariously. Love to all of you!” (Read more about Nerissa and her sister, Katryna ’84, on page 14.)

Andrew Scott is living in Chicago with his wife, Lisa, and their three daughters, Talia, Baden, and Landon. He is practicing law during the weekdays and spending his weekends cycling long distances. He also enjoys fine wine and cheese.

Reid Wilson was married to Laura Stakanas in Northfield, IL, in September 2013. His two children, Nina, 17, and Alec, 15, are in high school and playing travel hockey, which occupies most of Reid’s time as he shuttles them to rinks throughout the Midwest. In his free time, Reid has taken up the guitar and sings baritone in his church choir.

1983

Class Correspondent
Jen Webber
jwebber3@maine.rr.com

Junie Harris reports, “I was the production manager for all NAACP Image Awards events. Was at the top of the red carpet and did some of the events’ voice-over.”

Mallory Archer Samson writes, “I am now living in Chicago with my husband, Bill, and our three children, Calvin, Spencer, and Gigi. I work for Russell Reynolds Associates as the knowledge manager for the Consumer Practice. I love getting paid to talk about global shopping and talent trends! My oldest is graduating from high school this year, which is entirely bittersweet. My middle child has taken up lacrosse, which gets us back to the East Coast often. I always catch up with **Maggi Lazarus ’82** when I am there, or we meet up in some exotic location! My baby is in eighth grade and reminds me very much of myself at her age – though she has not ordered a gorilla with balloons for her math teacher, as I did for former faculty member **Dr. Kressman**. If anyone comes to Chicago, give me a call.”

1984

Class Correspondent
James Quigley
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Rory Kennedy was nominated for an Academy Award for Best Documentary for *Last Days in Vietnam*. Congratulations!

James Quigley reports, “Still reveling in the glow of our most excellent summer reunion. Those of you who missed out need to make the effort for the next one. We need you! Monica has generously offered her future house for our 35th, so mark it as a done deal, ’84. And Ali, breathe easy; you’re off the hook!

I had the chance to hang out with **Matthew McGuire** and **Kenrick Skerritt** downtown in January. Time stopped and we had a blast. And that’s a good thing. **Charles Saltzman** continues to thrive in Austin. **John Stump** is building a new house for his family in Carolina. **Jennifer Maddox Sergeant** is killing it at *DC by Design*. I caught up with **Mary Day Fitzgibbon** over the holidays, and she continues to enjoy Albany, but I sense she’s over the snow. **Sarah Howard** and I wave to one another in carpool at National Presbyterian School. When we do get a chance to chat she is kind as ever. Perhaps our children will share a bus to Potomac one day.

The Quigley clan visited **Rebecca Baldwin Fuller** at her family estate in Lovettsville a while back. We had a great time chasing llamas and counting sheep. As for the rest of you, please send me a shout-out so I can share your exploits and accomplishments with our class. We hear rumors of great things. If you find yourself in DC, let me know. I’m hoping to assemble an ‘olde school’ family event this spring and wish to include everyone.”

Kenrick Skerritt writes, “To my classmates: 30 years ago I graduated with the best class in Potomac history. We were the last of the original Potomac School (before high school). There are too many memories to mention here. This note is a shout-out to all those that remember the great teachers (**Skeeter** and the now **Mrs. Skeeter**, **Mrs. Rose**, **Mrs. Lorntz**, and many others), the great times, and the epic events (Williamsburg). All these will forever be etched in my brain. If any of you are ever in the DC area, please reach out.”

Cameron Vandegrift shares, “I graduated in ’84 and this is the first time I’ve submitted a note. I’m at Deloitte Consulting, where I have a number of federal, civilian, and commercial clients. I still live in DC, and would love to keep in touch with classmates.”

1985 Reunion YEAR 30th

Class Reunion Co-Chairs **Enrico Cecchi** and **Chrissy Coughlin** are excited to see you at Reunion 2015 on May 1 and 2. Register today at potomacschool.org/alumni and come back to reconnect with your classmates and friends!

Enrico Cecchi writes, “**Mark Wolfi gton** and his daughters Sydney, Courtney, and Lilly came out to visit us for a week in Jackson Hole, WY, this past summer. We had a great time hiking, horseback riding, and exploring Jackson Hole and Yellowstone. One of the highlights was

Enrico Cecchi ’85 and family with classmate Mark Wolfing on ’85 and family in Jackson Hole, WY



Cabell Maddux ’86 with his family in January 2015



a rafting trip on the Snake River. We spotted several bald eagles.”

Chrissy Coughlin shares, “I am so happy to report that I had a baby girl, Caroline Crosby Coughlin, on August 18, 2014. She is the love of my life! I hope to see EVERYONE at our 30th reunion this May!”

Christy Halvorson Ross writes that she and her brother, **Brook Halvorson ’91**, lost their mom, Sally Halvorson, in May 2014. Christy notes, “For over a decade in the 1970s and ’80s, Sally took many of the black-and-white photos of Potomac School children that were hung in the hallways and used in school publications. Her husband of 45 years, Thor Halvorson, was a member of Potomac’s Board of Trustees for many years, serving as board chairman in the 1980s.”

1986

Class Correspondent
Robert Cheek
rmbcheek@gmail.com

Katie Bacon reports, “I’m living in Brookline, MA, right outside Boston, with my husband, Mark; our kids Jamie, 10, and Bisi, 8; and our dog, Cinnamon. We love the town we live in and the kids’ school, though I’ve come to appreciate some things about Potomac even more than I did at the time – like the music and drama programs and the wonderful outdoor resources. I’ve been writing on education and legal topics, and recently on health ones, too, after Bisi was diagnosed with type 1 diabetes. We’ve been embracing winter in New England by doing a lot of downhill skiing, along with all the other sports and activities that Jamie and Bisi are involved in.”

Shawn Banerji writes, “I just logged my fifteenth year here at Russell Reynolds in NYC. My oldest son, Julian, is turning 14; my daughter Beverly is 11, going on 17; and I have a two-and-a-half year old son, Victor, who calls his own shots. We’re living in Madison, CT, outside of New Haven. Trying to keep it real – balancing being corporate with ‘coaching’ the kids’ sports and doing lots of CrossFit.”



1990 Reunion YEAR 25th

Class Agent
Edward Rossotti
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Are you interested in getting involved? For more information about becoming 1990’s class correspondent, contact Laura Miller at lmiller@potomacschool.org.

Congratulations to the Class of 1990 as you celebrate your 25th reunion this spring! Your class has an extra-special milestone to celebrate, being the first class to graduate kindergarten through twelfth grade! Come celebrate with Class Reunion Chair **Edward Rossotti** at your special reception on Friday night of Reunion weekend.

Betsy Fagin’s newest book, *All Is Not Yet Lost*, was published on March 1 of this year. Pick it up today at www.belladonnaseries.org/all-is-not-yet-lost.

