CAROLINA DAY SCHOOL
CONNECTIONS
30th Anniversary Year in Review 2017-18

Asheville, NC
CarolinaDay.org
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At the close of the school’s thirtieth anniversary year, I reflected upon those aspects of Carolina Day School that, in my experience, are unique in what is offered to students. So much of what good independent schools do—teaching the basic skills and knowledge necessary for student mastery of reading, writing, and math—is predicated upon the programmatic and pedagogical traditions fostered by a long line of fine teachers, scholars, students, and leaders who have come before us. Mastery of skills and knowledge once sufficed for a top-notch education, allowing generations of independent school students to gain admission to selective colleges and universities. At our school, however, I am thankful that excellence requires much more.

We know that acquisition of skills and knowledge is only the beginning of positioning students for future success. By mission, we are charged to prepare our students for a world that requires them to utilize learned skills and knowledge with discernment and alacrity. They will need to be technologically savvy, knowing where and how to independently gather pertinent information and employ critical thinking to solve problems. They will need the emotional intelligence, creativity, and imagination to engage others in problem-solving. They will need to be fluent in the language and practice of equity and inclusion, as the global marketplace continues to become even more accessible and integrated.

Of course, CDS delivers traditional academic excellence in the form of Advanced Placement classes, a strong Honors program, and an exceptional college acceptance list. Moreover, our college counseling program reflects our commitment to get to know each student’s strengths and proclivities. For some, this means the next step after CDS is the college or university best suited to their specific abilities and aspirations. For others, the pursuit of excellence may lead them to an exploratory “gap year” to work with under-served populations or travel before entering college.

I am thankful for the long-standing tradition of excellence at CDS, fostering generative and genuine connections between teachers and students. Inspired by these relationships and fueled by our school community’s enduring will to continually improve programs and facilities, CDS students are maximally positioned to “act with courage and compassion to confidently make a meaningful difference in the world.” That is what defines excellence at Carolina Day School.
“Architecture is measured against the past; you build in the present, and you try to imagine the future.” — Richard Rogers, architect

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Thirty years ago, two outstanding Asheville independent schools, Asheville Country Day School (ACDS) and St. Genevieve-Gibbons Hall School (SG/GH), merged to form Carolina Day School, a co-ed day school of excellence.

Toward the end of its third decade, with leadership from the board and Head of School Kirk Duncan, the school focused on a newly revised mission statement and nine core beliefs. These guiding principles are the culmination of input, feedback, constructive criticism, and brainstorming from all constituencies of the school, including students, parents, staff and faculty, and alumni from CDS and all predecessor schools. The mission, core beliefs, and a detailed strategic plan emerged to serve as a road map for the school to move forward. Now finishing the second year of this strategic plan, the school has grown in myriad ways, the highlight of which was the grand opening of Love Hall, which includes Oreck Library, Owen Academic Wing, and Alumni Gym in the Lower School campus area.

The year also began with loss, reflection, mourning, and deep gratitude. Our beloved Jackie Gouge, who spent her entire 50-year career at ACDS and CDS, passed away on September 26, 2017. Jackie was a friend to all and mentor to countless ACDS and CDS teachers and students throughout her tenure.

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At the community's celebration of life held in October for Jackie, Kirk said, "For fifty years, Jackie was the ACDS and CDS northern star, keeping us on course, reminding us through her actions that we are here to love and serve students and one another." Family and hundreds of students, colleagues, parents, and friends gathered in Alumni Gym to share stories and memories of Jackie.

Homecoming 2017 marked the coming together of several generations with events for alumni and current students and families. The annual golf tournament once again brought players out to enjoy competition among friends. On Friday evening, we cheered the boys varsity soccer team, bounced on rides, painted our faces, looked through old yearbooks, and shared news of births, marriages, and accomplishments. Two alumni student-athletes, Sam Daniels '01 and Carrie Crigler '99, were inducted into the Alumni Athletic Hall of Fame, and many alumni gathered for the Homecoming Alumni All-Class Reunion.

