

THE OAKRIDGE SCHOOL

OUTLOOK

VOLUME 39 | ISSUE NO. 1

40TH
YEAR
ANNIVERSARY



THE
OAKRIDGE
SCHOOL

FEATURES

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Always An Owl

Weeks after graduation, Class of 2019 Valedictorian Tushar Kohli has a few more things he wants his new fellow alumni to know.

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Seat At The Table

More top universities are making room at the table for girls in STEM. Learn about two Oakridge students ready to lean in.

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New Chapter

She touched the hearts and minds of students and colleagues for nearly 40 years, but Betty Garton says her retirement isn't a final goodbye.

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Five Questions

What makes Oakridge... Oakridge? How does one teacher manage to make each student feel seen and heard? The answers in the new feature, Five Questions.

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One Fine Night

Meaningful, memorable, and magical. Just three of many words that can be used to describe this year's Fine Arts Night.

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The Home Stretch

It's already a hub of activity, now the Oakridge Athletic Complex is about to get even busier.



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MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL



Head of School Jon Kellam poses with Oakridge founders, Susan Butts and Corliss Elsesser, Assistant Head of School Sarah Kramer, and retired Headmaster and President Andy Broadus.

Welcome to the summer edition of *Outlook* magazine. This issue is both a reflective and inspiring look at our 40th anniversary, and the people and the moments that helped The Oakridge School reach this ruby jubilee milestone.

We're still a little misty-eyed over saying farewell to the Class of 2019. In this issue, we pause to celebrate that special group of 78 young men and women, the graduates' loving and supportive families, our innovative and dedicated faculty and staff, and the communities with which we are proud to partner. We also honor our founders, who are the cornerstones of Oakridge. Forty years ago, they set in place the building blocks for our independent, college-preparatory school of excellence. Throughout this issue, you'll read Five Questions... a special feature focused on some of those servant leaders

(others have been recorded and videos of their interviews are available on the Office of Admissions section of our school website). On these pages, you'll also read about Oakridge alumni blazing new paths. We hope they'll inspire and encourage you wherever you are in your academic or professional life.

Enjoy the look back, but also the look ahead at the forward-thinking minds we are producing. Thank you to those of you who have been partnered with The Oakridge School since 1979 and to those who joined along the way. I consider it an honor to be on this seminal journey with you!

Happy 40th Anniversary, Oakridge Family.

Jonathan M. Kellam, Head of School

On the Cover: ECC Director Betty Garton is surrounded by Chamber Choir members, who sang "Over the Rainbow" at her retirement celebration. The cover of this special 40th anniversary Outlook was designed by senior Davis Le, the winner of an integrated media class challenge. Other student designs considered may be found on page 32.



THE OAKRIDGE SCHOOL

There's no place like home.



A SPECIAL REUNION

The Oakridge School Board of Regents met for the first time on March 6, 1979. School started the following August. Forty years later, we are the beneficiaries of their courage, wisdom, and entrepreneurial spirit. Regents, past and current, shared a special reunion this spring at the Shady Oaks Country Club.





CLASS OF 2019 GRADUATION



CLASS OF 2019 GRADUATION



Ours is a special community because of each one of you. As we salute the Class of 2019, we proudly celebrate The Oakridge School's 40 years of commitment to inspiring students to seek their full potential in Academics, the Arts, and Athletics. The roots planted in 1979 have anchored our mission, our vision, our passion, and our pursuit. May every member of this ruby jubilee class continue to cultivate excellence and always feel, "There's No Place Like Home."



CLASS OF 2019 GRADUATION



FROM STUDENT TO ALUMNUS

After first beginning Oakridge in kindergarten, now I find myself an alumnus. It will take me time to fully process what that means and how I feel about it, as well as gain a thorough appreciation of all the years I have spent at Oakridge, friends I have made, and memories I will take with me. Oakridge has truly been a second home. I do feel a great sense of completion, pride, and fulfillment (and some relief too) at having graduated. In addition, I feel that Oakridge has prepared

me to begin the next chapter in my life at The University of Texas at Austin. Though I don't think I'm ready to say goodbye to Oakridge (as I believe many of my fellow classmates are not), the sense of community and family I felt here will keep me coming back—of course for my sister Sana who will move to the tenth grade, but also for big events like Homecoming. I am filled with immense gratitude at what Oakridge and its teachers have done to edify and educate

me, to equip me with the tools to continue developing myself, and to succeed in the future. I am proud to call The Oakridge School my alma mater. If I could offer a small piece of advice to current students, it would be this: Take full advantage and explore all that Oakridge has to offer—in academics, the arts, and athletics—it will make you a well-rounded person.

*Tushar Kohli
Class of 2019 Valedictorian*

• COME •

Excel

with us

CONGRATULATIONS
CLASS OF 2019!



THE
OAKRIDGE
SCHOOL

www.theoakridgeschool.org



Our senior class has been offered a combined
\$10.9 MILLION IN SCHOLARSHIPS

Valedictorian Tushar Kohli and Salutatorian Anandi Barker both plan to attend the University of Texas

100% of our 78 graduates accepted by 159 colleges & universities

OUTSIDE TEXAS

The University of Alabama
American University
The American University of Paris
Arizona State University
The University of Arizona
University of Arkansas
Auburn University
Belmont University
Biola University
Bradley University
Bryn Mawr College
Butler University (College of Fine Arts)
California Lutheran University
California Polytechnic State University,
San Luis Obispo
University of California, Davis
University of California, Riverside
University of California, San Diego
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of California, Santa Cruz
Carthage College
Chapman University
College of Charleston
University of Charleston
Clark Atlanta University
Clark University
Clemson University
University of Colorado at Boulder
University of Colorado Colorado Springs
Colorado School of Mines
Colorado State University
Concordia University - Irvine
University of Connecticut
Creighton University

University of Denver
Drake University
Eckerd College
Emory University (Scholars Program)
Fashion Institute of Technology
Florida A&M University
University of Florida
Fordham University
Franklin University Switzerland
George Mason University
The George Washington University
Georgia Institute of Technology
University of Georgia
Grand Canyon University
Hampton University
Harding University
Hendrix College
Hofstra University
Howard University
Hult International Business
School - San Francisco
IE University - Segovia
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Indiana University at Bloomington
The University of Iowa
University of Kansas
Kent State University
Lake Forest College
Lewis & Clark College
LIM College (Laboratory Institute
of Merchandising)
Lindenwood University
Long Island University, Post
Louisiana State University
Loyola Marymount University

University of Massachusetts, Amherst
University of Miami
Michigan State University
University of Minnesota, Twin Cities
University of Mississippi
Missouri University of Science
and Technology
Monash University
Montana Tech of The University of Montana
Morehouse College
University of Nebraska at Lincoln
North Carolina A&T State University
The University of North Carolina at
Chapel Hill
North Country Community College
Northern Arizona University
The Ohio State University
Oklahoma City University
Oklahoma State University
The University of Oklahoma
University of Oregon
Otis College of Art and Design
Pace University, New York City
Pacific Lutheran University
Pennsylvania State University
Pepperdine University
Philander Smith College
University of Pittsburgh
Polimoda International Institute of
Design and Marketing
University of Portland
Providence College
University of Puget Sound
Purdue University
Reed College

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rhode Island School of Design
Rutgers University-New Brunswick
Saint Louis University, Madrid
Sam Houston State University
Samford University
University of San Diego
University of San Francisco
Savannah College of Art and Design
School of the Art Institute of Chicago
Skidmore College
University of South Carolina
University of Southern California
Spelman College
SUNY College of Environmental Science
and Forestry
Swarthmore College
Syracuse University
University of Tennessee, Knoxville
The Crown College of the Bible
The New School - All Divisions
Trinity Washington University
Tulane University
University of Tulsa
Union College (New York)
University of British Columbia - Okanagan
Campus
University of Utah
Washington College
University of Washington
Washington and Lee University
Whitworth University
Willamette University
College of William & Mary
University of Wyoming

TEXAS

Abilene Christian University
Austin College
Austin Community College
Baylor University
Dallas Baptist University
University of Dallas
Hardin-Simmons University
University of Houston
University of the Incarnate Word
Lamar University
University of North Texas
Prairie View A&M University
Schreiner University
Southern Methodist University
Southwestern University
St. Edward's University
Stephen F. Austin State University
Tarleton State University
Texas A&M University
Texas Christian University
Texas Southern University
Texas State University
Texas Tech University
Texas Wesleyan University
The University of Texas, Arlington
The University of Texas, Austin
The University of Texas, Dallas
Trinity University



40 YEARS OF **LEARNING**

NARROWING THE STEM GAP

Annemarie Roos and Hannah Didehbani, both 11th grade students, will make the gap between young men and women studying in the science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) fields a little closer this summer when they participate in highly selective STEM programs at two different colleges.

Annemarie is one of just 32 students chosen to attend Artificial Intelligence for All (AI4ALL) SummerUp Camp at Arizona State University (ASU). AI4ALL promotes greater diversity and inclusion in the field of Artificial Intelligence. During the three-week program, participants will explore AI through projects creation, industry field trips, and presentations from guest speakers. AI4ALL will conclude with a small-group research project and a presentation for friends and family.

