

GEORGE STEVENS ACADEMY

Matters

News for Our Families and Friends



Spring 2020
One senior's drive to succeed, p. 4

For the latest on GSA's response
to the coronavirus pandemic,
visit www.georgestevensacademy.org.



From the Head of School

As much of my time this year has been spent pursuing a more stable financial future for GSA, I have had fewer chances to engage with students than usual. But fortunately for me, in January, three seniors, knowing that I am a musician and songwriter with music production experience, asked me to be their advising teacher for an alternative course in songwriting and music production. I am having a great time working with these three talented musicians.

I tell you this not to share my good fortune, but because it highlights one of the things I treasure most about GSA: the value we place on helping students pursue their interests. More than at any other school where I have worked, we encourage our students to follow their passions. We do that with Alternative Course Contracts, which enable students to design courses for credit to study something outside our usual course offerings. We do that through Cooperative Education, semester or yearlong internships in local businesses or community organizations. We do that with our Independent Study and Internship Program, about which you can read more in this issue.

All of these opportunities help to make GSA exactly what a school should be: a place where students can push themselves to discover what they might become.

Timothy J. Seeley

Our Mission

George Stevens Academy is a town academy on the coast of Maine. Founded in 1852, we are the high school for nearly all students from the seven towns in our rural community. We also enroll private-pay day and boarding students from around the world. Our students' interests, talents, and aspirations reflect the diversity of the communities from which they come.

GSA provides a comprehensive and challenging education for all students, for those who will build futures in surrounding communities and for those who will make lives elsewhere in the world. Our many academic and experiential programs foster a love of knowledge, inspire creativity, instill self-confidence, encourage good character, and prepare each graduate for a purposeful life in a changing world.

Our Vision

We will be a vibrant learning community that proudly reflects the diversity of students from our surrounding towns, as well as those from elsewhere in the world, enabling them to thrive now and in the future.

We will provide all GSA students with an education that helps them pursue whatever jobs and career paths they choose, so that when they succeed, they and their communities will be the better for it.

We recognize that a GSA education is not just a matter of cultivating intellectual and creative strengths but also requires caring for students' physical and emotional needs. Everything we do will be stamped with this conviction.

We will be seen as a community resource, in the belief that schools and their communities make each other stronger. We will expand school-community partnerships and real-world learning opportunities that engage students and community members in shared activities and projects for the benefit of both.

We will have a safe, attractive, functional, and cost-efficient facility that supports our current programming well and has the flexibility to adapt to changing needs in the future.

We will be financially sustainable, with the resources we need to maintain GSA's facilities and provide for every GSA student's needs. We will grow our endowment, meet more ambitious annual GSA Fund goals, and benefit from the support of sending towns that recognize the indispensable value of a strong high school in their community.

Our mission says broadly who we are and what we do. Our vision sets out our bold goals for the future. We are well on our way to accomplishing some of these. Others will take longer. All are attainable with community support. Our mission and vision were approved by the Board of Trustees on April 25, 2019.

Matters is a publication of the Advancement Office.

In these pages, we share news about our town academy, the great things that happen here, and our alumni.

To stay up-to-date with all that's going on, visit www.georgestevensacademy.org and follow us on social media:

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About Our Town Tuition Request

GSA is a town academy governed by a board of trustees. The trustees' primary responsibilities are twofold: to protect the school's mission and to serve as the school's fiduciaries. Recently, the board has faced a fiduciary challenge and has been working diligently to solve it. In some ways, the challenge is straightforward: our revenues do not cover our expenses. But how we got to this point and how we move forward is more complex.

For many years, the state-set tuition that GSA receives from the towns has not covered what it costs to educate a student. A typical private school would simply respond by raising tuition, but we are not a typical private school, and trustees looked for other ways to bridge that gap. We have leveraged our endowment and raised money through fundraising and grants. We created a boarding program in 2006 which, over the life of the program, has brought in surplus revenue to our operating budget. Our boarding program has not only brought in money that was distributed to all students, it has also brought cultural diversity to the school, enriching the experience of all students. Unfortunately, for reasons beyond our control, the international student admissions picture has changed dramatically in the past three years for schools everywhere, and we cannot expect a return to the robust international admissions we enjoyed in the past. To examine and optimize the program, we created a boarding committee.

GSA's trustees and administrators have trimmed the school's budget in an effort to save money. We have established a Strategic Planning Committee to review and update the 2013 Strategic Plan and to prepare the ground for the next several years. We have articulated a vision statement so that we all understand the school we aspire to be. With the help of the accounting firm BerryDunn, we have updated our financial planning tools and analyzed our numbers both looking back and going forward.

Ultimately, after all the numbers were analyzed and other options were addressed, GSA's trustees concluded that the time had come to ask our tuitioning towns for help. This was not an easy or light decision by trustees, because we understand that even a small tax increase can be a burden to many. But we also know that the citizens in our communities value education and want a local high school that provides the learning opportunities their young people deserve.

Throughout this winter, Head of School Tim Seeley and GSA's trustees have participated in many meetings in each of our seven tuitioning towns. We have talked with school and select board members, superintendents, and town residents. We have held public forums in each town and tried to listen as well as answer questions. Ultimately we decided to ask for a modest increase in tuition this year of \$300 per student above what the state sets, in the hopes that we can spend the next nine months working together to find a long-term solution.

