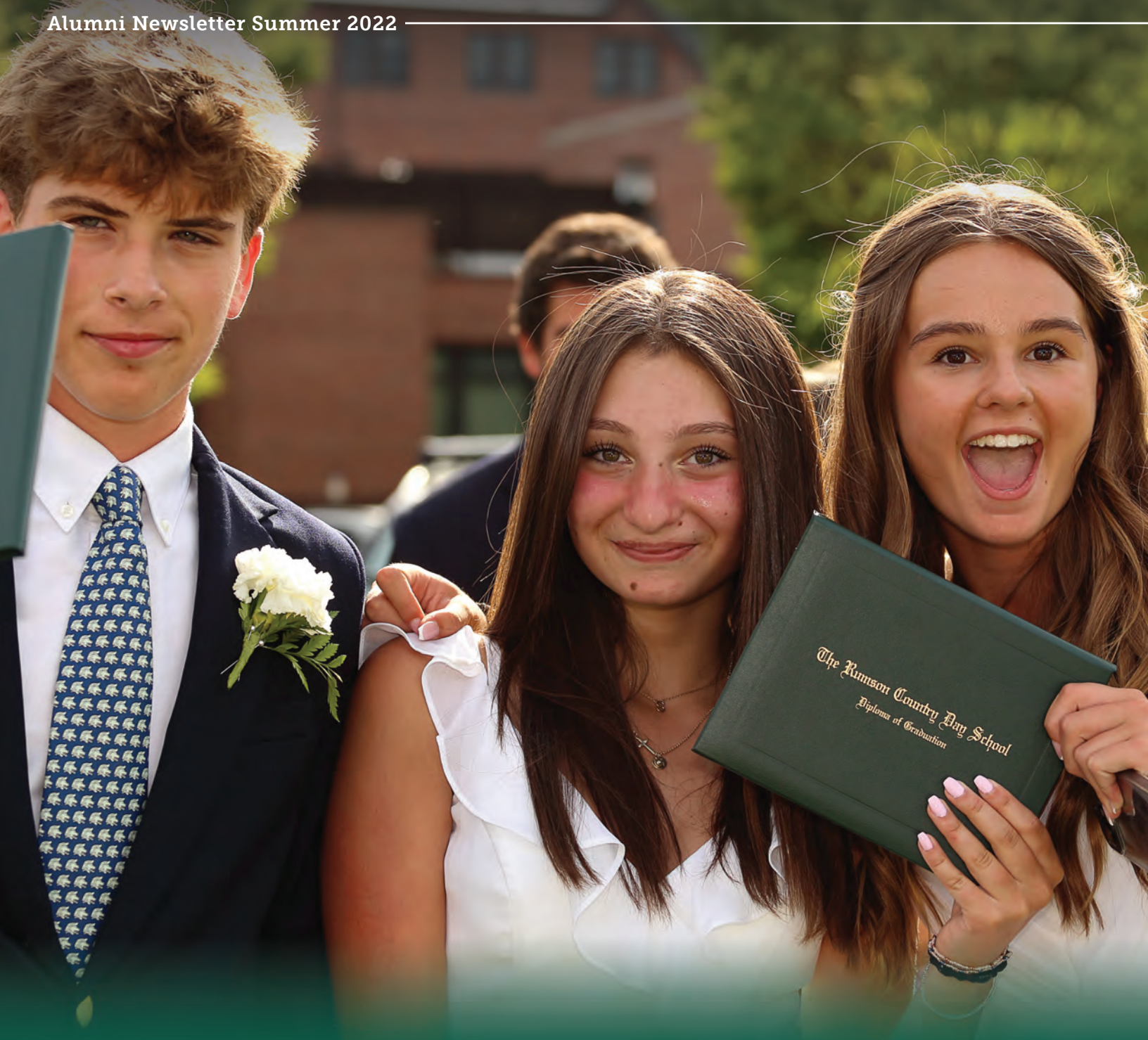


THE BROWNSTONE

Alumni Newsletter Summer 2022



2022 COMMENCEMENT CELEBRATES GRADUATES, TRADITION, AND COMMUNITY

In this issue: Gators Connect Across the Globe
Alumna Shines Behind the Scenes of
Popular SHOWTIME® Series
Celebrating the Class of 2022
Traditions Return in Full Force



THE
RUMSON
COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL
Truly Great N-8

A Message from Carson T. Smith



Dear RCDS Community,

I hope that you and your families are enjoying the summer. The '21-'22 school year was an extraordinary year of returning traditions and celebration.