“This is an incredible accomplishment for two outstanding students,” said Melissa Triebwasser, who teaches integrated media and guided Annemarie’s programming class at Oakridge. “Annemarie has the chance to deepen her understanding of a field she intends to pursue



Annemarie Roos participates in AI4ALL at Arizona State University this summer.

collegiately and her selection into this distinguished program speaks volumes about her work ethic, willingness to challenge herself, and opportunities she has been given to pursue STEM programs while attending Oakridge.”

Hannah will participate in the Women’s Technology Program (WTP) at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). The four-week program, for which Hannah was awarded a full scholarship, focuses on computer science and engineering.

Female MIT graduate students design and teach the classes, and are assisted by female MIT undergraduate students who live in



Hannah Didehbani participates in WTP at Massachusetts Institute of Technology this summer.

the dorm with the high school girls.

Wesley Irons, named a Fort Worth Magazine Top Teacher for 2018, teaches calculus and physics at Oakridge and called Hannah a remarkably gifted young woman. “This program is a great step toward her eventual success in science and engineering. I am extremely proud of Hannah’s accomplishments and excited to see what her future holds.”

Only 60 participants are selected for WTP from a nationwide applicant pool of the top female 11th grade math and science students. Program organizers say they received more than 700 applications last year.

Duke TIP Grand Recognition: Landon Hodges, 7th grade, poses at Duke University, where he was honored by the Duke University Talent Identification Program, or Duke TIP, in May for scoring among the top five percent of all seventh graders nationwide who took the SAT or ACT this school year. While not present, Oakridge student Ryan Sears also earned the distinction. Duke TIP hosts the Grand Recognition Ceremony each year.



CAMPUS NEWS



Riley McBrayer (front) and Callista Polit (back) learned about metamorphosis in May. After watching caterpillars grow into butterflies, the girls and their classmates released the creatures outside the Lower School.



Tyler Hall, 7th grade, posed with Dr. Amy Alsip at the National Junior Honor Society induction ceremony. In all, 39 Middle School students were inducted into the NJHS.



Mrs. Skinner's preschool students learned about the letter "N" by searching for real birds' nests near the Early Childhood Center.



Britney Do, 10th grade, is among 64 Upper School students inducted into the National Honor Society this year. Photo by sophomore Hannah Shahbazi.

CAMPUS NEWS



Collin Scarborough, 5th grade, finished first in this year's Middle School Spelling Bee.



Jackson Demond, 5th grade, posed with Mr. Robby Koch after winning the Geography Bee.



Tushar Kohli (left) and Brad Greer (right) were named National Merit Finalists in May.



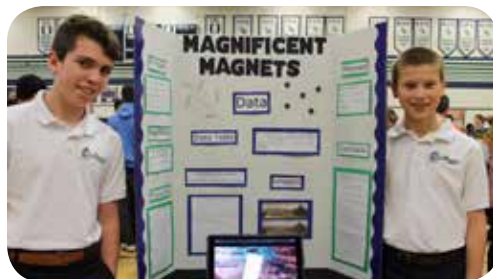
Arlington Mayor Jeff Williams, WFAA-TV Reporter Rebecca Lopez (mom to Jacob '20), and many other diverse professionals shared their insight during Career Day in the Upper School.



Teachers, administrators, and professionals in educated-related fields made learning visible during the hands-on, interactive ILL Southwest Conference held Feb. 21-22 at Oakridge.

STEM SHOWCASE HIGHLIGHTS

BRIGHT MINDS & IDEAS



Nearly 70 students between grades 3 through 12 presented original science projects covering a wide range of ideas at the 2nd annual STEM Showcase in early spring. Studies ranged from energy absorption and bacterial growth on household surfaces to gender roles in decision making.



Dolls, baseball bats, video games, toy cars, and much more were up for grabs during the 4th Grade Garage Sale held May 16-17. Students learned practical business lessons while raising more than \$2,000. The money will benefit Pencils of Promise and Operation Kindness.

ECC students helped to raise more than \$5,800 during the annual St. Jude Trike-A-Thon. This marked Oakridge's 29th year participating in the fundraising event, which benefits children with cancer and teaches students bike safety.

OUR CINDERELLAS: A LEGACY OF DOING GOOD



Gracie Snyder/2019 Cinderella candidate



Raegan Lane/2019 Cinderella candidate



Mason Henegar/2018 Cinderella winner

Oakridge students Raegan Lane and Gracie Snyder were among the candidates who helped to raise \$556,087 for the 2019 Cinderella Charity Ball in Arlington. Mason Henegar was crowned the 2018 Cinderella, following a long list of Oakridge scholars who have held the prestigious honor. At 60 years, the Cinderella Charity Ball is the oldest consecutive philanthropic social event in our city.

The Ladies Auxiliary started the ball in hopes of raising much-needed funds for Boys & Girls Clubs of Arlington, and in 2016, the non-profit hit the \$10 million donated mark. The Ladies Auxiliary receives hundreds of applications each year from sophomore and junior girls who attend schools in Arlington city limits.

Only 20 girls are selected to compete in the six-week

campaign, based on their leadership abilities, community interest, and academic successes. Each girl attempts to raise the most money to be donated to Boys and Girls Clubs of Arlington as possible, through letter writing campaigns, fundraising events, and asking the community at large for support. They are required to volunteer at a Boys & Girls Clubs branch location so they understand the magnitude of their efforts. They also attend sales and finance seminars to hone their ability to fundraise.

Mason joined seven other Oakridge young women who have won the title, raising more than \$80,290. She had the honor of attending various Boys & Girls Clubs events and becoming a mentor to the candidates who were selected for the 2019 Ball. "Participating in the Cinderella Charity Ball did Mason a world of good," said Lori Henegar,

Mason's mom. "She was able to step out of her bubble, reach out to youth who are at risk for a number of different things, and give them love and attention they deserve. It gave her a new perspective and a more grateful heart for her own privileges."

Winners in the previous ten years included Grace Burnett (2016), Riley Mohorc (2015), Caroline Quinn (2014), Shannon Laird (2010), Roxy Reynolds (2009), Corinne Queenan (2008), and Mary Alden Wilson (2007).

We look forward to cheering on the next group of Oakridge Owls who are chosen to compete. More information on the ball can be found at cinderellacharityball.org

*Nadia DiStefano,
Community Engagement Coordinator*



DEVOTED EDUCATOR

Betty Garton ends her chapter as director of the ECC, but her story at The Oakridge School is far from over.

MRS. G SAYS FAREWELL

Betty Garton stood in her normal spot Wednesday morning, Aug. 22, warmly greeting students and parents with smiles, hugs, and words of encouragement as they entered the Early Childhood Center for the first day of the 2018-19 school year.

Sharing joy, making children feel as if they belong, and reassuring parents before they head off to work are but a few of the many ways that “Mrs. G,” as Garton is affectionately called, brought together generations of students in her 37 years of service to the 40-year-old school.

“I have loved every minute of my time here,” said the Director of the center that bears her name. “A few summers ago, however, I realized that I was slowing down physically and that the time was drawing closer for me to start a new journey in life.”

Garton intends to remain an active part of Oakridge even after her official last day. “I’ve said many times — I am not saying goodbye; I’m just changing my job description.”

The Oakridge School in 2018 was voted the Best Private School in Arlington by *Arlington Today*

magazine readers. Garton, who has worn many hats at Oakridge, helped the school achieve that honor. She’s been an invincible force directing the ECC, a dedicated educator, a wise faculty and staff mentor, and so much more. Most importantly, she has sought to help her “littles” reach their full potential while building partnerships with their parents. Her two children graduated from Oakridge and her two grandchildren are now thriving as Owls.

Head of School Jon Kellam considers Garton a mentor and trusted friend. “It’s hard to put into words all that Betty has meant to me and the entire Oakridge family. She has truly impacted thousands of lives here.”

Garton earned a bachelor’s degree from Texas Tech University and a Master of Science in Education from Texas Christian University. She launched her career as a teacher at Heritage Hall Private School in Lubbock in 1969. She later taught at schools in Roswell, NM, and Burleson. Garton joined Oakridge in 1982 when it was just a few years old and holding classes inside the old Handley Middle School in Fort Worth. The Early Childhood Center opened



Mrs. Garton poses with her family outside of the ECC on Aug. 22, 2018, her last first day of school as Director of the ECC.

the doors to its current location in 1984. It began with three pre-kindergarten classes and three kindergarten classes. Garton played a pivotal role in developing the curriculum at the center and helping to strengthen both the school’s mission and reputation as a leader among North Texas’s top private and independent schools. Decades later, alumni still drop by to chat with Mrs. G about their college experiences, travels abroad, new jobs, upcoming weddings, or to introduce her to their children. There are 48 “legacy” students, or children of alumni, at Oakridge. Fourteen are currently enrolled at the ECC. Decades to come, countless more students will gather at the Betty G. Garvin Early Childhood Center for preschool, pre-kindergarten and kindergarten – making friends and coming together to learn – just the way Mrs. G wants it.



