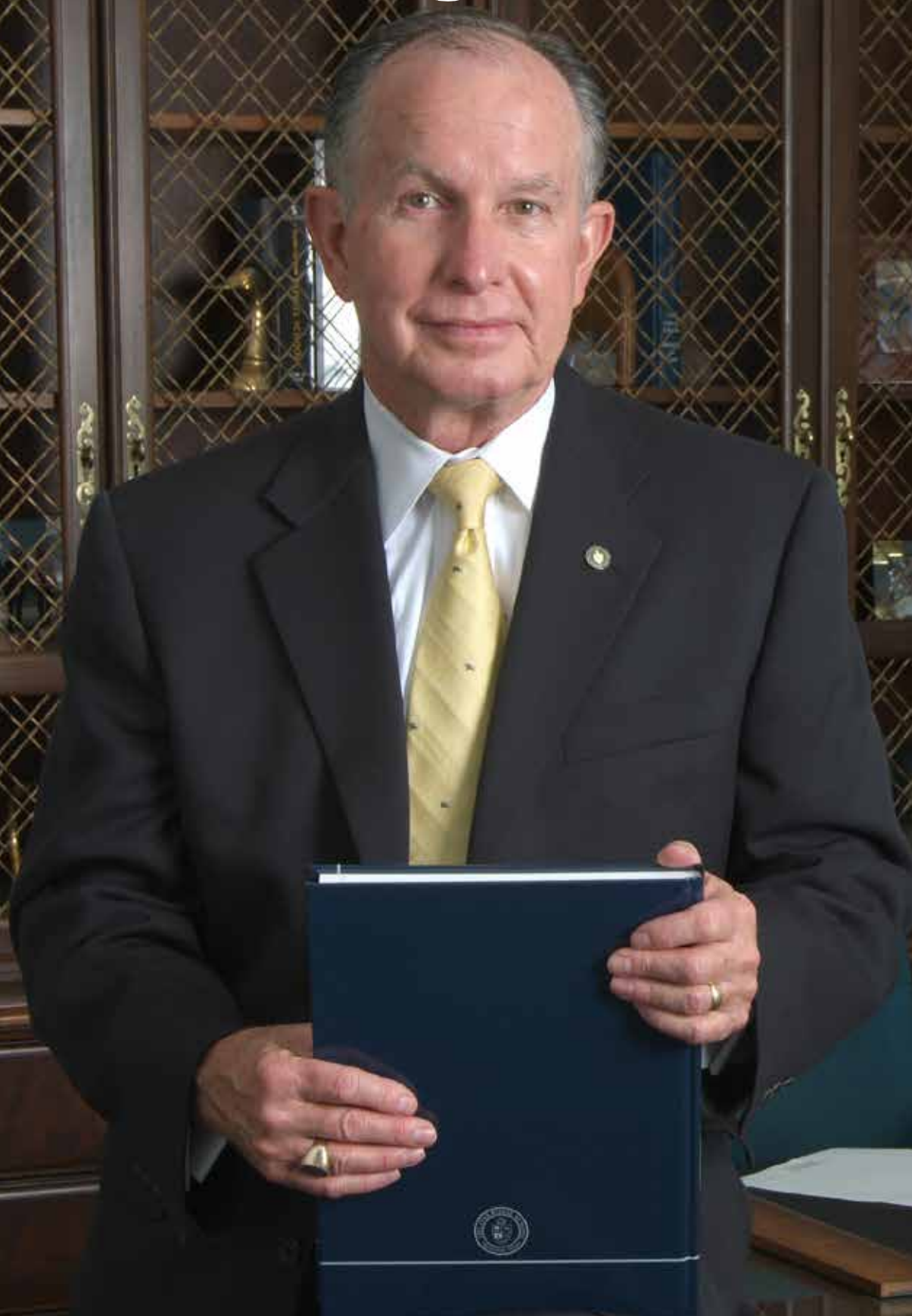


Vol. 36, No. 1

THE Oakridge School

# Outlook



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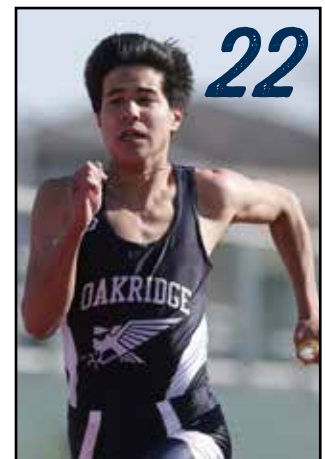
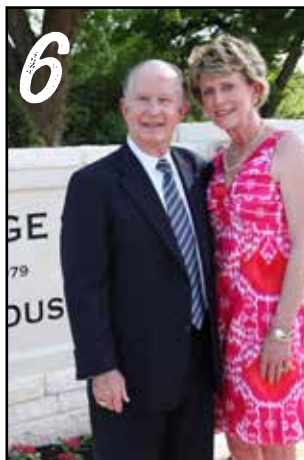
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# MESSAGE FROM THE HEADMASTER

By Jon Kellam

It is an honor to introduce this issue of the Outlook, a tribute to Mr. Andy J. Broadus. Mr. Broadus served as Headmaster of The Oakridge School from 1981-2007 and has been our President since 2007. He is a dedicated educator and classy school leader who has devoted 35 years to building a premier independent, college preparatory school in Arlington.

On the pages that follow, you will hear the voices of leaders whose careers and educational philosophies were shaped by “Mr. B.” You will also see how Mr. Broadus envisioned a great school and then built it. He had the foresight to take on a school with potential and then serve as its architect – from a blank slate on Pioneer Parkway to the beautiful campus with the welcoming, dynamic culture we cherish today.

I hope you enjoy reading the wisdom shared in this special edition and that you welcome learning how the vision of a small group of parents and an entrepreneurial headmaster became a reality. In 1985, seven seniors became the school's first



alumni class. After this year's graduation in May, the Alumni Association grew to 1,526, and we honored the school's inaugural Legacy Medalists, twins Shanna and Spencer Lucas '16, children of Martin Lucas '85. What a remarkable story.

My gratitude and respect for Mr. Broadus are immeasurable. Our relationship began in 1993 when the school was in its 14th

year and I in my 29th; Mr. B hired me to teach English and coach soccer. The first of many treasured moments began in that job interview and continue to impact me today. I am forever grateful to Mr. B for the countless hours he spent with me and the many valuable lessons he taught me. For ten years, while I served as Middle School Head and Assistant Headmaster, he modeled the best qualities of an independent school educator and quality human being.

Those of us fortunate enough to have been mentored by Mr. Broadus have learned about giving others the benefit of the doubt, focusing on goals, knowing our objectives, and avoiding complacency. We also learned that Mr. B doesn't like being the center of attention. However, focusing the spotlight on him in this way simply feels right.

Thank you, Mr. Broadus, for the legacy you leave The Oakridge School. And thank you for sharing your life with us. As educators, those you have mentored will always remember the simple lessons you conveyed in a good story and the complicated lessons you delivered with empathy.

@



# CAMPUS NEWS



## VIDEO PRODUCTION CLASS TAKES ON 'BRIGHTEN PROJECT'

When an app called Brighten started to take off with students, it seemed like a good thing. Initially meant to be used to anonymously post compliments for friends on social media, it was quickly re-appropriated to be used for cyber bullying by kids around the country. Oakridge faculty Melissa Triebwasser spoke to her Video Production students about this issue and challenged the class to create a positive response to the negative use of Brighten.

"We talked about how people don't often take the time to give a compliment face-to-face," says Ms. Triebwasser. "I thought putting it on camera would be a perfect venue to showcase not only the students' talent as filmmakers, but capture something really special and meaningful."

"The worst part about Brighten was noticing when girls didn't come to school as a result of what had been said using the app," said senior Skylar Frazier. "We were excited about making the video because we wanted to make people feel good again."

Students were sent out in pairs to film the reactions of classmates being complimented by their peers. All the footage was collected in a matter of days and edited together by senior Taylor Willis. The result is a video that received more than 700 views in just 3 months.

"It was fun getting to film the reactions of other students," said freshman Joey Petersen. "Sometimes it was confusing for them at first, but then they would smile."

"It was amazing to see the looks on the students' faces," said Taylor. "You could see how easy it was to brighten someone's day."

Ms. Triebwasser believes each student involved in the project was impacted in a positive way through the experience. "Hopefully in a small way, those few minutes helped students, and frankly all of us here, to remember how meaningful words can be - whether you want to use them positively or negatively."

**VIEW THE OAKRIDGE BRIGHTEN VIDEO AT:  
[WWW.THEOAKRIDGESCHOOL.ORG/BRIGHTEN](http://WWW.THEOAKRIDGESCHOOL.ORG/BRIGHTEN)**





## OAKRIDGE NAMED 2016 SPOTLIGHT SCHOOL

The Lausanne Learning Institute announced this spring that its School Spotlight Award winner for 2016 is The Oakridge School. This award recognizes the most innovative independent school, from technology integration to student-centered curriculum, culminating in a special recognition at the Lausanne Learning Institute (LLI) summer conference in July.

"The Oakridge School is a wonderful representation of the ideals of the LLI Spotlight award," said Stuart McCathie, Headmaster of Lausanne Collegiate School. "There is a consistent effort to fulfill the individual needs of students, utilizing technology to create authentic learning and practical ability to succeed in a constantly evolving world."

The Lausanne Learning Institute is an international think tank for schools focusing on 1:1 integration and student-centered learning. Created and hosted by Lausanne Collegiate School in Memphis, Tennessee, the Lausanne Learning Institute summer conference will feature Oakridge staff presenting a series of educational sessions on their best practices.

## NEW PROGRAMS FOCUS ON STEAM OPPORTUNITIES

Two new clubs joined the roster of after-school activities at Oakridge this year, each focusing on the Maker Movement and creating additional opportunities for STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Mathematics) applications for students.

The CyberPatriot Club started for 7th and 8th graders in the Middle School and for Upper School students. CyberPatriot is the National Youth Cyber Education Program, which is part of an Air Force Association program

designed to inspire students toward careers in cybersecurity. Club members prepared for competition using training materials to help expand their cyber knowledge, like how to detect and fix flaws or vulnerabilities within operating systems. The Middle School team competed in October and December, and the Upper School team competed in October through February, reaching the state round of the competition.

