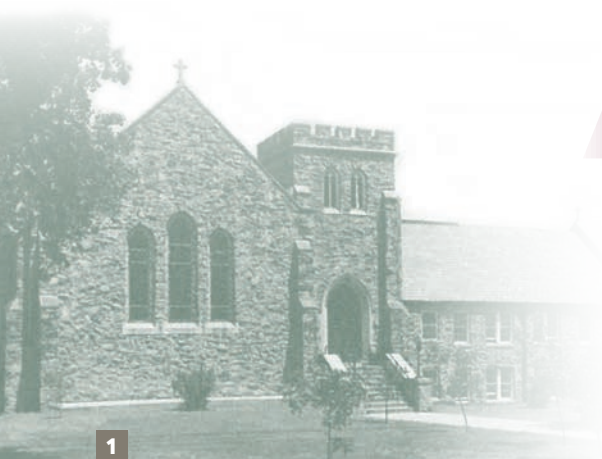




A VISION GREW AND GREW

Supporters Turn *Determination* and *Philanthropy*
into a *Legacy of Innovation* for the 21st Century



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IN 1967, FOLLOWING A SERIES OF DECISIONS that would set a small downtown Raleigh church school on the path to becoming one of the Triangle's top independent schools, Ravenscroft board members recognized that the best way to achieve their vision for the school was to relocate it. Over the next few years, dedicated supporters — including brothers Robert Holding Jr., Frank Holding and Lewis “Snow” Holding, Fran and **WATSON PUGH '38**, Mary Ann Broughton, Jack Carter and Victor Bell Jr. — worked tirelessly to make that possible.

1. Christ Church in downtown Raleigh was home to Ravenscroft from 1937-1969.
2. Aerial photography from the earliest years of campus development shows open fields, tree-covered hills and rows of temporary trailers.
3. The Murphy Family Bell Tower and Arboretum, a gift from alumni parents Pete and Lynn Murphy, was dedicated on May 31, 1996, and has since become one of the most iconic structures on campus.
4. An early vision of the campus included dormitories and faculty residences.

1969

“I remember the day the Holding brothers came to the house to talk to us,” Fran Pugh, who has served on the board of trustees since 1969, recalled. “A vision grew and grew, and we had the right folks in place to make it happen.”

Two years later, when students and faculty arrived on the new campus, situated on 115 shaded acres in north Raleigh at what was then the end of the city's water and sewer lines, they held class in temporary trailers placed amidst the pines. They likely could not have imagined how quickly the determination of those early leaders would translate into brick and mortar, desks and chalkboards, sidewalks and athletic fields.

“The school transitioned very rapidly to a full-fledged campus,” former trustee **BILL MOSS '74**, who was among the first class of eighth-graders, said. “Every year I was there, a new building opened.”

In the 50 years since, the campus has become home to more than 312,000 square feet of instructional facilities, including 15 science and 10 STEM+ innovation labs, an outdoor learning center, a comprehensive fine arts center and 16-plus acres of athletic fields.

Four major fundraising and building campaigns, made possible by the foresight, tenacity and generosity of Ravenscroft's many supporters, gave this campus its current footprint. Honoring that legacy, school leaders of today continue to make strategic (and often creative) use of these spaces to meet the needs of Ravens now and in the years to come.



