PENNINGTON MAGAZINNE

Making GLOBAL Connections

upcoming Events 2019



Jupiter, FL, Alumni Reception

Hosted by Jordan '91 and Kristin Gray P'22

Sunday, February 17, 5:00-7:00 p.m. The Bear's Club, 250 Bear's Club Dr., Jupiter, FL 33477

> RSVP to Jane Bott Childrey '89 at jane.childrey@pennington.org

FEBRUARY

- 15: Miami, FL, Alumni Reception
- 16: Naples, FL, Alumni Luncheon
- 16: Tampa, FL, Alumni Reception
- 17: Vero Beach, FL, Alumni Luncheon
- 17: Jupiter, FL, Alumni Reception
- 18: School closed: Presidents Day
- 23: Red and Black Bash
- 27–March 2: Winter Musical: Godspell

MARCH

- 3: Godspell Alumni Reception
- 9–25: Spring Break

APRIL

- 12: Cabaret
- 14: Mercer Bucks Mini Maker Faire
- 17: Spring Concert
- 18: Grandparents Day
- 25: Pennington Giving Day
- 26–28: Spring Play
 - 29: All-School Community Day
 - 30: Horizon Program begins

MAY

- 9–11: Middle School Play
- 17–18: Alumni Weekend
 - 31: Baccalaureate and Senior/Parent Dinner

JUNE

- 1: Upper School Commencement
- 6: Middle School Graduation
- 10: Annual Scholarship Classic Events
- 24: Summer Programs begin

Alumni MAY 17-18 WEEKEND 2019

Join us for our young alumni career panel, athletic games, all-School barbecue, diversity luncheon, Nina's Waffles and Ice Cream, and more!













Homecoming 2019: October 11-12

Homecoming and Reunions will continue to be the main alumni gathering each year, with meetings of reunion classes and events for alumni of all ages. Questions? Contact Jane Bott Childrey '89 at jane.childrey@pennington.org or call 609-737-6144.

PENNINGTON

Fall/Winter 2018

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The Pennington School admits students of any race, religion, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the School. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, gender, physical disability, national and ethnic origin, or sexual orientation in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, scholarship and financial aid programs, employment policies, and athletic and other school-administered programs.

Features

2. Convocation: Dr. Hawkey challenges all of us to make a difference this year.

4. Construction Update: Many construction projects were in the final stages of completion this fall.

6. Strategic Planning: The School looks to the future as administrators and trustees determine institutional priorities for the coming ten years.

9. Homecoming 2018: October 19–21 offered myriad activities for alumni and current students on campus for the weekend.

34. Making Global Connections:

Opportunities for students (and faculty!) to participate in worldwide issues are available on our campus and farther afield. 46. Applied Science Speaker Series: A

yearlong program of speakers is designed to illustrate the possibilities for students interested in STEM-related fields.

50. HomeFront Holiday Party: This year's celebration marked the 25th anniversary of Pennington's special relationship with the HomeFront organization.

54. Alumni News and Class Notes: Class of 1968 celebrates 50 years, Spencer Garrison '05, Save the Date for the Bangkok Alumni Festival, Lauren Kelly Benson '03, Pennington Alumni Theater, New York Holiday Reception, Class Notes, and more.



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The Pennington School formally opened its 181st academic year with Convocation ceremonies on Friday, September 7. Despite drizzle that turned to downpour, spirits were high under the tent on O'Hanlon Green. A brass quintet played as the students entered by grade, followed by the academic procession of faculty and trustees.

The program began with an invocation from Chaplain Aaron R. Twitchell after the singing of "The Star-Spangled Banner" by a cappella group InTouch (juniors Annelise Cornet, Gabriela Montero, Molly Nelson, and Jenna Soliman). After welcoming remarks from Peter J. Tucci '79, chair of the Board of Trustees, there were greetings from various School constituencies. Holly Jones, teacher of history and economics, represented the faculty; student speakers were Katherine Reim '19, president of the student government, and Francesca Pendus '23, who represented the Middle School. Reim added a festive note to the proceedings: confetti!

Headmaster William S. Hawkey addressed the theme for this academic year: Make a Difference. He quoted words of Ernest Hemingway: "Today is only one day in all the days that will ever be. But what will happen in all the other days that ever come can depend on what you do today." Hawkey challenged the student body to find their own ways to make a difference. From Dr. Hawkey's speech:

Institutionally, The Pennington School has been making a difference since 1838. We welcomed girls in the 1800s at a time when most private schools were single-gender. Also in the 1800s, we opened the doors to international students from around the globe, and in 1975 we were one of the first traditional college-preparatory schools in the country to create a program for students with learning differences—our own Cervone Center for Learning.

And, yet with all of the examples we have to talk about how our community members "make a difference," there is still the feeling that we can do more. The beauty of the theme "Make a Difference" is that everyone can participate. As Robert Kennedy said, "The purpose of life is to make a difference by helping to make things better." In my worldview, making a difference can happen on levels from the personal level to the global level. And guess what? Each of us can make a difference on any and all of these fronts.

Rather than setting an arbitrary number of hours for community service as a graduation requirement, we instead talk about serving as a lifestyle and not as a duty to fulfill in order to earn credits. "Making a difference" should come from the heart without pretense or qualifications.

So let's find ways, big and small, throughout the year to give your time and your compassion to people you may not even know. We can "make a difference" as a School community committed to honoring the values of honor, virtue, and humility.

Let's "Make a Difference" this year!





"Success happens as a result of a lot of hard work, commitment to a goal or dream, some trial and error and learning from mistakes, and from being bold and believing in yourself. You have my guarantee that we will continue to push ourselves to make this an even stronger institution, without losing sight of our core values or proud and rich history."

—Dr. Hawkey



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CLASS OF

2025





"Over the past four years, The Pennington School has been a school in a constant state of transformation. Because of the generosity and support of our current parents, we are able to continue to reimagine and upgrade our campus."

—Dr. Hawkey

Construction Update

Dining Hall

The expansion of the Dining Hall was completed in early November and added about 2,000 square feet of space to the building's footprint. The extra floor space allows for a much-improved flow throughout the room, and the flexibility to add tables and chairs as needed, as well as changes to the layout of the buffet areas. Backpacks can now be stored in a covered area in the newly enlarged vestibules, which also offer hooks for winter coats and jackets. When spring arrives, all will welcome the addition of air conditioning to the room as well! Larger windows offer much more natural light, and the space feels welcoming and inviting to students as well as faculty and staff.

Wesley Drive

At press time, the Wesley Drive perimeter road project was nearing completion, awaiting only the final paving of the permeable surface. Following this year's Spring Break, the Pennington community will experience the benefits of a car-free campus during School hours. Part of this project included additional parking behind Stainton Hall, as well as final paving of the newest parking lot, adjacent to the Tom Liwosz turf field. Using permeable materials for paving both the new parking lot and the new road allows the School the flexibility to add impermeable spaces in the future, such as new or expanded buildings, in addition to being more environmentally friendly.





Campus Center

Because of the generosity of a current Pennington parent, student spaces in the Campus Center were completely renovated over the summer of 2018. An enhanced lobby, complete with waterfall installation, welcomes visitors to the Silva Gallery entrance. On the Student Center side, the Campus Store enjoyed a complete makeover that included opening up the walls of the store to allow people to browse and shop inside during retail hours and expanding display spaces for additional retail products. The Snack Bar also underwent a renovation, and students and staff can now browse the daily offerings and choose from an increased variety of healthful foods and drinks. Refrigerated cases were added near the register along with grab-and-go selections.

The Student Center was provided with all-new comfortable furniture, complete with pillows and coffee tables, that offers students a relaxing space in which to



socialize or do homework before school, during free periods, or after classes end for the day. Now, at almost any time during the school day, the space is packed with students enjoying time with each other! In addition, a brand-new Senior Lounge was added, offering each year's senior class a cozy space away from the hubbub in the Center, complete with television screens and other amenities.

Old Main administrative offices

One of the final phases of the Building for the Future comprehensive campaign is the renovation of what is known as the B floor in Old Main. Home to the administrative offices of the Headmaster, the Dean of Academic Affairs, the Dean of Faculty, the Registrar, the Business Office, the Office of Communications, a conference room, and the faculty/staff mailroom, this space was completely demolished and rebuilt in a historically sensitive manner. Bright, inviting spaces have now greatly enhanced the working environment for the staff who occupy offices in this

wing. A chair-lift to the upper level as well as air conditioning has also been installed. Anyone who previously attended or taught classes on the B floor will be astounded by the transformation, which now matches the renovations to the Admission Office (Long Hall) that were completed in 2016.

Other enhancements

Also during the summer and fall of 2018, the water tower was repainted, adding our Pennington split 'P' logo; the stairway entrance to Long Hall on the west side of Old Main was refurbished; and fire escapes on the outside of Old Main were replaced. In addition, two bathrooms on the boys' dorms in Old Main were gutted and renovated.

Science classrooms in Stainton Hall received new projectors and whiteboards; enhancements for the athletic department brought new digital capabilities to Tom Liwosz Turf Field; a new faculty apartment was constructed in Old Main; and the baseball field was renovated in late October.



Strategic Planning News



Over the past several years, The Pennington School has met the goals that were established in the last strategic plan, created in 2010. As the last phase of the comprehensive campaign n *Building for the Future* is finished this year, we are already well along in our work coming up with a new strategic plan to guide our thinking and planning for the ten years ahead. A strategic planning committee was formed over a year ago, and one of its first initiatives was to gather input from our four constituent groups: current and alumni parents, current students, alumni, and employees. This process was completed through four surveys, and the results have informed the planning process that is now underway.

As you will see in the months ahead, our focus is on deepening, expanding, refining, and maximizing goals that will be familiar to you. We are remaining on our current campus, with no plans to increase enrollment beyond the current number, serving students in grades 6 to 12. We remain committed to our mission of cultivating individual excellence, to the Cervone Center for Learning program, and to our residential life (boarding) program.

The Pennington School aims to provide an academic and experiential education for students that promotes essential life skills, including leadership, resilience, and independence, both in and outside of the classroom. Its collaborative and diverse learning environment encourages citizenship and offers many opportunities for students to interact responsibly and productively with their peers, faculty members, and the larger Pennington community. The School also supports students in handling and creating balance in their lives, including being responsible users of technology.

We believe that *how* students learn is as important as *what* they learn. The Pennington School's curriculum will continue to emphasize both course content and the student experience. We aim to integrate a liberal arts education with real world engagement so that our students grow to be adaptive, resilient, and useful contributors to society. We will continue to create and nurture a rich community of learners that embraces a wide range of cultures and learning styles, strikes the right balance between girls and boys/day students and boarders, and is accessible to students from all socioeconomic backgrounds. Our faculty members not only are teachers but also serve as role models, mentors, and even surrogate parents. The personal attention they give our students often results in lifeshaping relationships. Pennington needs to attract and retain the best educators who not only excel at teaching but also believe in working together in service of our School's mission and core values.

"A new strategic plan will establish our priorities, set measurable goals, and help focus our energy and resources in a way that enriches the Pennington School experience for all. We are a community that is constantly striving for excellence." —Headmaster William S. Hawkey

Our School has benefited for almost 200 years from strong leadership, generous donations, and steady endowment growth. We are committed to building upon past successes so we can continue to thrive as an institution that is able to prevail against economic turbulence and uncertainty. This requires flexibility and being open to innovative ways of thinking. We are committed to exploring initiatives to maintain and strengthen Pennington as a model of best practices in independent school education and as a school of choice. We reaffirm our dedication to our unusually closeknit and welcoming community of students, parents, alumni, faculty, and staff.

A sense of space and place is essential in framing the work we do at The Pennington School, both in and out of the classroom. We have intentionally transformed the campus over the past ten years to provide spaces that contribute to the Pennington experience. We want to achieve a sense of cohesiveness in any future physical projects while preserving the Pennington brand. Paying attention to the physical campus has led us to already begin working on a Landscape Master Plan.

Campus Landscape Master Plan

The Pennington School is currently working on a Campus Landscape Master Plan, which provides an opportunity to review and assess the existing campus buildings and grounds while measuring them against current and future needs. The Landscape Master Plan will be closely aligned with the new Strategic Plan. The master planning process is highly inclusive and involves input from the Pennington community–faculty, staff, students, and trustees–to guide the future physical development of the School.

Pennington has engaged two firms to assist with this work: Digsau, a Philadelphia-based planning, contemporary architecture, and environmental design firm, and Quennell Rothschild & Partners, landscape architects. These two firms will be assisted by a planning advisory steering committee from Pennington, which includes faculty and staff members, parents, trustees, and students. There are also several working committees, which report in to the steering committee. This process provides an opportunity to connect with the greater campus community to dream, discuss, prioritize, and reach consensus regarding potential future changes and projects to achieve a cohesive and pleasing physical environment for The Pennington School. The process concludes with a development framework and a phased action plan for implementation, along with suggested priorities and cost estimates for the proposed projects.



inspires others and gives back to the community. "Academics are certainly an important part of Pennington," Kristin says. "But for us, it's more about the overall experience. We wanted to support a student who exhibited life skills and leadership. Students here are allowed to define success on their own terms and not have others define it for them."

Jordan came to Pennington as a sophomore boarding student from northern New Jersey. His memories of Pennington are

evenly split between the close friends he made, his teachers, and athletics. Kristin feels like a Pennington alumna by association. "Some of the most profound relationships in our lives have come out of Pennington," she says.

When beginning their high school search for their older daughter, the Grays gravitated towards Pennington not only because Jordan graduated in 1991 but also because so many of their friends with children enrolled at Pennington constantly described the Pennington experience as "life-changing." They also both feel that Pennington's reputation is at an all-time high. "Students are encouraged

to pursue their individual interests and appreciated for their individual strengths in a supportive community here. That's Pennington's secret sauce," says Kristin.