This process has been difficult at times, but many good things have come out of it as well. It is the first time in recent history all the towns in both unions have come together in a productive way to talk about K-12 education on the peninsula. GSA is pleased to be at the table, and we plan to stay at the table. It has been very reassuring that the citizens of this community value GSA and want GSA to continue to be their local high school. As trustees, we are committed to fulfilling that mission and serving your children. Our hope is that we all will come together and lay the foundation for another 100 years of excellent education on our peninsula.

Thank you for your support in this endeavor,

Samantha Politte



George Stevens Academy Board Chair

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In our 2019 Annual Report, The James and Betty Jacobs Family Foundation was incorrectly listed as The Jacobs Foundation. We apologize for the error.



Look at those three happy faces! Ryan Mullen '20 and mentor Jason Billings stand on either side of Billings' '57 Chevy 210.

Childhood Fascination Leading to *Career*

"I work on cars. I like to ride in cars, drive cars. Anything to do with cars, I like to do it." — Ryan Mullen '20

Ryan Mullen's love of cars started young.

"I used to live in Eastport, and they were doing construction on my road at the time," the GSA senior said in an interview, "and I would sit outside and just watch the machines work. I was just fascinated by them, the way they worked, the way they moved."

But watching wasn't enough. Ryan was eager to understand what he saw.

"I took Legos and I tried to build what I could out of them, to make them as close to how they worked and everything, and that got my engineering mind going."

Before Ryan entered second grade, the Mullen family moved to Blue Hill and soon connected with Jason Billings and family. Billings owns Billings Engines and now teaches in the Industrial Technology and Engineering Department at GSA.

"[Ryan's] dad and I became good friends and hung out a lot together," said Billings. It was only natural that Ryan and his sister, Sarah Mullen '17, became friends with Matt Billings '19 and Lanie Billings '17.

One day, Ryan said, when he and Matt otherwise might have been watching movies, he checked out Billings' shop. A few days later, he asked if he could hang out for the day.

Billings agreed, and a student-teacher relationship began to form, one that allowed Ryan to stretch his engineering mind again while helping Billings, first at Billings Engines and eventually in the classroom at GSA.

"Working on engines is like [working with Legos]. You're building something and taking it apart, and you have fun doing it. ... You're taking something that couldn't work before, making it work again, making it function, and there's just something I like about it."

Ryan's interest and expertise grew.

"As he got older," Billings said, "he was always around, every night after school, every weekend all summer long. He didn't really seem to care what he was doing as long as he was doing something at the shop. After a while, he started to pick up on things, taking an interest in things and going home and studying up on how to do things ... and even how to solve some of the problems we were dealing with on customer projects. By the time he got to be in high school, he was good enough" to go from shop helper to more of an apprentice.

"In this day and age," said Billings, "it isn't common to see kids doing the types of things that Ryan does. He's part of a fraction of a percent of kids that have successfully disassembled and reassembled not just one, but several, six I think, engines."

"All along, I kept telling myself that I really couldn't believe that he was sticking around, because for a young fella of that age, there are certainly more interesting things to do than hang out at a shop with your sister's best friend's dad working on cars."

For Ryan, he wasn't at the shop just to hang out. "[Mr. Billings] taught me and took his time with me," he said, "and I'm grateful for what he's done and helped me with."

Billings' '57 Chevy 210

"My first car I ever worked on was his car," said Ryan, "his 1957 Chevy 210 sedan."

"I've heard so many different stories about it, and the one I love most is about the tree growing ... up through the floor crack and out through the passenger-side window," Ryan said about Billings' drag car project. "It was sitting in the woods behind his house, and he wanted it to be his car because he played in it all the time when he was younger. ... He started working on it when he was 12. He remembers playing with the steering wheel, which is why he still has the original steering wheel. It's in the vehicle. It's always been a part of it."

Ryan explained how he helped Billings with "the race car."

"I've always liked to work on things with power adders, not naturally aspirated motors, and he said he wanted to make the car twin turbo. ... We went through three motors I think before we got the right setup and everything working correctly."

"The turbo setup was for a Fox Body Mustang, and I [said] I don't think we need to make headers, and I flipped the Fox Body headers flange around, and it matched up with the LS [engine] bolt pattern, just needed to drill one hole. ... Headers take so long to make, and they're a pain."

"That was the first one we did, and that went for a couple summers, and then last summer, we came home last day of the racing season, and we blew it out. We did a big, massive burnout in front of Shoreline Auto Detailing, and that was it. We came through the roundabout, and there was tons of base pressure, and it still ran. ... I rebuilt that motor, and it's in the orange Buick convertible that [Billings] drives to school every once in a while."



Ryan Mullen '20 checks a sensor on Jason Billings' '57 Chevy 210.

"The race car," Billings said, "has been a huge part of everything I've done in my life and has become a big piece of [Ryan's] as well, and ... to say he's spent a lot of time with me on it is an understatement."

How much time?

"I've probably got 2,000 hours into it," Ryan said, "and he's got a lot more ... probably 15,000? But he's lived a little longer than me."

Generous Gift Supports Courses that Change Lives

Students in Jason Billings' classes are the beneficiaries of a generous gift from The James and Betty Jacobs Family Foundation. According to Billings, John Jacobs, whose family established the foundation, stopped by the shop one day to say how impressed he was with the classes and that he wanted to make a donation to be spent however the teacher saw fit. Thank you, John Jacobs, for recognizing the value of courses like these and for helping to make them even stronger.



The James and Betty Jacobs Family Foundation gift was used to purchase three tool cabinets, one blue, one orange, and one green (not pictured), as well as tools for each. A sandblaster, center, also was purchased for use in courses like Introduction to Metals, Engine Technology, and Advanced Engines.