Ted Starkey is currently working on his third book, *Chasing the Dream: Life in the American Hockey League* for ECW Press in Toronto. It follows up on his 2012 book, *Red Rising: The Washington Capitals Story*, and *Transition Game: Story of the 2010-11 Washington Capitals*. Ted currently works for *Newsday* on Long Island after a short stint working for the Syracuse *Post-Standard*.

1991

Class Correspondent

Thea Lehming Brandt

thea.lehming.brandt@gmail.com

Class Agent

Jamie Stump

jfstump@yahoo.com

1992

Class Correspondent

Ama A. Adams

Ama.Adams@bakerbotts.com

Class Agent

Nicole Kleman Neufeld

nkleman@yahoo.com

Rachel Yudain Kuchinad shares, “My husband and I live in NYC with our three children.”

1993

Class Agent

Jay Zeiler

jayzeiler@gmail.com

Rohit Bhargava just released a new book called *Non-Obvious: How to Think Different, Curate Ideas & Predict the Future*, featuring 15 new, non-obvious business and marketing trends for 2015. Rohit lives in the DC area with his wife, Chhavi, and their two children.

Erin Cleary Murtagh shares, “We recently moved back to Alexandria and are enjoying the chaos of life with three kids under age 5. It has been exciting to serve on the AGC at Potomac and keep abreast of what is going on at the School. I hope to see many of you at Reunion weekend on May 1 and 2!” She adds, “I loved catching up with **Tara Barrett Ciongoli** last summer on Nantucket.”

1994

Class Correspondent

Lauren Banks Amos

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Class Agents

Sandy Gentles

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Perry Aldige Shure

perryshure@me.com

Class of '91 alumni gather in Georgetown. (Back row, l to r) Josh Corn, Will Langhorne, Patsy Dugger, Rich Bland, Tim Wisecarver, Jed Wolfing on, Charisse Mortenson McElroy, Jamie Stump; (front row, l to r) Erika Melman, Jennie McClelland, Azali Kassum, Lynne Lightfoote



Sandy Gentles shares, “The Gentles had a great start to 2015 and have really enjoyed reconnecting with former classmates. If you are in the DC/Bethesda area, I would love to catch up or coordinate a play date. I’m at sandygentles@gmail.com.”

Nike Ogunsola Hughes writes that she married Donnell Hughes of Essex, MD, in a small ceremony attended by family and close friends on New Year’s Day. The two are splitting their time between living in northern Virginia and Littleton, CO.

1995 Reunion Year 20th

Class Correspondent

Erin Vagley

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Class Agents

Ashley Pehrson Storm

Ashley_pehrson@hotmail.com

George Wisecarver

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Reunion 2015 is May 1 and 2. Come reconnect with your classmates on campus and celebrate your 20th milestone. Go back to class, take a tour, sing beloved May Day songs, enjoy the Friday Night All Alumni Reception, walk the trails, and more! Go to potomacschool.org/alumni to register.

Jessica Wright Baldenhofer reports, “My husband, Craig, and I moved from Manhattan to Williamsburg, Brooklyn, in July 2014. On August 27, 2014, we welcomed our first child, Kai Wright Baldenhofer. I am still manager of school programs at the Museum of Modern Art, and Craig is in private practice as a plastic and reconstructive surgeon.”

Ben Jordan-Downs writes, “We moved from DC to Portland, OR, in February 2014 due to a new job opportunity for my wife, Kate. She is the inclusion services manager at Knowledge Universe. I am a project manager in the Facilities Planning and Projects Group at Bonneville Power Administration. I was hired to officiate men’s college basketball at the D2, D3, NAIA, and JUCO levels, and thus was able to continue my night job that I have been doing at this level since 2004.

< Rachel Yudain Kuchinad '92 and Jess Mikszewski Snyder '93 in New York last May



The children of Erin Cleary Murtagh '93 and Tara Barrett Ciongoli '93 on vacation in Nantucket

Our sons, Knox, 4, and Knile, 1, have transitioned well to the Pacific Northwest. They are showing signs of being Blazers, Mariners, and Seahawks fans already!”

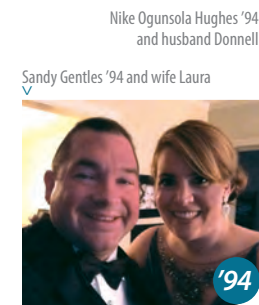
Ted Tzirimis shares, “I am working as regional manager for The Medical Team, a provider of personal and health-care services in the home, along with the husband of fellow alum **Antonia Blackwood**. My wife, Danielle, and I just welcomed our first child, Nicholas, in October 2014. We’ve had the pleasure of hanging out with **Slater Harding**, his wife, Nicole, and their baby Pierce, who was born only days before Nicholas.



Michael Semchyshyn '91, Tim Wisecarver '91, Masud Khan '91, Billy Barton '91, George Wisecarver '95, and Scott Farrell '95

George Wisecarver reports, “**Michael Semchyshyn '91, Tim Wisecarver '91, Masud Khan '91, Billy Barton '91, Scott Farrell '95, Morgan Till '91**, and I gathered at the Black Cat in DC on February 26 to see **Helmet**, a rock band that became popular in the '90s. Having seen Megadeth the previous year, the group is eager to attend a performance of equal caliber in 2016. Suggestions welcome!”

Nike Ogunsola Hughes '94 and husband Donnell



Ben Jordan-Downs '95 with wife Kate and their children, Knox and Knile



1996

Class Correspondent

Chris Cramer

cpcramer@gmail.com

Are you interested in getting involved? For information about becoming class agent for the Class of '96, contact Laura Miller at lmiller@potomacschool.org.



William Clarkson shares that in July, he and wife Marguerite celebrated their son Will’s baptism with godfathers **Jamie Sullivan** and **James Maxwell**.

Brett Nelson notes, “I live in Arlington with my wife, Andie, and our two children, Miles, 5, and Maggie, 3. Over the last couple of months, I have enjoyed catching up on separate occasions with **Brian Pence '95, Parker Kelsey, Yael Feder Devonshire, Jamie Sullivan, and Richie Ellis '97**. This fall I completed my first Ironman.”

Heather Wilson says, “Hello, alumni community! On top of coordinating our Service Learning Program at Potomac, I have been busy working as a motivational speaker and women’s success coach. I most recently spoke at the National Association of Independent Schools’ (NAIS) People of Color Conference

Kai, son of Jessica Wright Baldenhofer '95



Heather Wilson '96

in Indianapolis on the topic of “Storytelling in Diversity Work.” Please check out my website, www.heatherrebeccawilson.com, and drop by my office in U114 if you’re ever on campus. I’m looking to book some more speaking gigs, so if you think of something that might be a good fit, please email me at heather@heatherrebeccawilson.com.”

1997

Are you interested in getting involved? For information about becoming the class correspondent or class agent for the Class of '97, contact Laura Miller at lmiller@potomacschool.org.