As Pennington parents, the Grays commend Pennington for its sense of community and the individual experience it creates for each student. "It's a seamless fit to want to give to Pennington. Pennington is about individual excellence and values community —it is an extension of what we stand for," says Kristin.

They also now truly understand what their friends meant when calling the Pennington experience "life-changing." Their daughter is a sophomore, and the Grays report that she is coming into her own at Pennington. "It's her due north," says Kristin.

"Pennington has a job to do," adds Jordan. "It did its job when educating me. Part of why we give is to pay it forward, regardless of the experience I had. We feel involved in the community, and we know where our donations are going. The results are tangible, and we see how our giving makes a big difference."

The Grays also support the School as volunteers. They hope their philanthropy and service to Pennington will inspire other parents to support Pennington and ensure that all students receive the full Pennington experience. "By giving, we want to be part of the solution," says Kristin. "We don't want any students missing out on the magic that is Pennington."

Jordan and Kristin Gray believe in leading by example. Long before becoming Pennington parents, they made it a priority to establish a scholarship at their alma mater, St. Lawrence University, giving students who couldn't otherwise afford tuition at St. Lawrence access to the same excellent education they both feel they received. They also believe, however, that even students who can afford tuition, whether at the high school or college level, don't

always have the funds for incidental expenses that round out the student experience. Kristin calls this "wraparound support" — things like books, school trips, or petty cash to spend at the movies or get pizza.

When their older daughter enrolled at Pennington in 2015, the Grays established a scholarship that provides full tuition for a deserving Pennington student. In addition, they helped launch a new Student Assistance Fund, which ensures that every student at Pennington, regardless of economic circumstances, is able to participate in the full Pennington experience without being held back financially from opportunities or feeling like outsiders because they can't afford dress down days, snack bar allowances, or sports equipment.

"We are big proponents of providing support services that extend beyond an academic scholarship at Pennington," Jordan says. "We want each individual student here to have the same opportunities all his or her classmates have. It's important for every student to feel like an equal player."

When establishing the scholarship, the Grays entrusted Pennington with awarding the scholarship to a student who

Why We Give Jordan '91 and Kristin Gray P'22



Homecoming Weekend October 19–21, 2018

ounded 1













WELCOME

ALUMAN





Homecoming Weekend







10 Pennington Magazine Fall/Winter 2018

1. Fritz Kurtz '83, Jeff Keating '81, and Colette Keating P'13 2. Kurt Scherler '83, Richard Ruch '83, and Shawn Lawson '84 3. Gabby Jackson '08 and Kylee Rossi Flynn '05 catching up at Brews and Barbecue 4. Homecoming Row 5. Hope MacKenzie '13 and Charlie Paige '14 6. Class of '73 at the Wesley Alumni House cocktail party. Back row: Jim Mentis, Bruce Herrick, Bob Gillis, Steven Thomson, Marty Shapiro, Dennis Scudder, Emery Ungrady; Front row: Richard Sharrett, Dan Seyler, Lynn Brashier Lindenthal, Stephen Tan, and John Rufe. 7. Jack Ungaro '68 and Lucy Ort '24 8. Danielle Di Meglio '19, AnaLi Sharer '19, Claire Seward '19, Augie Beers '19, and guest 9. Cathy Xu '17, David Wan '16, Clare Zhang '16, Elvina Bao '16, and Sandy Zhang '19





Homecoming Weekend



Homecoming Weekend



10. The faculty band provided outdoor music entertainment at the All-Alumni party. 11. The All-Alumni party at Corson House 12. Jennifer Wheeler Faber '86, Dennis Keating '79, and Peter Tucci '79 13. Charmaine Cerenzo Murphy '78, Mavis Rufe Deary '78, and Carin Kraut Cohen '78 14. Jameel Talwani '88, Jeff Long '88, George Ward '88, and Amy Frisman '88 15. Class of 1998













Homecoming Awards 2018

Recipients of alumni awards were recognized at the Headmaster's Brunch on Saturday, October 20.







2018 Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees

Jae Hyeok Heo '08 John (Jack) Madden '56 Maggie Marquis McCord '03 Richard (Rick) Ritter Roger Sharrett III '73

2018 Alumni Awards *Outstanding Young Alumni Award* Patrick Chai '03

> *Alumni Service Award* Lauren Kelly Benson '03

Alumni Achievement Award Stephen Tan '73

The Tower Award Joseph and Marion Wesley GP'93 '94 '94 '95 '98 '99 '01 '02 '03 '03



































Special Events Fall 2018

1. Students enjoyed special snacks after school during opening week. 2. Our freshmen enjoyed an afternoon retreat on their first day of Upper School at Pennington! 3. On September 17, the Pennington community celebrated Maurice Brown's 30 years in dining services at the School and wished Ceferino Ampudia well as he moved on to a career in accounting. Ampudia (left) and Brown (right) are pictured here with Dr. Hawkey. 4. Chris Andrews, founder of the "Let's Talk" initiative, visited with sophomores on September 20 and 21. 5. Residential Life held its first formal dinner of 2018-19 on Monday, September 17. 6. Boarders learned to cook a variety of vegan foods on September 23. 7. MS and US boarders took a trip to see Hansel and Gretel at the Music Mountain Theatre in Lambertville on September 23. The play starred Stevie Sanderson Bowden '24 as Gretel. 8. On September 28, the new Senior Lounge was officially opened in the Campus Center. Congratulations to the Class of 2019! 9. The first Upper School dance took place on Saturday, September 29. 10. This scarecrow, created by our art classes, was displayed at the Hopewell Valley Arts Council's Amazing Pumpkin Carve. 11. A highlight of Spirit Week was seeing the members of the Math Department all dressed as Pilgrims for Decades Day. 12. Pennington students traveled to Montclair State University's thirtieth 2018 Classics Day celebration on Friday, October 26. The contest is on Roman history and culture, mythology, and Latin grammar, with prizes awarded to the best school teams. 13. The annual Run for the Cure, sponsored by the Peer Leaders, took place on October 28. 14. Students from the Spanish Club and Spanish classes went to Trenton to help during the Halloween party organized by Eastern Service Workers Association and the Latino community. 15. In November, Environmental Science students went to the Lewis Brook to look for benthic macroinvertebrates. It was the kickoff to their efforts to collect biological data to be shared with the Watershed Institute. The students found some crayfish, aquatic worms, and a salamander.

(continued on page 18)



New Faculty

2018–19

The Pennington School welcomed fourteen new members to its faculty this year. They are Kellyann Conners, Long Ding, Tyhesha Elmore, Kathy-Lynn Kelly, Chauncey Farrington, Kathryn Fleishman, Lauran Hocquaux, James Horan, Tracy Kuser, Virginia Machado, Cathilyn Pappano, Mary Roseen, Peter Secrest, and Ryan Vogt.



New faculty at The Pennington School, front row (from left): Virginia Machado, Kathryn Fleishman, Tyhesha Elmore, Tracy Kuser, Long Ding; back row: Mary Roseen, Kellyann Conners, Kathy-Lynn Eriksson, Cathilyn Pappano, Lauran Hocquaux, Ryan Vogt, Peter Secrest, James Horan. Not in photo: Chauncey Farrington.

Kellyann Conners has joined the Religion Department. A summa cum laude graduate of Denison University, she went on to earn a master's degree in theology and ethics from Union Theological Seminary. She taught at St. Andrew's School (Middletown, Del.) from 2013 to 2017 and subsequently studied private school leadership at Teachers College, Columbia University.

Long Ding, who teaches Middle School mathematics, is a native of Qingdao, China. After secondary studies in New Hampshire, he earned a bachelor's degree from Norwich University, where he was an All-American football kicker and also played rugby. He holds a master's degree in education from New England College and has taught at two New England schools.

Tyhesha Elmore has joined the School's Cervone Center for Learning as a teacher of communication skills. She grew up in Lawrenceville, studied physics at Hampton University, and obtained a Master of Arts in Teaching degree at The College of New Jersey. She earned her Ph.D. degree in applied psychology and human development from the University of Pennsylvania and recently completed a professional certificate program in executive functioning and learning differences. She has taught in middle school and at the college level.

Born and raised in Cranford, **Kathy-Lynn Kelly** is teaching communication skills in the Cervone Center for Learning. After earning her bachelor's degree from the University of Delaware, she went on to teach in the United States and abroad. Bilingual in English and Swedish, she taught in both languages in Sweden, where she lived for fifteen years.



Chauncey Farrington is teaching history at Pennington. A graduate of Bowdoin College, he also earned a Master of Arts in Liberal Studies degree from Wesleyan University. He has taught at Mercersburg (PA) Academy, Saint Andrew's School (Boca Raton, FL), and Princeton Day School.

Kathryn Fleishman, a Lawrenceville resident, is a member of the English Department. She holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Pennsylvania and a master's degree from University College London, both in English, and she is completing her doctorate in English and Film and Media Studies at the University of California, Berkeley. She has taught at The Archer School for Girls in Los Angeles and at UC Berkeley.

Lauran Hocquaux is teaching French as a leave replacement. She earned her bachelor's degree from McGill University and received her master's degree in French language and civilization from New York University after study in Paris at La Sorbonne and NYU Paris. She has taught in both public and private schools, most recently at Princeton Day School.

James Horan has joined the Arts Department as a teacher of music and choral director. He brings more than twenty-five years of experience in musical theater accompaniment, musical direction, and education. A graduate of Montclair State University, he also holds a law degree from Seton Hall University. In addition to his work as a professional musician, he has taught in public and private schools, including Morristown Beard School.

Tracy Kuser joined the faculty as a midyear replacement last year, teaching Middle School Spanish. She is a graduate of Colorado College and earned her master's degree in Spanish from the Middlebury College Language Schools. Her previous teaching positions include posts at Thayer Academy (Braintree, MA), Ruamrudee International School (Bangkok, Thailand), and Montclair Kimberley Academy.

Virginia Machado, born in Mexico City and raised in Venezuela, earned her bachelor's degree at Universidad Rafael Belloso Chacin in that country. A teacher of Spanish, she previously served on the faculties of St. Ignatius Catholic School, St. Andrew Catholic School, and Grey Nun Academy, all in Bucks County, PA. She is active in philanthropic organizations, especially as director of the Philadelphia chapter of the ALS Organization.

A Pennington School graduate, **Cathilyn Pappano** returns to teach communication skills in the Cervone Center for Learning, as she did from 2000 to 2004. A graduate of Philadelphia Biblical University (now Cairn University), she earned certification in school social work from The College of New Jersey and went on to complete her M.S.Ed. degree in school counseling from the University of the Southwest. Before returning to The Pennington School, she created school counseling and special education programs for Calvary Christian Academy.

Mary Roseen has joined the Cervone Center for Learning faculty as a teacher of communication skills after two years teaching English as a Peace Corps volunteer in Armenia. A native of Tuftonboro, NH, she is a graduate of St. Lawrence University. Before her Peace Corps assignment, she taught for five years at Fryeburg (ME) Academy. She lives on campus.

Peter Secrest '13, teaching Latin at both Middle and Upper School levels, attended The Pennington School from sixth through twelfth grade. He went on to earn his bachelor's degree in classics and drama at Tufts University. He spent the year after college teaching at theaters and directing at schools in Boston and is delighted to be back in Pennington. He lives in on campus.

Ryan Vogt has joined the Science Department as a teacher of physics and astronomy. He is a graduate of the University of Rochester with dual degrees in physics and classics; he also earned a Master of Science degree in adolescent education, concentrating on physics, there.







More Special Events Fall 2018

16. The freshman World History Honors class learned about ancient Greece at the Penn Museum on November 7. 17. Middle School students enjoyed the first snow on November 15! 18. Pennington Middle School students shopped for groceries to contribute to the collective donation to Arm in Arm, helping families in need to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday each year. They were able to donate thousands of pounds of food! 19. The 18th Pennington Alumni Ice Hockey Classic took place on November 24, at IceLand Arena. 20. Boarding students attended a NY Knicks game on December 1. 21. The Model United Nations Club traveled to New Brunswick on the weekend of December 2. Pennington students, representing Australia, were part of a conference with high school students from around the country. Students were in committees such as the United Nations Economic and Financial Committee, the Environmental Committee, and the Committee on Disarmament and Security. The club also plans to attend the Philadelphia Model United Nations in March. 22. On Friday evening, December 7, Pennington students and faculty helped out at the annual Pennington Holiday Walk in downtown Pennington. The community really appreciated all of the students who helped Santa and who also handed out over 300 cups of hot chocolate and cookies from the Bird Feeder! 23. The Pennington robotics team competed in its first contest of the season on Sunday, December 9, at The College of New Jersey. They placed in the top half of the competition and are now back in the lab tinkering with their robot to get it ready for the February competition. 24. Author Rachel Devlin and Marion Greenup were the first Stephen Crane speakers on December







10, discussing Devlin's book, *A Girl Stands at the Door.* One of the "girls" whose stories are featured in the book is Greenup, who shared her first-hand account of what it was like to be the among the first to desegregate Baton Rouge High School. **25.** As part of a national competition (the Lexus Eco Challenge), Upper School Environmental Science students created a recycling competition in the Middle School in an effort to teach them about the connection between recycling and lowering greenhouse gases. The competition results were presented during a Middle School Community Meeting, and the sixth-graders won! **26.** Students celebrated a terrific fall season for the Arts! **27.** During a December 12 Boys' Basketball game vs. Hun, player Patrick Higgins scored his 1,000th point. He has since exceeded that total by 300 points! **28.** On Thursday, December 20, the seventh-graders triumphed over the sophomores in the eleventh annual Constitution Challenge! **29.** On Thursday, January 10, The Pennington School hosted its first College Alumni Spend-the-Day on campus. The School's alumni in college on winter break were invited to lunch in the dining hall at noon, followed by an informal focus group and conversation with Dr. Hawkey. **30.** As a part of the the Applied Science Speaker Series, Janet Celentana P'22 '24 spoke to a group of students on Friday, January 11, in the Wesley Forum. Celentana shared her experience as a physical therapist specializing in orthopedics and sports medicine.

