

GSA *Matters*

Summer 2019

News for the families and friends of George Stevens Academy



*Congratulations, graduates! Read about commencement on page 4.
Find out about teachers retiring, Maine in the eyes of our students, your record
support on Giving Day, arts, athletics, and more!*

From the Head of School



To some, schools appear to be unchanging institutions, but they are marked by continual growth and renewal, much as is life itself.

Each year, a new class arrives, and we guide them through normal adolescent, social, and educational transitions so that after four years, they leave as young adults ready for the next part of their lives. The journey of the Class of 2019 at GSA came to an end just a few short weeks ago.

New faculty and staff members also join us every year, and others move on to new jobs or bring their careers to a close. Among those moving on this year are four retirees: science teachers Carol Bennatti and Sue Jellison, social studies teacher Bill Case, and college and career counselor Katy Rinehart.

In their time here, our students, faculty, and staff leave their marks on GSA with their presence, passion, and achievements. It is a joy to watch and be a part of the gradual evolution of our town academy.

We wish the best for the Class of 2019 and our departing colleagues. And we eagerly await the arrival of the Class of 2023 and new staff members, all of whom will help GSA to flourish.

Thank you, as always, for your support of our town academy.

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.

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Matters is a publication of the Development Office.

Mark Messer, Editing and Design
Director of Communications
m.messer@georgestevens.org

Rada Starkey
Director of Development
r.starkey@georgestevens.org

Jennifer Traub
Director of Annual Giving
j.traub@georgestevens.org

Maggie Garfield '77
Development & Communications Associate
m.s.garfield@georgestevens.org

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Head of School, Blue Hill

Congratulations, Class of 2019!

Seventy-four members of the Class of 2019 graduated on the front lawn under sunny skies on June 9 while hundreds of friends and family looked on.

The GSA Band played the school song as faculty took their seats, then switched to Elgar's "Pomp and Circumstance" to signal Class Marshal Alex Fu to lead the Class of 2019 to the bleachers in front of the Academy Building.

After welcoming the guests, Head of School Tim Seeley recognized members of the Class of 1969, who had held their 50th reunion in South Blue Hill the day before.

Laura Liu, first honor essayist, who moved here from Shanghai, gave a witty welcome address that touched on her first experience of the cold winters and the warm people here. "When I thought winter was over and sensed the arrival of spring, it was winter again," she said.

Salutatorian Daniel Li spoke about Edward T. Hall's research on how much space we like to keep between ourselves and others, say, 2.5 feet or so. He said that at GSA, he was 132 million feet away from his parents, but "thanks to the advancement in technologies," his parents still can tell him what to do, but he appreciates that now.

Valedictorian Hattie Slayton compared the graduating class to the dandelion and its "fluffy clouds of seeds ready to be blown and scattered from our familiar stem and roots and challenged to make our own." She invited the audience to join her in making wishes for the class, then

she blew on a dandelion to make the wishes come true.

The commencement address, given by Elisabeth de Sévigné, chair of the Math Department, touched on how her struggles as a young student led to her strong work ethic, which she said is crucial to success in any field.

Bess MacArthur, Mallory Charette, and Yulia Heggstad announced the class gift to the school, a serviceberry bush near the Academy House and a pair of star magnolias in the courtyard where students often eat lunch.

As Dean of Curriculum and Instruction David Stearns talked about each student's postgraduation plans, the members of the Class of 2019 received their diplomas from Tim Seeley and Board Chair Samantha Politte, with many of the presentations made also in Chinese, Korean, and Spanish.

Katie Forrest, second honor essayist, then gave farewell remarks about what makes Maine unique. "People say you can't get there from here, but what we have gotten from here, we can take with us anywhere," she said.

Tim Seeley then presented the GSA Class of 2019, and just like that, they went from being students to alumni. Come back and visit us!

To see a photo gallery from commencement and links to the four honor essays and the commencement address, visit the Students in the News section of the GSA website: www.georgestevensacademy.org/Commencement2019.



