



The Alumni Connection  
Spring 2016

# *Matters*

News for the Families & Friends of George Stevens Academy



# GEORGE STEVENS ACADEMY

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Matters is a publication of the offices of Communications and Development.

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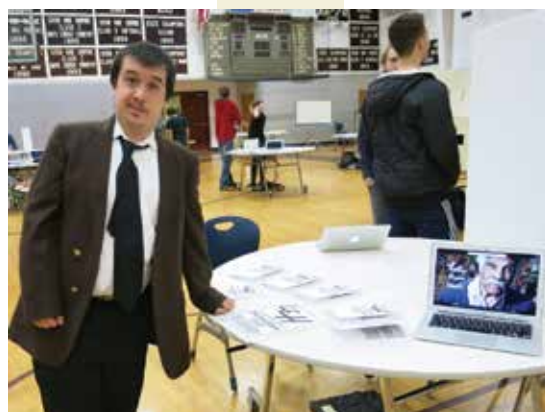
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On the cover: 2016 Boys Basketball  
Class C Maine State Champions.  
Photo by the Ellsworth American.





*from the* HEAD of SCHOOL



## Signs of Spring

As I write this, spring is beginning to make its presence known. We may not be past the very last vestiges of winter, but there are unmistakable signs of spring: waking up to warmer temperatures, more birds at the feeder, students carrying tennis racquets and baseball gloves, and the second round of senior debates starting up.

In this issue you will read about wonderful things going on around campus. There are new courses and programs planned for next year, and equipment that will enhance our industrial arts and technology classes. We've improved the Culinary Arts program by installing a new walk-in cooler that also increases teaching and learning space, and we'll be using our greenhouse in science classes to grow food for ourselves and to share with local families. There is also good news to share about the progress on our new dormitory. And our students have won four State Championships this year so far: Cross Country, Jazz, Boys Basketball, and Math!

This issue also contains highlights from our evenings to showcase the Independent Study and Internship Program and our International Night, where our students can share a bit of culture from their home countries. I also offer my reflections on the trip I took to Asia to visit parents of our students from China and Korea.

Alumni Profiles and Class Notes round out the issue and remind us of the talents and interesting lives of many GSA alumni.

At this time of year we look toward the conclusion of our Annual Fund campaign. I hope you enjoy the graphic reminder of all the big and little ways that the Annual Fund supports so much of what happens at GSA. If you haven't made your annual gift yet, please consider doing so when you finish reading this magazine—which is a lot like GSA itself: chock full of programs, events, and happenings on campus that serve all our students, whatever their interests, abilities, aspirations, or home towns.

It's a great place. Please stop by sometime, and watch us work!

*Timothy J. Seeley*

Timothy J. Seeley, Head of School



# THE EAGLE'S EYE



**MATH TEAM** On Tuesday, April 5, ten members of the Math Team traveled with math coach Kathleen Knight to the Augusta Civic Center to compete against 95 other schools statewide in the 40th Annual Maine State Math Meet: Seniors *Spock Wang* and *Peter Zhang*, Juniors *Shia Chang*, *Rhett Cheng*, *Katherine Xu* and *Wenhao Zhang*, and Sophomores *Jade Gu*, *David Liu*, *Bill Sun*, and *Berlioz Xu*. David Liu received recognition for earning the 6th highest score for all sophomores. **GSA finished 1st for all Division C schools!**



This year 23 GSA students participated in at least one math meet and the team earned 1st place in the Downeast League. Students who received medals in their grade levels were: **9th grade:** *Daniel Liu*, 3rd place; **10th grade:** *Jade Gu*, 3rd place, *David Liu*, 2nd place, and *Berlioz Xu*, 1st place; **11th grade:** *Wenhao Zhang*, 3rd place, *Rhett Cheng*, 2nd place (tie) and *Shia Chang*, 1st place, and **12th grade:** *Peter Zhang*, 2nd place, and *Spock Wang*, 1st place.

GSA has been invited to participate in the New England Association of Math Leagues' New England Math Competition to be held on April 29 in Canton, MA. Stay tuned!



**CULINARY ARTS** Culinary Arts Director and Chef *Frank Bianco* took seven CA students to Sumner High School in March. They cooked and served lunch to 160 teachers during RSU 24's Professional Development Day. The food and service won rave reviews and a request for a return to make a Fall luncheon around Thanksgiving. Student chefs were (left to right): *Maeghan Tobey* '16, *Lily Cox* '16, *Lucie Domina* '16, *Katrin Cote* '16, *Oliver Broughton* '16, *Mai Dinh* '17, and *Siria Capezzani*, exchange student.

**ADMISSIONS** "Uri" Oriol Grasa '09 joined Director of Admissions Joanna Evans at a student recruitment fair in Barcelona on February 3. Following graduation from GSA, Uri spent two years at Maine Maritime Academy and then studied at and received a degree in petroleum engineering from Louisiana State University. Today, he is studying business at a French university in Barcelona.

**POETRY WINNER** *Ed Conte* '19 won first prize in the Reversing Falls Sanctuary Climate Change Challenge Poetry Contest, and *Hattie Fitzpatrick* '19 was the runner-up. Congratulations to both and to all the students in *Maria Johnson*'s poetry class who wrote extraordinary poems about the perils of climate change.