(continued on page 20)







31. On January 16, students in Mr. Hutnik's Beats Literature class had the opportunity to express themselves through original poems inspired by Beat writers. The pieces were raw, emotional, and pure with each word and sentence carefully crafted. **32.** With some research and imagination, US History Honors students acted out a 10-minute interview conducted by their "grandchild" (their teacher) about what life was like during the Civil War. The characters had a wide range of personalities including combat veterans, photographers, wartime profiteers, combat field nurses and surgeons, and more! 33. CRAL Talks from Mr. Harding's Civil Rights and Liberties class returned for another year at The Pennington School. From Wednesday, January 9, to Tuesday, January 15, students in the class stood in front of an audience in the Wesley Forum to discuss issues they are passionate about, using visual PowerPoint presentations. 34. Students at Pennington hosted a boys' and girls' soccer clinic to students from the Christina Seix Academy,



a school which provides young adults in underserved communities the ability to reach their full potential. 35. The Middle School Creative Writing Club showcased their very first performance, an original short skit called "Fairy Tale Land Collides" on January 25, 2019. 36. Residential students were invited to a Lunar New Year formal dinner on Monday, January 28, to celebrate the start of the new year in Asian cultures. 37. Over the course of the semester, students enrolled in the senior Public History elective had the opportunity to work with the materials in our Archives and Special Collections. The class focused one element of their work on the history, care, and digitization of the student scrapbooks housed in the collection, including this scrapbook from 1921. 38. Pennington students enjoyed an engaging presentation on January 28 and February 6 from Dr. Michael "Mykee" Fowlin, a psychologist, poet,





(33)

Special Events Winter 2019

and performer. Through his powerful and entertaining presentation, he shared the importance of inclusivity and being our authentic selves. **39.** The sophomore class

program in Character Development and Leadership was fortunate to have a visit from Dr. Matt Bellace. Dr. Bellace talked about seeing our leadership potential in everything we do by surrounding ourselves with the right people and making good choices. There was also a lot of laughter; in this photo Dr. Bellace made human tables held up by mutual support.







Five weeks and one plan: Pennington students win Eco Challenge

A team of seven Pennington students won the "Air and Climate Challenge" category of the Lexus Eco Challenge, a nationwide contest designed by Lexus and Scholastic to educate and empower students to take action to improve the environment. The group had a little less than five weeks to create an action-based plan to identify an issue, educate the public, and improve the environment.

The winning team of juniors and seniors called "Absolute Zero" consisted of Ryan Harris '19, Grace Roberts '20, Thomson Estabrook '19, Anna McLaughlin '20, Rafer Friedman '19, Carter Williams '20, and Peter Tarpinian '20. The students won a prize of \$10,000, which provided \$1,000 to each of the students; \$1,000 to the teacher, Dr. Margo Andrews; and \$2,000 to the School. The students would like the School's prize funds be used to purchase new LED lights, which was the focus of the project; they are making that proposal to Headmaster William Hawkey, Chief Financial Officer Graeme McWhirter, and Director of Operations Bob Jones.

The group selected the topic of "Fossil Fuels and Renewable Energy," narrowing the project to light bulbs. The students worked mostly outside of the school day to learn the difference, in terms of energy saving, made by switching from incandescent and compact fluorescent bulbs (CFL) to LEDs. The team received figures from McWhirter and Jones to test their data and collect results. The group also conducted a student survey and made fact sheets to educate the broader community.

The team found that by switching entirely to LEDs the School's electrical bill would drop by several thousand dollars each year. The group also compared the amount of energy the light bulbs produce per month. With incandescent light bulbs, the School uses 366,000 kilowatt-hours of energy in one month. With LED light bulbs, the School would use many fewer kilowatthours of energy per month.

The group was one of eight high school teams to win the Lexus Eco Challenge. All of the winning teams will be invited to participate in the Final Challenge for a chance to win one of two \$30,000 grand prizes.

According to the contest website, the goal of the Lexus Eco Challenge is to get students "involved in project-based learning, teamwork, and skill building as they identify an environmental issue that affects their community, use their criticalthinking and research skills to come up with a solution, and report on the results by way of an Action Plan." Congratulations to our winning team of environmentalists!

UPPER SCHOOL Athletics Fall 2018

Girls' Tennis

Coaches: Ken Palumbo and Adrienne Markison Tosti '07

Varsity Girls' Tennis had a very good season with a record of seven wins and five losses. The team will return all of their starters next year except one: Natalia Gutierrez was the only senior and co-captain of the team. Anjollie Ramakrishna '21 played the entire season as our #1 singles player and co-captain. Anjollie gave her all on every point. Annelise Cornet '20 played #2 singles, was a co-captain, and had an excellent season. Annelise compiled the team's best overall record. Safa Morrison '21 played #3 singles. She had the team's second-best record. Gutierrez and Laura Mertz '20 played #1 doubles. They played hard and consistent tennis in every match. Kristen Bancroft '21 played #2 doubles with different partners: Olivia Ernst '20, Lindy Liu '20, and Lillian Xu '22. All four girls were first-time varsity players. Kristen was a mainstay at #2 doubles. While learning the great game of doubles tennis, all four players had big wins. The entire team was a joy to coach. We had an excellent season of results, togetherness, and learning to be better players and people.

Field Hockey

Coaches: Wendy Morris and Lauran Hocquaux

Varsity Field Hockey kicked off the season with two team runs during preseason; one along the Lawrenceville Hopewell Trail followed by an amazing breakfast at senior co-captain Danielle Di Meglio's house, and then our annual run along the canal followed by a team breakfast and swim at the house of Maddie Gordon '14, hosted by Maddie's mom, Megan Gordon! We fielded two teams (Varsity and JV) with a total of thirty-four girls. The team captains this year were seniors Emma Garry, Danielle Di Meglio, and Kate Reim. One of Varsity's most exciting games this year was our overtime MCT game with Steinert, which, after two overtime periods, went to penalty strokes, on which we unfortunately came up short. Our senior game was a memorable victory over Nottingham in which only seniors, except for goalkeepers Emily Barkley '21 and Lucy Harding '22, played. JV had a very successful season, finishing 5–1–3.

The team raised over \$400 during our Varsity and JV Play 4 the Cure games



against Bordentown on October 25, and we ran as a team in Pennington's 5K Run for the Cure. Our motto for the month of October was "Stick it to Cancer." Three of our seniors, Emma Garry, Danielle Di Meglio and Kate Reim, also played in the Senior Showcase game hosted by the Central Jersey Field Hockey Coaches Association on Saturday, December 1, on the Pennington turf field.



Football

Coaches: Jerry Eure '75, Blair Thompson, Adam Cooley, Stephen Sheehan, and Stephen Elliott P'98

There are so many words to describe the 2018 Red Raider football season, but the best word that comes to mind is "exciting." This team came a long way from August to November and is without a doubt one of the most improved teams in many years.

The team's philosophy is always to take it one game at a time. When the team opened the season and lost to a tough Bristol team with 3.9 seconds on the clock, the players were determined not to let that happen again. They proceeded to run off five straight victories with some of the most exciting football you will ever witness. Pennington beat The George School 34-6, then Montclair Kimberley 48-28, and then played Pingry for their homecoming game. The team was losing by three touchdowns at the half and fought back to defeat them 43–32 in one of the most thrilling comebacks Jerry Eure has ever coached. The King School came to town in yet another exhilarating overtime victory with a score of 27-26. The team then traveled to Long Island and defeated Long Island Lutheran 42–16. There was a tough setback with The Academy of the New Church in week seven. However, they bounced back down at the shore by beating Point Pleasant 41–14. Although the team considered St. Luke's the toughest opponent on their schedule, they knew they needed to close

out the season with a victory. It was no doubt one of the most electrifying games Pennington has ever had to end the season. Pennington won 46–34, finishing the season with a 7–2 record. It will go down as one of the most exciting and successful seasons in many years.

The Red Raiders will sorely miss the leadership and dedication of our nine seniors, and we wish them well. Also, we would like to give many thanks to the parents who provided meals for us after games, the cheerleaders who did a wonderful job all season, and the fans who came out and supported the team every weekend.

Girls' Soccer Coaches: Dr. William Hawkey and Patrick Murphy '80

The Varsity Girls' Soccer team completed a banner season as they won both the Mercer County Tournament and the NJISAA Prep A State Championship. The team set a goal in preseason camp in late August to capture both titles. They played an aggressive schedule that included prep power McDonogh School from Maryland, Wall High School, and Penn Charter. In the end, the difficult schedule helped the Red Raiders when tournament time came around, culminating with a 3–0 win over the state's number one team, Allentown, in the championship game of the Mercer County Tournament. The Red Raiders' final game of the season also saw them capture the NJISAA Prep A state championship as they defeated Blair Academy by a score of 5–1.

A record of 16–2–1, 67 goals for, 11 goals against, and 11 shutouts for novice goalkeeper Sophia Kavulich '21 and the defense says a lot about this team's determination and skill. Throw in the program's fourteenth Prep A title in the last sixteen seasons and tenth MCT championship title in sixteen appearances in the tournament (the first title coming in 2003), and no one would argue placing this team among the greatest Pennington Girls' Soccer teams.

Along with the Boys' Soccer team, the girls participated in the United Soccer Coaches "Play With Pride Week," in which member schools across the nation wore rainbowcolored shoelaces from September 18 to 24 to show their support for athletes and coaches of all sexual orientations. The boys' and girls' teams also hosted a soccer clinic for the coed soccer team from Trenton's Christina Seix Academy.

Seniors Jaydin Avery, Sydney Gibbard, Mary Griswold, Maddie Lamb, and Gianna Lucchesi set fine examples of leadership throughout the season and will be hard to replace as they move on to college.





Cheerleading Coach: Karen Voorhees

This 2018 fall season found cheer to be alive and well at Pennington! We had seventeen talented and enthusiastic members on the team. Returning athletes numbered eleven, and we added six new cheerleaders, ranging from freshmen to a senior. This year's team was a motivated and determined group. They knew what they wanted to accomplish, and they went after it with dogged determination. The result was impressive, with members who had never before performed stunts taking on solid roles as bases and flyers. They worked with heart and daring to improve their cheering skills and to learn new stunts. With a desire to support School spirit as well as the football team, the girls worked closely with the ever-enthusiastic student pep group, the Bird Cage. Together, they came up with clever themes for the various home games and helped to get the crowd involved in the fun and the excitement.

Cross Country

Coaches: Rick Ritter and Jon Lemay

It was another fun year for the Pennington harriers. Both the boys' and girls' teams worked hard and worked together to improve individually and as a team, throughout the season. Both teams were relatively young with many runners new

to our sport. The process we went through was twofold; we worked on individual fitness while learning to run as a team—as a pack. The boys put together a nice season, going 8–6 and capturing third place at States. We were led by Tyler Kingsbury '21 through much of the season. He capped his season by finishing third at the State meet at Blair. Vincent Colalillo '20 and Will Cooper '22 were wonderful first-year additions to our squad. The girls' team was built for the regular season, finishing with a record of 15–3 and "out of the money" at the State meet. On the course, the team was led by Emily Moini '19. She garnered third-place finishes both at the Newark Invitational and the Peddie Invitational



while taking fifth place at the State meet. Off the course, the team was led by Heather Holley '19 and the ever-smiling Harper Usiskin '20.



Water Polo Coaches: William Hutnik and Brandon Hullings '08

Improvement, both individual and team, marked the 2018 seasons for Pennington Varsity and Junior Varsity Water Polo. Right from the start of preseason, each player worked hard to improve. Clearly evident in their final matches was the excellent conditioning the team achieved through countless treading drills and swim sets over the season. Both squads played their strongest water polo at their respective state tournaments. The Varsity team played its gutsiest match against a formidable St. Benedict's, and the Junior Varsity squad won its respective state tournament by tying Lawrenceville 7-7 and beating St. Benedict's in the final on an electric Friday night; each Pennington team played its respective fourth quarters without any subs! The solid leadership of senior captains Kate McKiernan and Aidan Sichel will be missed as they guided the Pennington Water Polo Nation through a fun and rewarding year, highlighted by good camaraderie, teamwork, and grit.

Boys' Soccer Coaches: Chad Bridges '96 and Billy Hawkey '10

The Varsity Boys' Soccer team finished the season with an overall record of 13-5 and captured its fourth consecutive Mercer County Tournament championship. The team's 2-0 victory in the MCT finals over West Windsor/ Plainsboro South makes Pennington the first team in Mercer County Tournament history to win four straight titles. During the county title run, Pennington outscored its opponents 16-1 and solidified itself as one of the most dominant teams the area has ever seen. The regular season schedule was loaded with top-ranked opponents from states including Maryland, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and New Jersey. The team featured only four seniors—Timmy Coe, Nicolas Herrerias, Noah Levinson, and Kevin Durfee but their positive influence on their younger teammates was significant to the team's success. The team, in conjunction with the Varsity Girls' Soccer team, participated in the United Soccer Coaches Association "Play With Pride" Week, where members of the team wore rainbowcolored shoelaces for a full week of practices and games to show their support for LGBT athletes and coaches. Pennington will return nine of the eleven starters to the team next season, and the group has its sights set on a fifth straight MCT title, and reclaiming the Prep A crown after falling in the finals this season to St. Benedict's.





