Letter from Alumni Association President, Jonathan Gach

Dear Fellow Alumni,

In the short time I have served as the new Alumni Board President, I have gained a deeper appreciation for all of the contributions that students, faculty, staff, and families make towards what makes the Carolina Day School community so special. Even after a decade and a half since my graduation, I continue to feel a connection with the shared experiences and people affiliated with CDS. We look forward to hearing from you and invite you to be a part of the connection we all share through our school memories and celebrating the excitement of your life experiences with the re-launch of the Alumni Association newsletter.

Sincerely,
Jonathan Gach ’05

On the Cover: CDS Alumni Parents

Many alumni now have children of their own enrolled in Carolina Day School, and they see the strong educational experience through new, multigenerational perspectives. Steve Henry (ACDS ’86), Scott Groce (CDS ’95), Elizabeth Flynn (CDS ’88), Brian Turner (CDS ’92), Swati Patel (CDS ’92), Robin Oswald (CDS ’88), and Trip Cogburn (CDS ’98)

Carolina Day School Current Demographics and Statistics

Continuing the traditions of our predecessor schools, Carolina Day embodies the highest standards of academic achievement, character development, and the belief in developing young people for lives of leadership and service to community.

The following information highlights our current demographics and achievements:

• Carolina Day School currently has 597 students enrolled
• 71% of our current faculty have taught at Carolina Day School for more than 10 years
• 43% of our faculty have obtained a Master’s Degree
• 80% of our eligible students (Grades 5-12) participate in organized sports
• All of our 2021 Graduates had ACT and/or SAT scores above the state and national averages
Many people don’t often see the back of the Nash Athletic Center, but it is the backdrop to Stephens Hall and the courtyard where Middle and Key Middle School students gather, play, and eat every day. To brighten this space in a meaningful and engaging way, PK-8 Principal Lauren Evans had dialogue with Middle School students about what they’d like to see in a public mural. Incorporating the feedback, artist Zander Stefani delivered sketches that were reviewed by the students. Stefani completed the painting of the mural in November 2021, and it has made a lovely difference! Best of all, it serves as an example of student input in the beautification of a campus space they see every day. In these photos, Kindergarten students take a walking field trip to Stephens Hall to look at the mural.

Since 2014, every two years Carolina Day students raise funds and work on building sites as Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity home sponsors. This year’s Habitat Student Build—a home going to a family of seven—is sponsored by six local schools: Carolina Day School, Asheville Christian Academy, Christ School, The Franklin School of Innovation, The Asheville School, and Nesbitt Discovery Academy. In this photo CDS Upper School students were at the site for their first build day. The home is scheduled to be complete and keys delivered to the owner this spring.

In September, CDS celebrated the beloved tradition of our 27th annual Pre-K class Monarch Migration. Pre-K students spend many weeks in the beginning of the school year learning about the life cycle of the monarch caterpillar, and the lesson’s capstone is a simulation of monarch butterflies’ migration to Mexico. Our Class of 2022 “Hallelujah Seniors”—those who have attended Carolina Day from Pre-K through senior year and were little monarchs themselves in Pre-K—led a parade of butterflies (4-year olds) and caterpillars (3-year olds) as they gathered “nectar” (apple juice) along the way.
The 4th grade year immerses students in different aspects of the United States. Beginning with physical and political geography, students begin to create an understanding of how the U.S. developed as a country. Throughout the year students trace different migratory routes and learn how the country evolved into how it looks today. The map on the 4th grade wall represents an evolution of learning as we progress through the units. Students contributed geographical attributes, such as the Grand Canyon and Mt. Saint Helens, which were topics of scientific, geological study. They researched and noted native people for each state and learned how each state’s name originated. 4th graders mapped routes of explorers in the Lewis and Clark Expedition and the route native people took west as a result of the Indian Removal Act. This map represents an evolution of 4th graders’ learning and understanding of our nation and has been added to throughout the year.

Children today may seem like experts at using technology, but the digital world requires many skills and habits young people can’t just pick up as they go. To help them learn these skills, our students in grades PK–8 took part in Digital Citizenship classroom lessons from Common Sense Education during Digital Citizenship week, January 24–28, 2022. These lessons help students learn the habits and skills they need in order to use technology safely and responsibly in school, at home, and beyond. Lessons for students in grades PK–2 help develop healthy media habits and learn how to be safe online. Lessons for students in grades 3–5 continue to focus on screen time and online safety. Students in grades 6–8 (pictured) also learn how to recognize cyberbullying, what is and isn’t OK to share online, and how to find credible news and information.

