

# The PotomacTerm

The Alumni Magazine of The Potomac School • Spring 2016



Adam Platt '73 Dines and Dishes  
for *NEW YORK* Magazine





# Just Look at the Difference You're Making!

Potomac's 2016 Scholarship Auction was a record-breaking success, raising nearly \$800,000 to support student scholarships and faculty professional development. We are grateful to the members of the Potomac community who helped make the auction so successful, as well as those who support the Potomac Fund with generous annual gifts.

Thanks to you, Potomac is able to enroll talented, motivated students who enrich our learning community every day.

Thanks to you, Potomac teachers have their fingers on the pulse of new developments in their disciplines and bring innovative, inspiring teaching strategies to the classroom.

To see a video about our amazing students and teachers, visit [potomacschool.org/auction2016](http://potomacschool.org/auction2016). Thank you for making it all possible. Thank you for making a difference!





## DEAR FRIENDS,

Spring has arrived once again, and our campus is in bloom! As we enter the home stretch of the 2015-16 academic year, our students and teachers continue to exhibit tremendous enthusiasm for the work of learning and personal growth that is at the heart of The Potomac School's mission.

I am pleased to report that, in early February, the Virginia Association of Independent Schools (VAIS) notified us that Potomac's reaccreditation was unanimously approved. This represents the successful completion of a two-year effort, which included preparation of a strategic self-study with input from all segments of the Potomac community. I am grateful to everyone who contributed to the self-study; I would especially like to acknowledge the leadership of Assistant Head of School Bill Cook, whose commitment, collegiality, and thoughtfulness helped to ensure the success of this very important undertaking.

Last October, we welcomed a VAIS Visiting Team to campus, to see for themselves all of the wonderful things that are happening at our school. That team's report cited many strengths; for example, it noted that Potomac

- *is mission-driven*: "From the board to the head of school and all constituent groups in the community, there is understanding of and appreciation for the purpose, value, and vibrancy of the school's mission."
- *is committed to excellent teaching*: "Ongoing focus on and development of the 'Excellent Teaching Profile' has provided important directional bearings for professional conversations, growth, evaluation, and valuing of the faculty."
- *has a strong climate of intellectual curiosity and academic inquiry*: "There is genuine appreciation for individual and shared curiosity and exploration through the teaching and learning activities."
- *is a community with shared values and a common purpose*: "The school-wide commitment to a growth mindset for students, parents, and faculty has created what one person termed a 'happy hum' in the school."



The report also recognized the vision and commitment of our trustees, saying, "The leadership health of the institution is very strong." And it included this summary observation: "It was made patently clear to the team why The Potomac School is among the flagship independent day schools in the country. There is a great deal for any educator to be impressed by, in fact to envy, about this school."

Such enthusiastic endorsement from professional peers and continued accreditation by the VAIS reflect Potomac's commitment to educational excellence. Everyone here is deeply invested in preparing our students to achieve academically and live principled, healthy, and successful lives.

I hope that you will enjoy reading this issue of *The Term*. As always, its pages tell the story of Potomac, with fond memories of the past, proud glimpses of the present, and a focus on the values that will illuminate our path to the future.

Wishing you a very pleasant spring and summer,

John Kowalik  
Head of School



# The PotomacTerm

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our records. Thank you!





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## ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

# Students Honored for Independent Research

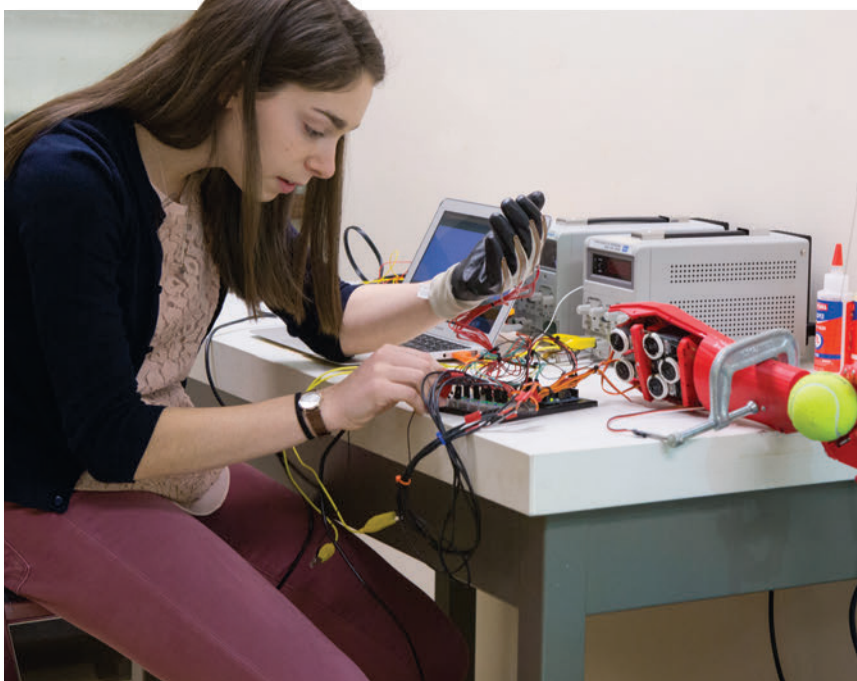
**T**HE AWARDS ROLLED IN for three seniors in Potomac's Science and Engineering Research Center (SERC) program this fall. For more than two years, Madeline Dubelier '16, Matt Spencer '16, and Gianmarco Terrones '16 have been conducting independent, college-level research projects in conjunction with Potomac faculty and outside experts. Now these students have been recognized by two of the most prestigious science competitions in the country.

In October, Matt Spencer was selected as a semifinalist in the Siemens Competition in Science, Math, and Technology for his research on bioremediation, a waste-management technique that involves the use of organisms to remove or neutralize pollutants. Matt was one of only 36 Virginia students selected as semifinalists and one of just 466 semifinalists nationwide.

Potomac biology teacher Dr. Isabelle Cohen notes, "Matt's findings are impressive. They represent an extension of the research done by Caden Petersmeyer '14, whose work was focused on plant fungi that consume plastic." After isolating more than 50 types of fungi, Caden discovered two that are capable of surviving solely on plastic.

Building on this work, Matt sought to identify the digestive byproducts produced by those fungi. With the help of Georgetown University professor Dr. Xinran Zhang, and using the resources of the university's Institute for Soft Matter Synthesis and Metrology, Matt was able to show that the fungi break down polyurethane particles while producing neither carbon dioxide nor methane; thus, the process has the potential to bioremediate plastic waste without producing byproducts that are harmful to the environment.

In January, Madeline Dubelier and Gianmarco Terrones were named



Madeline Dubelier '16

semifinalists in the 2016 Intel Science Talent Search. They were two of only 300 semifinalists selected from a pool of more than 1,750 entrants nationwide. "I am thrilled that Madeline and Gianmarco are being recognized for their hard work and perseverance through the ups and downs of their projects," says Isabelle Cohen, "They both have impressed me at every turn."

Madeline was chosen for her work on a robotic hand with touch sensors and double flex technology that allows the user to form a pinch grip. The Massachusetts Institute of Technology's MIT THINK Scholars Program helped fund the project, enabling Madeline to acquire many of the components for her prototype. With the funding, she was able to incorporate

sensory feedback and remote control into her design, which has potential applications in the surgical field and the defense industry.

Meanwhile, Gianmarco was selected for his extensive research on desalination. During the last two summers, he worked with his mentor, Dr. Manish Kumar, in a Penn State chemical engineering laboratory, conducting a variety of tests and experiments. Gianmarco's findings provide a new approach to examining membrane proteins, previously studied only in their natural cell membranes or in analogous lipids.

Madeline and Gianmarco each received a \$1,000 award from Intel, with a matching amount presented to The Potomac School.



## CO-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

# Speech and Debate Team Persuades Its Way to the Top

**T**HERE'S NO ARGUMENT ABOUT IT – Potomac's speech and debate team is becoming a force to be reckoned with. For the past two years, more than a dozen Upper School students have been wowing judges and winning awards at local, regional, and national tournaments.

The team competes in two types of events: Public Forum and Extemporaneous Speaking. Public Forum is a team event in which the speakers advocate or refute a position on an issue, called a resolution, with solid logic, thoughtful analysis, and compelling eloquence. Extemporaneous Speaking is an individual event in which the speaker is given 30 minutes to prepare a seven-minute talk on a given topic. The speech and debate team's faculty coordinator, Tricia Crowley, says that, in both cases, the topics "tend to be plucked directly from the headlines." She adds, "Dealing with current events helps our students stay up-to-date on what's happening in the world."

Tricia, an Upper School Spanish teacher, organizes the team's weekly practices and its travel plans. Meanwhile, Coach Andy Nolan, who debated competitively in high school and college, helps prepare the students for each competition. He is ably assisted by parent Tom Rollins, also a veteran debater, who focuses primarily on extemporaneous speaking.

A member of the team since his freshman year, Quentin Levin '17 has seen it grow and mature. He says, "When I started, we competed primarily in local tournaments. This season, we've traveled to five out-of-state competitions and beaten a few top programs." In February, Quentin and his teammate William Thompson '18 won the Georgetown University Public Forum Debate Tournament, beating 73 other teams, made up of students from eight states and China. The duo went a perfect 10-0 during their debates, arguing the pros and cons of enacting a carbon tax. For his performance, William was recognized as the tournament's top speaker, while Quentin was ranked eighth best.

Earlier this season, another Potomac team – India Cutler '17 and Bonnie McKelvie '17 – had success in several Public Forum events. In December, the pair earned a tie for ninth place at the George Mason University Patriot Games. The next month, at the Sunvitational Speech and Debate Tournament in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, they competed against hundreds of high school students from more than 12 states, winning five of their six debates and finishing in the top 10 percent overall.

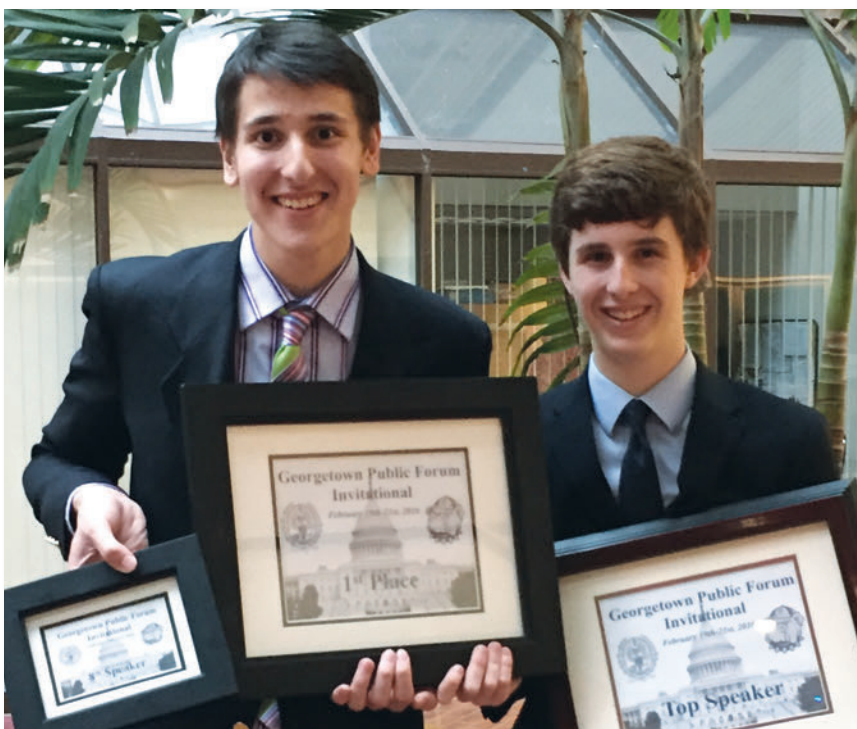
India and Bonnie are just two members of a team that has made tremendous strides this season. To prepare for competitions, the students regularly participate in mock debates, which are scored by guest judges. The judges may not always be familiar with the subject matter under discussion, so the debaters must present their arguments in a clear and thorough manner, while staying within the allotted time limit. Andy Nolan notes that this kind of exercise helps the students learn to analyze both sides of an issue and quickly construct compelling arguments.

Tom Rollins '18 is currently the only member of Potomac's team who competes in the Extemporaneous Speaking event, and he has seen the same success as his teammates. At the Harvard University National Forensics Tournament, Tom finished in the top 50 speakers. And competing against 174 other students from around the country at the George Mason University Patriot Games, he advanced to the tournament's semifinals by defeating the top-ranked speaker in the country.

Tom enjoys extemporaneous speaking because it forces him to address a wide array of policy and current-event topics. He says, "I need to be prepared for anything; I never want to be blindsided by a question."

All the members of Potomac's speech and debate team know that they are cultivating valuable life skills. India Cutler observes, "Doing speech and debate requires us to learn about complex issues, think fast, and practice the art of persuasion. It's challenging but also fun."

Andy Nolan concludes, "To be successful in our society, you need to be able to present your point of view articulately. Regardless of what path a student pursues in the future, the skills acquired through speech and debate will serve that person well in both college and career."



Quentin Levin '17 and William Thompson '18





## A DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY

# Conference Attendees Examine Identity

**I**N DECEMBER, six students and 12 faculty and staff members traveled to Tampa, Florida, to learn new strategies for building and maintaining an inclusive Potomac School community. The concurrent People of Color Conference and Student Diversity Leadership Conference – both sponsored by the National Association of Independent Schools – reinforced Potomac’s commitment to equity in teaching and learning and gave participants opportunities to discuss identity and inclusion with people from many different backgrounds.

At the People of Color Conference, the faculty and staff heard from nationally known speakers, participated in workshops, and networked with colleagues from independent schools across the country. Meanwhile, the students participating in the Student Diversity Leadership Conference got to meet and work with more than 1,600 of their peers.

David Grant, Potomac’s director of diversity and inclusion, sees these annual events as essential to creating greater equity and inclusion in independent school communities. He says, “Meeting with others who have a variety of perspectives empowers us to improve the Potomac experience for everyone.”

David notes that this year’s conferences included activities focused on a variety of social identifiers, including ability (mental and/or physical), age, ethnicity, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status. He says, “The events offered a safe and supportive environment where participants could engage in thoughtful discussion about these identifiers and how they shape our perceptions of ourselves and others.”

In large- and small-group discussions, the conference participants were asked to be forthright, speak from the “I perspective,” and “be raggedy” – speaking honestly and avoiding political correctness. “No matter what was said, nothing was ever malicious,” Lauren Long ’17 recalls. “Everyone was coming from a good place and trying to learn from each other.”

One activity that resonated with the students was called “Race to the American Dream.” Participants were asked to take a step forward or backward, depending on how they identified with particular questions. (For example, “Are you Caucasian?” and “Do both of your parents have a college degree?”)

Layla Alexander ’17 observes, “It was really eye-opening to see how many of the things that impact how close we are to the American Dream



< Potomac faculty, staff, and students who participated in this year's diversity leadership conferences: (back row, l to r): Tom James, Lauren Long '17, Matt Scott '17, David Grant, Henry Mulzac, Joy Webster, Meredith Brooks, Sarah Hollingsworth, Patricia Edelmann, Mike Fishback; (front row, l to r): Sandra Heard, Layla Alexander '17, Jenna Barufka '17, Helen Malley '17, Erykah Murray '17, Julie Wong; (not pictured): Don Firke and Jared Williams

Upper School students share lessons and activities they learned at the Student Diversity Leadership Conference > with Lower School students and teachers.

are out of our control. Some kids never even took a step forward, while others took so many steps forward that they were running into the walls!" The activity helped to demonstrate how various cultural identifiers shape an individual's privilege.

Since returning to campus, the students who participated in this year's conference have spoken to the K-12 faculty about their experience and led cross-divisional activities to share the lessons they learned. For example, in February, third graders learned about identity through an activity called "Fish Bowl," which their older friends had heard about at the conference. The third graders, their teachers, and the activity leaders all sat in a big circle and took turns going into the middle when an identifier was called out; for example, "Step into the circle if you live in Virginia" or "Step into the circle if you are quiet in class." Then, those in the center of the circle would share their experience related to that particular identifier, addressing questions like "How do you feel about this characteristic?" and "Do you think that this could affect the way your friends, classmates, or teachers see you?"

The exercise demonstrated how various identifiers affect students' lives at Potomac. It also gave the participants opportunities to hear how others feel about being associated with certain identifiers. Lower School Head Nancy Powell remarks, "It provided good food for thought, as our students considered how we perceive one another – and how we treat one another – as we work, play, and grow together."

This spring, the students who participated in the diversity conference have led similar activities in Potomac's other three divisions and hosted Upper School lunchtime conversations on topics ranging from racial privilege to unconscious bias.

Meanwhile, third grade teacher Patricia Edelmann was so inspired by conference speaker Dr. Mae C. Jemison, the world's first woman of color to go into space, that she devoted time in February to sharing Jemison's accomplishments with her class. The students then applied Jemison's message of "thinking big" to design rockets that might carry astronauts to Mars. The class shared their rocket ship designs and the important achievements of their newfound STEM role model at the Lower School's Black History Month Assembly.

Thinking about the impact of this year's diversity conferences, Patricia observes, "I got to know my colleagues beyond just their Potomac identity. The ability to really see people as individuals, to know them on a deeper level, can help us work together more collaboratively and productively," Helen Malley '17 concurs, noting, "It's an eye-opening experience to peel back all the layers of our identity."





## INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL THEATER

# The Wizard of Oz



Blake likes to remind the students that no matter what part they play, theater is an ensemble effort and everyone has their moment to shine. “There are no stars in IS theater, only constellations,” she says.

Despite missing several days of rehearsal due to Winter Storm Jonas (music teacher Jerry Rich joked that the show should be renamed *The Blizzard of Oz*), the musical was a spectacular success.

Some of the cast members recently shared their thoughts about the experience:

**Kelsey Norton '20**, who played Dorothy, says, “The feeling of being on stage is really indescribable. The most amazing part was being able to stand up and sing ‘Somewhere over the Rainbow’ as if no one else was listening. I sang it to myself, as Dorothy would. I felt like I was the only one in the theater, and every time I sang it – even though I had practiced it hundreds of times – I felt an incredible rush of excitement. I was so happy to just stand there and sing my heart out.”

Tin Man **Sofie Stitt '20** reflects, “The hardest part for me was the movement. If you have seen the movie, you know that the Tin Man moves with rusty, jerking movements. The human body is made to run smoothly, so it was hard to move that way.” Sofie says that her favorite part of the musical was performing “Jitterbug,” a real showstopper. “I loved it!” she exclaims. “The choreography was so much fun.”

Preparing to play the Wicked Witch of the West, **Tessa Weinreich '21** turned to her father for help with the character’s signature laugh. She recounts, “My dad taught me the cackle; it’s a combination of screaming and laughing. He’s still better at it than I am.”

Tessa, who is in seventh grade, observes, “Before the musical, I was kind of scared of most of the eighth graders. Then, after being backstage, assuring each other that we wouldn’t forget our lines, I got to know those kids much better. Being in a play is a great way to make friends.”

**I**N JANUARY, THE INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL put on two fantastic performances of *The Wizard of Oz*. English teacher Blake Green, who has directed nearly 20 shows in her decade at Potomac, chose the well-known musical because of its large cast and variety of roles. “If there are students who want to get on the stage, I want to give them the opportunity,” she says. Time and again, Blake has seen kids come out of their shell under the limelight. She smiles, “I just love seeing that transformation.”



① Sofie Stitt '20 ② Kelsey Norton '20 and Mary-Shea McDowell '20  
③ Lucas Fernandez-Kim '20 and Kelsey Norton '20 ④ Caroline Dunn '21, Julia Jackson '21, Grace Sumner '21, and Natalie Moosher '21

photos: Potomac parent Barbara Swinton deButts



## UPPER SCHOOL THEATER

# She Loves Me



**T**HE UPPER SCHOOL TURNED BACK THE CLOCK for its musical in February, bringing the 1960s Broadway hit *She Loves Me* to the stage. This light romantic comedy is about two people who dislike each other in person but form a loving pen pal relationship after connecting through a lonely-hearts ad. The musical is based on the 1937 play *Parfumerie*, by Miklos Laszlo. The story has also been the basis of three popular films: *The Shop Around the Corner* (1940), *In the Good Old Summertime* (1949), and *You've Got Mail* (1998).

In addition to the familiarity of the story line, theater teacher Michael Bergman chose the show because he wanted something that would challenge the actors. He says, "This is a piece that relies heavily on character development. It requires the actors to develop their roles in a way that will generate empathy, even at those moments when the characters aren't the most sympathetic." Michael continues, "For a show like this to work, the audience has to identify with the emotional truth of the characters. I wanted people to feel and imagine what it would be like to realize that you have fallen in love with someone you thought you hated."

Helping young actors develop such in-depth characters is a big task, so Michael asked Colleen Carroll '17, a student in Potomac's Visual and Performing Arts Concentration (VPAC) program, to co-direct the production. In addition to working with the performers on their lines and songs, Colleen assisted them in making their characters more believable and relatable.

All three performances of *She Loves Me* went off without a hitch. "The actors connected with the audience," Michael says. "This was a strong group of performers who trusted themselves and one another. They turned their characters into real people."

Here are some thoughts from a few students who were part of the show:

**Clare McConnell '17**, who played Amalia Balash, the letter-writing shop employee, recalls, "Even outside of rehearsal, I found myself replaying conversations in my head and taking note of how people around me expressed themselves, to find recognizable elements of Amalia. At this point, there's a chance that I know Amalia better than I know myself! After spending so much time searching for the emotional truth behind everything she does, it was definitely hard to let her go."

**Ben Backus '16** landed the role of Steven Kodaly, a dapper and charming ladies' man, after auditioning for his first musical. He says, "It was such a unique and fulfilling experience that I really wish I'd tried the musical before this year." He adds, "I especially enjoyed the opportunity to sing on stage. I guess I never realized how much I like singing!"

Co-director **Colleen Carroll '17** says, "This show was a once-in-a-lifetime experience that I will treasure forever. I was honored that Mr. Bergman trusted me enough to give me this opportunity. I was part of the process from the very beginning, from basic blocking to picking out the set colors to giving notes to the actors during tech week. There are not many schools where teachers trust students enough to treat them like adult professionals. I am so lucky to have experienced that here at Potomac."



① Clare McConnell '17 and Jessica Selig '16 ② Ben Backus '16 and Will Ross '16 ③ Maggie Ewing '17 and Maggie Reyes '18





## FALL AND WINTER NEWS ROUNDUP

## OCTOBER

The **Third Grade Service Learning Committee** helped raise awareness for Potomac's annual K-12 coat drive. The students researched local needs and

produced a video encouraging the community to donate new or gently-used winter coats and new hats, gloves, mittens, and scarves.

More than 200 coats and dozens of other articles were collected across

the four divisions. The donated items were delivered to

Cornerstones, an organization that assists people in need in northwestern Fairfax County.

Poems by

Intermediate School

students **Courtney Brandt '20**, **Kate Newton '20**, **Mary-Shea McDowell '20**, and **Olivia Twomey '20** were selected for inclusion in an anthology of exemplary student writing published by the Northern Virginia Writing Project. The young authors were honored at a reception held at George Mason University, where they were invited to read their work



## NOVEMBER

Championship rock climber **Sasha DiGiulian '11** came back to campus to speak with students from all four divisions about her career path; she also spoke passionately about leadership, goal-setting, and perseverance. This past summer, Sasha became the first woman to free climb Magic Mushroom, one of the most difficult routes on the north face of the Eiger.

Sasha also spent time with the participants in Potomac's The Real Me program, which helps adolescent girls develop into strong, confident young women through a variety of age-appropriate activities. The girls meet successful and inspiring women from within and outside the Potomac community – like Sasha, who talked with them about how she overcame gender stereotypes to accomplish her goals. She told them, “You’re the only one who decides what you can or can’t do.” After posing for pictures and signing a few autographs, Sasha challenged the girls to find *their* Eiger. “How will you step outside your comfort zone?” she asked. “Never be afraid about whether you fit in. The only thing that matters is whether you fit in with yourself.”

## DECEMBER

**Christian Herald '21** participated on a panel with a number of women leaders, including Indiana Congresswoman Susan Brooks, Washington Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers, and DC Councilmember Brianne Nadeau, at the She Should Run 5<sup>th</sup> Annual National Conversation, held at DAR Constitution Hall. She Should Run, a national network committed to advancing women and girls in public office, recognized Christian for her leadership as a Girl Scout Cadette and Student Council representative. The organization also produced a short video highlighting Christian's accomplishments, which was shown at the program.

① (clockwise from top left) Courtney Brandt '20, Mary-Shea McDowell '20, Kate Newton '20, and Olivia Twomey '20 ② Sasha DiGiulian '11 ③ Washington Congresswoman Cathy McMorris Rodgers and Christian Herald '21 ④ Harrison Morris '16 and Tyler Crowley '16 weight-test their bridge. ⑤ National Merit Scholarship finalists Gianmarco Terrones '16, Kevin O'Leary '16, and Ryan Kelly '16 ⑥ Stephen Hill '76 talks with Potomac students. ⑦ Virginia All-District Honors Band members Declan Cleaver '20, Brendan Lui '18, and John Schooner '18 ⑧ IS robotics team members Ethan Lee '20, Michael Djorup '20, Kat Plaza '20, and Jun-Young Hong '20 ⑨ Naenah Jeon '17



photo: Jess Weiner | jessweiner.com



## JANUARY

**Dr. Rhonda Roby**, head of forensic genomics at Human Longevity, Inc., spoke with Upper School students and faculty about the evolution and future of DNA testing. A renowned forensic scientist, Dr. Roby led the team that identified victims' remains after the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center. At Potomac, she discussed how DNA technology is used for paternity, forensic, and ancestry testing. Emphasizing its medical applications, she noted, "The more we learn about the human genome, the more we'll be able to improve the way we diagnose and treat diseases."

Upper School students in Jonathan Lindsay's Engineering Design class built bridges using only spaghetti and epoxy and load-tested their creations in the Crossroads. Some groups celebrated the impressive structural soundness of their constructions, while others watched their projects crumble under the weight. **Declan Cetta '17** created a bridge that spanned 50 centimeters and was able to hold a class-best 130 pounds – more than 83 times its weight! Meanwhile, **Emily Klein '16** and **Julia Marcotte '16** designed a bridge spanning 75 centimeters that withstood 106 pounds of pressure, nearly 32 times its weight.



## FEBRUARY

The U.S. Department of Education recognized **Spencer Perkins '16** and **Mark Kowalik '16** as candidates for the prestigious U.S. Presidential Scholars Program. Each year, the department identifies approximately 4,000 seniors nationwide to apply for this honor, based on exceptional SAT or ACT test scores. Spencer and Mark were among just 12 students from independent schools in Virginia to qualify this year.