Head of School Tim Seeley addresses the audience at commencement.



Members of the Class of '69, shown at their reunion, were recognized at commencement. Photo from Sylvia Tapley



Math Department Chair Elisabeth de Sévigné gives her commencement address.



From left, First Honor Essayist Laura Liu, Salutatorian Daniel Li, Valedictorian Hattie Slayton, and Second Honor Essayist Katie Forrest



The audience and Class of 2019 listen to Tim Seeley introduce an honor speaker.



Peter Leonard of the Blue Hill Garden Club helps plant the class gift during Arts Fest.



Bess MacArthur, Mallory Charette, and Yulia Heggstad present the class gift.



Kacie Bond



Cooper Black



Tess Williamson



Ben Parker decorated his cap in memory of Big Grampa.



MacKenzie Tapley and April Gross after the ceremony



Chef Lusheng Li relaxes with Evan Song, Cody Yang, and Eric Cai after graduation.

Where Are They Headed?

Our graduates' interests and aspirations are as diverse as they are. Most will continue their educations (see the list below), some will take a gap year to work or travel, and many will join the workforce or start their own businesses in fields as varied as blacksmithing, construction, the fisheries, and veterinary medicine. Graduates, we wish you the best whatever path you chose and wherever it takes you. Stay in touch!

Anna Maria College, Paxton, Mass.
Bowdoin College, Brunswick, Maine
Brandeis University, Waltham, Mass.
California State Univ. Maritime Academy, Vallejo
Clark University, Worcester, Mass.
Clarkson University, Potsdam, N.Y.
The Culinary Institute of America, Hyde Park, N.Y.
Curry College, Milton, Mass.
Eastern Maine Community College, Bangor (7)
Emory University, Atlanta, Ga. (2)
Fordham University, Bronx, N.Y.
Hawaii Pacific University, Honolulu
Husson University, Bangor, Maine (2)
Lewis & Clark College, Portland, Ore.
Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, Calif. (2)
Maine Maritime Academy, Castine (3)
Miami University, Oxford, Ohio
Michigan State University, East Lansing
Mount Holyoke College, South Hadley, Mass.
New England Center for Circus Arts, Brattleboro, Vt.

New York University, New York
Savannah College of Art and Design, Savannah, Ga.
Simmons University, Boston, Mass.
Trinity College, Hartford, Conn. (2)
Universidad Iberoamericana, Santo Domingo, D.R.
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of Maine, Orono (8)
University of Maine at Augusta
University of Maine at Presque Isle
University of New Hampshire, Durham
University of Ottawa, Ontario
University of Southern Maine, Portland (5)
University of Vermont, Burlington
University of Washington, Seattle
Virginia Tech, Blacksburg
Wheaton College, Norton, Mass. (2)
Willamette University, Salem, Ore.

If more than one graduate plans to attend an institution, the number is indicated.

Veteran Teachers Retire, Share Advice

Three teachers with 64 years in GSA classrooms recently retired. We'll miss their experience, their wit, and their wisdom. Here are highlights from recent interviews. Read the full interviews at www.georgestevensacademy.org/Retirees.



Science teacher Carol Bennatti spent 34 years at GSA.

Why did you become a teacher? As a wildlife management major, "I'd go to scout groups, schools, nursing homes, and I found I really liked working with high school kids. So, I thought, you know, let's give it a whirl."

How has GSA changed? Having students from other countries has been "a wonderful way to enrich classes," especially for "kids that have never left the state of Maine."

What will you miss? "I'll miss the students, I'll miss my colleagues. I'll miss them all a lot."

What are your post-retirement plans? "I'm so excited to not have homework. I'm so excited to have evenings and weekends free. Fall is going to take on a whole new flavor."

Any advice for students? "Remember your roots, remember you always have family here whether they're blood family or community members. Be kind. Take care of each other."

Science teacher Sue Jellison spent 19 years at GSA.