The annual 10th grade college trip is a significant and valued experience for our sophomores at CDS. The trip exposes students to a variety of colleges of different sizes, settings, and offerings. The experience overall is enlightening to students in the process of considering what college would be best for them. Due to the pandemic, last year’s sophomores (our current juniors) were unable to take an in-person trip and instead spent two half-days engaging in a number of virtual experiences that introduced them to the college process. Thankfully we were able to reinstate some of the in-person experience this year for both sophomores and juniors in November 2021 with multiple trips!
Homecoming 2021 took place on October 15, 2021. It was our first community-wide event since the start of the pandemic. It was hosted safely outside on the main campus, and was attended by hundreds of CDS community members. At Sgro Field we welcomed alumni to a tailgate event with live music, a bier garden, and ax throwing.

Wildcat WinterFest

ST. GENEVIEVE-OF-THE-PINES

January 6, 2022, marked the 114th anniversary of St. Genevieve-of-the-Pines (SGP) opening in Asheville, North Carolina. To honor and recognize all of our cherished alumnae and the more recent alumni of St. Genevieve - Gibbons Hall (SG-GH), the Alumni Association sponsored a historical display in the Upper School library. The display lasted for one week and included an interactive scavenger hunt for students and staff and beautiful framed panels loaned by Kieta Osteen-Cochrane SGP ‘60 and Stuart Camblos SGP ‘66. A few alumnae joined us for a “walk down memory lane” during the week and some even shared additional items and memorabilia with us.

Save the Date!

You won’t want to miss these upcoming events for Alumni!

Alumni Days of Giving
May 24 - May 27, 2022
(See the Alumni Giving Section for more information)

Asheville Country Day School Interactive Historical Display
Week of September 12, 2022
Upper School Library

Homecoming 2022
September 30, 2022
Carolina Day School

2022 Alumni Awards Presentation and Reception
September 30, 2022
This is a private event; an invitation and RSVP will be required.

Wildcat Winterfest
Holiday on the Hill Celebration
December 15, 2022
Bring your family to experience the WinterFest activities and then join other Alumni for a light dinner and refreshments.
On Thursday, September 29, 2022, the St. Genevieve-of-the-Pines (SGP) and Gibbons Hall (GH) alumni will gather at the restored SGP Ivy Building, which now is part of the Asheville-Buncombe Technical campus. It is an opportunity for SGP and GH alumni to catch up, have refreshments and see the results of the incredible restoration of their former school building. St. Genevieve-of-the-Pines, a private Catholic school for girls, was started in 1908 by Catholic nuns from a French order known as “the Religious of Christian Education.” The school offered both a day and a boarding option. The all-boys school was known as Gibbons Hall. Designed by notable architect Willis Irvin in 1936, the Ivy Building was used until the school closed in 1987, when A-B Tech purchased the entire property of the former school.

For years this Gothic Revival auditorium served as the campus gymnasium and held many class graduations on the stage. Today the Ivy Building continues to serve students and staff of the A-B Tech community. The auditorium is currently used for classes, special events, and can be rented out for private events during weekends. It houses the A-B Tech Foundation on the bottom floor. At the handsomely restored front entrance and other interior walls are historic plaques to commemorate earlier times when the Ivy Building was one of many buildings on the St. Genevieve campus. The SGP girls could easily walk from their classroom to the auditorium.

In 2010, plans were made to demolish the Ivy Building for a parking lot, but fortunately the Preservation Society of Asheville and Buncombe, under the leadership of Jack Thomas, initiated the “Save the Ivy Project.” Alumni from the schools and preservationists mounted an incredibly successful campaign to “Save the Ivy” during a period of growth at A-B Tech, said Amanda Edwards, Executive Director of College Advancement. “We were fortunate to have leadership who saw the significance of this building and had a vision for how it could be a part of the College. The Foundation is proud to have led the community fundraising campaign to complete the project.”

Now, the beautifully restored Ivy Building stands as the one original building on site. The other SGP structure, also restored through efforts by the SGP alumnae, is the historic St. Genevieve-of-the-Pines grotto, which was moved to the Carolina Day School campus stone by stone and rebuilt according to the original plans.