Marni Zelnick directed *Druid Peak*, a coming-of-age story about a troubled teenage boy who finds himself by tracking wolves in Wyoming. The plot centers on Owen, a bully with a mean streak. When his actions lead to the accidental death of a friend, he is sent to live with his father, a biologist working on Yellowstone’s wolf reintroduction program. Upon Owen’s first encounter with a Canadian gray wolf, the creature’s deep penetrating gaze stirs something long dead inside him. Ultimately, Owen must decide how far he will go to protect the wolves, his father, and the place that he has finally come to call home. *Druid Peak* has racked up a number of festival awards, including Best Feature Film at the Philadelphia Independent Film Festival 2014 and a Special Jury Award at the Louisville International Festival of Film 2014.

1998

Class Correspondent

Jessica Ohly

jessicaohly@gmail.com



Liesl Bradford Lu '98 married Joe Lu in May 2014.

Class Agent

Liz Oosterhuis Delasobera

elizabeth.delasobera@gmail.com

Liesl Bradford Lu writes, “My husband, Joe, and I were married on May 31, 2014, in East Burke, VT. We were joined by family and friends, including Potomac classmates **Susan Reynolds Spies** and her husband, Don Spies, and **Vail Breed** and her husband, Adam Mantin. Joe and I live in the Boston area.”

1999

Class Correspondent

Reed Landry

reed@lnsmidiacorp.com

Class Agent

Keith Huffman

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Belen Aquino shares, “My husband, Drew, and I welcomed our son, Marco Antonio Felipe Perfilio, on June 9, 2014. His grandparents, including Potomac School alum **Lindesay Holdsworth Aquino '65**, are all very excited! Currently, we are living in the Albany Park neighborhood of Chicago with our dog, Chomsky, and enjoying all the wonderful opportunities and activities that the city has to offer. In recent years, it’s been fun to return to Potomac, reconnect with folks, and photograph the Reunion. Looking forward to doing it again in May!”

Melissa Jerro Hencken writes, “I am married, and my husband and I live outside Baltimore with our two boys, who are the loves of my life.”

Pamela Kasenetz reports, “Things are going well for me. I live in DC and am practicing internal medicine in Falls Church. In my free time, I’ve been acting in a sold-out play at the Little Theater of Alexandria in Old Town.”



2000 Reunion YEAR 15th

Class Correspondents
Maura Myers Bisogni
maura.bisogni@gmail.com
Jonathan Haworth
haworth.jonathan@gmail.com

Class Reunion Chairs **Emily Gideon Yosmanovich** and **Milly Hejtmanek** look forward to seeing you back on campus on May 1 and 2 for Reunion 2015! For more information and to register, visit potomacschool.org/alumni.

2001
Class Correspondent
Stirling Kelso Neff
stirlingkelso@gmail.com

Are you interested in getting involved? For information about becoming the class agent for the Class of '01, contact Courtney Stout at cstout@potomacschool.org.

Dan Brooks shares, "I've been living in San Francisco for about two and a half years now, and I'm currently working at a mobile startup called FarFaria, which offers a digital subscription product for children's books. The easiest way to describe it is Netflix for kids' books! I saw **Noah Miller**, **Chelsea Simms Wingfield**, **Liz Fabiani '03**, and other Potomac alums, along with **Mr. Th mas**, **Ms. Swecker Jaeger**, and the new head of school, **John Kowalik**, at an alumni event that Potomac hosted in San Francisco in November. It was a lot of fun because I haven't seen some of the alums that came since we graduated!"

Lina Gomez Clausell and her husband, Roberto, had a baby, Eva Paola Clausell, in November. Lina works for National Geographic.

Marian Smith Montalbano and her husband, Dan Montalbano, spent seven months on the road in 2014, making stops in Brazil, Argentina, Peru, Japan, Thailand, Myanmar, Cambodia, Vietnam, Indonesia, and the United States. Marian left NBC News to embark on the adventure but kept up her editorial work – accompanied by her husband's striking photography – with *Away Messages*, a travel blog about the trip. She and **Stirling Kelso Neff** met up in Bangkok, where Stirling was on assignment for *Travel + Leisure* magazine.

Christina Trabandt says, "Hi from Seattle! I've been here for more than two years now and really enjoy exploring the city and its surroundings. Wish there was a little more snow here this winter for skiing and snowshoeing. I work in the Housing Department at CRG Events. We produce corporate events and conventions, and I'll be

Elizabeth Fabiani '03 married Mike Rooney in September 2014. The wedding party included Katie Fabiani '05, Madeleine Fabiani '10, Rachel Dyke '03, Ashley Seidlitz '03, Caroline Dalton '03, Pamela Barris '03, and Ashley Bender Curley '03.

Christine Varoutsos '01 and Pamela Sabella '01 visiting Christina Trabandt '01 in Seattle last summer



Dan Gavula '03 married Schuyler Sutton in July. The wedding party included Stephen Gavula '01, Forest Kettler '03, Andrew Warin '03, Frank Craighill '03, Mike Kirkman '03, Ben Gillespie '03, and Truman Morrison '03.

traveling to Shenzhen, China, this spring to support a Microsoft conference.

I've had the pleasure of seeing several Potomac alums in the past year, including **Christine Varoutsos**, **Lizzie Copson**, **Pamela Sabella**, and **Andrew Farrell '99**. Christine and Pam visited Seattle last summer and we had a fun weekend together."

Chelsea Simms Wingfield reports that after nine years working in various departments at UC San Francisco (including work in reproductive health research, gender and LGBT equity, and women's health) she recently headed back to school to pursue a master's degree in social welfare at UC Berkeley, focusing on direct practice in health services. Though they didn't cross paths much while at Potomac, Chelsea was delighted to discover that **Leila Batmanghelidj '03** is in her program; the two have become fast friends, united by

Potomac roots and social justice ideologies. Whenever she gets the chance, Chelsea can be found twirling around the dance floor at the local LGBT country-western dance club and exploring the bountiful natural beauty that the Bay Area provides.

2002
Class Correspondents
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Kate House Previti
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Victoria Sylos-Labini
victoriavsl@gmail.com
Class Agents
Meredith Murphy Craven
mer.murphy@gmail.com
Taylor Kettler
taylor.kettler@gmail.com



Meredith Murphy Craven '02 with brother Michael Murphy '04 last October, after Michael completed the Marine Corps Marathon

Victoria Sylos-Labini shares, "I'm really enjoying practicing clinical psychology in the Dupont area. I love being home and hope to continue to keep in touch with my classmates. I just recently visited **Sam Lee '03** in L.A., and he is killin' it per usual. This fall I randomly ran into **Rostam Batmanglij** in Venice, Italy, which was such a wonderful surprise! It also was really good to see **Sartaj Ajrawat** and **Joey Pahira** over the holidays."

2003
Class Correspondents
Aleem Ahmed
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Elizabeth Fabiani
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Class Agents
Dan Gavula
daniel.gavula@gmail.com
Andrew Warin
andrew.warin@gmail.com

Leila Batmanghelidj lives in Oakland and is pursuing her M.S.W., with a concentration in management and planning, at UC Berkeley's School of Social Welfare. She was pleasantly surprised to bump into **Chelsea Simms Wingfield '01** in the hallways during orientation and enjoys having a fellow Potomac alum by her side.

