

The Alumni Connection  
Spring 2017



# *Matters*

News for the Families & Friends of George Stevens Academy



# from the HEAD of SCHOOL

## The Added Value of Independent Learning



Survey a hundred American high schools today and you'd be hard-pressed to find one that doesn't describe its purpose as *preparing students for life after graduation*. In most high schools, nearly all of that preparation happens in classrooms and science labs, as well as on playing fields and performing arts stages. GSA of course prepares students in these traditional ways, and does so exceptionally well.

But for years, GSA has done something else that very few high schools anywhere do: we ask our juniors and seniors to design and carry out an independent learning experience, off campus, for two or three weeks in the late winter. This is GSA's Independent Study and Internship Program (ISIP).

The array of ISIP projects students come up with is kaleidoscopic and illustrates just how diverse their talents and interests are. To cite a few examples of ISIP projects this year, we had students who:

- began to learn modern Arabic.
- composed and recorded a music album.
- cycled from San Diego to San Francisco.
- studied animal therapy in children's programs.
- interned in a local bank.
- built a greenhouse—and built a barn!
- learned about Maine's restaurant industry.
- traveled to Germany.
- lobstered in Blue Hill Bay.
- wrote and directed a radio program.
- studied ancient Chinese culture.
- explored a career in urban planning.

Many ISIP projects entailed significant travel in the U.S. or abroad, but many students stayed right on the peninsula, digging deep into rich local resources to explore careers in carpentry, real estate, law enforcement, legal services, teaching, medicine, and veterinary science.

The experience of ISIP prepares GSA students in unique ways not possible in a classroom alone. It prepares them to create a plan and carry it through independently. It provides an opportunity to try on a career, to encounter a new part of the world, or to study an area of interest in greater depth. As you read this issue of Matters, you will discover more about GSA students' independent learning experiences during ISIP.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy J. Seeley". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Timothy J. Seeley, Head of School

GEORGE  
STEVENS  
ACADEMY

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On the cover: Honors Jazz Combo 6 Blind Mice.

Back: Isla Brownlow '18, trombone; Joseph Boulet '17, drums; Nellie Haldane '18, vibes.

Front: Christian Jones '17, bass; Mira Schubeck '17, trumpet and flugelhorn; Yvonne Rogers '17, piano. [See also page 4.]

# Independent Study & Internship Program Exhibition Night 2017

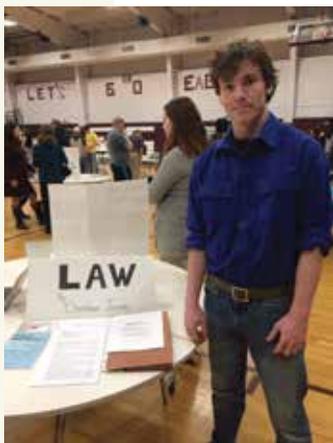


Senior **Mikayla True** did a First Grade Teacher Internship at the Bay School in Blue Hill.

In February and March, 142 juniors and seniors participated in ISIP. On Wednesday, March 29, 137 of these students presented their projects to the community in a packed GSA gymnasium, explaining what they learned and answering questions. Here is just a sample of students who made presentations.



Senior **Ollie Dillon** completed an immersion German course in Berlin.



Senior **Christian Jones** did a corporate law internship focusing on medicine and art.



Senior **James Marsh** earned certification for deep water scuba diving.



Junior **Jade Gu** studied the differences between American and Chinese banks in Shanghai, China.



Junior **Grace Neal** studied opera, mentored by her grandfather and local resident, Sheldon Bisberg.



Junior **Ange Ineza**, shown here with College and Career Counselor **Katy Rinehart**, studied architecture with local architect Matt Elliott.



Senior **Arlo Stabler**, shown here with Head of School **Tim Seeley**, made a pedal generator.

# Arts Highlights

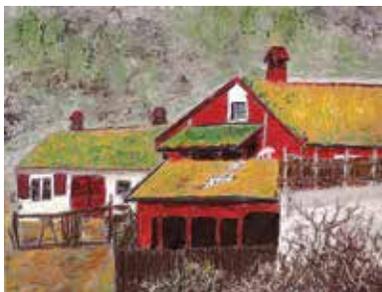
## ALL THAT JAZZ



The **George Stevens Academy Jazz Band** won a Gold Medal at the Maine State Jazz Festival held at Nokomis High School in Newport, marking the fourth year in a row the GSA Jazz Band earned the highest score in Division IV and received a Gold Medal. Every combo placed. **Yvonne Rogers '17** and **Joseph Boulet '17** received the prestigious Dale Huff MVP Award. Members of the band receiving MVP awards were **Yvonne Rogers**, piano and tenor sax; **Mira Schubeck '17**, trumpet and flugelhorn; **Joseph Boulet**, drums; **Lindsay Nevin '18**, tenor sax, vibes, and vocals; and **Nellie Haldane '18**, piano.

(Front cover photo:) The Honors Jazz Combo 6 **Blind Mice** placed 2nd at the Berklee College of Music Jazz Festival on Saturday, February 11. Two GSA students were awarded two out of four prestigious, high honor musicianship awards: **Yvonne Rogers**, piano, and **Joseph Boulet**, drums. It has been twelve years since a GSA student—**Ross Gallagher**, bass, 2005—received this outstanding award. Joe Boulet also received the Judges' Choice award. The 6 **Blind Mice** combo was second only to Idylwild Arts Academy of Los Angeles, California. Placing 3rd was Appomattox Regional Governor's School of Petersburg, Virginia, and ACES Educational Center for the Arts of New Haven, Connecticut, was 4th.

## SCREEN ART WINNERS



Works submitted by two GSA students were selected as winners in the current MLTI Screensaver Challenge: "House Barn" by **Julian Lindholm Fiske '17** and "Wolf" by **Grace Neal '18**.