Clarinet player **Declan Cleaver '20**, tenor saxophonist **Brendan Lui '18**, and tubist **John Schooner '18** represented Potomac in the 2016 Virginia All-District Honors Band. The three were chosen for the elite band after auditioning with musicians from other schools in northern Virginia.

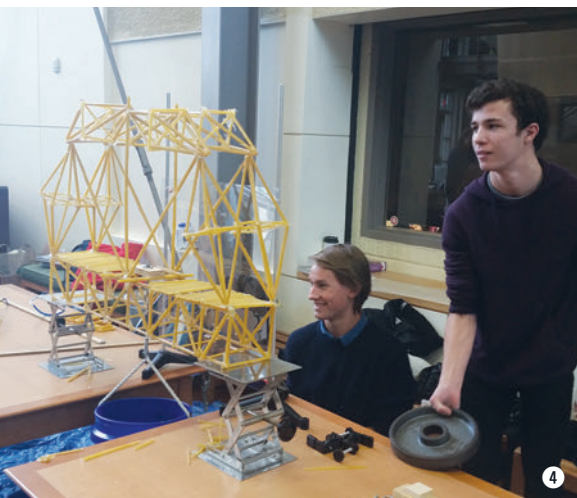
The National Merit Scholarship Corporation recognized **Ryan Kelly '16**, **Kevin O'Leary '16**, and **Gianmarco Terrones '16** as National Merit finalists. Of the approximately 1.5 million students who entered this year's competition, only 15,000 were chosen as finalists, eligible for the 7,400 National Merit Scholarships that will be awarded later this spring.

The Intermediate School robotics team of **Ethan Lee '20**, **Michael Djourup '20**, **Kat Plaza '20**, and **Jun-Young Hong '20** qualified for the VEX IQ world championship in Louisville, KY, after winning the Excellence Award, the tournament's highest honor, at the Virginia VEX IQ state championship.

**Stephen Hill '76**, president of programming for Black Entertainment Television (BET), spoke with Upper School students about how he channeled his childhood passion for music into a dream career. Stephen talked about his days at Potomac, his love of the Jackson 5, and his rise from college DJ to music-entertainment executive. "Always be prepared for your lucky break," he advised the students, after telling them how a program director from a Boston radio station heard him disc jockeying for his college station and offered him his first professional job. Through hard work and a love for his career, Stephen climbed quickly through the ranks of the music and television world. He noted, "I decided for myself how I wanted to live my life."

## MARCH

Cellist **Naenah Jeon '17** played the first movement of Dvorák's *Cello Concerto* at the Kennedy Center. Naenah is in her second year of the prestigious National Symphony Orchestra Youth Fellowship Program.





## FALL HIGHLIGHTS



1



4

- ① Will Socas '18 ② Mark Kowalik '16 ③ Tyler Francis '19 ④ Emily Tran '16  
⑤ Kyle Sanok '16 ⑥ Rachel Granovsky '16 ⑦ John Tofil '17

The **GIRLS VOLLEYBALL** team finished its inaugural season with a record of 6-3. The program graduates only one senior, Erin Jackson '16, and looks forward to returning its co-captains, Samantha Stacey '17 and Hana Chaudhri '17. Next year, the Panthers will compete at the varsity level in the ISL A division.

The **BOYS SOCCER** team ended its season with an 11-8-3 record and an appearance in the Mid-Atlantic Conference (MAC) championship game. For his play throughout the season, the *Washington Post* selected Will Socas '18 to the All-Met Honorable Mention team.

The **GIRLS SOCCER** team captured the ISL A regular season title. With a high-powered offense led by Courtlynne Caskin '18 and Grace Sherman '19, the Panthers finished the season with a record of 13-2-1.

All-League senior Arjun Fischer '16 set the pace for the **GOLF** team. In October, he shot a team-best 81 in the MAC golf tournament championship, marking a strong finish to his Potomac career.



5



6

cross country photos: Potomac parent William Hoffman, Jr.





## postseason awards

### Congratulations, Potomac Panthers!

#### ALL-LEAGUE

Rachel Granovsky, Kyle Sanok, Gianmarco Terrones (cross country); JoJo Young (field hockey); Mark Kowalik (football); Arjun Fischer (golf); Ben Keller, Tyler Manderfield, Matt Nagell, Herbert Padilla, Will Socas (boys soccer); Courtlynne Caskin, Catie Mathias, Tracey Mills, Grace Sherman (girls soccer); Kate Thomas (girls tennis)

#### ALL-STATE

Rachel Granovsky, Kyle Sanok, Eliza Smallwood, Gianmarco Terrones (cross country); Mark Kowalik, Jack Repke, Donny Sanders (honorable mention, football); Will Socas (honorable mention, boys soccer); Kate Thomas (second team, girls tennis)

#### ALL-MET

Rachel Granovsky (honorable mention, girls cross country); Kyle Sanok (first team, boys cross country); Will Socas (honorable mention, boys soccer)

In November, Kyle Sanok '16 won the Virginia Independent Schools state **BOYS CROSS COUNTRY** championship with his time of 16:21. A few weeks earlier, he recorded a second-place finish in the MAC cross country championship. For his banner season, Kyle earned All-League, All-State, and *Washington Post* First Team All-Met honors.

The **GIRLS CROSS COUNTRY** team finished 6<sup>th</sup> in the ISL championship, the team's best finish since 2009. In the state championship, Rachel Granovsky '16 placed 4<sup>th</sup> and Eliza Smallwood '16 finished 18<sup>th</sup> to earn All-State honors; Rachel was an honorable mention on the *Washington Post* All-Met team.

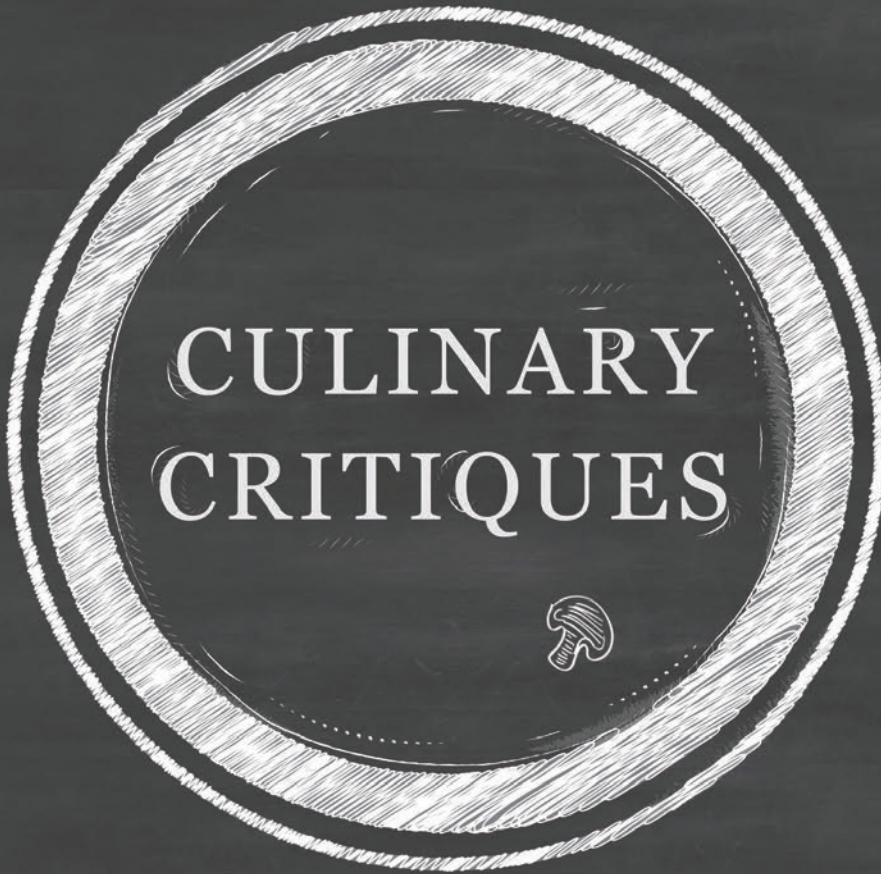
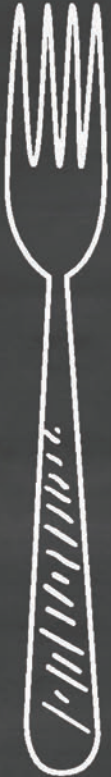
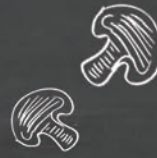
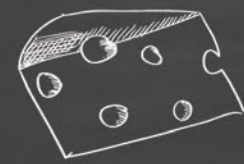
The **GIRLS TENNIS** team (10-5) advanced to the second round of the ISL tournament. Anchored by All-State senior Kate Thomas '16, the Panthers wrapped up the regular season riding a three-game winning streak.

Co-captains JoJo Young '16 and Emily Klein '16 helped the **FIELD HOCKEY** team (6-12-1) advance to the second round of the ISL tournament after defeating rival Holy Child 2-1.

Led by All-State seniors Mark Kowalik '16, Jack Repke '16, and Donny Sanders '16, the **FOOTBALL** team (2-7) competed hard in its first season under head coach Blake Henry. The Panthers also received instruction from former NFL All-Pro guard Alan Faneca, who volunteered as an assistant coach with the team.







Adam Platt '73 Dines and Dishes  
for *NEW YORK* Magazine



by Stirling Kelso '01







**S**ipping table wine and popping pintxos in a 19<sup>th</sup>-century bodega in Barcelona. Standing in line for a pour-over Blue Bottle coffee in San Francisco. Slurping down 35-baht noodles under a metro escalator in Bangkok. Food, more than ever, has become a cultural entry point, a window into a city's habits, and a regional study of traditions and history. So what do you do when your job is to capture these moments for a place like New York City, an urban community of nearly nine million people and around 24,000 eating establishments? A place where, in one neighborhood – or even one square block – you might find pork-filled Cuban sandwiches, steaming bowls of ramen, and juicy bratwursts served with spicy mustard?

Such is the delicious plight of Potomac School alumnus Adam Platt '73, the restaurant critic for *New York* magazine. At a time when print is in decline, *New York* is one of the publishing world's continuing success stories. The magazine has more than 400,000 subscribers, and *nymag.com* has over 13 million readers each month. Adam won a James Beard Award for Best Restaurant Reviews in 2009, and *New York's* Grub Street website – where readers can find more than 8,700 reviews and Adam's smart, voice-driven column – is among the publication's most popular components.





photo: Brian Ach | Getty Images

Adam and Blue Hill Chef Dan Barber speaking at New York Taste 2015

Adam starts his day like many other Big Apple residents, with a cup of coffee and a healthy pour of cream. “No breakfast,” he says. “I’m usually still full from the night before.” He sends his two children off to school, just four blocks from his lower 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue apartment near Washington Square, and hits the gym in his building. The bike is his torture tool of choice. His motivation? “I started this job 15 years – and 50 pounds – ago.”

He writes in the morning – mind fresh, stomach empty – in a home office with piles of books, framed pictures of his food-related travels, and a small window overlooking neighboring rooftops and chimneys. He might be polishing up his latest restaurant review or writing a post on food trends for Grub Street. (In: new old-school restaurants and natural wines; Out: matcha powder, hipster food halls, and the word veggie. “Yes, I use it every day,” Platt wrote in a December blog post, “and, yes, I hate myself.”)

Part two of Platt’s day, the eating hours, starts as the sun sets over the Hudson. This is the part of the job you might envision with Nina Simone’s “Feeling Good” playing in the background, an auditory cue to one

of journalism’s last golden-age gigs, a personal column padded by a generous expense account.

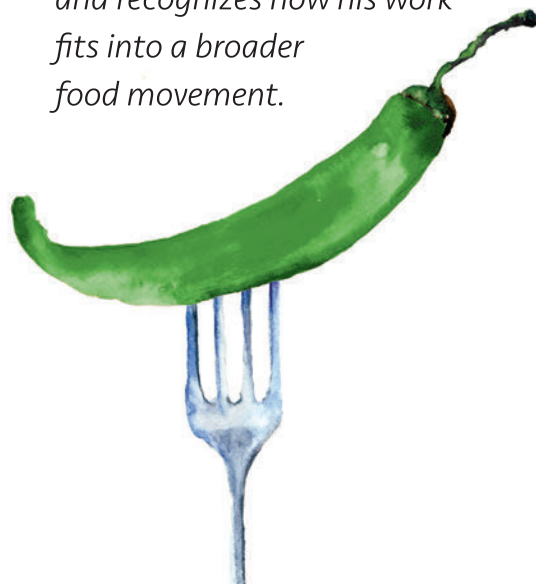
Unlike many restaurant critics, Adam didn’t reveal his identity for years; he finally came out of the proverbial kitchen closet in December 2013 with a cheerful article and a string of TV appearances. Before that, it was impressively hard to find his picture on the Internet, but chefs and food professionals had memorized his mug and made a case study of his dining habits. “We’re talking about a very competitive industry here,” Adam notes. “It’s their business to know.”

Those who are paying attention will tell you the following: Adam Platt prefers early dinners – ideally around 6:00 pm, before the evening rush – and has a penchant for roasted chickens and pork chops (what some chefs call “Platt-nip”). He also has a uniform of sorts: “I have two or three jackets that all look the same. They’re very ill-fitting and covered in stains.” Despite being a familiar face, he still makes reservations under fake names, noting, “Nothing beats the element of surprise.”

In slow seasons, Adam dines out three times a week. During his busy periods – such as the fall, when a flurry of restaurants open all over the city and

his annual “Where to Eat” marathon column is due – his calendar has at least five reservations per week. Finding dining companions (a table for four is Platt’s ideal) is harder than you might think. “My regulars are tired of the gig,” he says, noting that budding magazine staffers are more likely to say yes than his wife. He takes notes on his iPhone and typically dines at a restaurant twice before writing a review. “Unlike film or book reviews, where everyone is reading the same book or watching the same movie, restaurant reviews are much more dependent on a chance collection of circumstances,” Adam says. “Where you sit, what you order, whether or not the chef has a cold – all of these elements can affect your dining experience.” Personal taste also comes into play, as Adam likes to remind his own critics, though a veteran palate, supportive (and deep-pocketed) employer, and quill skills are what separate his piece of magazine real estate from countless comments and Yelp reviews.

*While his profession isn’t quite as glamorous as it’s often depicted in movies or television, it’s a job that Adam Platt enjoys immensely, largely because he takes the long view and recognizes how his work fits into a broader food movement.*





Adam has been fine-tuning his own palate since childhood. His parents worked for the State Department – his father served as U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, the Philippines, and Zambia – and moved Platt and his brothers Oliver Platt '74 (the actor) and Nicholas Platt Jr. '80 (CCO and COO of Kudu Investment Management in New York) to cities all over Asia before and after their years at Potomac.

In Taipei, Adam skipped the commissary and sampled street foods such as pork and scallion dumplings and cold glasses of sugar cane juice. “Taiwan in the 60s was filled with talented refugees from mainland China, including cooks,” he says. When living in Hong Kong, Adam would come home to Cantonese dim sum, and after classes at the American School in Tokyo he'd pick up deep fried croquettes, made with mashed potatoes or minced pork and served with a sweet plum sauce, at the nearby train station. (These were a far cry, he can't help but note, from the carton of milk and pair of graham crackers served in Ms. Gibson's seventh grade class at Potomac).

After graduating from Georgetown in 1981, Adam moved back to Hong Kong to write newsletters for Business International (a job that President Obama also took out of college), but the pursuit of more culture-oriented writing soon brought him back to DC. Here, Platt worked for *Insight*, a *Washington Times* magazine, where his cohort of colleagues included Malcolm Gladwell. A lateral move into freelance writing brought him to the Big Apple and, in 2000, he started his job with *New York*.

Some critics and columnists tire of their jobs, suffering, perhaps, from too much of a good thing. While his profession isn't quite as glamorous as it's often depicted in movies or

television, it's a job that Adam Platt enjoys immensely, largely because he takes the long view and recognizes how his work fits into a broader food movement. “It's also a job that's full of all sorts of odd and amusing moments,” he says, rattling off examples such as the time he ate a poisonous fugu fish in Japan, helicoptered to one of Ferran Adrià's last meals at El Bulli, or, more recently, sampled a \$100 golden leaf doughnut from the Manila Social Club in Williamsburg. “I'm pleasantly surprised,” he wrote of what he called a Jeff Koonsian spectacle, “although, like I said, for the record, I'm also glad it's not my money.”

What's been even more appealing than the job's glamour, though, is its entrée to New York's hard-working food circles. Adam notes, “The biggest shift I've seen in my years on the job is the rise of the chef's culture.” His readers are gripped by behind-the-kitchen-door details: What music chefs listen to, their latest butcher tattoos, their preferred gadgets and knives, and when and where they eat in their off hours.

Adam also notes that there has been a positive shift in the way young people think about food: “The tastes and obsessions of the new millennial generation have changed. My ‘fast food generation’ grew up with TV dinners and going to McDonalds; the ‘Starbucks generation’ are much more knowledgeable and picky about food than we ever were.” Case in point: The next time Adam comes to visit Potomac, he might see the old familiar graham cracker snacks. But he will also find an Upper School cafeteria that offers something for every palate and preference, from international entrées to gluten-free dishes, a salad bar stocked with organic greens grown on campus, and a selection of fresh, delicious, artfully prepared – you guessed it – veggies. 🥬



Stirling Kelso is a 2001 graduate of The Potomac School. She worked as an editor for *Travel + Leisure* magazine for four years and is now a freelance writer for *Condé Nast Traveler*, *Money*, *Food & Wine*, and other publications. After graduating from the University of Texas, Stirling interned at *New York* magazine, where she would occasionally run into Adam Platt.

Follow Adam Platt on Twitter and Instagram @plattypants.







# MADAME CHAIRMAN

BY SHELLEY DUTTON

*Marjorie Brennan, MD, is a physician specializing in pediatric anesthesiology at Children's National Medical Center and an assistant professor of anesthesiology and pain medicine at The George Washington University. A nationally known speaker on issues of health equity in the developing world, she is the founder and director of the JDT Foundation, which addresses educational and environmental issues in Haiti.*

*Marjorie and her husband Michael are proud Potomac parents: son Peter '14 is now a student at Elon University; daughter Madeleine is a junior; and son William is in the sixth grade. A member of Potomac's Board of Trustees since 2010, Marjorie was named chair of the board in July 2015.*

*We recently sat down for a chat, to learn more about this charismatic leader who is passionate about The Potomac School's success.*

**Q. Let's start at the beginning. Tell us about your background and how you became a physician.**

**A.** I grew up in Brooklyn. My mother was a biochemist whose work involved developing vaccines. I knew from a young age that I wanted to be a doctor, largely because she was such a terrific role model.

We moved to Michigan when I was in ninth grade. When it came time for college, I – like many young people – was fairly eager to get away from home, so I mostly looked at East Coast schools. The only Midwestern school I applied to was the University of Michigan, because they had an integrated pre-med/medical program that sounded really interesting. And that's where I ended up!

The great thing about that program was that it eliminated the “pressure cooker” element that so many undergraduates

preparing for medical school experience. We had already been accepted to med school, so the sense of dog-eat-dog competition just wasn't there. Instead, we were encouraged to focus not only on our academic preparation but also on bigger issues, like social responsibility, ethics, and service. As students, we participated in a lot of service experiences, and that was formative for me.

**Q. How did you settle on pediatric anesthesiology?**

**A.** Well, I find anesthesiology fascinating. It's actually kind of like aviation: In both fields, you are working to mitigate an activity that is inherently risky. Both rely on detailed procedures and checklists, but both also require the ability to respond to highly individualized situations. As to why pediatrics? I think I always knew that I would work with children.



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**Q. You mentioned service. Would you describe some of your service activities?**

**A.** I moved to Chicago in 1992, to work at Shriners Hospital for Children. That was shortly after the collapse of the Soviet Union. A group of colleagues and I soon had an opportunity to participate in a partnership with Vilnius University Children's Hospital, in the fledgling country of Lithuania.

That first trip was eye-opening! At that time, the Soviet states really had Third World medicine, and I'm not sure we were prepared for that. The facilities in Vilnius were poor; they had limited equipment and medications. They were working very hard, but they needed a lot of help. Also, my colleagues and I didn't see much compassion reflected in the way patients were dealt with there. So as we helped to improve their systems, we also tried to effect a culture shift, impressing upon the doctors, nurses, and support staff the importance of empathy when dealing with vulnerable people.

I've always been interested in health-system building, so I was excited about this opportunity to create meaningful change. The process would clearly take some time, and I wanted to help it unfold. So I went back to Vilnius every six months for the next five years. I formed great relationships there and found the experience profoundly rewarding.

Then I had my first child and decided that I would only work part-time for a while, so that I could focus on raising my family. Along the way, we moved to DC, and two more children arrived. In addition to my medical practice, I became very involved with the kids' school – Potomac – serving first as a class parent, then as parent rep, chair of the Parent Association, chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, and, eventually, a member of the Board of Trustees.

So I ended up taking a 10-year hiatus from service work. I thought it wouldn't be fair to my children (or my husband, who is also a physician) for me to disappear for extended periods, flying off to some foreign country. But finally, when my kids were a little older, I had a kind of epiphany. I realized, "It's reasonable for them to make this sacrifice – which is a rather small one, after all. It's reasonable for them to do without Mom for one week a year, so that I can model for them what a commitment to service entails."

The next opportunity that presented itself was in Haiti. My colleagues and I were initially scheduled to travel there in February 2010, but the earthquake hit in January, so we went sooner than originally planned. We stayed for 10 days that first time, working at Sacré Couer Hospital in Milot, in the northern part of the country. The people there are in great need, and places like Sacré Couer provide essential care with few resources. I have gone back at least once a year since that

initial trip; in addition to working with the hospital, I founded and now direct the JDT Foundation, which focuses on addressing environmental and educational issues in Haiti.

It's important to understand that service – even in the poorest countries – isn't about "swooping in and saving the world." It's about building relationships and trust over time. When you do that, you are in a better position to create lasting, positive change.

Finally, I'm also committed to serving closer to home. There's a lot of economic disparity right here in the United States. One thing I do is volunteer to give vaccinations in DC charter schools. And now I'm enrolled in GW's Master of Public Health program, developing skills that will enable me to have a greater impact, both at home and abroad.

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**Q. That is incredibly impressive. Shifting gears, can you tell us more about your connection to Potomac? How did you choose this school for your children?**

**A.** When we moved to the DC area, we asked a lot of people, "What's the best school?" and "Potomac" was an answer that we heard again and again. We did our research and visited the campus. It was a fairly easy choice for us.

I have been grateful to be a part of this community ever since! Potomac has amazing students and caring, involved parents. We have outstanding teachers who are deeply invested in our children's success. We have dedicated staff and an able administration led by John Kowalik.

You know, I was involved with the search when John was hired, and I cannot tell you how impressed we were with him. It was immediately clear that he was the real deal – a leader of incredible vision and clarity of purpose and a person of integrity and true humility. John is a great role model for our students, faculty, and administration, and his leadership is a tremendous asset for the school.

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**Q. How would you describe the value of a Potomac education?**

**A.** Well, I enrolled my own children here for a number of reasons. There is the academic rigor and the emphasis on excellent teaching. There is the pervasive sense of joy in learning. And there is a special kind of competition that happens here: It tends to be competition against oneself rather than others. Potomac's ethos is about striving to be your best, rather than trying to best someone else.

Above all, Potomac provides an education that makes a difference in the long run. We see it in our graduates, who use the knowledge and skills that they gained in school to help solve intractable problems and create positive change.

*A fantastic school  
that's on an  
upward trajectory –  
who wouldn't want to  
be a part of that?*



Marjorie chats with parents and administrators at a reception in January, after a joint Parent Association/Board of Trustees meeting focused on Potomac's 2016-17 budget.

**Q. What are the qualities of this school that kept you connected and made you want to take on a leadership role?**

**A.** Potomac is a community of trust. Walk into the Upper School around lunchtime, and you will see dozens of backpacks and bags left unattended in the Crossroads while students eat. If you think about it, that's extraordinary – to have a school culture where everyone feels safe enough to put their belongings down and know that they will be respected.

Potomac is also a community of kindness. My own children have benefited from this, and I have observed it often. Sometimes, at admission events, I have a chance to talk with parents whose children will be coming in as 4<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, or 9<sup>th</sup> graders. These parents have concerns: "Will my child be welcome? Will he or she make friends?" I confidently assure them that they have nothing to worry about. The students and teachers at Potomac are remarkably kind, gracious, and welcoming. This is a place where everyone is valued and seen as an integral part of the whole.

A fantastic school that's on an upward trajectory – who wouldn't want to be a part of that?

**Q. It's been noted that your appointment represents a milestone: You are the first person of color to serve as chair of the Board of Trustees. What are your thoughts about diversity at Potomac?**

**A.** Diversity is important because different perspectives enrich the learning environment for everyone. But I am interested in having deeper conversations about what "diversity" means for us. There are affluent families of every race and ethnic group – families that can afford privileges like a Potomac education. And our student body reflects this. But are we doing enough to seek out and enroll qualified and deserving

students – of any race or ethnicity – whose families have less financial means? With nearly \$5 million of our annual budget directed to scholarships each year, it's clear that we are making a serious effort in this area. But if we believe that socio-economic diversity helps to ensure a learning community that is not limited in its scope, this is an area that merits our continued attention.

**Q. Finally, tell us about the board's role and how this particular Board of Trustees functions.**

**A.** Trustees provide financial stewardship and help shape an institution's long-term vision. To fulfill these roles successfully, we need to be well-informed about all aspects of the school's operations, and we need to understand how effective governance works.

In the past few years, Potomac's board has undertaken an intentional effort to professionalize our work and strengthen our ability to serve the school. We have focused on board development – hearing from outside speakers, discussing case studies, and learning everything we can about Potomac itself. We put an orientation program in place to help new trustees get up to speed quickly. Above all, I think, we have worked hard to be inclusive – to be a board where all perspectives are heard, all voices respected.

Potomac's trustees are highly accomplished individuals from a variety of fields: business, government, the arts, the nonprofit sector. They bring a wealth of experience and good judgment to the table. I am honored to work with this incredibly talented and committed group of people, and I believe that we are in an excellent position to help this amazing school accomplish even greater things in the future. 📷







# The Tale of a Tree

BY KEVIN HOLLISTER  
AND SHELLEY DUTTON

Once upon a time, there was a school with a beautiful 90-acre campus. The campus was dotted with ponds and streams and nature trails, and there were many trees – far too many to count. One tree in particular stood out, thanks to its massive size, irregular crown, and long gangly limbs. Generations of children learned and played beneath its branches, darting from sunlight to shade, laughing, singing, and making memories. The children and even the grown-ups at the school had a special name for the tree, as people do for their closest friends; they called it, simply, the Gum Tree.