Audiences applauded at class plays. The triumphant return to family-style dining gave our students and faculty the opportunity to bond over shared meals. I enjoyed my first Beginners Dinner, and our Parent Council hosted myriad events that brought our community together.

The school year culminated with Class Day, which is among my favorite of the RCDS traditions, and I was among the proud parents who watched their child walk across the stage at this year's Graduation, as I had the pleasure of handing my daughter her diploma. The Class of 2022 holds a special place in my heart. They have been recognized for their resilience during years of change and uncertainty, their leadership, strength of character, and academic achievement. I look forward to learning where life takes them after RCDS.

Our graduates continue to be a great source of pride in our community. We urge you to keep us updated on your personal and professional successes—some of which you will read about in this newsletter—so that we can celebrate along with you.

Whether you have been away for a long time or just a few years, we hope that these stories connect you back to your RCDS family. The tight-knit relationships formed here are a cherished aspect of our School and essential to our success in educating future generations. Thanks to your continued support, we are able to fulfill our mission to deliver the premier educational experience that, I hope, made a lasting impact on your family and will continue to inspire many RCDS families to come.

Respectfully,
Carson T. Smith
Head of School

Alumni Abroad Gators Connect Across the Globe



When **Olivia Cruz '15** confirmed her plans to study abroad with The Institute for the International Education of Students, she had no idea that fellow RCDS alumna **Carolyn Trent '15** had enrolled in the same program. Through the small world of social media, the two made the connection days before they embarked on their journey abroad. While they remained close friends through high school and college, the former Gators hadn't been in a class together since middle school. A few years later they found themselves across the globe in Milan, Italy, learning side by side like their good old days at RCDS and exploring Europe.

"RCDS shaped me as a whole person," said Olivia. "I knew our teachers were so excited to see us flourish when we left RCDS,

so I've always wanted to make the most of my time because everyone at home was cheering me on. I make sure to step out of my comfort zone and seize every opportunity that comes my way."

Olivia is currently back in the states interning at the accounting firm Deloitte in NYC. She's entering her senior year at Villanova University, where she plans to complete the Master of Accounting with Data Analytics program and eventually earn her CPA license.

Carolyn Trent '15 has returned to the US and is interning at Cushman & Wakefield Commercial Real Estate Firm in NYC. She's a rising senior year at Denison University where she was recruited for the cross country team and is majoring in communication and media studies.

In Memoriam:

RCDS remembers members of our community who have recently passed away:

Mr. Winslow Drury Beguelin '74

Mrs. Jeanne M. Bergeron,

Past Faculty Member

Mr. Haig English '20

Mrs. Gertrude M. Goff '42

Mr. Theodore J. Reiss '56, Past Trustee,

Past Parent

Mr. William F. Starsinic, Past Faculty Member

Mr. Walter J. Treacy, Past Faculty Member



The Class of 2020 gathers for a tree dedication ceremony to honor the memory of classmate Haig English '20.

Alumni Spotlight

Ashley Lyle '95 Co-creator of SHOWTIME's® *Yellowjackets*



Ashley Lyle's series, *Yellowjackets* premiered on SHOWTIME® in November 2021, and has since received critical acclaim for its story and cast performances. In addition to being the co-creator of the series, Ashley also serves as executive producer. *Yellowjackets* is the saga of a high school girls soccer team who survive a plane crash in the remote northern wilderness. The series stars Oscar and Emmy nominee Juliette Lewis, Emmy nominee Christina Ricci, Melanie Lynskey, and Tawny Cypress. In December 2021, the series was renewed for a second season.

Ashley received her MFA from Columbia University in 2007 and has since worked on multiple award-winning TV shows. Alongside her husband and writing partner Bart Nickerson, she wrote for the first three seasons of *The Originals* and for season three of *Narcos*, as well as seasons one and two of *Narcos: Mexico*. The two served as writers and co-executive producers on the first season of AMC's *Dispatches From Elsewhere* with Jason Segel. She currently lives in Los Angeles.