Ryan's '97 Dodge Ram

According to Billings, Ryan has his own project of a lifetime, a 1997 Dodge Ram.

What makes this truck special is its "12-valve Cummins, considered the holy grail of diesel motors," the GSA senior said. "I wanted to start off with something that was pretty basic, and all mechanical. I didn't want any of that electronic stuff."

It's "something I can make horsepower out of, and make a cool truck out of. ... Hopefully, I'll hit my goal of making 1,000 horsepower someday."

That goal is important to Ryan for one reason: "Jason's car makes 1,000 horsepower, so I want to beat him [on the track]."

"It's gonna take a lot more than that because my truck weighs 6,000 pounds, and his is 4,100 pounds, and then you've got to think about a roll cage. ... Safety is a big part of what I want, too. I don't want to make anything unsafe."

Ryan has been a big help at GSA.

His experience at Billings Engines has come in handy in the classroom. For Doug Veazie's ISIP in 2018, Ryan said, "I'd come down and help him putting [an engine into the Buick] and help other kids out. Basically, I was Jason's right-hand man."

"He is," Billings said of his classroom assistant. "He has enough experience ... to be helpful answering questions and showing kids with no experience how to get from one step to the next. ... The new kids have no idea where to go or how to get there, and with four or five engines going [in the classroom], sometimes it's hard to be in all places at once. [It's] nice to have someone who knows the names of the parts and how to ask the question in a manner that doesn't require me leaving what I'm doing to answer it."

And GSA has helped Ryan.

"I've taken Introduction to Tech, Intro to Metals, Advanced Engines, and Introduction to Engines. Advanced Engines is where we take an engine, build it, and take it to the dyno, and Intro to Engines is where you take it and build it and see if you can get it to run by the end of class. Physics through Technology I took, and I took regular Physics because I wanted to take something different. ... Physics was helpful because I could understand what goes on and understand the math behind it. It helps me elaborate on the things I'm already thinking."

Ryan also has been helped a lot by his math teacher, "Ms. [Elisabeth de] Sévigné. And the resource room has been a big help for me, too. Sharlene, Miss Wessel, Cory, Lexi, and all of them help me with what I need to do to keep me on task so I can pass high school. The only C I've ever had was in freshman year science. I've always had Bs or above. Everyone who has helped me at [GSA] has helped me a lot."



Ryan Mullen '20, lower left, helps in the GSA shop last spring.

Into cars? Come to GSA!

"I don't know of any other school that really has a teacher similar to Jason. He's just something else, like everyone in the [GSA and larger] community. He's a super smart guy. ... If you want to learn, he'll teach you. ... He knows [early on if a student is] gonna do something in the class or not do something in the class because either they're paying attention to him and wanting to learn, or they're not."

Ryan is pretty clear where his future lies. After graduating from GSA, he will enroll in the Diesel, Truck, and Heavy Equipment program at Eastern Maine Community College.

"I'm hoping to pursue a career in the diesel industry. I've been around gas engines all my life, so I don't want to go into a career with gas. I want to try diesel just to learn something new. I might as well learn something different in college."

After college, Ryan wants to run his own business, "kind of like what Jason does," he said. "There's a lot of lobster boats that have diesel engines. ... It seems like I could make a pretty good business and a pretty good name for myself working around here."

Someday, the student may surpass the teacher.

"I've been doing this stuff since I was 12," Billings said, "and I've built some pretty high-end engines for around here, and here's a 17-year-old that's getting on the highway at the same spot that I've been 34 years getting to, and he's almost up to the same speed I'm at. [I'm] excited to see where it takes him."

Ryan hopes to help others the way Billings has helped him. "He was a mind I wanted to learn from and be able to teach it to someone else someday," he said. "He's helped me a lot, and I want someone else to have the same chance I had."

Our Industrial Technology and Engineering courses

are popular with students going directly into the trades, and also with those who plan to study engineering or architecture in college and want a practical foundation first.

Nearly all are primarily hands-on/experiential ...

Students in our engines, woodworking, home repair, drafting, and other courses practice the very skills they need to pursue careers in construction, boatbuilding, engine repair, and related fields.

... but they aren't just about using your hands.

Students also learn to understand specialized terminology, read plans and diagrams, and put their ideas down on paper in ways that others will understand.

About a third involve substantial practical life education.

The skills students learn serve them not only in their careers, but in their lives. They learn problem-solving techniques and how to use the tools and equipment needed for building, maintenance, and repair projects.

Visit www.georgestevensacademy.org/Academics for more on all our curricular programs.

Happy Birthday, ISIP. 50 Looks Good on You!

In 1970, both juniors and seniors at George Stevens Academy participated in the school's new Independent Study Program for the first time in what some considered a radical experiment in tailoring education to students' individual needs. Fifty years later, though few schools offer anything like it, this once-rebel is now a much-loved part of the GSA experience.

According to John Greene, a former GSA teacher and administrator, ISIP was inspired by a similar program at Colby College in Waterville. It was started by Greene, John Bader, P.J. Curtis, Colby Merchant, Holly Shaw, and Spencer Winsor, the school's guidance counselor at the time.

Winsor's daughter, Libbey Gulliver '71, said last summer that many students in rural Maine in the early 1970s had never visited a college campus, seen a factory, or been to Bangor,

and exposing students to new experiences was an important aim of the program.

The programs, Greene said, were mostly academic at first, but an April 17, 1970 article in *The Bangor Daily News* by Jim Verrill* gives a broader sense of what students did.