The Robotics Club started this year in the Middle School for 5th and 6th graders, with the Robotics Team consisting of 7th and 8th graders who could participate in competition. In January, the two Oakridge Robotics Teams competed at the TCEA Area Robotics Contest where they placed 13th and 47th out of more than 100 teams.



*The Upper School Cyber Patriot Team.  
1st row (l-r) Sophia Cary, Harrison Jones,  
Ryan Earll. 2nd row (l-r) Anthony Lu,  
Cailey Cobb, Garrett Stewart*



*The Middle School Robotics Team at  
competition.*

"These programs allow students to see how their interests in technology can be used in authentic ways," said Megan Elizondo, Middle School Maker Space Coordinator. "In addition to being engaged in math, science, and engineering, they are encouraged to think and problem solve in ways they might not have experienced before. All this, along with a focus on collaboration, helps students develop skills to prepare them for the future."



# CAMPUS NEWS



Clockwise from above: 1. For Veterans Day, Lower School students wrote the name of a veteran they know on a red or white card and faculty and staff added names to the stars. Together they created this special flag of honor and remembrance. 2. Three members of the Class of 2016 were named National Merit Finalists: Jason Nguyen, Anuj Ramakrishnan, and Blake Miranda. 3. ECC students learned about riding toy safety at this spring's Trike-A-Thon, where more than \$10,000 was raised to support St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. 4. In March, the 6th grade class participated in Children of the World, filling the Student Activity Center with presentations on countries around the globe. Here with his presentation, Jaden Pierre represents Australia. 5. On Famous Americans Day in February, each Preschool, Pre-Kindergarten, and Kindergarten class gave a presentation on an influential African-American. Below, Mrs. Sweeney's class sings along to a Louis Armstrong classic, "What a Wonderful World."





## BEES TEST SPELLING AND GEOGRAPHY SKILLS

In January, two Middle School students were named the winners of the 2016 Oakridge Spelling and Geography Bees.

A group of 17 students competed in the Oakridge Spelling Bee to be named the top speller. That honor went to 7th grader Ananya Kumar, with 6th grader Sana Kohli taking the first runner-up spot.

The Geography Bee ended in a nail-biting finale that went on for multiple championship rounds. Eighth grader Josh Wilson was named the winner and 7th grader Josh Levitz was the first runner-up. Josh Wilson went on to compete on the state level as one of 100 students selected from more than 1,600 public school districts, private schools, and home schools from across the state.



*Spelling Bee first runner-up Sana Kohli and winner Ananya Kumar.*



*Josh Wilson at the Geography Bee State Competition.*

## STUDENTS COMPETE IN WORDWRIGHT CHALLENGE

A team of students representing The Oakridge School won high honors in this year's WordWright Challenge, a national competition for high school students requiring close reading and analysis of many different kinds of prose and poetry. Participating with 631 school teams from across the country, Oakridge's eleventh graders tied for ninth place in the nation. Students who achieved outstanding individual results included sophomores Adrian Luong and Funmi Solano; juniors Kyndall Bertrand, Logan Muzyka, Ryan Tan, and Amy Zhang; and senior Blake Miranda. Competing in the Gold Division contest for eleventh and twelfth grades, senior Zoe Miller was one of the 19 highest-ranked twelfth graders in the nation in the cumulative standings after the year's four meets. More than 63,000 students from 48 states participated in the Wordwright Challenge.



*Rice University's Dr. Rafael Salaberry addresses faculty at the World Languages Conference.*

## OAKRIDGE HOSTS LANGUAGE CONFERENCE FOR EDUCATORS

The Oakridge School hosted a World Languages Conference in March. Participants came from across the Independent Schools Association of the Southwest (ISAS) region, and 44 teachers had an opportunity to network and collaborate.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Rafael Salaberry, Director of the Center for Languages and Intercultural Communication at Rice University. Dr. Salaberry spoke about second-language acquisition, trends in language and culture study, and the research he is doing at Rice. Participants also spent time in affinity groupings and having in-depth conversations about their work in schools. Oakridge developed the World Languages Conference in tandem with its foreign language department study outlined in the Long Range Plan and hopes to offer this opportunity to language instructors again next year.



# ANDY BROADUS

*After 35 years as Headmaster and then President of The Oakridge School, Andy Broadus is retiring at the end of the 2015-16 school year. We owe him a debt of gratitude that is greater than words can convey, but in the pages of this special Outlook, we've tried to capture the impact he's made and the legacy he leaves behind.*



*“People say, ‘Mr. Broadus, did you ever dream that the school could be like this?’ And I say, ‘Every day.’”*

*On February 18, 2016, Nancy O'Shea, lifetime member of the Oakridge Board of Regents, sat down with Andy Broadus to reflect on his time at Oakridge.*

***Can you share the story of how you first came to Oakridge?***

A search company contacted me and asked me if I would be interested in helping start a school. Then I spoke to you on the telephone, and we made arrangements for me to come visit [from Florida].

***What did you see that day when you first came to the school? What inspired you to move?***

I saw a group of very enthusiastic parents and beautiful kids, and there were a lot of questions, like ‘how do you do this, and how much, and how far?’ I thought, gosh, this is exactly what I was looking for, and I felt like it could really work. I had dreamed of building a school, and this was my opportunity to pursue that dream.

***Is the school today what you envisioned back then?***

It's even more. I've been asked that question a number of times. People say, ‘Mr. Broadus, did you ever dream that the school could be like this?’ And I say, ‘Every day.’

***They ask me that too and I say the same thing. I did dream this! Can you talk about the partnership between you and the city of Arlington?***

Originally the city and the community were not on board with the school. Now we feel like the working relationship that we have with the city is outstanding. They recognize what an asset Oakridge is for Arlington. There are people in the bureaucracy of the city that really understand how we're a huge asset that's attracting industry and other things for the city.

***That was a long time coming. How long before they noticed and appreciated us?***

The notice came a lot sooner than the appreciation.

***I know a lot of officials were invited to the groundbreaking for the preschool in 1984.***

We had the mayor here, and we always had participation at least publicly. But as far as getting things done, it was harder. Since then, I've developed very good relationships with a number of people in Arlington that have had their kids here, and we've proven to the community that we are what we say we are.

***At any point did you ever think that Oakridge wasn't going to make it, and what saw you through that moment?***

The time of the deepest despair was when we got blocked at the zoning meeting in July of 1981. I had just moved here, and I thought, this isn't going to work. We got turned down 9-0 and I was shattered, but only for one evening. I knew that we had to do something, so the next morning I

was angry and ready to go. Together, we would bolster each other as far as fighting. So we got it done.

***That's true. There were a couple times when we were also a little worried about making payroll.***

Gosh, more than a little, and more than a couple!

***But we kept each other going. It's unusual for a head of school or president to serve one school as long as you have served Oakridge. What kept you grounded as an Owl?***

The need and the vision of wanting it as good as we could possibly make it. We'd get to stages, but I never wanted to plateau. Now I think it rivals any private school in the area, or period. It's a great school, but we had to keep pushing to get it to be a great school.

***I remember we used to tell each other that if we're going to do it, we have to do it well.***

Absolutely.



*The Broadus family in 2012.*



*Andy Broadus and lifetime board member Nancy O'Shea, who was part of the original group that recruited Mr. Broadus to come lead Oakridge.*

***Our faculty is a loyal bunch. Why do you think that is?***

I think they believe in what we're doing. I've often said that if I've got a teacher here that's just here for the job, I'll try to find them a better paying job. Because I want somebody here for the reason they should be here: to help the children and because they believe in our mission.

I think the story of the bacon tells it really well [see page 10]. The teachers wanted to be involved with our cause, and they were willing to give their portion. Some were single mothers and I knew Christmas would be hard for them. When I told the faculty that there may not be a paycheck, I said I'm going back to my office, and if anybody's not going to have Christmas because of this, come see me and we'll figure it out. Not one soul came to see me. That's the prettiest part of that story.

***Oakridge really is like a family. How did you set the tone from the beginning to create that environment?***

Well, we had a great cause. We were building a great school where teachers could really teach, and students could really learn.

***I think you had a Board that believed in the same thing. We were all aimed in the same direction and that allowed***

***us to focus on our goals.***

The real reason of what convinced me to come here was exactly that. The Board was a board that had great visions and wanted to do what they could. And they were bright enough to know what they didn't know about running a school. So they asked me to help them. We were a great team.

***You are known for mentoring others, and specifically your empathy. Can you tell me how empathy has remained at the forefront of your leadership?***

It's just who I want everybody to be. I've been telling the kids for years: empathy won't let you down. It's a good mark of making decisions if you can really feel what someone else is feeling, and not just sympathize with it but empathize with it. That's been a guiding principle for me, and I felt like it was a guiding principle for the school.

***I imagine retiring comes with a great mix of emotions. Can you describe how you've been feeling during your last school year?***

Excited, apprehensive, sad. Lots of mixed emotions. But it's time for me to do this. I'm going to be available to help Oakridge until the day I die, but I'm just not going to have a job here.

***What part of your job has been your greatest joy over the years?***

The children are the fix. When I would get too bogged down with adults, I would go to some part of the school and visit the students. Many times it would be the younger ones, but I love the older ones just as much. When I could get back and understand why I was in the business, that's my greatest joy.

I've described the job as like mowing the yard. When you're mowing it, sometimes it's tough: making payroll, buying libraries without the money, and all the things that we did. But then when you look at the finished product, you think, gosh that yard looks good. This school looks good, and it is good.

***Graduation every year is exciting, isn't it?***

Yes, and I saw a lot of those kids when they first came in the door and they were just little guys.

***And you have many people, my children included, who have very fond memories of you and your role in their life and in their education.***

Well, that's the true payday. In those days when the school was more intimate and small and we all had four or five different jobs - that was really fun. And without you, Nancy, the school wouldn't be. If there's anything documented and it doesn't say that, then it's wrong.

***Well I'd have to say, right back at you. What do you want to be your legacy? How do you want people to remember you?***

As a good guy. Somebody that really cared for other people - both children and adults. I would hope they'd say that.

***What do you look forward to most in retirement?***

I have mixed emotions about that. I've been working since I was 14, so the thought of having extended time off is going to be interesting. I do know that that probably won't last very long for me. I will figure out some way to get myself real busy.

I've been approached about consulting, so I may do a little consulting. Linda and I, we've travelled a lot in the last 10 years or so, but we'll probably do a little bit more of that. And I'll be a more accessible grandfather.





# THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

*We asked some special members of the Oakridge family, past and present, to reflect on their time with Andy Broadus.*

When I think back to Andy's arrival in the spring of 1981 as our new Headmaster, I have to wonder why he accepted the job. At that time, Oakridge consisted of fewer than 100 students and a handful of very committed faculty and board members with a huge dream of building a great school. We rented classrooms in a church educational building and owned almost nothing. We had no building and no property to build on.

After a couple of years, we were able to rent an empty school building owned by FWISD. Fortunately, the school was across the street from the church. Because we could not afford movers, students, faculty, and parents carried our possessions across the street. I remember the celebration we had when Andy managed to buy a gasping, sputtering school bus! In our minds, it validated us to be in a real school building with a real school bus parked outside.

From that point forward, Andy slowly but surely moved us in the right direction because he shared our dream. His job involved lots of hard work and was not easy, but he didn't waver along the way. Everyone worked unbelievably hard under his leadership, but he somehow made it fun. We spent weekends driving through neighborhoods looking for garage sales where we might find books, puzzles, old shelves, or file cabinets that we could use. The end result was not a school that *Architectural Digest* was dying to film for their magazine, but it worked for us. When I look at our wonderful school today, it is hard to believe

*"I remember the celebration we had when Andy managed to buy a gasping, sputtering school bus! In our minds, it validated us to be in a real school building with a real school bus parked outside."*

– Corliss Elsesser

where we started. I'm not sure we could have done it without Andy's leadership.

For the last 35 years, Andy has been a great mentor, a loved and respected Headmaster for my daughter Emily, and a strong leader who always tried to make the right decisions. He has changed many lives over the years, and I couldn't be more grateful for all he has done to make Oakridge what it is today.

– Corliss Elsesser

**Head of Lower School**

**Years at Oakridge: 1979-2010**

I first met Andy Broadus when our family was seeking a better kindergarten environment for our daughter. When I called The Oakridge School, Mr. Broadus answered the phone and invited me in to talk about enrolling Jennifer. After that initial meeting, I knew that Mr. B was a servant leader and dedicated educator.

During the early years of Oakridge, Mr. Broadus's leadership set a positive and progressive tone that led the young school to reach goals much earlier than most. As a young administrator, Mr. Broadus instilled in me the importance of positive self-talk and preparing myself for each day. His teachings on setting up and maintaining "emotional bank accounts" apply to education as well as real life experiences.

I will always remember him as a storyteller. Throughout his educational career, he always had a real life story that could reinforce any idea or concept he wanted to get across. "The Bacon Story" is one of my favorites. It describes the Oakridge Community in its early years and that same connectedness still exists today. His personal library of stories brought both laughter and tears to many faculty in-services and meetings.



(l-r) Corliss Elsesser, Susan Butts, Andy Broadus, and Linda Broadus

## 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.*



I am grateful today for the mentor and friend Andy has been to me. He has touched many lives and I am thankful one was mine.

*– Betty Garton*

**Director of Early Childhood Center  
Years at Oakridge: 1982-Present**

It is hard to imagine Oakridge without Andy Broadus in a leadership position. I can still remember vividly the first time I met Andy at Jacksonville Country Day School in Florida. It did not take me long to realize that I was in the company of a special educator and person.



*Providing a campus tour in the early 80s to Arlington Mayor Harold Patterson.*

In 1981, I felt so honored when Andy asked me to join him in a challenging, but potentially very rewarding "adventure" at a two-year-old school called The Oakridge School. There was no hesitation on my part. I was so pleased that I would be able to become part of a small administrative team under Andy's leadership, whose immediate goal was to begin the challenging task of building a special educational institution with a well-rounded college preparatory program, housed in excellent facilities, and administered in a financially sound manner.

My thirty years spent on the administrative team at Oakridge are filled with many wonderful memories. Experiencing the growth in enrollment, program, staffing, and facilities under Andy's capable leadership is truly a phenomenal story in independent education. He has guided Oakridge from its infancy through critical periods of growth



and maturity and is largely responsible for its current success.

Back in 1976, I saw a man with initiative, commitment, sound judgement, flexibility, and a special ability to communicate and interrelate with people in a warm, pleasant, and constructive manner. His capabilities, consideration for others, enthusiasm, and sense of humor made my 35 years in independent education a special, unforgettable experience.

**– Rick Horvath**  
**Head of Middle School**  
**Years at Oakridge: 1981-2011**

I feel both fortunate and humbled to have had the privilege of working by Andy's side as his administrative assistant for 31 years. And when I say by his side, I mean that literally. In the beginning, we shared an office and a phone, with only file cabinets between us. Andy quickly took steps to remedy this situation! I'm sure there must have been times when he wondered what he was thinking to take on such a monumental task, but he didn't move back to Florida. The beautiful campus you see today can only be attributed to his determination, foresight, and his ability to lead and manage.

On a personal note, our families quickly became friends, and remain so today. We have watched our children grow up to be



*Andy and Janis Broadus dance the night away at prom.*

*“A school community is the sum of the relationships within it, and no one nurtures relationships better than Andy Broadus.”*

– Melissa Grubb

happy and successful adults, we have welcomed our children's children into the world, and we have shared both joy and sorrow. I look forward to many more years of friendship with Andy and his family.

**– Susan Butts**  
**Executive Assistant to the**  
**Headmaster, Founding Parent**  
**Years at Oakridge: 1979-2012**

Mr. Broadus was always wonderful in official “Head of School” moments, but what I cherish most are the nuggets of

sage wisdom in casual moments. They resonate in my head now as I make an effort to lead a school of which he would be proud. That is the standard by which I measure my leadership: Would Mr. Broadus approve of this decision, this response, this interaction?

Of the many things I learned, and continue to learn from him, are that family comes first, that empathy is required for leadership and life, that good decisions take time, and that conversations about “nothing” are indeed “something.” I also



*Giving an Oakridge history lesson to third graders in fall 2015.*



1,526

*Since the first class graduated from Oakridge in 1985, Mr. Broadus has shaken the hands of 1,526 graduates. Graduating in the photo at left is Martin Lucas '85, whose twin son and daughter, Spencer and Shanna, graduated with the Class of 2016 as the first legacy graduates of The Oakridge School (right).*



*Speaking to students at Homecoming 1995.*

Mr. Broadus has demonstrated an unwavering ability to distill complex issues down to what truly matters. Relationships matter. A school community is the sum of the relationships within it, and no one nurtures relationships better than Andy Broadus. It is my honor and privilege to have worked for him, with him, and to call him my friend and mentor.

**– Melissa Grubb**  
**Director of Studies**  
**Years at Oakridge: 1987-2010**  
**Current Head of School at**  
**The Stanley Clark School,**  
**South Bend, Indiana**

learned other useful things, like the fact that a bacon press is a mightily handy kitchen tool.

When I went to his office, I could always count on a package of cheese crackers nearby, photos of family on his desk, and an up-to-the-minute report of the current weather conditions. If I were lucky, I would show up for a meeting and spend more

time listening to him tell a good a story and only a few minutes on the reason I came. If I were exceptionally lucky, he needed to run an errand and we got to meet in his car. A week later, I always remembered the story, but the topic at hand had long been resolved or forgotten. He knows the power of a good story and understands that the good ones neither wear out nor expire.

## *Alumni Reflections*

I would expect most memories will be around his imparting of the value of empathy. In a world where schools, companies, and people are constantly redefining themselves, his simple, strong message resonates through the decades. I think this is absolutely remarkable and know the world must be better because of all who have taken his message to heart.

**– Cathy Moser Heald '93**

As alums, we've all heard the empathy speech from Mr. Broadus. It really stuck with me and I have tried to raise my own kids with empathy in their hearts. I believe this is one of the most important life lessons we can learn. Thank you, Mr. Broadus!

**– Aaron Martin '93**

What I always admired about him was how he knew every single student in the entire school by name. He never once passed me in a hallway without saying, "Matthew! How are you doing today?" Even more impressive, he has still remembered and greeted me when I've run into him years later.

**– Matt Hunter '02**





*Supporting the Owl Club at the Oakridge Golf Classic with then Executive Director of ISAS Geoffrey Butler.*



*Mr. Broadus with the Murray family at his Oakridge 25th Anniversary celebration in 2006.*



*Andy and Linda Broadus with their grandchildren at the Homecoming Parade.*



# Learning Spaces and Facilities

1981

Andy Broadus comes to Oakridge to serve as Headmaster.



1985  
Early Childhood Center,  
Upper School

1986  
Lower and Middle School,  
Student Activity Center

1995  
Oakridge Parents' Club Building  
and Maintenance

Groundbreaking for the Multi-Purpose Activity Center.



1994  
Multi-Purpose  
Activity Center

1984:  
33

1981:  
0  
ACRES



The original campus before construction.



The Oakridge campus before the addition of the Information Center and the Fine Arts Center.

# of Oakridge campus acres





2000

Information Center, Flavin Fine Arts Center,  
Lower and Middle School Garden

2010

Duggan-  
Schoening Track  
at the Oakridge  
Athletic Complex

2012

Tennis Courts at the Oakridge  
Athletic Complex, Campus Named  
in Mr. Broadus' honor

2007

Security Center

2002

National Wetlands  
Named

2009

New  
Maintenance  
Building

2011

Quinn Family  
Kindergarten  
Center

2014

Frank Field at  
the Oakridge  
Athletic  
Complex

2006:  
80.5

2009:  
86.5

2013:  
90



The Oakridge campus at Homecoming 2015.



Exchange student Sofia Bonetti (left) with Ana Paula Martinez '17 and mom Esther.





# HOSTING EXCHANGE STUDENTS: AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE AT HOME

By Amanda Harrier, Marketing & Communications Coordinator

Oakridge students don't just come from all over the Metroplex, they come from all over the world, and when they do enroll at The Oakridge School, they often need a place to stay. At times like these, the Oakridge family does what it does best – takes them in. Thus begins an experience that often changes the lives of host families and exchange students forever.

Oakridge parents KC and Linda Wright opened their home after their oldest left for college. "It created a spare room for the next school year," Mr. Wright. "We had a house full of boys already, so bringing in another boy just made it better."

The Wrights took in Ale Ivo '07, a rising senior from Brazil, and later his younger brother Arthur '08.

"Ale made an immediate positive impact on our home. He became a soccer coach to Mark '17 and Jeff '18, and taught John '09 how to play the guitar."

Upper School faculty member Barry Coe hosted a number of students, including one in particular from Taiwan with whom he still remains close.