**INTERNATIONAL NIGHT** For the 7th year we welcomed friends and neighbors to celebrate cultures around the world at International Night. More than 300 people attended. This year students built ten booths, representing our students' homelands (including the U.S.!). Food was plentiful and offered with interactive twists: attendees helped prepare pastas and Asian dumplings and various other delectables. Flowers were provided by Fairwinds of Blue Hill, and homemade ice cream by Morton's Moo of Ellsworth. To see a videoclip of some entertainment, go to our Facebook page (March 19).

**ISIP EXHIBITION NIGHT** On the evening of March 15, 150 juniors and seniors who participated in Independent Study and Internship in February and March presented a public exhibition of their projects in the gymnasium.

Head of School Tim Seeley commented, "GSA's Independent Study and Internship Program shows that we think allowing students to take charge of their own learning produces great learning; we believe letting them design how they will approach something that interests them brings benefits beyond the actual work they do and experiences they have; we believe that when you give kids some autonomy and the chance to think big, they will do great things." Visit GSA's Facebook (March 17) page for a photo album of student projects. A sample of project topics: Truck Mechanics, Photography, Health Care, Land Conservation, Stained Glass, Field Ornithology, Carpentry & Masonry, Dentistry, 3D Printing & Design, Car Restoration, Diesel Mechanics, Aquaculture, Wind Blade Design, Glass Blowing, Fashion Design, Physical Therapy, Welding, Medical Mission, and many more.

**ONE-ACT DRAMA COMPETITION** GSA's Drama Club presented "In the Middle of A Midsummer Night's Dream" at the Maine Drama Festival Class B Regional competition, winning a well-earned award for the whole ensemble and individual All Festival cast honors for **Ian Ramsey '18** as Nick Bottom and **Phoebe Zildjian '16** as Helena. **Summit Colman '17** and the band of faeries received a special award for their song.

**ART STUDENTS** Students in **Mariel Duym's** painting class added some color to Courtland Rehabilitation & Living Center in Ellsworth by turning ceiling tiles into original artworks. Students included **Rory Bradford '16**, **Margaret Brooks '16**, **Alyssa Chesney '16**, **Bella Cimeno '17**, **Abigail Frost '16**, **Jenna Gray '16**, **Grace Hylan '16**, **John Larson '17**, **Karina Steenberg '16**, **Brooke Wentworth '16**, **Brier-Rose Werner '16** and **Phoebe Zildjian '16**. Tiles included paintings of a suspension bridge, underwater marine life, and a mountain/seascape.





# A World Away - A World at Home

by Tim Seeley



In February, I made a nine-day trip to China and Korea. I had the chance to meet with the parents of ten of our international boarding students. As a parent, I cannot imagine the challenges of sending my young child halfway around the world. The constant, low level worry and anxiety that must come from being so far away, unable to help, must be deep. The fact that parents of our international students are willing to have their children go to school seven thousand miles from home is a testament to the value they place on their child's education and their confidence in the living and learning experiences their children are getting at GSA. Their knowledge that the community here has embraced their sons and daughters, and that we care for their children as we do our own, is a tremendous comfort to them.

While, as a rule, the parents I met value the quality of their children's classroom experiences, it is just as important to them that their children are experiencing an American education, profoundly different from educational opportunities in their own countries. They want for their children an education that opens doors, that encourages making choices, that doesn't force or track students onto career paths that exclude all others. They want a school that values and encourages creativity. They want a school that invites their children into a wider intellectual arena, and a wider cultural world, than is possible in their own countries today.

They are parents, and they want what all parents want: their child's happiness, safety, and success. GSA can help young people discover and grow into the adults they will become, no matter their hometown. We have been doing this for children across the peninsula, and, for ten years, for children from around the world, which makes every GSA student's experience larger, better, and more connected to the world we are helping prepare them to live in.





*High Five (front to back): Mira Schubeck, trumpet & piano; Abigail Jakub, alto sax & piano; Joseph Boulet, drums; Yvonne Rogers, tenor sax & piano; Matthew Stephens, bass.*

For the third year in a row, the GSA Jazz Band was named Maine State Champion in Division IV. This is GSA's twelfth State Jazz Band Championship since 2003, and eighteenth since 1989. In the past 29 years, the GSA Jazz Band has placed 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in all but two years!

It is also the fourteenth year in a row for a GSA combo to place 1st, 2nd, or 3rd in their respective division. Benny & the Jets placed 3rd in the Multiple Division A. In Multiple Division B, Tess & the Mess placed 3rd and Cymbal Pleasures placed 2nd. In Combo Division III, High Five placed 1st!

GSA musicians earned nine out of a possible twenty Most Valuable Player Awards! Congratulations to senior **Raine Smith** '16, vocals of Tess & the Mess, and Cymbal Pleasures' **Jackson Billings** '17, trumpet. Benny & the Jets MVP was senior **Schuyler Williamson** '16, vocals, as well as High Five's **Mira Schubeck** '17, vibes & trumpet, **Joseph Boulet** '17, drums, and **Yvonne Rogers** '17, piano, who also received an MVP award for Jazz Band. Seniors **Abigail Jakub** '16, alto sax, and **Matthew Stephens** '16, bass, were also awarded MVPs for Jazz Band.

The weekend concluded the magnificent State Jazz Festival careers of nine GSA senior musicians: **Abigail Jakub**, **Grace Hylan**, **Erin Niehoff**, **Maya Sealander**, **Schuyler Williamson**, **Matthew Stephens**, **Raine Smith**, **Aidan Byrne** and **Aylen Wolf**.



## *All That Jazz*

What successes  
in this year's  
State Jazz  
Festival!

