

# GDS

M A G A Z I N E

***"From every corner of campus, a commitment to safety, boldness, innovation, grit, and humility define the spirit of Bengal Nation."***

- Tracie Catlett, Head of School







# GREENSBORO DAY SCHOOL

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# HEAD'S CORNER



Dear GDS Community,

Even in today's rapidly changing landscape, our mission and core values remain embedded in the fabric of the Greensboro Day School culture and community. Our faculty and staff stepped up in big ways this fall to deliver an on-time and in-person education. From every corner of campus, a commitment to safety, boldness, innovation, grit, and humility define the spirit of Bengal Nation.

Placing students and teachers at the heart of our campus enhancements helped us amplify our instructional technology, expand learning to the great outdoors, invest in a health center renovation, install air quality technology, and de-densify our classrooms, hallways and social spaces.

Teachers have spent countless hours to ensure academic excellence, a hallmark of a Greensboro Day School experience. Their work is a testament to their commitment to our students and families.

Speaking of family, the 2020-21 school year has delivered some exciting hellos, farewells, and welcome backs. At the close of the first quarter, GDS enrolled over 190 new students, the largest number of new students in a single year since 1972. Thirty-six new legacy students joined our community bringing our total number of legacy students to 115!

As you turn through the pages of this magazine, you will recognize some of the GDS legends that we will say farewell to, most notably, Tommy Webb, as he embarks on a well-deserved retirement later this spring after 39 years of faithfully serving our School, and David Gilbert, a difference maker for 44 years. And, as we say our goodbyes and celebrate the retirements of several beloved faculty, we also say hello AGAIN to Kathy Davis! When the call came in for a long term math substitute, Kathy answered.

Enjoy reading what GDS has been up to this fall, knowing that despite all the challenges our world and community have faced, GDS is a stronger and more resilient institution. I thank all of you for your many different ways of supporting GDS. Take good care of yourselves and your loved ones during this extraordinary time.

With Bengal Pride,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Tracie".

Tracie Catlett  
Head of School



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New benches were placed outside the Kathy Davis Student Life Center in August as a tribute to the resilience of the Class of 2020. The benches were made possible by the Trevey Family. The plaques read "Remember, GDS is always home." and "Class of 2020, Live your truth, hold on to your friends, find the time to be with each other however you can."





# LETTER FROM THE CHAIR



Dear GDS Community,

Wow! What an exciting time to be involved with an educational institution. On one hand, there is anxiety: will we be on campus, will we be in distance learning, can we operate safely, what are the financial ramifications for all of this now and in the future? On the other side is the incredible sense of pride to be affiliated with Greensboro Day School. At least as of this writing, we are on campus, and things are proceeding well. I almost hate to say that for fear of jinxing us.

During COVID-19, our committed and creative Head of School, Tracie Catlett, and her staff have done a tremendous job on many fronts. The move to distance learning last spring was incredibly sudden, and even though it was no one's choice, GDS did as well as any school anywhere to transition to the new normal. The amount of time and energy spent this summer to prepare for a fall opening on campus was incredible; purchasing the new Swivl technology, installing a new air filtration system, and setting up the infrastructure for classrooms in the gyms and outside. So far, the fall semester has been safe and progressing nicely.

Given the unique circumstances, it is a good time to outline the role of the Board of Trustees and what is not. The Board has three primary responsibilities; support and advance the school's mission, support and assess the Head of School, and oversee the school's long-term financial viability. Parents regularly approach board members about school operations. The Board does not get involved in the direct operation of the school. We encourage people to come to teachers, division heads, or other staff members about school operations. This is *our* school, so operational input is welcome, but that is not what the Board does.

Our current Board of Trustees is a highly competent group, and our work together started over the summer. Let me introduce our five new members.

Kristin Carignan is the President of the GDS Parents' Association. She has been an active volunteer at GDS for the past nine years in many different roles. She and her husband, Dr. Peter Carignan, have two children at GDS, **Garrett '24** and **Rory '28**.

Bill Smith is CEO of Trust Company of the South. He served as a trustee for Burlington Day School for nearly 15 years. He has also served as a trustee for Elon University, as Treasurer/Secretary for the Piedmont Triad Partnership board, and as Treasurer for the Piedmont Triad Charitable Foundation board. He and his wife Sue have one child at GDS, **Josie '33**.

Denise Turner Roth is Chief Development Officer at WSP. She has contributed to many boards in Greensboro, including Action Greensboro, UNC-Greensboro, and Chair of the Future Fund. She was previously Vice-Chair of the Community Foundation of Greater Washington. She is currently a board member of TowneBank and Chair of the Finance and Land Use Committee, Board of Visitors at George Mason University. She and her husband Chip Roth have one child at GDS, **Connor '28**.

Comer Wear is VP of Marketing for Rock House Farm Family of Brands at Century Furniture/RHF Investments. In the community, she has served on the following boards: Bienenstock Furniture Library, 200 Steele Building, Hamilton Wrenn District, and RHF Investments. She and her husband Ralph have three children; **Ralph '25**, Eleanor is a 6th grader at The Piedmont School, and **Alexander '33**.

Heather Wilson is the Director of Marketing at ILNA Inc. She served on the Board of Directors at Hannah's Haven and currently serves on the finance team at Grace Community Church. She and her husband SirMawn have two children who attend GDS; **Dana '25**, and **India '28**.

Ours is a terrific board overall, coupled with a gifted Head of School, Tracie Catlett, and a top-notch faculty and staff; our future looks bright. I am not naive enough to think that there won't be bumps in the road, but I can't say enough about how proud I am to be affiliated with Greensboro Day School.

With warm regards,

**Chuck Keeley '81**  
Chair, Board of Trustees



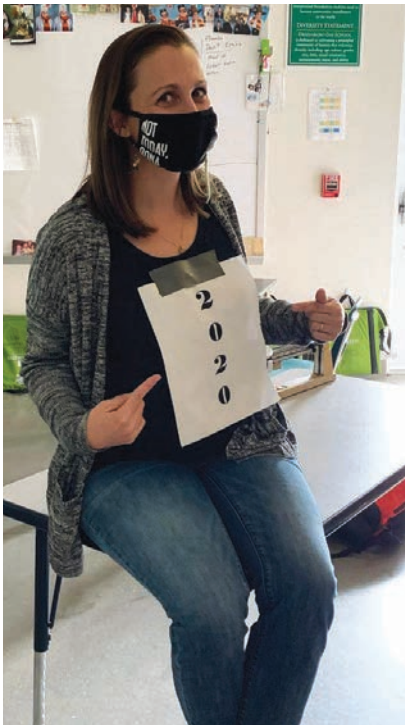


*“I am so impressed with our faculty and staff.”*



*“[We appreciate] the communication, and warmth-of-spirit of teachers and staff.”*

# IN PRAISE AND APPRECIATION OF OUR GDS FACULTY AND STAFF



*“Teachers across the board care and are doing an amazing job balancing the hybrid classes.”*

Teachers are at the heart of any student’s educational experience. That has been particularly true at Greensboro Day School for the past 50 years. Relationships with teachers, many of them ongoing, are often reported by our alumni as an essential part of their GDS experience.

It is, even more, the case at GDS today, amid a pandemic. In our effort to collect feedback regarding the re-entry plan implementation and as part of our checking in with new parents, we have gathered a lot of feedback. In light of how hard our faculty members work to provide the best possible education for our students, it would be appropriate to publicly share some of the praise-worthy

comments offered by parents for their students’ teachers.

Our teachers will appreciate the recognition and praise offered by these comments, but they will, no doubt, be quick to return the love. In combination, it’s what makes GDS an extraordinary place indeed! ■



*“Her teachers are very present; she feels seen and heard.”*





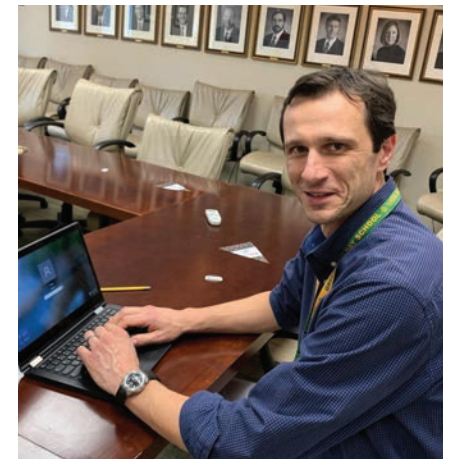


*"[My two] say that every teacher is very nice!"*



*"He consistently shares stories with us about his friends, his engaged, responsive, and committed teacher, and his BCC experience."*

*"I think the strength in GDS in this setting is the individual teachers who show they care and are trying to be responsive to the issues that we have been facing. I know this is a very stressful time for them, and I am grateful for their effort."*



*"They like their teachers and the cross country program!"*

*"[He]loves the playground and his teachers."*



*"By far, my daughter's favorite thing has been nature walks [her teacher] encourages hands-on learning and movement, which engages her body and her mind."*



*"Staff is warm and friendly. My kids are very happy, and I feel like they are safe."*



**Greensboro Day School proudly welcomed 23 new faculty and staff members at the beginning of the 2020-21 school year.**



**Liana Blue**  
Middle School Science Teacher



**Barbara "Barb" Boyette**  
Assistant Director of College Counseling



**Kaitlin Brown**  
PE Teacher & College Counseling Coordinator



**Cortnei Cooks**  
Bengal Cub Club



**Louise Crown**  
Upper School Science Teacher



**Richard DeVita**  
First Grade Assistant Teacher



**Becca Doherty**  
Bengal Cub Club



**Anna Grayson**  
Middle School After School Supervisor / Bengal Bookstore Manager



**Keeon Gregory**  
Director of College Counseling



**Rebecca Holland**  
Early Childhood Assistant Teacher



**Kaitlin Junco**  
Middle School Math Teacher



**Shannon Kincaid**  
Lower School Counselor



**Kellie Kluepfel**  
Employee Temporary Childcare Center



**Renee Kuzma**  
Assistant School Nurse



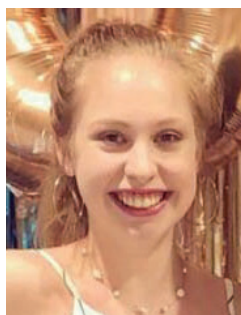
**Kyle Lewis**  
Chief Financial Officer



**Debbie Patrick**  
Third Grade Teacher



**Ian Patrick**  
Director of Advancement



**Autumn Pence '18**  
Bengal Cub Club, Employee Temporary Childcare Center



**Sarah Pierce**  
Early Childhood Assistant Teacher



**Elizabeth Ramsey**  
Visual Art Teacher



**Allison Thomas**  
First Grade Teacher



**Katelyn Williams**  
Middle School Counselor



**Sonny Willis '96**  
Choral Teacher and Musical Director





## Greensboro Day School Ranked Top School in Triad and State

Niche released the 2021 Best Schools Rankings with Greensboro Day School ranked #1 private K-12 school, #1 private high school, #1 college prep high school in the Triad, and #7 private K-12 school in the state of North Carolina! Read more about the rankings on Niche.com.



## 4th Year in a row!

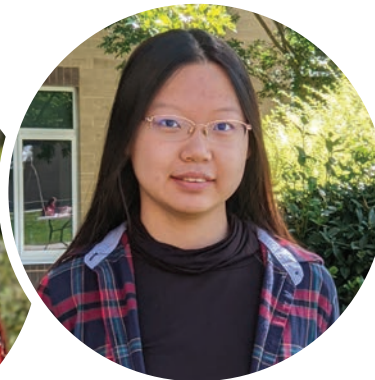
Greensboro Day School was voted Favorite Private School by the News & Record readers.



Middle and Upper School students participated in socially-distanced Honor Code signing ceremonies this fall. As part of the ceremony, students pledge "To foster a community of mutual trust and respect, I pledge that I will not lie, cheat, or steal, or accept the action of those who do." Honor Board Co-Chairs **Tori Frahm '21** and **Kristen Beane '21**, and Mrs. **Sarah Rose Mostafa '06** spoke about the importance of the Honor Code.



Congratulations to **Lauren Sar '21** who has been named a Semifinalist in the National Merit Scholarship Program Competition. Lauren is one of approximately 16,000 semifinalists nationwide to receive this designation from more than 1.5 million students who took the 2019 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test in October 2019. Finalists will be announced in the spring of 2021.



Congratulations to **Cady He '21** who has been named a Commended Scholar by the National Merit Scholarship Program. Cady is one of 34,000 students nationwide to receive this designation from more than 1.5 million students who took the 2019 Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test in October 2019.

Congratulations to the students who were inducted into the **Spanish and Chinese National Honor Societies**. The ceremony took place on Zoom on October 13, 2020.

## SPANISH

**Winston Cimino '22**  
**Kyle Feinstein '22**  
**Celia Funderburk '21**  
**Frannie Goodman '22**  
**Maguire Goodrich '21**  
**Anna Marie Harding '21**  
**Emma Hoffbauer '21**  
**Charles Irvine '21**  
**Ben Jordan '22**  
**Cameron Leake '21**  
**Eleanor Manning '21**  
**Faith McDonald '22**  
**Charlotte Munsey '21**  
**Mia Neal '21**  
**Anna Newsom '22**  
**Tenley Parr '21**  
**Victor Pedroso '24**  
**Wesley Penfield '22**  
**Howell Pierce '22**  
**Abby Samet '21**  
**Parker Stroud '22**  
**Alex Turner '22**  
**Zoe Wen '22**  
**Kathleen Whitener '22**  
**Elliot Wilcox '22**  
**Henry Wilcox '22**

## CHINESE

**Will Michael '21**  
**Tori Frahm '21**  
**Noah Hahn '21**  
**Annika Deshpande '21**  
**Charlie Jennings '22**  
**Gracie Silides '21**  
**Jack Reilly '22**  
**Xander Craven '22**



## Bengals in the news ...



Mrs. Susan Ferguson and **Vivian Byerly '28** were interviewed by several news outlets (WGHP, WFMY, and GTN) about a school project in third grade that made an impact more than a year later. In April 2019, Mrs. Ferguson taught Greensboro Day School third graders about the Coastal Plain of North Carolina and the Gulf Stream that resides off the coast. For part of the unit, each student wrote a letter and placed it into individual glass bottles. The bottles were cast into the Atlantic Ocean, requesting a response if found. The activity was part of the "Pirate Day" festivities.

Participants in the annual Reelin' for Research fishing tournament benefiting UNC Children's Hospital and childhood cancer research, offered to take the bottles into the gulf stream.

More than a year later, Mrs. Ferguson received an email from a man in Morocco. He responded to let her know that the letter was found intact on White Beach, near Guelmim in Morocco. A fisherman found the bottle, and the man's nephew translated the letter from student Vivian Byerly, now in fifth grade.

"While we hoped to receive a response, we know the likelihood of it happening is slim. I was shocked to open my email to find an email with photos," stated Susan Ferguson, third grade teacher. "I have been in touch with our students, and they were excited to learn about this news. Vivian responded to the fisherman's family and has received a response from more than 4,000 miles away. I hope we can make this a part of our NC unit for years to come."

Editor's Note: Another bottle was found on November 15, 2020 near Bordeaux, France!



KineticWits is a free online tutoring service designed to provide middle and high school students in North Carolina with extra academic assistance. Founded by **Annika Deshpande '21** and **Cady He '21**, KineticWits establishes a program at Greensboro Day School which is evidence of the "private school/public purpose" philosophy, and is a cornerstone of the 2020-2023 Strategic plan.



As we prepared to return to school, Tracie Catlett and Dr. Ian Patrick led middle and upper school students through a design thinking process to help reconfigure classrooms and learning spaces. Students were key in helping to create plans for appropriate physical distancing for the safety of our students and employees.





**Kublai Khan's '23** idea to support those affected by the explosions in Beirut attracted the attention of WFMY News 2. Kublai shared why he felt drawn to do something to help and to encourage others to do the same.



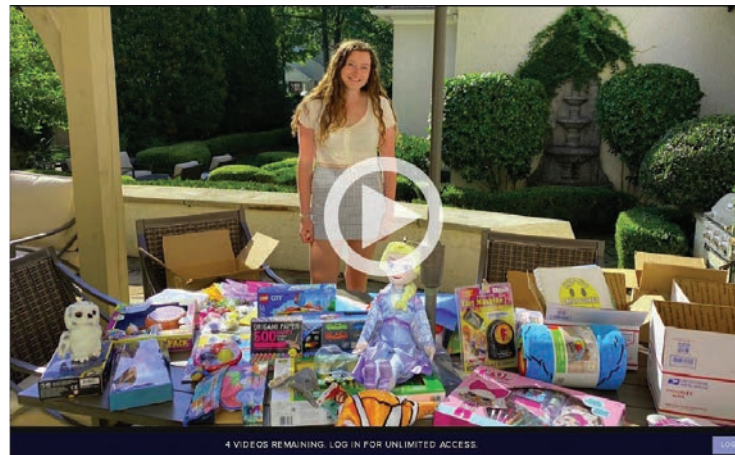
**Larkin Owens '21** participated in the virtual session of North Carolina Girl's State in June which included a Random Act of Kindness service project. Larkin made 114 cards for residents of Twin Lakes, a retirement home in Burlington. The feedback from the residents and volunteer coordinator was overwhelmingly positive!