ALUM NOTES

Submit Class News to rcds.org/submitnews

Ron Schildge '61 recently retired from the metalworking automotive industry and is settling in Seabrook Island, SC. He has six children and 18 grandchildren and is serving as the president of the Exchange Club of Charleston, a national service organization for men and women who want to serve their community.



Rachel Greenberg '99 was recently elected president of the Washington Conservation Guild, a local forum for conservators of art and historic works. Rachel completed her undergraduate degree in art history and ancient studies at Mount Holyoke College before completing three master's degrees in classical art and archaeology (MA), principles of conservation (MA), and conservation for archaeology and museums (MSc) from University College London. She now resides in Alexandria, VA.

Alex Kain '04 and his wife, Annie, welcomed their daughter, Margo Rae Kain, on September 4, 2021. Margo's big brother is Harvey and her proud auntie is **Mollie Lonardo '13**.

Conner Cruz '12 is an equity capital markets analyst at Barclays Investment Bank in NYC.



Taylor Cruz '13 graduated last spring with a degree in cinema and television arts from Elon University, where she hosted *ETalk*, one of the school's student-produced broadcasts, for four years. She recently joined Fox Business Network as a guest greeter and production assistant for shows like *Mornings with Maria* featuring anchor Maria Bartiromo and *Varney & Co.* featuring business journalist Stuart Varney.

Stephen Zacks '14 earned the distinction of Faculty Honors for fall 2021 at the Georgia Institute of Technology. This designation is awarded to undergraduate students who have earned a 4.0 academic average for the semester.

Jack Devlin '15 is entering his senior year at Wesleyan University, where he is majoring in economics and playing lacrosse. This summer he is interning at a private equity firm based in Austin, TX.

As a junior at TCNJ, **Nicole Molnar '15** was inducted into Phi Kappa Phi, the nation's oldest and most selective all-discipline collegiate honor society. Only the top 7.5 percent of juniors are eligible for membership.



Bridy Molyneaux '15 and fellow Rutgers University field hockey teammates were named Big Ten Conference champions.

Luke Devlin '17 graduated from The Hotchkiss School this spring and will be playing lacrosse at Dickinson College.

Alexandra Lewis '17 published her first book, *Letter To A Lost Cause*, a collection of poetry featuring the thoughts, secrets, and everyday observations of a 17-year-old girl.

Sarah Silbert '17 is majoring in marketing with a minor in art studies at Tulane University. She recently made the Dean's List and joined the Tri Delta sorority.

Mike Lilley '18 made St. Andrew's football history with a record-breaking 355 yards passing and five touchdown passes in a single game.

Grace Gibson '19 has committed to play soccer at St. Lawrence University.

Grace Silbert '19 is a rising senior at the Ranney School, where she was recently inducted into the French Honor Society.



John Cook '20 broke the Ranney School's long jump record with an 18' 10.75" jump.

Sophia Memtsoudis '20 was named captain of Trinity Hall's crew team.

Lydia Olivieri '20 and **Micah Seiler '21** continue to study Latin outside of their regular school schedule as academic enrichment. They both

took the Intermediate Exam this year. Lydia earned a perfect score — about 1% earn a perfect score. Micah earned a gold medal.

Joe McChesney '21, a rising sophomore at CBA, earned Gold *Summa Cum Laude* for his performance on this year's National Latin Exam.

CLASS OF 2018 RECRUITS

Tyler Argilagos '18 was recruited to play field hockey at Colgate University.

Brennan Bazant '18 was recruited to play field hockey at Davidson College.

Noah Beacher '18 was recruited to play lacrosse at the College of Wooster.

Christian Bockelmann '18 was recruited to play lacrosse at Yale University.



Lily Froehlich '18 was selected for the All-Monmouth County first team for girls soccer and recently committed to play Division I soccer at Georgetown University.



Jack McCarren '18 was recruited to play lacrosse at Kenyon College.

Aidan Stevenson '18 was recruited to play lacrosse at McDaniel College in Maryland.