## THE PLAY'S THE THING



In early November GSA presented Sandy Wilson's "The Boy Friend," a tongue-in-cheek musical spoof of the Roaring 20s, directed by Moira McMahon. The Grand Theatre in Ellsworth was the perfect venue! Seniors **Summit Colman**, **Beckett Slayton**, **Madeleine DesFosses**, **Boris Chen**, **Emma Larson-Whittaker**, and **Walker Ellsworth** all played leading roles. Seniors **Marena Koenka**, **Maya Pelletier**, and **Becca Marks** stage managed, ran the lighting board and did hair and make-up, respectively. The pit band, conducted by Deborah Reinke, was called 4th Period Combo at the time, and included Seniors **Yvonne Rogers**, **Mira Schubeck**, and **Joseph Boulet**, as well as Steve Orlofsky. In all, 48 students contributed, both back stage and on, to bring two memorable evenings to the theatre!



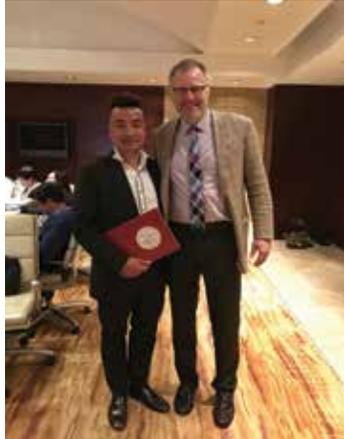
(Back cover photo:) Nineteen GSA students traveled to Camden Hills in March to participate in the 2017 Maine Drama Festival, sponsored by the Maine Principals' Association. The festival is a one act competition that takes place over two days where the students perform as well as attend all the other schools' performances. Our students performed "Scenes from The Arabian Nights" by Mary Zimmerman, adapted from "The Book of the Thousand and One Nights" and directed by Moira McMahon. The classic tale is of a young girl's quest to stay alive through the art of story telling. **Maira Vandiver '18** played Scheherazade, that brave girl, and **Ian Ramsay '18** played the tyrant king, Shahryar, who is transformed. Seniors **Boris Chen**, **Marena Koenka**, **Madeleine DesFosses**, **Hanna Jordan**, and **Summit Colman** all played leading roles. The play came in third for the Class B schools and **Summit Colman**, **Berlioz Xu '18** and **Sophie Mitchell '18** were all singled out for All Cast awards. **Marie Louise Boulet '19** arranged the music and **Summit Colman**, **Madeleine DesFosses**, **Oceana Ragot '19** and **Mazie Smallidge '18** won an award for set construction.

## ASIA TRIP

Head of School **Tim Seeley** traveled to Asia for three weeks in March to meet with the parents of our residential students and recruit prospective students for GSA. His trip included stops in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam; Chongqing, Shanghai, and Beijing, China; and Seoul, South Korea.



Mr. and Mrs. Liu, parents of **Laura Liu '19**



Mr. Lin, father of **David Lin '20**



Ms. Huong Nguyen, mother, and Long, uncle of **Vu Do '18**



Mr. Hee Soo Sul and Mrs. Ja Hyung Kim, parents of **Bowon Sul '19**

## DO THE MATH!

GSA's Math Team placed first in the Downeast Math League, which is one of five leagues in Maine and includes all participating schools in Hancock and Washington counties. Our top finishers were **Berlioz Xu '18** (12th in the state) and **David Liu '18** (75th in the state).

Other Math Team members who participated in at least one meet were **Orien Xu '18**, **Jade Gu '18**, **Albert Zhang '18**, **Felix Wang '20**, **Sam Cao '20**, **Evangeline Li '19**, **Peter Pei '20**, **Eric Cai '19**, **Carlos Dai '20**, and **Bonnie Mao '18**. Also pictured, math teacher and advisor **Jonathan Bender**.



**GSA FINE ART SHOW & SILENT AUCTION** May 16-20 at the Cynthia Winings Gallery, Parker Point Road, Blue Hill.

Parents, students, faculty and staff, and GSA alumni are invited to submit fine art to display at the show.

The show and silent auction will open Tuesday, May 16. Art sales and bids for silent auction items can be made throughout the week during open hours at the gallery.

There will be a reception with the artists and an opportunity to place final auction bids on Friday, May 19 from 5:00-8:00 p.m.

The final day to view and purchase artwork will be Saturday, May 20 from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

For more information, including the artwork submission form, visit [www.georgestevensacademy.org/artshow2017](http://www.georgestevensacademy.org/artshow2017) or contact Jennifer at [j.traub@georgestevens.info](mailto:j.traub@georgestevens.info).

### GSA ON THE ROAD

Join Head of School Tim Seeley for gatherings of alumni, parents, and friends.

*In New York City*  
Wednesday, May 3, 2017  
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Co-hosted by Sam Seltzer and GSA trustee Tyler Knowles.

*In Portland, Maine*  
Thursday, May 4, 2017  
6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Hosted by GSA trustee Marion Dillon Morris.

For further information and to RSVP, contact Rada Starkey at [r.starkey@georgestevens.info](mailto:r.starkey@georgestevens.info) or 207-374-2800.

**SPRING CONCERT** – Join us on Thursday, May 25 in the gymnasium for the annual Spring Concert. To reserve a seat, please phone the Development Office at 374-2800.

**GIVING DAY** is Tuesday, June 6. Stop by campus for coffee and pastries throughout the day.

**GRADUATION** – The ceremony will be held on Sunday, June 18, at 1:00 pm on the front lawn (or in the gymnasium, in the event of rain).

# Sports

It's been a record-breaking year for GSA sports, from state and regional team championships, to individual athletes setting new school, team, and personal records.

Arguably the biggest news is the girls cross-country team winning the state championship, and making history by becoming the first girls team in any sport to win a state team championship at GSA! With three runners in the top five, the girls were able to knock off defending champion and epic rival Orono. But wait—there's more! *Eliza Broughton '18*, who finished second, ran a new personal best, beating her old personal record by nine seconds. The others in the top five were *Zeya Lorio '18* in third, and *Mary Richardson '18* in fifth.