Is there a moment you remember most? GSA is "one of the most accepting places. When I first came here, I chaperoned a dance, and two guys" came as a couple. "Nobody said a word. Over the years, I've seen a lot of that."

What will you miss? "Bella [her dog] will miss coming to see all her friends. I will miss the kids and my colleagues."

What are your post-retirement plans? "I have a little shop and built a screen door from scratch with old pieces of wood,

and [daughter] Heather and I built a screened-in porch, and I just want to go out there and read, work in the garden."

Any advice for students? "Listen to your gut and be true to what it tells you. If it's not right, and you fall on your face, pick yourself up, figure out how to fix it, and move on. And if you make a mistake, admit it. Apologize and then move on."

Social studies teacher Bill Case spent 11 years at GSA.

Why did you become a teacher? "I had a master's degree in public administration and I did not like government work. I also had a compelling drive to be a coach. Beyond that, I always had enjoyed working with high school kids at summer camps. And I had an unhappy high school experience and I felt that I could make the high school days better for someone."

Is there a moment you remember most? "In my third year at GSA, the school placed all brand new desks in my classroom." "When I was absent one day, Mrs. O, our assistant head of school, and a group of students replaced my new desks with old brown ones. I did not notice the change until mid-afternoon."

What will you miss? "I will miss walking to work and enjoying the sunlight bouncing off the harbor onto my face. This is the time I think about all our students from past graduations."

Any advice for students? "Participate in life. Promote excellence, decency, democracy, fairness, and tolerance in all you do. Always try to be more tomorrow than today."

College and Career Counselor Katy Rinehart Retires

What are your post-retirement plans? "I hope to spend as much time as I can doing the things I love outdoors. We also have children and grandchildren ... we hope to see much more often."

What will you miss? "I will miss the wonderful colleagues I have met at GSA and the smart, generous, thoughtful, and creative students I have worked with. They were the reasons I looked forward to starting each new school year."

Any advice for students? "GSA is full of interesting people, students and teachers alike, who are different from you and have so much to teach you. Stay open to the possibilities they represent; you have the ability to make the life you want."

Student Essays Reveal 'Their Maine'

At GSA, one in four courses draws substantially from our area's unique cultural, historic, and natural resources, making them more relevant and meaningful to our students and strengthening ties with our communities.

One department with a long history of success connecting students to the people and places around them is the English Department. For more than 10 years, students in Michael Kazmierczak's Maine Writers course have crafted My Maine essays, Down East Magazine-style true stories. Here is a taste of Maine from personal essays written by six students that remind us of our traditions and that we aren't afraid to work hard and lend a hand.

We start with twin lobster tales.

Finn Russet '19 and his brother "were just two young kids fishing out on a skiff, with only a recreational license" when they had trouble with their Yamaha 25.

"My brother cut the engine, or so I thought," wrote Finn. "Expecting to see a face eager to point something out to me in the water, I turned around to see him puzzled." The skiff wouldn't start up.

Finn wrote, "I started to think about the cover of a book, the two boys lost at sea." But "in the middle of my daydream about how one day I might be famous, my brother shoved a paddle in my hand" so the two could row toward shore and be rescued by "real lobster fishermen." "At this point," Finn wrote, "I would have much rather gotten lost at sea than lose my dignity. Maybe I could grab a life jacket and jump overboard? Like Huck Finn, I'd fake my own death and move to an island."

But then "a real lobster boat approached. 'Got some engine trouble, huh?' said a gruff voice." The fisherman "reached into our boat with a wrench and tightened our battery terminals. 'Try 'er now.' Sure enough, the Yamaha 25 let out a purr. A scoff escaped from somewhere in an unkempt gray beard."

And as "we were skipping over the same water, ... a cloud formed in the bluebird sky right over our boat. It was not full of rain, but embarrassment and shame."

For **Jaiden Dennison '20**, lobstering with her uncle was a source of pride, though one day started off slow.