Sarah Duncan writes, "After three years at Arnold & Porter, I decided to try life in the public sector and am now working as a trial attorney in the Vaccine Division at the Department of Justice. I live in Old Town Alexandria with my boyfriend and my adorably dumb puggle, Atticus."

Elizabeth Fabiani married Mike Rooney on September 20, 2014, in Lenox, MA. It was

a wonderful weekend with many Potomac friends and family, including bridesmaids **Katie Fabiani '05**, **Madeleine Fabiani '10**, **Rachel Dyke**, **Ashley Seidlitz**, **Caroline Dalton**, **Pamela Barris**, and **Ashley Bender Curley**. Reverend **Natalie Shiras '66** was their minister! Elizabeth and Mike met in Ann Arbor, MI, in 2008 and currently live in San Francisco.

Dan Gavula writes, "I married my college sweetheart, Schuyler Sutton, on July 26. The ceremony took place at Dahlgren Chapel, where we met 10 years ago. Many Potomac 2003 classmates were in attendance to show their love and support. My brother **Stephen Gavula '01**, **Forest Kettler**, **Andrew Warin**, **Frank Craighill**, **Mike Kirkman**, **Ben Gillespie**, and **Truman Morrison** all honored us as groomsmen. It was the best day of our lives. We honeymooned in Bhutan, Thailand, and the Maldives and moved to Brooklyn from Manhattan upon our return. Settling in to the next phase. All good things."

Michael Kirkman received his M.B.A. from Wharton in May of 2014 and subsequently moved to San Francisco to work as a technology investor with the private equity firm GI Partners. He's enjoying life on the left coast and loves spending time with **Liz Fabiani**, **Rachel Dyke**, **Andrew Duncan**, and other Potomac folks around the Bay Area.

Jimmy Mersereau writes, "I finished my Master of Science in Civil Engineering at the University of Memphis, where I was working at the Intermodal Freight Transportation Institute. My wife and I have since moved to Orlando and I have started work at HDR, Inc."

Harlan Work performed the role of Brad in *The Originalist* at DC's Arena Stage this spring. A group of Potomac alumni, students, and parents attended a performance in April.



Robbie de Picciotto '04 and Drew Peterson '04 at Wimbledon last summer

Lauren Huber Zullo started 2015 off with a move from NYC to Chicago with her husband, Rick. She's enjoying catching up with other Potomac alums in the Windy City, including **Alison Ayer Heyman**, **Meredith Anderson**, **Warner Lewis '02**, and **Gorie Mahn '05**.

2004
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Class Agents
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Robbie de Picciotto has been working at Google in Ireland for over a year now. **Drew Peterson** is also at Google, in San Francisco, and he went to visit Robbie last summer, right before starting that job. They had fresh Guinness beers in Dublin and then went to Wimbledon. Robbie also hosted **Edmund Rucci** last year, and they went to Oktoberfest.

Dominic Dickerson will marry Kelly Douglas on November 8, 2015. Both Washingtonians, they met shortly after law school. They plan to be married at the Josephine Butler Park Center in DC. Dominic currently works as an assistant general manager for the MHG Restaurant Group, and Kelly works for the Office of the Attorney General for the District of Columbia. They both have a passion for traveling, food, and their German Shepherd, Lady.

Dominic Dickerson '04, fiancée Kelly Douglas, and Lady





<Michael Murphy '04 with girlfriend Casey McInerney after a handycycling race in Rome, GA, in 2014



Rob Yip '04 and wife Samantha on their wedding day in September 2014 >

Michael Murphy reports, “It’s been eight years since the accident in college that left me paralyzed. I have now left my administrative job at the National Institutes of Health to become a full-time motivational speaker, as well as a writer with two books in development, including an autobiography. I use my story, the challenges I’ve had to overcome, and the lessons I’ve learned to help those in need and inspire others to face whatever setbacks life throws their way. If your business, company, or organization is interested in hearing me speak, please don’t hesitate to contact me at MMurphy40@gmail.com. I will also be speaking at an Upper School assembly on Tuesday, April 21, at 9:30 am in The Engelhard Performing Arts Center. I encourage all who may be interested to stop by!”

Steve Shashy reports that he is in his final semester of law school at the University of Virginia, where he regularly sees **Billy DuVal**. In fact, last semester they played on an inner-tube water polo team. This semester, Steve is enrolled in the criminal defense clinic, which he says “is probably the most interesting and most fun thing I’ve done in law school. As a member of the clinic, I represent three criminal defendants in their misdemeanor cases in the Charlottesville and Albemarle General District Courts.” Steve is also still playing in two bands, Justice Jackson 5, in Charlottesville, and Elements of Style out of New York City, and he still competes in local running races.

Tesia Smith writes that she lives in Deep Creek Lake, MD. She and a friend got their town approved as a PechaKucha city. PechaKucha is similar to TED talks, but focuses on concise presentations using 20 images for 20 seconds each; meaning, each presentation is six minutes and 40 seconds long. The program was created

in Tokyo by architects who wanted creative and interesting people to discuss their projects and ideas quickly. PechaKucha is now in more than 800 cities worldwide. Tesia’s town hosted its first event in January, and it was a huge success; to see the presentations, visit pechakucha.org/cities/accident. Contact Tesia if you’re interested in joining an event!

Golly Tabatabaie has been training with and working for Olympic Gold medalist Leslie Law and international four-star competitor Lesley Grant-Law in Ocala, FL, since July 2014. In March 2015 she moved to San Francisco with fiancé Daniel Martin. The two will be married in New Orleans in May 2015.

Rob Yip writes that he married Samantha Marie Hicks on September 6, 2014, in Annapolis. They currently live in Baltimore. Rob received his master’s degree in computer science from Johns Hopkins University in the winter of 2014.

2005 Reunion YEAR 10th

Come join Class Reunion Chairs **Lolly Cunningham Rivas** and **Maria McElwain** on May 1 and 2 to celebrate your 10th Reunion! Go back to class, enjoy the songs of May Day, connect with your friends at the Friday Night Alumni Reception, and walk the trails. Register today at potomacschool.org/alumni.



Are you interested in getting involved? For information about the Class of ’05 class correspondent and class agent roles, contact Courtney Stout at cstout@potomacschool.org.

2006 Class Correspondents

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Virginia O’Connell
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Class Agents
George Barsness
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Patrick Frailey
patrick.frailey@gmail.com

Jan Fennell graduated from law school at the George Washington University, and will be joining the Orleans Public Defenders (in New Orleans) as a staff attorney in the fall. Before this, she will train with Gideon’s Promise, which will connect her with other public defenders in low-resource offices around the South.

Patrick Frailey recently returned from a second deployment flying the P-3C Orion in counter drug missions in South America and supporting coalition nations in the Middle East. Upon getting back to the U.S. this summer, he transitioned to the P-8A Poseidon, the Navy’s newest maritime patrol and reconnaissance aircraft. He continues to be stationed with the Patrol Squadron EIGHT Fighting Tigers in Jacksonville, FL.