It's a rare occasion when an entire community develops a sentimental bond with a tree, but Potomac's Gum Tree was unique. Known to arborists as a *Nyssa sylvatica* and more commonly called a blackgum or black tupelo, the Gum Tree was a time capsule, each branch, leaf, and strip of bark telling a story and offering a window into Potomac's past. For many members of the school community, the tree's very presence elicited fond memories.

In 1948, when the Board of Trustees decided to purchase a plot of farmland in McLean, Virginia, as the school's new home, the Gum Tree was there, eavesdropping on their conversation. Carol Preston, Potomac's headmistress from 1938 to 1961, recalled, "The final decision was reached by the board sitting by the light of a full moon under one of the big gum trees in an open meadow." If trees could smile, the

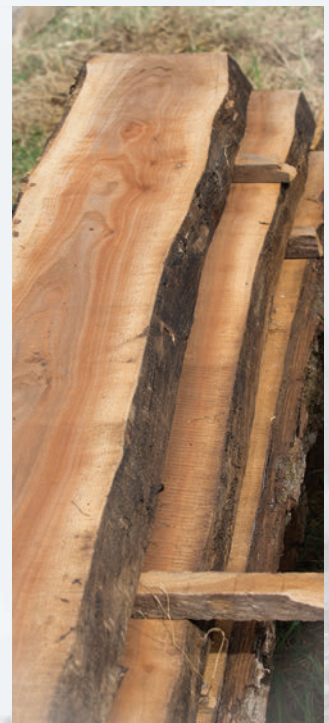
Gum Tree would have been grinning from limb to limb, thinking of all the fun to come.

When students began arriving on Potomac's McLean campus in the spring of 1951, the Gum Tree was there, nearing its centennial year of life. And for the next 64 years, the old gum stood sentinel as the school spread out, evolving from acres of empty farmland into a beautiful and expansive campus.

"Majestic," "iconic," and "beloved" are among the words that kept popping up as the Potomac community eulogized the Gum Tree this past September, when it was announced that, owing to advanced age, it would have to come down. The tree's friends remembered how it provided countless hours of shade during baseball, field hockey, and lacrosse games, witnessed exciting conference championships, and even served as a gorgeous canopy

for weddings. They recalled how the Gum Tree withstood storms, pests, and disease and greeted thousands of campus guests with its enormous presence.

In fact, it was its size that differentiated the Gum Tree from the two other blackgums on campus (the Swing Tree, overlooking the softball field, and another gum, which once stood near the football field), as well as nearly all others in the state of Virginia. "It's the most beautiful specimen I've seen anywhere," Dr. Jeff Kirwan once marveled. Dr. Kirwan is an emeritus professor in the Department of Forest Resources and Environmental Conservation at Virginia Tech and the author of *Remarkable Trees of Virginia*, which profiles nearly 100 trees throughout the state. According to Dr. Kirwan, Potomac's Gum Tree was the second-largest blackgum in Virginia,





measuring more than 90 feet tall, with branches spanning 110 feet and a trunk circumference of nearly 15 feet.

Scott Bates, who has served as the school's arborist for more than two decades, notes that it's rare to find a tree exceeding 150 years of age in this part of the country. "Not many large trees in this area survived the Civil War," he says. A 2014 *New York Times* article estimated that two million trees were cut down during the war to "help furnish railroad ties, corduroy roads, ship masts and naval stores like turpentine, resin, pitch and tar." It is well documented that the area where Potomac's campus is located was occupied by Union and Confederate troops at various points during the war.

Bates estimates that the Gum Tree was between 150 and 160 years old when it was taken down. If it existed during the Civil War, it would have been a very young tree then, perhaps not large enough to merit harvesting. Ultimately, once the tree had grown

(and grown), its size contributed to its demise. A tree of such enormity can take in between 500 and 1,000 gallons of water per day; Bates says that, over time, hot summers and prolonged periods of drought likely contributed to its death. (Happily, he reported in February that the Swing Tree, the last of Potomac's blackgums – smaller and somewhat younger than the Gum Tree – is in good health.)

Since the Gum Tree was removed in September, not a single twig of its 78,500 pounds of wood has been wasted. Potomac Environmental Sustainability Coordinator Bern Hoffmann '86 and Environmental Studies Coordinator Albert Pingree '00 supervised days of cutting, sectioning, and wood chipping. Then, in November, the limbs and trunk sections underwent milling, with sawyers cutting picture-perfect slabs of uniform thickness. Once these slabs dry, the Gum Tree will live on in various forms and functions.

But that's not all. Two of the tree's giant curved branches are now providing enjoyment for Potomac students as a climbing structure outside the Lower School, with wood chips made from its limbs piled up as thick padding around the base. It's good to know that this old friend will continue to be part of Potomac's campus for years to come.

*Near the place where the Gum Tree grew, children climb and play on outstretched arms of wood. They pat the rough bark with their hands and push off with their feet, jumping to the cushioned ground below with soft thuds and loud laughter. Safe in the arms' embrace, they tell secrets, and plan adventures, and dream dreams. And the ageless heart of the Gum Tree beats on. 🐾*





# Gum Tree Memories

It was 1989 and the staff of the Upper School's new student newspaper, *The Current*, wanted to see what it could get away with. The issue, which met students when they returned to campus after Spring Break, featured a bombshell front-page exposé: While everyone was away, the school's trustees had decided to sell the Gum Tree Field to a real estate developer! The article featured an "artist's rendition" of several McMansions superimposed on the Gum Tree. That it was April 1, and that the masthead featured an unusual motto – *Aprilis Inepti Dies* (in place of *Labor Omnia Vincet*) – was overlooked in the ensuing panic. One parent even went to the Fairfax courthouse to seek an injunction to stop the sale.

- Patrick Redmond '91, editor in chief of *The Current*, 1990–91

My brother Duncan '70 got married to Martha Jacoby Krieger under the Gum Tree. It rained heavily that day, only to stop just before the wedding and form a rainbow over their ceremony. It was beautiful!

- Claudia Krieger-Myers '72

My fondest memories of the Gum Tree are personal and involve many spring days sitting under its cover watching my son, Zach '06, play baseball for Potomac. Many a foul ball was thwarted by the tree's protective canopy!

-Perry Swope, Potomac's facilities, projects, security, and transportation director since 1980

Last spring, the baseball team and the boys lacrosse team won conference championships on the same day, within minutes of each other. All the players ran onto the field and starting hugging and jumping on each other. My friends and I were sitting under the Gum Tree, cheering. I will never forget that day!

- Caroline Maruca '16

The great Gum Tree has always framed those fields and so many of our memories – from May Day to games and gatherings to paintings, photographs, and yearbook designs written over with year-end notes from our faithful friends.

- John Nassikas '74

Irene Howard Higginson '79 and I held our wedding-day picnic under the Gum Tree. Potomac was home for all of us, and the Gum Tree symbolized the heart of home.

- Philip Higginson '79



# ROSS CONDON '03 WINNING EVERY DAY

by Kevin Hollister



**W**ithout a suit and tie and a clipboard, it's hard to distinguish Ross Condon '03 from the players he coaches. It's early December and Ross is breaking a sweat, preparing the players on the Penn State men's basketball team to take on George Washington University. He's decked out in navy Penn State warmups and Nikes; the lightly stained hardwood squeaks with his every move. Come game time, he'll look the part of a coach, but right now he's passing, dribbling, and calling out plays as if he's the one who'll be playing a game in half an hour.

Although a casual observer might mistake Ross for one of the Nittany Lions point guards, he's actually Penn State's assistant coach. Unlike most 30-year-olds, he's more comfortable standing courtside in front of 20,000 people than sitting at a desk in a cubicle. There is no grey area in the business of coaching. Every decision is highly scrutinized, especially at the Division I level. Ross knows and embraces this. That's why he coaches with the same intensity as when he played – with a gritty determination to be the best every single day.

photos: (top) Courtesy of the Condon family  
(left) Mark Selders | Penn State Athletics



Ross learned that hard work pays off during his four years at Potomac. At one time, he strongly considered attending Flint Hill, but former boys basketball head coach Matt Carlin convinced Ross to enroll at Potomac in ninth grade. He saw Ross as the centerpiece of a basketball program that had tremendous potential. Carlin remembers telling the team, “If you give extraordinary effort every day, extraordinary things will happen.”

At each practice, Carlin pushed Ross and his teammates to the brink, demanding seemingly endless sprints and drills; he wanted perfect execution on both offense and defense. The bar was set high, but Ross embraced every challenge and exceeded expectations. Playing point guard during his Potomac years, he was selected to the All-State team twice, set a school record for career assists, and scored more than 1,000 points. He wanted to be the best player every day – in practice, in a game, in the off-season – and the team was energized by his dedication to excellence.

In Ross’s junior year, the Panthers finished 25-2 but lost in the state semifinals. When the coaches asked the team at the beginning of the next season what they’d be willing to sacrifice to get to the championship, Ross answered, “Everything.”

Before the state championship game in 2003, Matt Carlin was the most nervous he’d ever been. He was worried about the possibility of losing – concerned that all the discipline and effort that had been expended to get to this game might be wasted. Moments before tip-off, Ross came up behind the coach and put a hand on his shoulder. “There’s no way we’re losing this game,” he said.



photo: courtesy of the Condon family

***“Ross will always out-work and out-hustle everyone else,” Matt Carlin says.***

***“It’s the quality that made him a state champion and a walk-on at Villanova, and it’s what makes him a great coach.”***

Ross and his teammates gave their all, and Potomac defeated The Miller School to win the Virginia state championship. “I’ll never forget that,” Ross says. “I was repaying Matt for everything he had done for me.” That mutual respect and camaraderie between player and coach is something Ross tries to create now, in his own coaching career.

But the prospect of coaching wasn’t on Ross Condon’s radar when he graduated from Potomac; he still wanted to play. He earned a walk-on spot on Villanova’s basketball team, and from 2003 through 2007 was a member of a Wildcat team that made three-straight NCAA Tournament appearances, reaching the Sweet Sixteen in 2005 and the Elite Eight in 2006. Though his time on the court was scarce, Ross made the most of practicing against future NBA guards Randy Foye and Kyle Lowry. Most importantly, he had a front-row seat to watch and learn from one of the country’s premiere coaches, Jay Wright, who was the national and Big East Conference Coach of the Year for the 2005-06 season.

Ross got the best of both worlds by being a walk-on at Villanova: He was able to continue his playing career, going up against top-notch competition, while also seeing first-hand the preparation and dedication it took to be a top coach at the Division I level. Each game was like attending a graduate class on coaching (but in the comfort of gym shorts). Ross recalls, “During games, I would sit back and listen to what the coaches were saying to players on the court.”

Ross’s attention to detail and constant effort to improve his skills resonated with the Villanova coaching staff, particularly Jay Wright. When graduation rolled around, it was Wright who suggested to Ross, a business administration major and a three-time selection to the conference’s All-Academic Team, that he should give coaching a try.

At Wright’s urging, Ross took a job at Radford University as the director of basketball operations. There, he was able to learn from another top coach – Brad Greenberg, also a

conference coach of the year. Then, in 2009, Ross's former assistant coach at Villanova, Pat Chambers, reached out. Villanova had just come off a run to the Final Four, and Chambers had been hired as head coach at Boston University. He wanted an assistant he could trust to put everything into the job. "I need a Villanova player who understands what I'm trying to accomplish," Chambers explained. He then offered Ross an assistant coaching position.

At BU, Ross worked specifically with the guards; in 2011, he helped shooting guard John Holland earn America East Conference Player of the Year. In just two seasons, Ross and Chambers notched 42 wins and an NCAA Tournament berth. When Chambers accepted the head coaching job at Penn State in June 2011, the decision to bring Ross along was a no-brainer.

With each season at Penn State, Ross's responsibilities have expanded. Early on, he was in charge of daily scheduling and booking the team's travel and hotel accommodations. Now, in his fifth season, he's an assistant coach, helping with recruiting, game and practice preparation, and scouting and development. "Coaching is like any business," Ross says. "If you put in your time and give all your effort, you keep moving up." (Ross's younger brother, Kyle '08, is also in the process of climbing the coaching ranks, as assistant to the head coach at the University of Tennessee.)

Ross has absorbed everything he can from the coaches he's been around over the years, picking and choosing which qualities to emulate. His coaching philosophy is very similar to what he learned early on at Potomac, stressing

attitude and effort. It's no coincidence that this philosophy also mirrors Pat Chambers'. "Attitude is the mantra of our program here at Penn State," Ross says. "The person who fights for it is the person who comes out on top."

It's still the spring of Ross Condon's coaching career, but it's hard not to predict continued success in the years to come. "Ross will always out-work and out-hustle everyone else," Matt Carlin says. "It's the quality that made

him a state champion and a walk-on at Villanova, and it's what makes him a great coach."

There was a time when Ross was determined to be the best player he could be; now, he's determined to become the best coach he can be. For him, it's not just about winning games, it's about winning every single day. 🏀

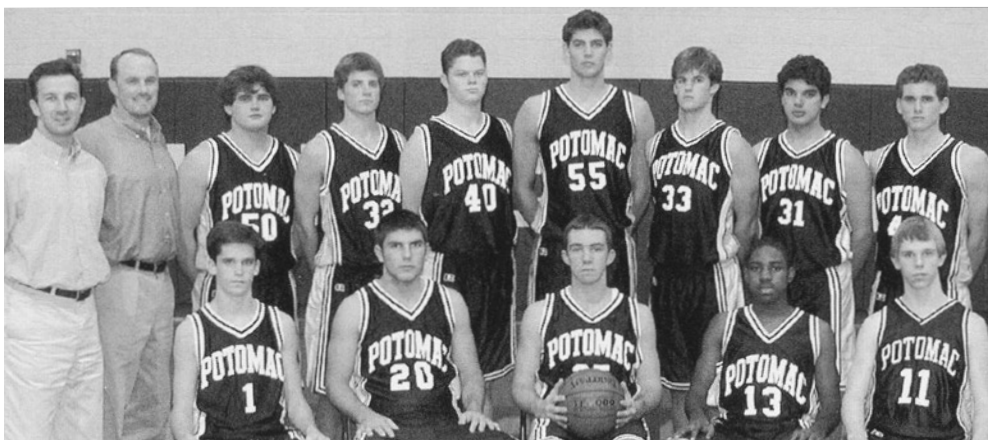
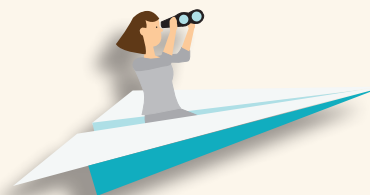
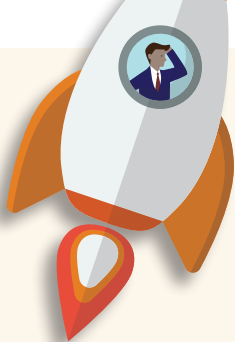


photo: Mark Selders | Penn State Athletics

Top photo: Potomac's 2003 Virginia state championship team (front row, l to r): Robert O'Connell '05, Mike Fischer '04, Ross Condon '03, Dominic Dickerson '04, Robbie de Picciotto '04; (back row, l to r): Coach Matt Carlin, Coach Timothy Herwig, Chris McNerney '04, Brian Fairbank '03, Chris Moore '04, Peter Prowitt '04, Brent Locey '04, Patrick Baxter '04, Marty McNearney '03





# Finding Their Calling

by Kevin Hollister



In December, keynote speaker Derek Thompson '04 opened Potomac's annual Career Day by telling the audience of juniors and seniors something they weren't expecting to hear. "The future is chaos," he began. "You may be entering an era of technological unemployment, where computer scientists and software engineers essentially invent us out of work."

Derek is a senior editor at *The Atlantic*, where he frequently covers economics and labor markets. His thoughtful, provocative article "A World Without Work" was the magazine's July/August 2015 cover story. But why would a writer with such a seemingly disheartening point of view be the right person to set the tone for Career Day?

Well, according to Derek, a post-work society may actually be a good thing. He asked the students, "How nice would it be if machines, automation, and software could take care of all the most boring jobs?" A future with no work is bleak, but one with less mindless and back-breaking work is a happy prospect.

Derek offered his young listeners a vision of a world where individuals would be free to follow a calling. He asked, "Could the next wave of automation return us to an age of craftsmanship and artistry? Could it offer us opportunities to stretch the bounds of human imagination and potential?" As technology continues to develop and expand, Derek predicts, people will have opportunities to work primarily for the satisfaction of the work itself.

Citing the sweeping changes that have occurred in his own field – journalism – in the past decade, he pointed out, "New technologies won't just make some jobs obsolete; they will also create new opportunities, new categories of employment that we can't even envision right now." To prepare for such a world, he advised the students to approach the future with an agile and flexible mindset, hone their critical thinking skills, and cultivate attributes that only human beings can bring to the table – such as creativity and interpersonal connection.

Derek concluded, "Instead of 'Career Day,' maybe we should think of this as 'Calling Day.' My hope is that, whatever changes the future brings, you all will find fulfillment by doing something that you enjoy."

With those words in mind, the students spent the remainder of the morning listening to alumni panelists from a variety of career fields, who generously shared their experiences and tips for success. Each student had the opportunity to participate in two breakout sessions, focused on such areas of endeavor as science, medicine, communications, media, entrepreneurship, technology, government, law, marketing, arts, entertainment, and real estate.

It's hard to know whether a morning spent listening to impressive alumni inspired Potomac's students to begin to identify their callings. But one thing is certain: Career Day offered up plenty of insights and inspiration, thanks to the participation of professionals who have found a sense of purpose in their diverse career paths.



## Some advice from the experts...

### Just Say "Yes"



Associate publisher of *Washington Life* magazine **John Arundel '81** recalled embracing the difficult and tedious beats early in his reporting career. He told the students that showing that he was willing to do the "grunt work" helped him get a leg up later in life. "Try to say yes as much as possible," he advised. "This leads to more opportunity, as well as respect from your bosses."

### Build Relationships



**Delara Derakhshani '04**, who at the time was policy counsel in the DC Office of Consumers Union, explained that her work there primarily involved oral and written advocacy around issues related to telecommunications. She emphasized that having a firm understanding of substantive issues and building relationships are both important. Delara said, "In any career, networking is vital. You want to continually expand your circle of connections and focus on creating relationships built on trust and mutual respect. Those relationships can take you a long way, whether you're trying to build consensus around an idea or looking for your next job."



① Derek Thompson '04, senior editor for *The Atlantic*, delivers the keynote address. ② Drew Tierney '80, producer and editor for CBS News, chats with India Cutler '17 and Ted Tierney '17 about their Career Day experience.



## Continue to Grow Your Skill Set



**Kevin Bennett '99** talked with students about how he spent nearly two decades diversifying his skill set before creating a software platform that makes it easier and more profitable for homeowners to sell their houses; his company, HomeZen, officially launched in March 2016. After earning his undergraduate degree in political science, Kevin became a speechwriter for Virginia Governor Mark Warner. Then, he told the students, he went back to school to get his law degree. "I always pushed myself to learn," he said. After law school, Kevin pursued a business degree and focused his efforts on exploring the impact of technology, even co-authoring a book about design thinking. Noting that the path to success can have many twists and turns, he advised, "Take the time to figure out who you are, what you're good at, and what you love to do."

## Commit to Something You Care About



A student asked **Patrick Malone '97**, communications director for Congressman Jim Himes (D-Connecticut), the following question: "In a time of widespread anti-government sentiment, why do you do this job?" Patrick's reply underscored the value of doing work that you believe in. He observed, "This is the overarching story of America. People hate the government. People hate taxes and regulations. But government is actually necessary, and it is capable of doing great good. This is something to which I want to contribute."

**Jack Overstreet '10**, a junior staffer in the office of Senator John Isakson (R-Georgia), added, "It's easy to criticize and cry 'Doomsday!' when you're talking about the government. Things don't always change at the speed of light; that's because our system was set up to move slowly, thoughtfully. While we tend to hear a lot of bad news about government, there are so many policy accomplishments that get no press at all. Being a part of this – even a small part – is exciting and important. It's where I want to be."

## Be a People Person



You can have all the talent in the world, but if you're not pleasant to be around, people won't want to work with you, **Drew Tierney '80** explained. Drew, a producer and editor for CBS News, asserted, "Being polite in your everyday work makes a huge difference."

**Derek Thompson '04** echoed Drew's point about courtesy and professionalism: "The hard skills matter, but it's the soft



Delara Derakhshani '04, then policy counsel with the DC Office of Consumers Union; Teddy Nemeroff '97, senior advisor with the U.S. State Department; and Jack Overstreet '10, junior staffer in the Office of U.S. Senator John Isakson, talk with students about government, regulatory, and legal careers.

skills – like being a nice person – that tend to be the tiebreaker." He told the students, "You should always treat people with respect, regardless of who they are or whether you think you'll see them again. You never know who is going to be the person who will change your life."

## Find a Mentor (or Two!)



**Stephanie Croghan '07**, who works for international commercial real estate firm Jones Lang LaSalle, talked about the importance of learning from people who are more experienced. She said, "It's always good to have a mentor within your business, as well as someone you can turn to for solid advice outside your business. There is value in getting multiple opinions and perspectives."

## Be Flexible



Artist and designer **JD Deardourff '04** explained the value of not being "married" to one particular idea, style, or way of doing things. "It's important to be versatile," he said. "Sometimes you need to adapt, to work within constraints posed by a client; other times you need to reject all the rules and just let loose."

Coming from a very different career field, **Carl Fairbank '99** concurred. During a decade of work as an investment banker, Carl identified market inefficiencies and widespread industry practices that made it extremely expensive for many small business owners to secure funding. Instead of going along with the status quo, he adapted his business model; the result was

Breakout Capital Finance, a direct-funding company that has changed the financial landscape for small businesses. “Think creatively,” Carl urged the students. “And always look more than one day ahead.”

### Accept Constructive Criticism



**Nicole Yun Hirschmann '00**, the lead singer, guitarist, and songwriter for the indie rock trio Eternal Summers, talked about how fellow band members, sound engineers, and producers are always critiquing her work. “It can be difficult,” she admitted. “But sometimes you have to place your faith in others’ perspectives and be open to developing something new.” She also explained how “fresh ears” on a song can reveal something she hadn’t even noticed.

**Grace Guggenheim '74** has produced more than 20 documentaries for television and theatrical release. She observed, “As a documentary storyteller, it’s important to be open to different viewpoints and interpretations that may feel like criticism. This allows you to get the story right.” She adds, “You need to be able to take suggestions. Sometimes others see things that you’re not able to see or predict; and, in some cases, it can elevate your story to the next level of success.”

### Don’t Fear Failure



**Taylor Kelly '02**, a principal and co-founder of real estate development firm Brick Lane, talked candidly about being laid off from his investment banking job a few years after college. “Change can be amazing,” he told the students. “It takes you down an uncomfortable path where you’re forced to think about what you’d really like to do. It can definitely open new doors.”

### Give It All You’ve Got



It takes a lot to run your own business. When she was majoring in classics at Trinity College, **Sally Steponkus Roche '94** never thought that she would one day have her own interior design firm. “I was planning to be a Latin teacher,” she told the students. But now, Sally’s love of classical art and architecture is reflected in her work at Sally Steponkus Interiors, which she founded in 2001. It’s a career that involves hard work, long hours, and late nights, but she’s doing something that she loves. Sally’s dedication to her studies and to the effort required to build and maintain her business shows that she has found her calling. She told the students at Career Day, “Finding what you love to do and putting everything you’ve got into it is worth all the effort. That kind of investment pays off in the end.” 📸

## THANKS TO ALL WHO HELPED MAKE CAREER DAY A SHINING SUCCESS!

### Upper School Student Networking Committee and Panel Moderators

*Class of 2016 students* Madeline Dubelier, Arjun Fischer, Lindsay Keane, Amelia Klitenic, Melissa Loza, Gabriel Miller, Ethan Pann, Victoria Preston, Eliza Quinn, Donny Sanders, Eliza Smallwood, and Camille Sommerfield

### Alumni Governing Council Networking Committee

Bryan Bennett '01, Erin Cleary Murtagh '93, Abby Sullivan '97, Sarah Duncan '03, and Cate Rooney '08

### Government, Regulatory, and Legal Panel

Delara Derakhshani '04, *then Policy Counsel, DC Office of Consumers Union*

Patrick Malone '97, *Communications Director, Congressman Jim Himes*

Teddy Nemeroff '97, *Senior Advisor, U.S. State Department*

Jack Overstreet '10, *Junior Staffer, Senator John Isakson*

### Marketing, Sales, and Advertising Panel

Anne Lenrow '08, *Senior Account Manager, Bloomberg Government*

Mittie Rooney '78, *Principal, Axion Communication Group*

Robbie Shiver '06, *Director of Business Development and Marketing, Shugoll Research*

### Arts and Entertainment Panel

JD Deardourff '04, *Artist*

Grace Guggenheim '74, *Producer and Executive Producer, Guggenheim Productions*

Nicole Yun Hirschmann '00, *Musician*

### Communication and Media Panel

John Arundel '81, *Associate Publisher, Washington Life*

Derek Thompson '04, *Senior Editor, The Atlantic*

Drew Tierney '80, *Producer/Editor, CBS News*

### Medicine and Science Panel

Allyson Bloom '92, *M.D., M.P.H.*

John Lettow '91, *President and Co-Founder, Vorbeck Materials Corporation*

Megan Bartsch Willems '84, *M.D., Child/Adolescent and Adult Psychiatrist*

### Entrepreneurship, Technology, and Finance Panel

Kevin Bennett '99, *Co-Founder, HomeZen*

Carl Fairbank '99, *Founder and Chief Executive Officer, Breakout Capital Finance, LLC*

Sally Steponkus Roche '94, *Sally Steponkus Interiors*

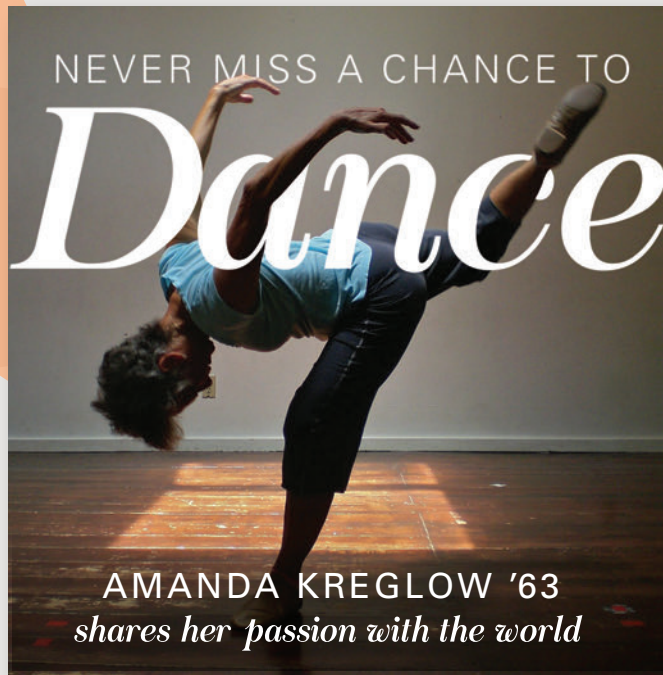
### The Built Environment Panel

Stephanie Croghan '07, *Tenant Representation, Jones Lang LaSalle*

Taylor Kelly '02, *Principal and Co-Founder, Brick Lane Real Estate*







by Kevin Hollister



**A**manda Kreglow '63 is sitting in the sold-out audience at New York's Town Hall Theater, just off Broadway. The place is packed for *TED Talks Live: War and Peace*, a night of thought-provoking discussion and performances examining the impact of war on the world. The crowd is captivated as they watch the dance "In the Mist of Dying." Amanda holds her breath as the dancers lunge and spin. She's deeply invested in what's happening onstage because she's watching an original work of her own creation.