"Our first string of four traps, we only had five lobster," she wrote. "I could hear my uncle swearing under his breath." But after a few more disappointing strings, "I looked up and saw the sun had risen just above the islands, and I could see it perfectly round in the sky, making everything look like it was on fire."

With the sun, the action on the water started to heat up. "We hauled about forty more traps with hundreds and hundreds of lobsters in them," and then "after another fifty traps, I noticed that our tank was full and I couldn't

fit anymore lobsters." Jaiden and her uncle put them in barrels, even borrowing a barrel from another boat nearby, and the exhausting pace continued.

After returning to the dock, "we had over 1,000 pounds of lobster, which was our biggest day ever."

The ocean helped **Mabel Fitzpatrick '20** feel like she belonged.

Mabel was not very happy when her family moved to Maine. "How could my mom have moved us to the smallest town in the world with nothing but run-down old buildings and snow?" she wrote.

But after her sisters discovered their house was close to the ocean, she joined them for a walk. "As we were walking down the road, Grace and Hattie turned into a graveyard. 'Where are we going?' I asked. 'To the ocean,'" they answered. "As I got closer, I noticed there was no ocean. 'It's gone,' Hattie said. We were all thrown for a loop. How could the ocean just disappear?"

Later that night, long after their mother had reminded them about tides, Mabel couldn't stop thinking about the ocean, the only thing she had been looking forward to in Maine, so she walked down to the shore. "As I shined my dim light over the ocean," she wrote, "I realized it looked different than I had imagined it would. There was no creamy white sand scattered with shells, no inviting waters. It had hard, rocky shores and an inky expanse of bitterly cold ocean."

"Suddenly, I found myself mesmerized, and in that moment, a new understanding washed over me. The things that I hated about this place were the same things that made you love this place. ... And the ocean? It's the opposite of the rolling, picture-perfect ocean you see in movies This ocean crashes and pounds against the rocky coastline. It is cold and relentless and kind of terrifying, but also strangely beautiful. ... As I shivered under that black, starless sky and looked out over that restless ocean, my fears and frustrations simply fell away. I was home."



Jumping off the bridge into the Bagaduce River is a tradition in Hope Osborn's family and for others. Depending on the tides, the volume and turbidity of water flowing under the bridge can vary dramatically and be dangerous, so we do not recommend trying this yourself.

Hope Osborn '20 was literally moved by the waters as a child. She wrote of a family tradition of jumping off a bridge into the Bagaduce River.

"I know it sounds crazy, but believe me, it's so much fun," Hope wrote. "We would all pile into cars with our bathing suits on and go to the town landing by the bridge. When we were all there, we would jump out, grab our life jackets, and head to the edge of the bridge. My first time ever jumping, I was about five or six years old, and I was traumatized. I was always told that you have to wear your life jacket or the undertow will 'grab you and take you.' Being told that at a young age is kind of scary ... After the first jump, your body is filled with adrenaline, and you just want to keep going and going. I have the family record of jumping eight times in one day."

*Our students know not just the waters of Maine, but also the woods. **Mara Pickering '20** wrote about the family's hunting camp, which they've been visiting for four generations.*

It has "no electricity and no running water, only gas lamps that hang from two wooden beams," and to get there, it is a "roughly ten-minute walk" along a "leaf-carpeted path" under "trees that disappear into the sky." It's a humble camp, "no bigger than one's kitchen, ... with four sets of bunks, one in each corner, with an ancient black woodstove in the center."

"Waking up early is crucial for hunting," Mara wrote, "but it's hard to fall asleep when dad, his dad, his brother, and his buddy from work snore so loud it could wake the dead. ... When the inevitable urge to use the bathroom hits mid-slumber, you must walk outside to the outhouse, but bearing the cold, you glance up and notice luminous petals of silver that freckle the [night] sky. There is no need for alarm clocks ... With the sound of sizzling bacon on the cast iron ... and the sweet aroma of coffee, the day has officially started."