There was no shortage of tears during the spring retirement celebration for ECC Director Betty Garton. Hundreds of people, including Mrs. G's family members, current and alumni Oakridge students and parents, faculty, staff, current and former members of the Board of Regents, community supporters, and many others attended the event held inside the Student Activity Center. Highlights of her retirement celebration included her receiving a proclamation from the City of Arlington declaring it "Betty Garton Day," and a letter of recognition from Gov. Greg Abbott.



DEAR TO THE HEART

Ask nearly anyone associated with The Oakridge School about Betty Garton, and they have a fond memory to share. Few, however, can say that they have been Mrs. G's student, in addition to being her colleague. Even fewer can say that Mrs. G is their colleague, that she taught them in the classroom, and later educated their child.

Assistant Director of Technology and Modern Learning Ashley Read '05 lights up when she talks about her former teacher turned colleague and friend. "I had the privilege of being a student in Mrs. G's Pre-K class 28 years ago. For the past two years, my daughter Avery Kate '32 has been blessed with being a student in the ECC, as well as being a student in Mrs. G's STEAM class."

Mrs. Read calls Garton an inspiration to her family and admires her integrity and wisdom. "She is a mentor in my life. She is honest, yet kind with her words, passionate and loves each child individually. She will leave behind a legacy that is unlike any other, and the minute you enter the ECC building, you feel her legacy: you feel the kindness, the empathy, the joy. Mrs. G loves our children like they are her own and words cannot describe the impact she has left behind with me and my entire family."



Ashley Read



Farhat Family

Head Football Coach Phillip Farhat '93 also holds Mrs. G with great admiration and says she has touched his family in many ways. His sons Ford '26, Jack '28, and Duke '31 have all traveled through the ECC.

"I think the simplest way to put it is she has had the biggest impact on my family of any single person not actually in my family," Coach Farhat said. "She has friended, taught or counseled all of my siblings, parents, cousins, children, my spouse, and of course myself. We love her dearly and could never thank her enough!"



Garton and Ashley Read, left, Garton with Avery Kate, right.

FIVE QUESTIONS WITH DEBBE SABLE AND JANA KURRASCH

Middle School French Teacher Debbe Sable and Lower School Teacher Jana Kurrasch have been with The Oakridge School for more than 60 years combined. They've seen it all as one might expect: challenges, opportunities, failures, and successes experienced by their students and colleagues they consider family.



reason. The teachers and the staff are here every day because they love what they do. They want to see lives molded and changed, and they want to see kids go on to college and lead successful lives. That's why we're here: to nurture, challenge, and to love our students, and that has stayed the same over all these years.

1. A school doesn't reach 40 years without people unwilling to wear different hats. What roles have you played in shaping Oakridge?

DS: I started out in 1987 in the Upper School, where I taught French for 10 years. I then changed to History and am now back to teaching French in the Middle School. I'm most proud of being able to see Oakridge grow and change, and to see how we all, who work here, are very loyal and flexible. We're also very adaptable, which is important, I think, when you are in a fluid situation such as education.

2. You've been at Oakridge almost from its beginning. What is different and what has remained the same?



Mrs. Kurrasch saying a "birthday blessing" to second grade student Samuel Rogers.

JK: I remember when the classrooms were in different locations, the Library was on the second floor of the Middle School, and the playground was where the current flag poles are. With the addition of the Athletic Complex across the street, it looks different,

but Oakridge has stayed the same in many ways. The people are still in it for the right

3. As a parent, what did Oakridge do for your children?

DS: My children had the opportunity to explore and to excel in the things that were very important to them. Oakridge provided my son, Phillip, the opportunity to be a leader. He was president of his class every year when he was in the Upper School. He was also president of the student body. That was important to him. Academics were important to my daughter Alee, but so were athletics. Instead of being challenged and put in one particular sport, she was able to explore as many as she wanted to. If you ask my husband, he will add that Oakridge provided our kids with the opportunity to get up in front of people, to be able to express themselves well, and not to feel intimidated by public speaking.



Mrs. Sable preparing crepes for her students following lessons about Mardi Gras.

4. You're known for doing something very special that makes children feel valued for who they are. Can you describe your approach?

JK: I make it my goal every year to really become a family with my students. Of course, we do academics, but we work on character-

building and becoming a family by encouraging each other. We speak life into each other and I use that in my classroom theme, which is called “Letting Your Light Shine” and teaching my students what that means to be an encourager and build one another up. On a student’s birthday, I invite their families to visit and share photos and memories of the day the student was born. After an uplifting song, I then look into the child’s eyes and speak words of encouragement and tell them what I see in him or her. I just try to encourage them in all of their strengths. I might say, “You are bright and capable, but more than that you’re a good friend and I continually see you lift up your classmates...” and that kind of thing. We end the celebration with cupcakes or cookies, juice and laughter. It’s short, sweet and very special.

5. What makes Oakridge and its students so special?

JK: When you watch the news, look at social media or read the newspaper, you might get discouraged. You might feel like things are not right in our country, our world, and you might feel a little sad. But, I’m telling you, if you spend a day in my classroom - just one day - you will know everything is going to be okay. These kids are our future and our future is in good hands.

DS: Oakridge is a place where your child can grow and flourish, and explore all kinds of different opportunities. Whether it is through academics, whether it is through the arts, whether it is through athletics — they can find their passion here.

THE BACON STORY

Every year, Mr. Broadus gathers the faculty and staff before the Christmas Break and shares the following story. He then hands out packages of bacon to all present.

The Oakridge School has a tradition of giving bacon to the faculty members and employees every Christmas. It’s an interesting story how it all came about. It goes back to the early 80s. We were struggling, which we basically did for a long time and continue to do from time to time because we are a non-profit school. Back then, we were really non-profit. I had a small faculty and I asked them to gather because I had some information for them. This was in November, and it did not look like we were going to be able to have December payroll checks. I didn’t want anybody to go into the holiday season thinking that they were going to receive a check and us not be able to do that. I said, I understand there are some of you that are single parents, and if this is going to mean there’s no Christmas, I will be in my office after this, and I want you to come see me and we’ll figure it out.

I went to my office and waited for a line to form outside my office. Not one faculty member showed up. And I know that a lot of them were living from month to month and not even making it at that. But none of them was willing to come in there and say, we need the money. I was overwhelmed with that kind of mission feeling and loyalty that they had. They were really a part of the foundation that is what we’re all about today.

One morning a week or so after that, I knew the carpool schedule and it was 40 degrees and raining and I was waiting for one car in particular to come through the line. I waved the father down – he was a board member – and I said, can I talk to you for a minute? I’d like to borrow \$25,000. Now that’s a large sum today, but it was really a large sum then. He asked what I needed it for and I told him. Then he asked when I could pay him back, and I told him February 1. He pulled over, pulled his checkbook out, and handed me the check.

I wanted to go start yelling up and down the halls that we were going to make payroll, but I didn’t and I decided I would go buy bacon, have it wrapped, and put the payroll checks on the bottom of the bacon. I brought everybody into an assembly and said, folks, you’ve been troopers, I can’t tell you how much I appreciate it. I know everybody wanted to bring home the bacon at Christmas so I brought you some bacon to bring home. Everybody laughed and were in a good mood about it, and then I said when you get your bacon, turn it over. And they had their checks. They were thrilled, as I was thrilled for that to happen for them. But it made for a very merry Christmas and it kept my belief that Oakridge is just meant to be. And it was meant to be something great, with a great faculty like you are today. And I still appreciate everything that you do, and I want you to have a merry Christmas.

– As told by Andy Broadus, December 2014



*Since 1982,
Mr. Broadus has
gifted bacon to the
Oakridge faculty
and staff. In 2015
alone, he gave
out a total of 320
pounds of bacon.*



OAKRIDGE AT 40: WHERE'S THE BACON?



Every year before Winter Break, faculty and staff receive bacon from Head of School Jon Kellam. It's a tradition that started with retired Headmaster and President Andy Broadus. The reason behind the tasty gift was explained in the 2016 spring edition of *Outlook* magazine and is reprinted here. As we continue celebrating Oakridge at 40, we wondered how teachers and other faculty and staff members use their bacon. Here are a few responses to our inquiry!



**THE
OAKRIDGE
SCHOOL**

There's no place like home.