Marcus Ginyard currently plays for the Westchester Knicks of the NBA Development League.

Andrew Kilberg married Julia Osellame in September 2014 at the home of Andrew’s parents, Bill and Bobbie Kilberg. Many Potomac graduates were in attendance, including groomsmen **Jonathan Kilberg ’94**, **Zach Swope**, and **Sam Gulland**. Andrew graduated from the University of Virginia School of Law in May 2014. He currently serves as a law clerk for Judge J. Harvie Wilkinson III in Charlottesville. Next year he will clerk for Justice Anthony M. Kennedy of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Trevor Lewis left his job at Results for Development, an international development think tank in DC, in December 2014. He then enjoyed two months of downtime before moving to Nairobi, Kenya, in March to work as a business analyst with the Wellness Group, a for-profit enterprise providing healthcare to low- and middle-income Kenyans.

Virginia O’Connell graduated from the University of South Carolina College of Nursing in 2010. She relocated from Columbia, SC, to Charleston, SC, after graduation and started working in the cardiothoracic/surgical step-down unit at the Medical University of South Carolina. This is the same hospital where her older brother, **Brendan ’02**, is a doctor in the otolaryngology residency program. He finishes up residency this July and is heading to Nashville for a two-year fellowship. Virginia recently changed positions and now works in the cardiothoracic intensive care unit. She plans to start the process of going back to graduate school to become a certified registered nurse anesthetist.

Passion Rutledge is engaged to Davon Cheek; they will be married on October 11, 2015. Like Passion, Davon is from Maryland, but the couple met in their last semester of college at Temple University in Philadelphia. They have plans to move to District Heights, MD.

Robbie Shiver is living with **Connor Tetrault ’09** and **Riker Vermilye** in DC.



Peter Watson spent the summer of 2014 learning Mandarin, after which he graduated from the Army Special Forces Qualification Course and got his Green Beret. In March 2015, he moved to Japan as a member of the 1st Special Forces Group, where he will deploy throughout Southeast Asia.

2007 Class Agents

Liz Frailey
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Aaron Kur
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Are you interested in getting involved? For information about the Class of ’07 class correspondent and class agent roles, contact Courtney Stout at cstout@potomacschool.org.



Malcolm Dilley works at the National Gallery of Art as an event planning specialist. Now in his fourth year at the gallery, he is responsible for planning events for donors and sponsors. When not working, he continues to spend time in Middleburg, VA, where he rides horses and competes in three-day eventing and fox hunting. He recently visited Nicaragua with friends and spent his time at the beach and touring around the country, as well as zip-lining through the Mombacho volcano.

2008 Class Correspondents

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Anne Lenrow
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Class Agents
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Nick Thieme
nick.thieme5@gmail.com

Catharine Bellinger moved back to DC to start the local branch of Democrats for Education Reform, a political advocacy organization working toward education equity. She has been enjoying catching up with **Caroline Feigert** and other Potomac friends this past year and hopes to see more ’08 classmates now that she’s back in the area!

Patrick Duff remains in New York City, having moved to the West Village in the summer of 2014. He has continued his career in the management consulting industry, focusing specifically on mergers and acquisitions advisory.

Rosalind Fennell is a research assistant at the Department of Health Policy at the George Washington University, where she is also pursuing a master’s degree in public health, focusing in global health program design, monitoring, and evaluation.

Ashley Gunter writes that she is teaching art at the National Cathedral School. She will have her first solo art exhibition this summer, from June 9 through June 18, with a reception on Saturday, June 13, from 5-7 pm, at the Anacostia Arts Center in DC.

Will Kapfer is a licensed health, life, and annuity insurance broker for Hamilton Insurance Agency and an individual and small group business broker for one of the largest independent insurance brokerages in the DC area. He is also a certified Affordable Care Act marketplace navigator and a full-service producer for CareFirst and Kaiser Permanente health policies. Will currently resides in Arlington and still plays a mean guitar.

Todd Langstaff is currently in Chicago working at Foote, Cone & Belding, a global advertising agency.

Sarah Moses is a human capital consultant at Deloitte Consulting in Rosslyn. She began working there in July after earning her M.B.A. at Wake Forest University School of Business.

Katherine Mullins is enjoying her first year of medical school at Georgetown University.

Cate Rooney shares, “I recently started a new job at a small consulting firm in Crystal City. There were a number of Potomac alumni, including **Sandy Gentles ’94**, **Andrew Warin ’03**, and many more, who were incredibly generous and helpful during my job search. It was great to have the Potomac connection.”

2009 Class Correspondents

Isabelle Conner
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Phillips Mitchell
phibitz@gmail.com

Eric Huang says, “I’m starting a company called Ash & Anvil. We’re creating everyday clothing for shorter guys. As part of the Venture for America fellowship program, I am taking part in a startup accelerator program in Philadelphia that is being

put on by VFA and the First Round Capital venture capital group. To learn more about Ash & Anvil, go to www.ashandanvil.com.”



Naimah Muhammad says, “I’m currently based in DC for my position at the Smithsonian’s National Museum of Natural History, where I plan and develop evening and weekend events and festivals, such as the Environmental Film Festival, as a public programs coordinator. Beyond that, I’ve been pursuing my passion for music this past year – performing recently in South Korea, L.A., and New York; collaborating with other artists as a vocalist and songwriter; and working on my own recordings. **Camilla Nawaz** recently moved nearby, so it’s been great catching up with her!

Hoping to reconnect with other Potomac alums soon; come out to a show this spring! Email me: naimahmu@gmail.com, or for music info, visit www.thenaimahmusic.com.”



2010 *Reunion*
YEAR 5th
Class Correspondents
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Calling all classmates! Come celebrate your 5th milestone with Class Reunion Chairs **Andrew Jones** and **Margo Thr nson** on May 1 and 2. There is still time to register; go to potomacschool.org/alumni.

Alex Aines shares, “Since graduating from Santa Clara University this past June with a B.S. in environmental science, I have been working for The Ocean Foundation in DC on various marketing campaigns and grants for marine conservation. I am also traveling through Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam with **Yazzy Zahar** for a bit before relocating to the Bahamas to do shark research at Bimini Biological Field Station until July. After that, it’s hopefully off to graduate school!”

Ann Bellinger graduated from Tufts with a B.S. in computer science and is working for Redline Trading Solutions in Woburn, MA.

Enrique CuUnjieng completed a six-month contract with Google in Singapore as part of the company’s Business-to-Consumer Marketing Team, then was offered another six-month contract. He has transitioned to the High Potential Marketing Team, a subsection of the Business-to-Business marketing team.

Isabel Dann has been working in Amiens, France, as a high school English teacher.

Megan Enroth spent months living in Barcelona, Spain, where she got certified to teach English to non-native speakers. She is now teaching in South Korea.

Jordan Jones is living in DC, where he is an Atlantic Media Fellow working in audience development for *National Journal*.