March 11 and 12 at  
South Portland HS







# Cross Country Kudos

*In the fall season, the Cross Country teams had their share of glory, with the boys winning their first state championship since 1993, and the girls team finishing as Class C state runners up!*

*According to coach **Erich Reed**, both teams ran their best races of the season at States at the Twin Brook course in Cumberland on October 31.*

*In the girls race, the trio of GSA sophomore girls — **Eliza Broughton** (5th), **Zeya Lorio** (7th) and **Mary Richardson** (10th) — all placed among the top 10 Class C finishers.*

*For the boys, junior **John Hassett** was the individual state champion, with **Ollie Dillon** '17 and **Will Entwisle** '16 finishing as state medalists in 7th and 9th places.*

*The boys placed first with 60 points, to Orono's 71 and Lisbon's 120.*

***Coach Erich Reed** was voted Boys Coach of the Year by the US Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association.*

*Notably, this was the first time a Northern Maine boys team has won States in Class C since 1998. With their victory, the boys team qualified for the New England championships for the first time, and they competed well at Thetford Academy, in Vermont.*



# Fall Sports Highlights

## Girls Soccer

The team made it to the Eastern Maine Semi-Finals

*Maine Soccer Coaches Regional All Star Team*

### **Morgan Dauk '17**

*Northern Maine Class C  
PVC Class C First Team*

### **Alyssa Chesney '16**

**Nellie Haldane '18**  
*PVC Class C Second Team*

### **Bess MacArthur '18**

*PVC Class C Honorable Mention*

## Boys Soccer

The team made it to the Eastern Maine Semi-Finals

*Maine Soccer Coaches Regional All Star Team*

### **Beowulf Urban '16**

*Northern Maine Class C  
PVC Class C First Team*

### **Matt Stephens '16**

*PVC Class C Second Team*

### **Taylor Schildroth '18**

*PVC Class C Third Team*

### **John Larson '17**

*PVC Class C Honorable Mention*

## Golf

The team qualified for the States

### **Tyler McKenney '18**

### **Percy Zentz '19**

*PVC First Team*

## Girls Cross Country

The team was the State Runner-up Class C

### **Eliza Broughton '18**

### **Zeya Lorio '18**

### **Mary Richardson '18**

*PVC First Team*

### **Hanna Gutow '16**

### **Tess Williamson '19**

*PVC Second Team*

### **Bella Cimeno '17**

### **Rachel DesFosses '16**

*PVC Honorable Mention*

## Boys Cross Country

State Champions Class C

### **John Hassett '17**

*Individual State Champion*

### **Oliver Dillon '17**

### **Will Entwisle '16**

### **John Hassett '17**

*PVC First Team*

### **Aylen Wolf '16**

*PVC Second Team*

### **Oliver Broughton '16**

### **Devlin Valle '16**

*PVC Honorable Mention*

### **Coach Erich Reed**

*Boys Cross Country*

*Coach of the Year*

## PVC Cross Country Senior All-Academic Team

*(Six semesters of 90% GPA or better):*

### **Rachel DesFosses**

### **Megan Gale**

### **Hanna Gutow**

### **Xiaoben Wang**

### **Jacob Witting**





State Senators Brian Langley (Ellsworth) and Kim Rosen (Bucksport) present the engraved Gold Ball to the team.

## What a season for Boys Basketball!

Not only did they win the Class C State Championship, they set a new school record along the way, ending the season with 21 wins and only 1 loss. Entering the tournament as the top seed, they defeated Fort Kent handily (73-28) in the quarterfinals, with four starters (**Max Mattson '18**, **Taylor Schildroth '18**, **Nick Szwecz '16**, **Jarrold Chase '17**) scoring in double digits.

In the semifinals they beat Schenck by a score of 68-39, with the same four again scoring in the double digits. On to the Northern Maine final where they faced Bucksport in what turned out to be a tough game. The Eagles again prevailed, winning 55-43. According to **Coach**

**Dwayne Carter '80**, Taylor Schildroth "had an amazing game, scoring a career-high 32 points", and was key in turning the game around during the second half.

All of this led up to the state championship game against Southern Maine champions Waynflete on February 27. The game was close through three quarters until, according to Coach Carter, some stellar play from Jarrold Chase and **Beckett Slayton '17** turned the momentum in GSA's favor. The defense took over and kept Waynflete from catching up, resulting in GSA's first gold ball since 2003, with a final score of 59-46.

An interesting side note: This is Coach Carter's third state championship with GSA – once as a player on the team in 1979, once as an assistant coach in 2003 and, now, as head coach.





# Winter Sports Highlights

## Swimming

Boys finished 10<sup>th</sup> at PVC Championship

Girls finished 7<sup>th</sup> at PVC Championship

### Ava Sealander '18

1<sup>st</sup> in 200 IM and 2<sup>nd</sup> in 100 butterfly at PVC Championship

3<sup>rd</sup> in 200 IM and 4<sup>th</sup> in 100 butterfly at State Championship

Selected All-PVC

### Maya Pelletier '17

3<sup>rd</sup> in 500 freestyle at PVC Championship

Selected All-PVC

## Indoor Track

### John Hassett '17

2<sup>nd</sup> in the mile for Class B in State Indoor Track Championship

## Girls Basketball

### Morgan Dauk '17

All PVC 1<sup>st</sup> Team

### Mazie Smallidge '18

All PVC Honorable Mention

## Boys Basketball

### Jarrold Chase '17

PVC Honorable Mention

All Tournament Honorable Mention

Finalist for the State Foul Shooting Championship

### Will Entwisle '16

McDonalds Senior All Star Game

### Max Mattson '18

PVC 1<sup>st</sup> Team

All Tournament Honorable Mention

### Taylor Schildroth '18

PVC 1<sup>st</sup> Team

All Tournament Class C Most Outstanding Player

### Nick Szwez '16

PVC 2<sup>nd</sup> Team

All Tournament 1<sup>st</sup> Team

McDonald's Senior All Star Game

Coach **Dwayne Carter '80** was named coach of the 2016 Maine McDonald's Class C/D North High School Senior All-Star Team.