"Some of the subjects studied," Verrill wrote, "were lung cancer, auto mechanics, free verse, pottery, electronics, secretarial work, newspapering, and carpentry. Some studied in school, some in local business establishments and others paid their own way to do their work elsewhere."

Though today's program is different in ways — it lasts two weeks instead of four, and students' interests are more varied — it continues to offer our students the opportunity to pursue their career or personal interests. They do so primarily with experts in our peninsula community, about one in five of whom are GSA alumni themselves.

Below, you will find just a few examples of the 100-plus projects undertaken this year.

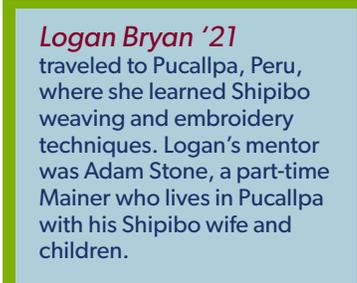
**Thank you, Della (Leach) Martin '70, for sharing that article with us.*



Franklin Sealander '21 spent ISIP learning to track and hunt coyote with Stephen Bechard. First, though, Franklin learned about safety and hunting regulations. Pictured are coyote tracks.



Joe Ciampa '20 worked with GSA teacher Jason Billings "to transform a dead and lifeless bar of steel into a living weapon, with a soul forged in fire," a dream born of Joe's childhood fascination with knights and swords.



Logan Bryan '21 traveled to Pucallpa, Peru, where she learned Shipibo weaving and embroidery techniques. Logan's mentor was Adam Stone, a part-time Mainer who lives in Pucallpa with his Shipibo wife and children.



Keegan Butler '21 plans to pursue a marketing career. With Kate Holden of the International BoatBuilder's Exhibition and Conference, Keegan learned about data analysis, social media, client management, and much, much more.



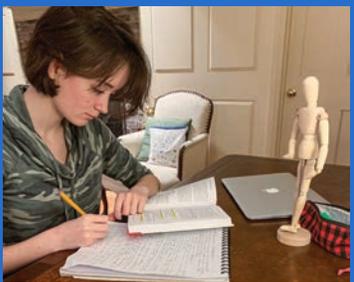
Grace Broughton '21 has been interested in interior design for years. Grace worked with mentor Carolyn Gray upcycling furniture. This beautiful, plush bench started out as an old, wooden trunk Grace bought for \$13.



Javi Fernandez '20 traveled to the Dominican Republic to produce a video that expresses the culture and history of his home country. Javi's mentor was Chek Wingo, a professional videographer who also works in Hinckley House.



Fiona Guinness '21 aspires to a career in film. Fiona began creating her own cinematic universe with mentor Anya Antonovych, a teacher at GSA, and with producer Veronica Young and set designer Kenny Weinberg as consultants.



Ryan Mullen '20 worked with GSA teacher Jason Billings to replace the engine, transmission, bumper, dash, steering column, shifter, and more in his '97 Dodge Ram with components from a parts truck.



The Heilners: Why they've planned to give.

Long-time GSA employees and supporters Fred and Prudy Heilner recently made the decision to include GSA in their estate plans. Although neither of them attended GSA, both their children, Madeline '13 and Alexander '14, are alumni. Fred and Prudy shared with us their reasons for joining the George Stevens Legacy Society.



“We value education, and particularly value the community-focused mission of GSA. We have seen over the years all the good that GSA has done in giving the children on this peninsula a solid foundation to be successful. We appreciate the unique opportunity a town academy has over a public school—the flexibility and creativity to offer and adapt programming that fits students’ needs, and the ability of faculty and staff to shape the best educational opportunities from the school’s existing resources. Adding an international boarding program has been especially meaningful to us, allowing us to welcome international home-stay students into our family’s lives.

“We have always made gifts to the GSA Fund which go directly into the annual operating budget, and the GSA Fund continues to be our preferred way of giving to the school. But we wanted to make as well a more permanent gift that will go to the school’s endowment, ensuring a strong future for GSA. Membership in the George Stevens Legacy Society will do exactly that.

“Our will earmarks a gift to GSA from our estate before the remainder is distributed to Maddie and Alex. The process was straightforward, and our attorney made it easy for us to incorporate this provision into our will. We’re very pleased with our decision, and with the guidance we got from Rada as we worked to this end.”

“Education forever”— The Power of Estate Giving

It started with a gift from George. The transformative power of estate giving.

Blue Hill shipbuilder George Stevens was keenly concerned about educational opportunities for students on this peninsula. For years George supported Bluehill Academy, but towards the end of his life he was determined to provide for a bolder, more inclusive educational vision. His will, dated 1852, appointed five trustees, entrusting them with land, his “homestead and appurtenances,” and generous funds “to erect, when they deem it expedient, a suitable and convenient building for an Academy, for the purposes of education forever.” Following the death of George’s widow, the trustees made good on George’s will, and George Stevens Academy opened in 1898. In the 120 years since then, George’s vision of *education forever* has shaped the lives of thousands of students living in Blue Hill and surrounding towns.

Providing for GSA through an estate gift started with George, and has been followed by many thoughtful and transformative acts of philanthropy, all founded on a conviction that GSA’s mission to educate our communities’ high school students is worth preserving. Gifts like those from Jerold '33 and Diana Hinckley, Marion Dash '35, Frank Wanning, Katrina Parson, and so many others, have helped build a permanent endowment that supplements tuition revenue and supports improvements in facilities and program.