Ninth grade physics students experimented with motion sensors to measure velocity and acceleration.



Randy Doss, Director of Admission and Enrollment and Susan Davis, Director of Communication and Marketing were interviewed by MSNBC about the preparation needed to return to school in the fall.



**HUMAN INTEREST**  
16-Year-Old Girl Makes Personalized Boxes for Children With Life-Threatening Illnesses During Pandemic

**Hetti Price-Bailey '23** created Hetti's Smile Boxes, a non-profit to lift the spirits of children with life-threatening illnesses. Hetti was interviewed by WFMY about her work.



Fifth graders gained knowledge and an understanding of geometry, force, and motion, as they built and flew their kites using a few simple materials.



Members of the GDS Community filled a virtual Zoom Room for the Opening of School Ceremony. Tracie Catlett, Head of School welcomed everyone and Executive Student Body President, **Abby Samet '21** rang in our 51st year of school! The ceremony concluded with singing *Lo Hearts Behold*.



Last year, Early Childhood students helped illustrate a book written by former teacher Lauren Chambers. Today, students in 2nd grade read the book "When we Shared Rainbows." This book reminds us that we can always have hope and share compassion & kindness with others. Copies of the book are available in the school libraries and in each Lower School classroom.





With the new block schedule, students are able to use community time for club activities. The Leukemia Lymphoma Society Club wrote letters of gratitude to nurses at The Pediatric Hematology-Oncology unit.



Bitty Bengals receive lots of practice to recognize and learn the alphabet. This helps give them the tools they need to become confident readers. They practiced painting the letter A, also building their fine motor skills.



Spanish Conversation, Composition and Culture students attended Sustaining Life's global forum on Youth Leading on the Climate Emergency. Over 117 participants from across the world were in attendance.



**Happy 50th, GDS!** Our birthday celebration in September included a Happy Birthday singalong over the intercom, 1970's outfits, birthday treats, a food collection to help others in our community, and a 50th panel discussion with alumni and former teachers.





The walls of McMillion Center are full of student artwork, including middle school self portraits, ceramic pieces, photography, and more!







## Greensboro Day School Entrepreneurial Students Pitch Ideas to Kontoor Brands



Students in the newly launched entrepreneurial problem-solving course completed their first project at Kontoor Brands, parent company to the Lee and Wrangler brands, in October. Kontoor Brands leaders were on hand to listen to the students' ideas for celebrating the 100th birthday of Lee Jeans icon, Buddy Lee. Students also shared creative marketing strategies to attract Generation Z to the Lee Jeans brand.

Student ideas included a virtual birthday celebration for Buddy Lee, the Lee Jeans original doll, a shoe collaboration, a new doll collection that reflects diversity, and purpose-driven marketing ideas. "Students in Generation Z want to purchase products that are connected to a social cause. They want their retail purchases to go towards something bigger than the product itself" says Tracie Catlett, the Head of School at Greensboro Day School, and co-teacher of the new course, Entrepreneurial Problem Solving.

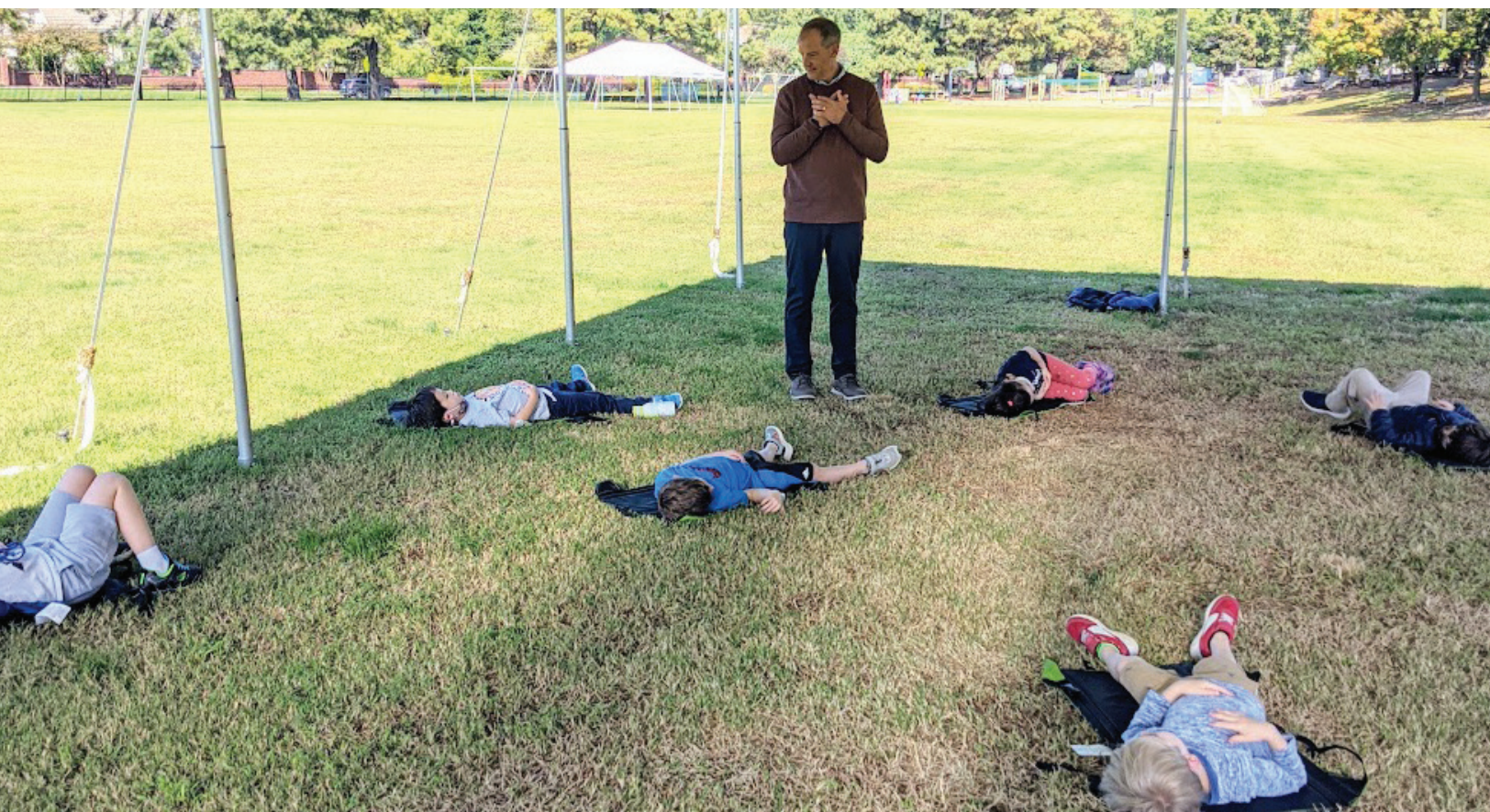
"This course gives students the opportunity to work with the greater community outside the classroom's walls. The students are hopeful that their ideas will have a real impact in the Greensboro community," Catlett said. Ed Billingslea, Director of the Upper School and co-teacher, added, "Giving students an authentic opportunity to do work in the local community with



business owners and entrepreneurs is the kind of work that will prepare students for college and beyond. Problem solving, critical thinking, working collaboratively, and public speaking are essential skills that every young adult needs for success."

"Our team was honored to participate in this initiative and hear the students' insightful presentations," said Scott Baxter, President & CEO, Kontoor Brands. "We believe that connecting students with leadership development opportunities is important to enabling their future success and that of our community, and allows companies like ours to tap into innovative ideas and solutions." ■





## Dave Mochel Returns to Greensboro Day School

by Bridget Gwinnett, Upper School Counselor

Dave Mochel, founder of Applied Attention and Greensboro Day School's well-being coach in residence, served as our 2020 McLendon Faculty and Parent Education Speaker. We learned that five days is not enough time with Dave!

As part of our continuing efforts to focus on the health, safety, and well-being of our students, we welcomed Dave for a week in October. During his time with us, Dave met with students in all divisions. The weather made it easy to space apart outdoors with masks off and breathe. Lower School students met with Dave in their classrooms and under the tents during morning meetings, lunch, and break time. Middle School and Upper School students filled the lacrosse field socially distanced in their Crazy Creek chairs. Dave spoke with them about how our bodies experience stress and he taught them a few

simple ways to handle that stress, one being deep breathing from the belly. This simple technique works with our parasympathetic nervous system to tell our bodies to calm and relax. "How can anyone be around him and not feel better?" remarked a senior student after meeting with Dave.

Many of our faculty have begun to use mindful breathing and relaxation techniques in their classrooms, with children encouraged to do the same at home. During his visit, Dave offered after school workshops for interested faculty, practicing awareness and attention through mindfulness and meditation.

For as parents, Dave served as our 2020 McLendon Faculty and Parent Education Speaker, sharing information related to parenting and how to connect with your children during times of uncertainty.

As the week came to a close, Dave shared his observations with the senior leadership team and counselors. He found that there was a consistent theme of fundamental trust and kindness. He noted that our successes throughout this crisis have been possible because of this foundation and the commitment of our whole community: faculty, students, families, and leadership. ■





## Greensboro Day School hosted its National Honor Society induction ceremony on Wednesday, October 28, 2020.



### CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING NEW MEMBERS:

Rinne Alt '21	Coco Guan '22
Maryam Khan '21	Josh Hoffman '22
James Kirkland '21	Amy Iuppa '22
Tenley Parr '21	Faith McDonald '22
Noah Regal '21	Anna Newsom '22
George Seifert '21	Simeon Reich '22
Elizabeth Adams '22	Chase Risdon '22
Graham Ciener '22	Abby Schneid '22
Winston Cimino '22	Parker Stroud '22
Xander Craven '22	Alex Turner '22
John David Civils '22	Zoe Wen '22
Emma Davis '22	Kathleen Whitener '22
Kyle Feinstein '22	Ellie Wilcox '22
Ryan Fowler '22	Henry Wilcox '22
Amir Gabitov '22	Coco Zhu '22
Frannie Goodman '22	

### THE 2020-21 NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY OFFICERS:

Charlotte Munsey '21 – President  
Larkin Owens '21 – Officer of Hunger Relief  
Olivia Gwinett '21 – Officer of Environmental Service  
Jessica Zhang '21 – Officer of Greater Greensboro  
Cady He '21 – Officer of GDS Mentors

In science class, Fourth Graders developed inventions using recycled materials. They are creating prototypes using recyclable items. One day we may see robots, plates and utensils, and jewelry made from these global thinkers!



In collaboration with the Chinese Club, Upper School advisories created lanterns in honor of the Mid Autumn Lantern Festival. The beautiful creations were displayed in the Kathy Davis Student Life Center.



Seniors continued the tradition of painting parking spaces and the Class of 2021 turned the parking lot into a work of art. Thank you to Mrs. Jackson-Adams, Upper School Administrators, and parents for making this event happen.



Greensboro Day School joined Global Online Academy (GOA), an international consortium of over 85 schools, during 2019. Little did we know that a global pandemic was right around the corner, and our partnership with GOA would prove to be more valuable than ever imagined.



## GOA and GDS Fast Facts

**89**

GDS faculty members completed *Designing for Online Learning* in preparation for distance learning

**80**

members of the GDS Class of 2023 participated in the Flex Course *Agreeable Disagreements*

**93**

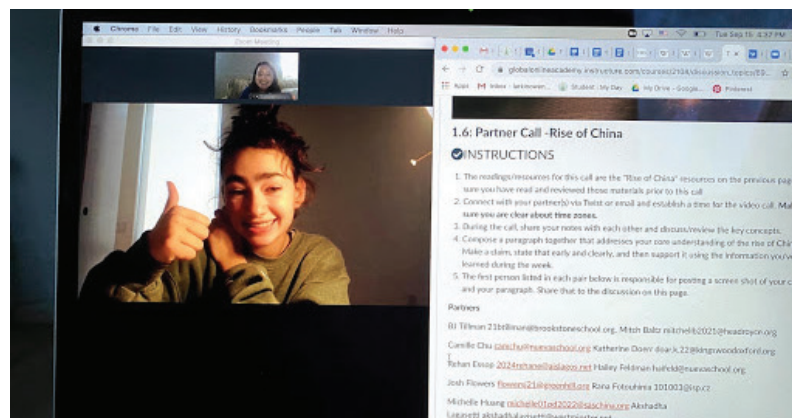
GDS faculty members met the second level of *Designing for Online Learning: Wayfinding, Assessments & Student Agency*

**5**

GDS students completed summer school offerings: *Computational Thinking, Fiction Writing, Computer Science II: Java & Geometry (2)*

**15**

GDS students enrolled in GOA courses during the 2020-21 academic year



### Larkin Owens '21 has the following to say about her GOA experience:

“When I first heard about GOA, my interest was piqued. It was pitched as a way for students to learn about diverse topics with a significant amount of autonomy. I’m a student who does well when left to work independently but can still ask questions. I’m also deeply interested in the interactions between countries on the global stage. I looked through the course catalog and found International Relations. I signed up, albeit with a little uncertainty for how an online class would work. How do I connect with people I will only ever see on a screen? After GDS moved to remote learning in the spring, I felt reassured I could manage the class, but connections still concerned me. My unease was gone within the first week. Without GOA, I would have never taken International Relations, learned so much about a topic I want to pursue further, or met people from all corners of the world just as interested as me. If I could take another GOA class next semester, I would do it in a heartbeat.”



# fall arts festival



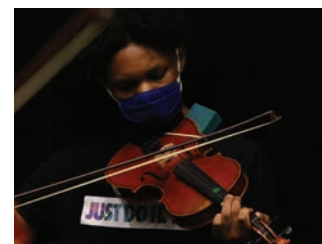
The inaugural Fall Arts Festival was held on November 7 - 8 in front of a grateful crowd of the performers' parents, administrators, and student volunteers. The multiple outdoor venues meant that 150 attendees could see the performances in three distinct sites on campus, keeping the numbers at each venue under 50, meeting COVID-19 protocols.

While the realities of COVID-19 meant that we could not gather or perform the ways we have in the past, we provided opportunities for our students to showcase their artistic talents, whether in theatre, music, or the visual arts.

The outdoors showcase of arts highlighted students' work in our Lower, Middle, and Upper Schools. While tickets were made available for families to attend in person, the event was live-streamed and professional videographers recorded the events. The recordings have made it possible for community members to appreciate the first-semester work of our student-artists singing, playing instruments, producing theatrical performances, and sharing their pottery, photography, and paintings.

## Performances

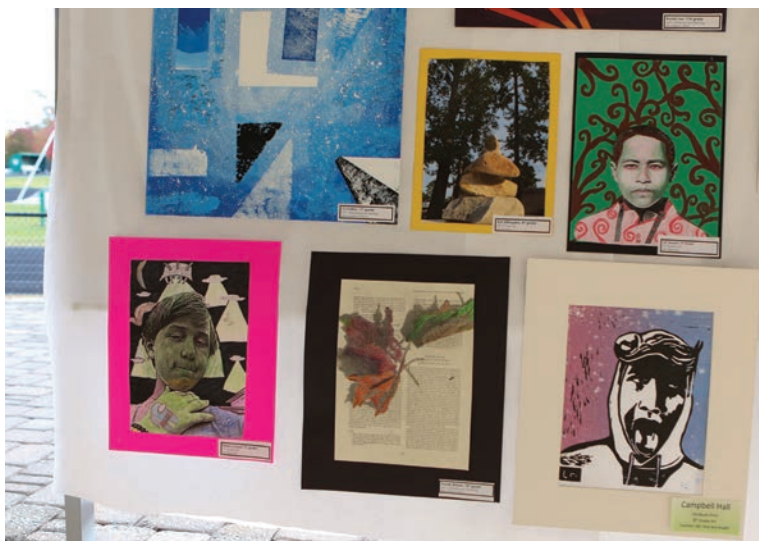
- Middle School Musical
- Arts Walk
- Upper School Chamber Musicians
- Upper School /Noteworthy Chorus
- Upper School String Essence
- 8th Grade and Upper School Band
- Middle School Orchestra
- Middle School Chorus
- Upper School Musical



Event leadership was provided by Academic Dean Peter Williams and event management by **Margo Manning '23**. Jillian Williams produced the Middle School Musical performance, Brandon Bickham directed the Band performances, and **Sonny Willis '96** conducted the Chorus performances.