Also in the first semester, we celebrated Stephanie Smith SG/GH '89 as the 2017 Distinguished Alumna, kicked off our Hiking Challenge with a presentation by professional hiker Jennifer Pharr Davis, and enjoyed a program on inclusion from nationally known professional diversity trainer and speaker Rosetta Lee. We congratulated students on National Merit standings, debate successes, theater performances, accolades from the NC High School Play Festival, student-published poetry (New York Times!), and rare archaeological finds. In athletics, there were college signings, the winning of the Wells Fargo Cup for overall sports excellence in NC high schools, and our fourth consecutive girls cross-country state championship. Sophomores took the annual college visit excursion and got their first glimpse of academic life beyond CDS. Our Pre-K class embarked on their annual flight of the monarchs with their Hallelujah senior friends.

As student-teacher relationships grew and students made deeper friendships, bonds within our community were strengthened. Before the winter break, Holiday Hoopla brought us together to celebrate with cider, music, and holiday treats, followed by the Alumni Basketball Game, held in Nash Athletic Center.

Second semester brought a new depth of learning to our classrooms, as we built on the foundational themes and skills learned in the fall with project-based, hands-on learning and design. On any given day, we might see a robot dance-off, eggs being dropped from a 30-foot ladder, paper airplanes flying across the main field, a crew of Chaucer students in costume roaming around campus, swordplay, rock band rehearsal, readings of original poetry, drumming, cooking, painting, reading with buddies, solving problems, 3-D models of settlements for living on Mars, debating, singing, building things, taking things apart, and building them again.

Academic achievements began to roll in for our students: Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, National Merit Scholars, National Honor Society members, American Institute of Architects Award for Photography, Columbia Egleston Scholar, North Carolina National Geographic State Bee Semi-finalist, Governor’s School of North Carolina acceptances, Robotics Team wins, and Duke Kunshan University and MIT admirations. We heard about award-winning archers, dancers, and skiers, as our students developed talents, skills, and passions outside of school.
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And our teachers achieved recognition as well. Upper School Assistant Principal Margot Moses was a featured presenter at the National Association of Independent Schools conference. Libby Roland was named Odyssey of the Mind Coach of the Year for the Western Region. Middle School Principal Jeff Kalil and Athletic Director Steve Henry ’86 facilitated book discussions for public forums held downtown at Malaprop’s bookstore. Upper School math teacher Dan Chase (at right) was published in Education Week, weighing in on the changing landscape of high school math. Jan Brabham, Grade 4 teacher, was invited to be a fellow at the Project Zero Classroom Fellows Program at Harvard’s Graduate School of Education.

It was also in second semester that we celebrated Key School and Key Learning Center’s twentieth anniversary. Hundreds of Key School alumni, teachers and former faculty, families, and community supporters heard alumni speakers talk about the life-changing program with gratitude.

In March, our biennial Share the Promise event—led by parent volunteers—raised funds for tuition assistance. Featuring alumna speaker Dr. Prestina Smith ’06, the raise the paddle, sponsors, reception, dinners, and tuition raffle contributed more than $144,000. 245 parents, teachers, alumni, and staff registered for the reception, which was followed by dinners in the homes of CDS host families.

Also in spring, we celebrated Earth Week and our NC Green School of Excellence status with a picnic on the field, recycling and composting initiatives, and plantings. We enjoyed arts days, film projects, and performing arts in all divisions.

And in athletics, more honors:
Division I volleyball, soccer, and basketball signings, the eighth consecutive state championship for our girls varsity basketball team, and our second girls track and field state championship.

Throughout the year, in curriculum and in practice, CDS students participated in a wide variety of service initiatives. We helped flood victims, cleaned up rivers, fed the hungry, sang to senior citizens, read to students at other schools, served as greeters for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast, supported Brother Wolf and Bounty & Soul, pruned invasive plants, and donated blood, all the while learning about the issues and cycles of poverty, affordable housing, the environment, conservation, aging, and hunger.