Recently we have created a society that commemorates George’s founding legacy and honors all those who choose to make gifts to GSA through their estates. If you have already included GSA in a bequest or other planned gift, we hope you will let us know so that we can welcome you as a member of the George Stevens Legacy Society. Director of Advancement Rada Starkey (r.starkey@georgestevens.org) will happily assist you to answer any questions you may have. For more information, visit www.georgestevensacademy.org/PlannedGiving.



Every Year. Every Gift. For All Students.



GSA is a valuable asset to our community that not only does a fantastic job educating students but brings people together from all over the peninsula. Let's make sure to give GSA the support it deserves.

*Linda Hynes
Michael Sheehan*

P '22 • SEDGWICK

Within the walls of GSA, we hold our future. Please give!

Deb Winno Ludlow

'79 • P '10, P '13, P '15 • TRUSTEE • BROOKSVILLE

Let's show a record number of parent and alumni support this season.

Join us in giving to the GSA Fund.

A little bit can go a long way.

Guy & Courtney Weaver

P '22, P '23 • BLUE HILL

So grateful for the GSA education my girls received!

Hope you can join me in supporting our wonderful school.

Jean Hylan

P '08, P '17 • BROOKLIN

A gift to the GSA Fund supported the wonderful education my twins received.

Your support truly matters! Thank you!

Linda Soukup

P '17, P '17 • BLUE HILL

As an alum and a parent, I have seen how important GSA is to the community.

April Chapman

'91 • P '16, P '22 • BLUE HILL

The GSA Fund runs from July 1 to June 30.

Thank you to all who've donated so far this year!

Please join me in supporting our students, our school, and our communities with a gift to the GSA Fund!

Sally Chadbourne

P '20, P '22 • TRUSTEE • CASTINE

The GSA Fund is critical to making the many offerings that are available to the students possible.

Please join me in giving.

Phyllis Taylor

TRUSTEE • BLUE HILL

All gifts of any size are greatly appreciated.

Pandy Heilner

[Signature]

P '13, P '14 • GSA STAFF • BLUE HILL

Your contributions help to provide rich and unique learning experiences for GSA students.

Thank you for your support!

Margi Austin Gray

'81 • BLUE HILL

Give at www.georgestevensacademy.org/onlinegift or by mail or phone, 207-374-2800.

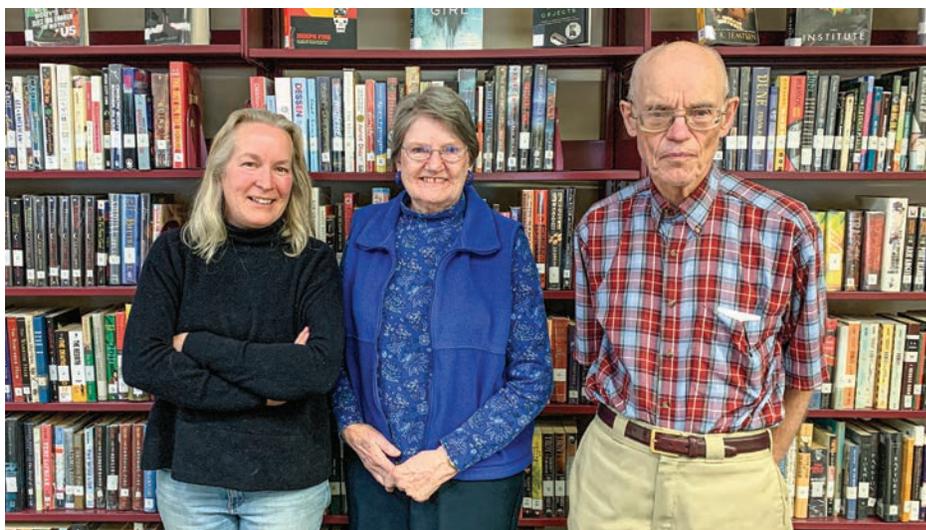
From 1943 to 2015, Volunteers Keep Classmates Connected



CLASS of 1943

Lucy Ledien

Lucy Ledien served as a George Stevens Academy Trustee for many years and continues to serve as class agent. Lucy states that she is "very proud of GSA." Her mother also attended George Stevens, graduating in the Class of 1906. Lucy recalls how life on the peninsula changed at the end of 1941 from peacetime to wartime with the coming of the World War II. Several of the graduates from the Class of 1943 had to leave for the war prior to graduation, she said. Lucy currently leads an active lifestyle, exercising at the Waldo County YMCA three times per week and volunteering at the local hospital in Belfast. She and her classmates have remained in close touch through the years.



Several class agents have offered input in recent months on the topic of alumni engagement. In March, the three agents pictured above (Deborah Ludlow '79, Marilyn Brossmer '61, and Larry Merrill '62) met together with GSA staff to help formulate strategies for alumni reunions and to offer ideas such as career mentoring for students. Several weeks earlier, GSA alumni class agents took part in a conference call to collaborate on communications approaches. Among these advisors are Belinda Carter '67, Merton Bunker '80, Margie Gray '81, Craig Berry '83, William Navarre '13, Megan Malaby '13, Tate Yoder '15, and Emma Richardson '15. If you have thoughts on alumni engagement or events, please reach out to Karen Brace at k.brace@georgestevens.org or 207-374-2800, ext.120.