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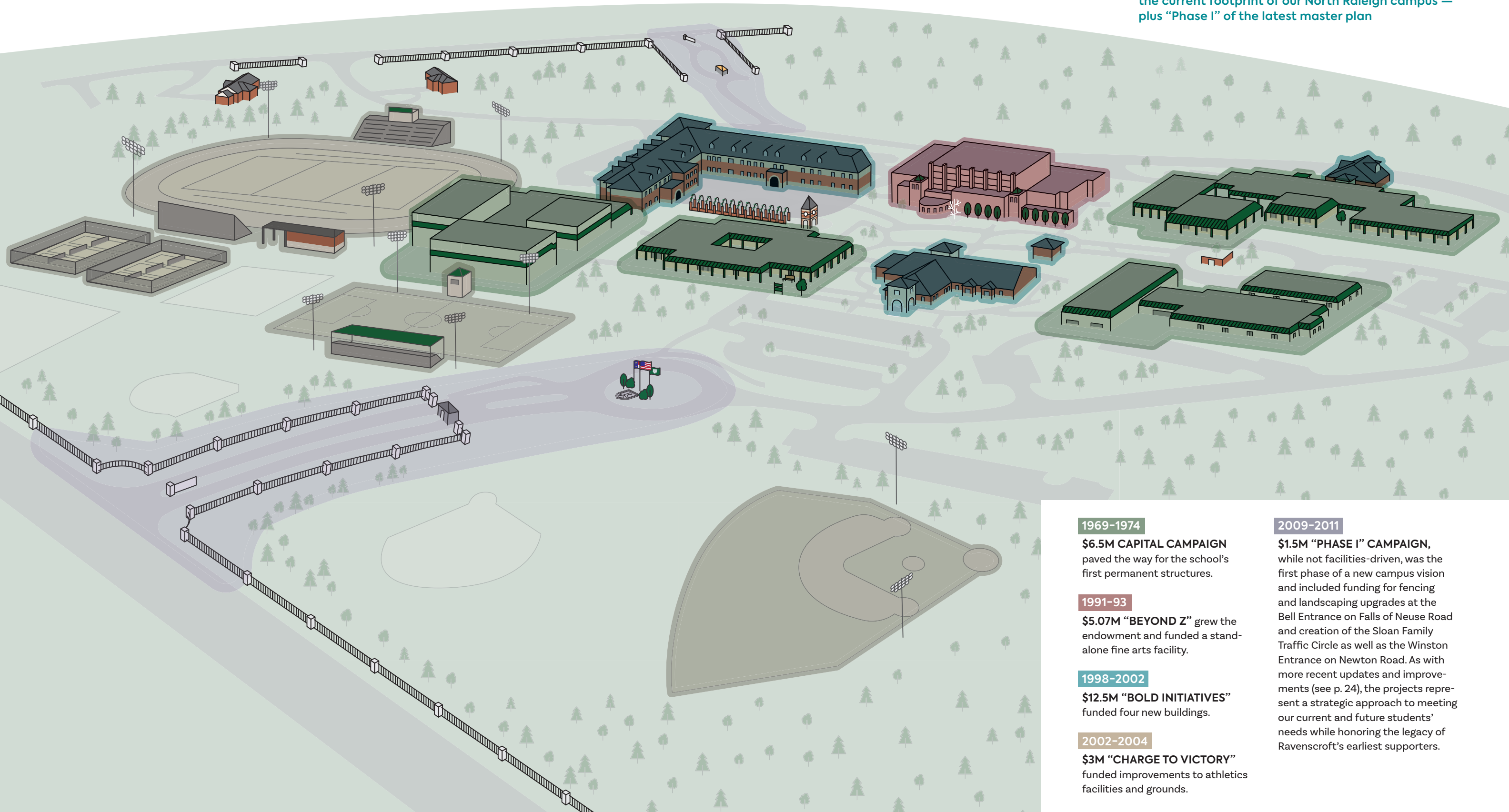
“A vision grew and grew, and we had the right folks in place to make it happen.”

—FRAN PUGH, BOARD OF
TRUSTEES MEMBER
SINCE 1969



4

The four major capital campaigns that established the current footprint of our North Raleigh campus — plus “Phase I” of the latest master plan



1969-1974

\$6.5M CAPITAL CAMPAIGN paved the way for the school's first permanent structures.

1991-93

\$5.07M “BEYOND Z” grew the endowment and funded a stand-alone fine arts facility.

1998-2002

\$12.5M “BOLD INITIATIVES” funded four new buildings.

2002-2004

\$3M “CHARGE TO VICTORY” funded improvements to athletics facilities and grounds.

2009-2011

\$1.5M “PHASE I” CAMPAIGN, while not facilities-driven, was the first phase of a new campus vision and included funding for fencing and landscaping upgrades at the Bell Entrance on Falls of Neuse Road and creation of the Sloan Family Traffic Circle as well as the Winston Entrance on Newton Road. As with more recent updates and improvements (see p. 24), the projects represent a strategic approach to meeting our current and future students' needs while honoring the legacy of Ravenscroft's earliest supporters.

AN AMBITIOUS VISION

It was in large part at the direction of the Holding brothers — who were confident enough that Raleigh could support a major college preparatory school that they put forth a 30-day, \$750,000 challenge grant to the rest of the board — that an ambitious vision for the north Raleigh campus took shape.

The plan called for a rigorous, innovative curriculum for K-8 students, with an Upper School to come; state-of-the-art academic, arts and athletic facilities; and enrollment of 1,000 students within five years. As efficiently as the board had answered the Holdings’ matching challenge, they set to meeting those goals.