- **Paulo da Silva/College Advising Coordinator & Soccer Coach:** Bake it in a breakfast casserole.
- **Sarah Kramer/Assistant Head of School:** Cook it on Christmas morning.
- **Joe Feldstein/US Math:** Donate it to the hungry.
- **Shawn Meadows/Athletic Director:** Serve it in family BLTs.
- **Lindsey McCartin/US Art:** Since I don't eat meat, it makes a wonderful stocking stuffer for my brother.
- **Jennifer Bonner/History Department Chair:** Use it in a sausage and bacon homemade mac & cheese.
- **Peggy Pfursich/College Advisor:** Crumble the bacon for baked potatoes.
- **Stacy Bauer/2nd Grade Teacher:** Use them for Christmas Eve breakfast tacos.
- **Dr. Amy Alsip/MS English & Public Speaking Specialist:** We cook half the bacon for breakfast the first Sunday of Christmas break and save the other half to use in our New Year's black-eyed peas.
- **Michelle Vaughn/Director of Technology & Modern Learning:** Fry it up in a pan!
- **Katy Hoffer/MS Makerspace Coordinator:** Cook it in a cast-iron skillet. Use the fat to make gravy for biscuits and complete our breakfasts with scrambled eggs.
- **Adam Campbell/Athletic Trainer:** My family gets together on New Year's Day and we have "brinner" (breakfast for dinner). We make pancakes, eggs, and bacon.
- **Randy Barnes/US History:** We have it with our traditional Christmas morning breakfast featuring my wife's homemade waffles.
- **Dr. Wei-Min Liu/US Chinese:** We have the bacon with scrambled eggs.



40 YEARS OF **ARTS**

YOUNG ARTISTS WIN AT MAYFEST

There were over 400 art entries for Mayfest 2019 and The Oakridge School took home many ribbons, including:

First Place 2D: **Caden Ranadive** (Kindergarten)

1st Place Mixed Media: **Emily VanWhy** (3rd Grade)

2nd Place Mixed Media: **Emerson Rexinger** (3rd Grade)

2nd Place 3D: **Genevieve Fain** (2nd Grade)

2nd Place 2D: **Peyton Graham** (3rd Grade)

1st Place Mixed Media: **Lily Alsip** (6th Grade)

3rd place Mixed Media: **Whitney Hey** (6th Grade)

3rd Place 3D: **Alana Parker** (5th Grade)



CONFIDENT AND CREATIVE

Upper School students spread their wings this year under the guidance of new Upper School Art Teacher Lindsey McCartin. Whether through designing, drawing, painting or printmaking — students became more confident and creative artists. Here are a few samples of their second semester work.



Ink Value Portrait by Linda Farah



Drawing by Alan Nguyen



Chipboard Sculptures by Art 1 students



3D Book Art by Will Emmert



Weaving, a collaborative art piece

Class of 2019 Oakridge Graduates Enrolling in Top Art & Design Schools

Fashion Institute of Technology

LIM College

Rhode Island School of Design

Savannah College of Art and Design

Sarah Tota

Megan Marr

Abraham Hsu

Evan Broome, Stephanie Douglas, William Gehring, and Jonathan Trimble



US students performed in Festival Orchestra at the Schermerhorn Symphony Center in Nashville.



Congratulations to senior Emma Gladden, who won the E. Thayne Tolle Scholarship awarded by the TPSMEA to a musician who will be pursuing music in college. Gladden plans to attend the University of Miami.



Caziah Franklin is another senior planning to study music after Oakridge. He will attend Belmont University in the fall.



Texas Private School Music Educators Association (TPSMEA) singers from Oakridge performed at the Eisemann Center in Richardson.

MAKING MOVES

It seems only a short while ago that Wyndham Tsai was performing in the Flavin Fine Arts Performance Hall. The 2011 graduate is now making moves in his professional career that he says were made possible due to his talent — and education at Oakridge.

“I very much appreciated the support of the faculty and staff during my time at Oakridge,” said Tsai. “Together, their willingness to accommodate what I needed to become the best cellist I could be, within the school curriculum, was paramount to my growth as an aspiring musician.”



Photo by Ren Martin-Dolke.

Tsai has since earned his Bachelor of Music degree from Northwestern University’s Bienen School of Music and Master of Music degree at SMU Meadows School of the Arts, and he plans to further his musical career in Germany.



MAKING MOVES

Alumna Lauren Wheat '13 is making major moves in the art world. The set designer and artist recently described how Oakridge prepared her for the exciting and challenging work in which she engages.

“The Oakridge School was a nurturing place for my creativity. It provided me with a well-rounded education that included artistic training that I was passionate about, balanced with a varied understanding of the world around me,” Wheat said. “I have since pursued an artistic career, but the knowledge I gained in literature, history, world cultures, analytical thinking, and geometry made me a better artist and enhanced my career in Theatrical Design.”

In 2017, Wheat obtained a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from Baylor University,

with a major in Theatrical Scenic Design and a minor in Studio Art. “Since college, I have worked as a scenic designer, props designer, and scenic artist at several theaters across the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex, including Dallas Children’s Theater, WaterTower Theatre, and Stage West. The unique nature of my career is that not only do I rely on the principles of design and color theory that I learned in art class, I am also reliant on historical research, text analysis, mathematics and physics in relation to technical drafting and set building, and public speaking when presenting my work to directors and producers.”

Wheat said her experience after graduation has been reminiscent of just how hard the teachers at Oakridge pushed her, how much they had to juggle, and



Wheat has been a scenic designer and artist. View her portfolio and learn more about her work at www.laurenwheat.com.

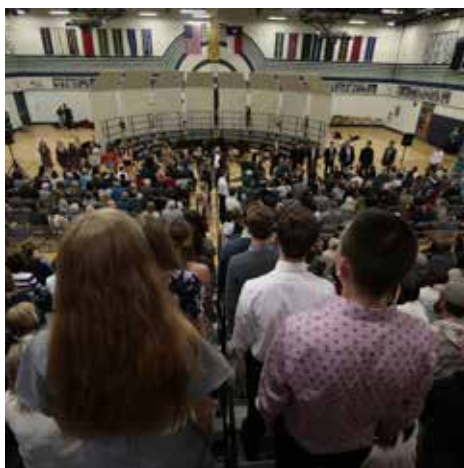
how passionate each of her teachers were about their respective fields. “I was a quiet art student who was afraid to speak in front of peers and wanted to eat lunch in the art room. However, the guidance and encouragement of teachers like Mr. DeBorde, Mrs. Bonner, and Mr. Renshaw constantly pushed me out of my comfort zone, and now I am a part of a loud, challenging, and fulfilling industry that I love.” Wheat added that she is grateful to The Oakridge School for encouraging that quiet art student to find her voice and for “preparing me for future growth, which now allows me to lead teams of artists in creating productions that hopefully inspire young artists to pursue their dreams.”



Dancing at Lughnasa - 2007/Courtesy L. Wheat

OAKRIDGE OVATION

From music and singing to acting and dancing, Fine Arts Night 2019 will be remembered for some time to come. Here are just a few pictures from the evening that concluded with a standing ovation.



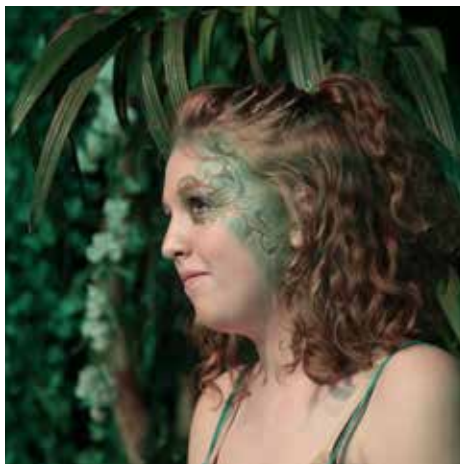
“It was touching when the Chamber Choir members started hugging and crying after singing their final song.”



“I’ve been at Oakridge for many years and I’ve never experienced a Fine Arts Night like this one!”



“It made me happy to see the smiles on childrens’ faces as they looked at art or created their own.”



DANCE WITH ME

A modern dance seminar taught this spring by Upper School Spanish Teacher Zuri Moreno kept students on their toes. "It was a pleasure watching my students grow, not only in technique, strength, flexibility, movement, and space awareness, but also in coordination and creativity. They brought joy to their dancing and choreography, and we truly grew as a dance family."



STATE FAIR

For their spring musical, Upper School students delighted audiences Feb. 21-23 with their production of the Rodgers & Hammerstein's classic, *State Fair*.



MAGICAL MOMENTS AND MUSICALS

From “Beauty and the Beast” to “101 Dalmatians,” students showed how truly magical musicals can be. They transport us to far away lands, make us laugh, think, dance in our seats, and most importantly – they make us feel. The ECC spring musical, “BGG Strong” was a tribute to retiring ECC Director Betty Garton.



FIVE QUESTIONS WITH JON KELLAM AND ANDY BROADUS



When Head of School Jon Kellam considers the investment students and their families are making in their education at The Oakridge

School, he asks if what we're doing aligns with the school's mission and those who were guided by it 40 years ago. He has also, many times, looked to his predecessor, retired Headmaster and President Andy Broadus, for mentoring. Both men share their experiences in these five questions.

1. A great school requires great teachers. What do you look for in a teacher and what did you learn about the hiring process from Andy?

JK: Andy became Headmaster in 1981 and I worked with him for over 20 years. One of the things that we did together for a long time is we hired people. We hired educators, together, to make this place what it is. What we looked for, and what I still look for today, is, number one, happy, passionate, interesting people.