CLASS of 1967

Belinda Carter

Upon graduation from GSA, I pursued my education at the University of Maine. I taught in Yarmouth, Maine, until retirement. I am now an ed tech at Falmouth Middle School in Falmouth, Maine. I have lived in Gray for over 30 years. I enjoy spending time on the golf course in the warmer months!

GSA CLASS AGENTS

Thank you to the following volunteers who help to keep their classmates in touch with one another!

1943 Lucy Herrick Ledien	1979 Deborah Venno Ludlow	1997 James M. Hildebrand
1954 Donald L. Varnum	1980 Merton W. Bunker	2002 Jacob Berkowitz
1956 Beverly Wescott Cecchini	1981 Margie Austin Gray	2009 Julianna (Smith) Hanlon
1959 Janice Woods Prior-Crofoot	1983 Craig S. Berry	2009 Madeleine M. Park
1961 Marilyn Brossmer	1984 Tina Anderson Stephens	2010 Lucas J. Yoder
1961 Marjorie McGraw Longwood	1986 Stephanie Haza Vetne	2010 Max B. Reiter
1962 Lawrence E. Merrill	1987 Darlene N. (Gray) Hatch	2011 Martin Conte
1963 Dolores Ladd Robertson	1988 Gary A. Milliken	2012 Madison Sawyer
1964 James B. Farr	1989 Dawn Bates Nason	2013 William T. Navarre
1967 Belinda J. Carter	1989 Jeb S. Billings	2013 Megan Malaby
1967 Christine Piper Lamb	1990 Christie A. (Small) Snow	2015 Timothy Dentino
1969 Sylvia L. Tapley	1997 Emily Lewandowski Hildebrand	2015 Tate Yoder
1973 Joan Alley Wardwell	1997 Seth Cole	2015 Emmaline Richardson
1977 Stormi Gray Wentworth	1997 Brooke Y. (Lawsing) Miller	

If your class isn't represented, we need your help with periodic emails, postcards, or posts. Email Karen Brace at k.brace@georgestevens.org or visit www.georgestevensacademy.org/ClassAgents for more information.

Alumni news is always welcome – if you know of a classmate who's recently received a promotion, added to their family, moved, or come back home, let us know. We often hear of interesting activities GSA alums are involved with – your news is worth sharing!

Update your profile at www.georgestevensacademy.org/alumniprofile.

Responding to COVID-19

As we write this issue, GSA and other Maine schools are closing to prevent possible coronavirus spread. We also are cancelling or postponing events.

Whether an event on this page takes place depends on many factors. Postponements and cancellations will be noted on our web calendar. Feel free to reach out to the contact person for any event that lists one.

Visit www.georgestevenacademy.org.

Sports Hall of Fame Induction

GSA Cafeteria, Saturday, May 2, 2 P.M.

New inductees will join the GSA Sports Hall of Fame at a ceremony and dinner prepared by Bianco Catering. Admission costs \$20 per person. Seating is limited. Contact Larry Gray at l.gray@georgesteven.org or 374-2808 by Friday, April 17, to reserve seats.

Spring Concerts

Thursday, May 21

Planet Pan and steel band classes will fill the courtyard with music at 5 P.M.

Refreshments will be offered at 6 P.M.

The GSA Band, Jazz Band, and Melodious Thunk will perform in the gym at 6:30 P.M.

Alumni Happy Hour

Farmhouse Inn, Blue Hill
Thursday, May 28, 4-6 P.M.

A casual gathering for GSA alumni featuring a cash bar and complimentary hors d'oeuvres. For info, email Karen Brace at k.brace@georgesteven.org.

GSA Giving Day

Tuesday, June 2, 7:30 A.M. to 4 P.M.

Visit campus for coffee, pastries, and to celebrate GSA with a gift of any size.

GSA Giving Back Day

Wednesday, June 3

An afternoon of community service. Participants welcome! Email k.brace@georgesteven.org.

The Andy Collier '98 Memorial Golf Tournament

Castine Golf Club, Sunday, June 7, 10 A.M. tee off

Last year, a strong turnout of alumni and friends remembered Andy with a great day of golf, prizes, and food. The tournament raised more than \$4,000 for the GSA Sports Alumni Fund to support GSA athletics.

We invite you to participate in this second annual tournament. For more information or to register, please contact Erik Fitch '99 at 207-479-4656 or efitch@hancockcountyschools.org.

Special thanks to local golf pro Noah Tapley '01 and the Castine Golf Club for providing access to the beautifully maintained 9-hole par 35 Scottish golf course with stunning views of Castine Harbor and Blue Hill.



Tim Seeley, Erik Fitch '99, Peter Collier '00

Commencement

GSA Front Lawn
Sunday, June 14, 1 P.M.

Celebrate with the Class of 2020 as we reflect on their time here and look ahead to the future!

Noel Paul Stookey Concert

David's Folly Farm, Brooksville
Friday, July 17, 7:30-8:30 P.M.

Benefits our Food for Thought Fund for students facing food insecurity. Questions? Email Rada Starkey at r.starkey@georgesteven.org.

Sea Dogs Game & Picnic

Hadlock Field, Portland
Saturday, July 25

A GSA alumni family picnic starts when the gates open at 4:30 P.M. Game time is 6 P.M. Visit groupmatics.events/event/Georgesteven for tickets (\$26)

Planning a reunion? Let us know!

If you're planning a class reunion, let us know so we can add it to our reunions page, one place your classmates look to find out what's going on. Email k.brace@georgesteven.org or call 207-374-2800, ext. 120. And keep your contact information current so we keep you up to date. Visit www.georgestevenacademy.org/alumniprofile.