*Winter evokes strong memories. In her essay, **Bess MacArthur '19** revealed the joy to be found in a Maine winter, which she said can "go one of*

two ways: cold and crazy, or colder and crazier."

In Castine, Bess wrote, everyone aged four to sixty goes sledding at the Castine Golf Course when the conditions are perfect: "Usually there is a snowfall that sets and turns to an icy base, then a solid, sticky layer in the middle ... and finally, a soft, fluffy layer for when you inevitably eat it in the middle of a wicked fast" run.

She recounted the "great toboggan race" in which five teams of five competed for glory. "Once the trash talking ceased, the teams lined up next to their toboggans, and we waited for the judges to tell us to go. 'Ready! Set! Go!' and we were off. ... We were running with all we had and then once we jumped onto the toboggan, we were absolutely flying."

"The packed snow and our ducked heads increased our speed ... and the other teams were left in the snow dust. ... We made it down the hill, through the finish line, with a solid five seconds between us and the second place team. ... And boy did the powder layer that remained at the bottom come in handy when it was time for us to ... bail off the sled."

*In his wintry My Maine essay, **Gage Astbury '20** wrote that the challenge wasn't going downhill fast, but getting uphill at all.*

Gage prepared well for the night, he wrote, wearing "two pairs of underwear, long johns, pajamas, a heavy pair of jeans, two pairs of socks, an undershirt, T-shirt, a sweatshirt, a jacket, and a hat. I felt like a marshmallow, I could barely move my arms. ... At least I wasn't cold."

"The first few driveways were a breeze," but as the snow got worse, the work got harder. They came to a long, twisting, steep driveway, and "Dad starts by pushing a little snow back at the bottom of the hill" where it had been left by the road crews. "He tried to get a running start to push the snow up the winding road and got about halfway up and then his tires started to spin. He tried again, but the same result happened, just a little higher up the hill. We did that over and over again until we got up the hill."

Giving Day Generates Record Support!

A record number of alumni, students, family, friends, and staff showed their support for GSA by donating \$26,588 for our sixth annual Giving Day, June 4. An anonymous supporter contributed a \$10,000 challenge gift after we exceeded our ambitious goal of 300 donations. These gifts go directly to The GSA Fund, which supports the daily operation of the school. Thank you to everyone who donated and helped get the word out about this energizing annual event that generates both much needed financial support and enthusiasm for the school!



Early donors Kaz, Mark Hurvitt, and Tim Seeley



These Eagles' kids each donated!



Planet Pan got us dancing in the afternoon.

Tournament Honors Andy Collier '98



John Bakeman II '20 driving the ball.



Nick Malinowski '98, Zach Davies '00, Peter Collier '00, and Tim Tunney



The head of school keeps his head down.

Forty golfers hit the links in the Andy Collier '98 Memorial Golf Tournament at the Castine Golf Club on June 2.

The tournament "honored our loving memory of Andy Collier, whom we lost too soon," said Peter Collier '00, Andy's brother. "Andy was a special person, an avid golfer and a key contributor to the Eagles' first-ever Penobscot Valley Conference golf championship in 1998."

Peter Collier, Erik Fitch '99, Amanda Ashe Look '00, Toby Cole '00, and Simeon Allen '01 make up the tournament board that organized the event.

The tournament "raised fun," said Fitch, with numerous prizes donated by local sponsors given out at each hole, including one for "closest to the flamingo" and another at a

marshmallow-driving competition.

The goal of the event was to involve former student athletes and others in generating financial support for George Stevens Academy's athletics programs through the GSA Sports Alumni Fund recently established by Fitch and Collier. The board plans to make this an annual tournament and to create other events to support the fund.

Overall tournament winners were Peter Collier, Nick Malinowski '98, Zach Davies '00, and Tim Tunney.

Thank you to the organizers, volunteers, and everyone who took part in the first event of what we hope is a long and successful series of "fun raisers" to bring alumni together and support our Eagles!