For more than 40 years, Amanda has worked in the creative and performing arts. She's been onstage, backstage, and in the audience. Her creative expression has ranged from dancing to directing to composing to choreography. But, above all, it has been her passion to share dance with the world.

During her early years at Potomac, Amanda developed a love of music and dance. When she arrived at the school in fourth grade, she was immediately struck by music teacher Jack Langstaff's ability to listen and find meaning in songs. "This absolutely influenced the way I now look at all art, but particularly dance," she says. "It all started with him."

Amanda also soaked up Potomac's well-rounded curriculum. She loved the buffet of courses that exercised her creativity; she took dance, art, and music classes and participated in plays and assemblies. "I wanted all the dancing roles," she laughs.

Amanda's life after Potomac was driven by dance. In 1970, she earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in dance from Stephens College in Columbia, Missouri, where she was trained by former Hollywood choreographer and Humphrey-Weidman Dance Company member Harriette Ann Gray. Then, she was off to New York City to study at the world-famous Martha Graham Dance Studios.

As a performer, Amanda danced in a company formed by José Limón Dance Company alumni Fred Mathews and Gary Masters, the Mathews-Masters Dance Company. In addition to dancing, she thrived in a number of different capacities over the next two decades under the bright lights of the big city. As a choreographer, Amanda taught at New York University's Washington Square Repertory Dance Company and Theatre in a Trunk Productions. She also produced and choreographed shows with her own company, Amanda Kreglow Presents.

In 1985, Amanda took a break from dancing to make her mark behind the scenes. Working in digital production, she captured the arts of dance and theater in video and still photography.

Amanda had already woven quite a colorful tapestry of creative endeavor before she moved to the West Coast in 1989 to dive deeper into choreography and production. "I loved all of it, but I particularly enjoyed creating dances," she says. "I derive tremendous satisfaction from working with dancers to really define what a piece is saying."

For more than two decades, Amanda built her profile as a producer and choreographer in Sonoma County, California. She choreographed dances for SoCo Dance Theater and UPSide Dance Company and highlighted a variety of local choreographers through a series of shows called Amanda Kreglow Presents Dance By... In her downtime, she continued to experiment with other forms of art, including painting, pottery, and writing. In fact, Amanda recently completed her first novel, *Becoming White Smoke: A Tale of Courage and Yearning*.

This past summer, Juliet Blake, a TED Talks curator for special projects, was searching for dances on YouTube when she came across a contemporary piece that Amanda had created for a 2007 Dance By... show. Amanda's balletic duet "In the Mist of Dying" would be a perfect fit for 2015 *TED Talks Live: War and Peace*. In August, Blake emailed Amanda, "I recently came across your beautifully choreographed piece, and I would love to include it as part of our show." Despite the fact that Amanda was in California and the conference would take place in New York, Blake was determined to make the connection.

Like Jack Langstaff, Amanda has a knack for finding meaning in a song. The story she created for "In the Mist of Dying" (performed to Apocalyptica's "Harmagedden" and "Nothing Else Matters") is about a mortally wounded soldier lying on the battlefield. As he's dying, he remembers his wife, their love, and their last encounter.

In September, Amanda traveled to New York to work with two pairs of dancers and director Virginia Mécène from the Martha Graham 2 Company to recreate her duet. Over the next several weeks, the dancers rehearsed with Mécène. Amanda returned to the city a few days before the show hit the stage, to polish and prep the performance.

Sitting in the audience at the Town Hall Theater, Amanda felt her adrenaline rushing. Her dance was being performed before a sold-out audience, and PBS was taping the show. Dancers Ricardo Barrett and Jessica Sgambelluri did not disappoint; every movement was exactly as Amanda envisioned it. Despite being nearly 3,000 miles away throughout most of the

rehearsal process, she had successfully conveyed her story's passion, sorrow, and desperation to the dancers.

At the conclusion of the performance, Amanda couldn't help but smile. She had shared her passion for storytelling through dance, and her work was met with thunderous applause. She reflects, "That was an absolutely exhilarating experience." 🐾



Ricardo Barrett and Jessica Sgambelluri rehearse and perform Amanda's work "In the Mist of Dying."  
photos: Ryan Lash | TED Talks



# children of alumni

## KINDERGARTEN (Class of 2028)

**David Murtagh** (Erin Cleary Murtagh '93, Paul Murtagh)  
**Robert Murtagh** (Erin Cleary Murtagh '93, Paul Murtagh)  
**Gillian Young** (Peter Young '96, Leah Young)

## 1<sup>st</sup> GRADE (Class of 2027)

**LuLu Black** (Adria de Leonibus Black '83, William Black)  
**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)  
**Sasha Plummer** (Andre Plummer '01, Rhesha Plummer)  
**Mary Parker Stump** (James Stump '91, Sarah Stump)  
**Brody Wiltshire** (Ashley Gerstenfeld Wiltshire '90, Ashton Wiltshire)

## 2<sup>nd</sup> 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)

## 3<sup>rd</sup> GRADE (Class of 2025)

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

## 4<sup>th</sup> 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)

## 5<sup>th</sup> 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)

## 6<sup>th</sup> 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)  
**Jennifer Kitchen** (Erik Kitchen '68, MaryAnn Kitchen)  
**Elias Lerner** (Renee Lettow Lerner '83, Craig Lerner)  
**Madeline Schermerhorn** (Sarah Kilberg Schermerhorn '95, Scott Schermerhorn)  
**Riley Schermerhorn** (Sarah Kilberg Schermerhorn '95, Scott Schermerhorn)

## 7<sup>th</sup> 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)  
**Jed Rossotti** (Edward Rossotti '90, Lynn Rossotti)  
**Jackson Schermerhorn** (Sarah Kilberg Schermerhorn '95, Scott Schermerhorn)  
**Isabel Tierney** (Drew Tierney '80, Laurel Tierney)

## 8<sup>th</sup> 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)

## 9<sup>th</sup> 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)

## 10<sup>th</sup> GRADE (Class of 2018)

**Mary Kate Ausbrook** (Keith Ausbrook '73, Kate Ausbrook)  
**Courtlynn Caskin** (Christopher Caskin '77, Cameron Caskin)  
**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)

## 11<sup>th</sup> 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)

## 12<sup>th</sup> 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)





LOWER SCHOOL



MIDDLE SCHOOL



INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL



UPPER SCHOOL



## DEAR ALUMNI,

The Potomac School's Alumni Governing Council (AGC) has been serving our community since 1990. The council spearheads events, programs, and services that help keep Potomac alumni connected to their alma mater and nurture the strong sense of community for which our school has always been known.



While the majority of our AGC members have traditionally lived and worked in the DC area, we are committed to giving *all* Potomac alumni the opportunity to be part of this important leadership group. In recent years, we have worked to recruit alums from other geographic areas to serve as council members. Today, the AGC comprises 19 members, four of whom live in New York City, and one of whom currently attends college in Pennsylvania. These individuals generally participate in AGC meetings via teleconference...though we're always delighted to see them on campus in person!

Recently, our AGC Development Committee Co-Chair Eric Rosenthal '03, who lives in NYC, hosted a mini alumni phonathon there. The callers included fellow AGC members Katie Fabiani '05, Daniel Gavula '03, and Aaron Kur '07, as well as a number of other New York-based alumni. We thank them all for this effort, which generated support for The Potomac Fund and helped us reconnect with some great Potomac grads!

Our New York-based members have also helped us organize events for Potomac alumni living in the greater NY area. We continue to develop new ideas and opportunities to serve the many Potomac alums who live in and around The Big Apple.

Other regional hubs are also important, as we work to build and strengthen our nationwide alumni network (and we don't want to forget our alumni who live outside the U.S., either!) Nominations for the Alumni Governing Council are being accepted through May 15; please consider nominating yourself or a fellow alum who has a desire to serve. We would especially love to have AGC representation for Chicago, L.A., Boston, and/or Denver.

If you are unable to offer your services as an Alumni Governing Council member, we still need your involvement! Wherever you live, whatever time and talents you have to share, there are opportunities for you to reconnect and to help your fellow alumni nurture their connections with Potomac and one another. We invite you to contact Laura Miller at [lmiller@potomacschool.org](mailto:lmiller@potomacschool.org) or (703) 749-6356 to discuss the possibilities.

All the best,

*Laura Miller, director of alumni relations*  
*Sandy Gentles '94, AGC president*  
*Reed Landry '99, AGC vice president*  
*Cate Rooney '08, AGC secretary*

### AGC Members

George Barsness '06	Daniel Gavula '03
Bryan Bennett '01	Win Huffman '01
Rory Byrnes '01	Aaron Kur '07
Malcolm Dilley '07	Nathan Marcotte '14
Emily Duncan '00	Erin Cleary Murtagh '93
Sarah Duncan '03	Abby Sullivan '97
Katherine Fabiani '05	Margo Thronson '10
Rosalind Fennell '08	Frank Zarb '77

### AGC Student Council Representatives

Kyle Sanok '16, <i>student body president</i>	Julia Marcotte '16, <i>senior class president</i>
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## Right Up Their Alley

In January, an enthusiastic group of college-age Potomac alumni came out for a night of bowling at Lucky Strike in DC's Chinatown neighborhood. Amid some strikes, spares, and gutter balls,

the participants enjoyed an evening of laughter and fond memories. Thanks to Alumni Governing Council member Nathan Marcotte '14 for helping us organize this fun event.

① Madeleine Remi '14, Nathan Marcotte '14, Forrest deButts '14, and Colton Haney '13  
② Colton Haney '13



## Potomac Calling...

During Potomac's annual phonathons in December and February, a group of young alums and Class of 2016 volunteers made calls to alumni in classes from 1942 to 2015 on behalf of the Potomac Fund. The dollars that they raised will help support student financial aid, faculty professional development, curriculum enhancements, and the overall success of the school.



Thanks to all who participated in this year's phonathons: The Alumni Governing Council; young alumni Peter Brinkman '15, Emily Carney '13, Thomas DeSantis '15, Tiffany Luehrs '14, Vanessa Luehrs '14, Caroline Resor '13, Emma Resor '15, and Alexis Wilder '14; and Class of 2016 members Matt Breeding, Madeline Dubelier, Melissa Loza, Julia Marcotte, Caroline Maruca, Gabriel Miller, JJ Ricchetti, Kyle Sanok, Matt Spencer, Katie Van Damme, and Will Valentine.



## A Golden State GET-TOGETHER



In February, Potomac faculty and administrators Cas Blanchard, Mary Cahill, Don Firke, Becca Mahoney, and John Mathews hosted a flash alumni happy hour at Thirsty Bear in San Francisco while they were in the city for a conference. They had a great time connecting with alumni Aleem Ahmed '03, Dan Brooks '01, and Tim Prowitt '08 over drinks and tapas.

Want to get invited to local alumni events – whether planned well in advance or organized in a flash? Send your updated contact info to [alumni@potomacschool.org](mailto:alumni@potomacschool.org).





# FALL GAMES : An Alumni Tradition : Unlike Any Other

Potomac alums came back in force for the annual Fall Games. On the day after Thanksgiving, more than 150 alumni arrived on campus for some friendly competition and the chance to work off all that turkey and pumpkin pie. It was a sunny, crisp day filled with camaraderie, sweat, laughter, and fun. Classmates and friends from the 1970s to the 2010s mixed it up with current students in basketball, soccer, and squash.

Later that evening, alumni gathered at Chinese Disco in Georgetown for the annual After-Thanksgiving Alumni Night. Everyone was excited to see old friends and catch up over drinks in an exclusive area reserved for the group. Thanks to Reed Landry '99 for hosting another successful gathering at Chinese Disco!

A special thanks also to our Fall Games captains: Jake Gross '04 and Alex Gross '07 (*squash*); Andrew Warin '03, Philip Saba '13, and Casey Mann '12 (*soccer*); Peter Prowitt '04 and Tim Prowitt '08 (*basketball*).

Finally, the Alumni Office wants to recognize the host committee that helped to organize this great event: George Barsness '06, Bryan Bennett '01, Rory Byrnes '01, Malcolm Dille '07, Emily Duncan '00, Sarah Duncan '03, Katherine Fabiani '05, Rosalind Fennell '08, Daniel Gavula '03, Sandy Gentles '94, Win Huffman '01, Aaron Kur '07, Reed Landry '99, Nathan Marcotte '14, Erin Cleary Murtagh '93, Cate Rooney '08, Abby Sullivan '97, Margo Thronson '10, and Frank Zarb '77.



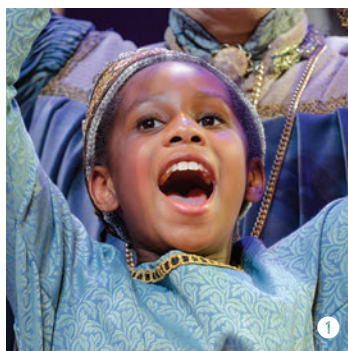
① Kira Keating '14 ② Squash alumni prepare to play. ③ Basketball alumni enjoy some friendly competition. ④ AJ Jones '10, George Barsness '06, Zach Barsness '11, Andres Rodlauer '12, and Matias Rodlauer '10 ⑤ Soccer alumni enjoy the gorgeous fall day.



## A Celebration of the Winter Solstice

In early December, alumni, parents, and students enjoyed the Washington Revels' performance of *Christmas Revels: A Medieval Celebration of the Winter Solstice in Music, Dance, and Drama* at the Lisner Auditorium in Washington, DC. The audience sang and danced along, as the 33<sup>rd</sup> annual production of this holiday show – which has a different theme each year – included many familiar favorites. Thanks go to past parent and Revels Executive Director Greg Lewis for providing discounted tickets for the Potomac community.

Congratulations to the Potomac folk who performed in this year's production: third graders Alex Davis and Walker Ritchey, Chris Lewis '98, Maude Tabor-Thomas, and Terry Winslow '58.



① Alex Davis '25 ② Walker Ritchey '25 with his mother, Mary Ritchey ③ Terry Winslow '58 (far left), Executive Director Greg Lewis (second from left), and Chris Lewis '98 (far right) ④ Chris Lewis '98 and Walker Ritchey '25 ⑤ Chris Lewis '98 (right)

## Young Alumni Enjoy Winter Lights Assembly

Just before the holidays, members of the classes of 2012 through 2015 came back to campus for the Young Alumni Lunch and Potomac's traditional Winter Lights Assembly, showcasing the musical and storytelling talents of Upper School students. Thanks to the host committee, made up of Thomas DeSantis '15, Colton Haney '13, Grant Hoechst '14, Caroline Spartin '15, and Kathleen Wilson '14, for organizing this fun and festive event.



① Class of 2015 alumnae Alex Moran, Laura Persinski, Tricia Yeonas, Caroline Miller, and Ifechi Ugwu ② Enoch Davis '14, Grant Hoechst '14, Colton Haney '13, and Tiger Ricchetti '13 ③ Michelle Song '15, Connor Irwin '15, and Caroline Spartin '15



## 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 alums 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 connection 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](mailto:term@potomacschool.org).

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

### DON'T SEE YOUR CLASS YEAR?

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

## 1942

**Katharine Stanley-Brown Abbott** writes, "In the past three years, since my husband's death, I've discovered collage and am having a wonderful time creating laminated collage placemats, trays, coasters, trivets, and framed pieces. This has led to showing and selling in open studios, summer craft fairs, and juried exhibitions. Not only am I enjoying what I do, but it's fun to have other people appreciate the art."

## 1944

### Class Correspondent

**Juliet Gill Davis**

[julietdavis50@gmail.com](mailto:julietdavis50@gmail.com)

## 1946 Reunion YEAR 70<sup>th</sup>

### Class Correspondents

**Jerrie Kohlmeier Bartlett**

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

**Nancy Hamilton Shepherd**

[nhshepherd31@gmail.com](mailto:nhshepherd31@gmail.com)

On April 29 and 30, join us on campus for your 70<sup>th</sup> Reunion! Register today at [potomacschool.org/alumni](http://potomacschool.org/alumni) or contact Laura Miller at [lmiller@potomacschool.org](mailto:lmiller@potomacschool.org) for more information. A huge thanks to **Jerrie Kohlmeier Bartlett** and **Nancy Hamilton Shepherd** for serving as class reunion chairs!

**Betsy Silver Alexander** reports, "I spent last summer at my condo in the Bay of Islands, New Zealand. I won't be going there this year as I'm hosting musicians attending and teaching at Music@Menlo, a chamber music festival that happens every summer at Menlo School, a private school just across the street from my condo in California.

The festival's directors are David Finckel and Wu Han, who also direct the Chamber Music Society at Lincoln Center. My other news is that my widowed daughter, Leigh, is marrying my godson, Hugh Sawyer, in July. Leigh was Hugh's mother's goddaughter, so they have been 'godsiblings' all their lives. It is truly a wonderful culmination of our families' lifelong friendship." Betsy regrets that she is unable to come to Reunion.

**Marjorie Key Andrews** called to say there is a real possibility of her coming to Reunion. Her greatest involvement and love nowadays is playing duplicate bridge. Her husband, Peter, was disabled by a stroke 21 years ago. Five years ago, a fire destroyed their home but, thankfully, no one was there. She now continues to enjoy their new home. Marj's oldest grandchild is leaving for Nepal in mid-June, to teach English in Kathmandu for five months before graduate school, and her youngest grandchild is graduating from the University of Arizona. She also reports on **Anne Legare**, with whom she has been good friends since before coming to

Potomac in the fourth and fifth grade. They lived near each other, and every afternoon after school walked their cocker spaniels together. Anne now lives in Easton, MD, and raises springer spaniels, which she regularly enters in the Westminster Dog Show.

**Jerrie Kohlmeier Bartlett**, scribe for this column, notes that at this writing there are at least three classmates and one husband who definitely will be at Reunion, with a few others working on attending. Pretty great so far. She writes, "We hope that everyone will try to bring any memorabilia relating to our class, for few today know anything about that wonderful 'old school' on California Street which we knew so well."

**Judy Blair Green** says, "I have a wonderful picture taken during MLK weekend when my daughter, Macie, was here with her family, showing three of my grands and all four of my great-grands. The Barrington (my retirement home) is starting a project with Xavier University psychology students to document senior stories, and of course I volunteered. Nothing I like more than talking (mostly to myself nowadays). I instantly started thinking about Potomac, where some of my earliest memories took place. I'll never forget **Miss Hubbard** in the first grade. The project presenter said that it is rare that interviewers have to

ask a question; they just say 'start at the beginning,' and it's off to the races. I'm sorry to miss Reunion!"



Judy Blair Green '46 with her grandchildren and great-grandchildren

**Rose Kean Lansbury** writes, "I turned 85 a week ago. Six kids and 15 grandchildren scattered from California to Vermont to Florida. I read, draw, paint, take classes, and do anything else that comes up and sounds interesting. My six siblings – all alive, if not kicking very well – are 94, 93, 90, 81, and 77 years of age. I do think of coming to Reunion, but I have arthritis, which varies in discomfort, making much walking questionable. I would like to see the classmates who will be there, so maybe I can figure out what I could attend with the least walking and the most chatting time."

From **Shelah Kane Scott**: "I am in pretty good shape, though I don't see or hear as well as I used to. I have three grandchildren, living in Charlottesville, ages 13, 10, and 7. I see a lot of them for carpool, sports events, plays, etc., all of which I love. We have taken two big family trips, including my daughter – to Italy in 2012 and to Greece in 2015 (flying out of Athens the day the banks closed). Jim and I moved to a retirement community here in 2003. Jim died in 2009, and I am so glad we made the decision to come when we did. I have kept up with **Julie Merrell Harris** regularly over the years. Having organized my Brearley School reunion dinner last spring, I congratulate all at Potomac on your efforts for our Reunion Weekend; unfortunately, it's unlikely that I can come."

The class extends sympathy to **Nancy Hamilton Shepherd** on the death of her husband, Tom, following the development of leukemia and pneumonia. Nancy says, "Tom loved to dance, and he enjoyed one last dance the week before he died."

Nancy had written earlier that she and Tom continued to be involved in the Shepherd Poverty Program, which began at Washington & Lee University in 1997 and has now spread to 21 universities and colleges. It includes both studies in the root causes of poverty and opportunities for students to take part in summer internships in a variety of settings. Nancy plans to join us at Reunion.

**Maria Somary Twaalfhoven** writes that she and her husband are planning to move soon to an apartment complex for senior citizens and will miss Reunion due to a grandson's wedding in Boston. But about our class: "From far away and long ago but never forgotten: our great chats during recess on the fire escape of the old Potomac building; also our whole class performing a Greek play outdoors. We prayed for good weather and were duly rewarded." She adds, "May those of you sturdies who make the Reunion also have good weather and a truly great time!"

## 1951 Reunion YEAR 65<sup>th</sup>

On April 29 and 30, join us on campus for your 65<sup>th</sup> Reunion! Register today at [potomacschool.org/alumni](http://potomacschool.org/alumni) or contact **Laura Miller** at [lmiller@potomacschool.org](mailto:lmiller@potomacschool.org) for more information.

## 1952

**Class Correspondent**  
**Louise Graham**  
[lbgraham@myfairpoint.net](mailto:lbgraham@myfairpoint.net)

**Ann Walker Gaffney** has diminished vision and limited mobility due to rheumatoid arthritis. Despite all, she produced a 2016 Brooklyn Heights calendar and two new Christmas cards. Ann found a copy of the Shady Hill Play Book, in which is included **Aucassin and Nicolette**, our fourth grade play. Ann is in touch via phone and email with **Jeannette Townsend Brophy** and **Ann Barringer Spaeth** and heard from her brother, Mallory, that **Julie Hamm Finley** has moved to Virginia.

**Louise Graham** shares, "Your secretary continues along the same paths established ancient years ago when I moved to New Hampshire. Since retiring from teaching, I have found civic engagement to be both interesting and fine fun. I run the dishwasher at the senior center once a week, answer a crisis line, advocate in court, and assist families at the Children's Advocacy when called. I also work on fundraising for programs for children and teens and am working with a group trying to expand workforce housing options in this county.

Wolfeboro has many retired in-comers, so there is a lot of company for any of the arts offerings – very nice for those of us who are single. Best to all, and I know we would like to hear from the rest of you."

**Debby Owen Turner** continues to be well and is enjoying life in London and weekends in Suffolk, where she and her husband work hard in their garden. They go to Uzès, in France, three times a year. They will go to Essaouira, in Morocco, with friends to

escape grey days in England. Pat is working on three books, different subjects, which he is hoping to publish online. Debby enjoys friends, gardening, photography, and all of life. There are never enough hours in the day.

## 1954

**Class Correspondent**  
**Tina Knox Radigan**  
[eradigan@va.metrocast.net](mailto:eradigan@va.metrocast.net)

## 1955

**Gretchen Becker** writes, "The third edition of my book, *The First Year: Type 2 Diabetes*, was published this fall. It had become somewhat dated. Other than that, nothing much has changed."

## 1956 Reunion YEAR 60<sup>th</sup>

On April 29 and 30, join us on campus for your 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion! Register today at [potomacschool.org/alumni](http://potomacschool.org/alumni) or contact **Laura Miller** at [lmiller@potomacschool.org](mailto:lmiller@potomacschool.org) for more information.

## 1960

**Class Correspondent**  
**Stephanie deSibour**  
[sdesibour@ivymount.org](mailto:sdesibour@ivymount.org)

**Becky McCandlish Burckmyer** shares the good news that she and Fred Oder got remarried in September. "We have set up housekeeping in Marblehead in the house I've been in for more than 40 years. (**Lolly MacMurray-Cooper** and **Connie Casey** were witnesses to this wonderful event.) In other big news, son Charlie is getting married in May to an amazing woman whom everyone loves." Becky would love to see classmates who find themselves in the Boston area.



Becky McCandlish Burckmyer '60 got remarried in September.



**Connie Casey** writes, “After working as an editor at book review sections – at the *San Jose Mercury News* and *The Washington Post* – I’ve found quite a different niche in the journalism ecosystem; this niche was hugely influenced by **Duryea Morton**, former Potomac science teacher. Long before the word ‘ecosystem’ was everywhere and people majored in environmental sciences, Mr. Morton taught us about the web of life. His message was ‘everything is connected; everything is interesting.’ So, after six years away from writing work, tending plants and trees as an assistant gardener in the New York Parks Department, I combined nature and journalism by doing a gardening column for *Slate* and then a series – *Revolting Creatures*. The creature essays started off with ticks, when my *Slate* editor and I agreed that human beings had failed to see life from the tick’s point of view.

I also do a monthly column on plants and animals, called “Species,” for *Landscape Architecture Magazine*. Gray-haired though I am, the column research takes me back to the bird-watching and butterfly-net-carrying young person I was, inspired by Mr. Morton.

My sons are nearby, in Astoria and Brooklyn. Jacob Varmus is a jazz trumpet player and Christopher is a social worker in criminal courts. My husband, Harold Varmus, is now teaching at Weill Cornell Medicine after being director of the National Cancer Institute for four years.”

**Stephanie deSibour** reports, “I’m still happily working at Ivymount School but trying to find more time to see family – there will be seven grandchildren as of publication date – in Washington, Brooklyn, and New Canaan, CT – at least all on one coast. Marc and I are going to Scotland in May for a weeklong 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary trip. My son, **Josh Stinchcomb ’91**, and family (including Lily, who is 15 months old) will be coming to his Potomac Reunion in April, so I plan to spend some time there myself. I hope to see other classmates there as we are always welcome, Reunion year or not. Keep the news coming, anytime.”