Noah Beacher '18, Christian Bockelmann '18, Jack McCarren '18, Braiden Spagnuola '18, Connor Spagnuola '18, Aidan Stevenson '18, Matthew Bockelmann '19, Bryce Devlin '19, Quinn Stankovits '19, Alex Baret '20, DJ Devine '20, Brody Page '20, and Vincent Raphaelian '21 led RFH's lacrosse team to be crowned Shore Conference champions this spring.



Your Support Fosters Student Success and Long-standing Traditions Like...



8th Grade Carnival: Students rise to role models



Family-style Dining: Cultivating a culture of community



Academic Excellence: Once again, students conquer national Latin exam

ROOTED: BELOVED TULIP TREE SPROUTS COLLABORATIVE ART PROJECT



Pieces of the iconic tulip tree that grew on the east side of RCDS's campus for nearly 300 years were repurposed for a new art installation titled "Rooted." The 7'x3' piece, which is displayed near the auditorium entrance, is a compilation of wood-ringed circles that were cut and dried from the branches, and then made into artwork by Lower School students.

Art Teacher Melissa Petersen wanted to embark on the reclaimed art project ever since the tree unexpectedly uprooted in a storm in February 2019. "The tulip tree was beloved," she said. "It was a tradition for the eighth grade to take a picture on the tree every year. It was a really big deal when the tree fell down because it was part of the fabric of the School and then it was suddenly gone."

New Art Teacher Mrs. Megan Peter said she learned a lot about the School through the collaborative project: "RCDS is so rooted in tradition, and it's been wonderful to learn about the traditions of the School and be a part of the community. I'm also happy we're able to do something collaborative to repurpose the tree, honor its nature, and help our students see we don't just discard things. We can find beauty in something, even if it's not its original purpose."

During this year's commencement ceremony, Eighth Grade President Jesse McCarren presented a class gift to Head of School Carson T. Smith, furthering a tradition started decades ago at RCDS. This year's graduating class voted to replant the tulip tree on campus to grow for future generations of Gators to enjoy. Funding for the gift was raised during the Eighth Grade Carnival held in September.



"TYING" GENERATIONS OF RCDS SCIENCE TEACHERS TOGETHER



Not many alumni can reminisce about their RCDS experience without recalling memories made with former Science Teacher Jeffrey Garside. After Mr. Garside retired following 43 years of teaching at RCDS, his legacy was honored with the dedication of the Garside Science Center. The impact he made on the School and his students lives on through stories about his popular potato launch lab, the highly anticipated physics trips to Six Flags, his token catchphrase "hot dang!," and a signature collection of a certain accessory—science-themed neckties. Recently, Upper School Science Teacher Tristan Young connected with Mr. Garside to chat about all things science, education, and RCDS. During their meeting, Mr. Garside honored Mr. Young by passing down his famous tie collection. "Mr. Garside's impact at RCDS was so powerful that he had already helped me grow as a teacher before we met," said Mr. Young. "To don the neckties once worn by the legend himself is as humbling as it is inspiring."

A WORD FROM OUR GATOR GRADS

"I will never forget that first time my science teacher at RCDS mixed baking soda and vinegar together in front of me and I watched that reaction. It was a very hands-on way of learning. I felt like my potential was limitless. My science teachers were key to what I ended up doing with my life."



Chelsea Cooper '04 is a graduate of RFH, Northwestern University, and Georgetown University School of Medicine. She attended Columbia University Medical Center for her medical residency in dermatology, where she served as chief resident. She recently relocated to Rumson with her husband and works in private practice in Red Bank, NJ.

"I'd say RCDS helped me become more comfortable taking risks. At each stage in my education, starting at RCDS and then in high school and in college, I had progressively lower-leaning safety nets so there was less distance to fall when I made a mistake. I think because RCDS was such a caring and warm community of faculty and classmates, I learned to not be afraid to make mistakes, and over time I've become more comfortable with being uncomfortable."

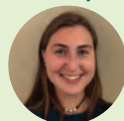


Cole Demeulemeester '14 attended Phillips Andover Academy and graduated from Cornell University this spring with a degree in computer science. This

summer he is starting a new job as a product engineer at Ridgeline Investment Management Software in Lake Tahoe, NV.