Claire Mattox is currently working on her M.B.A. at the University of Saint Mary in Kansas, where she serves as the assistant women’s basketball coach.

Nick McGregor graduated from Emerson in May with a major in directing narrative fiction and a minor in literature. He will either continue working for Newfangled Studios in Boston as a commercial production manager/producer or move to L.A.

Paul Pemberton graduated from Berkeley in June with a master’s degree in translational medicine. He plans to stay in San Francisco, working for medtech startups.

Bailey Ramsey graduated from the University of Pennsylvania in May with a major in cognitive science and a minor in English and plans to start work in July at the Advisory Board in DC.

Matias Rodlauer spent four months working as a ski instructor at Stowe Mountain Resort in Vermont and teaching economics and Spanish to high school students at a ski academy. He now lives in DC, where he works as an entry-level researcher at a startup investment fund in Tysons Corner.

Paul Taylor is currently working in DC at Booz Allen Hamilton for the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Yazzy Zahar finished her degree in environmental science in December and has been traveling the world for about six months, adventuring, doing some conservation research, and working on sustainable agriculture projects.

2011
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Class Agents
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Julia Diamond says, “I visited my brother, **Philip Diamond ’09**, in Singapore this past winter break. For my final semester at Skidmore, I am mentoring two groups of first-year students, participating in intramural soccer, and volunteering once a week in a local bakery. In a few weeks, I will be presenting my senior thesis project at the Eastern Sociological Society Conference in New York City. I’ve been spending the rest of my time digging my car out of the snow and planning for life after graduation.”

Ellen Overstreet continues to pursue her career as a soloist with the Sarasota Ballet. She was recently on tour in New York City, performing at City Center’s Fall for Dance Festival. She is also still taking college courses online.

Jess Parker and **Lily Oyler** spent February break getting their Wilderness First Responder Certification and enjoying their time in the gorgeous sub-zero Vermont winter. **Marie Henneburg** wishes she had taken that class so that when she went adventuring in the sub-zero Vermont winter she was better prepared.

Aarti Rishi writes, “I am finishing up my senior year at Elon University with a major in strategic communications and a minor in business administration. Upon my graduation in May 2015, I am hoping to move to New York and work for a public relations firm. I am feeling very bittersweet about my last semester at Elon; I’m really going to miss it here. It has been an amazing four years, but I can’t wait to see what the next chapter in my life brings!”

2012
Are you interested in getting involved and partnering with Class Correspondent Eliza Warner? Contact Eliza or Courtney Stout at cstout@potomacschool.org.

Class Correspondent
Eliza Warner
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Olivia Pavco-Giaccia founded LabCandy, whose mission is to help get young girls more interested in science. She collaborated with the Yale Entrepreneurial Institute to make fun and colorful lab gear available to young girls, along with age-appropriate storybooks. Olivia says, “I founded LabCandy to encourage girls to imagine themselves being scientists – collaborating, creating, and having fun.”

2013
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Soraya Batmanghelidj is a student at NYU. She continues to intern at Veronica Beard, an emerging women’s fashion brand, and she will be studying abroad in Paris for the duration of her junior year. Soraya is double-majoring in political science and French.

Rachel Chason continues to love her time at Duke. She enjoys working as a collegiate correspondent for *USA Today* this semester. She is planning on double majoring in political science and English.

Jamie Davidow, a student at Franklin & Marshall, is looking forward to spring rowing season and studying British politics in England this summer.

Caroline Dove attends Colby College. She joined Colby Cares About Kids, a mentoring program for elementary and middle school students at schools in the Waterville, ME, area. She also co-founded a club called Colby Restaurant Exploration and Appreciation, where groups of students go to local restaurants, then post about them on Instagram and publish a food blog.

Ashley Anne Fairbank writes, “I am getting really involved in and excited about a club at Georgetown called GIVES. It’s a community-service club that does a variety of activities, from handing out free coffee at midnight in the library during finals to heading into DC to participate in larger service projects. The philosophy of the club is that any act of kindness, no matter how small, can really help. In fact, the club was founded on the idea that doing good and bettering our



^
Tyler Smallwood '13 backpacking in the Ansel Adams Wilderness

community often starts with the little things, like making a stranger smile.”

Alanna Hardy attends the University of Rochester. She is continuing an internship with a Korean entertainment group, which she has had since October 2014.

Sebastian Johnson is working this spring to raise money to live in Kenya for most of the summer. He would be living in a small village called Keumbu for two months, teaching kids and doing volunteer work around the orphanage.

Shing-Wai Koo writes, “This year has been full of transitions. I changed my major from engineering to education, and I transferred to Towson University for the spring 2015 semester to pursue a degree in elementary education. I’m really excited to see where this takes me.”

Tommy Peele recently declared his double major in Japanese and computer science in the closing weeks of his third semester at Georgetown University. He is planning to apply for a study abroad program at Nanzan University in Nagoya, Japan, this coming summer, and go to Waseda University in Tokyo for the following spring semester. In the meantime, he is keeping himself occupied working on the shows of Mask & Bauble, Georgetown’s oldest theatre group, and doing community service as part of the Mu Alpha chapter of national coed service fraternity Alpha Phi Omega, which he joined last year.

Tyler Smallwood reports, “I’ve officially declared engineering at Harvey Mudd College. Right now I’m working with a team at school to build a fully autonomous airplane for an upcoming competition. I’ve attached a picture from this year’s pre-orientation hike, where I led a group of freshmen on a 50-mile backpacking trip in the Ansel Adams Wilderness.”

Devon Winsor continues to love her time at Davidson College. She has decided to double major in political science and psychology. She enjoys tutoring under-resourced kids every week

at the Ada Jenkins Center and is planning on studying abroad in Copenhagen in the fall. As always, Devon continues with her horseback riding; she rides her horse, Z, almost every day.

Hedieh Yazdani, a student at Virginia Tech, is staying busy with an intensive academic schedule in industrial and systems engineering, with minors in leadership and business. When she is not in class, she serves as a peer leader in the residential leadership community. She is also on the executive council of her sorority, Kappa Delta.

2014
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Class Agent
Ben Rietano
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Jalen Broome states, “I emerged from my first semester at Brown relatively unscathed. My football schedule in combination with my classes left me with limited free time, and I quickly realized the level of commitment a collegiate sport entails. Multiple practices a day, hours of film, high-intensity training, and schoolwork left me exhausted. Luckily for me, in-season football only lasted about 11 weeks. Now, with the hardest part of my year behind me, I plan to take advantage of the spring semester and get more involved in the Brown community.”

Larissa Converti says, “Living at the International Residential College has been the highlight of my experience at UVA this past year. From the free food and Tea Thursdays to Tuesday volleyball nights and international dinners, I’ve met an incredible group of people from various countries and have been enriched by their different perspectives. I was recently nominated to live in Casa Bolivar for the 2015-16 school year. I will be one of 24 students living there. I can’t wait to be part of a language house!”