2. Isn't finding a qualified academic most important?

JK: The faculty and staff are people who will have a great impact on the young students they teach, guide, and lead. It is a given that we want people who are kind, masters of their content area, and master teachers, if you will. But really what we're trying to find are quality human beings who moms and dads would want in front of their child either part of the day or all day long.

3. Part of our school mission involves cultivating social responsibility, mutual respect, and personal integrity. Empathy is also modeled here. Why is that important?

AB: I used to tell the kids, it'll never let you down. Empathy will never let you down. It may burden you, and it does that, but it's the kind of burden that I think we all should have. That we're looking out for others and feeling the pain and the need and the necessities that others have. I want students to impact others, and take what they've learned and not just the academics, but the empathy, and make it [the world] a better place.

4. Oakridge is now widely known for student excellence, but how did

you help put our school on the radar of well-known universities?

AB: I got on the road. I got on I-35 and stopped at Baylor. I stopped at UT Austin and I went to Texas A&M. I went to Rice and I just said, "I want to let you know to keep your eye on..." I got on mailing lists and kept in touch with schools because I knew that it could possibly be a difficult task for them to smile on graduates from a brand new private school. Later, a good friend in college admissions at TCU said, "Oakridge students are always ready. There isn't much to do as far as looking into whether they are qualified." We now have a good national reputation and there's no substitute for that except time.

5. Oakridge has come a long way in 40 years. Did you ever envision it this way and what do you think our legacy will be?

AB: A number of times people would say as the school was developing, "Mr. Broadus, did you ever dream that Oakridge would be like this?" And I'd say, "Every day of my life." That dream was always right there and this isn't a surprise. It was the passion. It was the

vision and the mission. Now I'm very proud of it, I'm very proud of the product and the process that we have at Oakridge.

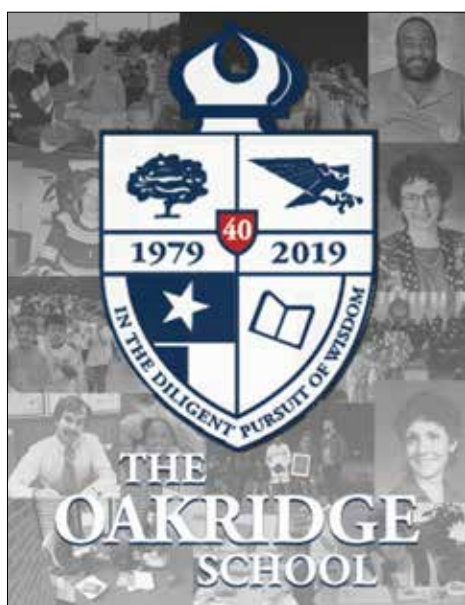
JK: When I'm asked about legacy, I really think about Andy Broadus. I think about Andy working here for 35 years, and the number of lives that he has impacted, and what he has done to help build and create the Oakridge that we experience today. Andy's legacy is one of hard work and dedication, love of children, and empathy. I think he's taught us to be better people and helped us to create a willingness and a desire to make Oakridge a better school.



Head of School Jon Kellam visits with retired Headmaster and President Andy Broadus following his winter interview about Oakridge history.

COVER DESIGN CHALLENGE

You might have noticed a change in the look and feel of the cover of this *Outlook*. As we continue celebrating our ruby jubilee year, we wanted to put a special focus on our incredibly talented and creative students. Integrated Media Coordinator and Oak Leaves Yearbook Advisor, Melissa Triebwasser, hosted a design challenge with the winning student having their art featured on the cover. Senior Davis Le's design was selected for that honor. The designs below also earned consideration. Congratulations to all of the students for their efforts!



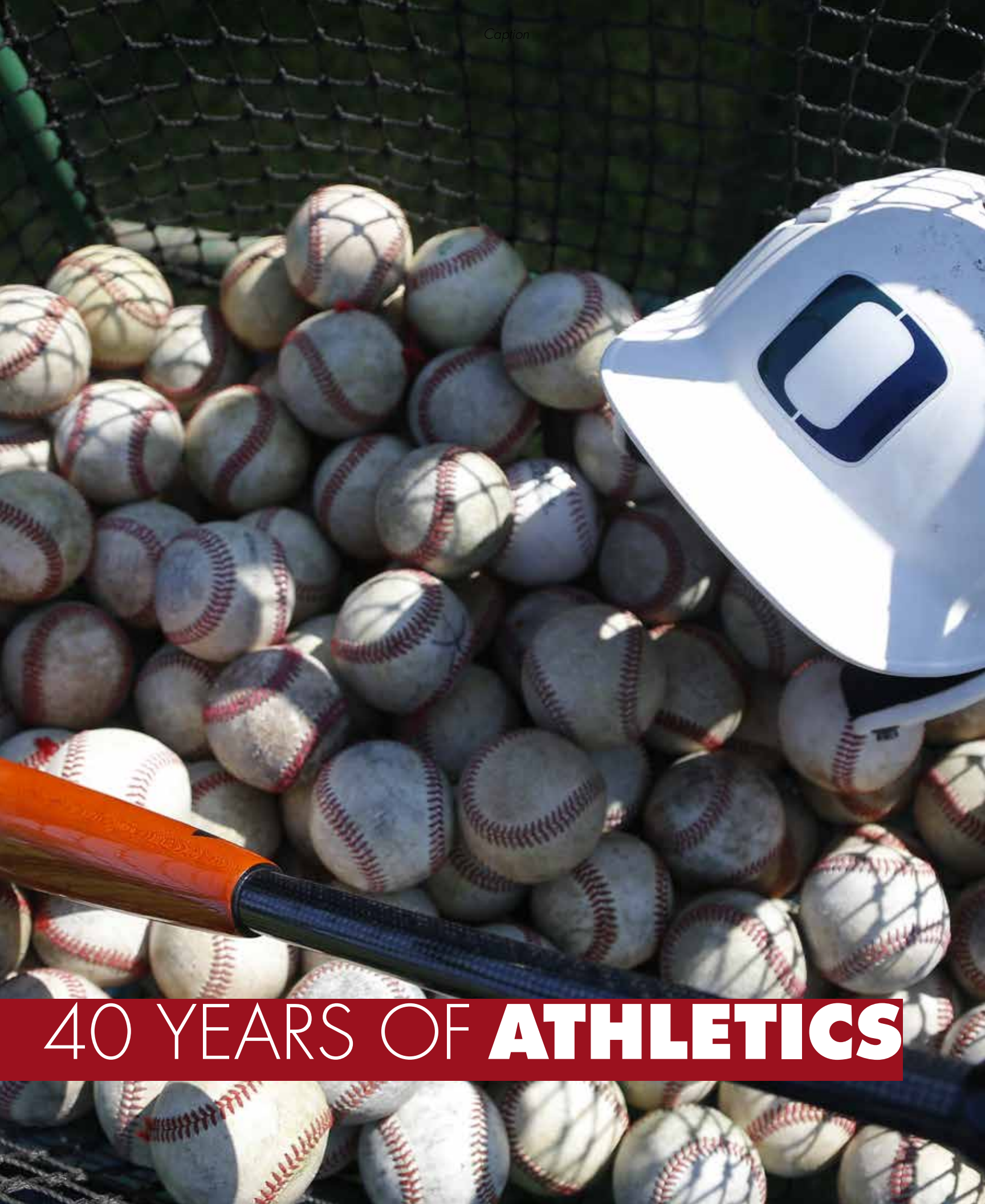
Jay Andersen/10th Grade



Audrey Ingram/10th Grade



Rylee Sims/10th Grade



40 YEARS OF **ATHLETICS**

FIELD OF DREAMS

Oakridge and City of Arlington leaders, along with philanthropic supporters and student-athletes gathered May 23 for the official groundbreaking of the Baylor Scott & White Orthopedic and Spine Hospital Arlington Baseball and Softball Complex. When completed in November, the facilities will include three batting cages, bleacher seating, a picnic area, and ample parking. The ballfields

will be natural grass, and both will be lighted. Baylor Scott & White Orthopedic and Spine Hospital Arlington provided the leadership gift toward the \$3 million dollar project. In acknowledging all of the donors, Head of School Jon Kellam discussed the importance of building relationships and how every single gift to the school, no matter the size, made the day possible.



Board of Regents Chairman Jim Haddock, left, poses with Head of School Jon Kellam, Deputy City Manager Jim Parajon, and Deputy Mayor Pro-Tem Victoria Farrar-Myers.



From left to right: Athletic Director Shawn Meadows, Varsity Softball Coach Dexter Coakley, Dr. Todd Daniels of Baylor Scott & White Orthopedic and Spine Hospital Arlington, Chief Financial Officer Kathy Gamill, Head of School Jon Kellam, Deputy Mayor Pro Tem Victoria Farrar-Myers, Varsity Baseball Coach Kerry Kajihiro, Board of Regents Chairman Jim Haddock, and Pam and Board Regent Charles Pierson



Pierson Field, where baseball teams will play, is named for donor and Regent Charles Pierson and his wife, Pam, who are parents to Janae '19 and Carl '22.



A crowd of about 100 people, including some alumni and Oakridge founders, attended the groundbreaking.