Photo by Sharon Catus



Photo by Sharon Catus

On the boys' side, *John Hassett '17* set new records as well, repeating as Class C individual state champion, and achieving a new personal best – he broke the 16 minute barrier for the first time.

# Fall Sports Highlights



## Girls Cross Country

The team won the State Class C Championship!

### Awards:

PVC Class C First Team: Eliza Broughton '18, Zeya Lorio '18, Mary Richardson '18  
 PVC Class C Second Team: Mary Brenna Catus '18, Tess Williamson '19  
 \*PVC Senior All-Academic: Lanie Billings, Emma Larson-Whittaker

## Boys Cross Country

The team finished second in the Northern Regionals, and 5th overall in the State Class C Championship meet.

### Awards:

PVC Class C First Team: John Hassett '17, Ollie Dillon '17  
 PVC Class C Honorable Mention: Caden Mattson '20, Max Mattson '18, Beckett Slayton '17  
 \*PVC Senior All-Academic: Beckett Slayton



## Volleyball [top left]

The team scored two victories in its inaugural season, and showed remarkable improvement over the course of the season, according to Athletic Director Larry Gray '79.

### Awards:

\*PVC Senior All-Academic: Marena Koenka, Zephyr Martin, Maya Pelletier, Yvonne Rogers, Emma Weed

## Golf

The team qualified for the state match, finishing 6th.

### Awards:

PVC Class C Boys First Team: Jarrod Chase '17 and Percy Zentz '19



## Girls Soccer

The team made it to the quarterfinals, after finishing 8th in Eastern Maine Class C.

### Awards:

Morgan Dauk '17 Maine Soccer Coaches Regional All Star Team, Class C;  
 PVC Class C First Team; \*PVC Senior All-Academic  
 Nellie Haldane '18 PVC Class C Second Team  
 Bess MacArthur '19 PVC Class C Third Team  
 Julianna Allen '19 PVC Class C Honorable Mention

## Boys Soccer

The team finished the season as Northern Maine Class C runners-up, with a 10-6 record.

### Awards:

\*PVC Senior All-Academic: Tyler Brenton, Walker Ellsworth, Ben Politte, Alex Taylor-Lash, Erik Taylor-Lash  
 Taylor Schildroth '18 PVC Class C First Team  
 Cameron Gordon '17 PVC Class C Second Team  
 John Larson '17 PVC Class C Third Team  
 Walker Ellsworth '17 PVC Class C Honorable Mention



*\*PVC All-Academic is awarded to seniors who have earned a GPA of 90 or better over 6 semesters.*

The winter season was exciting for athletes and fans alike, with new records in swimming and basketball.

In only its fourth year as a varsity sport, the swim teams had four dual meet victories, and established twelve school records, according to coach Don Driscoll. On top of the team accomplishments, junior *Ava Sealander* had a record-breaking individual season. Not only did she finish first in both the 200 yard freestyle and the 100 yard breaststroke at the PVC championship meet, over the course of the season she broke all eight individual GSA girls swim records!

After reaching the 1000 career point mark in December, senior *Morgan Dauk* has set a new record for basketball players, male or female, by becoming the leading scorer in GSA history, with 1461 points. *Taylor Schildroth '18* also reached 1000 career points this season, and set a new school record by scoring 61 points in one game.

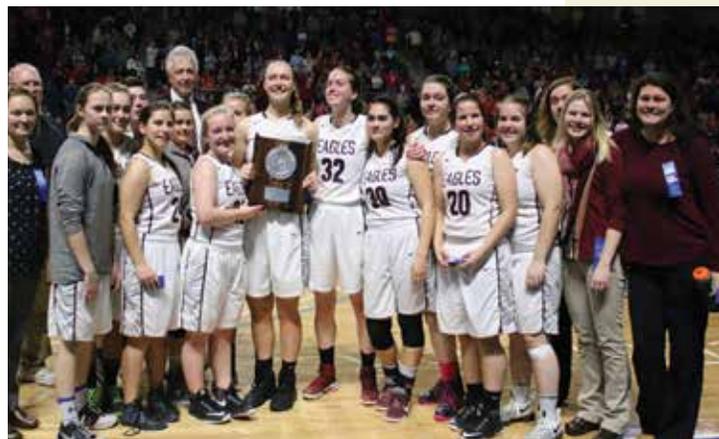


PHOTO COURTESY OF ELLSWORTH AMERICAN

And last, but certainly not least, the boys basketball team achieved another first, capping off an undefeated season by winning the Class C state championship for the first back-to-back basketball state championships. The excitement brought together former players from past teams including members of the 1979 championship team, who were spotted at the game. Several members of the championship teams of 1948, 1979, 2003, and 2016 were on hand for the post-parade celebration at GSA.

# Winter Sports Highlights



## Girls Swimming

Finished 8th at PVC championship, 13th at States

### Awards:

Ava Sealander '18 PVC Class C First Team: 200m freestyle, 100m breaststroke  
PVC Swimmer of the Year  
State All Star Team: 200m freestyle

\*PVC Senior All-Academic: Emma Larson-Whittaker and Maya Pelletier

## Boys Swimming

Finished 10th at the PVC championships, 18th at States

## Indoor Track

After an eight-year break, indoor track returned this year as a varsity sport. According to assistant coach Erich Reed, the teams had an excellent season, setting 6 new school records, and were among the top performing teams at the Eastern Maine Championship.