Matt Danilack reports, “My Dartmouth experience could not have gotten off to a better start. When I arrived in Hanover in August, I knew this was the place for me. It began with preseason. Getting to know the guys on the soccer team was probably my favorite part of the fall, though we had an incredible season as well. We finished with a record of 12-5-2, the most wins since 2010, and won the Ivy League Championship with a league record of 5-1-1. We qualified for the NCAA Tournament, beating Fordham in the first round but losing to Providence, a team that made it to the Final Four, in the second round. I was so lucky to have the opportunity to play with my eldest brother, **Hugh Danilack ’11**, in his final soccer season. Furthermore, the support that we felt from the Dartmouth community whenever we played on Burnham Field or at other schools was astonishing. That support and sense of community have translated to the academic side of my Dartmouth experience, as well. The support offered here is unmatched, and the attentiveness and drive of the faculty make classes that much more interesting. Dartmouth is an incredible place and I can’t wait to see what the remainder of my college career has to offer.”

Sophie Dunkelberger states, “I am loving my time at the University of San Diego. While its beautiful campus would be enough of an exotic adventure for some, I frequently visit the beach and love exploring the area’s hiking trails. I am a member of a coed a cappella group on campus called Treble Threat, and a new member of the Alpha Phi sorority. Even though San Diego and I are a great fit, I’m looking forward to returning to DC for the summer.”

Rosemary Ewing is enjoying her time at Hofstra University. She’s in an a cappella group called the Chai Notes (pronounced “high notes”), which is sponsored by Hofstra’s Hillel; while they perform with the other a cappella groups, they also do community service programs with Hillel. Last semester they sang at a home for the elderly, performed on Hofstra’s Random Act of Kindness Day, and hosted a Coffee House where the price of admission was a canned good or a \$5 donation for charity.

Hana Ford reports, “I have really been enjoying my time here at Temple! I’m a journalism major and looking to declare a double major or minor in public relations, so I’m always extremely busy. I recently landed an internship with an online publication called *CurlyInCollege*, and it’s extremely exciting. I get to blog about hair care and anything related to college. I really love the fact that I’m able to write about something I am passionate about while getting experience for my projected career path.”

Megan Graves is loving her time at Elon. She is a member of the women’s club lacrosse

team, Autism Speaks, YoungLife, and the Phi Mu sorority on campus. She is majoring in psychology with minors in early childhood education and Spanish.

Kevin Havermann reports, “As a second-semester freshman at Washington and Lee, I am juggling school, the start to the lacrosse season, and membership in the Kappa Alpha Order. Looking back, move-in day in early September seems so long ago. I now realize that I was wrong with my initial assessment of college. Washington and Lee, in reality, is much like Potomac. W&L follows an honor system that resembles Potomac’s student guidelines: There’s no need to worry about leaving bags and other personal belongings around campus, just like students did at Potomac. Students here also share the same core values and emphasis on character: They put their families and academics before sports and the social scene, and everyone is open and cordial. At Potomac it is a custom to greet fellow students and teachers as you pass them on campus; similarly, at W&L we have a ‘Speaking Tradition,’ which means that students and professors typically ask one another how their day is going in passing. I initially thought it would take me a few months to adjust to W&L, but within the first few days of meeting my lacrosse teammates and hall mates, I had already made a seamless transition from the high school I love to the college I love now, too. I look forward to another three and a half years of friendship and memories down here in Lexington, but I also hope that I never forget how Potomac helped prepare me for this new life.”

Grant Hoechst reports, “My time at Harvard has been full of incredible continuations and new beginnings. Academically, I’ve been pushing myself to more and more exciting places, taking classes in computer science, literature, multivariable calculus, and biochemistry. I’m definitely keeping up with music, both on the performance side as principal percussionist of the Harvard-Radcliffe Orchestra (the country’s oldest symphony orchestra!), and on the composition side as a songwriter for the freshman musical. My newest extracurricular is improv comedy; I joined a group called the Immediate Gratification Players, which is Harvard’s premier improv comedy troupe. That’s been an absolutely phenomenal way to meet some wonderful new friends and pursue a new passion. Socially, Harvard is an incredibly diverse place to go to school and I’m so thankful for that. I’m surrounded by the best and brightest in all kinds of different areas, and every day I count myself lucky to join them here!”

Maina Kamau writes, “Some of you may know that I attend college in England. This past semester has been one of the most exciting and challenging times in my life. When I came here in mid-September, I had no idea what to expect

culturally or what kind of people I would meet. After a few weeks, I had finally settled in and was already planning my first trip to Edinburgh with a group of friends. I expected to travel when I came here, but I did not expect to go to Budapest, Vatican City, Rome, Athens, and Scotland, all within my first semester!

I can say without a doubt that London would be the best city in the world if it were a little warmer. London is the definition of a melting pot – it may be the only city where you can look on one side of the street and see a falafel cart next to a place where you can get your hair braided, and then turn around and see a Lamborghini. This coming summer, toward the end of August, I will be interning at a production company called Working Title Films. They have produced many films, but some of my favorites are *Fargo*, *United 93*, and *The Theory of Everything*. This semester I am hoping to visit Lisbon, Paris, and Amsterdam.”

Kira Keating says, “I love Princeton so far! I thoroughly enjoyed my first-semester classes, especially my environmental studies course, which convinced me to pursue a certificate in that field. I enjoy being a part of the Princeton squash team; training takes up a lot of my time, but I love my teammates and the competition. On top of training for squash, I joined a student-run investment fund called Tiger Capital Management. This summer I am looking forward to spending two months abroad at the London School of Economics and being able to spend some time in DC.”

Anna Laws, who attends the College of William & Mary, writes, “I am taking really cool classes this semester! My favorites are epidemiology and physiology of aging. I love that I am already able to take classes related to my major and hopefully my future career field. My favorite part of college, however, is the organizations that I am involved in outside of class. I am a member of the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority, and the girls have become my family away from home! I also joined the club field hockey and club lacrosse teams because I was not ready to give up being on a team after high school. William & Mary has been the most amazing place, allowing me to grow as a student and a person. I wouldn’t trade a single second!”

Ryan Lehrman shares, “Despite just beginning my second semester at Emory, I feel very involved in multiple aspects of the community here. I am thinking about either following the pre-med track or applying to our highly acclaimed business school next year. I enjoyed all my classes last semester, but my favorite was my Middle Eastern history class focused on foreign policy in the last century. Within the first few weeks of classes I was accepted into one of Emory’s elite a cappella groups, No Strings Attached. We recently performed our 20th Anniversary



Hannah Repke ’14 at Machu Picchu in September

Concert, along with **Ajay Premkumar ’06**. I am also a member of the club soccer team, and I regularly play pick-up basketball with friends. This semester I’m taking more biology and economics classes, as well as an acting seminar. Also, I’ve recently been accepted as a new member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity, entering a thriving Greek community here at Emory. I have surely grown as a person these last few months, and I am looking forward to another very successful semester.”