"Our decision to host an international student was a response to a need versus a want," said Mr. Coe. "Now Wei-Chen Lin '12 is a senior at UT Dallas and a member of the Coe family along with his brother Wei-Yin '10, who spent many holidays and summers with us."

Paulo da Silva '05, College Advising Coordinator, works with current exchange students at Oakridge as they adjust to life in a new country. He has a unique ability to empathize with their experience, since he came to the U.S. from Brazil as an exchange student himself at age 15.

"The first challenge is making friends," said Mr. da Silva. "It's a new school, a new

*"We opened our home;  
they opened our hearts."*

– KC Wright

language. It takes time. When I had a tough time adjusting, my host families would get me through. They helped me learn the language and the culture."

For families who open their homes, the return is great, and often beyond measure. Children are exposed to new and different cultures, and bonds are created that continue for life. The Wrights have travelled to Brazil to visit Arthur and Ale's family, and hosted their parents in their own home when they visited for the boys' graduations.

Admissions Director and Oakridge parent Mike Cobb and his family have travelled to Thailand and China to visit the homes of their own exchange students.

"As we began the hosting process, it was evident that the experience was expanding our family in so many positive ways," said Mr. Cobb. "Our daughter developed a new world view as she learned about cultural differences."

Oakridge parents Eduardo and Esther Martinez and their children, who hosted a student from Italy this spring, shared their Mexican culture and the Spanish language, in addition to delicious food, with their exchange student.

"When Sofia made pasta for us, we were so excited," said Mrs. Martinez. "We took her to eat her first American hamburger last week, and she was so happy, too. It's amazing to see how food plays such a big role in our cultures."

The Read family, who hosted Paulo, fell in love with the Brazilian culture as they mixed in their own Jamaican heritage and

American traditions to create a unique family blend. More than the cultural impact though, having Paulo be a part of their lives has been the greatest gift.

"We wanted to make him feel like a part of the family, so we didn't treat him any differently from any of our own kids," said Diana Read. "In the end, he brought so much joy to our lives, and we have Oakridge to thank for bringing us together."

Preparation and the right mindset is key for families looking to welcome a student into their homes. Diana suggests that any family considering hosting make sure that every member of the family is on board with the decision. Esther Martinez notes that you have to be prepared to share your home and your time. "But in the end, it's a great experience that will change your family for the better," she said.

"Bringing in an exchange student changes the dynamic in a home, which is not always easy," said Mr. da Silva. "But the joy comes from watching a student grow and making a difference in their life."

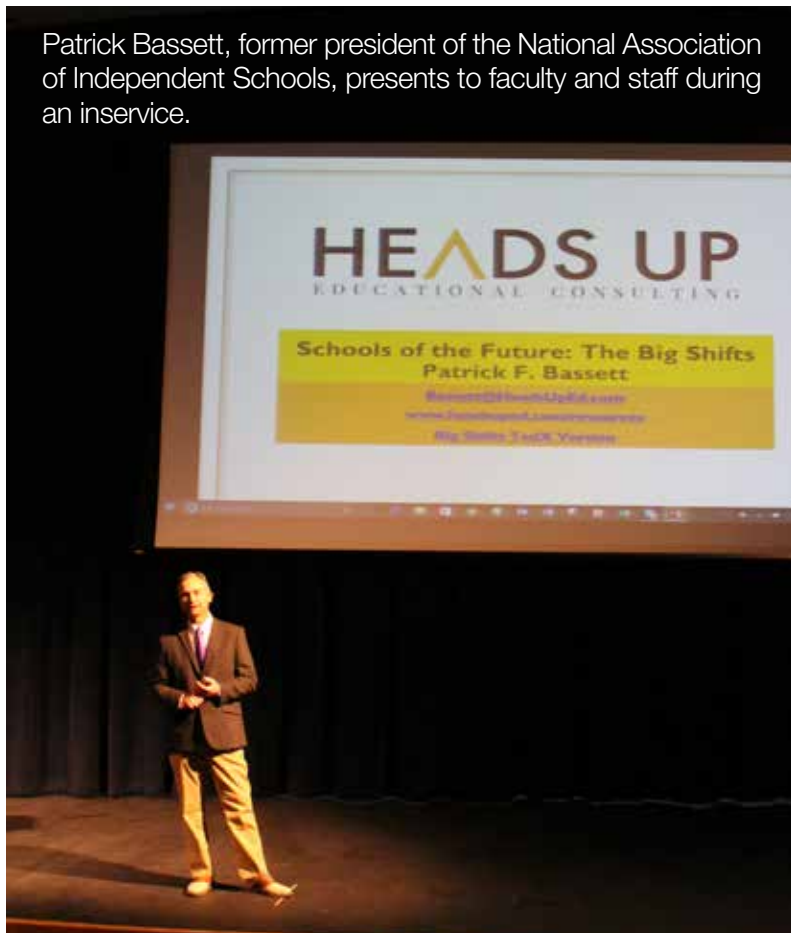
Interested in being a host family for an exchange student? Contact Karen Messer in the Admissions Office to learn more. @

## COUNTRIES REPRESENTED BY 2015-16 OAKRIDGE STUDENTS

Brazil	Malaysia
Canada	Mexico
China	Nigeria
Colombia	Pakistan
France	Philippines
Germany	Qatar
India	South Africa
Italy	South Korea
Jamaica	Spain
Japan	Sweden
Jordan	Taiwan
Kenya	Thailand
Kuwait	Vietnam



Administrative Assistants Daphne McCleery, Marilyn DeVore, Beth Wetzel, Jeanne Butcher, Debbie Worlow, and Sylvia Kappahn discuss best practices at the Oakridge Unconference.



Patrick Bassett, former president of the National Association of Independent Schools, presents to faculty and staff during an inservice.



Amy Wilson and fellow faculty members at a Last Friday roundtable.



# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AT OAKRIDGE

*By Sarah Kramer, Assistant Headmaster*

For students, Last Fridays – when students are dismissed early on the last Friday of the month – can mean everything from a birthday party with friends to lunch and a movie, or time with grandparents to a sleepover with a friend. For faculty and staff of The Oakridge School, Last Fridays foster lifelong learning and passion for new information.

Last Fridays began in the 2008-2009 school year. They replaced Early Out Wednesdays, which many longtime families and alumni of Oakridge will remember. The design was twofold: First, it gave students a little “air” in each month of school, allowing time for appointments, family, and friends. Second, it afforded Oakridge a set time each month for faculty collaboration, meetings, and professional development.

In its early years, Last Fridays were filled with peer-to-peer exchanges that encompassed teaching techniques, good reads, communication with parents, and the like. As the program evolved, faculty development was built around a theme. Some topics covered in recent years have included curriculum and instruction, character education, communication, 21st Century learning, leadership, public speaking, and wellness.

For the past two school years, the leadership trio of Jim Andersen (Associate Head of Upper School), Betty Garton (Director of Early Childhood Center), and Britt Robinson (Head of Middle School) has focused on faculty strengths and educational trends. In a recent interview, the three talked through their philosophy when designing faculty professional development.

“We desired to strike a balance between consumption of information and active participation in activities,” said Mr. Anderson. “Working toward meaningful

professional development doesn’t mean fun and laughter can’t be included,” added Mrs. Garton.

In 2014-2015, Baba Kwasi came and used African instruments and storytelling to convey the message of teamwork and inspire faculty and staff. And this year, Four Day Weekend, an improvisational comedy troupe, emphasized the importance of positive communication and customer service.

This focus on teamwork and communication aligned well with the planning group’s desire to model being good neighbors through service. For the past two years on Last Fridays in April, Oakridge faculty and staff have volunteered at Mission Arlington.

Some of the most memorable professional development has focused on Strengthfinders 2.0. All faculty and staff read Tom Rath’s book and worked closely with alumnus parent Kim Hankins (mom to Charles Hankins ’13) to explore their talents.

“[Strengthfinders] allowed each divisional area of Oakridge to use the information discovered about individuals with their team areas,” said Mr. Andersen. “It also allowed the entire school to realize the strengths and commonalities of the campus.”

Now, when all-school or divisional teams are formed, the collective strengths can be taken into consideration. And of course, it also allowed for a school-wide common vocabulary and a deeper understanding of how individual strengths contribute to collective success.


This year, speakers have focused on the big picture, such as world trends, down to the specific issues facing healthy, sustainable independent schools. Guest speakers

have included Kathy McLean, Oakridge parent and educational consultant; Patrick Bassett, former president of the National Association of Independent Schools; Christian Long, former Oakridge faculty and consultant on school design; Romy Hughes and Amanda Irvin from the TCU Koehler Center for Teaching Excellence; and Victoria Farrar-Myers, Oakridge parent and Director of the Tower Scholars Program at SMU. In addition, our faculty and staff have enjoyed an alumni panel about the type of learner Oakridge produces and a peer-to-peer Unconference featuring guests from other area schools.

“An underlying component of planning the professional development was relationships,” said Mr. Robinson. “Many of the speakers and trainers involved throughout the past two years have been a function of relationships within our ‘family.’”

At The Oakridge School, we are building an environment where students experience hands-on learning, find their voices, receive feedback, become good digital citizens, solve problems through creative thinking, respect one another, lead, and learn. These Last Fridays “walk the talk” as our faculty and staff engage in the same kind of learning.

“Professional development is important because we all model that lifelong learning is crucial not only for students but also for faculty,” said Mr. Andersen. “It is important that we are aligned not only within each division, but also vertically among divisions.”

“Learning together about the latest research and trends in education allows all our faculty to grow and best serve our students and families,” said Mrs. Garton. 

# ATHLETICS BRIEFS

## SPC CONFERENCE ANNOUNCES CHANGES

Oakridge varsity sports teams compete in the Southwest Preparatory Conference (SPC), which is made up of nineteen independent college preparatory schools in Oklahoma and Texas.

Recently, the SPC underwent a couple of changes. The first change involves two schools, Holland Hall and Saint Mary's Hall, that have chosen to leave the conference. Holland Hall is located in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and Saint Mary's Hall is located in San Antonio. Both schools listed their relative distance from the other member schools as a primary reason for leaving the conference.



*The Varsity Softball team high-fives opponents at the end of a game.*

The second change currently affects football teams only. For football, the schools will be separated into two divisions called 3A and 4A, which will be based primarily on the number of Upper School students. Oakridge will compete in 3A with the following schools: Casady, Cistercian, Fort Worth Country Day, Greenhill, John Cooper, St. Andrew's, St. Stephen's, and Trinity Valley. The top two teams in the regular season will meet in a 3A championship game in Austin this November. The SPC has formed a committee to evaluate whether the same classifications should be applied to other team sports. That committee will report their findings during the 2016-17 school year.