Alumni Association Banquet

The GSA Alumni Association will host its annual Alumni Banquet on Friday, June 12, at 6 P.M. in the GSA cafeteria. Alumni are welcome to arrive at 5:30 P.M. for music and socializing ahead of the banquet.

Alumni of all ages are encouraged to come and enjoy a home-cooked meal, alumni speakers, and time with classmates and friends. The Class of 1960 will be recognized for its 60th reunion year, and the Class of 1970 will be recognized for its 50th.

A book award will be presented to a qualified senior based on grades, achievements, and financial need. All applicants for the award must be present at the banquet to be eligible.

Hope to see you there!

– Jeanette McVay Gray '65 on behalf of the Alumni Association Board, 207-307-0464

State of the Arts



Melodious Thunk and director Steve Orlofsky after their performance.



Magnolia Vandiver '21, second from right, with the other POL North finalists

JAZZ COMBO NO. 2 AT NATIONAL JAZZ FEST!

GSA's Melodious Thunk earned second place in the inaugural National Jazz Festival in Philadelphia on Feb. 15.

"Phenomenal," said director Steve Orlofsky of the group's score of 192 out of 200 points. The group finished two points behind an ensemble from Princeton High School. Other groups in Small Ensemble Division 2 scored from 130-186 points.

"Excellent group playing, wonderful dynamics," judge Matt Davis said of Melodious Thunk's performance of "Strasbourg St. Denis," composed by Roy Hargrove. They also played "Feel," by Jacob Collier, and "Two Timers," by Victor Wooten.

Melodious Thunk is composed of Erika Hipsky '20 on alto saxophone and flute, Duncan Howell '20 on trombone, Ian Howell '20 on baritone saxophone, Joey Mitchell '20 on guitar, Quinn Stabler '20 on bass, Zeke Sacaridiz '21 on drums and vocals, and Gabe Hall '22 on trumpet.

Duncan and Zeke were named Outstanding Musicians in their division.

VANDIVER IN TOP FIVE AT POETRY REGIONALS

Magnolia Vandiver '21 was one of five finalists chosen at the regional Poetry Out Loud competition in Hampden to join five from Southern Maine at state competition.

"The feeling of being on stage is indescribable," Magnolia said. "I love the exhilaration that comes from performing."

"I was awed by the humility, graciousness, and skill of the other reciters. ... There were people who I was sure would advance who didn't," said the GSA junior, who sees this as a reflection of the "subjective nature of any arts competition."

Magnolia recited "Advice to a Prophet," by Richard Wilbur, "When I Have Fears That I May Cease to Be," by John Keats, and "The Greatest Grandeur," by Pattiann Rogers.

Though Magnolia's recitations at the state finals in Waterville were strong, she faced very tough competition and did not advance to the final round of five as she did last year. We look forward to watching Magnolia and other GSA students in next year's recitations!



From left, Quinn Stabler '20, Zeke Sacaridiz '21, and Joey Mitchell '20

THREE ATTEND JAZZ ALL-STATES

Joey Mitchell '20, Quinn Stabler '20, and Zeke Sacaridiz '21 participated in the Maine Music Educators Association Jazz All-State Festival at Bangor High School in January.

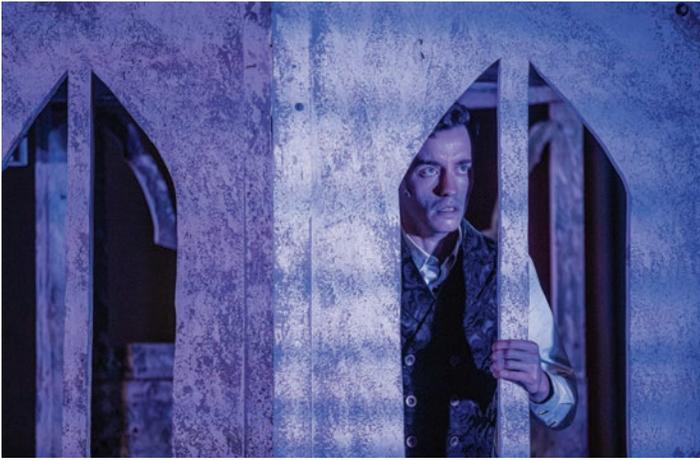
"I've been playing guitar since freshman year," said Joey, who played jazz guitar for the SATB Jazz Choir, "and now own way too many." "I play lots of blues and rock at home, but love playing Latin and jazz with our combo."

Quinn played bass in the JAS Combo. He started playing guitar in third grade, but picked up bass guitar as a fifth-grader, which is when he also started playing jazz, his favorite genre.

Zeke, who played jazz drums in the JAS SSA Jazz Choir, started playing African hand drums when he was seven years old, but at eleven, he tried a friend's drum kit. Drumming is "so tactile," he said, "the sticks feel like an extension of my hands, and I love the engagement of my whole body."

Director Steve Orlofsky said that the audition results mean that in all of Maine, Mitchell is the No. 5 high school guitarist, Sacaridiz is the No. 4 drummer, and Quinn is the No. 1 bassist.

"I am extremely proud and happy for [them]," he said.



Drew Cleveland '13 as Claudio in last summer's Brown Box Theatre production of Shakespeare's "Measure for Measure."

CLEVELAND THANKS HYLAN FAMILY

Drew Cleveland '13, the first Hylan Fund grant recipient, expressed his "deepest gratitude" for the support provided by the Hylan family and said that he grew professionally and personally while presenting professional theater for free to "underserved communities."