MARKING A MILESTONE

Coach Dexter Coakley marked a major milestone in May when he was inducted into the South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame. While many athletes dream of achieving such levels of success, Coach Coakley says he never played sports for accolades or recognition.

“When I started out in sports, I played because I loved playing. All I ever wanted to do was play the game the right way. Being inducted into the South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame was an amazing experience and I appreciate the honor,” said Coakley, who joined The Oakridge School in 2013 and serves as Assistant Varsity Football Coach, Head Varsity Softball Coach, and Head MS Wrestling Coach. He starred as a linebacker at South Carolina’s Wando High School and then at Appalachian State University. He racked up many awards in addition to earning All-America honors three times. A third-round draft pick of the Dallas Cowboys in 1997, he went on to earn a place on the All-Rookie team. He was named All-Pro in 1999 and 2000, and in 2011, was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame.

Coakley is dad to Oakridge Owls: Trinity ’21, Zahn ’23, and Micah ’31, and teaches physical education to Lower and Middle School students.



Coach Coakley receiving a plaque during the South Carolina Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony in May.

Photo courtesy of Travis Bell.

His induction took place on the same night as the Oakridge Middle School Athletic Banquet. Athletic Director Shawn Meadows explained Coach Coakley’s absence to the audience, joking that he had a valid reason for being a no-show. On that night, Coach Coakley’s message to the students would have been the same one that he has often shared with other young people: “Find something that you love and are passionate about and give it your all. Always know that your hard work will pay off. Believe in yourself and know that what the mind can believe, you can definitely achieve.”

Congratulations, Coach Coakley!

READY TO MAKE AN IMPACT

No matter how talented, dedicated, or motivated, not every student-athlete will play college sports. Three Owls are advancing to the next level, however, and celebrated with teammates, their coaches, and families at Oakridge.

Quarterback Carson Welch intends to play football at Southern Methodist University. Katie Rogers signed a letter of intent to play soccer at St. Edward’s University in Austin. Cheyenne Reese is taking her talents to Saranac Lake, New York, where she will play basketball at North Country Community College.



Cheyenne Reese (left) and Katie Rogers (right) following a signing ceremony in April.



Carson Welch poses with members of his family following a ceremonial signing in May.

SPORTS NOTES

Congratulations to our Varsity Boys Basketball Team. They had a great season under first year Head Coach Andre Walker, as a new system was implemented. The team rode a 6-1 SPC regular season record into the conference tournament where they had secured the No. 2 seed. In the conference tournament, they used that regular season success to propel them to the SPC Final Four. By the end, the team finished with an incredible 29-9 record.



Kudos to Lauren Thompson, who became the first female ever to make it to regionals in Powerlifting. The freshman also made Varsity Volleyball, where she had a big impact.



Ben Broadus finished as a top-ten medalist for the second year in Boys Golf. The senior also earned all-SPC honors this season (photo by freshman Taylor Handy). Also in Oakridge golf, senior Austin Foster won the Shady Valley Invitational. Congratulations to both Ben and Austin.

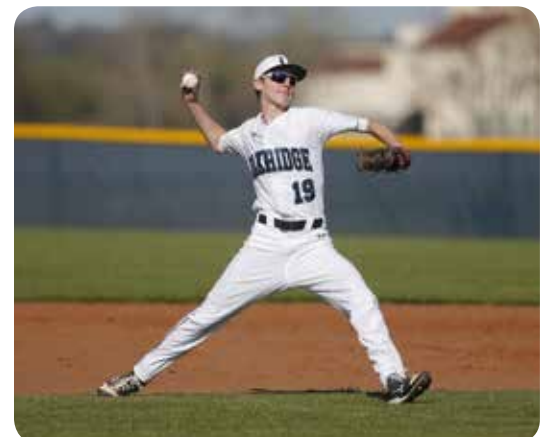


SPORTS SPOTLIGHT

Our Owls work hard at everything they do, and that includes winter and spring sports. This spotlight on just a few of our student-athletes includes action shots taken by some student yearbook photographers.

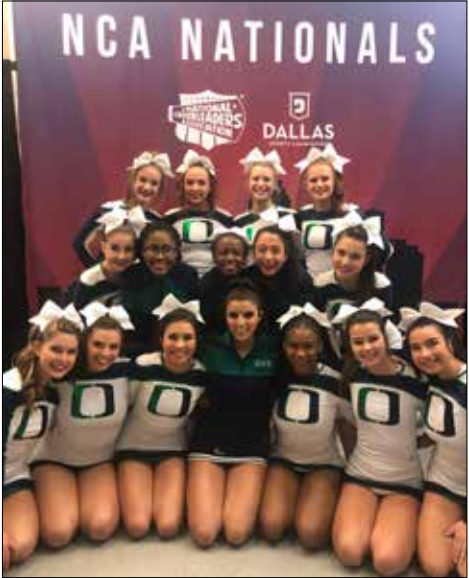


SPORTS SPOTLIGHT



VARSITY CHEERLEADERS COMPETE AT NATIONALS

The Oakridge School varsity cheer squad had one of the school's best showings ever at the National Cheerleaders Association Senior and Junior High School Nationals. The event was held in January at the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center in Dallas. The Owls competed in four different categories and earned a 3rd, 7th, 10th, and 13th place win. In all, NCA hosted top cheerleading teams from 242 schools across 28 states.



Varsity cheerleaders were all smiles during the NCA Nationals held in January in Dallas.

FORTY FOR 40



ALUMNI NEWS

Class of 1992

Stephanie (Braungardt) Wiggins '92 is currently living in Aledo with husband, Dale. They have two boys, Weston (12) and Garrett (10). She just completed her 22nd year teaching. Last spring, she recently passed the test to become a certified personal trainer and is currently working as a substitute trainer for Camp Gladiator.

Class of 2004

Hunter McCall's '04 photo of an emerald-spotted tree frog was awarded runner-up in the Native Plants and Wildlife category of the Queensland's Natural Wonders Photography Awards sponsored by the Queensland Conservation Council in Brisbane, Australia. The national contest was judged by professional photographers, including Australia's best-known wildlife photographer, Steve Parish. The Awards highlight the power of photography to promote and encourage environmental conservation. To see Hunter's photography, please visit www.mccallwildlifephotography.com.



Class of 2005

Lauren Sholden Riter '05 and her husband, Matt, welcomed Andrew Michael Riter on October 18, 2018 at Presbyterian Hospital of Dallas. Andrew weighed 7 pounds, 21 ounces. The Ritters live in Richardson, Texas.



Kendra Walton '05 joined the Oakridge faculty and staff in April as the first full-time Alumni Relations Coordinator. She is the mother of third grader Blake Buljan and became the seventh alumni staff member at Oakridge. "As a graduate and legacy parent, I am thrilled and honored to serve my alma mater," said Walton. "I look forward to building relationships with alumni, students and friends. Once an Owl, Always an Owl!"



CONTACT KENDRA
WITH ALUMNI
UPDATES & NEWS
kwatson@theoakridgeschool.org

ALUMNI NEWS

Class of 2007

Nick Lane '07 and Lindsey McCartin became engaged March 1, 2019.



Class of 2010

Sarah (Chandel) Triplett '10 married Buddy Triplett on April 6, 2019! They had a blended American and Indian celebration in Austin, TX where they live currently with their sweet goldendoodle!



Class of 2008

Ashley (Frank) Klesmit '08 graduated with her Master's in Applied and Computational Mathematics and Statistics with a concentration in Data Science from The University of Notre Dame.



Class of 2011

Monica (Clifford) Mendiola '11 and her husband, John Wendell, welcomed a baby girl on October 20, 2018. Jinora Pearl Clifford Mendiola weighed 6 pounds 2 ounces and is the first child for the couple.



ALUMNI NEWS

Tyler Pfursich '11 was named 2018-2019 All District Soccer Coach of the Year! Tyler is in his second year as head coach at Livingston High School and has led the team to be Area Champions!



Class of 2015

Trinity Pettigrew '15 and **Daylen Johnson '15** welcomed a son, Bane Carter LaVirl Johnson on September 18, 2018.



Class of 2016

Brittany Kasko '16 is currently a junior at Texas Christian University studying journalism and was awarded a remarkable

opportunity to intern at The TODAY Show in New York this past semester. She was able to work with so many talented people and partake in fun events such as International Women's Day on the plaza with Maren Morris and be a part of Kathie Lee Gifford's final farewell show. "The experience has been one I will never forget and I have loved every minute of it!" said Kasko.



AREA CHAMPIONS



Livingston junior Carlos Fernandez scored a goal in the Lions' 3-0 win.



The team celebrates with senior Adrian Campos after he scores the team's third goal.

From Enterprise Staff

Livingston boys soccer has advanced once more, shutting out the Wharton Tigers 3-0 in the area round of the playoffs Tuesday night at Waller.

The Lions showed more aggression the entire game and set the tone early by scoring two first-half goals. The first found the net just 29 minutes into the game from the leg of junior Carlos Fernandez from 40 yards out. Ivan Devalos, also a junior, hit the second with a little more than 16 minutes in the first half. Senior Adrian Campos added some insurance, as the final goal of the game came with 30 minutes remaining.