## SWIMMERS AND WRESTLERS EXCEL AT STATE CHAMPIONSHIPS

Oakridge swimmers and wrestlers had a stellar showing at the Winter SPC State Championships, including a first-ever Oakridge SPC State Champion Wrestler: Senior Judge McWithey. Judge and the Oakridge Wrestling team competed at Texas State



*Senior Judge McWithey with coaches and teammates after receiving his 1st place medal.*

Prep in Houston, where he placed 2nd in the state in his weight division and earned a trip to nationals for the second year in a row. He went on to represent Oakridge at Prep Nationals at Lehigh University in February. In addition to the 1st place title claimed by Judge at SPC, Jeff Wright took 3rd place in his division at SPC, and Zane Ahlfinger took 4th at State Prep - both fantastic showings for the sophomores.

The Oakridge Swim team brought home a number of medals amid tough competition at the SPC State Competition. Special kudos to freshman Zoe Fowler, who took 1st in the 100 yard backstroke and 3rd in the 100 yard butterfly. Two relay teams also placed 3rd in competition: sophomore Corrina Sullivan, sophomore Lucy Robinson, Zoe Fowler, and freshman Kate Mitchell in the 200 yard medley relay; and Kate Mitchell, junior Amy Zhang, Corrina Sullivan, and Zoe Fowler in the 200 yard freestyle relay.




*The 200 yard medley team with their medals.*



## SENIORS SIGN TO PLAY COLLEGIATE ATHLETICS

Two seniors signed with universities to play NCAA Division I athletics this year. Senior Parker Welch signed with Valparaiso University to play football, and Marcella De Vuono signed with Florida Atlantic University to play volleyball.

In Division III athletics, two Oakridge seniors will be playing soccer: Nick Kurth will be at Southwestern University and Garrett Echols will be at University of Dallas. In addition, Cailey Cobb signed with Sweet Briar College to ride on their hunt seat equestrian team, and Barron Wortham will be a preferred walk on for the University of Texas at El Paso football team. 



Marcella de Vuono is joined by her volleyball teammates as she signs with Florida Atlantic University.



Football player Parker Welch with his family on Signing Day.



Cailey Cobb will compete on a collegiate equestrian team next year.





# ATHLETICS ACROSS THE DIVISIONS

*By Shawn Meadows, Athletic Director*

One balmy December day last semester, the students in the Early Childhood Center were ice-skating to music. Oakridge did not secretly install an ice rink behind the ECC playground. Instead, the students were using paper plates under each foot while zooming around on the carpet in the big room. Forward, backward, alone, and in pairs, smiles and squeals were at a premium throughout the activity.

While athletics at The Oakridge School culminates in varsity competition, it begins with age-appropriate music and movement on the other end of campus. One goal of the physical education program at Oakridge is to encourage students to be physically active. President John F. Kennedy famously said, "Physical fitness is not only one of the most important keys to a healthy body, it is the basis of dynamic and creative intellectual activity."

All Oakridge students spend a portion of each day in physical activity. Our curriculum "spirals" upward, from basic movements such as stretching or animal yoga poses in the ECC, to more complex activities such as jumping rope and the introduction to team and individual sports in the Lower School. At the end of the school year, our ECC students run laps on the Duggan-Schoening Track.

Director of the Early Childhood Center Betty Garton loves the "cognitive, emotional, and social development" physical education offers. Mrs. Garton also says, "The greatest gift in physical education is the introduction to life lessons such as respect, responsibility, and problem solving."

We begin separating boys and girls for physical education in the fourth grade as our students enter the intramural phase. They begin four- to six-week units learning the team sports they will encounter starting in seventh grade. Our physical education teachers, who also serve as many of our varsity head coaches, lead the units. Fourth graders build group movements and strategies on top of the individual skills they have been mastering since entering Oakridge.

Lower School Head Dr. Sarah Schecter loves that physical education "offers an opportunity for cooperative play and practicing teamwork." Our Lower School students celebrate the end of the school year with Field Day competitions such as the tennis ball throw, the 60-yard dash, and the standing broad jump.

By the time our students complete sixth grade, they are finishing their units with actual competitions in their class period. The "Ultimate Football Super Bowl" and the soccer "World Cup" are activities that create excitement and enthusiasm throughout the entire school day. We also encourage our students to find places on sports teams in their local communities to continue building their skills.



Oakridge seventh and eighth graders begin competing interscholastically as Oakridge Owls. We offer several sports opportunities in the fall, winter, and spring seasons. Our Middle School students are able to begin learning many valuable character traits through participation in team sports in the "classrooms" that are fields and gyms across the Oakridge campus. Middle School athletics is a great time to try a new sport or begin falling in love with a favorite team.

As students transition into the Upper School, athletic life offers more choices of teams on which they can compete. Oakridge offers junior varsity teams and varsity teams for most of the athletic options. As our students mature, we encourage and offer year-round strength and conditioning training. This serves several purposes, such as encouraging life-long exercise habits, injury prevention, and increased physical development.

Our varsity team members earn their playing time through their skill development, demonstrated commitment to the team, and willingness to work together in practices and games to attempt to accomplish more than they could alone. Most of our varsity sports teams compete in the Southwest Preparatory Conference, consisting of nineteen schools in Oklahoma and Texas.

Each year as I face our seniors walking across the graduation stage, I wonder which character traits they were able to develop through participation in team sports at The Oakridge School. Was it the ability to work with others? Or maybe the willingness to sacrifice selfish desires for the needs of the team? Did they learn that failure is an opportunity for growth and improvement? Perhaps they learned self-discipline or accountability. Upon reflection, I realize that if each graduate has learned even one of the above lessons, our athletic department has served them well.





*On Frank Field on Friday nights, the squad cheers on the Owls to victory.*





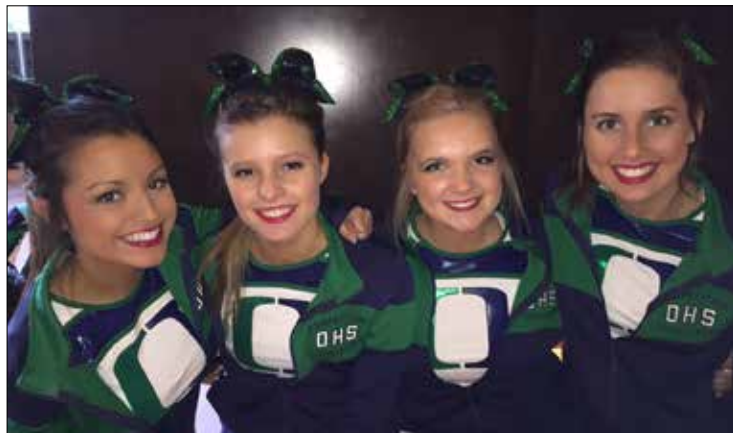
# PROMOTING SCHOOL SPIRIT

*By Brittany Kasko, Oakridge Class of 2016*

The most visible role for an Oakridge Varsity Cheerleader is at pep rallies and football games in the fall. However, the journey begins long before that, starting in February with tryouts, and ends long after with participation in camps, competitions, and other official duties that fill up a busy and exciting year.

The cheerleading program at The Oakridge School plays an important role in promoting school spirit, developing a sense of good sportsmanship, and bettering the relationships between schools during athletic events. As an Oakridge cheerleader, our job is to be both a spirit leader and an ambassador for the school. We lead the spectators in yells, encourage student support, and attend events while displaying a positive attitude about Oakridge.

The team starts off every cheer season with tryouts in February. As with most years, we had a strong interest in the 2015-16 squad and practices couldn't start soon enough. February through May, we work hard to prepare for camp in June. Attending camp brings us together not only as teammates, but as friends. Last summer, the varsity cheerleading team traveled to the University of Oklahoma for the NCA (National Cheerleaders Association) Leadership Camp, where staff members teach the cheerleaders chants, dances, and cheers to bring back to the school for football season, in



*Author Brittany Kasko (second from right) and teammates at competition.*

addition to valuable leadership skills. The Oakridge squad earned many awards at camp, including multiple individual award winners: Star Jumper, Tumbler, Stunt, and four All American NCA winners.

Back in Arlington, we host the Mini Spirit camp as part of the Oakridge Summer Programs. We love teaching the first through fourth graders traditional cheers and doing cheer-related crafts. As we spend the week with our younger Oakridge Owls, we do our best to be great role models for them.

In August, we return to school for prep week, where we spend three-to-four hours a day getting ready for the upcoming back to school festivities. At the Back to School Picnic, new Oakridge families, returning families, and friends get together and catch up before the school year starts again. As a varsity cheerleader, the picnic is the first appearance we make as a new squad for the upcoming year.

Before we know it, football season has started, and nothing beats Friday night lights on Frank Field. The 2015 season in particular was extremely exciting for the cheerleading program. The varsity football players worked hard all season in order to advance to playoffs, something that has not happened in my three previous years of high school. The fans came out every Friday night to support the Owls, and the cheerleaders

could not wait to motivate the players and help lift their spirits against tough competitors.

After football season comes competition season, my favorite part of cheerleading. We start the season off with a sleepover on the Bridge, which has been a team tradition for the past four years. In December, the squad competed at the NCA State of Texas Championship, where we performed in the Game Time and Performance categories. We were proud to bring home the 2015

NCA State of Texas Champion titles in Game Time Dance, Game Time Cheer, and Game Time Fight Song this year. We absolutely loved competing and we couldn't wait to compete again.

In January, we competed at the NCA Senior & Junior High School National Championship competition. With months of preparation, the team was excited to get out on the mat and perform. We brought home a top 10 finish in the NCA National Game Time division for Fight Song, which was our new school fight song that we debuted during the fall football season. We were thrilled to bring the Oakridge fight song back to the athletics program.

The Oakridge cheerleading program is one that truly helps build school spirit, and more so our inner selves. As a senior, it has been amazing to watch and be part of a program that has grown so much in such a short amount of time. Each one of us has pushed ourself to be the best athlete, student, and friend that we can be.

Being a senior, it has been bittersweet to watch as the team has sign-ups and try-outs to prepare for the 2016-17 cheer season. Oakridge Cheerleading has helped me make memories that are irreplaceable, and I am very honored to soon be an alumni of a program that has been such a great influence in my life for the last six years.