# THE GSA ANNUAL FUND

HELPS PAY FOR THESE KEY PROGRAMS AND NEEDS:





**2015-16 Goal: \$180,000**

## Annual Fund Update

*as of March 31, 2016*

July	\$4,330
August	\$28,385
September	\$50,361
October	\$52,352
November	\$65,230
December	\$131,407
January	\$134,109
February	\$136,835
March	\$142,827*
April	
May	
June	

*\*Monthly totals are cumulative*

### 3 Ways to Contribute

#### CREDIT CARD BY PHONE

Call (207) 374-2800 and we'll process your credit card gift by phone—no fee!

#### ONLINE

Make your gift through our secure site at  
[www.georgestevensacademy.org/onlinegift](http://www.georgestevensacademy.org/onlinegift)

#### BY MAIL

Use the enclosed envelope and mail to

GSA Annual Fund  
23 Union Street  
Blue Hill, ME 04614

EVERY DOLLAR



EVERY STUDENT



EVERY YEAR



The 2015-2016 Annual Fund  
closes on June 30, 2016

Thank you to all who have made a gift so far!  
Your contributions have brought us more  
than 75% of the way toward our goal  
for the year.

We have three months left to raise the  
remaining \$38,000 to cover all the  
programs and items made possible through  
GSA's operating budget.

# ALUMNI DONORS

1937

Paul Townsend

1941

Rebecca Bowden  
Wanbaugh

1943

Linwood Carter  
Lucy Herrick Ledien\*

1947

Florence Pert Conley

1949

Gordon Carter

1950

Madeline Clement  
Elaine Christy Wessel  
Norris Wessel, Sr.

1951

Edna Day Carter  
Jean Cousins Kelley  
Carroll Nevells

1952

Harvard Candage

1953

Katherine Keefe Smith

1954

Phyllis Leighton  
Pemberton

1955

Kenneth Flannery  
Patricia Hutchins Flannery

1956

Beverly Wescott Cecchini  
Roger Marks

1957

Fernald Leach  
Horace Wardwell

1958

Drucilla Emerton Leach  
Elaine Hatch Peebles

1959

Linda Abbott Candage  
Charles Ferden  
G. Eckley Herrick  
Elaine Snow Porter  
Janice Woods Prior-  
Crofoot  
Sylvia Conner Wardwell

1960

Karyl Ricker Hayes

1961

Gerald Butler  
Sharon Abbott Garcia  
Marjorie McGraw  
Longwood\*  
Cordell Snow

1963

John Austin Sr.  
Edie McVay King  
Donald Wescott

1964

James B. Farr\*  
Bernard Gray\*  
Gleason Gray  
Sharon Leighton Gray

1965

John Candage  
Leona Sylvester Gray  
Linda Gray Martin  
Bernard Perkins Jr.  
Dennis Rackliffe  
David Stover  
Stephen Tobey

1966

Gloria Howard  
Margaret Dow  
Rackliffe  
Joanna Stover Raible  
Jon Woodward

1967

Marguerite Hutchins  
Conary

Bruce Grindal  
Linette Bridges Grindal

1968

Annette Billings Candage

1969

Patricia Leach Astbury  
Gerald Blodgett  
Bernice Bartlett DeBlois\*  
Claire Babson Gray  
Kathleen McClure  
Bonnie Astbury Paulas  
Noddy Wessel

1970

Michael Astbury  
Anne Bridges  
Mark Gross  
Freida Lowell Peasley

1972

Eric Allen  
Joan Clapp Allen  
Joanne Barrett  
Jackie Bowden  
Alta Gross  
Alan Howard  
Edward Turner

1973

Geoffrey Anthony  
Patricia Astbury Clapp  
Robert Clapp  
Homer Lowell  
Jane Candage Moon

1974

Marla Atherton  
Patricia Lymburner Henry  
Amy Bartlett Turner

1976

Gale Brownlow Flax

1977

Jennifer Durnbaugh  
Denlinger  
Maggie Garfield  
Megan Clapp Lowell



Elizabeth Austin  
Rosemeier  
Scott Rosemeier  
Terrance Wessel  
Gus Williamson  
**1978**  
Alden Blodgett  
Jackie Gray Bowden  
**1979**  
Jeffrey Allen  
Kathleen Carroll Eaton  
Deborah Venno Ludlow\*  
Thomas Smith  
**1980**  
David Gray  
Vaughn Leach  
**1981**  
Eric Anderson  
Marjorie Austin Gray\*  
Lenny Lawson  
Lori Herrick Wessel  
**1982**  
Annie Allen  
Leslie Clapp  
Martha Garfield\*  
**1983**  
Leanne M. Bateman  
Craig Berry\*  
Diane Billings Brann  
Marilyn Carter Lawson  
Lewis Tapley  
**1984**  
Errol Dodge  
David Giroux II  
Christopher Marshall  
Kristina Anderson  
Stephens\*  
**1985**  
Christy Johndrow Gontarz  
**1986**  
Timothy Bryant