Karen Collins and Stephanie Ezerman directed Strings performances, and Jennifer Jellicorse produced the Upper School Musical. The Arts Walk was a visual arts department collaborative effort led by the chair, Carey Jackson-Adams. ■







## RETIREMENTS AND FAREWELLS

# TOMMY WEBB

At the close of the 2020-21 school year, we will bid farewell to a true GDS legend, Tommy Webb. His career encompasses 39 years and hundreds, and likely thousands, of relationships that run deep and wide. Let's recap what can only be characterized as a remarkable career, highlighted by extraordinary relationships, institutional success, and a life fully lived to the benefit of our community.

Tommy Webb first came to Greensboro Day School in the summer of 1982, at the invitation of then Head of School, Jim Hendrix. Tommy embarked on his 39-year journey as an 8th grade English teacher. As one would expect, he wore many hats from the start; Tommy was the Upper School student newspaper advisor and a Middle School soccer coach.

Tommy noted that, Dr. Ed Dickinson, the Middle School Director at the time, was a "terrific mentor" in Tommy's early days at GDS. Mentorship would be a keynote in Tommy's career, having now launched hundreds of first-time teachers and administrators.

Tommy understood the value of an independent education when he said yes to Jim Hendrix in 1982. Tommy is an alumnus of Baylor School in Chattanooga, Tennessee, and spent the intervening years, following his graduation from UNC in 1973, teaching in independent and public schools.







In 1987, a year after Dr. Ralph Davison arrived at GDS, Tommy was appointed Director of Admissions and Financial Aid. For the next five years, Tommy taught two English classes, led the growth of the School's enrollment, and served as the Diversity Liaison to the Board of Trustees, and during this time, he became the keeper of the history of the School.

Tommy's commitment to GDS was growing deeper year by year, and Dr. Davison's recognition of Webb's myriad talents caused his job description to expand accordingly. By the mid-'90s, Tommy had been tapped to lead the School's effort in Admission, Development, and finally, as the Assistant Head of School overseeing auxiliaries, operations, and personnel. (All while Tommy was still teaching English!)

Among the multiple outcomes of Tommy's development work over three decades were two capital campaigns while he was Director of Development. The first campaign, a 5M goal, led by Campaign Chair Lanty Smith, and a second campaign for 10M, led by Jed Dunn were both successful. The list of buildings and grounds as a result of those added with campaigns include:

- Smith and Hayes Upper School
- Davison Center for the Arts
- Dillard Gym
- Parents' Association Media Center
- Parents' Association Lower School wing
- Many renovations to existing buildings
- Numerous endowment additions

2006 saw the end of Davison's tenure and the beginning of Mark Hale's term as the School's sixth Head of School. Tommy's loyal and faithful service to the school community beginning with the Heads of School continued through the Hale administration and into Tracie Catlett's.

In the two most recent decades of service to the School, Tommy continued to build long-lasting relationships with every constituency in the School. It's not surprising to see an alumni parent, who may not have been on campus for 15 years or more, approach the front desk and ask if Mr. Webb is available. Greeted by a hearty "hello" from Tommy, off they would go to the office for a proper chat. Or, a student who graduated seven years earlier looking to give back to the School, to the School shaped by Tommy, while providing a foundational experience for so many who attended. And, there are the faculty and staff relationships, each unique, many beginning with their first campus tour. Parent relations flourished as well in Tommy's tenure. Remarkably, Tommy served as the administrative liaison to the GDS Parents' Association from the late '80s until 2019, more than 30 years.

Throughout his 39 years at GDS, Tommy's wife Anne, originally from Greensboro, and their two daughters **Hart '00** and **Keats '03**, supported, advised and cheered him on. Thank you all for that! We are grateful for the entire Webb family. ■





## Here's a snapshot of what Tommy's "former" Heads of School had to say about him.

*"What a blessing it has been for GDS to have Tommy for 39 years, and what extraordinary things you have done for so many, including my family. It was clear to me when I first met you that you'd be a super-star for any school. How fortunate we were that you decided to join us at a critical point in the growth of the school."*

*I hired a lot of faculty and staff in the course of over 30 years as a Head of School. I was, of course, greatly assisted by colleagues in those most important of all decisions in school work. In that critical work there very rarely occurs a situation where you meet a candidate and know within the first three minutes that the individual is destined to be a superstar, and an integral part of the future of the school. Tommy Webb was one of the three I met in my years at GDS that fits that description."*

*Jim Hendrix, Head of School 1977- 2006*

*"I came to GDS in 1986 as a young first-time Head of School filled with dreams for how this wonderful place could become one of the best independent schools in the South and even the nation. I met an even younger English teacher originally from Tennessee who had come to GDS a few years earlier. In him I saw a truly gifted teacher, and most importantly, one of the best people-persons I had ever come to know. Tommy Webb never forgot anyone. He genuinely loved people, and they loved him back. Tommy was destined for a larger role at GDS, and before long, I offered him the role of Assistant Headmaster. I never looked back, and neither did he. Literal generations of students and their families have been blessed with his smile that betrays a true admiration and affection for each individual he encounters. He saw the best in everyone, and they in turn gave their best to the school."*

*Ralph Davison, Head of School 1986-2006*



*"Tommy Webb embodies what it means to be a professional in a school connecting students,*

*families, and strong educational values. Throughout his tenure at Greensboro Day School, whatever position he has held, knowing and caring about students by name and by interest has led Tommy's thinking and direction. He is a loyal supporter of the parents' efforts to enrich the school. Tommy continues to work with students, faculty, and other administrators to help develop GDS as an incubator for academic excellence, ethical development, and student integrity. He leads with one hand out, the other hand at your back, and a huge smile on his face. Teacher, colleague, administrator, and friend, Tommy embodies all we celebrate as we lift up 50 outstanding years of people and education at Greensboro Day School."*

*Mark Hale, Head of School 2006 – 2019*



*"When Tommy Webb welcomed me to GDS in July 2019, I knew I would have the honor to work with someone very special. I learned that summer that my time with Tommy would be short after he shared his hopes and dreams to retire after celebrating GDS's 50th birthday and his own 70th birthday later this spring. I knew this day was coming, but it doesn't make it any easier to say farewell to a GDS icon. Tommy, we wish you every good fortune as you begin "what's next." We hope that your coming schedule will include more time for you and your family, perhaps some more time in Florence, Italy, post-COVID, of course! We will look forward to seeing you visit campus next fall, and from time to time as your schedule allows, but only after fully celebrating your career later this spring. Until then, we look forward to celebrating you over the next seven months until your departing day on May 31, 2021."*

*Tracie Catlett, Head of School, 2019-Present*

## Proempton for David Gilbert

We mark this day a new setting out,  
With family, with your instrument,  
Your backpack, perhaps a laptop,  
Down a different trail.

44 years of you have filled this place,  
Your mind the bow  
Upon the delicate cello  
Of running a school,  
The unseen that make possible the seen.  
You made the difficult calculations,  
Taught the difficult subjects,  
Investing an intelligence  
Such as most of us had never seen,  
A loyalty beyond what was owed,  
A way of seeing obstacles as opportunities.  
You set up a telescope one night  
For kids to watch the stars  
At the half of a basketball game.

I would write a concerto for you,  
Good friend of so many happy days and hours;  
I would commission Elgar  
To celebrate anew, with  
Those rich bronze chords, complex cadenza  
Themes of love, of mind and spirit,  
To celebrate friendship,  
A way of being in the world,  
The idea of the school.

--Robert Demaree







## IMPACT: 44 YEARS WITH DAVID GILBERT

*“A consummate gentleman,  
scholar, and master teacher,  
Greensboro Day School  
would not be what it is  
today without his invaluable  
contributions.”*

**- Jim Hendrix, Head of School,  
1977-1986**

You'll be hard-pressed to find anyone who has worked at Greensboro Day School who has made a significant impact on nearly every aspect of the school as David Gilbert. IMPACT, a resounding word when heard from those who know David best.

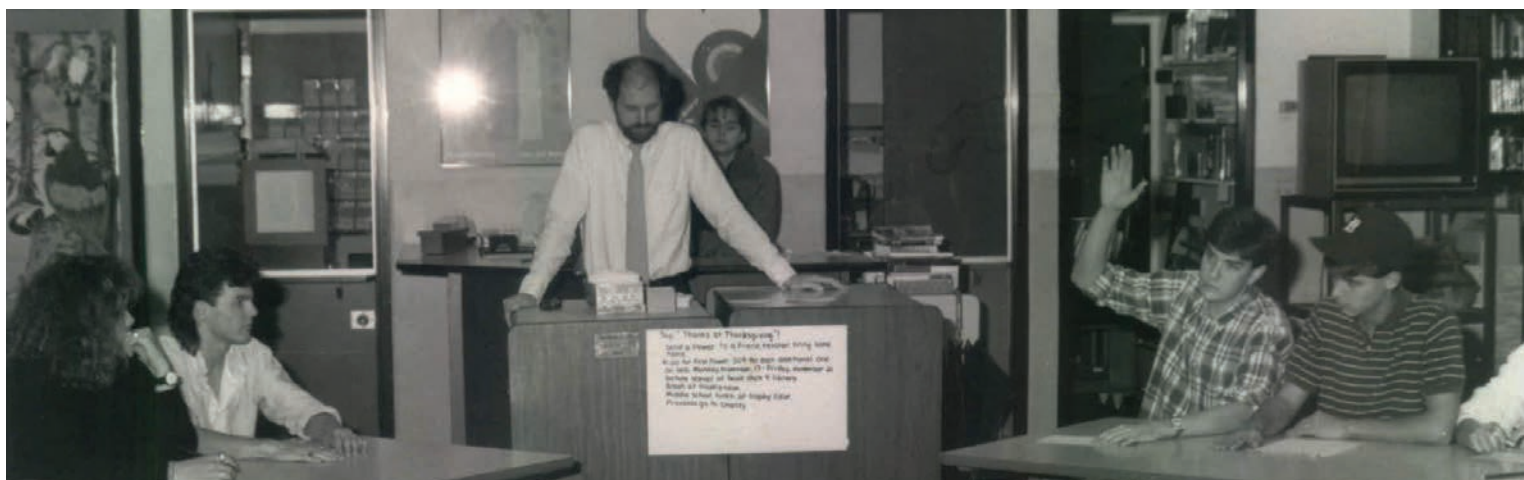
Not a single person in the school's 50-year history has been employed longer than David Gilbert. The school hired this bright, young teacher out of Duke University's Cooperative MAT program in 1976 to teach math and physics. He had graduated from Amherst College a year earlier with a

degree in chemistry and had worked for a year as Amherst's "Green Dean" admission counselor before heading to Duke. In his forty-four years at GDS, he taught physics, math from 7th grade to calculus, and a range of computer science courses from Intro to AP.

David held many administrative roles during his tenure. He served the school for 31 years as Academic Dean from 1983-2014, overseeing coordination and development of the school's curriculum and the academic schedule as the school increased significantly in enrollment. David served as a college counselor with Jim Hendrix and Mike Dougherty in the early 80's and with Bob Demaree and Tricia Fish in the late 90's.

He was deeply involved in strategic and long-range planning, particularly during the Upper School expansion. David partnered with Sarah Hanawald, former director of educational technologies, to lead the school in adopting its laptop program in 2000. He also played an important role in the development of computerized financial forecasting models for the school, and he led the school through successful reaccreditation reviews in 1997, 2002, 2007, and 2012.

David was also a leader in our international programs. He, along with GDS parents Jane Peterson and Anne Hummel, were instrumental in establishing a chapter of the American Field Service (AFS) at GDS which





brought 22 students from 16 countries to our school between 1980 and 1994. In recent years overseeing the International Student Support Program, David was a key link with our international students and their host families, serving with a passion for his global perspective and our school's widening view of this world. In addition to this work, David and his family hosted five of our international students.

Another passion of David's is environmental education and sustainability. He worked closely with Ed Dickinson and Val Vickers to support the Parent/Student/Faculty Environmental Committee for the 18 years of its existence, and he promoted sustainable energy practices as the school expanded. In more recent years, he coordinated the recycling effort at the school, working with faculty and student advocates to promote and expand the program on campus. He is especially proud of his role in getting GDS to sign on as a founding member school of the Outdoor Academy. OA is an academic semester school for tenth-graders run by Eagle's Nest Foundation, located near Brevard, NC, focusing on environmental education and outdoor activity skill-building.

One program to which David devoted much time was the GDS Improvement of Instruction (IOI) Program. In 1978, Head of School Jim Hendrix received permission from the Board of Trustees to establish a program of professional development and evaluation. After a two-day workshop led by Dr. David Purpel of UNCG, the faculty endorsed the concept. They organized a committee that over three years developed the system of partner teachers, classroom observation, goal setting, evaluation, and faculty study groups -- a program that received great attention and was widely emulated across the independent school world.

School improvement was essential but lifelong learning was equally important to David. He was selected as a Klingenstein Fellow for a sabbatical year of study at Columbia University's Teachers' College for the 1984-85 academic year. That year connected him with independent school educators and leaders around the country and brought further recognition to Greensboro Day School. He continued to be involved with the state and national independent school world throughout his career, making presentations at conferences and at other schools and serving on visiting committees for reaccreditation reviews.



A man of many gifts, David is a cellist and is passionate about music. He was always a strong advocate for the arts programs at GDS, particularly music. He performed in the pit for many of our musicals and Upper School strings concerts. David worked with the Music Department to establish the extracurricular performance groups and is even credited with creating the name StringEssence for the string ensemble.

Outdoor education is another of David's deep interests. He is an avid hiker and backpacker, serving as a group leader with the Junior Backpacking Trip from its inception in 1982 when it was started by former headmaster Jim Hendrix. Since 1982, he only missed two trips. Close to 400 students joined him on the treks through Pisgah Forest, up Cedar Rock Mountain and Black Balsam, down the falls of Flat Laurel Creek, and chillin' around a roaring campfire making sticks dance. He served as principal trip coordinator for nearly three decades.







David has left an invaluable mark on this school in so many ways. He always saw his role as a teacher to stretch students and nurture their engagement with a challenging subject and his role as an administrator to act according to the root meaning of the word: to minister to the needs of. His impact, both personal and programmatic, will be felt for years to come. Please join us in recognizing and thanking Mr. David Gilbert for his long service to Greensboro Day School and his commitment to excellence in education during his years here. ■

## In their Own Words ...

*"It's not uncommon to find David's footprint on so much good that has happened and continues to happen at GDS today." Tracie Catlett, Head of School, 2019 - present*

*A strong Head of School knows what her/his strengths are, and where s/he needs support. With that knowledge, s/he surrounds her/himself with people who can be highly effective with work that supports the Head. David Gilbert played that role for me for 20 years." - Ralph Davison, Head of School, 1986-2006*

*"There has been no stronger advocate for and brilliant leadership with the academic program on the GDS faculty and administration than David Gilbert." - Ed Dickinson, Former Director of the Middle School*

*"Dave Gilbert belongs in that pantheon of great Bengals who have been instrumental in the development of the Day School." - Jim Hendrix, Head of School, 1977-1986*

*"David is the most dedicated, loyal teacher/administrator the school ever had and a good friend to all! Thank you, David, for your service to education." - Valerie Vickers, former GDS teacher*

*"Thank you, David, for your exceptional leadership of faculty...especially me." - Cheryl Douglas Love, former GDS teacher*

*"David always asked, 'What is the educational impact?'" - Cindy Stan, former GDS teacher*

*"David has probably had the greatest impact of anyone on GDS." - Kathy Davis, former GDS teacher*

*"David has been such an integral part of GDS for so long. I so enjoyed working with him, appreciated his broad view of curriculum, and marveled at his knowledge in so many areas." - Nancy Teague, former GDS teacher*

*"From the moment I met David in the early 1980's, I was amazed at the joy and excitement he shared while working within the GDS community [and] I became a better leader and a better teacher." - Ann Adams, Former First Grade Teacher and Director of Admission*

*"As the Academic Dean, David was an excellent, invaluable resource for GDS, passionately committed to delivering excellence for the GDS students, and providing value for the GDS parents." - Jasbir Singh, former Trustee and parent of Anoop Singh '03 and Gulnaar Kaur '08*

*"Dave Gilbert was an AFS exchange student in Zurich, Switzerland for a year between high school and college, and I had been an AFSer to Finland." - Jane Peterson, Former Trustee and Parent of Kristin Peterson Edwards '88 and Kirk Peterson '91*

*"Mr. Gilbert was an amazingly dedicated teacher." - Anne Harkavy '91*

*"It is a true blessing in life when we reflect back on those people who had a great impact on our lives and contributed to our success." - Sonny Robinson '80*

*"Mr. Gilbert was dedicated to providing me and other students with advice and solutions outside the norm and was clearly driven by a selfless concern for our wellbeing as students." - Alex Morcos '93*

*"30 years later, I can say I learned from Mr. Gilbert that science is a doorway to lifelong learning, open to anyone curious about how the world works." - Wendy Sarratt '91*

*"Mr. Gilbert's mastercraft at GDS is reflected in its platform for academic rigor and achievement, and his passion for innovation and intellectual inquiry has helped keep GDS at the top of its field for decades." - Holmes Hummel '94*





# Farewell

## BETH HOPKINS AND CHERYL LOVE

At the conclusion of every school year, schools across the nation say goodbye to departing faculty who retire, relocate, or move on to other careers. At the end of the 2019-20 school year, GDS said farewell, sadly, to Beth Hopkins, and Cheryl Love who provided their skills and focus in two divisions for a combined total of 59 years of teaching at Greensboro Day School. Thank you both!