*The cheerleaders love spending time with their "minis" in the summer.*

## STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHY RECOGNIZED AT COMPETITION

Junior Sydney Fagan placed first in the landscape/cityscape category at the 28th Annual Black & White Images contest sponsored by Fort Worth Country Day.

Eight area schools submitted more than 450 photographs for the competition. Out of those 450 photographs, only 100 works were accepted for the exhibition. The show was juried by Bryan Florentin, Senior Lecturer of Art, Art History, Design, and New Media at the University of Texas at Arlington.

Sydney has done a remarkable job this year experimenting with both three-dimensional and two-dimensional art mediums, finding inspiration everywhere that she goes.



Sydney Fagan's award-winning photograph "Two Spoons."

## TPSMEA REGION AND STATE ENSEMBLES FEATURE OAKRIDGE STUDENTS

This year, 20 choir members and four orchestra members from Oakridge were selected to the Region ensembles of the Texas Private School Music Educators Association (TPSMEA). Nine of the singers and one instrumentalist also advanced to All-State.

**TPSMEA Region Choir:** Brooke Delaughter, Ana Paula Martinez, Kate Mitchell, Elizabeth Thompson, Brock Knott, Eric Pham, Abby Brown, Olivia Duke, Zoë Fowler, Aryn Franklin, Amy Zhang

**TPSMEA Region and All-State:** Claire DeVoe, Emma Gladden, Abby Hurd, Rachel Tan, Cade Kellam, Ryan Tan, Kourtnei Fong-Kutchins, Walker Emmert, Noah Gladden

**TPSMEA Region Orchestra:** Sage Abram, Natalie Benefield, Andy Brown, Kathryn Miller

**TPSMEA All-State Orchestra:** Kate Mitchell

Oakridge Upper School Choir and Orchestra students submit auditions each year for placement in TPSMEA All-Region and All-State ensembles along with hundreds of private school students from around the state. Those selected join the best of the best to spend a weekend learning from a master conductor and presenting magnificent concerts for family and friends. Oakridge was tremendously well represented not only in numbers but by the incredible attitude, effort, and enthusiasm of our students.



Oakridge students were named to the TPSMEA Region and All-State Choirs.





*In February, Oakridge presented its spring musical, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. A tune-filled comic gem that took Broadway by storm in 1961, winning both the Tony Award for Best Musical and a Pulitzer Prize, *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying* has an exhilarating score by Frank Loesser including "I Believe in You," "Brotherhood of Man," and "The Company Way."*



*This spring, the 7th grade art class created mosaic squares to be installed in the Quad. Each mosaic square was designed by a team of six and then completely covered in broken tiles. The theme for the 4 squares came from our Middle School houses - Dragon, Kraken, Thunderbird, and Dire Wolf.*





First grader Luka Loviscek's pumpkin watercolor was selected as a notecard winner by the American Heart Association.

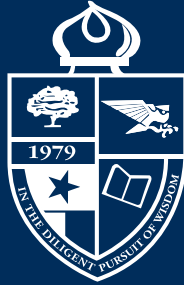


First grader Bailey Compton won 7th place at The Fort Worth Stock Show with her marker and glitter glue horse.



Sixth graders Mia Petersen and Meagan Stehr welcome guests to Fine Arts Night.





# THE OAKRIDGE SCHOOL

*Summer Programs*

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# OWLS IN THE ARTS

By Amy Wilson '92, Alumni and Donor Relations Coordinator

As one of the three A's at The Oakridge School, the Arts (along with Academics and Athletics) plays a pivotal role in each Owl's development. Thanks to encouragement and experiences during their time at Oakridge, these alumni have found a way to pursue their passions in the arts, both as their primary career and as a way to incorporate the arts into unexpected places. Their journeys serve as inspiration to all those who hope to pursue a creative path, whether they are still in school or already many years into an established career.



## JESSICA RENEE RUSSELL CLASS OF 2005

Upon graduation from The Oakridge School, Jessica Renee Russell moved to New York City to pursue her passion for acting, something she discovered while still an Owl.

Jessica attended two acting conservatories: The American Academy of Dramatic Arts and The William Esper Studio. Since then, Jessica has worked in theater, television, and film. This year, she had her biggest professional break and helped give her mom "some serious bragging rights." Jessica made

*"When I'm old and gray, I'd like people to look back on my performances and be able to say 'she was fearless.'"*

—Jessica Renee Russell

her network TV debut as a regular cast member on USA Network's *Donny!* Based on the real-life famed ad man Donny Deutsch, the sitcom was a satirical look at media, wealth, and modern romance. In the ensemble cast, Jessica received quite a bit of screen time and laughs as one of Donny's quick-witted assistants.

Jessica has had a singular focus and professional passion that has guided her path. Acting and telling stories always felt natural to her, so pursuing work in her craft felt like the only option. When she was on stage, she says everything made sense to her.

"Honestly – and I think most artists will agree with me – I felt there was no other choice," says Jessica. "Once that inspiration hits, and you know that's meant to be your contribution to the world, there's no other option."

Jessica has continued to grow, personally and professionally, thanks to a great deal of curiosity and vulnerability and her willingness to wear her heart on her sleeve. She says that having the rich life that she gains from this approach is what allows her to be able to create full, dynamic characters. Jessica also relies on both her imagination and her gut as her most important artistic tools. It is that gut, even more than her head, that she employs when approaching scripts.

Jessica also loves the collaborative aspect of acting. When asked what she appreciates most in a team-oriented environment, she replies, "No divas, please."

"The coolest part about what I do is that it's ALL about collaboration," says Jessica. "Everyone is telling the same story through different mediums. There are so many pieces to the puzzle – acting, lighting, sound, direction, cinematography. Everyone contributes their part and it all comes together in this unified vision."

Not only is Jessica inspired by the people in her life, she wants to give back to those people.

"My favorite word is *orenda*," says Jessica. "It means 'a mystical force present in all people that empowers them to affect the world, or to affect change in their own lives'. Plain and simple – I'd like to affect people. And when I'm old and gray, I'd like people to look back on my performances and be able to say 'she was fearless.'"

Jessica has already had many "pinch me" moments in her career. She is incredibly grateful for those opportunities, doesn't plan on setting any limits, and is just going to enjoy the ride that her career in acting will continue to take her on.

## PHIL GUTHRIE CLASS OF 2006

Phil Guthrie is a Director/Animator/Designer/Composer living in Los Angeles. He began his own business in 2010 and has produced a vast body of work including animation and filming as part of national ad campaigns for companies like Ford, Under Armor, Nike, TBS, Windows, and many more.

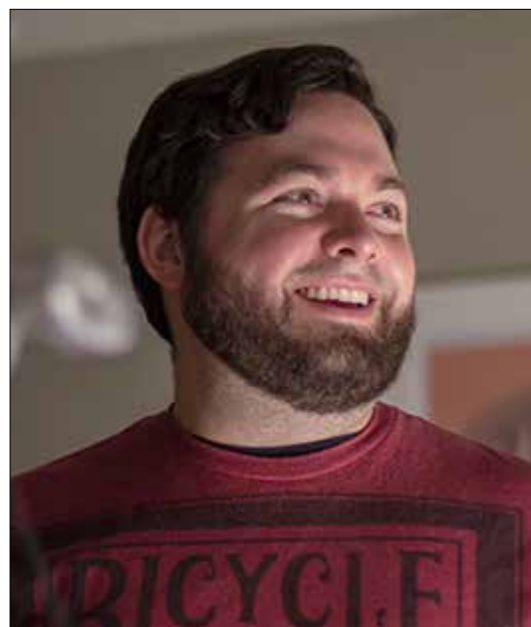


Early in life, Phil started out making art with his mother. When he was a young boy, they did arts and crafts together using clay and beads and anything that would expand his mind. Those experiences helped nurture a desire for art and creativity.

While at Oakridge, Phil's art developed as he was drawn to technology and realized the potential it held as a tool to create. Phil says that technology is such a special medium because it can help someone get their ideas across even if they can't draw or write well. Art can flow through technology once you know how to use the tools.

Phil explains that he took a "very odd path" after graduation from Oakridge in 2006. He briefly considered applying to art schools but ultimately chose to attend a liberal arts college. He enrolled at Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee, and declared a major in economics with plans to be an accountant. While Phil found Rhodes to be a wonderful place, his major "just didn't fit me." He signed up for a 3-D graphics class, the only one they had at Rhodes, and fell in love with it.

That's when Phil decided to transfer to the Savannah College of Art and Design (SCAD). Finally finding himself in the right place allowed him to really buckle down and grow as an artist. He also met many of the people he still works with in the industry today. Initially, Phil didn't know



*An illustration from an ad for the 2015 FIFA Women's World Cup ad, on which Oakridge Alum Phil Guthrie was an art director and animator.*

anyone in Los Angeles and didn't have a job when he moved there. Nevertheless, he slowly crawled his way into the industry – no small feat given that it's a very tight-knit group who are wary of outsiders. Phil attributes his SCAD network as helping him with that assimilation.

Art is a passion for Phil that fuels his life. The tools he loves working with the most are his computer and Wacom tablet. Although the art he creates in commercials "is usually fast-forwarded with TIVO or a DVR," he has produced some very interesting pieces. In particular, he enjoys working on music videos, where he gets a lot of freedom during the creation process. Phil worked on Katy Perry's "Roar" video and Capital Cities' "Safe and Sound" video, among others.

One other project he recently worked on was a spot for Fight Night 2015, sponsored by Under Armor and Fight For Children. This four-month-long project was shot in Chicago at an old boxing gym. Phil was able to create the idea, direct, animate, design, and edit the project. It was a huge opportunity for him.

*"Focus on what you love to do and do it. Then work truly becomes a joy."*

– Phil Guthrie

"You learn a lot of things when you do the majority of the work yourself," says Phil. "It's always good to have the capability to wear multiple hats in this industry."

Something else that fuels Phil's artistic passion is travel.

"When I was young, my parents took me with them to Europe and the Caribbean and all around the U.S.," says Phil. "Today I try to find room in my busy schedule to continue to travel. It's inspiring to see how other cultures live in their daily lives. It awakens something in a person when they arrive back home and see how they are living in comparison."

Phil offers great advice to anyone just starting out: "Focus on what you love to

do and do it. Then work truly becomes a joy and the term 'work' becomes a word you can't attach to your life."