UPPER SCHOOL Athletic Awards Fall 2018

Varsity

Water Polo

Most Improved Award—Alexander Huang PWP Nation Award—Kate McKiernan 100% Hustle Award—Deep Patel

Cheerleading Red Raider Award—Arsema Dejene Coach's Award—Sally Greenberg Team Spirit Award—Logan Hill

Field Hockey

Red Raider Award—Emma Garry Coaches' Award—Kate Reim Spirit Award—Danielle Di Meglio

Football Red Raider Award—Brandon West Red Raider Award—Dante Wilson Coaches' Award—Bo Hartpence

Junior Varsity

Water Polo

PWP Nation Award—Alex Wallace 100% Hustle Award—Jack Fancher

Field Hockey Coaches' Award—Jenna Soliman Red Raider Award—Lizzy Adams

Girls' Soccer Red Raider Award—Charlotte Houghton Coach's Award—Kenza Idrissi

Tennis

Red Raider Award—Annelise Cornet Coaches' Award—Natalia Gutierrez Spirit Award—Laura Mertz

Girls' Cross Country Stoker Award—Harper Usiskin

Leadership Award—Heather Holley

Boys' Cross Country Most Improved Runner—Tyler Kingsbury Stoker Award—Vincent Colalillo

Girls' Soccer

Red Raider Award—Jaydin Avery Red Raider Award—Gianna Lucchesi Coaches' Award—Mary Griswold

Boys' Soccer

Red Raider Award—Timmy Coe Coaches' Award—Kevin Durfee Leadership Award—Ian Albuquerque

Boys' Soccer Red Raider Award—Aiden Normand Coach's Award—Ronan Karp

Football Red Raider Award—Xavier Brooks Red Raider Award—Josh Stegich

Girls' Tennis Coach's Award—Caroline Heffern Red Raider Award—Vicky Zhu



Middle School Athletics

Cross Country Coach: Melissa Gurick

The Middle School Cross Country team had another very successful season. Success is frequently determined by having more wins than losses. That would certainly be the case for Drayton Kolaras '23, who took first place in every meet this season! He ran each meet with an unfaltering confidence that earned him the respect of his teammates and the other coaches and runners he faced. The team ended the season with two victories, but that record does not reflect the many other individual accomplishments achieved by the fifteen members of the team. All of the runners on the team succeeded this season by pushing themselves through challenges to run personal best times and to prove to themselves that they can persevere through difficult experiences. These personal accomplishments truly reflect success.

Soccer

Coaches: Chandler Fraser-Pauls '11 and Veronica Vesnaver

The Middle School Soccer team had a great fall. We came into the season with two goals, and those were to have fun and to constantly improve, and both of those goals were met and exceeded. We thank our eighth-graders for providing great leadership, and we wish them all the best on their step to the Upper School. It was a joy to work with this group on a daily basis, and we are already looking forward to next year with our returning players and new additions.

Field Hockey Coaches: Katelyn Coates and

Deborah Fermo The 2018 Middle School Field Hockey season was a journey of highs and lows that ultimately led to a successful season where each player grew as an athlete and as a team player. Whether a game resulted in a loss or a tie, the girls always kept their heads high and their hearts full. For some

in a loss or a tie, the girls always kept their heads high and their hearts full. For some girls, this season was the very first time they had ever stepped onto a playing field; for others, the field was familiar territory where they had the opportunity to achieve their personal goals. The perfect combination of experienced and inexperienced players led every player to learn a lot about herself and the sport of field hockey. The girls knew how to have fun and to keep it positive; they were shining examples of what a Pennington athlete should be.

MS Athletic Awards Fall 2018

Field Hockey Red Raider Award–Gracen Ward Coaches' Award–Teagan Walsh Spirit Award–Samantha Lambdin

Cross Country

Red Raider Award–Drayton Kolaras Coach's Award–Sanjana Padmanabhan

Soccer–A Team Red Raider Award–Isabella Fermo Coaches' Award–Yuda Li

Soccer–B Team Red Raider Award–Zachary Tomlinson Coaches' Award–Drew Bridges

For those moving on, we wish them much luck in their future careers as hockey players, and for the girls returning next year, we hope to see them on the field with a new motivation to refine and develop their field hockey skills.

People of Color Conference

by Billy Hawkey '10

Four Pennington faculty members and two students traveled to Nashville, TN, for the National Association of Independent School's annual People of Color Conference and Student Diversity Leadership Institute. Over the course of three days, students and faculty members from all over the world engaged in workshops and affinity groups; listened to keynote speakers including nationally acclaimed authors and CNN correspondents; and collaborated with peers. The conference and institute focus on finding ways to make schools more inclusive and equitable environments. Both the students and faculty members who attended the conference returned to Pennington equipped with new skills and ideas to enhance the ongoing work to improve diversity, equity, and inclusion within our community.

"SDLC was a life-changing experience. This rare opportunity allowed me to meet people who truly understood the issues that I face. They accepted me for who I am, and I have made some lifelong friendships with people all over the nation. It is an experience I will treasure for a very long time."

—Mariel Abano '19





Forensics

Using statistics, students produced the very first "Pennington School Bone Book."

Working with the book *Forensics: Fundamentals and Investigations,* Ms. Myers's senior Forensics classes worked to resurrect Leonardo da Vinci's "Canon of Proportions" and detail how those proportions relate to the Pennington School community. Each class compared true height to different canon metrics by measuring students' and faculty members' wingspan, true height, arm length, and shoulder width. Using statistics and R-squared analysis, it was determined that wingspan is the most reliable of the canons in terms of predicting true height. The students enjoyed working with DaVinci's canon and using statistics to produce the very first "Pennington School Bone Book."

in the Gallery



Pride and Prejudice: André Terrel Jackson '09

This fall the Arts Department was proud to host alumnus André Terrel Jackson '09 and his work in the Silva Gallery of Art. *Pride and Prejudice: Examining Queer of Color Narrative* presented viewers with explorations of identities often relegated to the margins of society. Jackson brought to our community his artistic expressions that address the notion that queer people of color represent a marginalized group within a marginalized group, and their voices and unique experiences are often neglected. Through his crocheted headpieces, woven tapestries, clothing, photography, seven gallery talks, and student workshop, Jackson offered insight into the intersection of race, gender, and sexual orientation through personal and interpersonal experiences. "The show was visually striking, but more important, it was contextually rich. Viewers were hooked by the color and unusual nature of the work, and then drawn in more deeply by its complexity and depth. Jackson shared that he is inspired by the work of such artists as Sonya Clark, Nick Cave, and Melina Matsoukas, and we are inspired by him."

-Dolores E. Eaton, chair of the Arts Department





In a juxtaposition of photography, mixed-media sculpture, and textile art, *Pride and Prejudice* attempts to dispel the notion that blackness and queerness are always at odds. Through color, material, imagery, and text, the artist investigates and subverts expectations of black/queer identity, masculinity, femininity, and American culture. With Jackson's expertise in his craft and ease of speaking with our community, he opened a dialogue about identity that addressed social, political, and cultural groups with our art and drama students, eighth-grade English classes, and students involved in our numerous diversity organizations and clubs.

Chair of the Arts Department Dolores Eaton was honored to welcome Jackson back for a solo show in the Silva Gallery after he received a B.A. degree in fashion from Albright College and an M.F.A. degree in fibers from Savannah College of Art and Design. "The show was visually striking, but more important, it was contextually rich. Viewers were hooked by the color and unusual nature of the work, and then drawn in more deeply by its complexity and depth. Jackson shared that he is inspired by the work of such artists as Sonya Clark, Nick Cave, and Melina Matsoukas, and we are inspired by him," says Eaton.



Parents for Pennington **NEWS**

Parents for Pennington is pleased to report that the clubs and interest groups formed last year continue to grow; we had a busy fall period. The PfP tennis group played friendly matches every Wednesday until late November and will return to the courts again in spring.

In October the Multi-Cultural Gourmet Group and the Hispanic Interest Group combined their efforts and hosted a feast of delicious food from Spanish-speaking countries. It was a great opportunity to meet new people and catch up with old friends. In November, the Chinese Interest Group met at the Hot Wok Café for lunch to taste some of the interesting dishes on the menu and ask questions about Chinese cuisine. The next event will be planned for spring—a Chinese cooking demonstration to learn how to prepare some authentic Chinese dishes.

The Red Raiders Fathering Network started in October 2018 and has had two meetings to date. The group was started in order to provide a forum for all fathers and father figures in the Pennington School community to build interaction and support as well as knowledge of parenting issues. Monthly meetings are scheduled for every fourth Tuesday from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m.

In December, the Courageous Conversations Group invited counselors Stephanie DeSouza and Susie Paige to talk about peer pressure and how to help our students to handle it. The relaxed setting and small group size lent itself to a wonderful discussion, and parents felt better equipped to guide their children in dealing with peer pressure.



Join us for an evening of fun, community, and fundraising!

Saturday, February 23, 2019 7:00-11:00 p.m.

Sparks Memorial Gymasium The Pennington School

Music and Dancing Live and Silent Auctions Food, Wine, and Beer

This year's Red & Black Bash has a Hollywood red carpet theme. Please email pfp@pennington.org with any questions.



PfP hosted an event for students to celebrate on November 14.





Fall Concert Monday, November 12, 2018

n enthusiastic audience greeted Pennington's musical ensembles at the Fall Concert on November 12. The musical selections ranged from classical to Broadway to international to rock. A number of multifaceted student performers moved quickly from one group to another—a few being part of all four ensembles.

The instrumental groups, under the direction of Dr. Donald Dolan, brought a varied program. The Orchestra alternated moods, beginning with the high romance of Tchaikovsky's Overture to *Romeo and Juliet*, followed by Dvorak's lively Slavonic Dance No. 8. The more subdued "Variations on a Theme of Haydn" by Johannes Brahms was succeeded by the familiar "Radetsky March" of Johann Strauss, Sr. The Jazz Band took the stage midway through the evening with the stirring "Gotta Fly Now" theme from *Rocky* and followed up with jazz arrangements including one of Lennon and McCartney's "Norwegian Wood." The choral ensembles were conducted by new teacher of music James Horan. Pennington Singers began their set with Horan's own composition "I Can Sing" and went on to prove that they can do so—beautifully. Various student vocal and instrumental soloists demonstrated their talents as the program continued with "The Human Heart" from the Broadway hit *Once on This Island* and Batie and Decilveo's "Rise Up." The Upper School Chorus's selections included Paul Halley's moving "Freedom Trilogy," which combines the liturgical *kyrie eleison* and the hymn "Amazing Grace" with South African freedom songs.

After the chorus ended the evening's performances with "This Is Me" from *The Greatest Showman*, the audience stood to applaud all of the student musicians. The Monday evening concert was an inspiring start to the last week of school before Thanksgiving Break.

fall Play

The Dining Room



4



Above: A toast in 2018, "To all of us!"; Left: Grandfather (Chris Kopits '19) questions his grandson's visit in 1958; Right: Margery (Leah Balerna '20) learns about carpentry from handyman Paul (Chris Long '20) in 1998; Bottom: An emotional family Thanksgiving in 1968 with Mariel Abano '19, Isabella Rossi '21, Eli Voelzke '19, Karis Sneed '20, Matthew Cooper '21, and Jordan Matthews '20; **Opposite page (top):** In 1968, Helen (Sarah Donato '19) in 1968 wonders why her friend's family doesn't always eat in the dining room; Left: Grace (Grace Roberts) explains to her daughter why she must attend the Junior Assemblies in 1958; Right: Harvey (Harry Wasnak '19) plans his funeral with his son, Dick (Bobby Lambdin '20) in 1988; Bottom: Peggy (Rachel Domb '19) not-sodiscreetly discusses her marital issues with Ted (Griffin Papa '20), while her daughter's birthday party takes place, in 1928; In the background: Sahil Navani '21, Ruby Grisin '22, Amy Brumlik '22

fall Play

A.R. Gurney's *The Dining Room* is a play about just that: a room where people gather to dine. But when you spend time in this dining room, you learn that it is about much more than that. Written in the early 1980s, the play spans much of the twentieth century and examines the lives of various American family members (and their household staff) of a higher social class.

The play implies that the scenes could be about one family in the same dining room over the years. They could also be about several different families in several different dining rooms. In our production, however, we chose to set each scene in the years ending in eight, spanning the period of 1918–2018. On the stage, you see different families coming and going—in good times and difficult ones, in celebration, in conflict, and in discovery.

The constants of this play and of our set design are the room itself and the picture frames. The furniture may stay the same, but the people change. The things our grandparents or great-grandparents held as important—a china pattern, linen placemats, crystal goblets, certain values, and outward appearances may not be what today's families consider to be as important. We added a shelf above the wall of the dining room to hold artifacts from every member of our drama family. These artifacts are items that we each hold dear and that tell our personal stories.

For us, this room is our constant. The people may change from year to year, the shows will come and go... but the space remains the same. Our Black Box is a special place; in fact, it is a brave space on our campus. It's a space where students can be their authentic selves; where they can have difficult conversations and can say what needs to be said, where they can experience and create courageous moments that are ethereal but last a lifetime. For many of us, the Black Box feels like home.

by Suzanne Houston











Making Global Connections

At The Pennington School, there are so many opportunities for students (and faculty!) to engage with in worldwide issues, both on campus and farther afield. There are too many events and experiences to list them all in one magazine, so here is just a sampling of some of the latest exciting endeavors in which students took part so far this year as part of their course work or the Global Studies curriculum.


Global Gateway Weekend

by Kendra Sisserson

Would you voluntarily leave your warm bed, good food, technology, and even your toothbrush for the chance to understand a little more about life in an impoverished part of the world? This past September, Global Studies students accepted that challenge, traveling to Sharpsburg, Maryland, for a weekend at the Heifer Global Village. The Global Village is a camp composed of replica homesteads from around the world, with authentic features such as outdoor water pumps, animal pens, dirt floors, thatched roofs, and communal cookfires. These replicated homes represent impoverished areas around the globe where Heifer International works to eradicate hunger and poverty, and for the duration of the project, they were our homes as well.

"I feel that everyone should have an experience like this. It makes you really think about how lucky you are to be able to go to school and not have to worry about providing for your family," reflected Leah Balerna '20.