Following the match, coach Tyler Pfursich congratulated the team, telling them to "just keep winning and we get to keep playing."

Pfursich is in his second year as head coach of Lion soccer, seventh year of coaching, and in his first job as head coach. The Lions are now a combined 30-11-2 under Pfursich. He has also coached lacrosse, baseball and football at two private schools, St. Mark's School of Texas and Oakridge School.

"This period of my athletes," the coach said, "they play on the weekends with the community, always working hard and practicing. It really shows in the games."

It has been more than a decade since Lion boys soccer has advanced to the third round of playoffs. The Lions will play Stafford in the regional quarterfinals with a date and site to be decided.

Class of 2012

Connor Murphy '12 is the Director and Storyboard Artist at the Cyanide & Happiness animation studio. He is currently writing and directing episodes of an animated series.

A POINT OF LIGHT

In Memoriam Owl Tribute: Stephanie Pham

Oakridge Owls were left deeply saddened last fall by the loss of beloved staff member Stephanie Pham. The devoted mother, mentor, and friend passed away unexpectedly after a brief illness. “If you knew Stephanie, you easily recall how she could light up any room with her radiant smile and energetic personality,” said Kathy Gamill, Chief Financial Officer and close friend. “Stephanie never met a stranger



Pham with Kathy Gamill and Teri Foster

and was welcoming to everyone. She inspired others with her kindness, humility, and compassion.” Colleagues witnessed first-hand Stephanie’s endless devotion to her sons, Eric ’19 and Nicholas ’17, who entered Oakridge in second and fourth grades, respectively. Eric graduated in May and will attend The University of Texas at Austin, where Nicholas will be a junior in the fall.

Stephanie began substitute teaching at Oakridge in 2009, then moved into a full-time position in the business office, where she served until her passing in November 2018.

Often described as a “bright light,” the school this year established the Point of Light Award to honor and remember Stephanie. The recipient, like Stephanie, should promote a



Stephanie Pham

positive work environment and possess a generous willingness to help others; foster cooperative relationships with colleagues and school constituents; nurture a culture of respect and success; present themselves in a pleasant, professional, and engaging manner; garner respect and admiration of colleagues; and be in good standing with the school. After getting 11 nominations, the first recipient of the Point of Light Award is Upper School Administrative Assistant Michelle Emmert, who

was recognized at the school’s annual end-of-year faculty and staff luncheon.

In congratulating Michelle, Head of School Jon Kellam said Stephanie will never be forgotten and hopes the lessons she shared with students will remain with us all — that kindness matters. “Stephanie always took the



Michelle Emmert and Pham

time to listen, to share a smile or a laugh, which made you feel special and important,” he reflected. “May we all be quick to greet each other with such high regard and concern, no matter another’s disposition in life.”



Kathy Gamill and Michelle Emmert, the first recipient of the Point of Light Award.



Pham and sons Nicholas '17 and Eric '19.



Students, faculty and staff, and visitors to campus may now enjoy the garden in the school courtyard while sitting on a bench installed in tribute to Stephanie Pham this spring. Stephanie enjoyed nature and family members say she would find great peace and joy in the serene setting. Pictured here in front of the bench is Stephanie’s dog, Sebastian.

OPC: PASSING THE GAVEL

As we pass the gavel between each other, Shelley and I reflect on how far the Oakridge Parents' Club has come over the past school year. Looking back even further, the growth and changes that OPC has made over the last 40 years has been immeasurable.

The OPC was developed for the sole purpose of assisting the administration, faculty, staff, and Board of Regents in providing for the educational enrichment of the students; promoting the fellowship of the families and staff of The Oakridge School; and to raise funds to accomplish these objectives. We are both confident that, throughout the years, the OPC has done just that.

For the 2018-2019 school year, the OPC allocated \$58,000 back to the school in 21st Century furniture, library upgrades, STEM games, and other student needs. The OPC is about more than allocations. With a focus on parent support, the OPC sponsors numerous events that have grown from small gatherings into school-wide events such as the Back-to-School Fair, and Cheers and Tears. Some

of the longstanding OPC traditions such as Holiday Treasures, Book Fair, and Owl Fest continue to spread joy and ingenuity. Holiday Treasures is an inspiring example. It started as a tiny shop in a classroom where students could buy trinkets for their family members. Today it has blossomed into what some families consider a gift shop that rivals some well-known businesses.

Enjoy your summer break, but Shelley and I want to encourage you to reach out if you have an idea that you'd like to implement as you think ahead to the 2019-2020 school year. Just as After-Prom began with a vision that a few moms had after searching for a safe environment for their teens, your ideas can spring forward into new OPC traditions, too! Whether time, money, talent, or other resources, you are welcome at OPC.

Jeanne Curtis
OPC President, 2018-19

Shelley Hodges
OPC President, 2019-2020



OAKRIDGE PARENTS' CLUB

2018 – 2019 OPC Allocations

\$5,000	The Oakridge School General Endowment
\$2,500	The Angel Fund
\$7,500	21st Century Furniture – 2nd floor library/modernizing for STEM
\$1,000	Farm to Table Program
\$2,000	Lower School Playground – Tetherball Improvements
\$10,000	Lower School 21st Century Classroom Furniture
\$10,000	Middle School 21st Century Classroom Furniture
\$5,000	Bella Outreach Program and 21st Century Classroom Furniture
\$2,000	Middle School Design Lab Equipment
\$1,000	Admissions Department Technology for Admissions Events
\$1,000	Additional table umbrellas for the Quad

Total: \$47,000

\$3,000	Scholastic Dollars for the Library (budgeted donation)
\$3,000	Library (budgeted donation)
\$2,000	Upper School After Prom (budgeted donation)
\$3,000	College Dean's Program (budgeted donation)

Budgeted Donation Total: \$11,000

Total 2018-2019 OPC Allocations \$58,000



ALWAYS AN EVENING TO REMEMBER

This year's Ruby Jubilee was an extra special evening as we celebrated 40 years of educational excellence. The Oakridge School's 40th Annual Super Supper & Auction was held on March 2 at River Ranch in the Fort Worth Stockyards.

More than 300 people filled the room for an evening that featured fine dining, music by Oakridge Alumnus J.T. Hodges '96, dancing, live and silent auctions, raffles, and more! Event chair, Kristy Kundysek, along with her husband Mark, parents of Dawson '18 and Garret '19, hosted a fantastic fundraising event.

Over the years, the Super Supper and Auction has been our school's signature fundraiser and most anticipated social event. For four decades we have



Kristy Kundysek and Head of School Jon Kellam.

shared the excitement as we experienced the Splendors of the Orient, Rio Carnival, and Havana Nights and watched with amazement as our Student Activity Center was magically transformed for Black Tie and Boots, Madhatter's Ball, an Evening in Paris and Beyond – to share just a sample. The variety of themes and creative decor have taken our imaginations to places

all over the world.

The money raised at the annual Super Supper and Auction is an important factor to the top-notch educational experience we have all come to enjoy and expect as part of the Oakridge tradition. While providing a fantastic gathering for the Owl community, the proceeds from the SSA are essential to Oakridge and provide the necessary funds for educational improvements and enrichments for our students.

A big THANK YOU to all those who participated in our 40th Annual Ruby Jubilee Super Supper and Auction. Your generosity and commitment helped us make this a truly amazing and memorable evening.



Academy of Country Music nominated artist and Oakridge alumnus, JT Hodges '96.

Alisa Hunter, Development Communications Coordinator

SUPER SUPPER THROUGH THE YEARS

beyond.
THREE DECADES OF EXCELLENCE

2008



2009



2011



2010



SUPER SUPPER THROUGH THE YEARS



WHY I VOLUNTEERED AGAIN... AND AGAIN

“Would you chair the Oakridge Super Supper again?” This was the question asked of me last summer while I was dealing with major family health issues. Our son, Dawson '18, was heading off to his first year of college and our youngest son, Garret '19, was heading into his senior year at Oakridge. Who in their right mind would say yes? Well, I did! It was easy saying yes because I knew I would be working with an amazing group of parent volunteers and the Development team. Lauren Matocha, Teri Foster, and Alisa Hunter are the true backbones of the Super Supper and Auction. I felt honored to work with and raise money for a school that has given my boys a top-notch education, challenged them in every area of the three A's (academics, arts, and athletics), and provided them with a safe place to grow.

Dawson and Garret enrolled at Oakridge when each were in 7th grade. Coming from a public school and not knowing but a handful of parents, I knew I would need a way to meet the families my boys would hang around. From day one, I jumped in and started



A FAMILY AFFAIR. Kristy Kundysek poses with son Dawson '18, her husband Mark, and son Garret '19.

volunteering and have never regretted a single day. From this vantage point, I was able to see the true pulse of the Oakridge mission statement at work. This made me proud to be an Oakridge Owl.