Susan Rackliffe Keenan  
Stacia Eaton Nevin  
**1987**  
Lori Bakeman Dodge  
JoDee Lymburner  
Amy Saumur-Gallup  
Debra Hutchins Tapley  
**1989**  
Tiana Nevells Hadziavdic  
**1990**  
Derrick Noessel  
Maria Cousins Woodward  
Peter Woodward  
**1991**  
Lydia Gray Garrant  
Scott M. Keenan  
**1992**  
Molly Wanning Cooper  
**1993**  
Zoe Robbins Tenney  
**1994**  
Jaime Carroll Stone  
**1996**  
Larry Malm  
Heather Snow  
**1997**  
Emily Lewandowski  
Hildebrand\*  
James Hildebrand\*  
James Inglis  
**1999**  
Heidi Allen Shepard  
**2000**  
Robert Candage  
Justin Kaley  
Erin McCormick  
Michelle Astbury  
Schildroth  
Laura Sherman  
**2001**  
Jeffrey Baroody

Jennifer Friend Baroody  
Will Reuter  
Marisol Trowbridge  
**2002**  
Sarah Clapp  
Hans Reuter  
Noah Tapley  
**2003**  
Michael Astbury  
Christopher Candage  
Nicholas Henry  
**2005**  
Jessica Driscoll Astbury  
Daniel Gommel  
**2006**  
Aisha Smith Leach  
**2009**  
Grace Bell  
Lilian Day Thorpe  
**2010**  
Tynan Byrne  
John Ludlow  
**2011**  
Thomas Crowe  
Emily Lowell  
**2012**  
Haley Maiden  
Amanda Moir  
Kara Van Emmerik  
**2013**  
Maddie Heilner  
Will Ludlow  
**2014**  
Alexander Heilner  
**2015**  
Abby Andrews  
Timothy Dentino  
Anna Ludlow  
Hannah Maiden  
Madison Politte



### Alumni Donors: Giving Back to GSA

*GSA continues to provide an enriching program of studies and extra-curricular offerings thanks in part to the hundreds of alumni who “give back” year after year.*

*Thank you to the 172 alumni who have made a gift to GSA so far this fiscal year (as of March 31).*

*If you haven’t contributed yet this year, we hope you will be inspired to join with fellow alumni in making a gift—and staying connected with GSA!*

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**GSA FINE ART SHOW** – May 16 – 22 at the Cynthia Winings Gallery, Parker Point Road, Blue Hill

This year, parents, students, and GSA alumni are invited to submit one piece of fine art to display at the show. Participating artists agree to donate 25% of sales to GSA's Annual Fund. Opening reception is Monday, May 16 from 5 until 7pm. Contact Jennifer Traub at [j.traub@georgesteveens.info](mailto:j.traub@georgesteveens.info) for more information and to submit your work.



**HOMECOMING** – September 23-24-25

#### TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

“Golden Eagles” Reception  
Boys’ and Girls’ Soccer  
Alumni Reception  
Tradewinds Great Pumpkinfest 4K Run  
Duane B. Gray ’64 Memorial Golf  
Tournament at the Blue Hill Country Club

**FOUR SEASONS SPORTS & REC SALE** –  
Saturday, September 24 from 9am until 11am.  
Proceeds from the sale will benefit GSA’s Annual Fund.

For the third year, GSA will host a four-season athletic and recreational gear and equipment sale. Donated items may be dropped off at GSA. Please review the list of acceptable donations at [www.georgesteveensacademy.org/4seasonsale](http://www.georgesteveensacademy.org/4seasonsale).

**SPRING CONCERT** – Thursday, May 26

**GRADUATION** – Sunday, June 19

#### CLASS REUNIONS

**1956** - 60 years - Contact: Beverly (Wescott) Cecchini. Bev and her classmates are planning an informal get-together later this year. Date to be determined.

**1961** - 55 years - Contact: Marilyn (York) Brossmer, [mbrossmer@gmail.com](mailto:mbrossmer@gmail.com). Event date is still under discussion; comments are appreciated. Current plans are for a get-together at The Farmhouse Inn on Pleasant Street in Blue Hill.

**1966** - 50 years. The class needs a lead organizer to help plan the date and location of this year’s 50th reunion! If you can lend a hand, please let Jennifer in GSA’s Development Office know: [j.traub@georgesteveens.info](mailto:j.traub@georgesteveens.info) or 207-374-2800.

**1967** - 49 years - Contacts: Belinda Carter and Chris (Piper) Lamb. From Belinda: “When Chris returns from Florida, we will start planning our summer class reunion. Classmates will be hearing from us in early May.”

**1986** - 30 years - Contact: Stephanie (Haza) Vetne, [jdmom23@gmail.com](mailto:jdmom23@gmail.com). Information on [facebook.com/groups/GSAClassof1986](https://facebook.com/groups/GSAClassof1986) or [facebook.com/stephanievetne](https://facebook.com/stephanievetne). From Stephanie: “The Class of 1986 30th Reunion will be August 6 for adults only, with a second gathering that same weekend for families. Susan (Rackliffe) Keenan is hosting.”

**1996** - 20 years - Contact: Kandace Proud, [proudk@gmail.com](mailto:proudk@gmail.com). Kandace would like to plan a reunion event for the weekend of July 1 and would appreciate any suggestions on a low-cost location that is available over the holiday weekend! Please contact her by email or Facebook with ideas.