As seniors rang the bell for the last time this school year on commencement day, the sound rising up from the courtyard signaled another amazing year in the school’s life. Like every other, this year has been full of smiles, struggles, accomplishments, defeats, and surprises. And like every other year, devoted parents, dedicated teachers, and hard-working staff put hearts and minds together with intelligence and compassion to do what we do best: make this school experience unlike any other. We continue our work to provide CDS students with an exceptional learning environment that will take them into the future with the courage and confidence to make a meaningful difference in the world.

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We unveiled plans for two new summer programs: Camp Bell and Horizons. Camp Bell took our summer day camp to another level, forming partnerships with top adventure, science, and arts organizations such as North Carolina Outward Bound School, Muddy Sneakers, Silver River Chair Caning, and Asheville Plays!

Horizons at Carolina Day School debuted this year. The national program, now with CDS as its Asheville-based host school, provides ongoing enrichment and support to Asheville-area, low-income students to combat summer learning loss.

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“‘Incredible’ is just being present while you watch moments happen and watch yourself be a part of them. Don’t wait for this graduation to be over so you can go eat. Don’t wait for college to be over so you can find your dream job... The world is waiting for you to stop waiting and be a part of it... Congratulations Class of 2018. Go be alive!” —Zoe Fitzgerald ’18

The Class of 2018
• Attending 35 colleges in 13 states, and one in Canada.
• One student was selected to attend Duke University’s pilot program in China.
• Includes a National Merit Finalist and two National Merit Semi-finalists.
• Received athletic scholarships to play college basketball, volleyball, track and field, and baseball.
• Earned $88 academic scholarships worth more than $4 million, with offers made to 75% of the class.

WOW! Congratulations to every single graduate. Whether you achieved a personal best, an outstanding academic accolade, or mastered skills related to your passion, you are remarkable!

Class of 2018

COLLEGE Acceptances

Agnes Scott College®
American University
Anderson University-SC
Appalachian State University®
Auburn University®
Austin Peay State University®
Bard College
Boise State University
Brandeis University
Bryan College®
Campbell University
Clark University
Clemson University
Coastal Carolina University®
College of Charleston
Colorado State University
Columbia University®
Davidson College®
Denison University
Dickinson College
Duke Kunshan University®
East Carolina University
East Tennessee State University
Eckerd College
Elon University®
Furman University®
Georgia State University
Gonzaga University
Guilford College
High Point University®
Indiana University at Bloomington
Lafayette College
Lake Forest College
Lenoir-Rhyne University
Lewis & Clark College®
Louisiana State University
Lynchburg College
Mars Hill University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology®
New College of Florida
New York University (NYU Shanghai)
Newberry College
North Carolina State University®
Oglethorpe University
Ohio University®
Old Dominion University
Oxford College of Emory University®
Piedmont College
Quinnipiac University of Charlotte
Randolph-Macon College
Rhodes College
Rollins College®
Sarah Lawrence College
Savannah College of Art and Design®
Sewanee: The University of the South
State University of New York at Albany
Stony Brook University
Suffolk University®
The College of Wooster
The Ohio State University
The University of Alabama
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill®
Trinity University
University of British Columbia®
University of California, Santa Cruz
University of Colorado at Boulder
University of Denver
University of Georgia®
University of Kentucky
University of Louisville®
University of Michigan
University of Mississippi
University of North Carolina at Asheville®
University of North Carolina at Charlotte®
University of North Carolina at Greensboro
University of North Carolina at Wilmington®
University of San Francisco®
University of South Carolina
University of Tennessee, Knoxville®
Virginia Commonwealth University
Wake Forest University®
Warren Wilson College®
Western Carolina University®
Wingate University®
Wofford College

*College List note: Students plan to attend schools marked with asterisks.
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Carol Lareau, longtime kindergarten teacher, retired from CDS in June after 29 years. Carol has worked at Carolina Day School since 1989, and has received both the Betty Lou Davis Award and the Melissa Ogden Award. Her two daughters are CDS graduates, Rebecca Galloway ’97 and Elizabeth Kimmel ’99.