**Edie Kauffmann** is currently living in Rehoboth Beach, DE, but hoping to resettle in southern Vermont.

**Eve Auchincloss Lilley** writes, “All is well here in DC, and there is much to be grateful for in the Lilley household. Bill is well and all four Lilley kids/spouses are doing so very well, as are all 10 grands – ranging from twin boys, age 8, to young adults, ages 23 and 25! I am still working and testing children for learning disabilities and ADHD, and I must say I still love

my field and the folks I work with. Also keeping me busy is my role as vice chair of The Washington Ballet and serving on the search committees for both an executive director and an artistic director. I am involved in several other organizations that keep me active but am still most passionate about ballet classes. I attend a wonderful ballet studio and, miraculously, am in class with quite a number of ‘old’ ballet hacks – on we go with pliés and tendus into the next decade! Hope all is well with each and every one of you, dear classmates!”

**Adelaide “Lolly” MacMurray-Cooper’s** news is essentially a recap of her year with David and a tribe of grandchildren in their combined families (four sons). “Son James and Sara (in New Jersey) welcomed their third child, Colette, in late December 2014, described as ‘a distinctive and sunny presence.’” Travel and other vacation adventures were extensive, including a photo trip to Iceland; a Road Scholar intergenerational program in South Dakota with grandson Max; a weekend photography course in Oregon with brother Mac; a fall trip to the UK; roaming the south of England; and a 70<sup>th</sup> birthday gathering in New Hampshire, which included mostly all children and grandchildren. Lolly writes, “Now that I am firmly launched into my eighth decade, it seems that increasing creakiness is balanced by a longer perspective and, perhaps, a new sense of adventure. I continue happily working for my Wellesley class and volunteering weekly for hospice, but I also find myself branching out into new spheres, including teaching ESL to a group of Somali women. I continue to take a painting course and have started singing lessons (inspired long ago by **Jack Langstaff**).”

**Helena Holmes Morrison** shares, “I cut back my work as a home health social worker to ‘per diem’ status this year as part of slowing down and taking care of myself. No sooner had I done that than my husband, Chuck, had some health problems that will need surgery this month, so it hasn’t been relaxing. Oh well, trying to age gracefully!”

**Lyn Duval Phipps** is still in McLean, not far from the wonderful Salona, where her brother now lives. She continues to apply her gardening skills by growing and selling flowers at a weekly farmers market. Her daughter, Christina, lives in Washington, DC.

**Annie Rickert Shields** writes, “We had been restoring an old Black Methodist Church hidden back in the woods in one of our pastures in Floyd County, GA. The church was built shortly after the end of the Civil



^ Annie Rickert Shields '60 restored an old church in Floyd County, GA.

War and served a community of emancipated people as a place of worship, a school, and a social gathering place. On the last day of 2014, the sweet old building succumbed to gravity despite attempts by the restoration crew to get it standing straight. The sight of the pile of splintered boards and twisting roof matched our state of mind for a few days until we decided that we would go ahead and put it back up. Now the restoration is nearly complete, ‘back on its feet’ and ready for its new life, whatever that turns out to be.”

**Louisa Parker Young** has abandoned California for the East Coast, to be nearer to her children and grandchild. Those of us on this coast are thrilled to have her back.

## 1961 Reunion YEAR 55<sup>th</sup>

On April 29 and 30, join us on campus for your 55<sup>th</sup> Reunion! Register today at [potomacschool.org/alumni](http://potomacschool.org/alumni) or contact Laura Miller at [lmiller@potomacschool.org](mailto:lmiller@potomacschool.org) for more information.

## 1962

Class Correspondent

**Deborah Johansen Harris**  
[debjohansenharris@gmail.com](mailto:debjohansenharris@gmail.com)

**Eleanor “Eldie” Acheson** reports, “Nothing too new, but since I’ve been radio silent for decades, I will summarize at least what I’ve been doing most recently. I saw the Clinton Administration through as an assistant attorney general working for Janet Reno until the very last day (January 20, 2001); took care of an aunt who was living in Florida in her last three years; freelanced as an attorney and corporate governance consultant (2001- late 2003); worked for the 2004 Kerry campaign (and we know how that went);

Deb Johansen Harris '62 in Greece



from 2005 to 2007 worked for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, establishing, staffing, and developing the program for that organization's Public Policy and Government Affairs Department until accepting my current position at Amtrak as executive vice president, general counsel, and corporate secretary – probably the most challenging and engaging job ever. I feel lucky to be living in Washington, DC (downtown Penn Quarter in what used to be Lansburgh's department store), also regularly spending lots of time at Bass River (long-time family summer place on Cape Cod) and out west in Wyoming (Jackson Hole and Cody, where my grandmother Acheson's family had an interesting footprint in the 19<sup>th</sup> century). Lots of travel – by Amtrak – all over the U.S., which is different and fun. I am also very lucky to have Dad, now 94, still with us in absolutely not-missing-a-beat shape on the mental and intellectual fronts, but having some significant mobility challenges. My spouse – now-retired federal judge Emily Hewitt – and I caught up with **Deb Johansen Harris** and her husband, Ted, for lunch in Bass River last summer and made a good dent in about a 40-year catch-up. Lovely and wonderful to see Deb and meet Ted. Emily and I usually see **Nina Nitze Moriarty** and her husband, Marshall (with whom I practiced law in Boston for 19 years), at Wellesley College reunions, which is one of the treats of going. I very much hope that our path crosses with each and all of you and yours soon, as I would love to reconnect and catch up. Please be in touch if you are in or coming through DC.

Deena Breed Larlee '62 on her trip to South America



**Virginia "Gini" Brickwedde** says she saw **Carol Mattusch's** exhibition at the National Gallery and saw her being interviewed about the exhibit on PBS evening news. She writes, "I perked up when I heard Carol's name, but otherwise I would have known since I had learned at our 50<sup>th</sup> Potomac Reunion that she was in Washington, DC, involved in work of this kind. I am retired and living in central Pennsylvania."

**Elizabeth "Betsy" Davison** sends news as follows: "I am in Washington, DC, working part time at the Montgomery County Planning Department but hoping to retire soon. I just rented a studio for my fiber artwork at Washington Artworks, and my work is exhibited in a gallery at the Torpedo Factory. I serve on various boards and volunteer for several organizations. I saw **Carol Mattusch's** show at the National Gallery; it was wonderful."

**Deborah "Deb" Johansen Harris** and her husband, Ted, traveled to Greece and its islands last summer and took a Viking cruise down the Danube River in the fall. They spent the month of February in Sarasota, FL. She notes, "I had hoped to see sister Floridian classmates **Elizabeth Burke Dale**, **Deena Breed Larlee**, **Louise McVickar Marx**, **Peak Mason Power**, and **Anne Darneille Snodgrass** while there but was not able to get together with them. We hope to see you all next winter! I'm still volunteering as a court-appointed special advocate for children in 'the system' in foster care and love that."

**Rachel Kitzing** says, "I was delighted to see **Carol Mattusch's** show. I'm enjoying retirement immensely – reading without having to think how to teach what I read, thinking without having to wonder how undergraduates might react to my thoughts,

and not worrying about any administrative headaches! Of course, I miss the classroom sometimes, but mainly I love having control over how I spend my time. I'm tutoring in a literacy program, but that's my only 'organized' activity for the moment. Hope everyone is doing well!"

**Deena Breed Larlee** is still in Orlando, FL, having lived there with her husband, Howard, for 44 years. She shares, "I went to South America with a tour group and a friend last February. Howard had some projects to do and was excited I was doing this on my own. I had never taken a tour and really enjoyed it. It is a whole different way of traveling."

**Katherine "Katie" Marshall** is still living in Washington, DC, "in between far too many trips that take me to many corners of the world. Last winter, I was in Berlin, Germany; Salt Lake City, UT; and Antigua, Guatemala. I have completely failed retirement (from the World Bank in 2006) and am teaching at Georgetown University and running a small NGO called the World Faiths Development Dialogue. As that suggests, I am working at the many intersections of development and religion – as you can imagine, that's a hot set of topics these days. My daughter, Laura, lives in Seattle, finishing her medical residency in family practice and running after her three-year-old son. Her husband is at Amazon. My son, Patrick, is in DC, studying computing science but mostly loving electronic music. Love to keep up with all of you!"

**Louise McVickar Marx** sends greetings from Haverford, PA: "My husband, Sandy, and I have had a wonderful year enjoying our two children and seven grandchildren, as well as traveling. We took a cruise from Tahiti to the Pitcairn Islands, Easter Island, Lima (getting off the ship in Peru to visit Cusco and Machu Picchu), Quito, and the Panama Canal, and ending in New York City, with other stops not mentioned. It was a wonderful trip and a great way to see so many places without having to pack, unpack, and deal with airports. We spent March in Florida, where we were in Vero Beach, then Jupiter Island and Palm Beach, before driving over to Boca Grande for three weeks. It was nice to escape the cold. If anyone comes our way on the Vineyard next summer, please let us know. It would be fun to catch up. Best to all."

**Carol Mattusch** says, "I'm very pleased to know that a couple of you saw – and liked – the *Power and Pathos* exhibition. I'm not the curator, but I was a consultant, and the exhibition is partly about my ideas



regarding serial production of bronzes in antiquity – and I love that! It was terrific to see **Liz Murray Platts** at the talk I gave.”

**Rosemary Merriam** reports, “My husband, George, and I are still in Austin, TX. We celebrated our 30<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary last February and are spending our retirement traveling. Last fall, we went to Roma and then to Puglia, in the heel of Italy’s boot. At the end of March, we went to Dubai (not on my bucket list) and took a cruise through the Persian Gulf, Red Sea, and Suez Canal, ending up in Venice, Italy. Except for missing my two dogs when we are away, it is a very good life.”

**Elizabeth “Liz” Murray Platts** says, “I second Betsy’s advice to see the Hellenistic Bronzes show at the National Gallery, on which **Carol Mattusch** worked and wrote for the catalog. I was able to hear her lecture at the gallery and, despite the huge auditorium setting, she treated the audience like a seminar class and even masterfully answered questions from other professors in attendance. Brava! Greg and I are three-quarters retired from our jobs at National Geographic and Maret School, respectively. This allows us time to visit grandchildren (Cambridge, MA) and our older son (Seattle). Other pastimes include gardening, reading, drawing classes, and learning to cook more vegetables! Let’s keep the news coming, and thank you, Deb, for helping us to stay in touch.”

**Peak Mason Power** updated us, reporting that she moved last winter from Florida to Washington, DC, “just in time for the Blizzard of 2016!” She landed safely and says, “I loved being in Florida – two of my four grandsons live in Delray and being part of their lives has been absolute bliss (after saying loudly that I’d never be old enough to live in Florida). But I missed the energy of DC and being closer to my two grandsons in New York. I’d love to see any Washingtonian classmates who are around. Let’s invade **Liz’s** house for a lunch of laughter!”

**Anne Darneille Snodgrass** says, “I, too, saw **Carol Mattusch’s** exhibit at the National Gallery before heading to Florida for the winter. I really enjoyed it. Tony and I have been spending the winters in Hillsboro Beach, FL, since 2010 and love it. We are in Washington, DC, in the fall and spring and spend summers in Maine. It is a good life. All four of our kids are married and two of our children each have a son. Two daughters are in Houston, one daughter in New York City, and our son is in DC. We love our time with them and the grandsons. I still do some substitute teaching, play lots of tennis, and garden in Washington, DC, and in Maine. I



Molly Scoville Fitzmaurice '64 and husband Frank

love hearing what everyone is doing. Keep the emails coming. **Peak**, I am just down the road when you are in Delray and would love to catch up.”

**Chalmers “Chip” Benedict Wood II** shared sweet reminiscences of Potomac School days gone by. He reports, “I find great joy in teaching kids, just having come home from 10 years in China doing exactly that and a whole lot of ‘private diplomacy.’ (It was very win-win stuff for me, helping to improve Asian-American relations.) Back then, I planned to do what I could to understand the whole world during my lifetime and then write about it when I got old. Well, I’m old now, and the book is in the works.”

## 1963

### Class Correspondents

**Marisa Knowlton Domeyko**

[mdomeyko@comcast.net](mailto:mdomeyko@comcast.net)

**Anne Williams**

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

**Wendy Neel Ellsworth** returned to Kenya in March – her eighth trip – this time for the wedding of a young woman whose education she sponsored through four years at Catholic University in Nairobi and then the Kenya School of Law. She is only the second female Samburu attorney in Kenya! Wendy’s eldest granddaughter will be graduating from Smith College in May. How is that possible?

## 1964

### Class Correspondent

**Alison Peake**

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

**Thomas Bradley** wrote to say that he is remarried and relocated to Reston, VA, after having lived in Europe for a year. He had a brief illness, but is pleased to say he is doing well now and working in retirement. He

writes, “My home remains in Idaho, where my son and his wife live and run a bakery called Owl Tree. All the best to alums and friends. Our family is full of Potomac grads.”

**Laura Merriam Fay** admits to “loving my completely degenerate life of golf, bridge, and walking the beach in Florida.” Francesca, her youngest daughter, got married a few months ago and is moving to Beijing for a year and then on to Hong Kong for a few more years!

**Molly Scoville Fitzmaurice** wrote that she and Frank are both retired as of last June. “We left DC and rented a ranch house in Sheffield, MA, with all the wanderlust that allows, such as taking a variety of invigorating trips, including one to the Galapagos and our next to Western Ireland to listen to singer-songwriters in pubs this coming May, not to mention some of the best times of all conversing with **Anne FitzGerald**, discovering new musicians with **Sallie Ayers Barker ’65** and Steve Barker at the Newport Folk Festival each July, and seeing theater in NYC with **Lisa Hunt** after trekking to her amazing log cabin north of Ottawa so that we might learn better adventuring from her intrepid husband, Malcolm. Note: This last sentence might seem to be a run-on, but it has been checked as best I could, using the attention to grammar we were given 50 years ago at Potomac.”



Lisa Hunt '64 and husband Malcolm

**Lisa Hunt** writes that she and her husband, Malcolm, live in Ottawa, but are based in NYC for much of the winter, and they are hoping to see as many of her classmates and Potomac friends as possible, “even if only for lunch.” They are just back from two weeks in Hong Kong and Vietnam, with her brother who was in Saigon during the “American War,” as it is known there. In April, they’ll be in San Francisco and Napa. Lisa’s daughter is in New York and her son, daughter, and grandson are in Ottawa. She sends love to all.

**Jennifer Owen Murphy’s** youngest daughter, Erin, had twins in March. They joined her four-year-old and two-year-old! We know

what Jennifer will be doing for a while. Jennifer now has 10 grandchildren, ages 23 to a few months. Wow.

**Ali Peake** writes, "I'm still teaching at Conard High School in West Hartford, CT. Son Trevor, his wife Maggie, and their daughter Hazel (2.5) and son Charlie (.5) live in DC, and I go down to visit as often as school vacations allow. Middle daughter Morgan and her husband, Alex, live in Somerville, MA, and youngest daughter Avery and her husband, Zan, live in Guilford, CT. All of us seem to be ridiculously busy, if not downright crazed, but we're healthy, happy, and employed! I've been offered a teaching job in Shanghai for this coming year and I'm still mulling it over. If any of you have some advice/suggestions/opinions/etc., let me know! My husband, George, would, of course, be coming with me and teaching also.

I love hearing from all of you. Thanks for writing back and keeping us informed. Since many of us are in or near NYC, I think we should have some sort of a get-together. Let me know what you think. Stay in touch; stay healthy and engaged. Love to all."

**Catherine Satterlee** also spends quite a lot of time in NYC, as it turns out! She says, "Although I worried that I would go nuts not working, retirement has been lovely. I'm enjoying this summer-camp existence: I've become obsessed with ceramics (you can see what I've been up to in my Etsy shop), I'm singing and playing tennis, and I visit my two granddaughters in Brooklyn once a month. I have an occasional worry about saving the world, but that thought is quickly thrust aside by yet another idea for a new ceramic piece. I've done some volunteer work for the 11<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge Park Project, which has the potential of literally bridging the huge economic gap in DC between east and west. Next adventure: a trip from S.F. to L.A. on the back of a motorcycle to celebrate my husband's 70<sup>th</sup> birthday!"

**Elizabeth "Liz" Soyster** and her husband spent much of the winter in Lake Worth, FL, enjoying the golf course, the beach, and various friends' houses. It was really nice for them to be away from all the snow and to absorb the warmth of the sun.

## 1965

### Class Correspondent

**Sallie Ayers Barker**  
s2barkers@yahoo.com

**Christopher Janney's** most recent commissioned work in Boston, called "LightShadow: MLK," is a large-scale

interactive light and sound installation. The piece was dedicated on February 28, 2016. He recently gave a lecture at Shady Hill School in Cambridge, MA, where **Jack Langstaff** taught after Potomac.

## 1966 Reunion YEAR 50<sup>th</sup>

### Class Correspondent

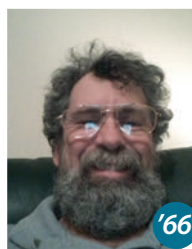
**Whit Knight**

paulbvalle1893@gmail.com

On April 29 and 30, come celebrate your 50<sup>th</sup> Reunion! For more information, visit [potomacschool.org/alumni](http://potomacschool.org/alumni). Thanks to **Cricket Beauregard-Lewis** for volunteering to serve as class reunion chair.

**Rosamond "Ros" Pittman Casey** writes, "I am deeply sorry to hear of the death of **Lisi Oliver** last year. It makes me all the more eager to make contact with my Potomac classmates. I have lived in Charlottesville, VA, since 1981, working as a visual artist. My two girls live in NYC. One is pursuing a Ph.D. in anthropology at Columbia, and the other works for Universal Music Classics. Facebook is no substitute for gathering in the spring. Let's do it."

**Whit Knight** shares, "I've been living in Prescott, AZ, since April 2010. I moved here from Naugatuck, CT (a nearly-five-year layover, renting a room at the Naugatuck YMCA; and yes, it was an eight-by-twelve room, but no longer four bits...), where I'd been employed at a local (as in, Connecticut-based) chain restaurant. In 1962, my dad, who had served four years at a couple of government posts, decided to return to practicing international law at his former firm in New York. That summer, I attended Robin Hood Camp in Maine (as did **Desmond Fitzgerald**). At the end of the summer, I rejoined my parents and a sister in Manhattan. I attended Allen-Stevenson School in 1962-63 and part of fall 1963. In early 1964, I attended the New York Tutoring School. That summer, the family moved once again, this time to Greenwich, CT. That fall, for eighth grade, I began attending The Orme School in Mayer, AZ. I stayed on for high school there, graduating in June 1969. That September, I enlisted in the United States Air Force, receiving an Honorable Separation in 1973 and an Honorable Discharge in 1975. I think I've hit my 250 words...but, briefly, I've been married twice and have a son from the second marriage. I took an early retirement in 2013. That's it for now."



## 1967

### Class Correspondent

**Thomas Macy**

Potomac67@gmail.com

**John "Jay" Medaris** writes, "I love to hear from old Potomac classmates, so I'll throw in an update of my own in hopes I'll hear some of your stories. We have a family real estate brokerage, so naturally we sample the products we sell (i.e. we buy RE too). Lately I have been buying little homes and have been enjoying double-digit cash-on-cash returns after expenses, TAX FREE! I found a good agent, property manager, HVAC guy, and handyman. The stars all aligned and I started to buy, rehab, and rent these little houses through my "team." Imagine my delight (albeit mixed because I'm still exposed to the financial market) when the market tanked in January while my little properties chugged right along, oblivious to the stock market chaos. Anyway, when thinking diversification, I highly recommend real estate.

Enough shop talk. We recently learned that my son and his wife, Shar, are going to have TRIPLETS! Shar looks like a super model, runs 50-mile ultra marathons, has a 7<sup>th</sup>-degree black belt in karate, and is a dynamic public speaker. I ask my son, who runs triathlons and marathons with her all over the country, what it's like being married to Wonder Woman, and he says he's just trying to keep up! Anyway, we are raising the next generation of agents in the family biz and having fun. Seems the best agents are family, so we have to grow them internally. Takes a while, but after an exhaustive 18-year training period, they get their licenses and we tell them THEY can pay for college (nothing like a little 'skin in the game'). Plus it avoids racking up huge tuition loans and forces smarter degree choices. Please reach out. Potomac was an important part of my life. I love all of you and think of you often."

## 1968

### Class Correspondent

**Kim Holdsworth**

kimsworth4@gmail.com

**Susan Graham** shared tidbits from her past year (and a bit), which took her all over the map – from Buffalo, NY (where she and her husband, Jon Kucera, are both active doctors); to the Caucasus of the Republic of Georgia in October 2014; to car trips up and down the Eastern Seaboard, to the Midwest, and through the far West. This clinched her goal of having traveled to every U.S. state.



Then in October 2015, to Korea, Susan writes, "with members of our taekwondo school, meeting others from four different countries and seven different schools. Going to classes for the past five years has helped my flexibility, balance, and stamina. This trip made me better understand Korea and the art aspect of martial arts. I have much to learn, and it helped me get into the right frame of mind for my second degree test last December."

Susan is head of the Heart Failure Center at Buffalo General Hospital, where she helps patients make changes to take better care of themselves. She is also a clinical professor in the University of Buffalo's Department of Cardiology and Medicine, teaching interns and residents. "We go to the symphony, we go to museums, we love Buffalo," she says. "The city and the western New York region have become energized in the past five years. Jon and I are lucky to work in jobs where we meet people from all over. Our residency and fellowships have always had international trainees. The city is one of immigrants, from the 1800s to now. It's a great place to live." With her two sons, Peter and Alex, now grown, Susan's household still includes a dog, cats, and a flock of chickens.

**Chip Hitchcock** writes, "My news is relatively quiet. 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. No children, but after 20 years married we've an assortment of mostly-grown nieces and nephews."

**Tom Parker**, whose long career at Woodberry Forest School may have been influenced by the many engaging teachers at Potomac, is a faculty member and former director of both admissions and college counseling at this private boys' boarding school in Virginia. He writes, "The coming year will be my 40<sup>th</sup> year of teaching and my 36<sup>th</sup> at Woodberry Forest, where I am a member of the English Department. I also coach football and baseball and do dorm duty about once a week. Though I am among the most senior members of the faculty, I have several colleagues who have logged more years than me.

For many years my wife, Hilary, and I have spent summers in Chatham on Cape Cod. There's sailing, tennis, golf, beach walks, reading, and socializing with friends whose company I have enjoyed since Potomac School days. I have quite a lot of family in town: my brother, **David '67**, and my sisters, Maida and **Ros '72**, also have houses here, and my brother, **Rob '71**, has a home in an

adjacent town. Hilary has a brother in town, too, and we both have quite a lot of cousins here as well. All the family exerts a strong pull. But after so many years in central Virginia, we have developed a substantial network of friends there as well. Our son, Warren, lives and works in Charlottesville, so it's always a joy to go back and catch up with him.

Last summer I had a Potomac mini-reunion of sorts when I joined **Tom Macy '67**, **John Wolf '67**, and my brother, **David**, for dinner at David's house. Tom, who lives on Nantucket in the summer, was visiting John, who lives in Wellfleet, and this is the second straight year the four of us have gotten together in this way. Good fun. I also see the three Kimball boys (**Phil '67**, **Peter '69**, and **Matthew '70**) off and on, for their mother lives just around the corner, and all the boys come by each summer. In June, at my Williams College reunion, I saw **Barbara Strong Kirk**, whom I had not seen for an age. It was a pleasure to catch up on her news and share some Potomac memories. Life has been very good. I continue to be very fortunate indeed."

**Edith "Edie" Fryer Racine** writes, "I'm currently busy with hospice volunteering and college classes. I am taking online courses from Grand Canyon University, a college in Phoenix, AZ. I am working on a bachelor's degree in Christian studies. It keeps me very busy – lots of reading and papers. Not much else to report."

## 1969

### Class Correspondent

**Alex Dominick**

[asdominick@yahoo.com](mailto:asdominick@yahoo.com)

*Thank you, Alex Dominick, for your great work as class correspondent. Alex is passing the baton; if you are interested in picking it up, please contact Laura Miller at [lmiller@potomacschool.org](mailto:lmiller@potomacschool.org).*

**Peter Bross** says he's still happily kayaking the Potomac as often as possible and fighting the good fight as a physician with the FDA.

**Ted Davis** chimes in, "News-wise, I'm still working full time and am in year 17 at Equinox – when it comes to the Internet and Cloud, probably the most important company you've never heard of. I'm looking forward to a slower pace at some point in the not-too-distant future.

I've been remiss in taking time off and enjoying things other than work, but that ended last year. Laura and I traveled to Miami Beach, London, a summer New England road trip, and then London again



A Former faculty members Cathy Farrell, Darcy Swope, and Angela Bullock, and Lower School science teacher Cathie Kaplan '73 at the Celebration of Life for Billie Orr

over the holidays to spend time with Laura's cousins. We're hoping to keep up the same holiday travel pace this year if at all possible.

Our daughter, Amanda, who has been living in South Korea for three years teaching English, is coming home for about six months before heading off to the UK to earn her doctorate in writing. We are really looking forward to seeing her! Our son, James, has one more year at American University. He, too, plans to spend some time in Asia, likely Japan."

**Alex Dominick** says, "As for me, I have to agree that 2015 is a year I am only too happy to see in my rearview mirror. I lost my mom in February, and two of the three or four people who are (were) lifelong friends, in September and December. What, me, mortal?!"

In spite of that and some other less disagreeable life events, my wife and I are still extremely happy, living our small life here in beautiful Longmont, CO, golfing, hiking, fishing, skiing, and enjoying all the recreational activities Colorado has to offer.

In November we are going to Tanzania on an eight-day photo safari – what I consider the trip of a lifetime. The Serengeti Plains, hangin' with the Maasai (this is me jumping out of my skin with excitement!)

Finally, I want to tell you all that this is my last dance as class correspondent. I've enjoyed it, as it has allowed me to stay nominally connected to you, and thus to the Potomac experience that so enriched my life. I would urge you all to contribute



Jane Soyster Gould '71, Elizabeth Soyster '64, Eliza (Martha's daughter), Molly (Martha's daughter), Martha Soyster Hynes '69, and Blair Soyster Fiore '66

your thoughts and life events directly to the Alumni Office on a regular basis so that we can all share in the good and not-so-good things that seem to never stop happening. Selfishly, I would miss hearing about you guys otherwise."