Beth Hopkins, First Grade Teacher, joined GDS in 1989. For over 30 years, starting as a student teacher in the very same room where she taught through last year, Beth has been a giver, a committed educator, and a consummate professional. Beth's decades of experience in both first and second grades made a significant impact on the lives of many children as she taught them the delight of learning to read and write. During her tenure, Beth served not only as a lead classroom teacher but also as a mentor and friend to many colleagues and parents.

Beth's stars, hearts, and hugs are legendary! She is known for her innovative use of the Orton-Gillingham Responsive Classroom approach. A life-long learner, Beth has a

degree in early education as well as a degree in music. She and newly returned teacher to GDS, **Sonny Willis '96**, collaborated on many Lower School musical productions. Perhaps we will see a more casual re-union of the pair during Beth's retirement!

A tribute to Beth would not be complete without mention of her farm. Her adopted goats, alpacas, turkeys, and dogs, to name a few, are just another demonstration of her giving nature. In her own words from a 2013 GDS Magazine feature, "I tell people to always adopt animals. It's so important to adopt because there are so many animals that need homes." Her generosity of spirit is very much a part of Beth's legacy. Her many students and families can certainly attest to that. ■





Cheryl Love, Eighth Grade Math Teacher, came to GDS twenty-nine years ago as a part-time mathematics teacher in the Upper School. Cheryl noted that her decision process included a pros and cons list and that ultimately she made the correct decision in joining the faculty at Greensboro Day School. Her students and colleagues wholeheartedly agree.

Cheryl taught mathematics across two divisions. Her teaching provided a strong foundation for GDS student mathematicians for parts of 4 decades. As a believer in the mission and philosophy of the school, she brought her sons, **William '06** and **Steven '10**, both eventual lifers, to her school. Her sons were integral members of the learning community that Cheryl helped to shape. "My time at GDS allowed my sons to learn from excellent teachers in a caring environment, build life-long friendships with teachers, alumni and their families, and enter university life ready for the challenges offered in that arena."

Cheryl's contributions to the GDS learning community were underscored by her gratitude for the support and encouragement to make them. "During my time at Greensboro Day School ... the school has encouraged me as a life-long learner, supporting my professional growth throughout my tenure."

Cheryl is a dedicated life-long learner both formally and informally; it is a trait she sought to pass on to her students. She was always working to further her understanding of schooling, mathematics, adolescent children, and pedagogy. Her's has been a uniquely positive impact for each of the 29 years that she has shared herself and her family with the GDS community.

The disheartening part of saying goodbye in 2020 is the fact that our primary platforms for communication have been Zoom and the telephone. We can't express well wishes



in person, we can't hug, and we can't fully gather. While we can only offer a touch of the value and meaning of their expertise and commitment in this letter, we will find time in the future when we are beyond our COVID days to properly celebrate their careers and to further expand upon their incredible experiences. Thank you, Beth and Cheryl, for your incredible service to our school. ■



# PAM HEMPHILL

**G**DS Magazine sat down with Pam Hemphill just days before she officially signed off as the CFO of her beloved Greensboro Day School. Her 26-year connection to GDS is a story of hard work and extraordinary loyalty.

In Tracie Catlett's farewell letter to outgoing CFO Pam Hemphill, she noted the shared appreciation the community has for both Pam the person, and Pam the consummate professional. "This past spring Pam announced her retirement from GDS after 12 years of faithfully serving as our CFO. If you know Pam, you would likely use words like kind, funny, hard worker, big heart, loyal, warm, and friendly to describe her. It's an understatement to say that Pam is a beloved member of GDS."

Pam's GDS story is really a story about the entire Hemphill clan, husband Ross, Daughters **Stephanie '12** and **Jennifer '09**, and sons **Will '16** and **Robert**. In her own words, Pam described why she and Ross chose GDS, "It was the premier education in the Triad, and it still is." Pam recalled, with a smile, first meeting long time Kindergarten teacher Happy Waller who taught the Hemphills beginning with Jennifer in 1994 through Will ten years later!



Pam's involvement with her children's school was immediate, substantive, and obviously long-lasting. Beginning as a "Room Mom," she moved through the levels of Parents' Association leadership including Fundraising Treasurer, Operating Treasurer, eventually becoming PA President in 2008-09.

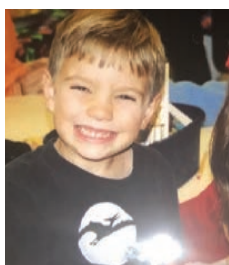
Pam remembers, delivering student lunches long before FLIK, baking for class parties, co-chairing the Carnival (one event of many), and sitting at a table with Merrill Keeley counting proceeds from the Innisbrook wrapping paper sales - a \$25,000 endeavor back in the day.

In her PA treasurer roles, Pam served on the Finance Committee and it was here where Mark Hale and others took notice of her remarkable financial acumen, developed as a Big 5 CPA in prior years. As a result, in 2008 Pam was offered the interim CFO opening while the school conducted a national search.

Imagine, taking on the CFO role in 2008, the middle of the worst economic downturn since the 1930s. Pam describes those early years as an opportunity to be creative and proactive. Student programming was maintained and an economy of scale, systemic efficiencies, and thoughtful cost-cutting relieved budgetary pressures.

We asked Pam to name some other successes during her 12-year run. She was quick to remind us that they were not her successes alone but the result of a collaborative effort involving the Head of School, Board of Trustees, and her colleagues. She described her role as being a partner in the planning and a leader in the implementation.

Among the accomplishments, Pam named strict budget management for three major construction projects including the Bell Family Middle School, the Tennis Courts, and the Auxiliary Gym. Others included debt consolidation and reduction, data-informed trend analysis, and a focus on Human resources, through updated handbooks and employee management systems. Pam's success has been the school's success, she leaves the







GREENSBORO DAY SCHOOL

## *Fifth Grade Forward*



### What Fifth Graders Had to Say about the Fifth Grade Forward Class

"... We learned about culture, relationships, our amygdala, and organizing. And I wasn't overwhelmed by all that we learned!"

"... We learned about handling stress, the brain, and friendship. And how even what we eat is important to stay healthy."

"... I understand how what we learned will help us every day. It's not all about learning facts but stuff like organization and keeping track of time."

"... I learned how your brain works and great tips on keeping yourself organized."

"This class makes me think I can get through middle school and not be so confused."

"... Learning never ends, and you can always learn more! I learned why you need to listen and get all the details before you think you know everything."

"... This class makes me more prepared for when it comes to studying and staying organized."

Middle School is a time of significant change - physically, social-emotionally, and intellectually. Fifth Grade Forward is a Middle School program that supports student well-being and academic success. Learning how to learn is absent from most traditional middle school programs. Greensboro Day School's unique fifth-grade program launches students forward with the skills and strategies necessary for success in middle school and beyond.

These quotes reinforce the success of the first-ever Fifth Grade Forward class. Students had the opportunity to learn various essential skills and habits from several GDS faculty members. Fifth Grade Forward teachers:

- executive functioning, study habits, and organizational skills.
- whole body wellness tips
- how the brain works
- a range of social-emotional issues
- mindfulness through stress management techniques and yoga



school's finances in a strong fiscal position, and in her words, "very capable hands."

When asked what's next for Pam Hemphill, she said, "After working 24/7 for so long I am looking forward to taking care of my family, Bible Study, gardening, and taking those pop-up golf trips with Ross and Will. Who knows, maybe I'll start playing."

In our final question, we asked Pam what she wishes for GDS going forward. She was quick to answer, "I hope that GDS remains a community where families get involved, where children and their parents feel that they are part of the school family. The best part of any day at GDS is walking through the halls and seeing kids, teachers, and parents, all belonging to a community that cares." And then she paused and thoughtfully added, "You know, if I could go back and do it again, I sure would." ■



# Why GDS?

## MELANIE AND IAN LAMBERTH

### Indigo '31

“Choosing GDS was easy. Our goal was to immerse Indigo in an environment where she could receive dynamic instruction with access to strategic resources to ensure her success.”

“We firmly believe ‘it takes a village to raise a child.’ For us, GDS is that village! It is evident that this community desires to meet each child at their unique stage, embrace their individuality, creative support thinking, foster relationships, enrich lives, and elevate together.

For us, it wasn't why GDS? But how could we not choose GDS?”

In Indigo's words, “Greensboro Day is the best school ever! I love my teachers, my friends are awesome, and every day is a great day!”

We thought it was essential to check in with all of our new families about one month into the new school year. The survey questions included:

- We want to hear your stories! What highlights has your child shared with you about the first month of school?
- We recognize that a transition to a new school can be challenging. As we adjust to life during a global pandemic, it is even more critical that we focus on building and maintaining positive relationships. Please share with us any students your child(ren) have connected with in this first month. (We asked about parent connections too!)
- After 30 days in school and after reflecting on your entire admission process, what are three things that you think that we need to know?

The answers were detailed, well-considered, and, most of all, helpful. The rate of response was more than 40%. Once we dug into the data, generally, we went back to three of the 75 responding families, and we asked simply, “Why GDS?” We were delighted by their answers!





## CATHERINE AND NEIL STEWART

**Ben '22**

“Without a doubt, GDS has proved to be the perfect niche for our son, Ben. After spending most of his life being homeschooled, we felt he needed to be stretched academically in an environment that would provide both a healthy community and outstanding academics. At GDS, we have found both! With teachers who are passionate about their subjects, that passion has become contagious. And with a student body who share a keen desire for community, this school has hit a sweet spot for us. With a plethora of extracurricular options catered toward individual interests and gifts, we couldn't have imagined a place that would offer such diversity of life experience under the umbrella of a particular school. Ben has transitioned into the school with such incredible ease that our only regret is that we didn't make this move sooner.”

To put it in his words, “GDS has motivated me not only to be a better student but to be a more significant part of my community. I am so thankful for the passion the teachers put in to me as an individual each day.”



## KATIE AND WELLS BRABHAM '90

**Hayes '28 and Van '29**

Wells: “Having spent 13 years at GDS, I know what a special place this is. The school prepares you for life. The bonds you make with friends and teachers last forever. When the pandemic began, Katie and I watched the school transform and lead the way in preparedness. We realized that GDS provided the educational environment that would best meet the needs of our kids. After just two months, we have no doubt that we made the correct decision.”

Van: “GDS is the perfect size school. There is so much space to play and learn. I think the teachers are great!”

Hayes: “I have really enjoyed my short time at GDS. Everyone has been so warm and welcoming to me. The teachers make learning fun!”

Open lines of communication between new families and their school is essential, and we encourage new families (and returning families, too) to communicate freely with the school. Please complete surveys, register concerns, or just tell us that we got it right. Only together can we provide your children with the best possible educational experience. Thank you to our new families and our returning families alike for entrusting your child's education to GDS.



# BENGALS

## GREENSBORO DAY SCHOOL



### VARSITY GIRLS TENNIS

2020



2021

Congratulations to the girls' varsity tennis team for winning the PTAC Conference Championship, the team's 5th consecutive conference championship.

Team members included:  
**Sarah Margaret Brady '23, Celia Funderburk '21, Ada Kirkland '23, Emma Loria '22, Clara McCartney '23, Sara B McCorkle '22, Kendall Parr '23, Tenley Parr '21, Caroline Rainosek '21, Ellie Wilcox '22, Ellie Johnson '26, Kate Jones '22, Lucie Noone '25, Mary Marshall Rankin '25, Reagan Sumner '23, and Reece Tisdale '24.**



**Tenley Parr '21 and Kendall Parr '23** were named PTAC Co-Players of the Year and were named to the NCISAA 4A All-State team.



## Congratulations to the varsity cross country teams on successful seasons!

Congratulations to the girls' cross country team for winning the PTAC Conference Championship and to the boys' cross country team for their second place conference finish. Runners named to All Conference include **Logan Hayes '23, Oliver Kreimer '22, Sterling Sharpe '23, Claire McDowell '23, Lucy Eggleston '26, and Mae Moody '23**. Both girls' and boys' teams also competed in the NCISAA 4A State Competition where the girls team placed #8 and the boys placed 11th.



### Success!

- Significant time drops and personal bests by every member.
- 6 All-Conference Runners (3 girls, 3 boys).
- Boys 2nd at Conference (best finish since at least 2012).
- Girls won Conference and Girls placed 8th at States
- Boys 11th at States
- Most importantly, the kids showed up every day, were positive, encouraging, and did what we asked.



**Karen Lawyer,**  
Varsity Cross  
Country Coach  
was named PTAC  
Coach of the  
Year.

Team members included:

Adam Arnold '23, Lily Barg '24, Harrison Chen '26, Gretchen Cimino '24 Winston Cimino '22, Thomas Dumbill '24, Lucy Eggleston '26, Zhaoxiang Feng '22, Gabriella Fernandes-Brough '22, Coco Guan '22, Logan Hayes '23, Sebastian Kohler '25, Oliver Kreimer '22, Grant Lindsay '23, Claire McDowell '23, Paige McKee '23, Mae Moody '23, John Phillips '22, Elliott Porter '24, Sterling Sharpe '23, Kevin Xu '22





# BENGALS

## GREENSBORO DAY SCHOOL



### MIDDLE SCHOOL CROSS COUNTRY

The middle school boys cross country team placed 2nd in the conference, with the girls taking 4th. All Conference Runners include **Hudson Sharpe '28**, **Sebastian Kohler '25**, **Harrison Chen '26**, and **Sophie Montana '28**.

Abigal Aron '26  
Sam Bartlett '26  
Anna Biggerstaff '28  
Maria Biggerstaff '28  
Jacob Bisbee '26  
Hayes Brabham '28  
Rory Carignan '28  
Harrison Chen '26  
Paolo Criscuolo '26  
Libby Davis '26

Aidan Ezerman '28  
Susan Fields '28  
Mitch Gilbert '26  
Caroline Good '28  
William Hamer '25  
Sebastian Kohler '25  
James Lewis '27  
Bergen Manny '27  
Sophie Montana '28  
Henry Moody '28

Henry Phillips '28  
Zoe Phillips '28  
Rose Procton '28  
Aio Rosario '26  
Hudson Sharpe '28  
Andrew Szott '28  
Will Thompson '26  
Chloe Thongteum '28  
Isabella Thongteum '25





## ***The Bengals Are Streaming!***

**GREENSBORO DAY SCHOOL** has partnered with the National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) Network and will broadcast our Bengals' athletic events LIVE. While there are limitations to fans this year, live games can be watched from anywhere, on your phone, tablet, computer or smart TV.

In order to join the NFHS Network, the school had to purchase specific cameras from the NFHS, which are compatible with their streaming software. The camera system will be known as the "Gran Cam", thanks to a generous anonymous grandparent donor. Two separate cameras were purchased in the summer of 2019. One was installed in Dillard Gymnasium and one was installed on the White Family Field for Field Hockey, Girls' Lacrosse, and Boys' Lacrosse. Two additional cameras were purchased during the Summer of 2020 and have been installed on the Carlton M. Harris, Jr. '76 Soccer Field and in the Auxiliary Gymnasium.

The athletic department is excited about these cameras as it will allow the school to extend its visibility. As a school that continues to attract students from outside of the Greensboro community, this will allow families to watch their children compete in athletics when they would not have had the opportunity to do so before. Assistant Athletic Director Jon Schnier stated, "The technology and support the NFHS Network provides is outstanding. No one is needed to run the cameras, they self-track the action from start to finish. You can also watch away games at any school that is also part of the NFHS Network!"



By subscribing to the NFHSNetwork, you get full access to all content on the Network for our school and any other broadcast Nationwide! Subscribing is easy:

- 1 . Go to [NFHSnetwork.com](https://NFHSnetwork.com).
- 2 . Enter 'Greensboro Day School' in the search box.
- 3 . Click "Follow" so you can stay up to date on all upcoming GDS broadcasted events.
- 4 . Click "Subscribe" for all subscription options for our school.

We look forward to bringing you top notch broadcasts of our athletic events!



# ATHLETICS









The work of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion is a community-wide endeavor. As such, adults and students across campus are continually working to lift up one another. Examples include the following.

The Student Diversity Leadership Council in the middle school (SDLC, Jr.) recently held a retreat under the leadership of Jenna Gilfillan, **Sarah Rose Mostafa '06**, Stephanie Ezerman, and Kyle Gilmer. During this time, seventh and eighth-grade student members discussed allyship, race in film, the Greensboro Massacre, among other topics. Fifth and sixth-grade students discussed leadership styles, allyship, and examined the different identities within the diversity statement.