When asked about her favorite thing at CDS, Carol said, “CDS is a close-knit community of educators and parents who care about children. With the small class size, teachers are able to truly know their students and communicate openly with parents about their accomplishments and challenges.”

Our community held a celebration of Carol’s CDS career, which was attended by alumni, students, parents, and colleagues. In her introduction of Carol, Lower School Principal Kim Broshar shared the following remarks: “It is impossible to measure Carol’s impact on children and their families. It is almost immeasurable the impact Carol has made on this school and the world with her dedication to teaching. Her calm, knowledgeable presence brings confidence to the discussion for everyone. Thank you, Carol, for the kind, smart, experienced wisdom that you brought to our entire community.”

We will miss you, Carol!

At right: Mrs. Lareau’s 2017-18 kindergarten class and their parents created this tree representing the 29 years’ worth of students she has taught at Carolina Day.
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At right: Mrs. Lareau’s 2017-18 kindergarten class and their parents created this tree representing the 29 years’ worth of students she has taught at Carolina Day.
Even after more than 25 years, I have never forgotten one mother and my experience with her when I was director of admissions for Carolina Day School in the early 1990s. She desperately wanted her son to be admitted into the CDS Lower School, but he had been diagnosed with severe dyslexia, and we knew that we could not meet his needs in our program. As I explained this to her, her tears started to flow as she said to me, “I understand that you have to close this door, but can’t you at least open a window?” Sadly, I had no “window” that I could offer to her—there was no viable option in western North Carolina for bright students with language-based learning differences.

Walt Disney said, “If you dream it, you can do it.” Key Learning Center and Key School started as a dream that continued to evolve before becoming a reality. I became principal of the Lower School in 1992, and that year Head of School Gil Webb and I began talking about the need for a program for bright students with dyslexia. We researched other programs and knew there were proven strategies to enable these students to meet their potential and thrive academically. The first official document on file is a memo that was written to the board of trustees by Gil in December 1993, asking them to consider the creation of a “learning center” for this purpose.

This concept was important for two reasons. First, because of the learning needs of many of our own students whom we did not want to lose. Second, we saw the great need in western North Carolina, regardless of the school a student attended. Our goal was to take care of the needs of CDS students, and open our doors to children from other schools who also needed this specialized approach to teaching and learning.

During the next four years there were several meetings about this concept, and I started calling it “the dream that would not die.” My most vivid memory is of a meeting held in August 1996 with a group of leading educators and professionals. Adelaide Key was at that meeting, and so was Dr. Olson Huff (Asheville’s nationally known developmental pediatrician, for whom the Olson Huff Center at the Mission Children’s Hospital is named). Shortly thereafter, Adelaide donated the seed money needed for the first two years of operation, providing enough funding to hire a director and teachers, develop curriculum, and train faculty.

Diane Milner began as director on December 1, 1997, and the months that followed were a whirlwind of activity as she hired her first two teachers (including Cindy Scruggs, who still teaches at Key School), searched out the best language program, trained in Orton-Gillingham, and developed a whole academic curriculum—all within eight months. Key School officially opened its doors in the fall of 1998, and the dream finally became reality.

It was one of the greatest joys of my 27-year career at CDS to see what Key School has become and to witness how it transforms the lives of its students. Key School and Key Learning Center’s teacher training program have touched and changed so many lives, and the ripple effect will continue for generations to come.
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Memories, connections, and traditions come alive as alumni, staff, faculty members, and families participate in Homecoming. It’s a chance for all of us to celebrate our school spirit, and for alumni to return home and reconnect with our school, faculty, and each other.