"I started as an accountant and my passion broke through and led me to my wonderful life," says Phil. "But it's also about putting the time in and paying your dues. Find the path to what you want. Sometimes it's not how good you are, it's how good you want to be. Be passionate and be kind, and the world is yours."

## KATY REISWIG CLASS OF 2006

Katy Reiswig has an unusual and impressive combination of skills. Not only is she an artist, she is a teacher and a nurse. Katy's art form of choice is operatic singing, and she has found a way to use her gifts to complement one another.

Katy comes from a musical family and has been singing her entire life. She got her start in the church choir where her mother played piano. At CATS (Creative Arts Theater and School) in Arlington, she got hooked on singing, acting, and performing. Katy's performance in "Children of Eden" at Oakridge earned her a Betty Buckley Award and gave her the notion and confidence that she could make a career out of singing. Participating in the All-State Choir, traveling to New York, and performing at Carnegie Hall were also defining moments in shaping her career.

During Katy's senior year at Oakridge, she auditioned to be a vocal performance major and received a scholarship from Southern Methodist University where she earned her Bachelor's degree. Katy credits SMU as providing a great foundation and the necessary transition from high school choral singing to opera singing. While there, she also began to sing professionally in the DFW area. At the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, she earned her Master of Music in Vocal Performance & Literature and also began teaching voice lessons. After Katy graduated, she continued singing and teaching opera and performing musical theater professionally.

About two years ago, Katy found herself in a position to pursue another dream: nursing. In 2015, she graduated from Baylor University with a Bachelor of Nursing degree and obtained her license as a Registered Nurse. Katy now works full-time as a Registered Nurse in the Medical ICU at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center in Houston, Texas. Because she is able to "self-schedule," she continues to teach and perform when not at the hospital.

Katy's next goal is to bring her music passion into her nursing career.

"On the ICU unit where I work, the majority of our patients are on life support machines and breathing tubes," says Katy. "They can't speak, and many are truly at death's door. When the families find out about my background, I usually end up singing at their bedside."



In those situations, the music is profoundly therapeutic for the patients and their families. Katy hopes to work with Baylor St. Luke's to start a music therapy program where musicians perform at the bedside of patients unable to leave their rooms, but who would benefit greatly from the therapy.

"There is a need for music in the lives of many of my patients and their families, and I hope that I can use my gifts to fill that void," said Katy.

Whether it's in the collaborative environment of the theater or the hospital, Katy's words of advice about teamwork are simple: pull your weight.

"Show up prepared," says Katy. "Professional singing is always a team effort, whether you like it or not. I always depend on a pianist, an orchestra, or various other musicians to work with me in a performance."

Likewise, Katy approaches opera like a team sport. Working together with colleagues and performing as a team is pivotal.

"You share the nerves of live performance, and when things go awry and mistakes happen, which they always do, you help cover for each other, so no one is completely exposed," says Katy. "In that setting, no one person is more important than another."

Katy encourages any Oakridge student who is considering a career in the arts to take full advantage of the opportunities offered here, "because they are not common in today's world." Despite her great professional success, she says the most fulfilling part of being an artist is being able to teach and share that experience with others.





# NEW YORK ALUMNI MEET-UP

In April, the Oakridge Upper School Choir made its 10th trip to New York City to perform at Carnegie Hall, a tradition that provides a great opportunity to meet with area alumni. Headmaster Jon Kellam, Associate Head of Upper School Jim Andersen, Board Members, and staff gathered with Oakridge Alumni at three events over the weekend.

Thank you to all the former Owls who joined us: Danielle Alva '08, Christopher Grubb '10, Matthew Han '15, Kristen Kacinski '12, Matthew Little '10, Chase McCall '06, Cameron McLinden '05, Stephanie Murray '96, Lindsay Reese '12, Roxy Reynolds '11, Blake Roessler '08, Jessica Russell '05, Bunmi Solano '14, and Alex Watson '05.





# MIKE COBB NAMED HEAD OF SCHOOL AT ALL SAINTS IN TYLER

*By Michele Cole, Development Director*

On July 1, 2016, Admissions Director Mike Cobb will make the transition from The Oakridge School to All Saints Episcopal School in Tyler, Texas. After 20 years at Oakridge, he has accepted an invitation to become their next Head of School.

"While I am excited about this new opportunity, it was with a heavy heart and a deep love for Oakridge that I offered my resignation," said Mr. Cobb. His career at Oakridge has gone from coach and classroom teacher to Middle School divisional administrator to Admissions Director.




Mr. Cobb has touched every part of campus during his tenure here. Headmaster Jon Kellam said, "Mike has always exceeded expectations, and the vast experience he has gained at Oakridge has certainly prepared him well for the opportunities and challenges that await him in Tyler."

Mr. Cobb has played a key role in the implementation of the Ambassador Program, the public speaking initiative, the Learn 21 Program, and the Maker Space Movement. In addition, he has contributed to the success of the Summer

Programs, the *Outlook* magazine, and the school's website and parent portal. He has also guided the growth of several of Oakridge's curricular and extracurricular programs, and helped the school attract and retain many exceptional students and faculty members.

According to Mr. Cobb, "Oakridge has been more than a job, it has been my passion. It has been more than a school or community, it has been my family... Oakridge will remain in our hearts and prayers forever. It's where my daughter Cailey was raised, where we've formed the closest friendships of our lives, where I've had the incredible and humbling privilege of serving so many great families, and where a part of me will always be."

As Mr. Cobb transitions into his new role as Head of School at All Saints, it will allow him to take the next step in his career while pursuing his personal passions to inspire students and empower teachers to innovate with an expectation of excellence.

On behalf of the board, the faculty, and our community, thank you for your leadership, Mr. Cobb, and we wish you well. You will always be an Owl. 





# MOVE-UP NIGHTS

*By Sarah Kramer, Assistant Headmaster*

As a school that spans from age three through grade 12, a student moving from one grade to another should feel right at home, but Oakridge still provides transitions for its students.

Educationally, these transitions are an important facet of child development and help our students develop the resilience and grit that they will need when they get to college and in life. What are these transitions? They occur when our students move from the Early Childhood Center to “the big school” a.k.a. Lower School, Lower School to Middle School, and Middle School to Upper School.

The Oakridge School makes deliberate and strategic efforts to assist students and families in the transition from division to division. Dr. Sarah Schechter, Head of Lower School, meets with parents of rising first graders. Then, as our children get older, they meet with Middle and Upper School administrators, along with a parent, in move-up meetings to get acquainted with the next division and map out their coursework and goals. Students moving to Upper School also have the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the athletics and arts opportunities that will be introduced in the upper grades.



*MS Science Teacher Chris Henderson with rising fifth grader Joy.*

One additional tradition marks each student's transition to a new division: the move-up night. Though the ECC to first grade transition is focused on parents, move-up night from fourth to fifth grade and eighth to ninth grade is focused on the student and family. Hosted at Shady Valley Country Club, move-up nights are rites of passage for our students. Fourth graders and eighth graders meet in advance with Headmaster Jon Kellam to learn about the importance of a firm handshake, eye contact, “working a room,” and dressing to make a good first impression.



*Will '07 and Heather Clayton, parents to a rising first grader, with Headmaster Jon Kellam.*

“The opportunity to connect with the incoming freshmen is what makes the move-up night experience so special,” said Melissa Triebwasser who teaches Upper School digital arts and coaches. “I am always so impressed by the ability to interact with both their peers and adults that these young men and women show on this evening, and it builds a foundation for the relationships we will form with students in the years to come.”

On move-up night, the students unquestionably exceed the expectation set before them. It is not uncommon to see them leading conversations with their new teachers and division leaders, and it is a memorable and exciting event for families and educators alike.

“I thoroughly enjoy visiting with the students and parents in a formal environment,” said Athletic Director Shawn Meadows. “The smiles, laughter, and conversations make it one of the most enjoyable evenings of the year.”



*MS Art Teacher Susan Stone with a group of excited soon-to-be Middle School students.*



*Cheers and Tears kicks off the new school year.*





# OAKRIDGE PARENTS' CLUB

*By Michele Cole, Development Director*

The Oakridge Parents' Club (OPC) is fortunate to have such an energetic, devoted, and hard-working group of parents to support its events, activities, and fundraisers. You will see many parents on campus dropping off desserts or healthy snacks, welcoming new parents to Oakridge, setting up for events, or attending meetings. Over 300 families have joined the Oakridge Parents' Club, and this tireless group of parent volunteers directly contribute to the success of supporting the Parents' Club mission of providing for the educational enrichment of the students, promoting the fellowship of the families and staff, and raising funds to accomplish those objectives.

OPC enriches the experience of Oakridge children by organizing classroom and divisional parties; hosting Owlfest, Book Fair, and Holiday Treasures Gift Shop; providing Test Snacks; and throwing an After Prom Party.



*OPC provides a Faculty Appreciation lunch.*




*The Book Fair encourages reading while proceeds support the Oakridge Library.*



OPC provides opportunities for families to meet with each other and school faculty and staff through the Back to School Fair, Meet and Greet – Cheers and Tears Event, the Parent Ambassador program for new families, and Faculty and Teacher Appreciation luncheons.

OPC raises funds through membership dues, Uniform Resale, Box Top collection, OakridgePages.com, and primarily through our largest fundraiser, Magazine

Sales. The success of this year's fundraising allowed the OPC to provide and host all of their events and activities and still give back generously to the school at year-end. 

## OPC PROUDLY ALLOCATED OVER \$46,000 BACK TO THE SCHOOL IN THE FOLLOWING WAYS:

- **Early Childhood Center: Updated Sport Court/ Technology/Outdoor Classroom**
- **Lower School: Maker Space dedicated classroom**
- **Middle School: 21st Century Classroom**
- **Upper School: 21st Century Classroom**
- **Campus Wide: Phone and tablet charging stations**
- **Campus Wide: Fine arts and technology**
- **The Oakridge School General Endowment**
- **The Owl Angel Fund**



*Parent volunteers staff the Holiday Treasures Gift Shop.*



*The Halloween Owlfest is a popular event for students and families.*








# SUPER SUPPER AND AUCTION

By Michele Cole, Development Director

Of all of the fundraising events during the year, The Oakridge School Super Supper and Auction commands the biggest guest list and the loudest celebration. SkyBall in February welcomed 400-plus guests to the Worthington Renaissance Hotel in Fort Worth. It was an incredible night filled with amazing decorations, terrific auction items for guests to bid on, and dancing the night away to the band Professor D.