As a mom of two boys, it's nice to know that I was able to volunteer while also staying involved in their lives. Not too many parents are lucky enough to have the time to take an active role at school, and I feel extremely blessed to have had this opportunity because next year both boys will be in college. I know I have had a great time because these last seven years have flown by.

No matter how full your plate might be, don't be afraid of volunteering your time. I promise it has been the highlight of my life and has given me some of my favorite memories with my boys, as well as their friends and families. I'm looking forward to the next chapter... Oakridge Parent Alumni... because once an Owl, always an Owl!

*By Kristy Kundysek,
Oakridge Parent*

TEMPORARY TITLE CHANGE

A fun part of the Super Supper and Auction for some Lower School students is the opportunity to experience a title change for one day. Winning bids this semester meant several “new” teachers in LS classrooms. Other SSA packages introduced students to new Heads of School, Assistant Head of School, and an Officer for the Day. While they enjoyed their temporary roles, these kiddos were happy to return to their regular day jobs.



Worthington brothers: Reese, 7th grade, Cole, 5th grade, and Price, 1st grade, with Mr. Kellam.



Cayden Koon, 3rd grade, with Ms. Kramer



Cooper Curtis, 2nd grade, with Officer Yeats

FIVE QUESTIONS WITH SUSY SPORTSMAN AND NANCY O'SHEA

Founding Parent Susy Sportsman and Nancy O'Shea, a lifetime member of the Board of Regents, are behind a book chronicling the history of The Oakridge School. In our special feature, Five Questions... the women take a walk back down memory lane.



1. What, if anything, surprised you while co-authoring The Oakridge School History: 1979-1987?

SS: One of the things that I didn't know, but when we were writing the book, we put in, was information about the various accreditation processes that Oakridge had gone through and how well the accreditors thought Oakridge was doing over the years. One of the surveyors found it unusual to see students return the love or regard for faculty that they seemed to receive from faculty. I've had an opportunity to be in a variety of accreditations and usually they don't say that real nice stuff. So it must've been really obvious at Oakridge.

2. Starting a school is no easy feat. How did you communicate to the public the value of an independent education?

NO: We started with educating the parents. We then distributed news releases and news articles. We frequently had things in the newspaper and it was not a quick process. It took many, many years before people finally realized what it meant to be involved with a private school.

3. You all wore many hats in those early days. What memory stands out?

SS: We did a variety of things, particularly in the early days, that we might not do today. When we were getting ready to open for the first time, the

church school building that we were in was fine, but it needed a little cleaning up. Now, how many parents do you know that will come and sweep, and clean the bathrooms? I don't even want to clean the bathroom at my house. But we had people that would do that. We had commitment to our children, we had commitment to our friends, we had commitment to our friends' children — and that's pretty hard to beat.

4. They're two of the biggest sources of giving to Oakridge: the Super Supper and Auction and the Annual Fund. What was it like to fundraise in the school's infancy?

SS: When we started doing annual funds, we had to learn that our tuition didn't cover the cost of everything needed. While, by today's standards, the tuition was probably really low, that was a check to write. Fortunately, I was intimately involved, but the parents had to learn how much it cost to do the things that we wanted to do. I will say, people were very, very, very generous throughout time.

5. Knowing everything that it took back then to start Oakridge, would you do it all again?

NO: Absolutely. When I come up here and see these outstanding people, it's just overwhelming the sense of pride and accomplishment that I feel for them.

SS: Absolutely. Times have changed, kids have changed, and faculty have changed. All those things — but my observation is the core values that we started out with seem to still be present today and I'm really grateful about that.

END-OF-THE-YEAR FACULTY AND STAFF APPRECIATION

Oakridge faculty and staff received special service awards, well-wishes, and hugs at the End-of-the-Year Faculty and Staff Awards Luncheon. Awards for 30 years of service went to: 2nd Grade Teacher Jana Kurrasch and College Advisor Peggy Pfursich. The 25-year service award went to Middle School Math Teacher Gail Roe.

There were eight faculty and staff members who have given 20 years of service to Oakridge, including:

- Cheryl Cornwell, Accounting
- Jerry Davis, Upper School History
- Dianne Findley, Assistant Director of Choirs
- Jill Gaspar, Pre-Kindergarten
- Sue Knott, Upper School Math
- Sandra Skinner, Preschool
- Jamie McCarver, 1st grade
- Mara Townsley, Coach and ECC

Fifteen-year service awards went to Upper School Chinese Teacher Wei-Ming Liu, Director of Senior Programs and US English Teacher Chris Renshaw, and Director of Development Lauren Matocha. Middle School English Teacher Christiane

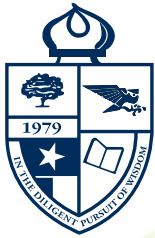
Dreadin and Assistant Director of Technology and Modern Learning Ashley Read received awards for 10 years of service. Five-year service awards were given to MS Math Teacher Lesley Benefield, US Math Teacher Joe Feldstein, and Librarian Patricia de Winter.

Upper School Administrative Assistant Michelle Emmert received the inaugural Point of Light Award that honors the memory of Stephanie Pham (see page 45).

Retirees or those faculty and staff members leaving Oakridge this year included: ECC Director Betty Garton, ECC Administrative Assistant Debbie Worlow, MS History Teacher Robby Koch, MS English Teacher and MS Public Speaking Specialist Amy Alsip, MS Art Teacher Patti Greenwood, US English Teacher Stephen Hebert, and Technology Assistant Nick Lane.

Thank you all for your 335 combined years of service to The Oakridge School.





THE OAKRIDGE SCHOOL THE OWL CLUB

The Oakridge School would like to recognize The Owl Club for its efforts to support our many athletic programs. We are thankful for your many contributions and appreciate your commitment.

Owl Club Allocations 2018-2019

\$4,200 Endowment

Early Childhood Center PE programs

\$1,000

Lower School PE programs

\$1,000

Soccer programs

\$1,000 Goal Target and two mini goals

Volleyball programs

\$3,845 Coach's stand at the net

Athletic Training

\$3,600 GRPro 2.1 Cold Therapy Unit

Track programs

\$15,000 Resurfacing (2nd of 2 pledges)

OAC Pledge

\$8,333.33 (2nd of 3 pledges)

Basketball programs

\$4,700 Shooting machine replacement

JOIN OAKRIDGE CONNECT

Oakridge Alumni are now participating in an exciting new platform called Oakridge Connect. This closed group of over 1,500 alums allows members to communicate, network, share pictures, and post event information. The dynamic database helps maintain contact despite graduation, moves, and job changes. Alumni also have the ability to search for each other by class year, city of residence, university affiliation, Greek affiliation, industry, and company.

SIGN UP AT OAKRIDGECONNECT.ORG.

The screenshot shows the Oakridge Connect website. At the top left is the Oakridge School logo. At the top right is a 'Sign in' link. A large green arrow points from the left with the text 'Welcome to Oakridge Connect'. Below this is a photo of a brick and stone wall with 'THE OAKRIDGE SCHOOL' on it. To the right of the photo is a 'JOIN NOW' section with 'Connect with' and buttons for LinkedIn, Facebook, and Email. Below the photo is a section with four blue banners, each with an icon and a title: 'Re-connect' (two people icon), 'Give back' (megaphone icon), 'Expand' (globe icon), and 'Advance' (person icon). Each banner has a short paragraph of text below it.

THE OAKRIDGE SCHOOL

Sign in

Welcome to Oakridge Connect

JOIN NOW

Connect with

in LinkedIn

f Facebook

Email

Why is it safe to register with LinkedIn / Facebook?

Re-connect

Find and reminisce with fellow graduates, see what they have been up to and stay in touch.

Give back

Introduce, employ and offer to act as a mentor to our graduating students.

Expand

Leverage your professional network to get introduced to people you should know.

Advance

Advance your career through inside connections working in top companies.

OUR MISSION

To inspire students to seek their full potential in academics, the arts, and athletics in a challenging and nurturing environment that cultivates social responsibility, mutual respect, and personal integrity.

OUR VISION

To attain national recognition as a college preparatory school that provides educational excellence grounded in responsible character development and ethical leadership.

PHILOSOPHY

We believe the role of The Oakridge School is to provide a challenging educational program that emphasizes the total development of each child, encompassing intellectual and social skills as well as cultural, emotional, and physical development, thus preparing students for higher education and life.

We believe an environment that employs a variety of teaching techniques and learning activities best enables each student to succeed as an individual and as a member of a group.

We believe an orderly environment, stressing personal and academic self-discipline, provides an atmosphere most conducive to success.

We believe in academic excellence and in the pursuit of knowledge as a lifelong experience.

We believe in high moral and ethical standards, honor, and mutual respect.

We believe The Oakridge School functions most effectively with the involvement of students, parents, faculty, staff, and members of the community.

We believe the graduates of The Oakridge School should be men and women of good character who have developed a healthy respect for self, an awareness of the privileges and obligations of citizenship, and a keen sense of empathy for and responsibility to fellow human beings.



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To Parents of Alumni:

If this magazine is addressed to a son or daughter who no longer uses your home as a permanent address, please email his or her address and contact information to tfoster@theoakridgeschool.org.