A \$6.5M capital campaign paved the way for construction of the school’s first permanent structures, with groundbreaking for the Middle School (now Richards Hall, dedicated in 1980 in honor of longtime trustee and benefactor E.N. Richards) taking place on March 24, 1970. Determined to make the event more exciting, the board replaced the ceremonial dirt-shoveling with a blast of dynamite. By Sept. 9, the first of the now-iconic campus buildings was ready.

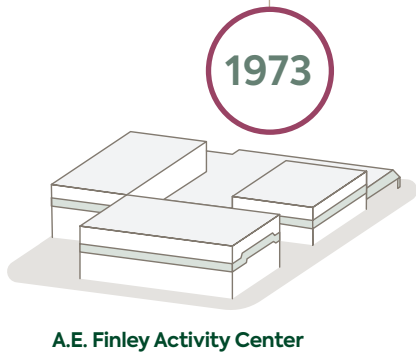
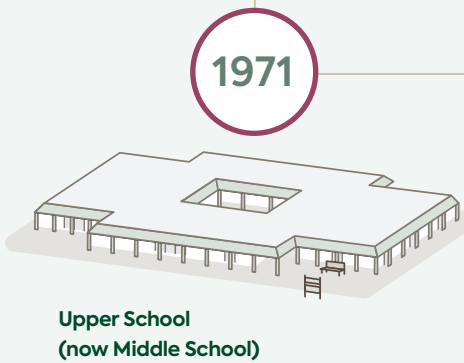
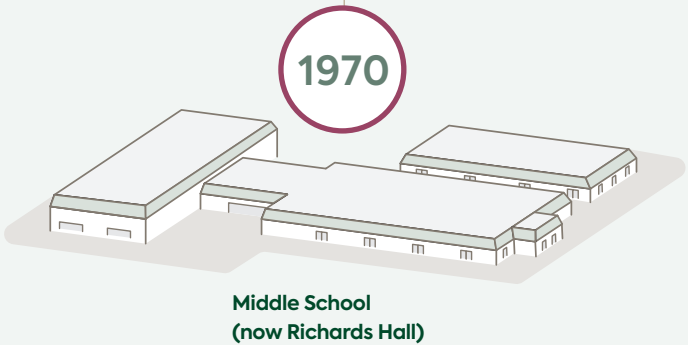
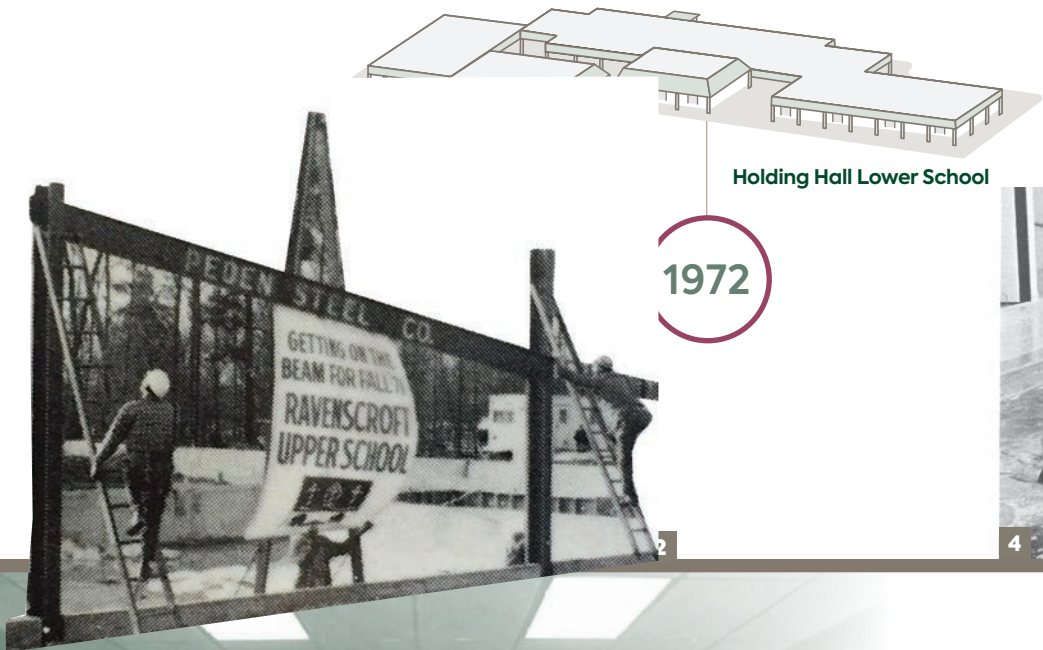
Each year, another new building followed. Members of the Class of 1974, who were then, as ninth-graders, the oldest original students on campus, took part in a “steel-raising” ceremony heralding the start of the Upper School (now the Middle School) on Dec. 17, 1970. By March 14, 1972, the Lower School project — eventually dedicated, at Snow Holding’s request, in honor of the brothers’ parents — was underway, its open floor plan providing flexible space for up to 400 students.