In October, 2008, a Centennial Celebration was held with many alumni coming to the area. On September 22, they will return to appreciate the restoration of the preserved Ivy Building.
The Annual Fund is the foundation of everything we do at CDS, and a high percentage of community participation is the barometer of a school’s strength.

By investing in the Annual Fund, you support:

Where it’s needed most: This allows for us to have flexibility to plan for the unexpected throughout the school year.

Academics: We provide students the opportunity to actively engage in the classroom by offering a rich co-curricula program: Spanish, art, music, STEM, physical education and library. Our Key School offers a unique educational experience for students with language-based learning needs.

Arts: Our vibrant arts program enriches our learning environment as it encourages students to become open-minded critics, to appreciate alternative forms of self-expression, and to articulate ideas in a variety of creative ways.

Athletics: We believe in the value of play and teamwork. We know that when you provide students experiences outside of the classroom in a team sport environment, they develop leadership skills, self-confidence, teamwork, and discipline.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & Belonging: We are committed to CDS students, families, faculty and staff and we work hard to ensure that our campus is a place where everyone finds a sense of belonging and feels included. With the creation of affinity groups such as the BSU (black student union) and others, as well as providing professional and student development opportunities, we are continually growing our school to reflect the world around us.

Financial Aid: A strong financial aid budget is key to making CDS accessible to students and families in our community from a variety of backgrounds and means. We award need-based financial aid to approximately 20% of our students year to year.

Faculty & Staff: By providing our faculty and staff with ongoing professional development opportunities, we are able to attract and retain teachers who are passionate about education and who will continually cultivate and deliver the best learning experiences for their students.

Scan this QR code with your phone’s camera or go to CarolinaDay.org/Give to make your gift today!

Alumni Days of Giving
May 24 - May 27
As we soon welcome the Class of 2022 as our newest alumni, we encourage you to participate in our “CDS Alumni Days of Giving” leading up to this year’s commencement ceremony on May 27, 2022. Please consider a minimum donation of $20.22 to honor this year’s graduates and rising alumni.

Local Alumni Gathering
Alumni vs. Seniors Softball game and family BBQ
May 26, 2022, 5:00-7:00pm
Carolina Day School - Marberger Field
Join other Alumni as we play a friendly game of softball against the graduating seniors. Bring your family and join in the fun! BBQ will follow the game.

Interested in playing on the Alumni Softball Team? Please email alumni@carolinaday.org.
When reflecting on her first visit to St. Genevieve-of-the-Pines at four years old, Jane stated “Victoria Hall to me at that tender age was what the Magic Kingdom was to later generations who went to Disneyland.” Jane, the youngest of 6 siblings, visited her sister Margaret who was attending the Junior College from 1937-1939. From that moment on, she wished to be a student at St. Genevieve-of-the-Pines. “Finally, when my siblings were grown and on their own, I was able to enroll in 7th grade. I was in heaven!” Jane graduated from SGP in 1951 and according to her daughter Elise Brown, SGP had a tremendous, continuing impact on her. Jane stated in a personal memoir that “my six years as a St. Genevieve’s girl were the most formative of my life and I treasure every day that I was there.”

One of Jane’s most influential memories of SGP was the day she walked up to the school with her mother for her admissions interview. The long winding road bordered by “magnificent pine trees” led them to the steps where they were greeted by Sister Kathleen Winters. Sister Winters captivated Jane with her “vivacious personality and twinkling eyes” and a bond between the two was formed immediately. Though Sister Winters only taught the then 7th grade Jane for one week before transferring to work at another school, she kept in touch with Jane until returning to SGP as Principal when Jane was in high school. Jane and Sister Kathleen Winters remained friends for many years and Sister Winters even celebrated her 80th Birthday in Tucson with Jane and her husband. After Sister Winters passed away, Jane visited the nun’s birthplace in Ireland. Sister Winters and several other teachers influenced Jane to become a strong, assertive woman, a generous philanthropist, and an advocate for education.