**Elizabeth "Biz" Orr Fawkes** shares, "I guess I really should write. I lost my mother, **Billie Orr**, former head of the Lower School at Potomac, last year on September 18. It was really tough, but I know she is in a better place. We had a wonderful memorial party in December with several former and current Potomac faculty friends and **Debby Harper Hailey** in attendance to celebrate her life. It brought home to me how important Potomac had been in my upbringing. I have attached some pictures from the events. Also last year, I gained a beautiful new grandbaby and a future daughter-in-law. Life works in very mysterious ways, and 2015 was a crazy year for my family. My son, Michael, and his girlfriend moved to Denver, where they now reside with my beautiful grandson. My other son, Andrew, is still in the DC area but plans to join the Air Force in the fall to places unknown. My husband, Larry, and I will be here for the immediate future but are building a retirement home in the greater Charlottesville area at Lake Monticello. All are welcome once we finish it! We wish everyone a wonderful 2016. I am so grateful for your friendship and love of my mom."

**Martha Soyster Hynes** writes, "I am sending a photo from my daughter Eliza's wedding from about a year ago. The picture features four Potomac alums (my sisters and me). The bride is named after my mother, **Eliza Shumaker Soyster '37**, who was also a Potomac alumna. My husband, Tom, and I are celebrating our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary this

year. We were married in the bicentennial year in Washington, DC.

**Peter Kimball** writes, "Work is challenging, I'm getting (and feeling) older, grandchildren are fun, and there never seems to be enough time to do what I want to do."

## 1971 **Reunion YEAR 45<sup>th</sup>**

On April 29 and 30, join us on campus for your 45<sup>th</sup> Reunion! Register today at [potomacschool.org/alumni](http://potomacschool.org/alumni) or contact Laura Miller at [lmiller@potomacschool.org](mailto:lmiller@potomacschool.org) for more information.

## 1972

**Lewis Butler** shares, "Highlights to report for 2015-16 include the publication of several projects by our architectural firm, Butler Armsden Architects, including one in the *Wall Street Journal* on February 5. One of our LEED Platinum houses – the highest energy rating achievable in the U.S. – was published in *Dwell* magazine, also in February.

More importantly, my wife, Catherine Armsden, published her novel, *Dream House*, last fall, and we have been living the life of writers (husband of a writer for me) ever since. She has had many readings in the Bay Area, and recently in Seattle and Tucson. April is the East Coast tour, with a concentration of events in the Boston area. For those of you who want to pursue something creative in your later years, I suggest learning a language or an instrument, or taking up watercolors. Whatever you do, don't try to write a book. It's just too hard; I've had to watch it in person! I always miss my class of 1972, and will make it to Reunion one of these days."

**Mark Kennedy** reports, "I have been working as an intuitive healer for the past 15 years, mostly over the phone. Mind over

matter technologies really work! It's a high percentage shot! Also, I have six CDs of healing intentioned music at [cdbody.com](http://cdbody.com)."

## 1973

**Class Correspondent**

**Liza Gookin Hodskins**

[lhodskins@yahoo.com](mailto:lhodskins@yahoo.com)

## 1974

**Class Correspondent**

**Ann Brown**

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

**Siri Hari Kaur Angleton-Khalsa** writes, "**Blake Gardner Cook** and her nice husband, Doug Cook, came out to the garden last August. They were taking a marvelous car vacation throughout the West to see their friends, of whom they have many. We all had a great time together."

**Ann Brown** writes, "Happy 2016 to all. Anna and I are continuing to get settled on the Upper West Side of NYC. Been a great winter here, so far. In February, we had a fun mini-reunion lunch with **Lee Hass** and **Jen Just**. Jen was happy to have recently gotten an apartment in NYC, allowing her to visit more often on weekends. Lee had come up from her new home in Virginia to visit her brother, **Tony Hass '73**. Somehow, both Jen and Lee still look like they could be in fourth grade. We had a wonderful time. Next time, though, we agreed that we have to arrange a larger reunion. We almost got **Blake Gardner Cook** and **Jonathan Willens** to join us, but life intervened.

In March, I crossed paths with **Jane Day Rich** and her daughter, Isabel, after a swim meet in Austin, TX, and visited **Marla Freeman** and her daughter, Noelle, who now lives in Houston. Noelle was accepted at her first-choice college, NYU. Yay! We anticipate hosting them here in the future.

My sixth grader, Anna, loves her new friends, school, basketball, science, and art. We hope to do some traveling this summer. Anna is also excited to have been invited to attend a three-week class at Johns Hopkins University on creative writing. (Gosh, I miss being in school!) By then I will probably still be looking for a job in academics, re-establishing a psychotherapy practice, or fleeing the country...depending on how the elections are looking.

Lastly, I speak for all of our classmates in sending our deepest condolences to **Nina Bohlen**, **Curtis Bohlen '75**, and **Julie Bohlen Perry '79**, regarding the passing of their mom, **Janet Trowbridge Bohlen '43**. The Bohlens hosted a lovely memorial reception for her in Chevy Chase this



winter. I was very glad to see their family, as well as **Grace Guggenheim**, **Sarah Holmes**, **John Nassikas**, **Georgia Chafee Nassikas**, **Garrett Randolph**, and other familiar Potomac faces.

Please let me know if any of you are planning to visit NYC. We need more excuses to get together. Love to all."

**Sarah Holmes** confirmed that everyone had a terrific evening at the Nassikas' fundraiser. She added, "I'll be waving from my Amtrak train as I head north soon to New Haven. My singing group Whim'n Rhythm at Yale will be celebrating its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary – a proud moment for this co-founder!"

**John Nassikas** writes, "**Georgia Chafee Nassikas** and I hosted a fundraiser for **Chris Van Hollen** for Senate in Maryland to take the seat formerly held by Barbara Mikulski. Potomac classmates who attended included **Sarah Holmes** and her husband, John Morris, **Grace Guggenheim** (and her mother), and **Charles Mathias**. Ex-Potomac parents present included Senator Mark Warner, Congressman Don Beyer, and Dranesville District Supervisor John Faust, all in strong support of Chris. Let's help make Chris our first-class senator!"

On the family front, **Nicholas '05** married in June and is now a hematology/oncology resident doctor in Providence, RI; **Tribbie '07** is a fashion designer with Derek Lam in NYC; **Alexander '10** is a research assistant at Woods Hole Research Center on the Cape, studying climate and carbon issues; and **Cyrus '13** is a junior at Bowdoin, playing on the squash team and majoring in Spanish and government."

**Jane Day Rich** reports, "All is good here. Isabel did well swimming at Colorado states and is leaving her Potomac-like school for the public school next year to swim in high school (and hopefully to study hard, too). Kevin and I have gotten some good ski weekends in, but we need more snow here in Colorado between now and the end of the season."

## 1975

### Class Correspondent

**Peggy Griffin Begor**  
pbegor@gmail.com

## 1976 Reunion YEAR 40<sup>th</sup>

On April 29 and 30, join us on campus for your 40<sup>th</sup> Reunion! Register today at [potomacschool.org/alumni](http://potomacschool.org/alumni) or contact Laura Miller at [lmiller@potomacschool.org](mailto:lmiller@potomacschool.org) for more information. A huge thanks to **Brad MacKenzie** for serving as class reunion chair!

**Katherine Childs** writes, "I've been living in Mexico City for the last five months with my spouse, who is on sabbatical from the University of Toronto. I've been taking many photographs, some of which I've been posting to my website, [khchilds.com](http://khchilds.com). This is an amazing city, nicknamed 'la hermosa monstruous,' or beautiful monster. A great place to vacation, too!"



Katherine Childs '76 with her family in Mexico City

## 1977

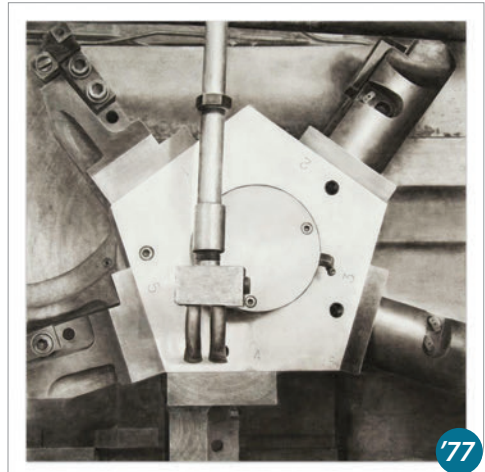
**Wendy Arundel** reports, "I'm firing on all cylinders this year: Taking psychology classes at Harvard Extension School; bought, gutting, and reconstructing a tiny, 700-square-foot house in Natick, MA; working seven days a week as a professional organizer ([themudroom.org](http://themudroom.org)); and sending my baby girl off to college at Salve Regina in Newport, RI, next fall."

**Four Hewes** writes, "I live in Portland, ME, and have a child in high school. I am an independent software product designer and mentor/consultant. My work is in Boston and beyond. I can help your startup or enterprise organization make products that your customers actually like to use and that your competitors can't compete against. I'm in touch with **Wendy Arundel**, **Paul Duke**, **Lange Johnson**, **Rufus Johnson**, **Tim Makepeace**, and **Wendell Miles '78**. I'm glad to hear from any of you. I rarely use Facebook. Our summers are very pretty. Come visit and look me up!"

**Victoria Howard** has moved to Mission Viejo, CA. Her daughter, **Jessica '14**, is a sophomore in college.

**Tim Makepeace** writes, "This past year, I've continued to produce artwork from my home studio here in DC and continued to apply for exhibitions and awards. Recently, I've been a finalist for the Trawick Prize and exhibition, and also for the Sondheim Prize and exhibition. Washington DC's Commission on the Arts just awarded me an Individual Artist Grant Award for 2016, which was much appreciated. My new series comprises

A recent work by Tim Makepeace '77 called "Pentagon Hub" V



realistic charcoal drawings of machines I found in Baltimore."

## 1978

### Class Correspondent

**Julie Twiname Warder**  
[jtwdean@cox.net](mailto:jtwdean@cox.net)

**Tony Evans** shares, "Our eldest is getting married to her college sweetheart in June. Our middle child is busy enrolling for her P.A. degree, and our youngest graduates from Denison in May."

**Ann Addison Freniere** writes, "Nothing too exciting for me except a job search. After 10 years at Stone Ridge dealing with middle school girls, I am looking for a new set of challenges. Anyone with ideas for how best to use my problem solving, negotiation, and relationship skills, please let me know! Looking forward to our 40<sup>th</sup> Reunion not that far down the road!"

**Byron Hope** writes, "I am currently living the retired life, and let me tell you that I am TIRED! I did less running around and had far less hectic days when I was working. I think I may need to go back to work for some peace and quiet. It's not surprising that I'm tired, as I have gone back to school. I should be finished with my associate degree in sociology in April and my bachelor's degree in criminal justice in early 2018. School takes up a good portion of my time. I am also caring for my uncle, who was recently paralyzed during a surgery. And I'm spending time with my four grandchildren whenever I can. Other than that, I'm still trying to coordinate a time to catch up with **Jim Fairman** for a motorcycle

Sarah Willens Kass '78's daughter, Valerie



trip. When we finally put it together, we will definitely send a picture. I have seen **Ann Addison Freniere** and **Lola Singletary** in the past few months. Would love to see more folks! Miss the heck out of my Potomac family. Hope everyone is well!"

**Sarah Willens Kass** and her husband, Mark, moved to Woodley Park last year and live in an apartment building – circa 1928 – across the street from the zoo. She writes, "I bump into **Julie Campbell** sometimes at the grocery store and am much closer to both of my parents – and to the pandas! My sons, Jacob and Elliot, live and work in the DC area, and my daughter, Valerie, is a high school senior who will be heading to college late this summer. I plan to keep teaching eighth grade English for another two or three years and then will move on to something new."

**Jane Sommers-Kelly** says, "I am entering into a new skill/phase: human capital consulting (means advising companies on how they select, assess, and develop a succession plan). I'm still with Duke CE but really excited about moving beyond just the development (training) portion of companies' talent strategies. My 'third career' I call it, as for our generation 'retirement' has a new name – 'work!' A new puppy is keeping us young. My two boys will both be student-athletes at UNC Chapel Hill in August."

**Arthur Woolverton** writes, "I just started an exciting new job as the North American general manager for a group of companies out of Sweden called Vilokan ADF and Vilokan. We manufacture equipment and develop solutions that enable water purification and solvent recycling. The best

example of our work is that we are able to extract and recycle the glycol used in the process of deicing airplanes. It's a big win for the environment and saves money for airports through lower disposal and transportation fees. One of my favorite classes at Potomac was IPS in seventh grade. A lot of the science we learned in that class is the foundation of what these companies do! So be careful what your kids learn in school – they may make a career out of it!

Family is great. Still living in Cumberland, ME. My son, Matthew, is a freshman at Wheelock College in Boston and has started his own photography and video business. My daughter, Meg, just turned 11 and is keeping her teachers and parents on their toes! Can't believe we have a 40<sup>th</sup> Reunion coming up. Time flies when you are having fun."

## 1979

**Phil Higginson** and **Irene Howard**

**Higginson** are still in Raleigh, NC. Phil is assistant head of school for advancement at Ravenscroft School, raising money, while Irene is a very successful real estate sales associate with Allen Tate. One daughter, **Anna '13**, is a junior at East Carolina University; youngest daughter Katharine is a junior at Ravenscroft School; and **Laura '10**, who graduated from UNC-Wilmington, is a corporate special events coordinator in St. Simons Island, GA.

## 1980

Interested in getting involved? Become your year's class correspondent today by contacting **Laura Miller** at [lmiller@potomacschool.org](mailto:lmiller@potomacschool.org).

## 1981

On April 29 and 30, 2016, join us for your 35<sup>th</sup> Reunion! Register today at [potomacschool.org/alumni](http://potomacschool.org/alumni) or contact **Laura Miller** at [lmiller@potomacschool.org](mailto:lmiller@potomacschool.org) for more information.

## 1982

**Class Correspondent**

**James Corrigan**

[jcorrigan@brownadvisory.com](mailto:jcorrigan@brownadvisory.com)

**Hope Norman Bass** owns a decorative rug and carpet showroom, selling to interior designers. She has had the privilege of supplying rugs to the White House, Blair House, and a couple of presidential second homes. Currently, she has a 30'x40' rug being made in Nepal for an embassy in DC. Hope's oldest daughter, Alexandra (19), made Dean's List her freshman year in college, and Lily

is a happy 11-year-old in the sixth grade.

**Memories:** "Seven Springs was a good trip; making soap at Turkey Run Farm; and then later picketing at the White House to save Turkey Run."

**Molly Burnham** shares, "After living in quite a number of cities, I eventually settled in Northampton, MA, with my husband, Sean Greene, a painter. We have two kids, Adelaide and Georgia. I taught kindergarten and third grade in the public schools here until finally fulfilling my lifelong dream of writing books for children: *Teddy Mars Almost a World Record Breaker* (2015), *Teddy Mars Almost a Winner* (March 2016), and *Teddy Mars Almost an Outlaw* (March 2017). I spend my days writing and try to do as many school visits as I can."

**James Byers** has spent the last 25 years working in the nonprofit arts world as a marketing director/consultant for several DC organizations, as well as producing Latin-jazz concerts. For 20 of those years, he has volunteered as host of a radio program called *The Latin Flavor*, airing Sundays from 6:00 to 8:00 pm on DC jazz station WPMF 89.3 FM. Anyone inclined to take a listen, he'll be live-streaming on [wpmf893.org](http://wpmf893.org).

**Leila Corcoran** lives in Rock Creek Park in DC with her husband, 15-year-old daughter, a couple of dogs, and a cat. She writes, "I'm all about cooking, reading, long walks in the woods with the dogs, and travel. For work, I'm a freelance food writer; I teach; and I run a writing center for high school students. My parents retired to Ireland, so we often spend a chunk of the summer in West Cork. I was at Potomac for a high school soccer tournament in the fall, my first time back in years, and felt so much nostalgia. The place has changed a lot, but some key landmarks remain. **Memories:** Climbing the llama statues and the story of some boys (who remain anonymous) tunneling under the fence into the CIA's parking lot."

**Jimmy Corrigan** lives in Washington with wife, "Sam," and their two children – daughter Haines, attending Berkshire School as a freshman, and son Trip, in seventh grade at Landon. Jimmy writes, "I have happily spent a significant amount of time accumulating our year's class notes, and I hope you all enjoy catching up on what our fellow '82ers have been up to. If you are able and willing to share life updates for the next edition of *The Term*, please email me at [jcorrigan@brownadvisory.com](mailto:jcorrigan@brownadvisory.com), and I will make sure they are distributed. Until then, enjoy this edition as you walk down memory lane.



When I am not at my desk at Brown Advisory, I actively pursue my outdoor interests of hunting, fishing, golfing, hiking, skiing, and playing ice hockey. **Memories:** The pressure around whether I was going to kiss **Sarah Thorp** (as scripted) in the ninth grade play. I actually don't remember if I did or not because I was so shocked that my parents were sitting in the front row with my four younger siblings, all laughing at me. I specifically didn't tell them about the play and still wonder how they found out. Playing cheetahs and horses in Lower School and occasionally being 'caught' and 'suffering' the consequences! Other memories: **Brenda Brophy Pivrotto** being my best wide receiver during Middle School recess; tree tag."

**Bennett Donovan** has lived in Austin, TX, since 1991 with his wife, Leslie, and their 11-year-old son, Logan, and 7-year-old daughter, Jillian. He says, "For the last 10 years, I've been working at Blackbaud, which provides technology services to nonprofits. It's been really enjoyable to have clients like the ACLU, Planned Parenthood, Feeding America, The Nature Conservancy, and St. Jude's Hospital.

Potomac gave us a chance to become our own individuals; what a gift that was! I happened to turn out to be a progressive liberal high-tech consultant with a doctorate in medieval history and a passion for sports. In other words, pretty darn eclectic. Thank you, Potomac. **Memories:** Capture the Flag, 'My Sharona' at the dances, and fearing for my life when **Chris Hallett** had the ball playing Elimination."

**Lewie Hamady** says that the last two years he's been moving around, exploring, learning, seeing, and sometimes settling into places he wanted to see (mostly South America and Europe). He also reports being lucky to have found his "sweetheart," Claudia, in Uruguay, of all places. He wants to see it all and has written about his experiences (for family and friends). He has also been practicing and teaching yoga for some time now, especially when he is not fly fishing the rivers of South America. **Memories:** "**Peter Monroe's** passionate energy for natural history/science. I have an image of him hoisting up a large snapping turtle by the tail. I think he unearthed the beast along the road with the crabapples. Awesome."

**Janie Haynes** is a realtor at Thos. D. Walsh, Inc. She lives in Bethesda with her sons, Rhys (a sophomore at Loyola University in New Orleans) and Brendan (a junior at St. Alban's). She notes that she will "definitely be attending The Nields' concert!"

**Francesca Hunt** lives in Middleburg, VA, with her daughter, Chanler, while her two boys, Hunter and Finley, attend boarding school at Portsmouth Abbey. She writes, "I just got an awesome new job that I love. I work at a butcher shop in Marshall, VA, making soups, chicken pot pies, shepherd pies, and all of their prepared foods. I get to eat bacon every day, and there's a staff keg in the walk-in! I love the funky atmosphere, and I'm pretty sure I'm the only one without tattoos. Check out *thewholeox.com*. **Memories:** Playing 'innocent party games' at **Hopie's** house and passing notes in class. Dancing to 'Stairway to Heaven' and 'Freebird' at the dances in the Dimmick Wing. Smoking clove cigarettes with Hopie at Turkey Run Farm."

**Gray Carr Lemay** is living in Boston with her family and is an avid sailor.

**Ann Luskey** is currently living in a NetZero house in Bethesda with her 19-year-old daughter, Jordan; 18-year-old son, Randy; and 12-year-old daughter, Charlotte. She is renovating a beautiful brownstone on Vermont Avenue, close to Logan Circle, and has just started a web-based company called SeaTime Inc. (*seatimeinc.com*), which facilitates connections between people who own boats and people who need boats for ocean conservation, storytelling, and science. She describes it as "a combination of Airbnb, Match, Uber, and Facebook!" Ocean conservation work has been Ann's focus for the last 12 years. It's been amazing work and taken her to exotic places. Finally, she has created a Facebook group, "Potomac School Class of 1982." There is a link on the profile page to info about the upcoming concert by The Nields. **Memories:** "Arguing over swings on the playground and hatching the 'great auto escape' from the infamous eighth grade party with **Janie** and **Leslie**."

**Rachel Renzy Meima** writes, "Life is busy, between keeping up with Rose (a junior at Holy Child), Hughes (in Form II at Landon), Steve (St. Andrew's '83), and our two Rhodesian ridgebacks, Tucker and Ginger. Rose is currently looking at colleges; oh boy, times have changed since we were looking and applying! She continues to ride horses competitively and is interested in majoring in business. Hughes is looking forward to starting high school next year; it will be his sixth year at Landon! He continues his ice hockey on both school and club teams and enjoys competitive shooting. Steve runs a trade association, and he and I run MetroAid, LLC, our social entrepreneurship, which has raised tens of thousands of dollars for charities

in the VA/MD/DC metro area. Outside of that, I continue to enjoy competitive tennis and my consuming – but fulfilling – volunteer roles. **Memories:** Picketing at the White House and getting on the evening news was awesome! Loved my costume and was very proud of the effort we went through to make them. Caroline Furnace and Seven Springs were a ton of fun, as well as the Christmas play, *Saint George and the Dragon*, May Day, Fall Frolics, and dances in the Dimmick Wing. Sleepovers with 'innocent party games' were educating, as well as the seventh grade Halloween party that my parents insisted I have."

**John Muir** lives in Bethesda with his wife, Laurie, and their three children, Avery, Caroline, and Alden. John is co-chair of Katten Muchin Rosenman's real estate practice in DC, and when he has free time, you can find him on the tennis court or hiking the Billy Goat Trail.

**Memories:** "Making Viking helmets in **Mrs. Wiederholden's** third grade class and being a founding member of the Ground Hog Club."

**Nerissa Nields** is living in Northampton, MA, with her husband, Tom, daughter Lila (9), and son Johnny (7). Lila is classmates and friends with Georgia Greene, daughter of **Molly Burnham**, so they see a lot of each other. Nerissa's band, The Nields, marks its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year with a concert at The Barns at Wolf Trap on April 23. She continues to write books and run music classes and writing workshops and retreats.

Nerissa writes, "Potomac is in my heart and bones, especially these days as I watch my own kids pass through these precious grade school years. I so appreciate what Potomac gave me – music, arts, nature, outdoor time, and friendships that have lasted for over 40 (gulp!) years. **Memories:** **Mr. Sealy** singing 'The Muffin Man'; the covered playground and dodge ball; four-square; the llamas; the smell of the Middle School library and the thrill of choosing a book; the saltines at snack time; **Leslie and Nancy Hoopes** showing me the tricks of the multiplication tables in fourth grade; **Leila** introducing me to The Beatles; **Miss Burns** busting me for not doing my math mimeographs...ever; **Eliza Manegold** singing 'I Love a Parade'; **Matt Bixler** and the milk; **Mrs. Edelson's** huge, generous laugh; reading *Tom Sawyer*; making swords and shields for our Greek and Trojan wars in art class; **Kate Keith's** brilliant turn as Sir Joseph Porter; **Molly** as Dick Dead Eye; **Angie** in *The Beggars Banquet*; the big Swing Tree; **Stewart Keith** falling out of another tree and breaking both legs and an arm; May

Day; memorizing 'No Man is an Island'; **Andrew Bennett** and **Miko** giving me a guitar lesson the day I got my first guitar; **Mrs. Sommerford's** very first French class; never, ever kicking a home run in kickball, no matter how hard I tried; **Joan Wise** taking care of all of us; **Leslie Bumstead** singing 'Send in the Clowns' in *Saint George and the Dragon*; **Jennie deGarmo's** unfailing kindness; **Clara Jeffery** making me crack up in study hall; the breath of fresh air that was **Lee Stokes**; **Vinnie's** braids; **Merrell's** headbands; **Jim Byers'** smile; Caroline Furnace; **TJ's** and **Kenny Hutman's** amazing rock band; and being terrified of needlepoint lessons with **Hopie's** mom in *Miss Macomber's* second grade classroom – 40 years later, the white cat on a green background is still an unfinished product."

**Drew Olmstead** lives in Atlanta with his two children, ages 12 and 14. He has been working in the residential construction industry for the past 20 years.

**Andi Rankin** writes, "I'm living in a big old house in Helena, MT; that we have been fixing up for the past 14 years. I've been with my husband, Phil Hohenlohe, coming up on 21 years and we have two kids – James (16) and Lea (14). My mother recently moved to a retirement facility in Helena so that I can help oversee her care, and I get to see her almost every day. I won't say that it has been the best year ever; I am looking forward to 2016. I will leave my job of 12 years in a couple of months to try to recapture some of the balance that I used to have, and I look forward to having more time with my kids (whether they want my time or not!), especially before James heads off to college in two years. **Memories:** The trip to Williamsburg in eighth grade; The *Boyfriend* in ninth grade; the covered playground; practicing for nuclear fallout from WWII by hiding under our desks; the movies: *Grease*, *Rocky Horror Picture Show*, and that movie about nuclear war that was shown on TV, *The Day After*; and *Skeeter Lee's* U.S. History class and that awesome westward migration game."

**Andrew Saltonstall** splits his time between ranching in Colorado and helping his wife with her store in Virginia. He has two stepchildren attending Potomac (grades 9 and 11), so you might find him photographing sporting competitions from the sidelines. **Memories:** "Playing in the sandbox; waiting for carpool with **Mr. Sealy** in charge; singing 'Kumbaya'; tree tag; and getting in trouble making Super Balls out of rubber cement."

**Andrew Scott** lives in Chicago with his wife and three daughters. **Memories:** "**Andrea Hoopes'** party and singing 'My Sharona' by The Knack on the bus to Caroline Furnace."

**Todd Shea** is married and living back in NoVa with two awesome kids. He enjoys traveling, golfing, fishing, and living the dream. Occasionally, Todd and **Jimmy** meet up for Caps games. Go Caps!

**Lee Stokes** is an investigative attorney at the National Science Foundation in Arlington, VA. She is definitely attending The Nields' concert. **Memories:** "Thinking of seventh and eighth grade at Potomac makes me smile. I'd forgotten about picketing at the White House! Just remembered the linen costumes we made (well, Mom did) and wore on the Turkey Run Farm trip. Also remember liberating a few more wool blankets than initially allotted, because it was so cold."

**David Tierney** lives in California and is going strong two years after breaking his neck in a truck accident. His latest discovery is TRE (Tension Releasing Exercises), and while he hasn't been out on the tennis court yet, he's getting around normally otherwise. David is currently working on a new business venture aimed at delivering a low-cost website package for consultants, coaches, and experts and hopes to get it launched in the next month. **Memories:** "Swinging from branches in the Middle School tree until **Stewart** fell and broke his leg, which forced them to close the tree down; playing dodge ball in Middle School out on the blacktop, and capture the flag on the big hill; and napping on unsanitary rug-mats in kindergarten."