The final project began on Aug. 16, 1972. Completed in just eight months, the A.E. Finley Activity Center boasted a 1,500-seat main gym, an indoor swimming pool, a wrestling room, a dance studio and a student lounge. It was dedicated in 1974 in honor of the philanthropist and soon-to-be Ravenscroft trustee, who would eventually direct a portion of his estate, through the A.E. Finley Foundation, to provide for the building’s upkeep in perpetuity.

Aggressive fundraising by the school’s original champions would continue well into the 1980s. (As Fran Pugh remembered, it took until 1984 to pay off the school’s initial mortgage.) But the early flurry of building — which, as the Holdings had hoped, soon accommodated 1,000 students in kindergarten through 12th grade — would serve the school well for another decade.

\$6.5M

- 1. The original Middle School and gym, shown here in 1972, was dedicated in honor of E.N. Richards in 1980.
- 2. Members of the Class of 1974 participate in a “steel-raising” ceremony kicking off construction of the Upper School in December 1970.
- 3. The 1972 Corvus yearbook highlights the wide hallways that remain the hallmark of the original Upper School, now the Middle School.
- 4. The final project in the initial phase of campus building, the A.E. Finley Activity Center included an indoor swimming pool.



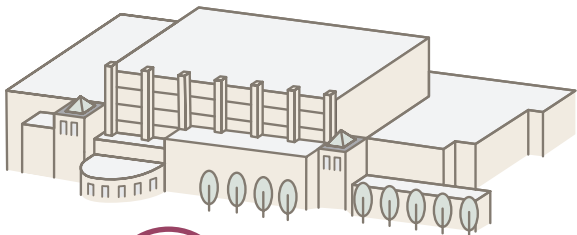
“The existing buildings had served the school’s needs exceedingly well, but no new building had taken place since 1974.”

—MARY MOSS, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT 1990–2001

REPUTATION FOR EXCELLENCE

As the north Raleigh campus approached its 20th anniversary, school leaders embarked on a five-year strategic plan. As Mary Moss, who served as Ravenscroft’s director of development from 1990 to 2001, noted, “The existing buildings had served the school’s needs exceedingly well, but no new building had taken place since 1974.”

The \$5.07M “Beyond Z” capital campaign — chaired by trustee Courtney Mauzy and his wife, Bo, with support from fellow parents James and Connie Maynard and alumni **DEAN SHAVLIK ’80** and **MICHAEL ’77** and **TAL HINNANT MANGUM ’77** — sought to grow the school’s endowment and fund a stand-alone fine arts facility. Fundraising for the new building got a significant boost when the A.J. Fletcher Foundation, whose benefactor had donated \$10,000 for fine arts programs in 1974, issued a \$750,000 challenge gift.



1993

The Fine Arts Center



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When the Fine Arts Center opened on Nov. 4, 1993, it ushered in a new era in the school’s long-standing commitment to arts education. From the large, sunlit classrooms for band, strings, chorus and visual art to the dedicated studios for private lessons (a much-beloved program since the Tucker Street era) and the 458-seat auditorium and lobby gallery in which students’ artistic endeavors were showcased, the center bolstered the school’s reputation for excellence in both its programs and its facilities.

beyond Z

- 1. This aerial photo shows the initial campus buildings and remaining trailers, before the addition of the Fine Arts Center more than a decade later.
- 2. Alumni join the choir in singing “White Christmas” in the new Fine Arts Center just one month after its dedication in November 1993.
- 3. The Fine Arts Center was the first new building on campus in nearly 20 years; it was expanded in 2005 with the seamless addition of the *young peoples’ theatre*.
- 4. Middle School students pose together after performing their Honors Recital in the new center in April 1994.