### Awards:

PVC Boys First Team: John Hassett '17 – 800m run  
PVC Girls First Team: Eliza Broughton '18, Mary Brenna Catus '18, Zeya Lorio '18, Mary Richardson '18 – 4x800 relay  
PVC Boys Second Team: John Hassett – 400m dash, 2 mile run  
PVC Girls Second Team: Mary Brenna Catus – 800m run, Mary Richardson – 1 mile run, 2 mile run

## Girls Basketball

The team finished the season with a record of 18-3, and are Class C Northern Maine Runners-Up

### Awards:

Morgan Dauk '17: Bangor Daily News All-Maine Third Team  
McDonald's Class C-D North All Star Team (leading scorer)  
McDonald's East Free Throw Champion  
2017 Miss Maine Basketball semi-finalist  
Bangor Daily News Class C All Tourney Team

### PVC Class C Awards:

First Team: Morgan Dauk '17  
Honorable Mention: Julianna Allen '19, Mazie Smallidge '18  
Best Defensive Player: Julianna Allen  
Senior All Star Team: Morgan Dauk, Sarah Mullen  
\*Senior All-Academic Team: Morgan Dauk

Bill Case was named McDonald's Class C Coach of the year for Northern Maine

## Boys Basketball

Class C State Champions for the second consecutive year, and finished the season undefeated.

### Awards:

All Tourney Team: Max Mattson '18, Taylor Schildroth '18  
Honorable Mention: Jarrod Chase '17, Stefan Simmons '18

### PVC Class C Awards:

First Team: Taylor Schildroth '18  
Second Team: Jarrod Chase '17  
All Defensive: Jarrod Chase, Max Mattson '18  
Senior All Star Team: Jarrod Chase, Beckett Slayton  
\*Senior All-Academic Team: Beckett Slayton



Photo by Sharon Catus



Photo by Sharon Catus

# THE GSA ANNUAL FUND

HELPS PAY FOR THESE KEY PROGRAMS AND NEEDS:



To make an online gift to the Annual Fund, go to [www.georgestevensacademy.org/onlinegift](http://www.georgestevensacademy.org/onlinegift)

2016-17 Goal - \$160,000

## Annual Fund Update

through March 2017\*

July	\$2,795
August	\$6,007
September	\$12,983
October	\$14,901
November	\$31,942
December	\$94,523
January	\$100,929
February	\$102,438
March	\$110,738
April	
May	
June	

\*Monthly totals are cumulative.

The Annual Fund closes on June 30, 2017.

## Independent Study in Action - A Film by Tate Yoder '15



Tate Yoder '15 produced a short film for GSA featuring several students' ISIP projects this year. See it at [www.georgestevensacademy.org/ISIP2017](http://www.georgestevensacademy.org/ISIP2017).

Tate, who spent an Independent Study term learning videography, talked about the personal significance of the project:

*Going full circle from being a student learning and experimenting with film to now using film to showcase students has been a really unique privilege. I believe that by increasing exposure to this program, more people will understand how unique and important ISIP is for students and what is possible with a bit of time and creativity.*

Independent Study projects featured in Tate's film are shown at right (clockwise from top left): **Erik Taylor-Lash '17**, **Maira Vandiver '18**, and **Summit Colman '17** recording vocals; **John Hassett '17** repairing an engine; **Beckett Slayton '17** and **Bozhi "Boris" Chen '17** studying beginning Arabic; **Nellie Haldane '18** training her husky to be a sled dog; **Ben Politte '17** fabricating a longboard; and **Hannah Peasley '17** working on an engineering project with mentor **Sarah (Jaffray) King '99**.

Photos by Tate Yoder Photography.



## Alumni Donors: Giving Back to GSA

GSA continues to provide extraordinary academic and extra-curricular programs, thanks in part to the hundreds of alumni who “give back” year after year.

Thank you to the 159 alumni who have made a gift to GSA so far this fiscal year.\*

If you haven't yet contributed yet this year, we hope you will be inspired to join with fellow alumni in making a gift.

*\*as of March 31*

**1937**  
Paul Townsend

**1941**  
Rebecca Bowden Wanbaugh

**1943**  
Lucy Herrick Ledien\*

**1947**  
Florence Pert Conley

**1950**  
Madeline Clement

**1951**  
Carroll Nevells

**1952**  
Harvard Candage  
Walter Kane

**1953**  
Katherine Keefe Smith

**1954**  
John Maresca  
Phyllis Leighton Pemberton

**1955**  
Kenneth Flannery  
Patricia Hutchins Flannery  
Thurston Gray†

**1956**  
Beverly Wescott Cecchini\*  
Roger Marks

**1957**  
Horace Wardwell

**1958**  
Beverly Farnham Henry  
Dennis Robertson

**1959**  
Linda Abbott Candage  
Terrance Gray  
G. Eckley Herrick  
Sylvia Conner Wardwell

**1960**  
Karyl Ricker Hayes

**1961**  
Sharon Abbott Garcia

**1963**  
Edie McVay King  
Robert Phillips  
Dolores Ladd Robertson\*

# A L U M N I D O N O R S

**1964**  
Gleason Gray  
Wayne Hutchins  
Ruth Clapp Hutchins

**1965**  
Leona Sylvester Gray  
Dennis Rackliffe  
Dale Robertson  
David Stover

**1966**  
Nancy Butler Hastings  
Gloria Howard  
Margaret Dow Rackliffe  
Joanna Stover Raible  
Jon Woodward

**1967**  
Belinda J. Carter\*  
Bruce Grindal  
Linette Bridges Grindal

**1969**  
Patricia Leach Astbury  
Gerald Blodgett  
Bernice Bartlett DeBlois\*  
Claire Babson Gray  
Kathleen McClure  
Noddy Wessel

**1970**  
Michael Astbury  
Dorrance Atherton  
Donald Condon  
Mark Gross  
Della Leach Martin  
Freida Lowell Peasley  
Nancy Billings Sherman

**1971**  
Brenda Lowell Condon\*  
Dennis Robertson  
Patricia McKay Robertson

**1972**  
Eric Allen  
Joan Clapp Allen  
Joanne Barrett  
Richard Bowden  
Alta Gross  
Alan Howard  
Edward Turner

**1973**  
Geoffrey Anthony

\* = denotes class agent    † = deceased

Patricia Astbury Clapp  
Robert Clapp  
Ed Wardwell  
Joan Alley Wardwell\*

### 1974

Marla Atherton  
Patricia Lymburner Henry  
Amy Bartlett Turner

### 1976

Mary Hooper

### 1977

Weston Brownlow  
Jennifer Durnbaugh Denlinger  
Maggie Garfield  
Elizabeth Austin Rosemeier  
Scott Rosemeier  
Stormi Gray Wentworth  
Gus Williamson