In a letter to her children dated July 19, 2004, Jane stated she was extremely impressed with Carolina Day School after attending an award ceremony in the Upper School. She highlighted how much the upper school students were accomplishing and how impressive it was that the school boasted “statewide athletic recognition without tennis courts or a football field.” She was energized by the CDS spirit. Jane remarked, “I never thought that education would become such a strong focus, to the point of being one of my prime concerns at that point in my life.” After visiting CDS, however, she created and funded the “Jane Swicegood Endowment,” which supports students and education programs in perpetuity. Jane designated part of the endowment to be used for a “Kathleen Winters Creative Writing Award” to honor her teacher and lifelong friend and financially support students who deserved to have the same caliber of education she was fortunate enough to receive.

In 2004, Carolina Day School awarded Jane the Distinguished Alumni Award. Although it may not have been quite as exciting to her as receiving the School Spirit Award at SGP while in grade school and high school, it was an honor to recognize her ongoing commitment to support education and students. Jane’s continued support of Carolina Day School has had an incredible impact on many students and alumni, which will continue for generations to come thanks to her thoughtful planning. We are thankful for her love of SGP and education, and are happy to honor her as a loved alumna.
The CDS Family-Owned Business Directory was created to support and highlight our current Carolina Day School families and alumni who own small businesses, have private practices, or offer professional services. Our CDS community touts many talented entrepreneurs, business owners, and practitioners, and most members of our community are eager to know where they can patronize other families for goods and professional services. We encourage you to support our affiliated business owners, practitioners, and professionals by visiting www.carolinaday.org/businessdirectory.

Nancy Owen Cecil (1930-2016), Asheville Country Day School ‘48

Nancy Owen Cecil (1930-2016) was in the first class of students to attend Asheville Country Day School (ACDS) when it opened in 1936. Nancy and her husband George have six children, all of whom attended ACDS and several of their grandchildren have attended Carolina Day School. Nancy was a lifelong supporter, and a beloved part of the Carolina Day School community. She was also committed to life-long service on behalf of the people of western North Carolina. In December of 2019, George H.V. Cecil (1925-2020) established a scholarship in honor and remembrance of his wife and it provides students across WNC access to a CDS Education.

The Nancy Owen Cecil Award is a renewable four year scholarship for new students with financial need who have met the school’s admission criteria for ninth grade. The scholarship covers the determined need for tuition and extracurricular expenses. The recipients are high achieving and academically motivated, with leadership potential and the motivation to achieve the best in all they do. The award is the largest scholarship created by a donor in the school’s history. A 9th grader starting in the 2020-21 school year was the first to receive the scholarship and was selected by a committee made up of a representative from the George H.V. Cecil family, The Community Foundation of WNC, and CDS. This committee will continue to choose award recipients and as George Cecil stated when starting the endowment, will “ensure students for generations can benefit from the same excellent education, she (Nancy), our children, and our grandchildren received”.

The CDS Family-Owned Business Directory was created to support and highlight our current Carolina Day School families and alumni who own small businesses, have private practices, or offer professional services. Our CDS community touts many talented entrepreneurs, business owners, and practitioners, and most members of our community are eager to know where they can patronize other families for goods and professional services. We encourage you to support our affiliated business owners, practitioners, and professionals by visiting www.carolinaday.org/businessdirectory.
Call For Nominations

Carolina Day School has a longstanding tradition of recognizing and honoring the work and contributions of their valued Alumni. We recognize those who have distinguished themselves as outstanding contributors to athletics, the arts, or through serving others. If you know an Alumna or Alumnus worthy of recognition, we hope that you will recommend them for a CDS Alumni Association sponsored award.

The Alumni Awards Committee, which includes the Alumni Association President and CDS teachers and staff, is busy reviewing nominations. Recipients will be notified by June 1st. An Alumni Awards Induction Ceremony will be held in conjunction with Homecoming on September 30, 2022.

Alumni Engagement

We would love to hear from you! Our goal is to stay connected to our Alumni in meaningful ways. In order to make informed decisions on how best to stay engaged with all of you, we seek your feedback and ideas. Please take a moment to complete the Alumni Engagement Survey associated with the school you attended and/or from which you graduated. Your responses will help us better serve you and keep us up to date on your needs and expectations. We value all of our alumni and appreciate your time and guidance. The Alumni Engagement Surveys can be found at https://www.carolinaday.org/alumni/alumni-survey.