Homecoming weekend kicks off with the annual CDS Golf Tournament, and Friday evening is our official Homecoming community festival, where current students, faculty, alumni, and their families enjoy a fun celebration and boys varsity soccer match at Sgro Athletic Complex. We also inducted distinguished alumni into the Hall of Fame and hosted an all-class Alumni Reunion Reception, sponsored by the Alumni Association.

Homecoming 2018
Save the Date!
October 11: Golf Tournament
October 12: Homecoming Festival
Alumni Award Ceremony
Varsity Soccer Game & Celebration
All-class Alumni Reunion Reception
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The Carolina Day School family consists of more than 4,000 alumni (of Carolina Day School and its predecessor schools) throughout 50 states and the world.

Alumni are a crucial part of the history, philosophy, and mission of our school. Our expansive network of alumni celebrates each other’s accomplishments, keeps up-to-date about what’s going on at school, and supports our efforts to continue to shape and inspire the leaders of tomorrow.

Alumni serve as volunteers in our classrooms, support the educational careers of their children and grandchildren, cheer on our athletes and artists, and connect with Carolina Day students and graduates as a resource for internships and employment.

We are fortunate to have so many alumni who give back. Thank you, alumni, for your wisdom, support, and leadership.
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Alumni are a crucial part of the history, philosophy, and mission of our school. Our expansive network of alumni celebrates each other’s accomplishments, keeps up-to-date about what’s going on at school, and supports our efforts to continue to shape and inspire the leaders of tomorrow.

Alumni serve as volunteers in our classrooms, support the educational careers of their children and grandchildren, cheer on our athletes and artists, and connect with Carolina Day students and graduates as a resource for internships and employment.

We are fortunate to have so many alumni who give back. Thank you, alumni, for your wisdom, support, and leadership.
“From the first moment that you step onto the campus, it reaches out its arms to you in welcome. Weep and it endeavors to ease your sorrow; laugh and it intensifies your joy. It is these qualities of love, friendship, and understanding united into one perfect whole which guides the life of each of us here at St. Genevieve’s.” — The Victorian: “Pineship”

Founded in 1908 under the patron saint of St. Genevieve, the school motto was, Opere et veritate (In work and in truth). That first year, according to a history written by Mother Margaret Potts, there were 86 students, boys and girls. By its Silver Jubilee year in 1933, there were 300. Throughout their existence, St. Genevieve schools were accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) and the North Carolina Department of Instruction (NCDI). Girls attending St. Genevieve’s academy and grammar school received one of the finest educations available in the Southeast.

The schools of St. Genevieve nurtured and molded thousands of students during their eight decades as educational institutions in Asheville. They promoted growth of mind, body, and spirit as students took formative steps toward their pursuits into the adult world as professionals and community citizens.
St. Genevieve-of-the-Pines

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The school emphasized development of the whole individual, including the spiritual, intellectual, social and physical.” —St. Genevieve Memories website

St. Genevieve-Gibbons Hall (SG/GH) blended the educational philosophies and traditions of Gibbons Hall School for Boys and St. Genevieve Prep when it was created as a non-sectarian, independent, coeducational day school for grades K-9 in 1971. Faculty included Headmaster Joseph M. Lalley, who had been associated with the schools since 1950, and a number of teachers who had experience in the predecessor schools.

The continuing classroom presence of Sisters of the R.C.E. served as a constant reminder of the foundations of the school. Soon after opening in 1971, the reorganized school demonstrated that it had successfully retained the educational standards that had won St. Genevieve-of-the-Pines its reputation for excellence. As in prior years, the heart of the school was its faculty. SG/GH merged with Asheville Country Day School in 1987 to form Carolina Day School.
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Our task is a large one, for each child must develop his or her capabilities and character to the utmost. We must train our children to think.”