Alumni gathered for hors d'oeuvres and conversation at The Farmhouse Inn May 30. Be sure you hear about GSA alumni events like these by updating your contact info at www.georgestevensacademy.org/alumniprofile.



Class Notes



The Power of Love, a memoir by **Suzanne Woodward Fenders '64**, explores the life of a military family with a VACTERL Association child. She wrote it to inspire families who struggle with a child's unusual health issues. The book records how son Nathan handled this life and how the family responded to his health needs, as well as stories of growing up in Blue Hill and the travels of a military family. It is available locally at Blue Hill Books, Sleighbell Shop, and Elizabeth's, and on Amazon and Kindle.

Richard Leach '79 has started Your Extra Hand, a delivery, shopping, and errands service in the Ellsworth area. Services include food deliveries, grocery shopping, and dropping items off at places like Goodwill. He hopes to expand down the road.

Sally Mills '85 and Erin McCormick '00

performed in New Surry Theatre's staged reading of *God of Carnage*, Yasmina Reza's Tony and Olivier Award-winning play about two sets of parents trying "to resolve a playground fight between their 11-year-



old sons without getting into a feud themselves!" The reading was a hit, and there are plans for a full performance in 2020.

Molly Wanning Cooper '92

and family live in San Francisco. "Our daughter, Dinah, 11, attends an arts-focused charter school and is wild about crafts." Molly works in an "experience design" role for mortgage software company Roostify. She also has done pro bono logo projects for local nonprofits. "I recently had a lovely visit from Karen McHugh '92 and her husband, James, from Atlanta; ... I'd love to see some old GSA friends in July when my husband, daughter, and I will be in town."



Mary Katherine O'Brien '98, who works at the Center for Animal Health and Food Safety at the University of Minnesota, ran into teacher Nancy Buckingham in Blue Hill in April. "My team has spent the last 3 years [working with] veterinary service professionals who monitor animal health for food production and access to international trade markets in South America. There is no way I could make it through daily life and work travel without the language skills I began learning at GSA. Special thanks to Señora for being such an innovative and fun teacher—it was so great to see her!"



Erika Smith Machtinger '01, assistant professor of veterinary entomology at Penn State, has set up her lab (www.machtingerlab.com) to understand host-parasite relationships to develop better control methods. "The Washington Post reached out to me about a newer project, understanding ... mange cases in American black bears."

Cait Robinson '05 is directing *The Clean House* by Sarah Ruhl at Portland Stage. The show runs from September 24 to October 13.



MinPyo Kim '08 graduated from Seoul National University in February with a Master of Arts in Economics. MinPyo, one of GSA's first boarding students, earned a bachelor's degree in business administration at The George Washington University School of Business before returning to South Korea for graduate study. He is pictured with his then-fiancee, now wife, Joo Eun An.



Kelly Cutler '09 lives in Manhattan. She has taught Krav Maga, "the close-quarters combat system of the Israeli defense forces," in New York and around New England, including at GSA's Arts Fest last year. She also has been training in Brazilian Jiu Jitsu and competing in tournaments. "I'm eager to expand my abilities, my knowledge, and my community, so please do reach out if you'd like to connect! Instagram: @kravmachine"



Sam Eley '11 has been "living in Lusaka, the capital city of Zambia, working for the organization Healthy Kids/Brighter Future ... to help over 80,000 students in the lowest-income parts of the city access primary health services." Sam recently returned to the U.S. to attend Harvard Medical School and become a doctor, a dream he first had as a junior at GSA.



Charcy Ye '15 graduated from New York University with a bachelor's degree in mathematics. After graduation, she took a road trip on the West Coast. In June, she participated in a yoga-meditation camp in India. In September, she will start a job at the Shanghai office of AlphaSight.



Maddie Heilner '13 graduated from Clark University in May with an MBA and was inducted into Beta Gamma Sigma, an international honors society for business students. "I plan to pursue a career in human resources, with the goal of completing my Professional in Human Resources certificate within the next two years."