The Hylan Family Alumni Fund for the Performing Arts

GSA alumni are invited to apply for an award to help fund a specific plan in theater, dance, or music of any sort. Is there a performance, a recording, travel, or another opportunity that you would like to explore, but you need financial assistance?

The Hylan Family Alumni Fund for the Performing Arts, in memory of Charles, Gertrude, and Jude Bartlett, was established by the Hylan family to encourage and support GSA alumni who are performance majors and who have chosen to study theater, dance, or musical performance.

Alumni who have completed at least two years of a recognized program of study at any level with a 3.0 or equivalent GPA and who have verifiable plans to continue their study or pursue an internship or performance opportunity may apply for the award.

For more information, visit www.georgestevensacademy.org/HylanFund or contact Rada Starkey, Director of Advancement, at r.starkey@georgestevens.org or 207-374-2800.



Amara Birdsall '21 sings during Big D's Septet's festival set.

GSA HOSTS DISTRICT 6 JAZZ FESTIVAL

All three jazz combos and the GSA Jazz Band qualified for state competition after performing in the District 6 High School Instrumental Jazz Festival at George Stevens Academy on Feb. 26.

The GSA Jazz Band and the combo Melodious Thunk earned gold ratings. The GSA combos River of Jazz and Big D's Septet earned bronze ratings.

The Maine Music Educators Association State High School Instrumental Jazz Festival was set to take place at South Portland High School on March 13 and 14 but was cancelled as a precaution to prevent the community spread of the novel coronavirus. A virtual jazz festival in which schools submit videos of their ensembles performing is underway. Results are expected by April 25! Thanks, Tate Yoder '15, for helping with the videography. Best of luck to Mr. O and our musicians!



From left, Duncan Howell '20, Gabe Hall '22, and Erika Hipsky '20 of Melodious Thunk



Jenna Blodgett '23 of River of Jazz belts out a song.

Winter Sports Highlights

GSA's athletic programs help our students improve their physical and mental fitness while having fun, and they unite our communities in support of our teams and our school.

Many thanks to the families, fans, coaches, and community members who cheer on our students as they strive for excellence in athletics and in life.

Congratulations to all our Eagles on their hard work and achievements this winter!

INDOOR TRACK



Our indoor track teams before the beginning of the season.

Our girls' indoor track team finished sixth in the Eastern Maine Indoor Track League Small School Championship.

All PVC First Team: Thea Crowley '23 (Two Mile)

All PVC Second Team: Grace Broughton '21 (55M Hurdles), Thea Crowley '23 (One Mile)

Our boys' indoor track team finished sixth in the Eastern Maine Indoor Track League Small School Championship.

All PVC Second Team: Andy Hipsky '23 (55M Hurdles)

SWIMMING



Our swim team with Assistant Coach Rick Larson

Our girls' swim team finished the season with a record of 2-4.



Swimmers at the PVC Championships at the University of Maine

Our boys' swim team finished with a record of 1-5.

PVC Third Team All Stars: Clark Morrison '22, Franklin Sealander '21, Randy Yan '20, Simon Huang '20 (200 Free Relay)

Franklin Sealander set school records in the 100 Backstroke, 100 Breaststroke, and 200 Individual Medley.

All-Academic: Sam Cao, Trevor Cochrane, Carlos Dai, Schyler Dorr, Alex Fu, Syra Gutow, Ian Howell, Silas Murnik, Vanessa Sherwood, Morgan Welts, and Randy Yan.

Awarded to seniors with an unweighted GPA of 90 or higher for their first six semesters at GSA.

BASKETBALL



Our boys' varsity basketball team



Caden Mattson goes up for a basket in the Class C North Quarterfinals.

Our boys' varsity basketball team made it to the Class C North semifinals and finished the season 18-3.

PVC First Team Class C: Caden Mattson

PVC Third Team Class C: Milos Sujica '20

PVC Honorable Mention Class C: David Gadsby '22

PVC Class C Player of the Year: Caden Mattson

PVC Senior C/D All Star Game Players: Caden Mattson, Milos Sujica '20

PVC Class C All Defensive Team: Caden Mattson

Ellsworth American All Hancock County Team: Caden Mattson, Milos Sujica '20

Bangor Daily News All Tourney Team Class C: Caden Mattson

Bangor Daily News Class C North Tournament Honorable Mention: Milos Sujica '20



Our girls' varsity basketball team



Vanessa Sherwood '20 passes against Mattanawcook Academy. Photo by John Brooks

Our girls' varsity basketball team made it to the Class C North tournament preliminary round and finished the season 7-12.

PVC Third Team All Star: Luna Perry-St. Peter '22

PVC Senior C/D All Star Game Player: Vanessa Sherwood '20

PVC Class C All Defensive Team: Silas Murnik '20

Ellsworth American All Hancock County Team: Luna Perry-St. Peter '22



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Great Things Happen in Our Classes!



A student plays a game to learn chemical compounds.



Ocean Studies students present at the Fishermen's Forum.



Spanish students learn to salsa dance.



Elisabeth de Sévigné helps a student with math homework.



Mariel Duym leads students during a collaborative art exercise.



Erin McCormick '00 talks about a real setting of many British stories.



Trevor Cochrane '20 makes copper from aluminum.



Art students explore the UMaine Museum of Art.



Cassidy Carlson '20 makes a point during Senior Debate.



State Representative Genevieve McDonald talks about the economics of lobstering with ISOS students.



Cole Dewey '20 responds to a question during Senior Debate.