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bold initiatives

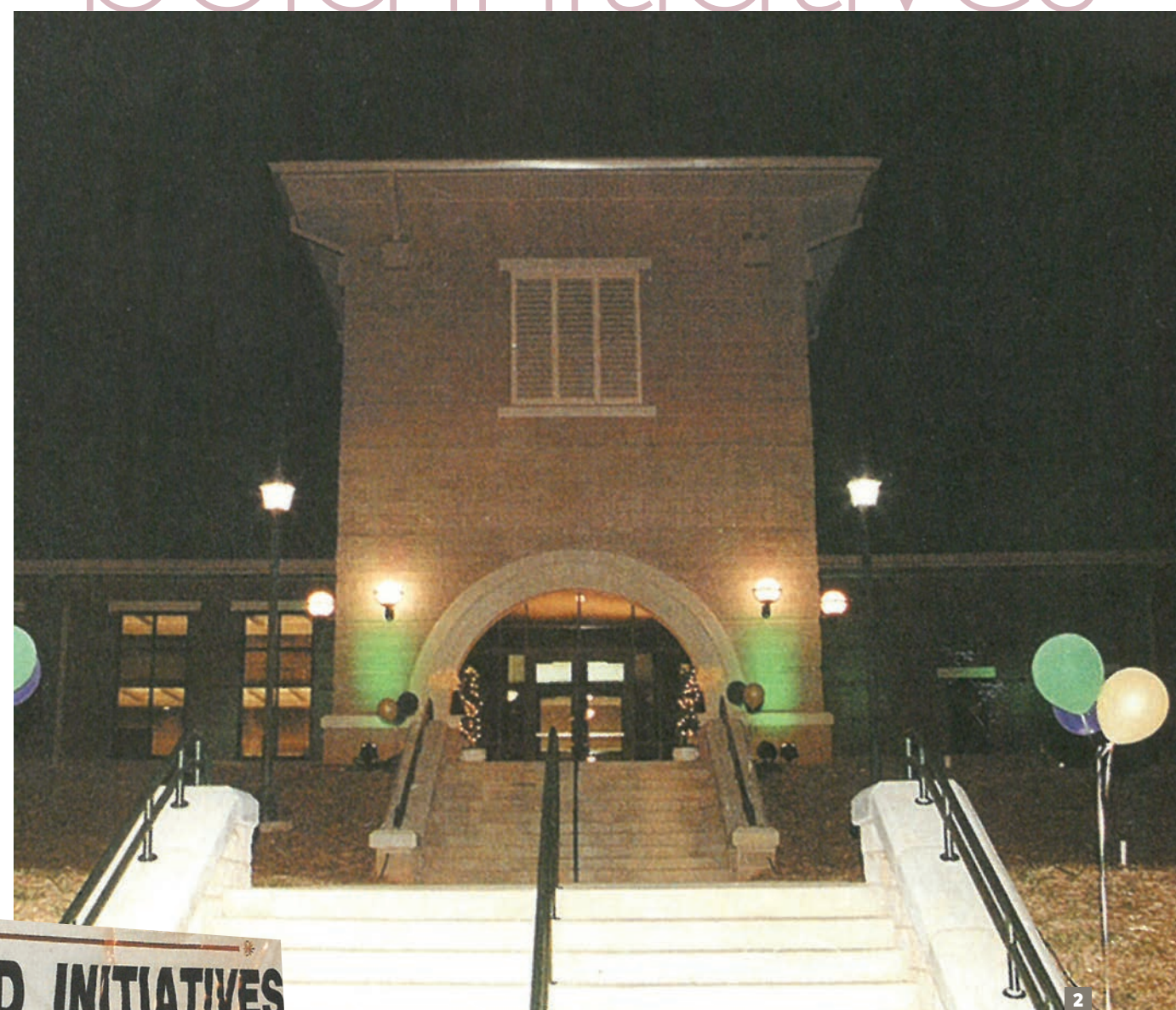
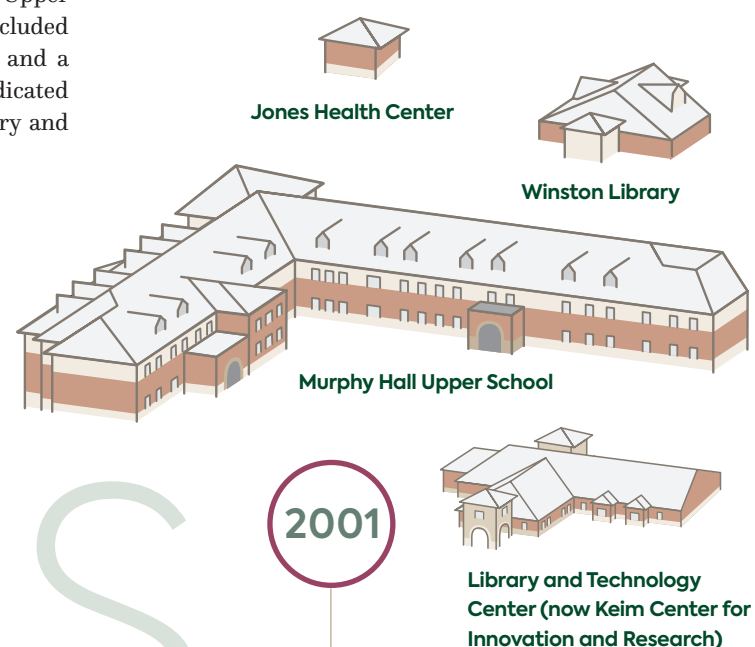
INVESTED IN THE SCHOOL'S SUCCESS