—Marshall Abel, Asheville Country Day School (ACDS) headmaster

According to An Uncommon School, by Eileen McCabe, ACDS opened on August 17, 1936, with 53 students. The first principal—Nell Moore—had been hired from New York. Moore’s philosophy is echoed today in Carolina Day School’s whole-child-focused pedagogy: “A thorough grounding in the fundamental tool subjects, sometimes called the three ‘R’s’... will be given first place in the day’s procedure. Music, dancing and the other arts...will also receive due attention.”

ACDS became a premier day school of excellence. In 1949, Haseltine School merged into ACDS, and in the late 1950s, the school’s leadership took a leap of faith—despite many challenges—to undergo a capital campaign for a new facility. That building was constructed on donated land fronting Hendersonville Road—now the main CDS campus—and the school had its new home.

In 1984 St. Genevieve-Gibbons Hall and ACDS began merger talks, and in 1987, the two schools merged to form Carolina Day School.
Asheville Country Day

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“Change is hard to manage, but people here have done well. Despite the changes, everyone easily settled into the new routine. Memories of the old schools will live on, pushing Carolina Day to greater heights.”
—Dr. Heather Streppa ’89, 1988 Yearbook

Carolina Day School began with 376 students in 1987; today, there are nearly 700. To accommodate this growth, three major capital campaigns have been conducted. Supported by parents and alumni, these campaigns helped CDS acquire additional property on Sweeten Creek Road, construct new buildings such as Nash Athletic Center, Sgro Athletic Complex, Middle and Upper Schools, and Oreck Library, and complete renovation of the original ACDS building, which today is the CDS Lower School. This total renovation created the new Love Hall; Love Hall is home to Grades 1-5 and includes spaces such as Owen Academic Wing, Alumni Gym, Joseph M. Lafley, Jr. Head of School Suite, and Oreck Library, a new addition to the pre-existing structure.

While still young as Carolina Day School, the roots of our school heritage reach back to 1908 with the opening of our first predecessor school, St. Genevieve-of-the-Pines.
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“What does the word ‘excel’ mean? Eighth-grader Julia Sisler ’99 defines it as, ‘One working very hard on something and pressing on. To never give up and always give it your all.’

Everyone at CDS has shown that they know how to excel. Not only have students become experts in academic subjects and on the playing fields, but even in activities outside of school. The effort and accomplishments made in the academic subjects at Carolina Day have given all of the students from Pre-K to 12th grade a feeling of excellence and ability.”

Silhouette yearbook, 1995

(Note: Julia Sisler is now the parent of CDS students Cailynn ’31 and Logan ’29, and spouse of Grade 5 teacher Logan Killen.)
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Carolina Day School is a leader in educational innovation and a model of excellence for western North Carolina and beyond. Our creative and reflective educators craft a cohesive curriculum in a supportive environment where inquiry, discovery, and learning flourish.

Building and giving meaning to strong foundational skills is essential, and it is just the starting point at Carolina Day. Students actively engage in real-world problem solving, project-based learning, service learning, and design thinking projects and activities, which allow them to practice, apply, build, and transfer these important skills in meaningful ways.

Our students benefit tremendously from our special blend of teaching methodology, curriculum, and community. The CDS faculty practice their craft as artisans of the classroom, mixing their professional experience with research and wisdom to teach each child. There is a shared expectation between students and teachers that everyone will push themselves in many ways to stretch and grow—intellectually, socially, emotionally—and teachers provide the support necessary to help students face challenges head-on and learn to persevere with confidence. It’s an ever-evolving process of combining the best ingredients for the outcomes that matter most in life: strong communication skills, self-advocacy, problem-solving, and teamwork.

Our families tell us that they value their investment in a Carolina Day education because of our unique combination of highly qualified teachers, innovative programs, and inclusive community. Simply put, Carolina Day children, adolescents, and young adults alike enjoy coming to school; they think hard, play hard, and celebrate their group successes and personal bests with gusto. Our vision and passion is to create a community of well-rounded, engaged, and happy students who will make a meaningful difference in the world.