The Student Diversity Leadership Council (SDLC) in the upper school recently hosted a division-wide "Sidewalk Chalk" Identity Activity. The students drew representative pictures of themselves and wrote words that express how they identify. The purpose of the activity was to encourage students to embrace and celebrate their own identities so that they can appreciate the differences in others' identities.

In 11th grade English class with Mara Montana, students have been practicing the art of civil discourse or having difficult conversations. They have practiced using community norms and conducting research about controversial topics such as statue removal, and disenfranchisement for felons.



Read more about Noni, Danette, and Justin on page 48.

Morton, Head of the Middle School at Westminster; **Justin Plummer '04**, Assistant Director of Student Services and Equity Programming at North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics. During the discussion, panelists addressed four questions surrounding racial justice and how Greensboro Day School plays a part in the wider conversation. Panelists offered profound truths, vulnerability, and bravery in our time together. This event left me with a strong sense of hope for our school community. I am looking forward to the next Pop Up Learning session in which Dr. Cody Perkins and I will focus on the topic, Civil Discourse.

This summer, after the recent iterations of racial unrest in our country and feedback from our alumni, we invited all GDS graduates to an open forum with Head of School, Tracie Catlett, and me. They spoke very honestly about their time at GDS, and I appreciate their candor and personal accounts, both positive and constructive. We then conducted a formal survey of all alumni, and that feedback is guiding our current work at the school.

As we continue to welcome all students and families to our campus, I am galvanized by the steps we are taking and the progress we continue to make to maintain an open dialogue and cultivate an inclusive community. The future is bright for GDS.



## DIVERSITY EQUITY, AND INCLUSION: A COMMUNITY WIDE ENDEAVOR

by Dr. Ayesha Swinton, Director of Inclusion and Global Engagement

In each instance, the overwhelming majority of students showed a great deal of respect for themselves, other perspectives, and the community.

GDS also hosted a Pop-Up Learning Session titled Racial Justice. The session was facilitated by me and the panel included former GDS faculty and students. The panelists were Tracie Catlett, Head of School at Greensboro Day School; **Noni Thomas Lopez '90**, Head of School at the Gordon School; Danette



## COMING BACK TO CAMPUS: SAFE AND READY FOR A NEW ACADEMIC YEAR



### *Safe and Ready*

On August 26, we welcomed 772 students, including 180 new students, our largest new student enrollment in a single year since 1972! Here are a few of the safety precautions we put into place this past summer to prepare for our return to campus:

- A new Global Plasma Solutions air filtration system in every building
- Swivl Technology: families can choose in-person or remote learning
- An innovative new schedule
- A renovated Health Center with a sick and well area
- Eight tents for outdoor lunch, learning, and play
- Crazy Creek chairs for mobile seating for students and teachers
- Daily Box Lunches
- Outdoor tables and chairs
- New wayfinding systems and signage
- A new key card system for building entry
- An additional full-time nurse



Part of the 50th birthday festivities on Monday, September 14 included tie-dye shirts, cupcakes, a happy birthday song, and a panel conversation with former faculty, board members, and alumni parents. Even in the midst of all of our social distancing protocols, the GDS community found joy throughout the day. We continue to look forward to a proper celebration in person when we get to the other side of the pandemic.

We are using every corner of our beautiful 65-acre campus and our students and teachers are so happy to be reunited. We remain committed to a strong academic offering, but we know more challenges will come our way as we prepare for life during COVID-19 on campus in the winter season. ■





# A New Academic Year

by Academic Dean, Peter Williams

After the whirlwind of distance learning in the spring of 2020, we faced the challenge of reopening our school for the fall semester.

Throughout the summer, I could not help but read and reread Philip Larkin's poem "The School in August." Empty schools are strange places, and Larkin comments on this, remarking on "hollow desks...lined with dust," and wondering, "Who practiced this piano whose notes are now so still?"

Like Freud or Lacan writing about the "uncanny," Larkin is noting what we all have felt this year: the strangeness of the familiar in an unfamiliar context. What, after all, is a school without its pupils?

In August we welcomed back our faculty, staff, and students to a campus transformed. Following CDC+ guidelines, we rearranged all of our classrooms so that desks were spaced six feet apart, and we implemented mask wearing for all. With the addition of a new Global Plasma Solutions air filtration system, this meant that our students could be in class with peers and teachers, even if it looked a little different. From math and English to science and art classes, our regular instruction has continued in the new paradigm.



With these measures in place in the classroom, we still knew that students and teachers would need mask breaks, recess, and fresh air. Our students were all equipped with Crazy Creek chairs, and we secured



tents, tables, chairs, and rolling whiteboards for outdoor learning spaces. A great deal of recent research, like that done by Kuo and Penner, finds that students learn better with ample time to move and be outdoors. In this sense, the necessities of Covid have improved our instruction.

Of course, we knew that the realities of the pandemic would mean that, regardless of our procedures on campus, some students would not be able to join us in person. Using Zoom and our new Swivl robots, we are also able to have hybrid and distance learners join our classrooms. These students attend their classes synchronously and are able to experience lectures, class discussions, and group work with their peers. We even have some enterprising science teachers who have found ways for them to be a part of labs.

With the need for cleaning breaks, time outdoors, and hybrid learning, we knew that the use of time during the day was more critical than ever. In the fall of 2019, a cross-divisional task force explored a new daily schedule for our Middle and Upper

Schools that could improve student success and well-being. The work of this task force resulted in 75 minute periods (allowing for deeper learning), A-B day meetings, and longer breaks between classes. Adopting this previously approved schedule one year early allowed us to leverage the work of our faculty and current research on best practices to help us approach the problems of the pandemic.

We are continuing to learn how to perfect the hybrid learning model. Our faculty have undergone a massive amount of professional development to teach in the pandemic, and our students have learned a new way to be at school.

It is still Greensboro Day School, though. Of that I am sure. We safely returned to campus this fall, and this update says a lot about our life in the new school year. Over the late spring and summer months, the GDS Re-Entry team and subcommittee members labored assiduously to prepare our campus for a safe return for our students and faculty - the lifeblood of our school. ■





Our Corporate Friends Program is a community partnership providing long term ongoing support to GDS while simultaneously building strong relationships with businesses and families.

GDS Corporate Friends creates a collaborative partnership with the school that benefits both the school and your business. By becoming a corporate friend, your company will help ensure the sustainability of a long-established learning community that is inexorably tied to the Triad's growth and your company increases brand awareness to a group of committed families who believe strongly in education.

**For more information or to join today, contact Dr. Ian Patrick at (336) 288-8590 ext. 235 or [ianpatrick@greensboroday.org](mailto:ianpatrick@greensboroday.org)**

GDS is grateful to our current Corporate Friends for the 2020-21 school year, and we encourage GDS families to consider these great partners in their daily business transactions and activities.

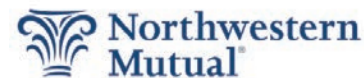


**ANN LEGETTE**  
INTERIORS



**N** NOVANT  
HEALTH

**Rice Toyota**





## GDS ANNOUNCES NEWLY ENDOWED AWARD: The Mekia S. Valentine '06 Award

Standing at 6'4, **Mekia Valentine '06** towered over the majority of her classmates. Though this was the first impression one might have, it was always her big smile and infectiously positive attitude that stayed with those who knew her best. She was respected by her classmates, older and younger students, and the faculty of Greensboro Day School.

UCSB Women's Basketball Head Coach Lindsay Gottlieb stated, "Whatever points or rebounds she accumulates, that will never tell the story of Mekia Valentine, her competitiveness, and what she brings to the table," she said. "Above all else, she is an absolutely outstanding young woman."

Her athletic prowess afforded her many opportunities and accomplishments. She was the nation's #23 recruit and 3rd best



power-forward coming out of high school. She accepted a scholarship to play basketball at Wake Forest University where she made the ACC All-Freshman Team in 2007 while averaging 5.9 points and 4.7 rebounds

with 50 blocked shots, the second-most in Wake Forest history. She transferred to the University of California at Santa Barbara, where as a junior in 2009-10, she averaged 12.3 points and 9.7 rebounds. Her 4.0 blocks per game set a school record and ranked third in the nation. She received second-team All-Big West Conference honors and was also voted to the Big West All-Tournament team. She also made second-team all-league as a senior while averaging a double-double of 11.1 points and 11.2 rebounds with 3.7 blocks. Her 347 rebounds that season set a school record at the time. Mekia still holds UCSB records for career rebound average (10.5 per game), blocks in a game (11), blocks in a season (120), and field-goal percentage in both a season (.620) and a career (.595). The New York Liberty selected her in the third round of the 2011 WNBA Draft. She opted to go overseas, however, and spent the next four years playing professional basketball in Israel, Poland, Romania and Germany.

Mekia passed away on March 26, 2020, sending shockwaves through the GDS community. Classmates and former teachers were saddened by the news and were left to think back on so many positive memories. Her big heart and big smile will never be forgotten. Her friends only hope that she knew she was an even better person than she was a basketball player.

**Mandy Downes Laster '06**, classmate and teammate of Mekia stated, "Mekia and I were basketball teammates our junior year. I was the new kid and she was so kind and welcoming to me. The only one crazy enough to meet me in the gym at 6 a.m.! Her smile, outgoing personality, and contagious laugh could brighten anyone's day. She was truly a





genuine, gentle soul (except on the court!). A friend to all and will never be forgotten.”

**Leslie Valentine '92**, wanted to do something to memorialize her niece, Mekia. Through her nonprofit, the L&M Valentine Foundation, Inc., Leslie has established a student award endowment fund in memory of Mekia and the impact of Mekia's educational and athletic experience at Greensboro Day School.

Leslie stated, “Mekia attending Greensboro Day School in the 4th grade was the best decision our family made regarding her education. Mekia's time at GDS was great. She was exposed to so many opportunities that may not have happened had she not attended GDS. While at GDS Mekia was a girl scout, participated in several school plays in elementary school, a cheerleader, a track runner and a phenomenal basketball player. She met and became a part of so many families. She excelled in academics as an avid reader and writer. Because of what Greensboro Day School provided to Mekia, I feel it is only appropriate to honor her legacy by helping to ensure that a minority student and their family experience the opportunities and exposure our family saw at Greensboro Day School.”



**The Mekia S. Valentine '06 Award** will recognize a female student of color in the Upper School who makes outstanding efforts in several of the following areas: academics, extra-curricular activities, leadership, and community involvement. The award will be presented in the spring at the End of Year Athletic Awards Ceremony.

If you would like to contribute to this endowment fund, please visit [www.greensboroday.org/giving](http://www.greensboroday.org/giving) and enter 'Mekia Valentine Award' into the comment field on the giving page.

Greensboro Day School's endowment adds to the stability and financial maturity of the school. Donors to permanent endowment funds show their belief that an investment in the school will continue to make a difference beyond their own lifetime. Additions to the endowment come from direct gifts and planned gifts in the form of cash, securities, property, or other tangible items. ■



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**If you would like more information about endowments, please contact Director of Advancement, Ian Patrick at 336-288-8590 ext. 235 or by email at [ianpatrick@greensboroday.org](mailto:ianpatrick@greensboroday.org).**

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# WHY DO I GET CALLS ABOUT THE ANNUAL FUND?

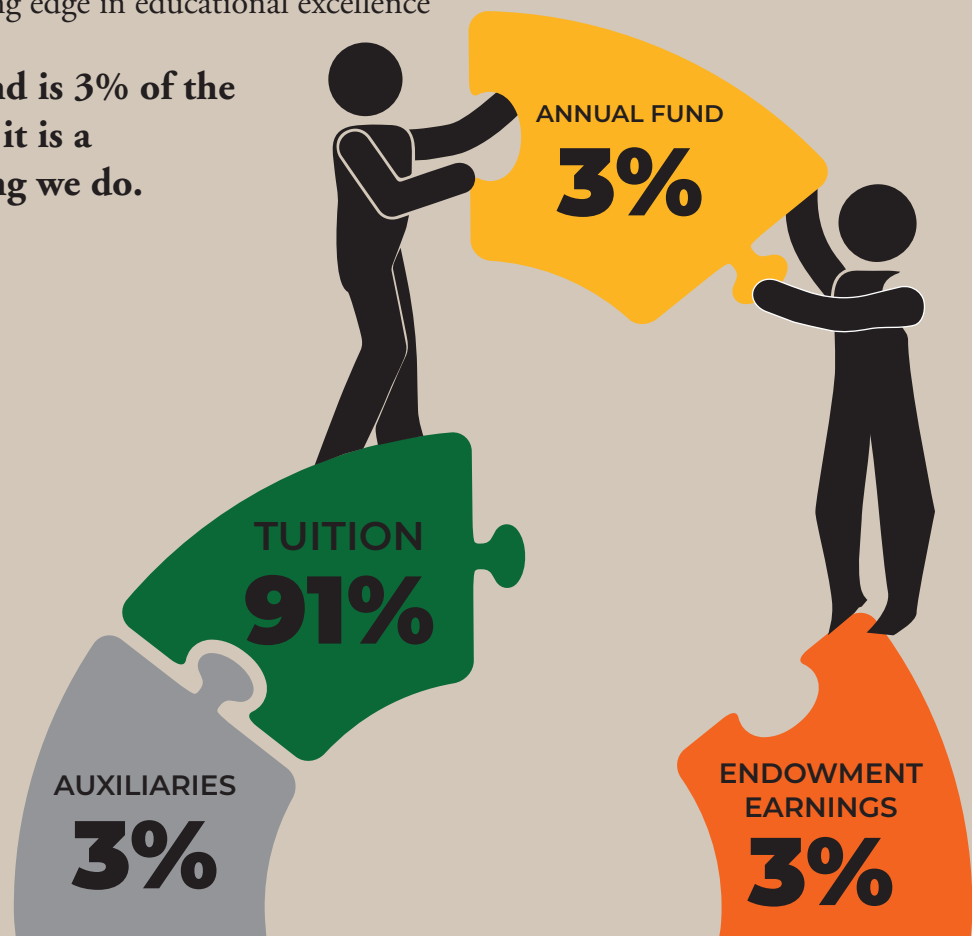
## Because every piece to a puzzle is important!

At Greensboro Day School, we are fortunate to enjoy a culture of giving and support, providing us with vital financial resources every independent school needs to thrive and grow. Parents, trustees, alumni, grandparents, faculty, past parents, and friends have contributed with a spirit of generosity that makes Greensboro Day School the premiere 2 year old through 12th grade school in the Triad.

Since the founding of our school, tax-deductible gifts to the Annual Fund:

- support faculty salaries
- promote individual opportunities for our students in all divisions
- add technology to classrooms
- contribute to financial assistance
- give our school a leading edge in educational excellence

Because the Annual Fund is 3% of the GDS operating budget, it is a critical part of everything we do.







*Please accept our gift in support of the*  
**GREENSBORO DAY SCHOOL**  
**1970 SOCIETY**

The 1970 Society was established in the year 2020 to celebrate our 50th birthday and recognizes parents, alumni, faculty, former faculty, staff, and friends who make an unrestricted gift of at least \$1,970 to Greensboro Day School from July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021.

In addition to showing a sign of celebration for our founding, 2020 required incredible energy and focus to open our school safely in COVID-19. The funds generated from your 1970 Society membership directly help our school address the extra costs associated with safety measures implemented to ensure maximum safety for our students and teachers. Here is what the 1970 Society members have accomplished thus far:

- A new Global Plasma Solutions air filtration system in every building
- Swivl Technology provides a remote learning option for all students
- A renovated Health Center with a sick and well area
- Eight tents for outdoor lunch, learning, and play
- Outdoor tables and chairs
- New wayfinding systems and signage
- A new key card system for building entry
- An additional full-time nurse



**YES! I/we want to help secure the future now!** Our cash pledge to the 1970 Society will be payable as follows:

- ☐ In one payment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ by, \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_
- ☐ Monthly installments from my credit card or bank. Please call Beth Barnwell at 336.288.8590 to complete the transaction.
- ☐ Matching gift: My employer/foundation, \_\_\_\_\_, will match my gift with an additional \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donor Signatures \_\_\_\_\_

Donor Names (print) \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Gifts can be made online at [www.greensboroday.org/support](http://www.greensboroday.org/support) or via [Venmo@greensboroday](mailto:Venmo@greensboroday)*

**Thank you for your continued support of Greensboro Day School!**





# GDS ALUMNI CALENDAR

## UPCOMING EVENTS 2020-2021

Dates and locations subject to change. Please visit [www.greensboroday.org/alumni](http://www.greensboroday.org/alumni) for updates on venues and additional information.