"One thing that has stuck with me is the small class sizes [at RCDS]. The small community in general gave me a sense of family. Being able to know every kid in my class on a personal level was really cool. It forged my closest friendships that I still have today."
—**Drew Frankel '16** graduated from RFH and now attends Colgate University, where he plays Division I football. He is currently spending the summer at the London School of Economics.

"There is something so fun about being at Class Day and looking at the people around you. You see what they have accomplished throughout the year and get to be together with the whole school—that is such a cool tradition. Being a Beginner in that room and looking at the eighth graders...something about that left an impression on me and inspired me as an older student to be a leader."



Abby Ryan '17 is a graduate of Phillips Andover Academy and will be attending the University of Chicago this fall. She is interested in studying political science and English.



No-cut Athletics:
Creating an inclusive environment for all



Experiential Learning Trips:
Students step out of the classroom and their comfort zone



Class Plays:
Confidence and teamwork shine on stage



2022 COMMENCEMENT CELEBRATES GRADUATES, TRADITION, AND COMMUNITY

Hundreds of people filled chairs on the athletics field of The Rumson Country Day School to celebrate the Class of 2022 on Friday, June 10. All 50 members of the class graduated with distinction, not only in the academic and athletic fields, but they also showed perseverance during two years of change and uncertainty. Students were relentless in their pursuit of excellence and their efforts did not go unrecognized. In keeping with RCDS tradition, several graduates were honored with awards to acknowledge their achievements.

Commencement speakers included past trustee, parent, and co-founder of Trinity Hall Victoria Gmelich and Class of 2022 graduate Molly Walker. Their words shared common themes of resilience, strength, and the importance of staying true to your values.

"For the next four years, it is our job to show our future schools the true meaning of Kindness, Honesty, Responsibility, and Respect," said Molly during her commencement speech. "Although I walked to the back of the room today, I am still a Gator, I will forever be a Gator, and so will all of you. This is not goodbye, this is the beginning of a new life, while still holding on to the virtues of the past one."

COMMENCEMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS:

Theodore K. Reiss Memorial Award:
Gavin Mishkin

**Swede Joseph Chevalier
Memorial Award:**
Luke Gmelich

Trustees' Prize:
Brandon Maroney

Blake Award:
Max Baret and Cate Sullivan

Athletic Award:
Kathryn Smith, Winnie Popham,
and Richard O'Day

Second Highest Scholarship:
Sophie Bilanin

Highest Scholarship:
Gus Lyle





THE
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BEGIN HERE. SUCCEED ANYWHERE.

Our graduates are regularly recognized for their leadership, strength of character, academic achievement, and outstanding executive functioning and organizational skills no matter where their paths take them. See below for a list of secondary schools and colleges that our Class of '22 and '18 graduates are attending.

CLASS OF 2022: A SELECTION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL MATRICULATIONS

Arrowhead Union High School (2)	Red Bank Catholic High School	The Hill School
Blair Academy (2)	Red Bank Regional High School - Engineering Academy	The Hun School of Princeton (3)
Christian Brothers Academy (3)	Red Bank Regional High School - Fine Arts Academy	The Lawrenceville School
Communications High School	Rumson-Fair Haven High School (12)	The Williams School
Delbarton School	Shattuck-St. Mary's School	Trinity Hall (5)
Kent School	Shore Regional High School	Trinity-Pawling School
Loomis Chaffee School		Woodberry Forest School
Ranney School (9)		

CLASS OF 2018: A SELECTION OF COLLEGE MATRICULATIONS

Bentley University	Lehigh University (2)	Tulane University
Boston College	Loyola Marymount University	University of Arizona
Colgate University	McDaniel College	University of Miami (2)
College of Wooster	New York University	University of Notre Dame
Davidson College	Northeastern University	University of Virginia
Duke University	Quinnipiac University	University of Wisconsin Madison
Elon College	Rice University	Villanova University (3)
Georgetown University	Savannah College of Art and Design	Virginia Tech
Hamilton College	Southern Methodist University	Wake Forest University
Indiana University	Syracuse University (2)	Yale University
Kean University	Temple University	
Kenyon College		

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