**John Tully** is living in NYC. **Memories:** "OJ in cartons and saltines for life."

**Reid Wilson** lives in Illinois with his wife, Laura; 18-year-old daughter Nina, who is waiting to hear back from colleges; and 16-year-old son Alec. He writes, "Still get back to DC every once in a while, which **Jimmy**, **Tris**, **Muir**, and **Bix** can attest to, but would love to catch up with more of you next time. **Memories:** Getting lost wandering around the forest of Caroline Furnace in eighth grade was pretty cool."

**Joan Wise Murphy** shares, "I love being a mom to a very adventurous and funny toddler (Megan). She's also helping me keep active, which is great at this 'advanced stage' in life. My strategy and communications business, Wise Insight, is doing well, and I enjoy helping my clients solve organizational challenges and develop and launch new

programs and services. Those things – plus the fact that my husband just got on with Arlington County Fire Department – are keeping me busy enough, but I'm looking forward to seeing lots of classmates at The Nields' concert in April! **Memories:** Attending **Craig Kiker's** birthday party sleepover. I was the only girl at an all-boys sleepover and my parents let me go. Crazy! We were 6 or 7. Doing drawings of arctic animals when we were in kindergarten/primary. Winning the Animal House poster in **Mrs. Lorentz's** sixth grade class. Playing four-square on the Middle School playground with that awesome cherry tree. Of course, May Day, and how about the peanut hunt – that could never happen now."

**Special Request:** Jimmy Corrigan is looking to locate email info on the individuals below. Please spread the word and share updates by emailing [jcorrigan@brownadvisory.com](mailto:jcorrigan@brownadvisory.com). **Phoebe Lang Atwater**, **Hilary Hitchen Bateman**, **Andrew Bennett**, **Veronica Bentos**, **Wendel Blow**, **Ted Cage**, **Ken Campbell**, **Andrea Hoopes DeGirolamo**, **Rick Falls**, **Wendy Gabriel**, **Angie Harrison**, **KiKi von Hoffmann**, **Kenny Hutman**, **Clara Jeffery**, **Paula Johnson**, **Marco Lari**, **John Parker**, **Kate Rhinelander**, **Tim Richardson**, **Katie Ring**, **Jonathan Stern**, **Sarah Thorp**, **Wendy West**, **John Whittenbury**, **Jenny de Garmo Wilhelm**, **Jed Willson**, and **Tee Jay Wood**.

## 1983

Class Correspondent

Jen Webber

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

**Eric McGuire** writes, "Hello, '83 classmates! I hope everyone is doing well. I recently returned from two weeks in Ethiopia, teaching at the fire academy in Addis Ababa. I was also fortunate enough to get up to Lalibela for a day to see the stone churches."



Eric McGuire '83 (back row, center)



# 1984

**Class Correspondent**  
James Quigley  
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# 1986 Reunion YEAR 30<sup>th</sup>

**Class Correspondent**  
Robert Cheek  
rmbcheek@gmail.com

On April 29 and 30, join us on campus for your 30<sup>th</sup> Reunion! Register today at [potomacschool.org/alumni](http://potomacschool.org/alumni) or contact Laura Miller at [lmiller@potomacschool.org](mailto:lmiller@potomacschool.org) for more information. A huge thanks to Rob Cheek for serving as class reunion chair!

**Holly Green Gordon** writes, "After founding and leading Girl Rising, a global campaign for girls' education, for the past seven years, I am moving on from my CEO position to be chair of the board of the organization. It's an exciting time! I have also recently become involved with another exciting effort, The Nantucket Project ([nantucketproject.com](http://nantucketproject.com)), an annual event that takes place in September on the island of Nantucket. It is an ideas-fest – food for the brain – in the most extraordinary setting, and I encourage anyone who is interested in attending to reach out to me. I'm hoping it will be an opportunity for friends to meet, as our kids get older and weekends free up. All of this transition is because my kids are getting older! Lilly is 13 and Lucas is 11, and I am trying to arrange my professional life so that I can be around and available as they move into their teens."

**Kass Savarese Lazerow** shares, "I live in NYC with my husband, three kids, and two dogs. My primary jobs consist of mom, consultant, mentor, advisor, trustee at my kids' schools, and working with Cycle for Survival to help raise money and awareness for rare cancer research. I try to fit working out somewhere in the middle of the hectic days and still enjoy belly laughs!"

**Tia Saul Lotuff** says, "I've been living in Massachusetts for almost 17 years now. Joe and I have four kids. We spend our summers on the Cape where we love to sail, and our winters skiing around New England. I've recently started a little interior design business, and Joe, after his success with Berkshire Blanket, has now started a line of high-end leather goods called Lotuff Leather."

**Nikie Gililand Micheli** reports that she will be out of town for our 30<sup>th</sup> Reunion and will miss seeing everyone! She still keeps in touch with **Ann Renzy Maclean**, and they recently



Jeremy White '92 at the end of the L.A. Marathon



Ellie, daughter of Elliott Schneider '93



Sandy Gentles '94, ice skating with his children



< The children of Tia Saul Lotuff '86

saw each other at Madeira's production of *Kiss Me, Kate*. Nikie notes, "My two teenagers, Max (16) and Gabriella (14), keep us on our toes. Our restaurant, The Portofino, is still going strong after 45 years, with my husband at the helm."

# 1990

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# 1991 Reunion YEAR 25<sup>th</sup>

**Class Correspondent**  
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**Class Agent**  
Jamie Stump  
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On April 29 and 30, join us on campus for your 25<sup>th</sup> Reunion! Register today at [potomacschool.org/alumni](http://potomacschool.org/alumni) or contact Laura Miller at [lmiller@potomacschool.org](mailto:lmiller@potomacschool.org) for more information. A huge thanks to Azali Kassum and Jamie Stump for serving as class reunion chairs!

# 1992

**Class Correspondent**  
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**Tamara Bechara Dimon** has lived in New York City since graduating from college 20 years ago. She teaches ESOL to immigrants and refugees at various organizations around the city and volunteers with local animal rescue groups. She and her husband live in Harlem near Columbia University, where her husband teaches.

**Jeremy White** completed the L.A. Marathon, his first, on Valentine's Day. He hadn't run longer than three miles since Potomac before a few months ago and was grateful to see the finish line, tweaked knee and all! He celebrated with a plunge into the Pacific at Santa Monica and a victory lap of Los Angeles food staples from Randy's Donuts to Roscoe's Chicken and Waffles. His former cross country coach, **Drew**, would be proud – and probably shocked. Congrats, Jeremy!

# 1993

**Elliott Schneider** writes, "Carrie and I welcomed our beautiful daughter, Ellie, into our family last July. Now that she is eating solid foods, we really love our Potomac bib! I am enjoying my work leading the industrial design team at Spectrum Brands HHI in Southern California."

# 1994

**Class Correspondent**  
Lauren Banks Amos  
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**Class Agent**  
Sandy Gentles  
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Keith Weinstein '95 and Reed Kuhn '95



**Jody Morse Al-Saigh** created a how-to manual for getting pictures off your camera, organizing them, and displaying them. Her e-book is available on [blurb.com](http://blurb.com).

**Sandy Gentles** writes, "The Gentles clan is reverting to their Canadian roots with the whole family learning to skate. We would love to have you join us at Cabin John!"

**Michelle Pollak Landwehr** shares that in October 2015 she opened a Montessori-inspired indoor play and learning space called Roo's World of Discovery in Kirkland, WA, a suburb of Seattle. Inspired by her daughter, Madeleine (Roo), who was born at 33 weeks and has developmental delays and sensory processing disorder, Roo's World is aimed at children of all abilities (birth to five years old). Follow Roo's World on Facebook and visit [roosworldofdiscovery.com](http://roosworldofdiscovery.com). Michelle welcomes all Potomac alumni and their children to come play!

## 1995

### Class Correspondent

**Erin Vagley**

[esv5a@yahoo.com](mailto:esv5a@yahoo.com)

### Class Agents

**Ashley Pehrson Storm**

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**George Wisecarver**

[george.wisecarver@berkpoint.com](mailto:george.wisecarver@berkpoint.com)

**Reed Kuhn** shares, "I'm settling into the tech startup life in Mountain View, CA. My wife is well into her radiology residency at Stanford, and our daughter, Mackenzie, will be two years old soon. It's as busy as ever, but I still found time to meet up with fellow '95er **Keith Weinstein** for a meeting of the minds and a Yamazaki whiskey tasting in the heart of Silicon Valley. Looking forward to catching up with other Potomac alums during my occasional travels or when they visit the Bay Area."

**Brian Pence** writes, "We are excited to announce that our son, Wyatt, will be starting

Jamie Kris '97, Jody Goehring '99, Patrick Kris '99, Reed Landry '99, and Keith Huffman '99 at Patrick's wedding



fourth grade at Potomac next year as a member of the class of 2025! He will be joining his younger brother, Robbie, who is a current first grader at Potomac and loves having **Kristin Smith '94** as one of his teachers."

## 1996 Reunion YEAR 20<sup>th</sup>

### Class Correspondent

**Chris Cramer**

[cpcramer@gmail.com](mailto:cpcramer@gmail.com)

On April 29 and 30, join us on campus for your 20<sup>th</sup> Reunion! Register today at [potomacschool.org/alumni](http://potomacschool.org/alumni) or contact **Laura Miller** at [lmiller@potomacschool.org](mailto:lmiller@potomacschool.org) for more information. A huge thanks to **Danny Adrien, Jamie Sullivan, Blair Farr Underwood, Libby Huffman Wilkinson, and Peter Young** for serving as class reunion chairs!

**Heather Wilson** writes, "I've recently moved back to the Los Angeles area and couldn't be happier! My coaching business (I support women entrepreneurs who desire to take a more holistic approach to designing their life, business, and legacy as global feminine leaders) has been incredibly fulfilling on multiple levels. I'm doing much more writing than I ever thought I would, but I'm enjoying the creative challenge of coming up with marketing content on a regular basis. Also, I'm having an absolute blast hosting my own show on Blab called *The Glamorous Global Entrepreneur*. Being as visible as I have been on social media has been a little scary, to be honest. However, I believe that my message of women's empowerment and cultivating a spiritual relationship of your own understanding as the foundation of a 'success' mindset is an important one. If you want to learn more about what I'm up to, you can check out my website ([heatherrebeccawilson.com](http://heatherrebeccawilson.com)), and please say hi if you're ever in L.A."



## 1997

### Class Correspondent

**Elizabeth Race Terborgh**

[elizabethrace@hotmail.com](mailto:elizabethrace@hotmail.com)

Have you moved or changed your email address? Please send your updated contact information to **Laura Miller** at [lmiller@potomacschool.org](mailto:lmiller@potomacschool.org).

## 1998

### Class Correspondent

**Jessica Ohly**

[jessicaohly@gmail.com](mailto:jessicaohly@gmail.com)

### Class Agent

**Liz Oosterhuis Delasobera**

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## 1999

### Class Correspondents

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**Christian Gomez**

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### Class Agent

**Keith Huffman**

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**Eric Abrams** writes, "I live in Los Angeles and got married in September 2012. I recently left Comedy Central and am now producing independently. Season 2 of the storytelling show that I co-created (*This Is Not Happening*) premiered February 23, 2016, on Comedy Central."

**James Aldige** writes, "My wife, Sarah, and I are still living in Greenwich Village in New York and really enjoy the city. Over the last year, I have had the opportunity to get together for brunch with several Potomac folks, including **Emily Anderson, Rebecca Rader Brown, Jon Darman, Laura Reiter Fleischner, and Liz Seidlitz**. We're still trying to find a time for **Nell Manning** and **Chris Soverow** to join us!"

**Mikey Banks** writes, "I'm still living in the DC area, currently a data analyst for a small company in Springfield. Otherwise, I'm just playing soccer and escaping to Shenandoah when I get the chance. I do keep in touch with **Rob Swain** a little. He's currently living in Europe, enjoying all of the wine and fútbol anyone could want."

**John Michael Bastos** writes, "I left the IT security and defense world and am currently living in Cincinnati doing multi-family and commercial real estate development. I moved here from Hoboken, NJ, almost three years ago. I got married in 2012, and we have a two-



year-old, with another one on the way in April. We're planning a family trip to Europe this summer. I still see **Daryn Cambridge**, **Kevin Eakin**, and **Andrew Farrell**, among others, when I've been back on the East Coast."

**Sahar Batmanghelidj** is still embracing the Minnesota way of life and is slowly warming to the idea of hockey mom status. She recently stole away for a trip with **Rebecca Rader Brown** and **Dana Stroul** to warmer lands, where the mocktails and unsolicited parenting advice flowed freely.

**Anne Blaney** writes, "I'm teaching high school English, and this is actually my tenth year in teaching, which is crazy. It's a great job – never boring and always challenging. I have kept in close touch with **Rachel Shuler**. I get to spend time with her, her husband, and her kids pretty frequently. My husband and I live in Long Beach, NY, which is the very southern shore of Long Island. We love it – we're blocks from the ocean! And we spend a lot of time in Vermont."

**Sasha Cooper-Morrison**

was busy in 2015. While still a Peace Corps country desk officer for volunteer programs in Micronesia, Palau, and Vanuatu, she began the year on a two-month overseas assignment as the acting director of programming and training for Peace Corps/Vanuatu. In addition to leading sessions during Pre-Service Training for the new class of trainees, she led the development of the post's FY16 budget. When Cyclone Pam hit the island nation in March 2015 shortly after Sasha's return to the U.S., she led the temporary relocation effort from headquarters and was then sent to Sydney, Australia, to provide direct support to volunteers and trainees on the ground.

In June 2015, Sasha left the Peace Corps for a position in the Employment and Training Administration at the Department of Labor. In her current capacity, she oversees the American Apprenticeship Initiative, a \$175 million grant program that seeks to expand registered apprenticeship programs around the country. Sasha took a break from all the work this past February to participate in the Trinidad Carnival festivities and has included a photo at **Sahar Batmanghelidj's** request. In addition to Sahar, Sasha is in touch with **Catherine Smith Ebert** and ran into **Edward Smith '98** over the summer.



Lindsay Wheeler Coursen '99 with her family



**Lindsay Wheeler Coursen** checked in to report that she and her husband, Matt, love living in DC's Glover Park with their two boys, Cole (3) and Bryce (1). She enjoys being in the DC area with her parents and her brother, **Stephen '00**, his wife, Hope, and their two daughters. Lindsay is going on eight years as an ER trauma nurse at Children's Hospital.

**Charlotte Hutton Cox** is currently living in San Diego while her husband finishes a dermatology residency this year (having done pediatrics in Hawaii a few years ago). They are also busy with their two children, a 4-year-old boy and a 1-year-old girl, and anticipate a move to Columbia, SC, this summer.

**Hilary Burt Davidson** writes, "I graduated from business school at Columbia in 2013 and since then, together with Tyler, I have purchased a sailboat (34' Sabre), which we sail on the Long Island Sound. I joined Shamrock Communities as a managing director and, with a business partner, started Shamrock Property Management, a company with 120 employees and 5,200 apartment units under management in Indianapolis, Louisville, Houston, Cincinnati, and Las Vegas ([shamrock-communities.com](http://shamrock-communities.com)). This past August, Tyler and I purchased our first home, a fixer-upper built in 1906."

**Kevin Eakin** writes, "I'm living in Fairfax, the Mosaic District, with my wife, Liesel. We'll be celebrating our sixth anniversary in 2016. Liesel works for the National Education Association, and I just recently started a new job as project manager for Snell Properties. Snell is a family-owned development company in Arlington that owns several office buildings and about 4,500 apartment homes in northern Virginia. My new role will have me managing the renovation and enhancement of apartment buildings and working on redevelopment projects in the area, while also overseeing the general performance of the apartment assets. Also, this January, I was elected and

began a term as president of the Northern Virginia Apartment Association, a nonprofit organization that represents apartment owners, managers, and vendors through educational and legislative activities."

**Catherine Smith Ebert** writes, "I have moved back to DC (after many years in NYC) with my husband, Will, and our twins, Graeme and Caroline. Will is a finance attorney and I am an interior designer, still mostly working for my New York clients but beginning to set up shop in DC as well ([catherineebertinteriors.com](http://catherineebertinteriors.com)). We are living on Foxhall Road in DC (next door to my mother) and really enjoying being back home. I have seen **Sasha Cooper-Morrison** several times since moving back but would love to catch up with other classmates in the neighborhood!"

**Jody Goehring** lives in Austin, TX, where he is currently vice president and head of mobile at RetailMeNot. He is married with two boys, Jack (4) and Nash (2), and a girl on the way in April!

**Christian Gomez** is living in McLean with his wife, Roxanna, and daughter, Anabella (1). He still manages to see some Panthers in the area, including neighbor **Trenholm Boggs**, **Keith Huffman**, and **Reed Landry**.

**Keith Huffman** lives in Washington, DC, with his wife, Brooke Daley. He is an associate at Arent Fox, with their international trade practice.

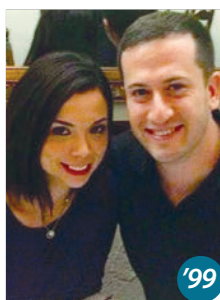
**Pamela Kasenetz** writes, "I spent some time trekking around New Zealand's South Island this past summer. The plan now is to hike around Mont Blanc/Chamonix this coming summer. Life has otherwise been status quo. I'm practicing internal medicine at the Falls Church Medical Center. I'm still doing some acting on the side. I love spending time with my two-year-old nephew, Dylan. I'm frequently in touch with **Sarah Murphy Starr**."

Hilary Burt Davidson '99, sailing



**Alyson Lipsky** recently traveled throughout Indonesia to present at the International Conference on Family Planning and visit project offices. **Daryn Cambridge** was in Bangkok late last year, working with Buddhist monks and nuns from several countries in Southeast Asia. Alyson, Daryn, and their almost four-year-old daughter, Kaiya, traveled to Middlebury College, where Alyson and Daryn were speaking to Middlebury sophomores about career paths. (Both graduated from Middlebury in 2003). Kaiya never ceases to amaze her parents, most recently by learning how to write her name and climb the monkey bars. She continues to floor her parents with her compassionate nature.

**Andrew Lockman** writes, "I'm an enterprise account executive at a startup called MongoDB. I've been in high-tech enterprise sales for the past 10 years. I am married to Andrea; she is Chilean-born and an interpreter in Immigration Court. We had a daughter named Adriana Madeline Lockman but, sadly, she passed shortly after delivery due to rare complications."



Daryn Cambridge '99 and Alyson Lipsky '99 with their daughter, Kaiya, in Vermont

Jody Goehring '99 with sons Jack and Nash



**Nell Manning** writes, "I am completing my clinical psychology internship at Maimonides Medical Center in Brooklyn and will complete my Ph.D. in clinical psychology this spring. My degree will be awarded from the Derner Institute of Advanced Psychological Studies at Adelphi University. After graduation, I will be completing my post-doctoral hours in a private practice in the West Village, providing psychotherapy and psychological assessments for children, adolescents, and adults." Nell gets together regularly with **Emily Anderson** and **Elizabeth Seidlitz** and spends time with their cute dogs, Rooney (for Em) and Stella (for Liz!)

**Belen Aquino Perfilio** is still living in Chicago with her husband, Drew, son Marco, and pup Chomsky. She says, "We've had such fun exploring the city anew through our son's eyes. The highlight of 2015 was getting away for a week and heading west to Sonoma. We spent a few days in San Francisco and got to see **Leah Johnston '01**! Returning to DC every spring for Reunion Weekend is always such fun."

**Wrede Petersmeyer** writes, "I left Bain back in 2013, when it started to feel too much like the slower bits of business school. I landed over at Airbnb and have spent the last few years leading parts of our business here in the U.S. It's been a very interesting ride – innovation and regulation mix badly at times, but I'm

awed daily by the folks I get to work with here. I'll start a new chapter this spring when I move out to San Francisco for a new role (I will miss NYC dearly). I'm still traveling a lot and collecting books (close to 3,000); I'm not really looking forward to boxing them all up for the move west. I hope everyone is well and look forward to catching up soon."

**Stephen Salyer** is living in Connecticut with his two kids. He says, "I literally haven't been to Potomac in a decade but did make some amazing memories there."

**Sarah Murphy Starr**

and her husband, Shooter, welcomed a daughter, Brenna Eve, on October 20, 2015. Brenna joins proud big brother Parker (2). Sarah and her family live in Washington, DC.



## 2000 Reunion YEAR 15th

### Class Correspondents

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**Jonathan Haworth**

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## 2001

### Class Correspondent

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On April 29 and 30, join us on campus for your 15th Reunion! Register today at [potomacschool.org/alumni](http://potomacschool.org/alumni) or contact Laura Miller at [lmiller@potomacschool.org](mailto:lmiller@potomacschool.org) for more information. A huge thanks to **Rory Byrnes** and **Skip Calvert** for serving as class reunion chairs! **Win Huffman** is the overall Reunion Committee co-chair.

**Nerisa Ahmed** lives in London and recently welcomed her first child. Unfortunately, that means she won't be able to get to Potomac for Reunion.

**Matt Kline** shares, "I got married this fall on the Venice Pier, CA, to Ashleigh Di Tonto. **Adam Smith** was in attendance and best dressed. I attended the NCAA Wrestling Championships in NYC with **Reed Landry '99** and **Eddie Smith '98** this past March. I'll try to make it back for Reunion Weekend."

**Laura K.O. Smith** traveled to Antarctica with Quixote Expeditions earlier this year.



Belen Aquino Perfilio '99 with her family





## 2002

### Class Correspondents

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**Victoria Sylos-Labini**

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### Class Agents

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**Taylor Kettler**

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**Meredith Murphy Craven**

reports, "Our second daughter, Everly June Craven, was born on November 6. We're all doing great and big sister Claire loves her baby sister!"



'02

**Taylor Kettler** and **Annie Harris Kettler '05** welcomed Charlotte "Charley" Ann Kettler on November 4, 2015.

## 2003

### Class Correspondents

**Aleem Ahmed**

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**Elizabeth Fabiani Rooney**

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### Class Agents

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**Andrew Warin**

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**Alison Ayer Heyman** writes, "This fall, my husband and I – along with our girls, Emma (4) and Clara (2) – welcomed a baby boy! Brooks Robert Heyman was born September 23, 2015. We're in love, and the girls are enjoying having their own real live baby doll to play with."

**Maya Jaafar Lena** and Sean Lena welcomed Joan Jaafar Lena on January 7, 2016. They live in Portland, ME.

**Elizabeth Fabiani Rooney** and her husband, Michael, moved from San Francisco back to New York in late December. They often see Potomac friends and look forward to spending more time with family.

## 2004

### Class Correspondents

**Kathryn Johnson Critchfield**

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**Regina Lee Fechter**

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The children of Alison Ayer Heyman '03: Emma (4), Clara (2), and baby brother Brooks



'03

(back row, l to r): Regina Lee Fechter '04, Charlie Tansill '04, Caroline Reid Peterson '04, Katie Johnson Critchfield '04, Maggie Beddow '04, Ivano Ventresca; (front row): Claire Linden '04 and Andrew Shearer-Collie

### Class Agents

**Mike Diamond**

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**Chris Moore**

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Thank you to **Kathryn Johnson Critchfield** for her service as a class correspondent. Katie will be stepping down after this issue of *The Term*. If you would like to join Regina in this role, please email Laura Miller at [lmiller@potomacschool.org](mailto:lmiller@potomacschool.org).

**Chris Heather** will graduate with an M.B.A. from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania in 2016.

**Zachary Kaplan** was named to the *Forbes* "30 under 30" for 2016 in the category of Venture Capital. He has been working as an investor at General Atlantic since July 2010.

**Michael Murphy** writes, "After leaving my job with NIH last year, I now live in Denver, CO, with my fiancée, Casey, and our new German shepherd. I continue to handcycle and ski and recently started my own speaking business at [MichaelMurphySpeaks.com](http://MichaelMurphySpeaks.com)."

**Steve Shashy** believes that 30 is the new 18. Among other things, he continues to play in his two bands: The Justice Jackson 5 and The Zones of Twilight.

**Tesia Smith** moved to Boston in November to start a new job with British company Audley Travel. Tesia's new title is Japan country specialist; she creates customized vacations to Japan. She loves the job as they send her to Japan every year, she is surrounded by great people selling great countries, and the company keeps winning awards, including best company to work for. Tesia met up with **Kelsey Killmon** when she came for an interview and ended up moving one block away; however, Kelsey has since moved. If you are planning your next vacation or honeymoon, check out Audley Travel!

**Charlie Tansill** recently got engaged to Andrew Shearer-Collie and is moving back

Joan, daughter of Maya Jaafar Lena '03



'03



'04



Michael Murphy '04 with fiancée Casey

'04

to the U.S. in April, after living and working in Dubai.

**Derek Thompson** was named to the *Forbes* "30 under 30" for 2016, in the Media category. He is a senior editor at *The Atlantic* and is working on his first book, on the science of hits in pop culture.

## 2005

### Class Correspondent

**Lolly Rivas**

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### Class Agent

**Lauren Clarke**

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Members of the Class of 2005 welcomed 2016 with a bang! **Katie Fabiani** got engaged on New Year's Eve in Montauk, NY, to now fiancé Andrew Jaffe, whom she met in New York City. They are planning an October 2016 wedding. **Jordan Yarbboro** married Sarah Hargrove on New Year's Eve in Boston, MA, among family and friends, including **Taylor Manning**.

After recovering from a near-fatal skiing accident in 2013, **David Calvert** spent two

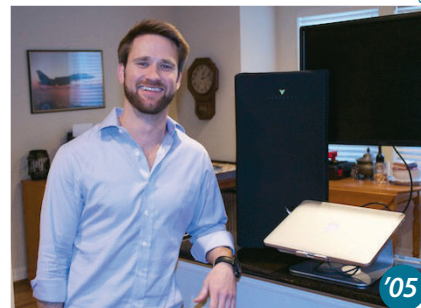
Kelsey Killmon '04 and Tesia Smith '04



Katie Fabiani '05 celebrates her engagement with fiancé Andrew



David Calvert '05



Jordan Yarboro '05 and wife Sarah on their wedding day



Helen Pappas '05



Caroline Kettler '05 and fiancé Kyle



Ashley Burnett '05 and fiancé Andrew

years developing BackVert, a fully adjustable back support that connects to almost any chair – from car to desk to plane seat – to promote proper posture while relieving back pain, aligning the spine, and strengthening the core. **Grace Browning** lives just down the road from David in Dallas, TX, where she works as principal harpist for The Dallas Opera. During the summers, Grace plays with the Santa Fe Opera. Highlighted as one of ABC7's "Working Women of 2015," **Helen Pappas** continues to grow Talltique, her Bethesda-based boutique. **Ryan Forster** and his wife, Alina, are gearing up to move to Seattle, WA, where Ryan will continue working with PricewaterhouseCoopers.