We arrived in the early afternoon, were given a quick briefing and a short tour of the camps, and then sent out to our assigned camps for the night. Each family group was given a small bucket of rations--a bag of rice, a potato, a couple of eggs, some carrots, and a bunch of kale. Each family also had the responsibility of caring for a water balloon that served as the family's infant. The infant had to be held at all times, which meant that one family member could not help with any chores, and chores there were! Everything quickly proved difficult: preparing and lighting the cookfires, boiling rice, frying kale, sweeping the dirt floors--all while swatting mosquitoes and doing our best to avoid the many spiders residing in the camps with us.

"I thought that the trip was challenging and eye-opening. It left me feeling grateful that I could go home to a warm bed and a filling meal." —Brooke Riley '20 "I really enjoyed the Global Studies trip and thought it gave me a really good perspective on what people all around the world face every day, even some people in America."

—Julia Alito '20

Nightfall brought a depth of darkness that our town-bred eyes were not at all prepared for, and we soon learned that flashlights are pretty limited against the gloom of a forest at midnight. Shelters that seem perfectly adequate during the day feel flimsy and bug-infested when they are your only sanctuary for the night. Even the most nocturnal among us was ecstatic to greet the dawn, though we soon realized that we had used up our dry firewood the day before, and therefore had only uncooked oatmeal to eat for breakfast.

We had a set of morning chores: wash everything in plastic buckets of water, gather firewood, and sweep our homesteads with brooms fashioned of branches and leaves. But then we boarded our buses for the ride back home, secure in the knowledge that our comfortable lives were right where we'd left them. We'd gained empathy, a whole lot of gratitude, and the added incentive to help those who don't share our good fortune. "Even though I only spent one night under the conditions of an impoverished nation," said Julia Peters '20, "the opportunity to empathize has furthered my intention to make a much-needed difference."

"It opened my eyes to the ways people really live in developing countries."

—Max Close '22





Middle School Connections

Kenya by Jessie Shaffer

Sixth-grade Humanities students are involved in an exciting connection with Kituiu Primary School in Kenya. This fall, students were introduced to one another during a Skype interview; students on both sides of the globe brought "personal artifacts" to help each other understand the other's cultures. Pennington students were surprised to learn that the children in Kenya were in the midst of creating solar boxes to bring electricity to their homes and to see the handmade satchels they carry because their community has banned plastic bags. Most exciting for our students was seeing a newsprint photo of an elephant that is part of daily life in Kenya and finding that the young boy who was sharing the photo had actually ridden not an elephant but a giraffe!

Though separated by many miles, with the help of the teacher in Kenya translating, smiles and laughter between rooms made the large distance seem insignificant. Following the video conference, Pennington students began working with Stockton artist Andrea Wallace to create scenes from their lives that would express American cultural values to the Kenyan students. With paintbrushes, markers, and pastels, sixth-graders rendered scenes of



their lives, including holidays, pastimes they enjoy, and the mix of cultural backgrounds that is unique to each of them. Students in the United States and Kenya are now awaiting the receipt of artwork from their partner classroom, so they can greater understand and appreciate their new friends. An upcoming second video conference planned for March will give both sets of students a chance to ask questions and deepen their understanding of each other.

Chile by Tracy Kuser

This year, our Middle School Spanish students are "meeting" middle school English students from El Instituto Abdón Cifuentes in San Felipe, Chile, as part of a virtual exchange. Each Pennington student is paired with a Chilean student, and they meet via Skype during class about once a month, with the exception of December through March, when schools in Chile are on summer holiday. During their "meetups," students share information about themselves, including hobbies, families, respective schools, and favorite foods, among other things. These exchanges provide a great opportunity for our students to practice their Spanish in an authentic context, and also to learn about life in another area of the world. We hope that their conversations will ultimately transcend the classroom and that they will continue to chat beyond this year. All of the students are really excited about this adventure, and we look forward to continuing this wonderful cultural exchange.



Making Global Connections



International Student Summit

Home to seven million people (including several Pennington students), Africa boasts astounding natural beauty and resources. But competition for these very resources has contributed to the strife that has also plagued the continent, as evidenced by its colonial past and the power struggles of the



present. The promise and the perils of charting a course forward for Africa's fifty-four countries occupies much discussion among the international community.

Global Studies students joined in the conversation at the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia's 2018 International Student Summit, "Rising Africa: A Path to a Sustainable, Egalitarian Future." The summit is an annual simulation of high-level diplomatic talks, and for this year's theme, Pennington students represented member nations of the African Union as they devised plans for peaceful and sustainable development across the continent.

Pennington students examined the histories of their assigned countries as well as briefing papers exploring development through a range of perspectives — such as economic growth, opportunities for women and children, infrastructure, and security. At the summit, they joined high school students from schools around the region to discuss, debate, and vote on recommendations.

Comparative Politics: New Course!

Pennington's History and Social Studies Department offers an impressive range of electives for juniors and seniors, and many of them have a global focus. This fall, Comparative Politics joined the options available to seniors. The class, taught by Marc Epstein, is designed to let students see the United States in a more global and comparative context.

The first unit of the course has students step forward as discussion leaders on questions like "How did the loss of America affect the British Empire?" "How did other nations achieve the abolition of slavery?" and "Was America a typical or unique imperial power?"

The next unit asks whether the rights that Americans enjoy through the Bill of Rights exist to the same extent around the world. The rights that students research include those of free expression, of religious freedom, and for LGBT persons. This unit ends with a look at the main international human rights treaty and the international criminal courts that have emerged in recent decades.

The third unit focuses on controversial issues like the death penalty, affirmative action, and criminal justice, asking the same global and comparative questions that run through the course. The concluding unit looks at the United States as the global superpower and explores how America gained that status and what its implications are for Americans and for the rest of the world. We explore themes like "manifest destiny" and "American exceptionalism" as part of that discussion.

Students in this fascinating semesterlong course learn to appreciate their rights as American citizens, and the challenges and issues faced by people of other nationalities worldwide. It's an important step in the process of becoming a global citizen.

Students send greetings to German professor

by Peter Chase

Back in October, I found a package of German greeting cards, and my first thought was, "What to do with these?" Then it occurred to me: my retired mentor, a professor from the University of Maine who now lives in Salzburg, Austria, was to celebrate his ninetieth birthday in November. What if each of my students were to write Professor Roggenbauer a card?

Happily, my students were all for it. The beginners wrote in English, and my more advanced students wrote in German about themselves, the classes they were in—and me! Feeling rushed for time, I didn't read their cards, but instead simply slid them into a large envelope and sent them off to Salzburg.

A week later, Professor Roggenbauer's daughter, who was visiting him from Seattle, posted a happy photo of her father on her Facebook page. My students were excited to see "Roggie," as we UMaine students affectionately call him, sitting at home holding out the cards we had sent.

Then a few weeks afterward, we received a letter from Professor Roggenbauer thanking us, among other things, for the wonderful "Überraschung" or surprise package of cards. Ever the statistics-minded professor (his doctorate was actually in economics!), Professor Roggenbauer crunched some numbers and reported on his findings.

Of the 32 boys and 24 girls who wrote, he noted that only 15 boys and 20 girls actually wished him a happy birthday. But he mused that that was most likely the result of the kids saying to themselves, "I don't even know this dude!" He then remarked on the number of positive comments my students offered in both German and English in which they say how much they like the class and—lucky for me—the teacher!



Each of my classes really enjoyed seeing the letter and hearing about what Herr Roggenbauer liked about their messages. They even got a kick out the fact that Herr Roggenbauer, forever the teacher, even corrected some of their adjective endings!

In the end, it was a very nice way for me to bridge the gap between one of the main reasons that I became a teacher (Herr Roggenbauer) and many of the reasons that I'm happy to have chosen this profession (my students)!

China 2018 Arts and Cultural Exchange

by Marc Ross

For ten days this past summer, my family traveled with five Pennington students as we immersed ourselves in Chinese arts and culture in cities including Shanghai, Hangzhou, and Beijing. Along the way, we visited many historical sites such as The Forbidden City, The Great Wall, and Wuzhen (ancient water town), observing both ancient and contemporary art. We studied under the guidance of regionally and international known artists and visited famous museums such as the Hangzhou Food Museum, China National Silk Museum, and the Southern Song Dynasty Government Kiln Museum. We were privileged to experience such a historically rich and vibrant culture. Tina Zhang, in her artist statement



written for our student show at the Beijing Lotus Art Museum, remarked that when people from different cultures are able to achieve harmony through artmaking, as we did, the "unrestrained" is achieved. At this stage, "there will be no difference between the eastern expression of western culture and the western expression of eastern culture." We were truly lucky and honored to have been offered this unique and cooperative experience in the sharing of lives together in an active cultural and arts exchange.

Making Global Connections



Pennington-Meaux: A Long-Standing Tradition

by Patricia Zema

On October 14, 2018, The Pennington School greeted fifteen French students from the Lycée Bossuet in Meaux, France. Meaux is a town about twenty miles east of Paris, famous for its Brie cheese and mustard. The French students spent twelve days with fifteen Pennington School families.

While in the United States, the French students attended Pennington classes and experienced American culture firsthand by living with an American family. They visited New York City, Philadelphia, and Washington, DC. Last March, the American host students had traveled to France and stayed with French families. They visited many of the sites, historical monuments, and museums about which they had studied in class.

The Pennington School has been involved with this cultural and linguistic exchange

program for more than thirty years. Dodi Schmidt, who was the teacher of French at Pennington in 1985, started the program with the Institution Sainte Geneviève in Meaux. Then-Head of Middle School Deborah Cook referred Schmidt to a French gentleman in Princeton who had a connection with the school in Meaux, and thus the exchange was born. (In 2008 that school merged with the Institution Ste. Marie; the combined institutions became the Lycée Bossuet.)

For the next several years Pennington students traveled to Meaux during Spring Break after the French students had spent two weeks here in October. During that time The Hun School and Princeton Day School also participated in the exchange with Meaux.

One year there was a teacher exchange for a month: Schmidt taught English at Ste.

Geneviève while Mme. Brigitte Jacquin came to Pennington and taught French. During the school year 1995–96 the Headmaster at Ste. Geneviève, M. Pican, accompanied the French students to the U.S., and Pennington's Headmaster Stephen Bowers accompanied the American students to France.

Since then, Pennington has continued to offer the homestay exchange program successfully every other year. Many students who have participated in this exchange program have remained friends and in contact with their French families over the years. Some have gone on to major or minor in French at college and to pursue career goals that have led them to Brussels, Geneva, and Montreal. This type of homestay exchange program is the opportunity of a lifetime for Pennington students. The chance to live with a French family and be immersed in the language and culture is an experience that our students will never forget.

Skyping with students in China

Back in November, U.S. History Honors students were tasked with researching and preparing a short, five-minute presentation on one aspect of the American Thanksgiving holiday to a group of Chinese students involved in the Pennington School partnership with the Zhangjiagang Foreign Language School in Jiangsu Province, China.

The Pennington class was split up into five groups that covered five topics: the actual historical record of the "first" Thanksgiving; the 1863 proclamation made by Abraham Lincoln at the urging of Sarah Josepha Hale; the modern declaration and controversy surrounding FDR's official proclamation made in 1941, setting it at the fourth Thursday in November; modern Thanksgiving declarations, events, sports, and traditions; and finally, myths and realities of the Thanksgiving holiday. This was followed by a question-and-answer session between the two groups of students.

The Pennington students then heard brief presentations from the Chinese students about two major holiday traditions that are practiced in China, including both their history and current observance: the Double Ninth Festival (chrysanthemum cakes!) and the Dragon Boat Festival (rice dumplings!). The Skype presentation concluded with another question-and-answer session about the Chinese holidays.

We look forward to a visit by the Zhangjiagang Foreign Language School students at the end of February as the partnership continues to develop!



Global Studies Speaker Series

The Global Studies Speaker Series presentations are an important component of our Global Studies Certificate Program. These

discussions are designed to help students see some real-world ways that their global studies might lead to careers, avocations, or new ways to make a difference in and experience the world.

On November 2, Adam Soliman '18 (pictured above) spoke to the Global Studies scholars about his summer experience after graduating from Pennington last June. Soliman won a scholarship to participate in an experiential project called Race in America that involved traveling through the American South and learning about ways that the history of slavery still has an impact on the region today.

Rafer Friedman '19 (pictured below) spoke to the students on Friday, November 30, about his volunteer work with Syrian refugees over the summer. Friedman worked on a two-week program, organized by Rustic Pathways, that supported children of Syrian refugees in the Baltimore, MD, area. His presentation offered solemn statistics about the state of refugee immigration in the United States this year, which at 21,000 is the lowest number ever recorded.





Board of Trustees News



The Pennington School is delighted to welcome two new members to its Board of Trustees.

The Reverend Héctor A. Burgos,

currently director of connectional ministries for the United Methodist Church of Greater New Jersey (GNJ), will become Capital District superintendent, effective July 1, 2019. In his current post, he works with Bishop John Schol, the cabinet, and elected leaders to serve as the steward of the conference's vision and mission, leads the leadership and congregational development ministry, supervises the connectional ministries composed of five senior program directors and four support staff, and oversees a \$3.9 million budget. As district superintendent, he will oversee the Capital District, which is composed of sixty congregations in central New Jersey.

Burgos was honored last summer as a Lewis Community Leadership Fellow. He also is on the executive leadership team of MARCHA, the national Hispanic/ Latino caucus within the United Methodist Church, and the Methodist Church of Puerto Rico.

Burgos graduated from Lincoln Military Academy and earned his bachelor's degree in business administration with a concentration on strategic marketing from the University of Puerto Rico. He went on to earn his M.Div. degree from Drew University, where he received the Jasper and Ann Stelle Prize for potential for ministry in a multicultural community.

Burgos is passionate about urban and multicultural ministries and issues of justice around cultural competence, immigration, and institutional equity. He and his wife, the Reverend Jazelis Adorno, pastor of Simpson United Methodist Church in Perth Amboy, NJ, have four children.