### 1978

Alden Blodgett  
Jackie Gray Bowden  
Blaine Davis

### 1979

Jeffrey Allen  
Larry Gray  
Deborah Venno Ludlow\*  
Sharri Venno

### 1980

Merton "Bill" Bunker\*  
David Gray  
Vaughn Leach

### 1981

Eric Anderson  
Marjorie Austin Gray\*  
Lori Herrick Wessel

### 1982

Allison Hill Charles  
Leslie Clapp  
Martha Garfield\*

### 1983

Leanne M. Bateman  
Craig Berry\*

### 1984

Cindy Pond Anderson  
David Giroux II  
Kristina Anderson Stephens\*

### 1985

Julie Jo Fehrle  
Christine Lutz-Garrity  
Christy Johndrow Gontarz  
Sara Billings Leighton  
Anonymous

### 1986

Timothy Bryant  
Anonymous

### 1987

JoDee Lymburner

### 1988

Jeffrey Galipeau  
Stephen Peasley

### 1989

Jennifer Sittnick Pulvino  
Anna Stookey

### 1990

Derrick Noessel  
Maria Cousins Woodward  
Peter Woodward

### 1991

Lydia Gray Garrant  
Matt Mattson

### 1992

Niamh O'Leary-Liu Blumentals

### 1995

Scott Murphy

### 1996

Larry Malm  
Heather Snow

### 1997

Emily Lewandowski Hildebrand\*  
James Hildebrand\*  
James Inglis

### 1998

Sarah Rosemeier Cutter  
Kate Manning Pilotte

### 2000

Justin Kaley  
Michelle Astbury Schildroth

### 2001

Jeffrey Baroody  
Jennifer Friend Baroody

### 2002

Jacob Berkowitz\*  
Sarah Clapp  
Jacob Grindal  
Lynnie Ramsdell Lyman  
Noah Tapley

### 2003

Michael Astbury  
Mark Clapp  
Nicholas Henry

### 2005

Jessica Driscoll Astbury  
Jenny Berkowitz  
Daniel Gommel

### 2007

Winslow Brokaw  
Laura Driscoll Clapp  
Abby Dunham

### 2009

Grace Bell  
Lilian Day Thorpe

### 2011

Martin Conte\*  
Thomas Crowe  
Aji Hall  
Emmett Scott

### 2012

Magdalene Theoharidis

### 2013

Maddie Heilner  
Zheyang (Johnny) Xue

### 2014

Alexander Heilner  
Oliver Scott

### 2016

Abigail Frost

# Rick Seeger '88: Digital Technology Pioneer

## Cryptocurrency and Blockchains

When it comes to technology, **Rick Seeger '88** has a knack for staying ahead of the curve. “I want to work on cool stuff, so I’m always chasing the latest thing,” he admits. After studying Computer Science at Carnegie Mellon University and moving to New York City, Rick was among those working at the frontier of the Internet. Back in the late 90s, this meant developing dynamic websites informed by databases, and Rick co-founded a company, Net Theory (nettheory.com), to provide web design and support services to businesses.

In 2014, Rick enrolled in the Insight fellowship program in Silicon Valley to learn Data Engineering. The role of data engineers is to build infrastructure and data “pipelines.” In his training, Rick worked with tools for specialized tasks such as generating product recommendations, optimizing search engine results, and improving fraud detection. Insight predicts that the upward trend in demand for data engineers will continue as companies “realize the full potential of data and develop their own data teams.”

While immersing himself in data science, Rick became intrigued with decentralized digital currencies—called cryptocurrencies—such as Bitcoin and Ethereum. He is particularly excited about the cutting-edge technology they introduced, called “blockchain,” which he describes as “a new type of database with the potential to eliminate bureaucracy across many industries.”

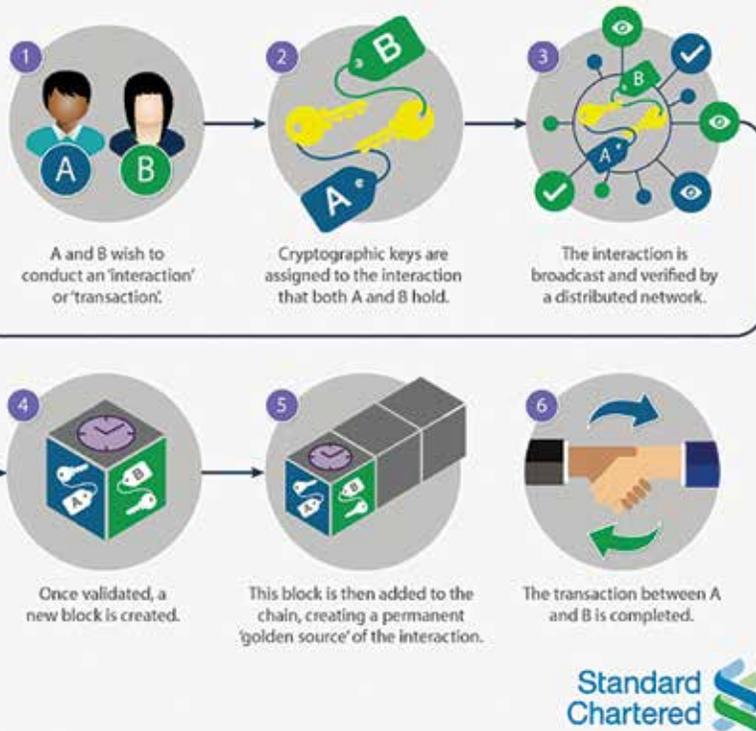
A blockchain exists as a peer-to-peer open network comprising up to thousands of computers across the globe. The network validates each transaction (for example, a Bitcoin as it changes hands) by requiring “consensus” from each participating computer. According to Peter van Valkenburgh, research director of the nonprofit advocacy group Coin Center, this consensus mechanism is a revolutionary aspect of blockchains in the way it “helps all of the computers on the network come to agreement over what new data is valid and should be included in the blockchain, and what data is an attack and should be ignored.”