January 20	Alumni Board Meeting (Zoom)
February 14	Founders' Day
March 3	#1dayforGDS
April 7	Alumni Board Meeting (Zoom)
May 24	Seniors/Alumni Luncheon (TBD)
May 28	Graduation

\*Dates and locations subject to change. Stay tuned as we continue to navigate the Covid-19 pandemic and can plan in-person gatherings. Please visit [www.greensboroday.org/alumni](http://www.greensboroday.org/alumni) for updates on venues and additional information.

*Sign Up!* for the online alumni directory

### DID YOU KNOW?

Our online alumni directory gives you the resources to reconnect with old classmates and network with fellow alumni. Update your profile today!

Search by class year, look-up coaches or faculty members ... the password-protected database has it all! Visit [www.greensboroday.org/alumni](http://www.greensboroday.org/alumni) and get started today. Don't remember your username and password? Contact Director of Alumni Programs, **Michael Sumner '04** for help.

## MORE DETAILS ABOUT THE SPRING 2021 EVENTS COMING SOON.

## TURN YOURSELF IN!

Tell us about your new job, marriage, or new baby by email: [alumni@greensboroday.org](mailto:alumni@greensboroday.org)

Please include specifics like:

- ☐ new job title
- ☐ who you married and when
- ☐ your new address
- ☐ new baby's name and date of birth

*And, don't forget to include your name, address, class year and picture!*



## SPRING 2021 ALUMNI REUNION WEEKEND

*More details about the spring 2021 events coming soon.*



**EMAIL:** [alumni@greensboroday.org](mailto:alumni@greensboroday.org) **WEBSITE:** [www.greensboroday.org/alumni](http://www.greensboroday.org/alumni)



"LIKE" us! GDS Alumni and "FRIEND" Greensboro Day Alums



"FOLLOW" us! @GDSAlumni



"JOIN" the GDS Alumni Group on LinkedIn



"WATCH" videos of your alma mater



## LETTER FROM THE ALUMNI DIRECTOR



Our Alumni Program is all about connections. We continue to fuel the pride and passion that we know you have for this great school. While I've missed seeing our alumni in person, I hope to continue connecting with you all virtually, as much as we can!

What a year 2020 was. I watched our community stay strong. We were resilient in so many ways.

As the movement around racial justice swept the country, our alumni called out for action. We hosted a July conversation with our Black Alumni, and we continue to listen to all of our alumni to keep the lines of communication open around diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Dr. Ayesha Swinton, Director of Inclusion and Global

Engagement, is hard at work leading this effort. Dr. Swinton led a Pop-up Learning session on Racial Justice, and we were fortunate to have **Noni Thomas Lopez '90**, Danette Morton, former Director of Admission, and **Justin Plummer '04** join Tracie Catlett, Head of School for this event. See p. 48 for the rest of the story: *Where are they now?*

Despite all of the challenges we are faced with in the world today, you continue to amaze me with your generosity. We are grateful for our alumni who are committed to supporting the long term sustainability of GDS through endowment giving. Last spring, we sadly said goodbye to one of our alumna, **Mekia Valentine '06**. GDS is grateful for **Leslie Valentine '92**, who recently established the Mekia S. Valentine '06 Endowment Award in her memory. (See p. 36 for details: *GDS Announces Newly Endowed Award*.) We also appreciate **Lillian Evans '11** who is leading the effort to create the Equity and Inclusion Endowment, which will support diversity, equity, and inclusion programs at GDS.

As alumni, we are counting on you to remain engaged in the work we are doing at GDS and communicate topics you are passionate about with us. We welcome your feedback and request your partnership as we continue to move GDS forward.

Since many of our in-person connections have been made difficult or impossible, I hope that our alumni will stay connected to the school, as well as each other, in every way possible. We need each other now, more than ever!

Once A Bengal, Always A Bengal!

**Michael Sumner '04**  
Director of Alumni Programs

### ALUMNI BOARD MEMBER NOMINATIONS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED.

**Do you want to help strengthen the GDS Alumni Association?** Do you want to help make important decisions that decide the direction our alumni association is going? **Maybe you want to help plan alumni events or recruit alumni volunteers?** We are now accepting nominations for new Alumni Board Members. This board is open to all GDS alumni. **Please email Michael Sumner '04 at [michaelsumner@greensboroday.org](mailto:michaelsumner@greensboroday.org) with your name and interest in participating on the board.** If you know someone who you believe would be an asset to our board, please email their name to us and tell us why you think they would be a good addition to our board.



### Are you receiving The Alumni Update Monthly e-Newsletter?

It includes alumni news and announcements as well as event reminders. If you are not receiving the e-newsletter, email us at **[alumni@greensboroday.org](mailto:alumni@greensboroday.org)** with your name and preferred email address to ensure you receive the next update!



# I AM A BENGAL

## MYRON POWELL '95, MD FACS, FASMB

### At GDS:

- Honor Roll every semester
- Played Basketball, Soccer, Track & Field, and Tennis
- Participated in school leadership search committee

### After GDS:

- BAS, North Carolina A&T State University
- Member of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.
- MD, Brody School of Medicine, East Carolina University
- Board Certifications: American Board of Surgery
- North Carolina Medical Association
- Fellow of American College of Surgeons
- Fellow of American Society and Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery
- Society of Black Academic Surgeons
- Society of American Gastrointestinal and Endoscopic Surgeons



Myron Powell '95, MD, specializes in general and bariatric surgery at Wake Forest Baptist Health. His work with Bariatric and Minimally Invasive Surgery, has changed the lives of many as they feel he has helped give them "a new lease on life."

He has always wanted to be closer to family so he decided to do his training in NC including all of his surgery residency and fellowship training at Wake Forest Baptist Health. He is now a part of the surgical faculty teaching the next generation of surgeons the art of surgery. Myron decided to do general surgery, but more specifically bariatric surgery based on the ability to alter a patient's lifestyle with a simple surgical procedure- many times eliminating medical comorbidities such as diabetes, hypertension, obstructive sleep apnea, and an overall better wellness for his patients.

Not only does Myron specialize in Bariatric surgery, he also works with the Kidney Transplant Team to perform live donor nephrectomies. This is a surgical procedure where he removes a healthy kidney from a live donor for transplant into a person whose kidneys no longer function properly to eliminate the need for dialysis. Myron always finds it entertaining and fulfilling to learn about patients' history and what made them who they are today-outside their pre-existing medical conditions that they're seeking treatment for.

"I have the best career in the world ... Choose a career that you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life"

## Surgeon and Life Changer



## 1991

**David Henson**, a partner in the Raleigh law firm Henson & Fuerst, P.A. was elected President of the North Carolina Advocates for Justice (NCAJ). He will serve as NCAJ's 46th president. During his tenure as president, David looks forward to working with NCAJ to ensure that their trial lawyer members remain prepared to fight for the rights of all citizens of North Carolina. David has been actively involved in the North Carolina Advocates for Justice (NCAJ) for more than 20 years. In recent years, David has served on the Board of Governors, Executive Committee in several vice-president roles and on innumerable committees and task forces. The North Carolina Advocates for Justice is a nonprofit, nonpartisan association of more than 2,500 members dedicated to empowering a strong community of trial lawyers to protect people, prevent injustice and promote fairness. They believe that every individual has a right to justice, that advocacy is essential to creating fair laws and a level playing field, and that our collective expertise, experience and skills strengthen our impact.

## 1992

**Leslie Valentine** was promoted to Territory Manager, Biologics with Sun Pharmaceuticals in April, 2020.



Leslie Valentine '92

## 1995

**Myron Powell** and Casey Powell. Son: Carson Powell, June 26, 2020. He joins siblings, McKinley, Cameron and Jayce. They reside in High Point, NC.

**Mihan House McKenna Taylor** was selected as the Army Senior Scientist (ST) for Near Surface Phenomenology. STs are unique Department of Defense Flag Officer positions. Near Surface Phenomenology represents the scientific and engineering disciplines that study the interface of air, land, and sea, and encompasses geophysics, geology, and geotechnical engineering, through sensor physics development, high performance computing, and physical experimentation. Mihan represents the discipline of Near Surface Phenomenology across the federal and DoD system and is tasked with not only executing cutting edge research, but ensuring technical relevancy of all investments in this field while setting the vision for future requirements.



Mihan House Taylor McKenna '95

## 1997

**Sharon Siler Wood** and Tony Wood. Son: Jacob 'Jake' Oliver Wood, July 21, 2020. He joins brother, Noah. They reside in Mount Pleasant, SC.



Jake Wood, son of Sharon Siler Wood '97

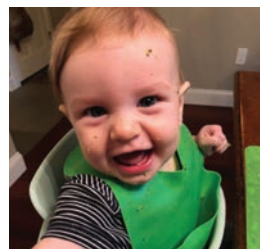
**Nathan Jones** and Dr. Peyton Thompson were married on Monday, September 7, 2020 on the New River near West Jefferson, NC. They honeymooned at Smith Mountain Lake, VA and reside in Burlington, NC.



Nathan Jones '97 with wife, Peyton

## 1998

**Forest Michaels Harger** and Tim Harger. Son: Stowe Richard Harger, March 10, 2020. He joins brother, Quinn. They reside in South Burlington, VT.



Stowe Harger, son of Forest Michaels Harger '98

**Craig Hassenfelt McIntosh** joined Tyler Redhead and McAlister as a broker working with Preston Young.

**Allison Brown Niekraas** and Brian Niekraas. Daughter: Katherine Stella Niekraas, September 29, 2020. They reside in Charlotte, NC.



Katherine Stella Niekraas, daughter of Allison Brown Niekraas '98

## 1999

**Annie Shulman King** is now the owner of the Cat Clinic in Asheville.

## 2000

**Margot Neufeld Rhondeau** and Chris Rhondeau. Son: Jacob Adam Rhondeau, May 26, 2020. He joins sister, Hannah. They reside in Herndon, VA.



Jacob Adam Rhondeau, son of Margot Neufeld Rhondeau '00

**Max Perkins** and Cameron Howard. Son: Robert Conor Perkins, May 2020. He joins brother, Maxwell. They reside in Durham, NC.

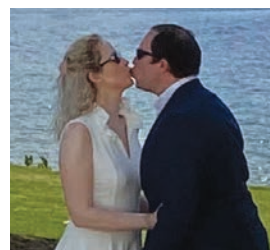


Max Perkins '00 with sons, Maxwell and Robert

**Bonnie Dickinson Glenn** embarked on a new career as the Writer and Content Coordinator for Neighbors of South Charlotte. The magazine serves the Ballantyne and Piper Glen areas.

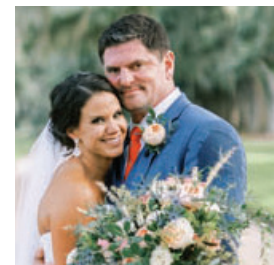
## 2002

**Jessica Morton** and Timothy Maj were married on January 18, 2020 at the Reynolds Lake Oconee in Greensboro, Georgia. The wedding party included **Stephen O'Neil '02**. They reside in Greensboro.



Jessica Morton Maj '02 with husband, Timothy

**Jennifer Pool** and Micah Givens were married on Friday, June 26, 2020 at The Cotton Dock on Boone Hall Plantation in Mount Pleasant, SC. They reside in Raleigh, NC.



Jennifer Pool Givens '02 with husband, Micah

**Emily Moore Tyler** and Bryan Tyler. Daughter: Elizabeth Joy Tyler, July 15, 2020. They reside in Raleigh, NC.



Elizabeth Joy Tyler, daughter of Emily Moore Tyler '02

**James Megliola** and Sara Isner. Son: William Michael Megliola, October 19, 2020. They reside in Reston, VA. William is the grandson of Mrs. Trish Morris.



William Megliola, son of James Megliola '02



**Amanda Cheney** has been named Band Together's next Board Chair! Band Together connects the Triangle community to nonprofits through the power of live music.



**Amanda Cheney '02**

**Betsy Huffine Minto** and Ryan Minto. Daughter: Charlotte Chauncey Minto, October 23, 2020. She joins siblings, Catherine, John Wesley and Charlie. They reside in Raleigh, NC.



**Charlotte Chauncey Minto, daughter of Betsy Huffine Minto '02**

## 2003

**Hillary Davis Brower** and Andrew Brower. Daughter: Nora June Brower, June 4, 2020. They reside in Greensboro.

**Anna Beaver Duffy** and Dan Duffy. Daughter: Reese Louise Duffy, June 28, 2020. She joins brother, Patrick. They reside in Atlanta, GA.



**Reese Duffy, daughter of Anna Beaver Duffy '03**

**KJ Garland** was inducted into the University of North Carolina at Asheville's Athletics Hall of Fame as a member of the class of 2020.

**Leigh Ann Teague Moffitt** and Jason Moffitt. Son: Fisher Hayes Moffitt, July 28, 2020. They reside in Graham, NC.



**Fisher Moffitt, son of Leigh Ann Teague Moffitt '03**

**Will Benjamin** has been swimming in the 61-degree San Francisco Bay. And without a wetsuit! He completed a swim from shore, around Alcatraz, and back to the same spot on shore in 2 hours, 30 minutes. The following weekend, he completed a 10-mile swim across the entire north city front - including swimming underneath both the Golden Gate Bridge and Bay Bridge - in 3 hours, 26 minutes. Curious seals, a sea lion, and a porpoise periodically followed him.

## 2004

**Ryan Parker** and Morgan Parker. Daughter: Audrey Sophronia Parker, July 25, 2020. They reside in Charlotte, NC.



**Audrey Sophronia Parker, daughter of Ryan Parker '04**

**Jordan Orr** and Emily Burns were married on Saturday,

August 8, 2020 in Emily's mother's backyard in Carrollton, OH. They honeymooned in Telluride, CO and reside in Denver, CO.



**Jordan Orr '04 with wife, Emily Jeff Finn and Polly Finn.** Daughter: Virginia Smith Finn, September 9, 2020. She joins sister, Janie. They reside in Greensboro, NC.



**Virginia Smith Finn, daughter of Jeff Finn '04**

## 2005

**Melanie Fernandez Jones** and Tad Jones. Daughter: Addison Quinn Jones, June 7, 2020. They reside in Greensboro, NC.



**Melanie Fernandez Jones '05 with husband, Tad and daughter, Addie**

**Jessica Quarello (formerly Elovsson)** and Matthew Quarello. Daughter: Adeline Blake Manna Quarello, July 21, 2020. She joins sister, Charlee. They reside in Hoboken, NJ.



**Charlee and Adeline Quarello, daughters of Jessica Quarello '05**

**George Sondecker** and Elizabeth Sondecker. Daughter: Catherine Sondecker, May 10, 2020. They reside in Hermosa Beach, CA.



**George Sondecker '05 with wife, Elizabeth and daughter, Catherine**

## 2006

**Caroline Tedder Hacker** and Brett Hacker. Son: Andrew Gordon Hacker, June 29, 2020. He joins sister, Anna Katherine. They reside in Greensboro.



**Caroline Tedder Hacker '06 with husband Brett Hacker, newborn son, Andrew and daughter, Anna Katherine (Credit to Kiley Schiffman Storrs Photography)**

## GDS ALUMNI IN NEW ORLEANS, LA

In each issue of the GDS Magazine, we feature a different city where some of our recent alumni live. While this is not intended to be a complete list, we hope you'll enjoy catching up with folks in our choice for this issue: **New Orleans, LA.**

Are you currently living in New Orleans, but have fallen out of touch with GDS? Update your information by emailing [alumni@greensboroday.org](mailto:alumni@greensboroday.org). Our next city will be **Denver, CO**. If you're there or heading that way, catch us up!

**Mary Parke McEachran Dunn '09:** UNC-Chapel Hill; Director, Value + Access Communications for W2O Group, a healthcare marketing and communications agency. Married to **Hanes Dunn '09**.

**Sydney Cone '12:** Haverford College '16; Current Law Student at Tulane University Law School, class of '21.



**Andrew Pinto** and Dee Pinto. Daughter: Louise Harrison Pinto, July 6, 2020. They reside in Raleigh, NC.

**Andrew Strong** and Stephanie Papes were married on Saturday, August 22, 2020 at the Columbia River Gorge outside Portland, OR. The wedding was a small elopement with four friends. The couple currently resides in Portland, and looks forward to reconnecting with east coast friends soon.



**Andrew Strong '06** with wife, Stephanie

**Kevin McDonald** and Jacqueline Christen were married on Saturday, September 5, 2020 at Le Meridien in Arlington, VA. The wedding party included **Catherine McDonald '10** and **Adam Huffine '06**. The couple resides in Washington, DC and will honeymoon in 2021 when travel is less restricted.



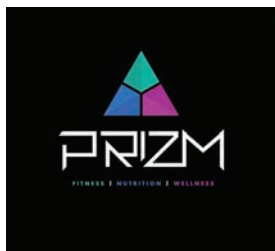
**Kevin McDonald '06** with wife, Jacqueline

**Anna Hurd Grabmeier** and James Grabmeier. Son: Milo Axel Grabmeier, September 10, 2020. He joins brother, Jack. They reside in Greenville, SC.