2021 Athletic Hall of Fame Inductees

Ellen Chumbley Miller
Asheville Country Day School ‘77
Spring 2021 Inductee

Ellen Chumbley Miller is well known in the international mountaineering world for her climbing accomplishments in the Himalayan Mountains, especially for being the first American woman to summit Mt. Everest from both sides. Ellen is also an accomplished mountain runner, a certified endurance coach, and is a Nordic skier. Other accolades include being named the Colorado Sportswoman of the Year in 2002 and serving as the U.S. Women’s Mountain Running Team’s Manager since 2006.

Ellen attended Asheville Country Day School (ACDS) and graduated in 1977. Even as an ACDS student, Ellen was an athlete playing on the basketball team and on the tennis courts. It was a 6th Grade Teacher at ACDS who piqued her interest in the rewards of an outdoor lifestyle and fanned the flame of her passion for the mountains. Ellen now lives in Colorado and continues to share her love of the outdoors with others while working full time as a caregiver for the elderly and advocating for literacy through the “Climb for Literacy” that raises awareness and funds for literacy in Eagle County, Colorado.

In Spring 2021, Ellen was inducted into the Alumni Athletic Hall of Fame during the spring Virtual Athletic Awards Ceremony. Congratulations to Ellen Chumbley Miller, ACDS ‘77.
Bill Barbour (1953-2020)
Athletic Hall of Fame, Fall 2021 Inductee

When looking for a true definition of coaching, one may find several, but what all definitions have in common is that a good coach is someone who supports a learner in achieving their goals by providing training and guidance. For Coach Bill Barbour, his greatest strength as a coach was the guidance he provided through his sense of humor and “Billisms” and his consistent and calm presence. For nine years he coached and mentored the Carolina Day School Men’s and Women’s Tennis Teams and Bill could always be found at the courts leaning along the fence talking to his young athletes. With his guidance and leadership, Bill led his teams to numerous CAA titles and state championships.

When asked how he coached, CDS Coach Lauren Wood stated that “Bill coached in a way you didn’t feel like you were being coached”, there “never was any feeling of pressure to win” from him. Bill was proud, yet humble, and you could see how important the athletes were to him through the extensive notes he kept and his smile while on the courts. He was extremely sentimental and always wrote notes and cards to the kids, including passing along a letter with a “lucky penny” he found at a meet to one of the players. CDS tennis players truly loved and appreciated him. He was an inspiration.

Lauren shared that Bill’s mantra was “Life’s too short.” Although Bill passed away in 2020, we are honored to remember him as a phenomenal coach by inducting him into the Alumni Association Athletic Hall of Fame. We know his legacy lives on in several of our Carolina Day School student-athletes. Bill will be officially inducted on September 30, 2022, at our Homecoming Alumni Award Luncheon and will be recognized at the evening soccer game. For more information about the Induction Ceremony or to share stories or information about Bill, please email alumni@carolinaday.org.

Previous Distinguished Alumni Awardees

2017: Stephanie Smith SG-GH ’89
2016: Cissie Stevens SGP ’58
2015: Pam Turner SGP ’61
2008: Gail Godwin SGP ’55
2007: Eugene M. Carr SGP ’43
2006: Sally Lewis Rhoades SGP ’56
2005: Canie B. Smith ACDS ’50
2004: Jane Swicegood Elins SGP ’51
2003: Charles D. Owen III ACDS ’78
2002: Darryl J. Hart ACDS ’79
2001: Barbara Morgan Nesbitt ACDS ’61
2000: Joel B. Adams, Jr. ACDS ’71
1999: Mother Margaret Potts, R.C.E. ’28
1997: Samuel A. Bingham III ACDS ’62
1997: Mitchell Wolfson, Jr. ACDS ’56
1996: Linda Rathbun Taylor ACDS ’64
1994: C. Robert Bell, Jr. ACDS ’62

Class Reunions

Are you thinking about planning a Class Reunion for your classmates? Carolina Day School would like to help. We can help you find class lists, brainstorm ideas, and help with outreach. Just email alumni@carolinaday.org and we can help get you started. Here is a list of classes that are celebrating big reunions in 2022.

- 5 years - 2017
- 10 years - 2012
- 15 years - 2007
- 20 years - 2002
- 25 years - 1997
- 30 years - 1992
- 40 years - 1982
- 50 years - 1972
To learn more visit:

CarolinaDay.Org/Alumni