As each validated transaction is time-stamped and linked to the previous block in its history, the data becomes permanently etched into the blockchain and cannot be altered. Each user of the system maintains a copy of the ever-growing chain of records—or “blocks”—thus creating a decentralized accounting ledger.

The functioning of blockchains is fundamentally different from the current system in which data (like a debit card transaction) resides on an institution’s centralized server and could be compromised if there is a security breach. As an example, Rick cites the attack on Yahoo in 2013 that allegedly compromised over 1 billion accounts. In contrast, a blockchain is virtually “unhackable,” says Rick. Case in point: The Bitcoin network is constantly under attack, yet the ledger of all Bitcoin transactions has never been hacked.

After growing his company to a staff of 12, Rick sold it to pursue other technology interests, earning a Masters in Evolutionary Robotics at University of Sussex in 2005. Years later, Rick relocated to the San Francisco area and found his niche as a software engineer developing algorithms and incorporating machine-learning techniques to make platforms “smarter” and more efficient. Once again at the forefront of the industry, Rick recognized a growing need: companies were collecting a lot of data without effective ways to analyze it.

### How a blockchain transaction works



Graphic used by permission of Standard Chartered.

In a December 2016 WIRED magazine opinion piece entitled “Dear Mr. Trump: To ‘Cyber’ Better, Try the Blockchain,” van Valkenburgh goes so far as to recommend blockchain technology to bolster our nation’s cybersecurity. In the wake of a Domain Name System (DNS) server attack last October that briefly took websites including the *New York Times* and WIRED offline, he suggests that “open blockchain networks could be used to securely record all sorts of information, everything from DNS records to smart-device identities and user-access rights in the internet of things.”

It comes as no surprise that Rick accepted a position several months ago with a pioneering blockchain security company, BitGo, in what he calls his “most exciting and challenging job” to date. On the side, Rick manages Crypdex, a private fund he created using software he wrote to automatically invest in

At GSA, having completed advanced coursework in math and French, Rick had a gap in his schedule senior year. Beulah Grant, the guidance counselor, asked him about his interests. Rick describes his surprise when Beulah arranged for him and classmate Mark Andy to create their own course with Ivan Godard, a Deer Isle resident who was an expert on AI. “I never expected GSA to push me in exactly the right direction,” Rick recalls. “After that, I became entirely focused on that subject.”

Following Rick’s college years, the growth of the Internet was just beginning to redefine business, communications, research, and many other aspects of modern life. Looking ahead, Rick sees the potential for blockchains to have similarly far-reaching effects. In a blog post for Silicon Valley Data Science, he muses, “Who knows what unimaginable technology will exist in the next 20 years based on blockchains?”



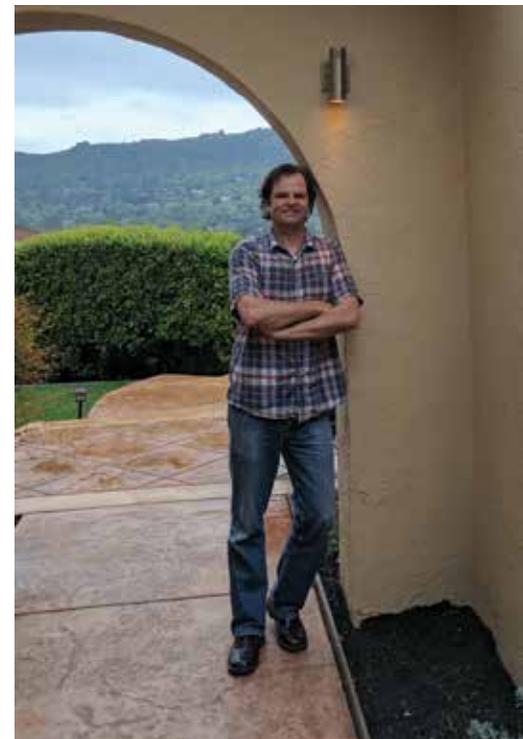
Bitcoin and several other cryptocurrencies. “I wanted to speculatively invest in these currencies,” Rick says, “but it was a lot of work to keep up with converting and transferring currencies among the various digital wallets.” He came up with Crypdex as a solution to his problem: “I decided to build the software because no one had it.”

*Rick enjoys helping people understand new technologies such as cryptocurrency and blockchains, and he welcomes questions and comments from GSA community members. Rick can be reached at [rick@crypdex.io](mailto:rick@crypdex.io).*

While the IRS recognizes cryptocurrency as a legal investment (for which capital gains must be declared), exchange-traded funds (ETFs) for cryptocurrencies have not yet been approved by the Security Exchange Commission (SEC). In a much-anticipated ruling on an ETF proposal in March, the SEC expressed concern about the potential for fraudulent or manipulative practices in the Bitcoin market. Although the price of Bitcoin dropped in response to the decision, it rebounded quickly, suggesting optimism about its long-term prospects.

“As you can see from my fund,” says Rick [see chart], “the ruling made a very minor dent in the crypto-economy.” Rick speculates that the decision may have ultimately helped cryptocurrency markets by increasing awareness of them. To view current trends, visit the Crypdex chart, which is updated every 10 minutes at [crypdex.io](http://crypdex.io).

Even as a teenager, Rick’s sights were set on technology and what it might enable in the future. Besides drawing inspiration from classic movies of the era like *Star Wars* and *WarGames*, Rick was already writing code on his Commodore 64 and was especially interested in artificial intelligence (AI).