**Milo Axel Grabmeier**, son of **Anna Hurd Grabmeier '06**

**Andrew Daniel** started his own business, Prizm Fitness & Wellness based in Raleigh, NC. Prizm offers personal training in person or virtually.. Free consultation/demo session available.



**Prizm Fitness and Wellness**

**Chelsea Lundquist-Wentz** and Michael Bartlett. Son: Kit River Bartlett, October 9, 2020. He joins sister, Rowan. They reside in Washington, DC.



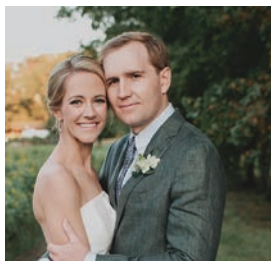
**Kit Bartlett**, son of **Chelsea Lundquist-Wentz '06**

## 2007

**Liz Sypher** and Keaton Hurt. Son: James Robert 'Rob' Hurt. June 4, 2020. They reside in Charlotte, NC.

**Elizabeth Stewart** and Rob Belk were married on October 3, 2020 at the Stewart's farm outside of Greensboro, NC. The wedding party included **Carrie Hagan Stewart '05**, **Will Stewart '05**, **Grainger Stewart '10**, **Harrison Stewart '32**, **Blair**

**Stewart '34**, and **Emma Ruth Stewart '36**. Elizabeth and Rob honeymooned in Santa Barbara, CA and reside in Venice, CA.



**Elizabeth Stewart Belk '07** with husband, Rob



**Elizabeth Stewart Belk '07** with current Bengals, **Emma Ruth Stewart '36**, **Harrison Stewart '32** and **Blair Stewart '34**

**Ashley Wainer Weiss** and Stephen Weiss. Daughter: Olivia 'Livi' Jo Weiss, October 9, 2020. They reside in Bethesda, MD.



**Livi Weiss**, daughter of **Ashley Wainer Weiss '07**

**Blair Latham Taylor** and Mike Taylor. Daughter: Quinn Bryan Taylor, October 15, 2020. They reside in Washington, DC.



**Quinn Bryan Taylor**, daughter of **Blair Latham Taylor '07**

## 2008

**Lucy Zuraw** and John Thompson were married on Saturday, June 6, 2020 in her parent's backyard in Greensboro, NC. They were joined only by immediate family and are hosting a larger celebration in 2021. The wedding party includes **Lane Zuraw '11**, **Jerry Zuraw '09**, **Anne McCarty '08**, **Elise Benjamin Turner '06**, and Father of the Bride is former GDS teacher Ben Zuraw. They will honeymoon in New Zealand when travel resumes and reside in Atlanta, GA.



**Lucy Zuraw Thompson '08** with husband, John

## 2009

**Bailey Jennings** and Taylor Golmont were married on Saturday, June 27, 2020 at the Lake in Roaring Gap, NC. The wedding party included **Blake Jennings '07**, **Melanie Matthews Jennings '07**, **Mary Frances Jennings '12**, **John Jennings '14**, and **Sinclair Fowler McLean '94**. They honeymooned in Kiawah, SC and reside in Charlotte, NC.



**Bailey Jennings Golmont '09** with husband, Taylor

## 2010

**Jonathan Wells** and Alyssa Wells. Son: Jackson Grant Wells, July 1, 2020. They reside in Lewisville, NC.



**Jackson Wells**, son of **Jonathan Wells '10**

**Austin Pittman** and his father founded Blue Norther on their family ranch in March of 2019. They saw the explosion of activity in the new hard seltzer category, but identified a weakness in taste and quality in existing market-dominant products. Over the course of the past year and a half, they developed a formula, learned the industry, started the company in Austin, TX, releasing their first products in June, 2020. For more information, check out their website: [drinkbluenorther.com](http://drinkbluenorther.com)



**Austin Pittman '10** and his father, Austin, founders of Blue Norther

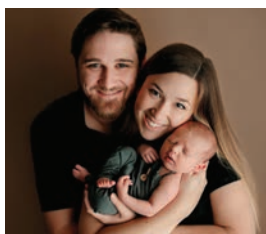


**Taylor Woods** was recognized with the 2020 U.S. Small Business Administration Southeast Region Young Entrepreneur Award. Taylor is the CEO of Ashtae Products. For more than 50 years, the U.S. Small Business Administration has celebrated National Small Business Week, which recognizes the critical contributions of America's entrepreneurs and small-business owners. Ashtae Products is the brainchild of the husband-and-wife team of Michael and Ramona Woods. Taylor left a career at Facebook, taking a pay cut along the way, to rejoin the family enterprise. She brought with her technological expertise that revolutionized Ashtae's marketing, accounting and distribution practices, prior to her taking the reins of the day-to-day operations.



**Taylor Woods '10**

**Lauren Freedman Jones** and Eric Jones. Son: Andrew Preston Jones, September 25, 2020. They reside in Greensboro.



**Eric Jones and Lauren Freedman Jones '10 with son, Andrew**

## 2011

**Aubrey Kaplan** and Scott Durand were married on Saturday, September 12, 2020 at the St. Julien Hotel and Spa in Boulder, CO. They reside in Denver, CO.



**Aubrey Kaplan Durand '11 with husband, Scott**

**Jamel Lewis** and Aunesha Williams. Daughter: Faith Alexandria Lewis, October 29, 2020. They reside in Concord, NC.



**Faith Alexandria Lewis, daughter of Jamel Lewis '11**

## 2012

**Tenesha Connor** and Collin Kepley were married on Saturday, July 11, 2020 at Crockett's Run in Hocking Hills Ohio. They reside in Willoughby, OH.

**Mary Stuart King** received the 2020 Jackson Lewis Employment & Labor Law Endowed Award from the University Of South Carolina School Of Law. This scholarship was created in August 2008 by Ashley B. Abel and by the law firm of Jackson Lewis, practicing employment and workplace law throughout the United States. The scholarship is awarded to a deserving student.



**Mary Stuart King '12**

**Stephanie Lee** and Michael Karp were married on October 10, 2020 at Carolina Country Weddings in Mt. Pleasant, NC. The wedding party included **Evelyn Milford '12** and **Kelly Pusch '12**. They honeymooned in Asheville, NC and reside in Charlotte, NC.



**Stephanie Lee Karp '12 with husband, Michael**

## 2013

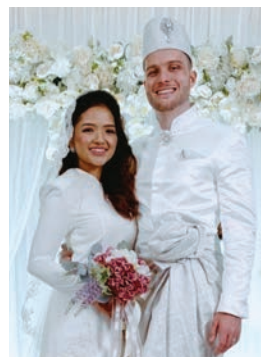
**Elizabeth Tilley** and Matthew Anderson were married on Saturday, June 20, 2020 at the Cadillac Service Garage in Greensboro. The wedding party included **Christine South Alexander '13** and **Maggie Wilkinson '13**. They reside in Oak Park, IL.



**Elizabeth Tilley Anderson '13 with husband, Matthew**

## 2014

**Connor Cooke** and Farisha Ishak were married on Saturday, June 20, 2020 at a private venue in Singapore. Due to the COVID-19 situation and prevailing government policies on gatherings, only Farisha's immediate family was able to join in-person, while Connor's family and friends, Farisha's friends, and even the wedding officiant, joined via Zoom. The wedding party included **Philip Cooke '86**, **Ross Gaines '14**, and **Christian Taylor '14**. Connor and Farisha have postponed their U.S. wedding reception to the summer of 2021, and hope to also go on their official honeymoon to the Maldives early next year. Currently, they reside in Singapore.



**Connor Cooke '14 with wife, Farisha**

**Claire Burns** and **Pearce Veazey** were married on Saturday, August 22, 2020 at the Montage Palmetto Bluff in Bluffton, SC. The wedding party included **Christopher Burns '19**, **Eric Rosenbower '14**, **Clayton Swords '14**, **Janse Schermerhorn '14**, **Karson Bankhead '14**. They honeymooned in Cabo San Lucas and reside in Atlanta, GA.



**Claire Burns Veazey '14 and Pearce Veazey '14**

**Zac Schner**, as part of his role with Barbour Orthopaedics, was selected as one of the full-time ATs for RugbyATL, Atlanta's Major League Rugby team and it's affiliated academy teams.

## 2016

**Jake Keeley** recently accepted a position with 3M as an Inside Sales Representative for Converter Markets based out of the 3M headquarters in St. Paul, MN.

## 2018

**Luke Hayes** is a member of the Varsity Sailing team at Christopher Newport University.



**Luke Hayes '18**

**Sam Dell** was named to the Dean's List for the winter/spring term at Centre College, an honor reserved for students who maintain at least a 3.60 grade point average.



The following grew out of the October 2020  
GDS Pop-up Learning panel on  
**Racial Justice.** Our three panelists tell their  
GDS stories and much more.

By Jane Gutsell



**DANETTE MORTON** likes a challenge. Growing up in Brooklyn, the daughter of Caribbean immigrants, she decided that her best path to college was the prestigious Brooklyn Technical High School, a Math and Science Magnet. But first, she had to do well on difficult standardized tests. No problem. In her senior year, a couple of her friends talked her into applying to schools in the ACC, so she did and was accepted by Duke University. Never having been South, she headed to Durham and discovered that she liked the pace of life and the cultural differences she

experienced there. In 1991 she was invited to lunch through the university's Career Services office where she met Tommy Webb, who was actively recruiting teachers of color for GDS. After graduating with a B.A. in Economics, Danette originally intended to enter business school for the sake of financial security.

Instead, she enrolled in Leslie University, a teachers' college in Cambridge, Massachusetts, where she also had a year-long internship at the K – 8 Brookwood School. In 1996 she earned an M. A. in Middle School Education and reconnected with Tommy and was hired as an associate teacher alongside Sue Mengert, who would retire at the end of that year; Danette was a part of the 6th-grade team with Marilyn Jones, Donna Greeson, and Craig Head for a number of years. She remembers how closely the team worked and committed they were to engaging issues of race and diversity. Looking back, she does regret "how much we did not know then about effective anti-racist curriculum and teaching." Danette says, as a Black woman at GDS she was always confident in the school's support for equity and inclusion. Ed Dickinson, Middle School Director, and Ralph Davison, Headmaster, were particularly encouraging and helped her

build confidence by consistently being in her corner, protecting space for her, and allowing her to grow.

Navigating a predominantly white institution, with the support of the school's leadership, fueled her ambition. When Ann Adams left in 2003, Danette assumed the role of the Director of Admissions and Financial Aid – a position she held until 2009, when she went to the Summit School in Winston-Salem as the Head of Upper School, grades 6 – 9. She remembers the recession of 2008 as one of her biggest challenges as our Director of Admissions.

In 2012, Danette took the position of the Head of Middle School at Westminster in Atlanta, a K– 12 Christian school with rigorous admission standards and widely regarded as the city's top academic institution. With a student body of almost nineteen hundred, over 35% are students of color. This summer, as the nation reckoned with racial injustice, the school made commitments to expand and deepen anti-racism education and cultural competency development.

Danette is grateful to be in a position of leadership to help further those goals. Over the years at Westminster she has helped to champion the role of "affinity groups" to support identity development for students, foster belonging for parents, and strengthen "allyship" within the school community. Today, the school has a number of affinity groups that support students in their racial, ethnic, sexual, gender, and religious identities.

More recently, the school has added student and parent groups exploring the concepts of racial diversity and allyship. Danette admits that it was "hard to step into these waters," but she believes the work is essential to building truly inclusive, strong school communities.

When asked her for any final thoughts, Danette said that she continues to be sincerely grateful for her time in Greensboro, the place where she formed her adult life, and at GDS, which was such





a huge part of that. She is still using a set of plates given to her by a GDS colleague when she was single and just setting up housekeeping when she first came in 1996. The old theater, now the library/media center, was the happy scene of her wedding reception. Because of these and many other connections, she remains deeply supportive of and invested in Greensboro Day School's continuing evolution.



Shy and quiet, **JUSTIN PLUMMER '04** remembers watching the whole series "Roots" in 6th grade and playing a simulation of the Underground Railroad at Camp Seagull. He remembers that the concept of this important movement in the lives of enslaved folks being treated as a game made him uncomfortable. The student body in the 1990s was more racially diverse than in earlier years, and while race was a significant area of concern in his time at GDS, income inequality often felt more pressing and jarring. Growing up around students who talked about

country clubs or the trips abroad that their families took also gave him a warped sense of his family's own socioeconomic status.

Justin says that the semester he spent at the Outdoor Academy in his Junior year, also encouraged him to participate more fully and to eventually become a trip leader, which gave him a lot of confidence and helped others get to know him more quickly. He remembers the natural history teacher leaving a note at the end of a progress report, "Justin should speak up more; if not now, when. If not here, where?" Justin wants to give a special shout out to Tommy Webb's 10th grade English class for continuing this message by encouraging him to share his thoughts and find his voice. Another meaningful GDS moment came when Kathy Davis created the Outstanding Contribution award in her AP Stats class and awarded it to him for his quiet leadership role.

Privilege, Justin, says, allows people not to worry so much about being wrong when they speak up. Being a minority at GDS, as a student of color, a student from a less affluent family, and a then-closeted queer student, meant that he was always worried about being wrong, which added to his reservations about speaking up in class. In the October Pop-up Learning panel on Racial Justice, Justin encouraged students who are worried about other people's reactions to their attempts to speak up, to dive in without fear of not getting something right all of

the time. He adds, "That's the bedrock of learning and no one has the right to deprive us of that."

In his senior year at GDS, Justin was accepted via early decision to Davidson College, the only college he submitted (or completed) an application for. The small liberal arts campus was a comfortable educational environment for him, and he spent a considerable amount of time working with Davidson Outdoors. In his junior year, he ran unopposed for President of that organization and went on to lead numerous trips, from backpacking and caving to kayaking and rock climbing. He graduated in 2008 with a degree in Anthropology, an "engaging field of study," which included courses on primatology, medical anthropology, the social construction of race, and the anthropology of art.

Currently, he is serving as the Assistant Director of Student Services and Equity Programming at the North Carolina School for Science and Mathematics. The school is a public residential high school, the first of its kind in the nation, with a legislative mandate to represent all congressional districts, which results in considerable across-the-board diversity. It is also an educational environment with very high academic bars and a good bit of stress. Their challenge, Justin says, is to think more proactively about inclusivity at such an exclusive institution and to focus on its mission of advancing public education across the state. Today's current events and social unrest have led him to listen more carefully than ever to the students, making changes informed by their feedback, and helping them find their voices like so many people helped him.

When I asked if he had a last thought on his time at GDS, Justin says, when he learned about segregation academies that popped up after *Brown v. Board of Education*, he was curious about GDS' founding. He eventually came across a letter from the school's founders, written in the school's infancy, where they were very explicit that in no way was this new educational experiment to be part of white flight and that diversity was a hallmark of the program they were looking to build. This reassurance, he says, even coming across it after the fact, about the school's purpose, its high academic standards, and its citizenship goals meant a lot to him. Honesty, he said during the October Pop-up Learning panel on Racial Justice, is what is most missing from our national conversation about racial equity, and being able to truly know our history, as a school and as a country, is where we should all start.





GDS alumna **NONI THOMAS LOPEZ '90** found her calling in life when, after graduating from UNC-Chapel Hill with a degree in English in 1995, Tommy Webb persuaded her to join the faculty as an assistant 5th-grade teacher.

Noni's parents had always been focused on her education and considered it "crucial to her life." Consequently, she had been in strongly academic private schools such as St. Pius X from the beginning. She, along with several of her classmates, came to GDS in the 7th-grade - a natural transition. She had

"no idea" that she would be the only Black female in her class every year grades 7 through 12, graduating in 1990. Her uniqueness at GDS came as something of a shock. Her parents had given her complete affirmation and confidence in her skin color. More difficult for her than the racial issues were the socio-economic disparities between her family and most of her classmates'.

Once in the Upper School, she developed friendships with other Black students – **Thomas Roberts '89, Rodney Beasley '90, Kelvin McLean '90, Monty Bumper '90, James Wilson '90** – many of whom were new to GDS. The following year **Angelia Sherrod '91** became one of her closest friends. Her favorite time of the day was hanging out in the cafeteria at lunch, where they could laugh and gossip and just be themselves – "a comfortable, honest sanctuary." Her hardest moment came in a history class when one of the students made a derogatory racial remark in their discussion of Latin America. Noni reported that incident to the administration. She has seen GDS continuing to evolve in multiple directions on a path of greater acceptance and understanding. She and I agree that the student bodies of the last few years look and feel very different from those 20 and even 10 years ago. Noni completed her senior project at the local chapter of the NCAA and, as we saw on the recent Zoom meeting on "Racial Justice," has remained a committed activist.