Tiffany Luehrs reports, “My first year at Valparaiso has been filled with many new experiences. I have decided to double major in international business and Chinese. I am also a Kemper Scholar finalist, and I joined the Chi Omega sorority and Delta Sigma Pi, a business fraternity. It’s been a great first year, despite the very cold and snowy winter, and I look forward to the next three years here!”

Vanessa Luehrs reports, “My freshman year at Villanova University has been an exciting start to this new chapter of my life. My favorite part about Villanova is that I have found a community that is so welcoming and really stays true to its motto, *Veritas, Unitas, Caritas* (Truth, Unity, Love). I found my fit in the Pi Beta Phi sorority, the Villanova Orchestra, the Women in Business Society, and the *Caritas* Service-Learning Community. I have been tutoring underprivileged freshmen at a high school in Philadelphia once a week, which has proved to be challenging yet rewarding. In addition to my extracurricular activities and classes, I have a job on campus that keeps me extra busy during the week. I hope to major in economics and minor in Chinese, and I am thinking about possibly minoring in finance.”

Adam Moses writes, “My first semester at Dickinson College was absolutely an adventure. After being at The Potomac School for 14 years, it was a little difficult to acclimate, but the community here is incredibly welcoming, so I quickly found my stride. This past semester I took Ocean Ecosystems, Water: From Abundant Resource to Scarce Good, Political Philosophy, and Psychology. My favorite class of the four was Political Philosophy because of the critical lens that the class cast upon traditional political science studies. I plan to major in political science; by the conclusion of my freshman year I will have completed 40% of the major’s requirements, allowing me to possibly pursue a second major.”

Hannah Repke shares, “During my gap year, I have had amazing experiences while traveling for three months in Peru, Costa Rica, and Burma. I’ve been doing a combination of service projects, adventure activities, and cultural tours. Highlights include installing water storage tanks for a small Peruvian mountain village, hiking three days to Machu Picchu, rappelling down and camping behind a waterfall, learning to meditate from a Buddhist monk, and practicing my Spanish and (limited) Burmese while getting to know the locals. I can’t wait for my next three months, in Africa!”

Ben Rietano writes, “I had a great first semester at Washington and Lee University. I took classes in geology, economics, French, and English. It’s been awesome having fellow Potomac graduates **Kevin Havermann** and **Maria Rachal** around campus, and I have spent plenty of time with them. After rush this fall I decided to join the Phi Delta Theta fraternity.

Greek life is a huge part of the social scene here: 86% of students join fraternities and sororities. Joining a fraternity has thus far proven to be a great decision, as it has given me an opportunity to meet new and interesting people and have fun outside of my studies. I plan on majoring in either English or business administration and minoring in French.”

Sydney Robinson writes in, “My first semester at the University of Maryland was everything I hoped it would be. I currently plan on majoring in physics and French, and I’m enjoying my classes in both subjects. While it’s different being on such a large campus after 13 years at Potomac, I have found communities in my College Park Scholars program, the Society of Physics Students, the sailing team, and the lifeguards on campus.”

Caroline Stenger says, “I’ve completed my first semester and winter term at Elon University, and it has been quite an adventure so far. As an undergraduate, I am able to take a wide range of classes. In addition to the two core classes that first-year students are required to take, my courses included statistics, economics, and religion. Elon offers a great winter term program, which allows students to fully immerse themselves into one subject. I finished a course called Science in the Media. I also joined the Alpha Chi Omega sorority and am looking forward to the warm North Carolina weather!”

Eleanor Tolf shares, “I decided to take a gap year before starting Georgetown, to test out my passion for medicine. I didn’t want to spend four years preparing for something that I regretted as soon as I got a real taste of it, so over the summer I got my EMT certification and began volunteering at a station in Prince George’s County. It has given me hands-on experience with so many different types of medical emergencies, from car crashes to diabetic shock to animal attacks. At the beginning of 2015, I began an internship in the Human Genome Lab at NIH. It’s such an amazing opportunity to get to work with people who are at the top of their fields on diseases that really aren’t well understood yet. I’m so grateful and happy that I decided to take this year to experiment with medicine. Being an EMT has shown me the not-so-pretty, action-packed side, and NIH has shown me the world behind diagnoses and treatments that allows doctors to do what they do. My passion for medicine has been hugely solidified this year. I feel sure of myself and incredibly excited to start my life at Georgetown next year.”

Natasha Urbany says, “My first semester at Columbia was hectic, but exciting. I got to explore New York, learn how to manage the core curriculum, and even begin an internship with Raintees, an eco-friendly California-based fashion brand. This semester I look forward to my

Sustainable Development/Economics class with Jeffrey Sachs; Bacchanal; and visiting my brother, *Max Urbany*, at Brown."

Tammy Vo reports, "As a potential chemistry major, I have been taking a lot of science and math classes, and I am currently learning more about news and media in my freshman seminar. When I'm not studying or hanging out with friends, I play for the William & Mary club tennis team, which is headed to North Carolina in April to participate in the national championships."

Alexis Wilder shares, "Paul Gruchow once said, 'When the uniqueness of a place sings to us like a melody, then we will know, at last, what it means to be at home.' He definitely describes how I feel at West Virginia State University, and it is my school's very uniqueness that has made my time here extraordinary. I am

a member of the Jazzy Jackettes Dance Team, and I look forward to trying out for a captain position for the upcoming 2015-16 season. In the meantime, I have paused my music career but will revisit it this spring.

My most exciting achievement so far was making the Dean's List with a 3.82 GPA. As I continue my journey here, I know that Benjamin Franklin's quote 'An investment in knowledge pays the best interest' will prove to be true."

Share with us!

If your class has a class correspondent, send your news to him or her; contact information can be found at the top of your class year. If no correspondent is listed, please send your information to term@potomacschool.org or Alumni Office
1301 Potomac School Road
McLean, VA 22101

Kathleen Wilson writes, "I spent two months of my gap semester in Costa Rica with an environmental conservation organization, learning about the wildlife and culture there. I then spent two and a half months interning in the Science Department of The Society for Women's Health Research, a nonprofit in DC, and I am super excited to be at Middlebury this spring!"

in memoriam

Angelica White Ewing '50

Bettina Brown Irvine '58

Diana Denny Kalmus '37
*mother of Angela '71 and Josephine '74;
sister of Alice '40*

Mary Wilson Neel '32
*mother of James '57, Amy '60,
Wendy '63, Mary '67, and Sophia '68*

Anne Dickson Ravenel '59

William "Bud" Roeder
*Trustee Emeritus; husband of Lisa;
father of Austin '93, William '17,
and Zachary '18*

Patricia Twitchell '50

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Last November, members of The 1904 Society were honored at a reception at Hickory Hill, the home of Ashley and Alan Dabbieri. Pictured here at the celebration are (top to bottom and left to right): Jennifer and Rob McDowell '78; Michael Caplin, Cammy and Chris Caskin '77; Ashley Fisher, Tamara Smith, Daniel Fisher; Anna Garibaldi, Elizabeth Yeonas, Elizabeth Marcotte; Ashley and Alan Dabbieri, Carolyn and John Kowalik.



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