# Meredith Houghton '13

## From Whales to Sticklebacks



As a volunteer at the New England Aquarium this semester, Clark University senior **Meredith Houghton '13** oversees touch tanks, answers questions about animal species, and gives tours to visiting school groups. “I love how interested the kids are, and the great questions they ask,” Meredith says. She mentions an 8-year-old boy who rattled off facts about lobsters to her and his peers. “He knew so much!” she laughs.

In contrast to Meredith’s public education role at the aquarium, her work over the previous two semesters has been behind the scenes in the lab run by her academic advisor, Susan Foster. Professor Foster and her husband and colleague, John Baker, are experts on the three-spined stickleback, a highly adaptive species of fish. Their lab received a large grant last April for a three-year study on sticklebacks that explores key aspects of the evolutionary process.

“This fish species mirrors Darwin’s finches,” explains Meredith, referring to bird specimens Darwin collected from the Galapagos Islands. It appeared that a common parent species had evolved into a variety of bird types with beaks adapted to different food sources—a process called “adaptive radiation.”

Similarly, three-spined stickleback fish share common ancestry but exhibit enormous variation in traits across different populations. “They all started in the ocean,” Meredith elaborates. “Now some populations live in lakes, but they can all be traced back to one parent species, the marine stickleback.” Depending on environmental factors in each habitat, there can be significant differences in the body shape, bone structure, and number of bony plates—or body armor—of the fish.

As part of the study, Meredith used specialized computer software to perform the painstaking yet critical task of placing markers on digital photos of stickleback fish to indicate points of comparison among specimens. Using these specific data points, researchers can run com-

parison tests of characteristics among individual fish or groups of fish from particular habitats. For example, sticklebacks that dwell on lake bottoms tend to have a horizontal jaw structure, which differs from the upturned mouth of the surface-feeding groups.

The different characteristics among groups do not always have a clear explanation. Is a stickleback population with a high amount of body armor the result of excess minerals in the environment or an adaptation to a type of predator? “It’s a bit of a puzzle,” acknowledges Meredith. There are also questions about the genetic evolution of the species, and to what extent gene flow occurs among different fish populations.

According to a Clark University press release, the Foster/Baker lab is one of 22 interconnected studies funded by an \$8.7 million grant from the John Templeton Foundation in “the world’s largest coordinated, multi-national project” focused on new ways of understanding evolutionary biology. Meredith summarizes some of the key questions: “How are environmental pressures fueling natural selection? How much does the environment play a role in evolution? And how quickly are changes observed for the future of a species?”

Meredith loved working in the Foster/Baker lab and feels fortunate to have been involved in the study; in particular, she enjoys finding ways to connect research and education. “It’s great to be part of such an important topic that will inform the public,” she notes.

The intersection of marine biology and education has been a long-standing interest for Meredith. At age 11, she joined the Calvineers, an after-school club led by science teacher Bill McWeeny at the Adams School in Castine. Focused on the endangered North Atlantic right whale, students in the group studied whales, went on field trips, met scientists, and presented their own research at an international science convention in Quebec.



“Those opportunities shaped my career path,” says Meredith. Through the Calvineers, McWeeny introduced his students to scientists at the New England Aquarium, which set the stage for Meredith’s independent study project as a junior at GSA. For two weeks, Meredith worked in the right whale research office at the aquarium. As part of a genetics project, she created a family tree in the database for all known North American right whale pairings and offspring.

That summer, Meredith was accepted into the MERITS program, which funds internships for high school juniors at Maine STEM-based research institutions. Meredith spent five weeks at Allied Whale rescuing stranded marine mammals, assisting with necropsies of unexplained whale and seal mortalities, and helping with the Adopt-A-Whale program. She also worked for two weeks with naturalists at the Marine & Environmental Research Institute (MERI) educating children and families about the ocean and environmental issues. Through her internships, Meredith learned more about the interconnections between the health of the oceans and people’s health.

At GSA, Meredith especially enjoyed taking Marine Science with Sue Jellison. She entered Clark University as a Biology major and recalls how well prepared she was: “I remembered a lot from Ms. Jellison’s Biology class when taking Bio 101.” Meredith’s coursework and continued interest in the ocean environment and human health steered her toward a change in major to Environmental Science, with a concentration in Environmental and Conservation Biology.

“Conservation and sustainability are becoming increasingly important,” says Meredith. “Switching my major made me more excited about the work I was doing in school.” In the future, Meredith envisions graduate studies in marine biology and public health. For now, though, as she completes her studies at Clark, Meredith loves working at the aquarium, educating visitors and encouraging children in their own understanding and love of marine life.



## Megan Malaby '13 - Development Intern

Alumna *Megan Malaby '13* returned to GSA last summer to work as an intern in the Development Office, thanks to a generous gift from friends of the school. Megan reflected on the perspective she was able to bring to the Annual Fund campaign:



“As a young alum myself, I understand the financial situation many of my peers are faced with. And I can sympathize with young alumni who believe that because they don’t have much to give, their gifts wouldn’t be as valuable to the cause they are supporting. But after working in development previously, I know that all gifts have a measurable impact.

In an effort to show this to our young alumni population, I worked with Fred Heilner in the Business Office to crunch some numbers in our budget, which is supported by the annual fund, to assign value to smaller gift sizes. When combing through the budget, I asked Fred to isolate numbers relating to experiences and connections that alumni remember fondly. I felt that by infusing some of GSA’s most loved qualities—the supportive staff and faculty, programs that can only exist at an independent school, and our spirited athletics to name a few—young alumni would be more likely to make a donation.

What I am happiest to report about this experience is that for all of the work that I completed for GSA, I feel GSA worked for me too. I learned far more than I could have anticipated and am feeling confident in the path that I am on for my future. I am endlessly thankful for this opportunity to grow and learn, especially at a place I consider home.”