When she graduated from Carolina, Noni considered law school and never considered teaching as a possibility. But a passion for the law never came. And as a young mother with a four-year-old son, she needed something to do. That's when Tommy Webb stepped in and

offered her the 5th-grade position assisting Dave Nealon. Within weeks she knew what would be her life's work.

Noni realized that not only did she want to teach, but she also wanted to become a leader in the field of education. She went on to teach Middle School Language Arts at Ravenscroft for two years when she discovered the Bank Street School in New York City, a philosophical and pedagogical leader in progressive education.

After she earned her MA in Educational Leadership with a concentration in Private School Leadership from the Klingenstein Center at Teachers College at Columbia University, where she was awarded the Joseph Klingenstein Fellowship, she felt ready to be a division head and became Middle School Director of the Calhoun School in 2007.

Altogether she spent the twenty-plus years in New York City in an impressive array of administrative positions. She even founded the Noni Thomas Lopez and Associates LLC consulting firm before becoming Head of the Gordon School in East Providence, Rhode Island in 2018. She came back to GDS to deliver the commencement address in 2016 and received the Distinguished Alumni Award. She completed her Ed.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 2016.

In a phone conversation, Noni spoke about the importance of "affinity spaces," where people who share an identity variable such as gender, race, religion can come together to "build understanding, find affirmation, solace, and sanctuary." We also talked about the need for cross-racial and other cross-cultural dialogues so that we can learn more about ourselves, each other, and our communities.

When I asked her to conclude with some special memories of her GDS experiences, in addition to hanging out in the cafeteria with her friends with whom she keeps in touch through Facebook, she cited writing her own "Song of Myself" for Bill Moore's English 11 class. Mr. Moore saw something in her poem that he valued and complimented, giving her confidence in expressing herself in her own voice which has helped carry her through many of life's challenges. ■



**John 'Jay' Sullivan '96**, May 30, 2020. John James "Jay" Sullivan III died on Saturday, May 30, 2020 following a brief illness. Jay was born in Thomasville, NC to Janice and John Sullivan, Jr. He grew up in Greensboro, NC. His parents and his brother Robert Laughter Sullivan and Robert's wife, Jacqueline, survive him. As a child, Jay annually attended Gwynn Valley Camp in the Western North Carolina mountains and returned there to work as a staff member for many college summers. Jay loved the various pursuits he learned there and was happiest growing vegetables, raising farm animals and spending time outdoors. Jay was also involved with Boy Scouts, youth soccer, track & field, cross country, and participated in youth activities and mission trips with First Presbyterian Church. Jay and his friends loved to hike in the mountains and sometimes spent weekends camping near Boone, NC. In 2000 he graduated from Appalachian State University with a degree in construction technology and was a member of Delta Chi fraternity. He went on to earn his general contractor's license and worked as superintendent and project manager with several large construction and real estate development companies. Beyond just a profession, he loved using his construction knowledge and skills to renovate the various homes. Jay's many friends and extended family members will miss his genuine smile, caring nature and calming presence.

Patricia 'Pat' Lowry, June 6, 2020. She was the mother of **Kelly Lowry McIntyre '96**.

Mildred Cottrell, June 16, 2020, grandmother of **Jennifer Ingold Asbill '01**.

Zachary McGarr, June 18, 2020. He was the son of **LeeAnn McGarr '86**.

Robert Little, July 30, 2020. He was the stepfather of **Chris Wright '75, Liz Wright James '76, and Danny Wright '89**.

Susan Gant, August 10, 2020. She was the mother of **Roger Gant '09**.

**Sarah Nia '00**, August 13, 2020. She was living in Knoxville, TN and was looking forward to going back to school to become an elementary school teacher. She is so missed by those that love her and our hearts are broken



## MEMORIALS

at her passing. She was a graduate of The George Washington University and Baruch College where she earned her Masters Degree in Psychology. She is survived by her parents Bill and Dorcas Powell of Evans, GA, her sisters Emily Xavier, Haley Smallwood, Kennedy Powell and brothers Ronnie Ngyuen and Dannie Ngyuen. While Sarah lost her way for a while she was working to overcome her issues and make something better of her life. She will always be remembered as the girl with flowers in her hair and a smile that could light up the world. She is so missed by those that loved her and our hearts are broken at her passing.

Doris Tanger, August 14, 2020. She was the grandmother of **Laurie Nehman Lloyd '97**.

Carolyn Wickersham McCollum Ferguson, August 31, 2020. She was the grandmother of **William Hudson '11 and Matthew Hudson '16**.

Cecelia Sue, August 18, 2020. She was the Mother of **Missie Sue Vaughan '81**.

**Sebastian Hertl '13**, September 7, 2020. He was the brother of **Matthias Hertl '10**.

Joanne Wyrick, September 17, 2020. She was the mother of **Jo Wyrick '86 and Elizabeth Wyrick Thompson '88**.

Maurice Jennings, September 19, 2020. He was the father of past Board Chair, Burney Jennings and the grandfather of **Blake Jennings '07 (Melanie Matthews Jennings '07), Bailey Jennings Golmont '09, Mary Frances Jennings '12, and**

**John Jennings '14 and father of Sinclair Fowler McLean '94**.

Patricia Williams Price, September 21, 2020. She taught at GDS from 1976-1992 and was the mother of **Erin Williams Masterson '92 and Jody Williams '96**.

Ann Falk, September 25, 2020. She was the mother of **Harry Falk '79 (Maribeth Geraci '78) and Lizzie Falk Brownridge '82**.

Marsha Cole, September 27, 2020. She was the mother of **Jessica Cole '10 (d. 2004)**.

**Marshall Stewart '13**, October 2, 2020. He was the brother of **Parker Stewart '11**.

Patsy Boren, October 6, 2020. She was the mother of **Lee Boren Kleinhelter '93**.

Louis Bates, October 17, 2020. He was the father of **Evan Bates '78, Tony Bates '82, Kimberly Bates '84 (d. 1987), and Todd Bates '88**.

Dr. John L. Irvin, October 17, 2020. He was the father of **Dorothy Irvin and John Irvin, Jr. '80**, the uncle of **Catherine Egerton '89 and David Egerton '93** and great-uncle of **Davis Egerton '27, Henry Egerton '30, and Gray Egerton '32**.

Floyd C. Adams, Jr., October 19, 2020. He is the father-in-law of **Jennifer Smith Adams '86** and grandfather of **Cody Adams '13 and Spencer Adams '17**.

Daniel Canada, October 24, 2020. He was the grandfather of **Austin Canada '13**.

Dr. Franklin Durant Bell, October 20, 2020. He was the grandfather of **Jon Bell '90 and Durant Bell '98** and the great-grandfather of **Jacqueline Gravely '12, Paxton Gravely '16, Merrimon Gravely '17, Emme Gravely '20, Fulton Bell '20, Garland Bell '22, Ford Bell '25, Hughes Bell '29, Lollie Bell '31 and George Bell '33**.

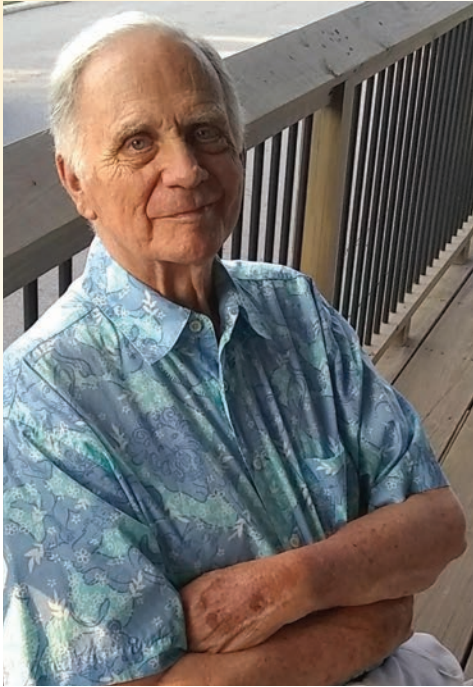
**Penn Strandberg '07**, October 30, 2020. He was the brother of **Jace Strandberg '03, Kathleen Strandberg Welte '06, and Julia Strandberg '08**.

**Butch Ferguson '76**.



# Remembering...

## REMEMBERING **JIM SCHENCK**, FOUNDER



Mr. James (Jim) Simpson Schenck, III died in Greensboro, NC on August 1, 2020, at the age of 87.

Jim was a founder of Greensboro Day School, and served the school actively for many years. He served on the Board of Trustees from 1974-1984. Jim was instrumental in the founding of the school. In 1969, Mr. Charles McLendon, Jim and a small group of local leaders set out to start a diverse, independent day school with a college prep mission. Greensboro was losing many kids to boarding school and they felt the time was right to have a local, independent school that would offer a diverse, non-sectarian college prep education to Greensboro students and families. Jim and others found the property,

incorporated the school, and each put a guarantee of \$2K to buy a “membership certificate” to make sure the school had a cash infusion. They also each put up collateral for the school, and Jim often said it far exceeded his net worth at that time. This was how committed they were to the GDS mission. Jim maintained a life-long relationship with the founders and the school. Jim never wavered in his love for GDS, and considered it one of the greatest accomplishments of his life.

Jim was a mentor and friend to many. Exemplifying the ability to make anyone in his presence feel welcome and included from his first powerful handshake (a trait he always appreciated from those he met). Jim will be remembered as a wildly funny, highly social, loving and supportive father and grandfather. Jim was not afraid to change a diaper and babysit, and was eager and happy to help whenever he could. Jim particularly enjoyed the time he had after retirement with grandchildren, and never met a baby (or anyone for that matter!) he didn't love. Jim was also a talented illustrator and painter.

Alongside his beloved wife Anita, the Schencks left additional impacts throughout Greensboro, including establishing St. Francis Episcopal Church, restoring the Blandwood historical site, and bridging communities city-wide through numerous programs and opportunities. Jim attended Greensboro High School and UNC Chapel Hill. After college, he served in the US Navy as a gunnery captain on the USS Strong. He eventually started his own company, Lyon, Schenck and Steck, (later Pembroke Textiles) with partners.

James is survived by his children James Simpson Schenck, IV (wife Anna Pittman Schenck), **Thomas Alexander Schenck '76**, **Mary Schenck Dator '82**, (husband Robert Kenneth Dator) and **Stephen Ramseur Schenck '85**, (wife Amy Jaye Schenck) eight grand-children and two great grand-children.

## REMEMBERING **BILL KNOX**



William ‘Bill’ Knox died on June 15, 2020. A devoted friend and supporter of GDS, Bill served on the Board of Trustees from 1980-83 and remained involved with the school until his passing.

Bill was born in Brooklyn, New York. He went to Poly Prep and Colgate University. After graduating from Colgate, Bill began his career in sales with the Brooklyn Ladder Company. In 1960, he married



# Remembering...

the love of his life, Linda Marie Joberg, and together they raised four children in a home filled with love and laughter. After moving to Greensboro, North Carolina in 1972, Bill began a 33 year career in chemical sales with Handi-Clean Products.

Upon moving to Greensboro, the Knox kids started in public school, but Bill quickly realized that the quality of public schools in North Carolina was far behind what it had been in New York. Due to this, he looked for other options for his children and found Greensboro Day School. The dedicated faculty, small classes, a supportive learning environment, and the opportunity for athletics all supported Bill's reasons for sending his children to GDS.

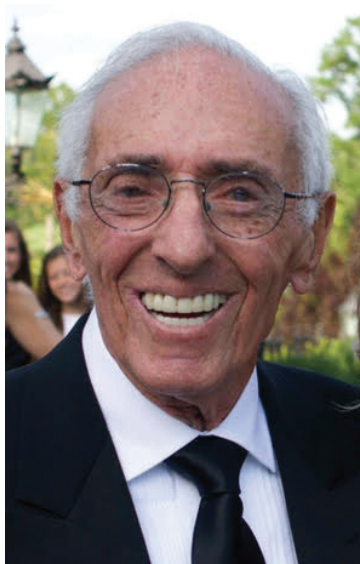
As Bill would reflect on the early years of Greensboro Day School, he recalled the supportive parent body. Parents were active in the school, volunteering, doing landscaping, hosting events such as Green & Gold Day, the parent Gala, and bake sales. He remembers fondly that Trustees were hands-on in support of providing academic excellence. Bill believed that strong parent support gave the young school the foundation to grow into what it has become today.

Bill remained proud of Greensboro Day School, staying involved throughout the years as a grandparent of the school. He could be found at various athletic events, especially volleyball, supporting his grandchildren. We will miss seeing his friendly smile on campus.

He leaves behind, to cherish his memory, his wife of 60 years, Linda Joberg Knox; children **Linda Knox Register '79** (Tom), **Martha Knox Stilson '80**, **David Stafford Knox '82** (Virginia '83), and

**Sara Knox Roman '87** (Douglas); and grandchildren **Megan Craven '06** (Brady), **Ryan Sudnik '08**, **Olivia Knox '14**, **Henry Knox '16**, **Carole Roman '14**, **James Roman '18**, and **Ginny Roman '20**.

## REMEMBERING LOUIS BATES



Greensboro Day School lost a devoted friend and supporter when Louis Bates passed away on October 17, 2020.

Louis was a graduate of Greensboro High School and attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Upon leaving UNC, he joined his father at Bates Nitewear Co., growing the company to become the nation's largest manufacturer of children's sleepwear.

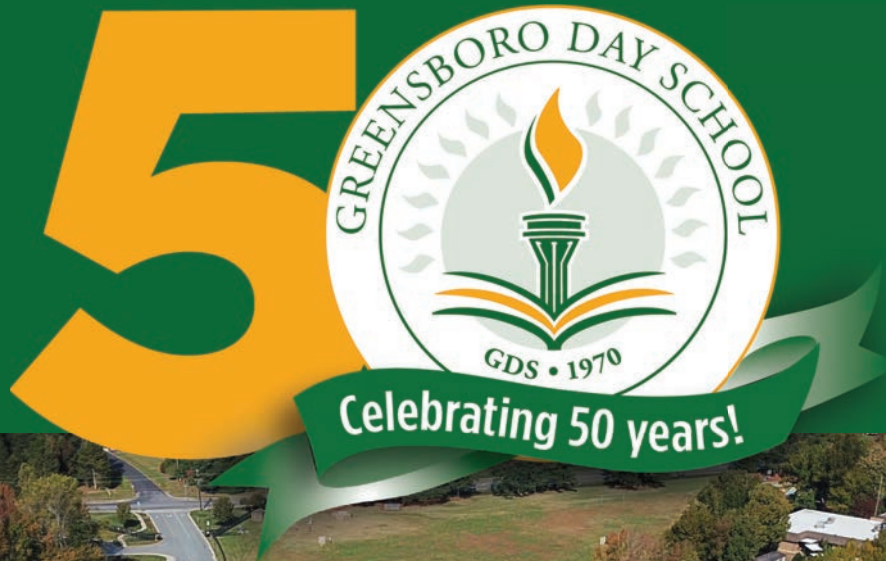
Louis and Joan were active at GDS during the early years of the school, enrolling their children in the school throughout the 70's and 80's. Their generosity throughout those years truly helped the school grow in many needed ways, both physically and

educationally.

In 1987, upon the tragic death of Louis' daughter, Kimberly, Kimberly's classmates **Lynn Callicott Baranski '84** and **Charlotte Horner Carrere '84**, along with faculty member Kathy Davis, led an effort to collect funds for a scholarship endowment in her memory. While the funds raised did not fully support the full tuition cost, Louis stepped up annually to underwrite the remaining cost of tuition so that the Kimberly Bates Merit Scholarship would live on. For 25 years, Louis and the Bates family faithfully supported this full merit scholarship, one of the most coveted awards given at Greensboro Day School. One of Louis' greatest pleasures was coming back to GDS during closing ceremonies to award the Bates Scholarship each year. His enthusiasm for learning and youthful outlook was always welcome.

He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Joan Wernick Bates of Boca Raton, FL as well sons **Evan** (Susan) **Bates '78** of Dallas, TX, **Tony** (Stefanie) **Bates '82** of Charlotte, NC, Keith Bates of Rutland, VT and **Todd** (Jill) **Bates '88** of Atlanta, GA. He is also survived by seven grandchildren and a great-grandson. He was preceded in death by parents Victor and Emma Bates, brother Seymour Bates and daughter **Kimberly Bates '84**.





Learn how GDS is safely operating school in-person while  
providing families the flexibility to learn remotely at  
[greensboroday.org/reentry](https://greensboroday.org/reentry).

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Age 2 - grade 12

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**GREENSBORO DAY SCHOOL**

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Please join us for the

## **STATE OF THE SCHOOL**

Thursday, January 14, 2021  
6 - 7 p.m.  
Virtual, on Zoom.

Tracie Catlett, Head of School will present an update on the Strategic Plan and discuss how Greensboro Day School is moving forward into 2021 with new academic and programmatic initiatives. Please register at [greensboroday.org/sots](https://greensboroday.org/sots).