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Alumni Profiles

Prestina Smith ’06

Dr. Prestina Smith ’06 is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at Emory University, specializing in alcoholic lung syndrome. Her research explores the tight junction protein claudin-5 as a potential therapeutic target for the condition. Her long-term research goal is to understand the molecular mechanisms involved in human disease. Prestina says that at Carolina Day School, the small class sizes, teacher relationships, and rigorous academics allowed her to challenge herself, and to create the foundation for her career trajectory. In 2017, she spoke at our biennial Share the Promise event about the importance of institutional tuition assistance.

Stephen Nadeau ’10

Award-winning filmmaker and owner of Brother Blue Studio, Stephen Nadeau ’10 is also director of video production for Offline Media and has worked for the Blue Man Group. He says, “We are founded on three principles that enhance storytelling: work the hardest to create the best work, turn ideas into action, and evolve at all times.” Of his CDS experience, he says, “CDS definitely instilled the work ethic that’s necessary for starting one’s own business. Three words I would use to describe Carolina Day would be challenging, exciting, and diverse.”

Clifton Young ’97

Clifton Young ’97 is a project manager for Eaton Corporation, a global technology leader in power management solutions, and a mentor for Big Brothers Big Sisters. When asked about his experiences at ACDS and CDS, he said, “My favorite teachers were Mrs. Bartsch and Ms. Sims. My senior year we threw Ms. Sims in the lake at Rockmont! Both ACDS and CDS prepared me by challenging me to live up to my potential—not just get by, but to go further than what I thought I could do. So many people paved the way for me to come here. They saw a reason to want me here and to keep me here.” He says that’s why it’s so important to give back.

Colleen Lopez ’14

In May of 2018, Colleen graduated cum laude from the College of Wooster with a B.A in Neuroscience, as a member of the Psi Chi Honor Society. She completed her senior thesis on the Neurological Effects of Loving Kindness Meditation on Social Connectedness and Racial Bias, for which she received honors. This summer, she is working through the Sherman Fairchild Research Grant to continue analyzing her research. She says that her experience at Wooster was similar to Carolina Day School in that the classes were small and she developed close relationships with her professors. “I would not be where I am without CDS.”


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*Video Interview*

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At Convocation in August of 2017, we honored Stephanie Hayden Smith SG/GH ‘89 as the recipient of the C. Robert Bell, Jr. Distinguished Alumni Award for her outstanding contributions to preserving the legacy of St. Genevieve-Gibbons Hall (SG/GH).

Former SG/GH teacher Tish Anderson describes why Stephanie received the honor: “Stephanie has had an impact on so many people... she had this wonderful, effervescent joie de vivre that just welcomed everybody into her circle... She literally embodied the qualities that Carolina Day and all of her predecessor schools hold for their alumni.”

For two years, Stephanie and a committee of volunteers worked tirelessly on the creation of a website, “St. Genevieve-of-the-Pines and Gibbons Hall Memories,” which made its debut with a celebration on campus in 2014. The introduction to the site reads, “Welcome to St. Genevieve Memories, the electronic home of St. Genevieve’s College, Junior College, and School for Secretaries, of St. Genevieve’s Prep and Academy, of Gibbons Hall, and of St. Genevieve-Gibbons Hall. The schools of St. Genevieve nurtured and molded thousands of students during their eight decades as educational institutions in Asheville. They promoted growth of mind, body, and spirit as students took formative steps toward their pursuits into the adult world as professionals and community citizens.” Stephanie lived these ideals in her work as owner of The Brite Agency, and in her service not only to Carolina Day School but also to Helpmate and Mountain Housing, among others.

On August 7, 2017, Stephanie died from pancreatic cancer. She is dearly missed.

Audio Stories 2017-18

Throughout the school year, we set up our CDS “Story Corps” recording booth at various school events to capture audio stories from alumni, parents, teachers, and students. You’ll find them on our CDS Audio Stories web page.