# Class Notes



## 1960s

**Larry Merrill '62** shares his racing news from 2016: "I placed 2nd in the Maine Whitewater Canoe and Kayak series for kayakers over 60 years old. In the Kenduskeag canoe race, I placed 2nd out of 22 boats in the Recreation Kayak class; the only guy who beat me was 41 years younger. I also placed 1st in the Sub-5 Tradewinds Running Series in the 70-74 age group. Considering what a lousy athlete I was in high school, it proves that persistence can pay off."

From **Belinda Carter '67**: "Recently, the Cross Center in Bangor was dotted with members of our class supporting with pride grandchildren, sons, brothers, nephews and nieces, cousins, and our alma mater. In addition, nine members were able to attend the funeral of our dear friend and classmate, **Bob McKay**, who passed away after a long battle with diabetes. We will celebrate our 50th class reunion on August 12 at Chris Lamb's or at a place yet to be determined. **Dola Hinckley** will provide the music while the rest of us provide the entertainment! More information will be forthcoming. Please contact Belinda Carter, **Chris Lamb**, or **John Healey** for any suggestions or ideas or if you wish to help out in any way."

## 1970s

**Tom Gray '79** gathered together several classmates at the boys basketball championship game at the Cross Center. He sent along two group photos, one with members of the 1979 championship basketball team and their coach, and one including other classmates. All those pictured are from the Class of 1979, except for the coach and **Lenny Lawson '81**.

*Team photo*—Front row: **Ron Boutin, Larry Gray**. Back row: **Basil Bowden, Andy Dombek, Lenny Lawson '81, Coach Jim Frost, Marty Nowland, Kent Lawson, Ben Gross**.

*Class photo*—Front row: **Ron Boutin, Steve Moon, Larry Gray, Norman Yates**. Back row: **Lenny Lawson '81, Marty Nowland, Coach Frost** (obscured), **Basil Bowden, Andy Dombek, Jonathan Leach, Kent Lawson, Tom Gray, and Ben Gross**.

## 1980s

**Oisin Curran '89** currently lives in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia with his wife and two children, and makes his living as a freelance writer. His second novel, *Blood Fable*, will be coming out from BookThug, an independent press in Toronto, in the fall.

## 1990s

**Luki Hewitt** shares that **Jason Hewitt '96** has been working at Bryn Mawr College for many years as the cross-country and track & field coach. **Kristin Hewitt '99** has earned her doctorate in Exercise Physiology from Springfield College and is now a professor at Brevard College in North Carolina.

**Chrissy (Beardsley) Allen** and **Lucas Allen, both '98**, married in 2006 and, after some time in the Midwest, now live in Blue Hill with their two children, Adeline and Corwin. Chrissy earned her bachelor's degree in Philosophy and Teaching Certification and is currently the Development and Outreach Director for Blue Hill Heritage Trust. Lucas earned a master's degree in Political Science from Michigan State University and is currently working from home and writing. Both Adie and Corwin are in school, and the Allen family is busy and happy!

## 2000s

**Susan** and **Charles Guilford** attended the Women's March in Washington, D.C. with their children and friends, and sent in this photo of six GSA alumni at the Ellipse in front of the White House. Left to right: **Haley Malm '00**, **Emma Mrozicki '02**, **Sam Guilford '05**, **Travis Templeton '03**, **Alice Guilford '03**, **Jacob Berkowitz '02**.

**Stephanie (Manyak) Gendron '05** earned her master's degree from Norwich University. She lives with her husband in Savannah, Georgia, where she works as a regional trauma coordinator at a Level 1 trauma center.

As of February, **Samantha Haskell '05** is the new owner of Blue Hill Books. Founders Nick Sichterman and Mariah Hughs are thrilled that Samantha has taken over the store upon their retirement. Samantha says, "It feels great to help a local institution like the bookstore continue. So far, business ownership is both challenging and exciting, and I see it as a way to contribute to the future of this community." Blue Hill Books is helping to plan WORD: A Blue Hill Literary Arts Festival, which will take place from October 20 through 22, 2017. The festival will highlight Maine's writers and illustrators, and there will be events for all ages and literary tastes. For more information, check out [www.facebook.com/word.bluehill](http://www.facebook.com/word.bluehill).

## 2010s

Last May, **Brenna Hutchinson '12** graduated from Thomas College with a bachelor's degree in Forensic Psychology and a minor in Criminal Justice. She lives in Augusta and is working at the District Attorney's office as a part-time Victim/Witness Advocate.

**Catherine Nevin '15** is studying Creative Writing and Classical Civilizations at Wheaton College and is staying busy with numerous campus activities. In addition to playing in both the Jazz

Band and Phat Police groups, she is a peer writing tutor and recently started a figure skating club. She conducts campus tours twice a week and invites students interested in Wheaton to schedule a visit. Catherine hopes to be an RA in the fall. **Jen Burton '15** studies business at Maine Maritime Academy and is vice-president of the mentoring club at the Adams School in Castine.

Gathered at the Nevin home during Thanksgiving were **Nathaniel Boëchat '15**, **Jacob Witting '16**, **Jennifer Burton '15**, **Catherine Nevin '15**, and **Timothy Dentino '15**.

**Emma Richardson '15** writes: "On January 22, 2017, **Anna Ludlow '15** and I had the privilege of marching alongside 500,000 men and women through the streets of Washington D.C. for equal rights. The experience of being part of a global movement was incredibly humbling. Following my return to the College of William and Mary and Anna's to George Washington University, both of us couldn't wait to share our adventure with our peers and the GSA community."

**Charcy Ye '15** started a non-profit organization last year called "Thinking Through Dancing" to promote the importance of dance education in communities around the world. She and her team design an interdisciplinary curriculum for students to learn to create dance by using their knowledge of art, history, literature, math, movies, and more. In addition to dance and choreography, students learn to think creatively and critically and to collaborate with others. Charcy is excited to offer her program to middle-school and high-school students in Blue Hill this August. A short video clip from the workshop last summer can be viewed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FPZdwibjBfo>. For more information, contact Charcy at [cj975@nyu.edu](mailto:cj975@nyu.edu).





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*"Scenes from The Arabian Nights," see p 4.*