Be sure to check our reunion webpage for the latest updates: [www.georgesteveensacademy.org/reunions](http://www.georgesteveensacademy.org/reunions).



# New & Newsworthy

Lots to report since January! The Curriculum Committee approved seven new courses, all set to begin next fall: **AP Biology**, **AP Physics 1**, **Robotics**, **3D Computer Modeling**, **2D Computer Illustration/Animation**, **Pre-Engineering**, and **Juegos y Fiestas**, an entry-level Spanish culture and language class.

The Athletics Department has added **Girls Volleyball** and **Indoor Track** to our standing roster of teams.

We are grateful to long-time GSA supporter **Bob Marville** for a gift that is bringing more technology into our classrooms:

Several significant pieces of industrial tech equipment are now in place: a new **tablesaw** with state-of-the-art safety features, a new **planer**, and **welding machinery** are already being used by students in **Eric Gallant's** and **Jason Billings's** classes.

**Ben Politte '17** helped research and choose our new **3D printer** and then spent his Independent Study in March designing and “printing” a dual-environment, submersible drone on it. Ben expects to help people learn how to use the printer in classes next year.

Coach **Dan Kane** now has an **iPad** that he uses in his Outdoor Leadership classes to take videos of students to provide immediate feedback on their performance.



Thanks to a grant from the Carter Foundation supporting the Culinary Arts program, and to the generous support of an anonymous donor, a new, **energy-efficient walk-in cooler and freezer** now replaces the older units that took up more space and used twice the electricity. The smaller footprint allows Culinary Arts teacher **Frank Bianco** to increase surface area for food prep, and thus enroll 50% more students in the program.



Since February, work has been underway to make the Tenney Hill property ready to serve as a new dormitory. GSA purchased the property last spring on the recommendation of the Board's Buildings & Grounds Committee. Since the building had been a private residence, significant remodeling was needed to make it code-compliant and suitable for twenty-four students and two faculty apartments. (For example, code requires a sprinkler system, and enclosed interior stairs).

The Facilities Committee, a sub-committee of B&G, sought bids by architects and builders before choosing local architect **Bruce Stahnke** and **E. L. Shea Builders and Engineers** of Ellsworth. The Facilities Committee spent the fall vetting designs and plans, which the full Board approved at its January meeting. (See back cover for the architect's drawing.) Both design and construction aim to achieve three goals: *a safe, comfortable, student residence; durable, cost-effective, energy efficient materials; and an exterior whose appearance is congruent with the best architectural traditions of downtown Blue Hill.*

The new dormitory will be ready in early August.

# Young Alumni Spotlight: *Sister Steel*

## Pan Players Reunite in Portland



*Sister Steel formed last spring to participate in the New England Steel Drum Festival. Pictured are the original group members at the festival. Back row: Martin Conte '11, Rachel Freedman '07, Estelle Poole '06, Duncan Hardy '04, Dan Kelly, and Andrew Dillon (on drums). Front row: Mia Bogyo '12, Savannah Leaf '14, and Kyle Hardy '04.*

Several young alumni musicians in Portland are coming together to share a tradition they love. The band *Sister Steel* formed to take part in the 25th Annual New England Pan Festival last May. Spanning a decade of alumni class years, from director Duncan Hardy '04 to recent graduate Savannah Leaf '14, the initial members rehearsed every day for a month to prepare for the festival.

"We knew all these people were moving to Portland," said Duncan in a recent phone interview. "We decided, 'Let's just figure out who's here and how we can do this.' People showed up because they love it and it's important to keep it alive."



*Sister Steel's current line-up. Back row: Dan Kelly, Zak Vogel '13, Rachel Freedman '07, Estelle Poole '06, and Sam Eley '11. Front row: Mia Bogyo '12, Martin Conte '11, and Vita Poole. Not pictured: Duncan Hardy '04 and Andy Cavacco.*

Like *Flash in the Pans* in Blue Hill, *Sister Steel* offers family-friendly outdoor street dances that bring people together and benefit local organizations. This January, the group performed in support of the Maine Animal Coalition. *Sister Steel* also serves as a professional band available for private events, such as weddings. Performance fees go into an account that covers basic band expenses.

Duncan emphasizes the solidarity of the group, noting that each member brings unique strengths. For example, Rachel Freedman '07 has tackled grant-writing efforts to expand the band's resources, and Martin Conte '11 "is particularly good at rounding everyone up for practice."



The name “Sister Steel” pays homage to the kinship band members feel toward the Blue Hill area bands they grew up with and learned from. “We’re the sister band to Planet Pan and Flash in the Pans,” says Duncan. “We’re part of that community, and it’s important to be vocal about that connection.” Sister Steel’s pride in its lineage includes a commitment to high quality musical arrangements that pay tribute to the seriousness of the steel band tradition. A sponsored trip to Trinidad last summer affirmed for Duncan the importance of “going to the source” and appreciating all the work that goes into traditional performances.

“It all started with Carl Chase—and with Nigel,” Duncan says of his introduction to pan music.

Carl Chase grew up playing several instruments and majored in music at Harvard. He is credited with bringing the cultural phenomenon of steel drum music to the Blue Hill area following a Caribbean sailing trip in the early 1970s, when he heard an indigenous steelband. He soon began making the drums himself, thanks to a book by Pete Seeger and subsequent travel to Trinidad. By 1975, Carl had founded the Atlantic Clarion Steel Band in Brooksville.