**Annie Harris Kettler** and **Taylor Kettler '02** welcomed Charlotte "Charley" Ann Kettler on November 4, 2015. On November 15, 2015, **Alissa Kur Lepisto** and her husband, Braden, welcomed Brooks Elliott Lepisto. Charley and Brooks had their first date over the holidays and it appears that things are getting serious. Charley's aunt had a busy 2015: **Caroline Kettler** moved to Baltimore,

MD, began teaching at Garrison Forrest School, and became engaged to Kyle Crosby. **Ashley Burnett** accepted Andrew Price's proposal in August 2015 and the Charleston, SC-based couple are currently planning a wedding in Mount Pleasant, SC, over Memorial Day weekend. **Caroline Horn** will serve as Ashley's maid of honor.

**Shane Donovan** is teaching physics, robotics, and biology at E.L. Haynes Public Charter School in Washington, DC, and his classroom has been featured in *EdSurge*, by the Michael and Susan Dell Foundation, and in the *Huffington Post*. Shane regularly keeps up with **Rob Barnett**, who is teaching at Eastern High School in DC.

**Andrew Green** is enjoying life as a freelance musician and music educator in Chicago. He plays in original jazz groups, a folk band, several cover bands, and a Brazilian samba band. Andrew is thrilled to announce that his main project, a collaborative indie jazz trio called Twin Talk, is releasing a new album on April 29

on Ears&Eyes Records.

Twin Talk will be touring the U.S. and Canada in May in support of the record.

The tour will include a show in Washington, DC, as well as

a performance and clinic at Potomac on May 10. If you are interested in hearing the band or purchasing the new album, you can learn more at [twintalkmusic.com](http://twintalkmusic.com). The folk band that Andrew plays with, called Jonas Friddle & The Majority, won "Song of the Year" from the John Lennon Songwriting Competition in 2013, and is also releasing a new record this spring. For more information about that band and their new record, check out [jonasfriddle.com](http://jonasfriddle.com).



**2006** Reunion YEAR 10<sup>th</sup>  
Class Correspondents

**Trevor Lewis**

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**Virginia O'Connell**

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**Class Agents**

**George Barsness**

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**Patrick Frailey**

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Annie Harris Kettler '05 and Taylor Kettler '02 with their daughter, Charley



Alissa Kur Lepisto '05 with her family



back to the DC area to take a position at the German Historical Institute, working as the resident fellow in the history of race and ethnicity.

**Rosalind Fennell** is wrapping up the final year of her graduate program to receive an M.P.H. in global health program monitoring, design, and evaluation at George Washington University. This year, Rosalind served as president of the Global Health Network, a campus organization working to connect students, staff, and faculty who have interests in global health, international development, and human rights. This semester, she was awarded a Clara Schiffer Fellowship to assist in the evaluation of the National Domestic Violence Hotline and Teen Dating Abuse Helpline. Rosalind is also continuing her position as a senior research assistant in the Department of Health Policy and Management at GWU.

**Molly Jaffe** is living in NYC and working for Lord & Taylor in the buying office.

**Katy Warren Oliver** will graduate from the University of Tennessee with a master's in Social Work in May.

**Cate Rooney** connected with **Madeleine Watson** this fall when she interviewed at the company where Cate currently works. Madeleine started there in October and says that it's been so much fun to work with a fellow Potomac graduate!

## 2008

### Class Correspondents

**Rosalind Fennell**

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**Anne Lenrow**

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### Class Agents

**Emma Rocks**

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**Nick Thieme**

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**Caitlin Black** has been at Oxford doing research on penguins and their Antarctic habitats.

**Kat Blackwood** was a bridesmaid for **Natasha Boote** as she married Joel Zoch on his family's beautiful Minnesota farm. Other recent highlights include diving with good friends in Honduras and Iceland; living with her sister, **Bryony '97**; and spending time with her family. Kat works in the DC office of the International Union for Conservation of Nature, where she manages project grants. When she has time, she also teaches scuba classes and writes news stories for the journal *Frontiers in Ecology and the Environment*. Occasionally, Kat tricks **Katie Chew**, **Robin Nichols**, and **Emma Rocks** into hanging out with her.

**Julia Bloom** is living in NoMa in DC and working as a researcher at Westat, a social science, research, and statistical analysis consulting firm. She misses Montreal, where they know how to deal with snow!

**Chris Ewing** is currently working on his Ph.D. at the CUNY Graduate Center in Manhattan and advanced to candidacy last semester. Chris will spend this upcoming summer in Berlin, after which he will move

On April 29 and 30, join us on campus for your 10<sup>th</sup> Reunion! Register today at [potomacschool.org/alumni](http://potomacschool.org/alumni), or contact Laura Miller at [lmiller@potomacschool.org](mailto:lmiller@potomacschool.org) for more information. A huge thanks to **Patrick Frailey** and **Griffith Roberts** for serving as class reunion chairs! **George Barsness** is the overall Reunion Committee co-chair.

**Kat Jerman** began studying peace and conflict studies at UC Berkeley this past fall.

**Trevor Lewis** left his job as a business analyst at the Wellness Group to join Penda Health (another healthcare social enterprise in Nairobi, Kenya) as the team leader for change management. In other exciting news, Trevor proposed to his boyfriend of five years after a day-long scavenger hunt across the city of Berlin at the end of December. Unfortunately, since two continents and the Atlantic Ocean currently separate them, the wedding won't take place until 2017.

**Phinney McIntire** and college sweetheart Andrea Fuwa celebrated their marriage on September 12, 2015, at the University Club of Chicago. **Ellen Benveniste**, **Daniel Chew**, **Patrick Frailey**, **Jimmy Miller**, and **Riker Vermilye** were there to celebrate with the new couple!

## 2007

### Class Agents

**Liz Frailey**

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**Aaron Kur**

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We are looking for someone who wants to help keep this class connected! If you are interested in being a class correspondent, please email [lmiller@potomacschool.org](mailto:lmiller@potomacschool.org).

## 2009

### Class Correspondents

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**Phillips Mitchell**

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### Class Agent

**Stuart Price**

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**Victoria Kornick** lives in Brooklyn and is a teaching artist in the NYC school system. She finished her M.F.A. at New York University this spring, where she was a Rona Jaffe and Goldwater Fellow. Victoria's recent poetry appears in the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *At Length*, and *Cosmonauts Avenue*.



## 2010

### Class Correspondents

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**Maggie Nelsen**

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### Class Agent

**CeCe Conner**

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**Alexandra Guntle** is pursuing her master's degree in business and communication at La Salle University and will be using her final season of NCAA Division I eligibility to run track for La Salle in the spring.

## 2011 Reunion YEAR 5<sup>th</sup>

### Class Correspondent

**Marie Henneburg**

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### Class Agents

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**Aarti Rishi**

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On April 29 and 30, join us on campus for your 5<sup>th</sup> Reunion! Register today at [potomacschool.org/alumni](http://potomacschool.org/alumni) or contact Laura Miller at [lmiller@potomacschool.org](mailto:lmiller@potomacschool.org) for more information. A huge thanks to **Zach Barsness** and **Aarti Rishi** for serving as class reunion chairs!

**Kylie Kies** and **Palmer Quamme** live together in Chicago, where Kylie works and Palmer attends law school.

**Charlotte Morris** graduated from UC Davis in December and began working for the Triage Consulting Group in San Francisco.

**Jackie Pfeiffer** has always wanted to pursue sports marketing and still cannot believe she managed to get her foot in the door with a professional football team, the Tennessee

Titans! She assists the director of cheerleading by running all of the cheerleading team's marketing efforts (social media, event programming, community relations) and game-day operations during the season.

**Harris Rosenblum** is working as an AmeriCorps member with the disaster relief organization St. Bernard Project, which rebuilds homes in the New Orleans area.

**Campbell Ross** is pursuing a two-year master's program in exercise physiology.

## 2012

### Class Correspondent

**Jamie Lovegrove**

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**Will Beech** has spent the last three years working for the Tony Awards, handling year-round operations as part of the organization's core management team. Following graduation from Columbia University this spring, Will looks forward to joining Citigroup's new internal consulting division at the bank's NYC headquarters.

**Lily Biggar** received funding from Colorado College to travel to Paris for the UN conference on climate change. The conference involved heads of state and delegates from more than 190 countries and resulted in national targets to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and a commitment to limit the global temperature increase to two degrees Celsius. During her two-week stay, Lily attended daily workshops and lectures and kept a blog to share her experience with those at home and in the Colorado College community.

In May, **Will Crittenger** will graduate from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He will be moving to Chicago in July, to begin a career in commercial real estate, working as an underwriting analyst for Walker & Dunlop.

This past summer, **Samantha Dockser** starred in the world premiere of the musical *Las Polacas: The Jewish Girls of Buenos Aires* at the Gala Hispanic Theatre in Washington, DC. She is excited to report that the show has been nominated for five Helen Hayes Awards! This spring, she also starred as Sarah Brown in *Guys and Dolls* at the Jerry Herman Ring Theatre in Coral Gables, FL. In May, Samantha will complete her Bachelor of Fine Arts in acting at the University of Miami. She plans to move to Los Angeles immediately afterward, to pursue her acting career. In

the meantime, she keeps busy contributing to the food blog *HedonistShedonist.com* and fulfilling her childhood dream of being a Disney princess by working with Party Princess Productions.

**Jamie Lovegrove** spent three months in Austin, TX, at the beginning of 2016 as a reporting fellow at *The Texas Tribune*, covering state politics and policy. In the buildup to Super Tuesday, he led the site's coverage of the Texas Democratic presidential primary, traveling to every corner of the Lone Star State to track the Hillary Clinton and Bernie Sanders campaigns as they ramped up activity in Texas. After graduating from Northwestern University in June, Jamie will move back home to cover Congress for the *Dallas Morning News*' Washington DC bureau.

## 2013

### Class Correspondents

**Soraya Batmanghelidj**

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**Ellie Gilbert**

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### Class Agent

**Parker Kobayashi**

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**Soraya Batmanghelidj** spent her junior year studying in Paris. During her time abroad, she interned at the offices of *American Vogue*, an experience she enjoyed greatly. She is excited to spend this summer interning in New York City.

**Jeffrey Billingslea** is a junior at Ohio University. He is hoping to solidify his sixth semester on the university's Dean's List. Jeffrey looks forward to beginning his third summer interning for the Volkswagen Group of America and his second consecutive summer with Audi of America as a field operations and brand marketing intern. Finally, as a member of his university's all-male chorus, the Singing Men of Ohio, and their smaller a cappella group, Section 8, Jeffrey won "Outstanding Soloist in the Midwest" at the annual International Championship of Collegiate A Cappella quarterfinals; Section 8 also took third place.

**Ellie Gilbert**, who is at Southern Methodist University, will be interning at Saks Fifth Avenue in New York as part of their Executive Excellence Program.

**Colton Haney** was initiated into the Der Hexenkreis chapter of Mortar Board Senior Honor Society at Cornell University.

Lily Oyler '11, Marie Henneburg '11, and Jess Parker '11 all graduated from Middlebury College in February.





Founded in 1892, Der Hexenkreis recognizes 30 seniors for their commitment to the school community. In 1918, the society became one of the four founding members of the National Mortar Board Honor Society.

**Britt Nelson**, a Southern Methodist University student, will be spending the summer in Dallas as a technology analyst intern for Southwest Airlines.

**Devon Winsor** studied abroad in Prague in the fall, learning about political science and economics at Charles University. While abroad, she visited 12 countries, including Croatia, Latvia, Switzerland, and Austria. Devon is happy to be back in America and continuing her studies at Davidson.

**Emma Wright** is taking the spring semester off from Duke University to thru-hike the Appalachian Trail. She is walking from Georgia all the way to Maine! Good luck, Emma!

## 2014

### Class Correspondent

**Vanessa Luehrs**

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### Class Agent

**Ben Rietano**

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**Maina Kamau** writes, “Studying film and television production in the UK has been an incredibly rewarding and eye-opening experience. This semester, I have two large TV projects to film, one a drama and the other a game show. Both require unimaginable amounts of paperwork, from location releases to risk assessments. Our Creative Edge building, where all media-related courses are based, is outfitted with two incredible studios and a Foley Pit. For the game show, I’m in charge of sound, so when we are in the studio I’ll be watching and adjusting the levels. A Foley Pit is used to enhance ambient sounds that a microphone is unable to pick up; we will be using one in both productions. As second-year students we are beginning to think about what the focus around our dissertations would be, and I’m leaning toward the UCLA Rebellion. In addition to all things school, I’ve been able to travel a bit this year to Amsterdam and Edinburgh, and I may go to Salou, in Spain, with some friends. I also want to say to everyone thinking about studying abroad or attending university abroad – do it! It may seem daunting, but immersing yourself in a culture other than your own is a phenomenal experience.”

**Vanessa Luehrs** shares, “Sophomore year has brought many exciting adventures for me!

In October, I welcomed a little sister into my Pi Beta Phi family, and in November, I was elected vice president of communications for my chapter. During Christmas break, I happily returned to Potomac to help the Alumni Office with the phonathon for the annual fund. In late January, I met up with **Larissa Converti** in Philadelphia and cheered on **Kira Keating** in her squash match against UPenn. It’s always nice to see fellow Panthers nearby!”

**Nathan Marcotte** writes, “Now officially an accounting and financial management major in Bucknell’s School of Management, I continue to love all that Bucknell has to offer. When not in the classroom, I work for the Office of Admissions as an admissions student coordinator, responsible for scheduling tours for prospective students. I also recently joined the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity. I’m looking forward to a great summer in the DC area with **Forrest deButts** and **Madeleine Remi**, and a fun fall in Sydney, Australia.”

**Caroline Stenger** writes, “At Elon, between the first and second semesters, we have something called Winter Term. It consists of three weeks in January where students can take one class and really focus on that one course to truly understand it. This year, I decided to take a civilization course and travel to Greece. We started in Athens and then traveled north to Thessaloniki. On the way, we stopped on the island of Crete for a few days. Being able to see famous sites like the Parthenon and the Sanctuary of Athena was truly breathtaking. Elon also has a wonderful study abroad program, and I cannot wait for my semester in London next fall!”

**Natasha Urbany** reports, “During the spring semester I had the privilege of serving as president of the Iota Chapter of Gamma Phi Beta! Over the course of those few months, I saw our chapter blossom and grow to more than 150 members. I also had the chance to attend the President’s Leadership Retreat in St. Louis, where I was able to connect with my fellow sisters and learn from each chapter’s challenges and successes. I’ve been able to translate all this exciting information not only to my work in the chapter, but also to my academics, and hopefully to my upcoming Washington, DC, internship over the summer!”

**Amy Zhang** says, “I spent fall 2015 studying abroad in Hong Kong, where I had the chance to take classes from the faculty of math and economics. When I didn’t have class, I explored the territories or outlying islands with new friends. I really enjoyed my time in Hong Kong, but I am also thrilled to be back in College Park for the spring semester!”

## 2015

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**Peter Brinkman** spent this past fall at the University of Colorado, Boulder, studying physics and theory. Looking for a change of pace, he is taking a gap semester this spring to work on abstract painting and a collection of short stories and essays.

**Julia Bucholz** is currently studying at Georgetown University and is most proud of her time spent as a member of the George Washington Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps (NROTC) battalion. She successfully completed her first semester as a Midshipman Fourth Class in the NROTC and says that she has developed mentally, morally, and physically. Julia also notes that she still has a lot to learn, but she is confident that the incredible staff and midshipmen in her program will help her on that journey.

**Grace Cherouny** is studying environmental studies and geography at the University of Vermont and is a dedicated member of the UVM sailing team. She has also loved exploring Burlington and spending her free time hiking and skiing in the beautiful Green Mountains!

**Taaj Davis** is attending Kenyon College and says that “football” basically sums up his first semester. He is also part of a group on campus called Men of Color, as well as the Black Student Union. This semester, he is pledging the fraternity Delta Tau Delta and is shooting for an econ major with a minor in American studies.

**Tucker Gibson** is studying communications at the University of Southern California and having an awesome time experiencing Los Angeles, especially its delicious culinary offerings (seriously, check out his Instagram). He reports that he has dedicated time to

Elie Plaster '15 at K Diamond K dude ranch



&lt; Kathryn Karnaze '15

Will Langstaff '15 at hockey practice



working on a report for a team of researchers at USC; the research involves grading top media companies, including Disney, Time Warner, and Comcast, on their diversity in television, film, and employment in 2015.

**Connor Hennessey** delved into computer science topics and is enjoying Villanova's vibrant social scene. He also finds time to reach out to students through his engagement in an LGBTQIA and multicultural identity rights club known as ACT. In addition, Connor has formed a club of his own that helps promote student activity and wellness. By being an active member of the Villanova student body, he has been able to find a true family on campus and work on addressing issues that really matter to him.

**Billy Hicks** is pursuing his passions for economics, commerce, and history at UVA. He participates as an outspoken member of the College Republicans and exercises his faith as a member of the Christian group The Reformed University Fellowship.

**Kathryn Karnaze** joined *Sherman Ave*, a satirical online publication that focuses primarily on topics relating to Northwestern but exerts a national presence. As a student in the journalism school, she assumed she would work for one of the school publications, like the daily paper. But she really found her niche in comedy. Because of *Sherman Ave*, Kathryn became a producer on Northwestern's first late-night talk show, *The Blackout* with Chelsea Jacobson. Northwestern is the first university to do anything of *Blackout*'s kind, so she feels it's exciting and eye-opening to be able to build something from the ground up. This spring, Kathryn will be producing a web series and managing the social media for Northwestern's Dance Marathon, as well as

a friend's sitcom project – but it all started by joining *Sherman Ave*. She had no idea she would find her passion for production and comedy writing while in school for journalism; but to Kathryn, "it just fits."

Before moving into college, **Clare Kehoe** kicked off a memorable summer by traveling to Greece and Istanbul with her family in August. At Duke, she's continued playing lacrosse on the club team and enjoys attending basketball games, as well as taking in the school scene.

**Will Langstaff** has embarked on a year to remember, spending his gap year perfecting his skills in the field of professional hockey. At first, his team arrived on the ice to no fanfare, just like many teams before them. After a few practices, though, the town began to recognize them and show strong support. With each autograph he signed, hockey became more than just a game to Will; he says that he began to recognize the sport as an opportunity to become a role model for the same fans he was working and training for. In his own words: "It was phenomenal."

**Lauren Martin** is enjoying her time at UC Santa Cruz by studying hard, taking meditative hikes across campus, and engaging with the vibrant student community. Beyond this, she keenly appreciates California's natural beauty and the "perfect breezy-yet-sunny weather" – an admiration that she fosters by climbing redwoods, exploring the beaches, and spending sunny days on the Boardwalk!

**Gracie Meisel** is majoring in political science and minoring in Spanish at Duke. She continues to showcase her impressive tennis skills on the club team and works hard to foster gender equality in her community

via her efforts within her club dedicated to gender-rights activism.

**Theo Mendez** is enjoying his time at Harvard and the opportunity to use his skills in real-world applications. He's joined the Harvard Model Congress and recently attended his first conference with them, in Boston. Theo is also an active member of the Harvard College Consulting Group (HCCG), currently plays for Harvard's squash team, and is considering focusing his studies on applied math.

**Alex Moran** is majoring in music and has found many ways to share her skills within the Boston College community. She is part of a club called the Music Guild that hosts weekly open-mic nights and other events. She has performed at numerous open-mic nights and participates in the group's service trips to a local hospital to play music with sick kids. Alex also shares her talents with others by playing the piano for a choir and giving piano lessons. She has continued with her basketball career by playing intramural basketball at BC, which she says has "been a blast!" She also enjoys exploring Boston and going to Celtics games, museums, and concerts.

**Blair Nagell** is having a great time finding ways to be active at her new school and in her new city. Blair is gearing up for her first field hockey season as a Davidson College Wildcat and was recently elected to the college's Honor Council. Beyond this, she spends her time volunteering at the local free clinic, as well as teaching a healthy cooking class to low-income kids. Blair recently pledged into an eating house (her school's version of a sorority) and loves her opportunity to impact others for the better.

**John Nagell** is having a great time at Wake Forest, where he plans to major in political science and minor in Spanish. When he is not studying, John enjoys playing on the club soccer team. Additionally, he has immersed himself into a brotherhood by joining a fraternity, Chi Psi.

**Phil Newsome** has enjoyed his first year as a student-athlete at St. Mary's. He has formed close kinship with his basketball teammates, as he did at Potomac. Phil has also joined the National Society of Leadership and Success, which he was nominated into by campus faculty. He enjoys going to the docks on campus and spending time at the beach with his friends.

Hoping to major in accounting, **Brittany Nguon** has already gotten very involved in the School of Business at George Washington



University. She is an ambassador for GW Women in Business, as well as a pledge for Delta Sigma Pi, the business professional fraternity on campus. In addition, Brittany is active in Greek life as a sister of Pi Beta Phi and is a member of the Junior Panhellenic Council. She was also nominated to speak about her research essay, "Genocide in Film," at the spring 2016 University Writing and Research Conference. Overall, Brittany has had an enjoyable first year of college and looks forward to the years to come at GW!

Besides dedicating herself to her studies, **Kate O'Brien** has started to write for a food publication at Princeton. In addition, she volunteers at the Cherry Tree Club, a preschool for homeless and at-risk children. She loves getting off campus for a little bit to spend time with her preschool buddies, to whom she has gotten very close. This semester, Kate will be in the spring show for the Princeton Triangle Club, a musical comedy group that puts on shows written and produced by students. After finishing her second semester as a Tiger, Kate hopes to study Spanish abroad in Barcelona in the summer.

**Elie Plaster** is taking a gap year before she starts at the College of William & Mary in fall 2016. She spent the summer in Falmouth, ME, working for the marine unit of the police department as an assistant to the harbor master. During the fall, Elie worked at K Diamond K dude ranch in Washington state and, later, at Key Lime Sailing Club in the Florida Keys. She spent the month of February working at a preschool and also for an event planner. This spring, Elie is studying abroad in Buenos Aires, Argentina, at the Universidad de Belgrano.

During her first semester at UC Berkeley, **Nicole Roman** continued to exercise her passion for diversity and inclusion, which she fostered at Potomac. Through her Ethnic Studies class, she helped to organize speakers and performers for the Third World Multiracial Solidarity Conference on Community Engagement. Additionally, Nicole

has joined Dance the Bay, an organization through which she teaches dance classes to kindergarten students in after-school programs.

Outside of playing football, **Naim Rutledge** spends most of his time in the University of Mount Union library, where he also works. Planning to major in psychology, Naim continues to foster community as he once did throughout the halls of Potomac – forging friendships that will last a lifetime.

**Merritt Vance** volunteered at the Jefferson School, a federally-funded daycare in Charlottesville, during her first semester at the University of Virginia. She recently joined a chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness that supports efforts to promote and advocate for mental health at UVA. Additionally, Merritt has obtained many new "sisters" through joining her sorority, Pi Beta Phi. Between her activism, sorority life, and intellectual endeavors, Merritt has fallen in love with being a Cavalier.

At the University of Virginia, **Jimmy Waldo** quickly found a home on the Virginia Alpine Ski and Snowboard Team, a club team that races in the Southeast Conference of the United States Collegiate Ski and Snowboard Association against teams from Duke, Appalachian State, James Madison, and Virginia Tech, among other schools. Jimmy is looking forward to finishing off a fun and successful season with his team!

During her first semester, **Tricia Yeonas** joined an a cappella group called the Dartmouth Decibelles. They went on tour in Florida during winter break and had the pleasure of singing at Disney World. Tricia has also immersed herself in a volunteer group called DREAM, a mentorship program that works with youth from low-income families in the Upper Valley of New Hampshire. Every Friday, she spends the afternoon on campus with her mentee, which allows her to foster a nurturing relationship.

## in memoriam

### **Robin Bolton-Smith '56**

*twin sister of Anne Bolton-Smith Putzel '56*

### **Julie Merrell Harris '46**

*mother of Mark Tucker '71 and the late Deborah Tucker '67; grandmother of Anne Sherman '13*

### **Beatrice "Bea" Lindsten**

*former head of Middle School; Trustee Emeritus; mother of Betty Lindsten Mulrey '65, Nancy Lindsten Taylor '67, and Karen Lindsten Devlin '71; grandmother of Donald Taylor '00, Eric Taylor '03, Robbie Taylor '05, and Steven Taylor '03. We will honor Mrs. Lindsten's memory at this year's May Day celebration.*

### **Wilhelmina**

#### **"Billie" Orr**

*mother of Elizabeth "Biz" Orr Fawkes '69 and the late Howard Orr '73*

Wilhelmina "Billie" Orr, a former Lower School head and first grade teacher, passed away on September 18, 2015, at her home in Leesburg, Virginia, at the age of 87.

Mrs. Orr was a gifted educator who left a wonderful legacy at Potomac. For 22 years, as both a teacher and an administrator, she helped nurture young children, always encouraging their curiosity about the world around them. Her daughter Biz remembers, "My mother was a forward-thinking person, who was deeply interested in how children learn and think. She could reach into a child's imagination and really connect. She was very special."

Mrs. Orr's colleagues and students clearly agreed. The Potomac School's 1986 yearbook was dedicated to her, with the following inscription: "She is a gracious leader who constantly supports her faculty and the spirit of Potomac." Mrs. Orr will be missed by all whose lives she touched.



# Share with us!

Send your news to your class correspondent; his or her contact information can be found at the top of your class year. If no correspondent is listed, email your updates to [term@potomacschool.org](mailto:term@potomacschool.org) or mail them to Alumni Office, 1301 Potomac School Road, McLean, VA 22101.



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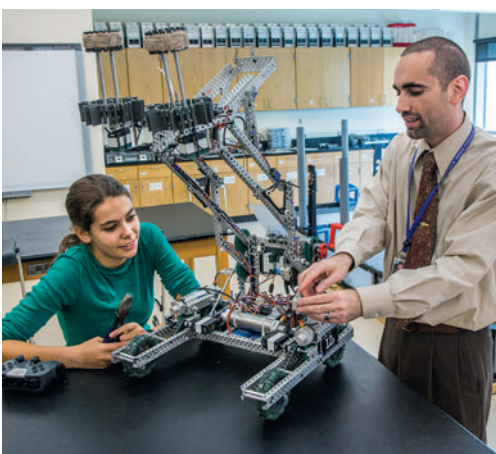
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