Dr. Jian "Jim" Wang is a scientist, engineer, businessman, and pioneer in nanotechnology. He is co-founder, president, and CEO of NanoNuvo Corp., which provides nano-optic products used in the production of microprocessors and memory chips. He has been engaged in high-tech innovation and industrialization since 2000. He has held positions with OmniPV Inc., NanoOpto Corp., Nanonex Corp., Lucent Technologies, Agere Systems, and Princeton University.

Wang is also an educational consultant who assists Chinese families in navigating the complicated American secondary and post-secondary school selection, admissions, and enrollment processes. Building on relationships he has nurtured in the United States and in China, he connects his clients' children to top U.S. junior boarding schools, high schools, colleges, and universities. He has served as sponsor, host, and organizer for more than twelve School trips to Asia and has facilitated numerous students and faculty exchanges. He is passionate about education and has conducted in-depth research on Chinese and American education and their comparison.

Wang received his bachelor's degree in physics from Fudan University in Shanghai

and earned his Ph.D. degree in physics from the University of Stuttgart, Germany. He holds more than 50 U.S. and international patents, has published nearly 100 scientific articles, and has served as co-chair of several international conferences.

Wang lives in Belle Mead, NJ, with his wife, Judy. They have two children. Wang has two nephews who are Pennington School graduates.



Thank you for making Giving Tuesday, an international day of giving that took place on November 27, 2018, a huge success for The Pennington School. Two hundred thirty-six donors participated this year, and the School raised just over \$77,000-an 80-percent increase in participation and a 63-percent increase in dollars raised. These results truly express just how committed our community is to the School and to giving back in general. We are deeply grateful for your continued support. Every gift we receive helps maintain the momentum Pennington has experienced over the past five years. With your help, Pennington will continue to not only provide our students with an exceptional education but also prepare them to be thoughtful citizens who are committed to making a difference in the world.



MS LAUNCH 09|04-5|2018 MS Retreat 10|03-5|2018



/iddle Schoolers all participate in some special orientation Mactivities at the beginning of every school year. LAUNCH is a two-day, no-tech event at the beginning of September to welcome all new Middle School students to Pennington, and to introduce them to their fellow students and their teachers, coaches, and advisors. Then, once everyone has had the opportunity to get to know one another, a deeper bonding experience is offered in October—the Middle School Retreat. Sixth- and seventh-graders spend one night away from school (and all the comforts and technology of home) at a campground, enjoying the great outdoors together. Eighth-grade students spend two nights away at another camp, and have a more rustic experience since they pitch their own tents and help with cooking and other chores, as well as have an extra day to explore. LAUNCH and Retreat help set the tone for the school year—and students feel reassured that Pennington is a safe, nurturing community that also helps children learn to take some risks and experience new opportunities.



more Middle School news



The Podcast Project—Learning by Doing

Throughout the January exam week, sixth- and seventh-grade students learned about podcasts by creating their own. In small groups, most of which consisted of two sixthand two seventh-graders, students identified a person or organization that, in their minds, made or is making a difference — a difference that is worth sharing with others. The people and/or organizations that were chosen included LeBron James, Serena Williams, Tarana Burke, Elon Musk, Jackie Robinson, Jane Goodall, Michelle Obama, Colin Kaepernick, Ellen DeGeneres, Roger Federer, St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, and Amnesty International.

Once each group identified a difference-maker, they got busy researching the person or organization. Then, with the help of three special experts, groups learned how to take the information they gathered and use that information to tell a story. The first special guest was Margaret Koval, host of the podcast "She Roars" and director of special projects at



Princeton University. Students also Skyped with Matthew McLean, who works at the company The Podcast Host in Scotland. Koval pushed students to not just deliver the news, stating a list of facts and information, but also to ask the question "why?" in order to delve deeper into the content and perhaps discover something unexpected that might enhance the story. Last, our very own Suzanne Houston took students through a process that would help them bring their stories alive through the use of language and voice.

Students also learned to critique podcasts in order to improve their own. A lot of rehearsing took place. Finally, to complement their stories, students added music and sound. This was a hands-on, interdisciplinary project that was enjoyed by students and teachers alike.

MS Engineering Elective

Middle School students in the Engineering elective have been learning how to build a low-friction axle and how to apply various propulsion methods to move that axle forward. Finally, students have been learning how to solder to connect a circuit that either makes a motor work or turns on a LED light. This elective meets every day for five weeks and is a great introduction to the concepts in the Upper School Applied Science Certificate Program.







Gaga Pit

Junior Aaron Orshan used his Eagle Scout project as an opportunity to raise funds in order to build an amazing new gaga pit for our campus. Gaga is a fast-paced, high energy game that is played in an octagonal pit. Gaga is played with a soft foam ball, and players use the skills of dodging, running, jumping, and striking while trying to hit the other players with a ball below the knees. The Middle Schoolers held an inaugural gaga game on September 26 during lunch. The sun was shining, and there were smiles all around!

Banned Book Week

Eighth-graders celebrated their right to read this fall during Banned Book Week in September. Students in Lisa Fitzpatrick and Lisa Houston's English classes, under the guidance of librarian Tamara Alito, staged a debate over the Harry Potter book series. Each class was divided into Pro and Con teams and spent the week researching the controversy and benefits of reading the series. Guest adjudicators determined the winning teams. This year, the Con side was victorious, so the series stays on the shelf of Meckler Library!



MS STEM Club

In the Middle School STEM Club, students designed and built working pinball machines made from cardboard. The students plan to exhibit their creative designs at the upcoming Mercer Bucks Mini Maker Faire on April 14, 2019, at The Pennington School.







Sunday, April 14, 2019 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

To be held again at THE PENNINGTON SCHOOL! LEARN MORE. CONTACT: swirsig@pennington.org

APPLIED Science Speaker Series

The Pennington School offers a robust program of speakers each year from many STEM-related disciplines. As this magazine went to press, four different guest lecturers have visited campus this year, with four more on the schedule for the spring semester.

The Girls in STEM club hosted a dinner on campus for six female medical practitioners and thirty-six students. Following a keynote address by Dr. Lisa Espinoza P'23, students enjoyed dinner and informal conversation with several women working in the medical field. The evening concluded with a Q and A panel; students asked a broad range of questions about working in the medical field. The medical practitioners who attended the evening were a dermatologist, a physical therapist, a trauma nurse, a family doctor, an anesthesiologist, and a pediatrician. Many thanks to the parents and alumna who participated in this event: Lisa Espinoza P'23, Janet Celetana P'22 '24, Anisa Talwani '92, Debbie Wright P'19, Arti Patel P'17 '23, and Kendra Sirolly P'23.



Charles Brumlik, J.D., Ph.D.

On October 26, Charles Brumlik explored the business of science and discussed with our students different traditional and nontraditional career paths that combine science with other disciplines, and how to get there from college and beyond. Brumlik holds a Ph.D. in chemistry from Texas A&M University and a law degree from New York Law School. He worked both as a scientist and as an attorney in academia, government labs, nonprofits, startups, a law firm, ExxonMobil, and Honeywell. Dr. Brumlik now runs Nanobiz LLC, an international consulting firm that caters to the world's largest science companies and their business-to-business customers, which include industries such as aerospace, biomedical, chemicals, cosmetics, electronics, energy, food and beverage, manufacturing, and telecommunications.





Anisa Talwani '92

After graduating from Pennington in 1992, Talwani went to Seton Hall University. She graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing. For the past twenty years she has been working as a full-time emergency room and trauma nurse at Capital Health Regional Medical Center in Trenton, NJ. Capital Health is a level 2 trauma center, as well as a comprehensive stroke center. Talwani is board-certified in emergency nursing, and she is a trauma nursing core instructor. She is also a legal nurse consultant and expert witness specializing in emergency room and trauma litigation.

Talwani spoke to the Applied Science students about her career journey and how she uses the STEM skills she acquired in her current position. She loves the fast-paced, hands-on component of emergency room nursing, and she looks forward to honing her communication and legal skills in the courtroom as she moves forward with a new career in trauma litigation.

Kenneth Simons

On October 5, Kenneth Simons was a guest lecturer as part of the Applied Science speaker series. Kenneth Simons is a social entrepreneur who is inventing in order to make lives better. Simons invented the VeloChair after he was diagnosed with ossification of the posterior longitudinal ligament (OPLL) in his early 50s. A lifelong runner and downhill skier, he could no longer bear weight on his legs for an extended period of time. He found that most current mobility devices did not promote user activity, which prompted him to create the VeloChair and restore his sense of independence. Simons is a graduate of Tulane and St. John's University and is currently a division president for the largest publicly owned home building company in the United States.

Dr. Kara Bickham P'19

Dr. Kara Bickham, a pediatric infectious diseases subspecialist, delivered a presentation at The Pennington School on November 9. Bickham is the parent of a current Pennington senior and works at Merck Pharmaceuticals, developing new vaccines. Her presentation focused on how health care professionals use clinical trials to evaluate the effectiveness of vaccines. Bickham's job responsibilities include designing and conducting clinical trials to evaluate investigational vaccines in people. As part of her job, she works with national health authorities such as the FDA, CDC, and WHO to get feedback on the scope of the vaccine programs and individual study designs.

Bickham earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Texas Christian University and a medical degree from the University of Texas Southwestern Medical School. She completed an internship and residency in pediatrics at New York Hospital/Weill Cornell Medical School, followed by a fellowship in pediatric infectious diseases at Weill Cornell and postdoctoral work in immunology at Rockefeller University. Before joining Merck, she conducted bench research at Rockefeller University and Columbia University and also worked as a general pediatrician.

Cum Laude Society

Eleven Pennington School seniors were inducted on October 23 as student members of the School's chapter of the Cum Laude Society before an audience of the entire Upper School, faculty, and parents. Students inducted are within the top 10 percent of the class, as determined by grade point average, and the School views selection for membership as one of the highest honors it can confer.



The new members of Cum Laude are Mariel Abano, Zheng Bao, Kyewon Byun, Gabriela Cano, Sydney Gibbard, Oluwatamilore Kolawole, Emily Moini, Katherine Reim, Austin Shah, Mina Shokoufandeh, and Qinyuan Wu.

The Cum Laude Society is an international organization recognizing "academic achievement in secondary schools for the purpose of promoting excellence, justice, and honor." There are approximately 380 institutions in the Society; most are independent schools.

gathered on Thursday evening, January 10, as the World Languages and Arts Departments honored many students for

their achievements in those disciplines.

Honor Societies Induction Ceremony

A large crowd of Pennington parents and faculty members

French National Honor Society Sydney Gibbard '19, Abigail Bulger '20, Grace Roberts '20, Artem Rukavishnikov '20

> German National Honor Society Erin Heyeck '20, Sophia Petrone '20

Latin National Honor Society Emily Clark '19, Danielle Di Meglio '19, Amy Garry '19, Emma Garry '19, Madeleine Lamb '19, Gianna Lucchesi '19, Jacob Washton '20

Spanish National Honor Society

Zheng Bao '19, Boyd Hartpence '19, Qinyuan Wu '19, Jenna Kollevoll '20, Yaoxin Mo '20, Gabriela Montero '20, Julia Peters '20, Timothy Riley '20, Jenna Soliman '20, Carter Williams '20

Tri-M Music Honor Society Julia Wakin '19, Meng Lu '20, Deep Patel '20, Jenna Soliman '20

International Thespian Society

Matthew Robertson '19, Sophia Amaro '20, Leah Balerna '20, Abigail Bulger '20, Charlotte Diamond '20, Olivia Heimann '20, Jordan Matthews '20, Anna McLaughlin '20, Jonathan Moskowitz '20, Molly Nelson '20, Griffin Papa '20, Grace Roberts '20, Karis Sneed '20, Frederick Tewell '20

National Art Honor Society

Laura Alaez '19, Caleigh Calhoun '19, Sarah Donato [']19, Madeleine Lamb '19, Mingjia Liu '20



Girls Code the World

n July 2018, twelve middle school girls from the Christina Seix Academy, a school that serves low-income families in Trenton, attended a Pennington summer camp program called "Girls Code the World," led by seniors Mina Shokoufandeh and Sydney Gibbard. The camp was specially designed by Shokoufandeh and Gibbard not only to teach some basic coding, but also to inspire girls. "We wanted the camp to show the girls how creative and fun STEM activities can be, and also to help grow their confidence so they can see their strengths and abilities in contributing to a STEM world," Gibbard said.

The funding for this camp came from a donation. Last winter, Shokoufandeh and Gibbard were the recipients of a state award in a national computing contest sponsored by the National Center for Women in Technology. Winners were eligible to apply for grants to further NCWIT's mission of encouraging girls to study computing. The girls sent in a grant application after pulling together

a rich proposal that met all of the grant's criteria. They were required to attain three key partnerships: a female mentor working in computer science; a community partner; and an organization that has a population of girls in need. In addition, the grant required them to create a budget and design a curriculum from an approved NCWIT list. In April 2018, the girls learned that their grant application was not successful and would not be funded by the NCWIT this year. "At first, when we learned about not getting the grant, we felt discouraged. We had put a lot of work into planning out the details of the program, and we truly felt the camp would be wonderful for girls," Shokoufandeh recalled. Luckily, an outside donor learned about Shokoufandeh and Gibbard's mission and decided to privately fund the program with \$3,000. The donation was given in honor of two women, Ettie Hamid and Barbara Wright, who were advocates for women's education. In addition, Jeff Eckerson, the director of the summer programs at Pennington, wanted to support the "Girls Code the World"



camp by providing classroom space, technology, and lunch for all attendees.

Shokoufandeh and Gibbard hired classmate Gabby Cano '19 to assist them in leading the camp. During the five-day camp, the middle school girls learned to code, engaged in various engineering activities that required them to design and build using tools, and also learned how to use CAD software to design and print 3D objects. The camp was an enormous success!



HomeFront Holiday Party

This December marked the 25th anniversary of the annual Homefront Holiday party! The Pennington School community came together with HomeFront to celebrate the season on Saturday, December 15.