Angela Kasko, parent of Brittany '16 and Billy '14, chaired the event for the second straight year. She led a committee of more than 20 members and a group of day-of volunteers to transform the ballroom into a magical James Bond scene. The auction serves an important purpose every year in that it meets the School's operating needs while providing a fantastic gathering for the Owl community.

A special thank you to the sponsors, attendees, auction donors, and committees. 

## *Sponsors*

### **DIAMONDS ARE FOREVER**

*The Quinn Family*

*Renaissance Worthington Hotel  
Fort Worth*

*Martin Sprocket & Gear – The Reynolds Family*

### **TUITION RAFFLE SPONSOR**

*Frost*

### **FOR YOUR EYES ONLY**

*Laura and Steve Crudup*

*Frontline Source Group – The Kasko Family*

### **CASINO ROYALE**

*Queenan Law Firm – The Queenan Family*

### **THE SPY WHO LOVED ME**

*Families of Barley, Hey, Jones,  
McGraw/Peterson, Roach*

*Pecan Park Dental – The Schoening Family*

*Walnut Creek Country Club*

*Ebby Halliday – The Arredondo Family*

*Worthington National Bank*

*Dakk Fine Cars, LLC*



# ALUMNI NEWS

## Class of 1991

**Doug Murray (1991)** and his dad, Scott, won a 2015 Lone Star EMMY for the "Conversations with Scott Murray" television program produced by Murray Media where Doug, President and COO, works with his dad. Doug and Scott spent two weeks in Belgium, France, and several other locations with a dozen WWII veterans gathering stories. The trip culminated with a visit to Omaha Beach in Normandy, France. This special episode on the 70th Anniversary of the D-Day Invasion in Europe was what earned them their EMMY win.



## Class of 1994

**Sarah Butts (1994)** was featured on the local news for using therapy dogs to support students in her special education classroom. Also, Sarah got engaged to Mike Green in March while on vacation with her family. Best wishes to Sarah and Mike!

## Class of 1995

**Arden DeVore Ellis (1995)** is the Volunteer Coordinator for The Birthday Party Project in Dallas, Texas. Their mission is to bring joy to homeless children through the magic of birthdays. They have expanded to several major cities throughout the United States. If you are interested in participating, Arden would love to hear from you. Visit [www.thebirthdaypartyproject.org](http://www.thebirthdaypartyproject.org).

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## Class of 1997

**Amanda Garrett Taylor (1997)** was sworn in as a board certified civil appellate lawyer in March and works as an Appellate Partner at MTLT&A in Austin.

## Class of 1999

**Scott Hennigan (1999)** married Kelsey Phillips on March 12 in Arlington, Texas. Scott had many Owls join him in his wedding party and on his big day.



## Class of 2001

**Tara Anderson Lockhart (2001)** and her husband Ryan had their third baby Gentry. Gentry joins big siblings Holden and Landry Kate.



## Class of 2007

**Kellye Hunt Raughton (2007)** is the owner of Maven, a clothing and décor boutique on Camp Bowie in Fort Worth.

Visit her to see a beautiful and unique setting for some special items.

Brother and sister duo Ryan and **Lindsey Gamill (2007)** have begun a business venture together at Smart Realty. They specialize in helping their clients through the residential buying and selling experience and serve the Dallas/Fort Worth area.

## Class of 2008

**Brittney Gooden (2008)** took a position with the discount grocery chain Lidl USA as a Sales Operations Manager in their Future Leader Program. This chain is based in Europe but is expanding into the U.S. in 2017. Until then, Brittney has relocated to Frankfurt, Germany, for training.

## Class of 2009

**Chris Stoll (2009)** recently returned to the U.S. after years living and working in rural Japan. Currently, he is touring the United States to promote his crowdfunded book at local libraries, shops, and schools. The book, *A Natural History of the Fantastic*, is an illustrated bestiary that details the anatomy, behavior, and origins of fantasy creatures and stresses the value of exploration and curiosity in the face of superstition. Chris has also turned an old church bus into a livable RV and is touring the country in the bus to promote his book.





## Class of 2010

**Jordan Duggan (2010)** and **Teu Kautai (2010)** were married on January 2, 2016, at a ceremony at The Ritz Carlton in Dallas. Jordan and Teu were joined in their special day by many other Oakridge alumni.



## Class of 2011

Midshipman **Curt Allen (2011)** will graduate from The U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, this May. Curt will begin his career as a Submarine Officer for the next 5 years. He will report to nuclear power school in Charleston, South Carolina, this fall to become a qualified submarine officer. Curt has the distinction of being the 2015 Collegiate National Champion Powerlifter for the 205 weight class. As the team captain and an integral part of building a strong, cohesive team, Curt competed on April 13 at the USAPL Collegiate Nationals in Providence, Rhode Island.



**Ambra Tiezen (2011)** graduated from Syracuse University and has been hired as a User Experience Designer at Active Network's world headquarters in Dallas. Ambra's company was named one of *D Magazine's* Coolest Workplaces in Dallas-Fort Worth.

**Whitlee Fagan (2011)** joined the US Marine Corps at the end of 2013. He has completed over 2 years of training and school to become a Levantine Arabic Cryptologic Linguist, and he is now in the active fleet. He graduated from Language School in Monterey, California, in October.



## Class of 2012

**Hersh Trivedi (2012)** is graduating from Dartmouth in May with a degree in Neuroscience with plans to attend medical school.

**Devon Harper (2012)** studies music education at Tarleton State University. She has been chosen to be one of the student conductors at TCDA (Texas Choral Directors Association) this summer.

**Emma Leffler (2012)**, a Pharmacy major at Southwestern Oklahoma State University, has been named a Newman Civic Fellow. This award is given to students who are recognized by their university president as representing excellence in civic and community engagement. Emma has served as president of the Phi Delta Chi Pharmacy Leadership Fraternity and as part of the American Pharmacists' Association Academy of Student Pharmacists, serving

as chair for both Operation Heart and Operation Over-the-Counter Medication Safety. She was also instrumental in creating a western Oklahoma "glow" run to benefit the American Cancer Society.

## Class of 2013

**Connie Tran (2013)** was recently hired as a Supplemental Instructor in Chemistry at Baylor University. She will be starting this role in the fall of 2016 and will continue her work as a Laboratory Teaching Assistant in Chemistry and a Group Fitness Instructor for the Baylor Wellness Department.

**Shaleigh Hefflin (2013)** has been competing in the Miss California Scholarship Organization. She placed first runner up in Miss San Fernando Valley and second runner up in Miss Hollywood. Shaleigh also appeared in Pepperdine's performance of the opera *Zauberflute* or *The Magic Flute*. She is planning to go to NYU this summer and attend the Nordoff Robbins Music Therapy summer program.

## Class of 2014

**Carter Jane Pond (2014)** will study abroad at University of Sydney this fall as part of her Vanderbilt University education.

**Landry Petersen (2014)** will be studying in Paris this summer as part of her University of Arkansas education.

**Alex Schies (2014)**, a member of the golf team at Texas Wesleyan University, was named Sooner Athletic Conference Women's Golf Player of the Week for two weeks in a row in March. The first was for her performance at the Midwestern State Invitational. Alex was also the individual winner at the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University's Eagle Invitational, the third win of her career and second in that season, making her Wesleyan's career leader in wins and the first player to take multiple wins in a single season.

## Class of 2015

**Jaclyn McLean (2015)** is a Business/Economics major at Wheaton College and a pitcher on the Wheaton softball team.



**Michelle Cane (2015)** participated in an internship at Echo Hill Outdoor School in Madagascar. The school exists to provide students with positive experiences in the outdoors that are exciting, interesting, and fun. Through their programs, students learn more about the wonders of nature, the value of history, and the diversity of individual qualities.

**Ryan Fitzgerald (2015)** has been accepted to study abroad in Duke University's Australia program this summer.

**Jessica Hubble (2015)** was offered a position as a staff writer at Baylor University. Shortly thereafter, she wrote her first article. It was chosen as the front page story of the school paper, *The Lariat*.



## Keep in Touch!

*Oakridge Alumni, please send us your updated contact information and news for future Outlook magazines. Visit [www.theoakridgeschool.org/alumni](http://www.theoakridgeschool.org/alumni) to share your news, or email Amy Ladner Wilson '92 at [alumni@oakridgeowls.net](mailto:alumni@oakridgeowls.net).*

*Are you a member of the Alumni Facebook Group? Search Alumni Association - The Oakridge School on Facebook and click "Join Group" to receive updates and stay in touch with fellow alumni.*

## Find & Follow The Oakridge School Online



@oakridgeowls



The Oakridge School



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TheOakridgeSchool



# ALUMNI GAMES DAY

On December 18, 2015, more than 75 alumni returned to The Oakridge School to participate in Alumni Games Day. Each alum received an alumni T-shirt and “suited up” to play against our current students in Girls Soccer, Boys Soccer, co-ed Volleyball, Girls Basketball, and Boys Basketball. Hamburgers and hot dogs were on the grill and provided by The Owl Club for all to enjoy.

Fans and families are welcome as spectators for the Alumni Games. We hope to see you next year.





# vidigami

the place for school memories

## GOT PHOTOS?

This year, The Oakridge School partnered with Vidigami, a secure, web-based photo management system that allows us to capture, organize, and privately share school photos with members of our current parent community.

To date, thousands of photos have been posted on the Oakridge Vidigami from school events, athletics competitions, theater productions, and more.

If you still need to activate your account, contact Amanda Harrier ([aharrier@theoakridgeschool.org](mailto:aharrier@theoakridgeschool.org)) or Lauren Matocha ([lmatocha@theoakridgeschool.org](mailto:lmatocha@theoakridgeschool.org)).





# 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 basic skills as well as cultural, emotional and physical development, which prepares 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 achieve 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, in high moral and ethical standards, in honor, in the respect of the opinions and the rights of others, in the realization and acceptance of the consequences of an individual's actions, and in the pursuit of knowledge as a lifelong experience.

We believe the graduates of The Oakridge School should be men and women of good character who have developed a healthy respect for self, and 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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## 2015-2016

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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](mailto:tfoster@theoakridgeschool.org).

## *Congratulations to the Oakridge Class of 2016*



*100% of our 83 graduates accepted to 163 colleges and universities  
\$9.8 million in merit-based scholarship offers*

*3 National Merit Finalists  
1 National Hispanic Scholar  
4 National Merit Commended  
6 Committed College Athletes*