Here’s how it works: Take a photo of the QR code at right on your cell phone. Follow the link your phone will provide to access the CDS audio stories catalog web page. OR, type in this address in your browser’s search window: CarolinaDay.org/AudioStories. Enjoy!
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Video Tribute
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Our supporters are essential partners in achieving our mission to provide children in Grades Pre-K/12 with an outstanding education. A strong culture of philanthropy allows CDS to be responsive and adaptable to change and opportunities, always positioned to prepare our students for leadership and success in an ever-changing world.

We are very thankful for all our donors who gave outright gifts to our school through Annual Fund, Auction Raise the Paddle, capital, and/or endowment funds during the 2016-17 school year.

Thank you!

Every Gift Counts

2016-17 Benefactors League

Created in 2016, the Benefactors League is a comprehensive annual giving society that honors Carolina Day School donors who have contributed a combined total of $10,000 or more during the course of a fiscal year. Totedale donations include outright gifts to Annual Fund, Auction or Share the Promise, endowment, capital, and/or restricted gifts. Benefactors League members have a deep and lasting impact on the life of our school. Their substantial investments in our teachers, students, endowment, and facilities have a transformative impact on Carolina Day. We are extremely grateful for the generosity of our Benefactors League members; on behalf of all the students we serve, thank you!

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Hilary and Croft Thomas
Brian M. ’92 and Katrina Turner
Anne Winner ACDS ’79
Kim and Matt Wood
Dan and Carmen Zivony

2016-17 Annual Fund
Leadership Circle Donors

We are tremendously grateful for Leadership Circle donors, who contributed $2,500 or more to Annual Fund during the 2016-17 school year. Annual Fund provides a significant portion of CDS’s annual operating budget, which in turn funds student programs and opportunities. Annual Fund leadership giving has an extraordinary impact on the annual budget and on our community, and we are grateful for the generosity of those who are able to give at this level. Each fall, we hold a special reception to give thanks to our leadership donors for their investment in our teachers, programs, and students.

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Joan J. Ambrose
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Jeff and Nancy Baker
Scott Bauer and Shona MacEachern
Barbara and Bob Bell
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2016-17 Annual Giving

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Goosmann, Rose, Colvard & Cramer, PA
Adams, Hendon, Carson, Crow
Holiday Inn Biltmore West
Dynamite Roasting Co.
Running an independent, nonprofit school takes a mix of leadership styles and skill sets. We are fortunate beyond measure to have so many good minds and hearts supporting our mission to prepare students to make a meaningful difference in the world.

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Marcia Ciochina, Past Treasurer
Patricia Stranges, Past Treasurer

Administrative Leadership Team
Kirk Duncan, Head of School
Brett Fuhrman, Chief Financial Officer
Debbie Ashe, Admission and Enrollment Director
Jane Childress, Marketing Communications Director
Elaine Kreuz, Advancement Director

School Leadership 2017-18

Raffle Prizes

Running an independent, nonprofit school takes a mix of leadership styles and skill sets. We are fortunate beyond measure to have so many good minds and hearts supporting our mission to prepare students to make a meaningful difference in the world.

Board of Trustees
Lisa Fox, President
Michael Andry, Chair
Bob Bell, Past Chair
Jeff Baker, Co-Chair
Heather Cassidy, Vice President
Max Coburn, Treasurer
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Gretchen Brown, Past President
Carolyn Suess, Treasurer
Heather Cassidy, Treasurer
Marcia Ciochina, Past Treasurer
Patricia Stranges, Past Treasurer

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Our Philosophy of Inclusion  Carolina Day School is strongly committed to equal opportunity for all individuals. The School considers applicants without unlawful discrimination as to race, color, national or ethnic origin, citizenship, gender, sexual orientation, marital status, age, religion, creed, or physical challenge, or any other basis protected by law. In addition, all school employees, regardless of position, are expected to maintain and live up to the true meaning of non-discrimination.