In the following decades, Carl began teaching classes and started Flash in the Pans. Nigel, his son, played from an early age and is now GSA’s steel band teacher and a community-wide instructor, as well as the director of Atlantic Clarion, Pan Coalition, Flash in Pans, and other local groups.

Duncan was fifteen when a friend showed up at his house and said, “I’m taking you to a practice.” In his first encounter with Planet Pan, Duncan loved the energy of the group and was hooked. He was seriously involved in the jazz program at GSA but also kept up his steel band participation.

Under the tutelage of Carl and Nigel, Duncan not only played but also learned to arrange music and teach. Following graduation, he spent several years with Atlantic Clarion, Nigel’s professional and

award-winning ensemble. After completing a major in Jazz Studies at SUNY Purchase, Duncan landed a job at Waynflete teaching middle school steel band. He also teaches private sax lessons and never



*As well as serving as Sister Steel’s musical director, Duncan Hardy ’04 teaches Steel Drums at Waynflete School.*

imagined that his steel band experience would lead to a career.

Duncan credits the GSA community with “helping me grow into feeling excited about music and creating my own identity.” For Duncan, Sister Steel brings together some of the people who shared that experience. It also serves as a way to appreciate those who offered so many opportunities. “I feel like I’m carrying a torch,” says Duncan. “I’m doing it for me and Portland but also for them.”

*Keep up with Sister Steel at [www.facebook.com/SisterSteelPan](http://www.facebook.com/SisterSteelPan). To view a fascinating 1956 video of Pete Seeger learning about steel drums in Trinidad, visit [flashinthepans.org/about](http://flashinthepans.org/about) (scroll down to the bottom).*

SURFACE Magazine selected Lilian Day Thorpe '09 as one of 10 winners of its 2015 "Avant Guardian" photography competition. Recognized as "emerging talents who show great promise," the award winners were featured in the October 2015 issue of the magazine. Currently Lilian is pursuing a Masters in Art History at Pratt Institute.

GSA's Jen Traub caught up with her recently—just before she made a return trip to Iceland—for an informal Q&A about her artwork and the award.



*What was your reaction to receiving the Avant Guardian award, and how did your professors at Pratt respond?*

I was completely shocked. I entered the competition because my thesis professor used to tell my class to enter any photography competition that seemed up our alley because there was nothing to lose—and maybe a lot to gain! I never thought I would actually be one of the ten winners, but I was of course thrilled. My professors were all extremely supportive and proud of me when I told them the news, especially my thesis professor and the chair of the photography department.

## 2015 AVANT GUARDIAN

*Has this award led to any new connections or opportunities?* Receiving this award has indeed led to new opportunities, as well as better exposure of my own work. Coincidentally, I had a solo show in Manhattan at the restaurant Better Being in Hell's Kitchen at the time the October issue of *Surface* came out. I began to get emails from people who were interested in seeing my work in person, and I could easily direct them to my show. From there, I sold many pieces to people who had seen my work first in *Surface*. The New York show was so successful that it was extended by an entire month and then traveled to Chicago to hang in Cup and Spoon, another restaurant/gallery. I sold two pieces in the Chicago show.

*According to the executive editor of Surface, "Images have the power to change how we think about everything from a building to a chair to a watch." In what ways does your work exhibit the power to change how we think (and about what)?*

My work has always played with the definition of photography, and because of that, I was both surprised and encouraged that it was chosen to be featured in *Surface*. What I mean is, I am mostly inspired by paintings by the Old Masters, and consequently, my photographs often appear more painterly than photographic. They are, after all, collages or montages rather than straight images. Each of my works is composed of up to ten different photographs that I stitch together in Photoshop. I love using a digital medium to create work that does not look obviously digitally made. When I was still in school, people often wondered if my work seemed too painterly. I never understood that critique, especially because photography is a continuously



expanding medium. I hope that my work allows people to consider photography the way I see it today: as a complicated, not always straightforward medium that is constantly evolving. I am excited to see how my work grows as the medium grows, too.

*Before receiving the award, you spent a summer in Venice (2013) and a month in Iceland (2014). What was the impact of these experiences on your work?*

Travel always gives me inspiration for my work. To create each of my digital montages, I rely on a huge library of images (that I've taken) to choose from. When I travel to visually appealing places like Iceland or Venice, I am able to shoot more, which broadens my selection of images with which to create montages. It's most exciting when I can create a piece like *Soft Civilization* that combines elements from two or more extremely different places. *Soft Civilization* (2013) has an Icelandic backdrop with Venetian houses lining the coast. I love creating fictional landscapes out of my favorite places. My artist residency in Iceland during September 2014 was the perfect opportunity to take tons of photographs that I continue to use in my montages today.

*During your artist residency, you exhibited your work in Iceland. How was it received?*

Yes, I had a selection of the work that I made during my artist residency exhibited at a museum in Laugarvatn, Iceland. My pieces were well received by the Icelanders, and I even sold one to the Reykjavik printer who printed my images for the exhibit (I usually print my own work, but it was too expensive to ship pieces there for the show). After the exhibit was over, I donated the series of twelve pictures to the directors of my artist residency, who have them on display in the studios there.

## Lilian Day Thorpe '09

*Describe your connection with Courthouse Gallery in Ellsworth, Maine.*

I started working at Courthouse Gallery in the summer of 2012. I needed a summer job while I was in Maine, and I was lucky enough to get one there. I loved being surrounded by art every day at work. I continued to work there the summers of 2014 and 2015 (in 2013, I was in Venice studying art history and oil painting). I was picked up by Courthouse Gallery as a permanent artist at the end of the summer in 2014.