O n December 15, we welcomed about 330 guests to Pennington for our annual holiday party for the clients of HomeFront, a nonprofit in Mercer County with a mission "to end homelessness in Central New Jersey by harnessing the caring, resources and expertise of the community."

From just after Thanksgiving Break until the day of the party, the senior Peer Leaders help organize this event. A toy drive stocks Santa's Workshop, where parents can choose gifts for their children and have them wrapped on-site. Children also "shop" for gifts for their parents in a separate location. Photos with Santa, arts and crafts activities, bingo for the adults, and a DJ and dance party are all enthusiastically enjoyed, along with a special holiday feast served by our faculty and boarding students. This year, the twenty-fifth anniversary of The Pennington School's hosting this event, every child was also invited to choose a new book. This party and community outreach are truly the highlight of a festive holiday season for the Pennington School students, faculty, and staff.

Left photo: Freshmen organized a Book Fair at Barnes & Noble to support the book donation effort. Dr. Hawkey helped wrap gifts, and student singing group *In Touch* performed in the store the evening of December 10.













HomeFront Holiday Party







Faculty Spotlight

Dolores E. Eaton

D olores Eaton is the co-author of an educator guide, *Purpose and Planning*, for an episode of the television series *Craft in America*, which was published on the *Craft in America* website in the summer of 2018 at http://www.craftinamerica.org/guides/purpose-and-planning/. *Craft in America* is a Peabody Award-winning series on PBS, and is also available to watch online. According to the *Craft in America* website, the series "explores America's creative spirit through the language and traditions of the handmade, and will take you on a journey to the artists, origins, and techniques of American craft. Each episode contains stories from diverse regions and cultures, blending history with living practice and exploring issues of identity, ritual, philosophy, and creative expression."

In the lesson co-written by Eaton, students learn about basket-making through the Pomo artist Corine Pearce in the "California" episode. There is a lesson overview, instructional strategies and key concepts are presented, critical questions are offered for discussion, and objectives are determined. In addition, interdisciplinary connections are explained, and the lesson goals are directly related to the National Standards for Visual Arts Education. Resource materials for teaching are also available on the site, including customized worksheets for students.

The Educators Guide for "California" was developed under the direction of Dr. Marilyn Stewart, Professor Emerita of Art Education, Kutztown University, Kutztown, PA. Stewart and Eaton are co-authors of *Purpose and Planning*, August 2018.

Annual Hanukkah Parties





The Pennington Jewish Community Club welcomed everyone to its annual Hanukkah party in the Silva Gallery. This year, Rabbi Stuart Pollack attended to offer some historical background for the celebration and to light the menorah. The Middle School had its own Hanukkah party to honor the Festival of Lights, and there were traditional snacks, dreidel games, and much merriment at both events.



Lessons and Carols

The School held its annual Service of Lessons and Carols on L December 18 at the Pennington Presbyterian Church, which was decorated with masses of poinsettias. Student and faculty readers presented the scripture readings, which ranged from Genesis through the Gospel of John, and School Chaplain Aaron Twitchell delivered a sermon on the theme, "The Reconciliation of All Things." The carols included congregational singing of familiar carols, accompanied by pipe organ and a brass ensemble, plus performances by the Middle School Singers, Upper School Chorus, and Pennington Singers. Among the carols was an intricate arrangement by music teacher James Horan of "I Wonder As I Wander," sung by a quartet of senior Pennington Singers as an introit. The Orchestra played the "Ukrainian Bell Carol" as a prelude, and various members of the Orchestra formed chamber ensembles to accompany the choral selections. The Jazz Band closed the service with a spirited performance of "Go Tell It on the Mountain!," and students and parents in attendance returned to the campus for a reception afterwards.

As has been the custom in recent years, a free-will offering was taken to benefit HomeFront, the organization working to break the cycle of poverty and end homelessness in Central New Jersey.





50th Reunion—Class of 1968 Dinner at Emily's Cafe in Pennington







Alumni News

s a student at Pennington, **Spencer Garrison '05** mindfully pursued every leadership opportunity available. He was a Peer Leader, a Junior Proctor, student government president, co-editor of the *Penntonian*, and co-captain of the Cross Country team. At first, his motivation came from wanting to build his résumé as he thought about applying to college. But by his senior year, his motivation instead came from the pride he felt in being at a school like Pennington, which nurtured the type of environment

and conditions that prepared him first for leadership positions at The United States Military Academy, and then a career in the United States Army.

"My goal of accumulating leadership positions and titles at Pennington evolved into a higher sense of purpose and service for me as I went into my junior year," Garrison remembers. "I felt like a very involved citizen of the School. That's the nature of Pennington—it's a place full of

people enthusiastic about actively participating in the community."

Garrison majored in leadership at West Point, wanting to explore the social and emotional aspects of what it takes to be a leader. He continued to run competitively, a passion he discovered at Pennington after joining the Cross Country team his freshman year. He ran for West Point's marathon team all four years in college and felt the team was just as friendly and supportive as Pennington's Cross Country team. He credits Coach Richard "Rick" Ritter for grooming him into a talented long-distance runner during his time at Pennington. "Running is one of the quickest metrics to judge a soldier's overall shape in the Army," he says. "Running at Pennington gave me a strong foundation and a leg-up at West Point."

A second passion Garrison continued to explore that he first discovered at Pennington is journalism. As the self-designated public affairs officer of West Point's Marathon team, Garrison created the team's website and wrote news clippings about races in New York and New England, a role that foreshadowed his current career as a public affairs officer for the Army. "I called upon the skills and lessons I learned at Pennington," he says. "Writing and editing for the *Penntonian* prepared me professionally for important leadership responsibilities but also taught me humility. I learned that spreading leadership opportunities among a number of people is better than having just one person in charge."

Alumni Profile Spencer Garrison '05

Garrison graduated from West Point as a second lieutenant in 2009. After his initial training in Oklahoma and Missouri, and first duty assignment at Fort Lewis in Washington State, he was deployed for Iraq, exactly one year after his West Point graduation. He calls it his "summer abroad"—four months of serving for a route clearance platoon, identifying roadside bombs in an armored vehicle. He was a twenty-three-year-old lieutenant looking after soldiers who ranged in age from their

twenties to their forties. He is thankful for the seasoned sergeants who helped him grow into his role as these soldiers' leader.

Garrison was promoted to captain in 2012 before serving a second deployment, this time in Afghanistan. As a public affairs officer, he interacted with journalists from the *Los Angeles Times*, CNN, McClatchy wire service, and local Afghan news outlets. He worked on monthly newsletters and a deployment yearbook, once again drawing upon the skills he cultivated while writing and editing for the *Penntonian*. His third deployment in 2017 to Iraq, however, really encouraged teamwork with *The New York Times* and dozens of other U.S., Iraqi, and international news outlets, as Garrison worked to support the Army's media campaign against ISIS.

Currently, Garrison is pursuing a Master of Professional Studies degree in public relations and corporate communications at Georgetown University. The Army is funding his studies, and he is still on active duty.

"I am very fortunate and thankful for the educational opportunities I have had, but you have to be motivated to seek them out," he says. "I have been supported by wonderful people—at Pennington, at West Point, and in my Army career. I have not only learned from them but I have learned to lean on them as well."

Class Notes

Reunions for 3s and 8s

Former Faculty

Michael and Elizabeth Winkler write, "We are doing well in South Carolina and frequently visiting our daughter, Kate '89, who relocated to North Carolina."

1950s

Evan Tibbott '58 continues to volunteer as a weather observer and severe storm spotter for NOAA's National Weather Service, and as a natural resource volunteer for the Idaho Fish and Game Department and the U.S. Forest Service. He also is working to rehabilitate 33,000 acres of a primary elk and mule deer wintering area heavily damaged by a human-caused fire. He writes, "It is worthwhile and invigorating work. My work with the Forest Service during summers involves a bear safety program for the public and fire cautionary information in public use of the forest near Yellowstone National Park. In winter, I help as park host at one of our state parks, where I ski in to the old historic ranch."

1960s

Mac Maguire '61 retired from the Postal Service after twenty-five years. His wife passed away ten years ago. He has two daughters and five grandchildren. His younger daughter is a stay-at-home mom and volunteers at an LGBT group. His older is an assistant professor of theater at LSU.



Tom Richards '68 took an eleven-day trip to Italy with his wife, Rosemary, in September 2018.

Mike Fish '68 spoke with Paul Gaylon '68,

who lives in Aptos, CA. He sends regards but could not attend the 50th Reunion. Paul is president of Herbal Products and Development, a botanicals company. His time is spent traveling extensively on business, photographing and documenting plants, gardening, and making hands-on improvements to his house.

Steve Silberman '68 spoke with **Linn Way** '**68** who sends his regards to the Class of 1968. He wasn't able to attend the reunion because he and his wife celebrated their 40th anniversary in Hawaii on the same weekend.

1970s

Jim Mentis '73 just moved out of what he calls an "old people's" home and into a real house again.

Roger Sharrett '73 was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame by Lynne Brashier Lindenthal '73 in a moving speech about the Class of 1973 Pennington family, perseverance, and being able to overcome any odds stacked against you. Roger was able to accept this award surrounded by his classmates and his Aunt Betty and Cousin Christa.

Stephen Tan '73 received the Alumni Achievement Award during his 45th

Reunion. The class gathered at Wesley Alumni House to celebrate and then continued the celebration at Freddie's Tavern in West Trenton, NJ.

Scott Gray '77 enjoyed seeing all of those people who came to Homecoming.

Carin Kraut Cohen '78 says it feels like only yesterday when she was a student at Pennington. She had a beautiful marriage to her soulmate, who is now deceased, and five wonderful, successful, and kind children. She is a retired entrepreneur and was happy to recently visit Pennington.

John Grayson '78 and his wife, Liane, will be moving back to the East Coast (Maryland area) soon from Indianapolis, IN.

Chris Parnos '78 lives in Athens, Greece, along with his parents. He is married and has a nineteen-year-old son who is attending a Greek university.

1980s

Marah Garry Walsh '82 is an international travel coordinator.

Johnny Bennett '84 took a trip to Denver, CO, where the mountains were breathtaking. He enjoyed the scenery and shopping.

Jodi Miller '88 recently moved from San Francisco to Hawaii and is teaching a school program called Little Veterinarian



School. She is having a great time! Her first Pennington visitor was **Heather Aitken '90**. Jodi came to Pennington for her reunion and connected with **Amy Frisman '88** and had a surprise visit from **Michelle Rubinson '89**.

1990s

Ratchanee Trillit-Mamanee '90 organized a lovely reception with Dr. Hawkey and eleven other alumni in Bangkok this past November. Everyone is excited about the Alumni Festival being hosted in Bangkok November 15–17, 2019.

Gabrielle, daughter of **Frank Jordan '93**, won the 2018 National American Miss Virginia Junior Pre-Teen contest. Frank and Angela are so proud of Gabrielle's many accomplishments.

Nopawan Tarmallpark Butler '94 and Eri Hokura '94 still play tennis on the same team in Atlanta, GA, and became back-toback (Spring and Fall) 2018 ALTA City Champions.

Peter Whittlesey '97 has two books now available in print on Amazon with a third to be released in 2019: *The Price of Talent* and *What Lies Beyond Maps* are the first two books in his planned trilogy *Memoirs of a Battle Mage.*

Ilana Schwartz Reyes '98 is the director of counseling for Falls Church.

Sean Cavin '98 and his wife, Jen, welcomed Curren Mac to the world on June 28, 2018.

2000s

Lauren Kelly Benson '03 attended Homecoming with her mother and was presented with the Outstanding Alumni Service Award for her work at Rikers Island, on youth programs to prevent incarceration, and on mindfulness.

Patrick Chai '03 is working for NASA Langley research center in Hampton, VA, and just received the Young Alumni Achievement Award during Homecoming.

Stephanie Mackoul '04 has been living in New York state for the past eight years and has been a resident of Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, for the past six years. She graduated from The Natural Gourmet Institute on June 6, 2018, in the Flatiron district. She plans to become a private chef specializing in food allergies and the importance of cross-contamination. Currently, she is interning at a Mediterranean restaurant called Shuka in Soho, under the supervision of chef and owner Ayesha Nurdjaja.

Julia Bruskin '05 came back with her daughter, Ava, to see all of the recent campus updates. She has been living in London for the last five years and took the opportunity to meet up with Alex Pron '05.

Raymond Chai '05 is working at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, examining patents related to LED technology. Peter Mercatanti '05 has been working to launch Puddle Bugs, a children's entertainment company that aims to connect children from different backgrounds and let them know it's okay to be different. The company's first picture book, A Leaky Fire Hydrant, will soon hit surf shops in Florida. A full-length animated movie, cartoon episodes, apps, merchandise, and a clothing line will follow. He writes: "All Puddle Bugs stories will be set in inner cities worldwide, and Puddle Bugs will surf the puddles and live beneath our feet in the street and sidewalk cracks. It's hard to write a brief description because I am so excited about it!"

Kim Allen-Poole Ruesch '05 had the pleasure of attending the wedding of Katie Harcar '06. Also in attendance were Meghan Harcar McGinn '02 and Maggie Griffith-Williams '98.

Juliet Grillo '06 recently completed an M.S. in applied behavior analysis and currently works as a clinical supervisor of a school in Brooklyn, NY, that specializes in autism and related disorders.