As that strategic plan came to a close in 1993, trustees moved quickly to build on those successes and target new areas of growth and improvement. The \$12.5M "Bold Initiatives" capital campaign, developed in response to a 25-year campus master plan approved by the board in 1998, aimed to modernize the campus. Separate challenge grants from Jan and Munther Qubain (\$1M) and Lynn and Pete Murphy (\$1.5M on a 1:2 basis) energized donors.

The four-year campaign made possible the construction of four elegant buildings in 2001. The new Upper School, named in honor of the Murphy family, included science and language labs, faculty office suites and a sunny café space. The Lower School library, dedicated to Charles and Florence Winston, and the Library and

Technology Center (LTC) provided additional space for educational programming. The Jones Health Center, a gift of the Seby B. Jones family, provided a bright new space for the school nurse, who was still working out of the last of the 21 trailers brought in as temporary facilities in 1969.

"Campaign co-chairs Merrill and Marilyn Hunter lived and breathed the success of that campaign for the benefit of our students and teachers," Mary Moss said of Bold Initiatives. "All of us were invested in the school's success and wanted Ravenscroft to continue to be a leader in education."



BOLD INITIATIVES
\$12,716,198.00

1. Students pose with the new Library and Technology Center behind them in this photo from the 2001 Annual Report.
2. Campaign organizers celebrate the successful conclusion of Bold Initiatives with a gala event on campus.
3. The Class of 2004 takes a snowy senior photo in front of the new Upper School, which was dedicated to the Murphy family in 2002.





FIRST-CLASS FACILITIES

Throughout the school’s growth, athletics was another point of pride for Ravenscroft. Starting with early success in both girls and boys soccer under Coach Bill Holleman in the 1970s, the school had also become a dominant force in tennis, swimming, basketball and football. Ravenscroft’s football field, informally known as “The Bowl” for its scooped-out playing field, was the envy of area schools.

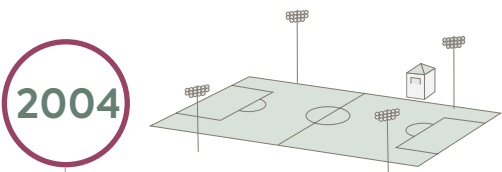
However, by the close of Bold Initiatives, the need to update some of the school’s playing fields — largely unchanged since a series of upgrades in 1985 — was looming. “There was a deep need to do something for our

athletic facilities,” Athletic Director Ned Gonet explained. “Conversations in the early 2000s about expanding our track led to a plan to fill in The Bowl and greatly improve stadium amenities.”

In 2003, the \$3M “Charge to Victory” campaign got underway, with trustee Mike Condrey as chair. Managing new construction, renovations and field upgrades across all three athletic seasons required significant logistical agility — including playing the 2003 Homecoming football game on the soccer field — but resulted, in the end, in major improvements to facilities

and grounds for nearly every outdoor sport and several upgrades in the Finley Activity Center, including the creation of the Hall of Fame Room and the installation of ADA-compliant bleacher seating in the Main Arena.

“We want to give our students first-class facilities,” Gonet said. “Charge to Victory revitalized our facilities on a large scale and helped make our athletic program what it is today.”



charge to victory



1 AND 2. Charge to Victory funded improvements to many outdoor athletic facilities, including the tennis courts and baseball field.

3. Aerial photography captures the additions of buildings funded by Bold Initiatives and the athletic upgrades made possible by Charge to Victory.

4. A collage from the 2004 Corvus highlights the many sports Ravens enjoyed.

5. Upgrades to the football stadium included a stately new entrance — dedicated in honor of Athletic Director Ned Gonet in 2006 — with ticketing and concessions areas.