*Lilian Day Thorpe. Soft Civilization. Photo montage. 2013.*

I am in graduate school now, so it's difficult to find time to make new art, but I'm working on a few new pieces to show at the Gallery this spring and summer. I hope to devote a lot of time this summer to creating new pieces.

*In what ways did GSA prepare you as an artist?*

GSA and my early education were instrumental in my artistic success. I learned so much from Katie Greene's art classes. She was a terrific and encouraging teacher. Further, I fondly remember my early days at the Bay School, which I am convinced played a huge role in where I am today. I feel very lucky to have had such a great early and high school education that underscored the importance of art and creativity.

See more of Lilian's work at [lilianday.com](http://lilianday.com) or at [www.courthousegallery.com](http://www.courthousegallery.com).

# Class Notes

## 1960s

Class Agent **Belinda Carter** '67 writes: "Many of us followed the Class C Boys' Basketball Tournament games in Bangor and Augusta. Some of us had siblings, sons, grandsons, and other relatives involved. It was wonderful seeing and hearing from classmates, including **Terry Astbury Mattson** '67 cheering on her son **Matt Mattson** '91 and grandson **Max Mattson** '18. I enjoyed supporting my brother, Coach **Dwayne Carter** '80, and his team at the games. **Reggie Nevells** '68 was also there cheering our GSA boys on. They made us very proud."



**Deirdre Taylor Morris** '67 is recuperating from surgery at her home in Surprise, AZ. Deirdre is hoping to join us for our 50th class reunion in 2017.

**Winfield** '67 and **Linda Nevells Bowden** '69 are proud grandparents of twins, a boy and a girl. The busy parents are **Josh** '91 and **Holly Bowden Collins** '91. Josh is the son of another GSA alumnus, **Sage Collins** '65.

**Chris Piper Lamb** '67, along with her new puppy Allie, is spending the winter at her home in Florida. Chris and Belinda look forward to planning the next class reunion for this summer.

## 1970s

In May 2015, **Melissa Brownlow** '73 graduated from University of Prince Edward Island with a Masters degree in Educational Leadership. She is currently teaching Kindergarten in rural PEI at a K-9 school where she uses project-based, Reggio-inspired teaching with her class. [Photo: top left]

**Frank Leach** '79 recently moved back to Maine. Frank started the Greater Lowell Genealogy Club in Massachusetts more than 20 years ago and, over the years, has enjoyed helping people learn how to trace their family history.

## 1990s

Camden-Rockport Middle School principal **Jaime Carroll Stone** '94 was named the 2016 New England League of Middle Schools (NELMS) A+ Administrator of the Year. One award is given per year to a New England middle school principal who values, understands, and supports effective middle level education that promotes powerful learning for young adolescents.

According to a press release, Stone was nominated by a group of staff and students who recognized her compassionate leadership, love of students, support for interdisciplinary learning, and creation of a safe and fun space for students and staff to learn and grow. "As a school, this award means...that we're truly a crew," said Stone. "When you feel connected like this, it's easy to do great work, inspire each other, and have a safe and caring environment." Stone added, "I'm really proud for our entire community that I received this recognition." [Photo: bottom left, by Ellen Curtis]





## 2000s

Last summer, **Jacob Grindal** '02 graduated from UMass Amherst with an MBA, bought a house with his wife in Northampton, MA, and started working at ISO-NE, the operator of New England's electric grid. "Far from home, but not far from family," shares Jacob. "My twin brother, Toby ['02], works here as well!"

**Noah Tapley** '02 and his wife, Sarah, announce the birth of their son, Weston, on October 9, 2015. "He's a very happy baby, and we couldn't be happier to have him," says Noah. "At 6 months, he is growing and changing fast." [Photo: top right, Weston Tapley]



## 2010s

This past summer, **Martin Conte** '11 stopped by and told us about his Fall 2014 semester spent traveling and studying Chaucer, Metafiction, and Poetry Writing at University of Winchester, UK. Martin's photos and write-up about his adventures are featured on our new webpage for alumni travel photos, [www.georgestevensacademy.org/travels](http://www.georgestevensacademy.org/travels).

**Nolan Ellsworth** '13 is studying in Edinburgh, Scotland this semester, taking classes in English and Scottish Literature and in Scottish Art History. He shares that he is traveling as much as possible; destinations have included St. Andrews and Isle of Skye. Nolan plans to hike for a month in the United Kingdom this summer before returning to Maine and then heading back to Middlebury College for his senior year. [Photo: middle, Nolan at the Glenfinnan Viaduct in the Highlands.]



GSA's new art teacher, **Mariel Duym**, was lucky to have **Katama Murray** '15 helping out with some of her classes for a week in March. Katama shared this update: "Upon graduation, I spent my fourth and final summer working as a camp counselor at Nichols Day Camp in Sedgwick. For my first semester of college, I studied at the University of Limerick in Ireland. Limerick is a beautiful city in southwest Ireland with the River Shannon running through it.

While abroad, I traveled within Ireland, as well as to Germany, France, and Scotland. I am now back in the U.S. at Plymouth State University in New Hampshire and am working at the Karl Drerup Art Gallery on campus. I am becoming a Global Ambassador, as well. I look forward to coming back home in May and working as an art teacher and artist in the future." Katama is planning to offer some workshops at GSA during ArtsFest this spring! [Photo: bottom right, Katama in Ireland]





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