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Photos, top left to right: Marah Garry Walsh '82 in Egypt; Ratchanee Trillit-Mamanee '90 with Dr. Hawkey, Director of Admission Sharon Jarboe, and other alumni in Bangkok; Tennis champs Nopawan Tarmallpark Butler '94 and Eri Hokura '94; Sean Cavin '98 with wife, Jen, and baby Curren Mac; Wedding of Katie Harcar '06 with Kim Allen-Poole Ruesch '05, Meghan Harcar McGinn '02, and Maggie Griffith-Williams '98

Class Notes

(continued from page 57)

Corina Kwami '06 recently completed her doctorate in infrastructure and utilities governance in the Faculty of Engineering at University College London. She has worked extensively with initiatives applying business solutions to tackling the sustainable development goals, such as the UNLEASH Innovation Lab. With a broader vision of using her voice and experience to build bridges across cultures, she also is building bridges between the arts and sciences by improving how people connect within international development and the social impact space. At the UNLEASH Lab in Singapore, she inspired 1,000 talents with a few lessons on teamwork from the late jazz musician Duke Ellington before embarking on a week-long program for applying tech-based solutions to tackle complex challenges related to water, energy access, sustainable cities, and education. She is currently exploring opportunities to apply these experiences in the impact investment arena.

Adam Toltzis '06 lives in Los Angeles and is working on *Your Honor*, a new series for Showtime. He would like **Will Carey** '06 to call him back. It's an emergency.

Lora Fink '07 was inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame for soccer at FDU-Florham Park on September 30, 2018. Lora was team captain in 2009 and 2010 and helped lead her team to the Middle Atlantic Conference Freedom Regular Season Championship in 2010. She was a Second Team All-MAC Freedom choice in 2010, posting twelve goals and sixteen assists and is high up on the single-season list in both shots (132) and shots on goal (67).

Brian Allenby '08 is working for Wayfair in downtown Boston, going to grad school at Northeastern, and living in "Southie."







Laura Shinn '08 graduated from McDaniel College in 2013 and got married in 2017. Her husband is in the U.S. Army. They lived in North Carolina for three years and in Georgia for ten months. They now live in Fort Hood, TX. Laura works for a company in Atlanta on its marketing team and is able to work from home. She has two rescue dogs.

Jared Keating '09 married Katy Oeste on September 8, 2018.

2010s

Courtney Stewart '10 is in graduate school at Stockton University. She is a substitute teacher and coaches lacrosse and basketball. She just went to Spain to present her research at a conference on archival research.

Marisa Kaplan '12 graduated from New York University with a master's degree in classical voice and an advanced certificate in vocal pedagogy. Recently she sang with the Miami Musical Festival in Handel's *Radamisto*.

Nasko Apostolov '13 moved to New York City from Tennessee and is enjoying the big city life. He is currently developing software and playing soccer when he has time.

Wonchang "Terry" Choi '13 is a senior at Fordham University's Gabelli School of Business, studying hedge fund and private equity strategies. He recently returned from the Korean Army after serving two years in Special Warfare Command.

Michael Keating '13 is working at an executive search firm in King of Prussia, PA.

Collette King '13 is working for a start-up outside of Boston.

Since graduating from Dartmouth, **Tess McGuinness '14** has produced, directed, and written a show that premiered as part of FringeNYC. She is working as a playwright and actress.

Henry Sheeran '14 produced and directed a play he wrote, called *Gain*!

Amanda Dafonte '15 and **Lauren Brown '15** are pictured after the Middlebury vs. Williams Women's Soccer match.

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Photos: Newlyweds Katy and Jared Keating '09; Lora Fink '07 during induction into Athletic Hall of Fame at Fairleigh Dickinson University in September 2018; Amanda Dafonte '15 and Lauren Brown '15 after the Middlebury vs. Williams Women's Soccer match



JOIN Headmaster William S. Hawkey and Board of Trustees Chair Peter J. Tucci '79 for our second Asia Alumni Festival in Bangkok, Thailand.

You'll explore the magnificent city of Bangkok with your fellow alumni between networking sessions, presentations by special speakers, and awards celebrations.

For additional information, please contact Jane Bott Childrey '89, director of alumni relations, at jane.childrey@pennington.org or 609–737–6144.

auren Kelly Benson '03 knew, even before she left high school, that she would follow her heart. Her senior yearbook quotation, a reference to Lauryn Hill, best known for being a member of the Fugees, was "Look at your career, they said, Lauryn, baby, use your head; but instead I chose to use my heart."

As a vocalist, teaching artist, and yoga teacher, Benson uses her strengths to do heartfelt work in the community every day. She teaches yoga to inner-city youth of all ages in New York City and has taught incarcerated pregnant teens at Rikers Island through the Prison Yoga Project.

"I'm drawn to the ways that yoga can unblock creative flow, balance emotional output, and create space for deep exploration of one's truths,"

she says. Recently, she campaigned to replace detention with mindful practice and self-expression to directly work against the school-to-prison pipeline.

Benson also strongly believes in the power of music to give voice to those who are otherwise not heard or ignored. She grew up in a house filled with music and is influenced by everything from

Michael Jackson to classic jazz standards to the Beatles. She specializes in collaboration with a deep love for harmonies and has sung with Billie Woods, Elucid, Willie Green, the New York Lovebirds, Iam Popula and the In Crowd, Danny Sherrill, PremRock, and many others. She also performs with her band, Lauren and the Light Fantastic!

She served as the assistant director for Urban Art Beat, a platform for creative expression that partners talented and dedicated volunteers with underserved schools and organizations in order to increase youth literacy and reduce dropout rates. She also sings with the Resistance Revival Choir—a

"My philosophy for living my life and approaching my career has been fairly simple. I've noticed and recognized the tools—yoga, music, and theater—that help me thrive and overcome obstacles. I work to share and teach those tools with others."

Most recently, Benson has transitioned into educational consulting, taking her work beyond the classroom so

she can address a school's overall culture. She has created a professional development program for wellness that focuses on communicating safety and positive thinking with the goal of helping all educators understand how we can each individually flourish within our communities, regardless of societally predisposed mindsets. She is committed to continuing to grow in her work and bring out the utmost creative expression in every person she teaches. Follow her journey on social media at @aditiflow and @laurenkellybenson.

collective of more than sixty women who come together to sing in tribute to the historical importance of music in the protest movement.

Her single, "Say Her Name," addresses police brutality and, in Benson's words, "honors my ancestors who have been through so much in order for me to thrive." She is currently working on her first solo album and writing songs about racism, patriarchy, and depression. The album, however, contains an upbeat message of hope.

Alumni Profile Lauren Kelly Benson '03

Class Notes

(continued from page 58)

Emma Bouton '16 had an argument for environmental justice published in the *Brown Daily Herald.* As a member of Sunrise RI (a chapter of the national Sunrise Movement, which is a youth-led movement to stop climate change and create millions of good jobs in the process), she asserts: "The DNC's reversing its decision to take fossil-fuel money would create a Green New Deal that exposes the lie that energy workers and environmentalists can't work together."

Jin Woo Kim '16 is a junior at Fordham University with a major in international political economy and a minor in business administration.

Cathy Xu '17 is a student at New York University.

David Wan '16 writes, "I am currently a junior at Columbia University majoring in computer science and minoring in linguistics. Currently, I am taking three interesting courses this year: Natural Language Processing (the direction I want to pursue further) concerns computers' understanding human language; Advanced Software Engineering is a course designed to put the entire industry software development cycle into a course; and Language and Society is a linguistic course that teaches about how society affects languages and vice versa.

Hannah Bradshaw '18 went to Germany this past July following her graduation. She is pictured with brother Andy and father Michael Bradshaw, wearing traditional Bavarian garb in Tegernsee.

Edward Bucci '18 and **Mitchell Walker** '**18** visited Doune Castle, where *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* was filmed.

Lillian Childrey '18 went to her first hackathon this fall at Duke University.





Jodie Bartels '17 is taking a gap year after graduation before going to college in Germany. She and Polly Koniarczyk '18 are going to Colombia, South America, to work, travel, and do volunteer work. They will be there for a few months and will try to see as much of the country (or even the continent) as possible.

Sonia van Stekelenborg '18 writes, "I'm spending three months on Nosy Komba, Madagascar, assisting the Madagascar Research and Conservation Institute (MRCI) with data collection and various conservation efforts. Currently, I'm volunteering in their Forest and Animal Conservation program. The general goal of this program is to identify changes in forest dynamics, populations, and habitat health, and recognize potential localized threats. One specific example of this would be our surveys on the endangered black lemurs that are found on this island. We are constantly conducting a variety of surveys to collect data and observations that contribute to long-term monitoring of the species. Later on, I will join the marine conservation program."

Xin Yi "Karen" Zheng '18 is currently a student at the University of Pennsylvania.

Send news and notes to Jane Bott Childrey '89 at jane.childrey@pennington.org

Photos: Hannah Bradshaw '18 with father Michael and brother Andy Bradshaw in Bavaria; Sonia van Stekelenborg '18 in Madagascar; Edward Bucci '18 and Mitchell Walker '18 at Doune Castle in Scotland



Ancient History

Produced by Pennington Alumni Theater

–Sarah Haeckel '15 current senior at Colgate University

y experience directing the alumni play this summer was challenging in the best way. Before *Ancient History,* I'd directed *Agatha Rex* in the Middle School and a couple of short-form pieces for class at college, but resuming my life in the McLarty Black Box after time away was, honestly, the wildest choice for my summer. Even a few months later, I'm still inspired by the play itself. I recall certain one-liners often. *Ancient History* was written by David Ives, a playwright who is known for wordplay. It's made up of huge themes like religion, money, love, loss, getting older, and moving on. That made it an exciting piece to stage. The show's runtime was ninety minutes, and our team was bare minimum (one director, one costumer, one technician, and two actors.) What this meant was that actors Liam Krivcov '17 and Grace Kavulich '18 were dialoguing nonstop. It also meant a clothing rack full of outfits, red and blue lights hung and focused by Brian Keating '18, and items taken right from Bella Iorio '17 to make the set feel "authentic." I will admit, these things were less than essential to set the stage, but that's what comes from the ideas of an ambitious group. We came together in July and had only about a month to rehearse. I think we were so viciously productive because we had a lot of freedom. And we missed our Pennington Drama days; that part was clear.

Henry Sheeran '14 wrote and directed the first two installments of the Pennington Alumni Series, alongside the technical work of Tim Secrest '14, and I'm sure this tradition of alumni theater will continue in the future, as there are many talented TPS Drama alumni out there. I enjoyed being out of my head and back into the box during a notoriously introspective season. To all former drama "kids" out there, I highly recommend this experience to you!

If you are interested in participating next summer as a writer, director, or producer, please contact Lisa Houston at Ihouston@pennington. org or Peter Secrest at psecrest@pennington.org. Our goal is to get the dates on the calendar as soon as possible. Thanks to Sarah and her team, there is some seed funding available for future projects.



NYC Alumni Reception

he Pennington School hosted its annual New York City Holiday Reception on November 27 at Americas Society, thanks to the generosity of a current Pennington family. More than 130 alumni, parents, and prospective parents were all in awe of the stunning venue, which was the original residence of Percy Rivington Pyne, a New York financier, then served as the Soviet Mission to the United Nations before it was donated to Americas Society. Jennifer Lu '20 provided ongoing musical

entertainment as she played classical masterpieces on a beautiful grand piano while four of Pennington's seniors, all Student Ambassadors, welcomed guests in their Pennington blazers. Attendees enjoyed catching up with Pennington faculty and staff while Headmaster Hawkey and Chair of the Board of Trustees Peter Tucci '79 P'16 '16 succeeded in reminding us all that our individual connections to The Pennington School keep our community vibrant and widespread.



In Memoriam

With sadness we remember the following members of the Pennington community who died or of whose death we learned since the publication of our last magazine:



Virginia Apple S'35 P'66 Charles F. Deane '35 Howard H. Steel '37 Patricia Jingoli S'45 Richard Rosskam '46 Albert J. Blair '48 Jonas Caplin '48 GP'00 '04 '08 Furman A. DeMaris IV '49 Martha McDaniel S'49 Wayne R. McDaniel '49 Sam F. Naples '49 Pauline Brashears S'50 Joseph Gwozdziewicz '55 John C. Van Cleve '55 Russell J. Hibbets '56

Donald J. Nikles '56 Dean Galanos '57 Larry N. Merkle '57 William C. Van Ness '57 William E. Peacock '61 Richard F. Somogyi '61 John E. Lukens '67 Alan J. Bloem '68 Nolan H. Sherry '68 Albert S. Garrison '70 Gloria Caldwell P'72 Ralph G. Caldwell, Jr. P'72 Arthur Roth Lavinthal P'81 Charles A. Karkut P'82 '85 Kenneth Kai Tai Yen '84 Sarah A. Kilfoyle P'87 '91 Ronald Bird P'89 Arthur E. Bentley P'91 Steven L. Rodis P'93 Robert Sidney Thanhauser, Jr. P'01 Michaela Benson P'03 Alex Damico P'06 Patrick Fahey GP'16 '18 '20 Frank Fitzgerald GP'17 Walter Shipley GP'18 '20 Ellen M. Kaczor GP'19 Eileen Amico GP'22 Joseph G. McCaffrey GP'22 '24

P-Parent; GP-Grandparent; S-Spouse

Scholarship



Classic Events

The twenty-fourth annual Golf Classic

SAVE the DATE : Monday, June 10, 2019

Both events are held at beautiful Bedens Brook Club in Skillman, NJ. Raindate: October 14, 2019



All proceeds from our Classic events support scholarships for students who would not otherwise be able to attend The Pennington School. For more information, please contact Jane Bott Childrey '89 at jane.childrey@pennington.org.



The Pennington School

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2019 Summer Programs

The Pennington School offers Summer Programs for students ages 10–15. Sports, Arts, and Academic Enrichment Camps will run from the week of June 24 through the week of August 5.

Visit www.pennington.org/summerprograms for more details!

CAMPS INCLUDE: Art Portfolio Boot Camp • Boys' Basketball • Boys' Soccer • Ceramics
Drama Workshop • Drawing and Painting • Engineering and Problem Solving • Getting Ready for Algebra • Girls' Basketball • Girls' Soccer • Magic Chemistry • Musical Theatre
Outdoor Adventure • Photography Camp • Swimming Camp