Grace Hylan '16 spent the spring semester abroad with NOLS India, a backpacking adventure and cultural immersion program in the Indian Himalaya. In March, the group celebrated the Holi Festival of Colors, an ancient Hindu tradition heralding the arrival of spring and signifying the triumph of good over evil.

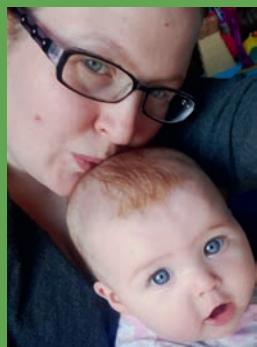
Former GSA Development intern **Megan Malaby '13** is a board relations officer at Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, which "offers world-class care to patients from around the globe." Megan connects with board members, patients, families, and friends to grow their engagement and philanthropy. "I am endlessly grateful for the lessons I learned in my time as a student at GSA and an intern in the office of development."

Griffin Shute '16 will travel abroad this fall to study acting at the Moscow Art Theater, a program offered through the National Theater Institute.

Jackson Billings '17 attends Trine University, where he studies sports management, hoping to work in pro sports. This summer, he will work for the Fort



Wayne Tincaps, an affiliate of the San Diego Padres. He plays trumpet in the Trine jazz band, where he met the football team's varsity kicker, who encouraged him to join the team, which went undefeated on the way to its second MIAA championship in a row. "I honestly feel like I've found another family on this team."



Congratulations to **Jodi Murphy '14** and her fiancé, Dakota, on the birth of their daughter, Elliana, who was 5 months old in this photo taken in May.

Finn Davis-Batt '15 visited GSA in April to recruit participants in a Bowdoin College class project researching temperament in early adolescents. The class is reworking a previously developed questionnaire. "Our task [was] to redefine constructs (such as shyness, irritability, etc.) and rewrite questions to accurately assess them."

Steven Wang '18, Oscar Sun '18, and Berlioz Xu '18 visited GSA this spring and updated us on their studies. Oscar is studying economics at Ohio State University in Columbus. Steven is at Loyola University Chicago majoring in international business. Berlioz is



studying math and computer science at Penn State, where he participated on the Debate Team and qualified for a national competition.

Alumni, let's stay in touch! Visit www.georgestevensacademy.org/alumniprofile to update your contact information and to share your news so we can pass it along in these pages.

State of the Arts

An important part of GSA's mission is to inspire creativity, but our students are not only inspired, they inspire us.

The arts encourage us to look inward and outward, to honor tradition and to be daring, to find our place in a richer world.

Congratulations to our visual and performing artists for being part of GSA's long tradition of arts excellence and for enriching our community.

Arts Fest Tradition Continues

As we approach the end of the semester, Arts Fest is an opportunity to take a break from classes, celebrate spring, and experience a wide variety of fun and educational workshops. Some are traditional visual and performing arts workshops, for example, Collaged Greeting Cards, Songwriting, and Acting for the Theatre. Some get our students up and moving, like Yoga and Ultimate Frisbee. Some teach life skills, such as Basics of Sauce Making and Hand Sewing a Basic Pouch. Workshops like Collect Beach Debris and Canoe Trip to Wight's Pond get our students out into the community, whether to clean up the environment or further develop their love of these beautiful, wild places.

This year, nearly 80 workshops were taught or led by members of the staff and faculty, students, alumni, and experts from the community. To see more photos from Arts Fest, visit www.georgestevensacademy.org/ArtsFest.



Eric Gallant teaches students to make their own leather journals.



Students fence in Erin McCormick's Art of Medieval Warfare.



Preparations for Lawn Forest are underway!



Lannea Zentz '22 enjoys Painting with Bob Ross (Bill Case!)



Exhibit Showcases Student Art

Scores of artworks from our visual arts classes and Arts Fest workshops were on display for the annual Student Art Show May 22.

Left, Isaac Wardwell '19 is joined by his mother and brother in front of his creative display. Right, "Sea Turtle" by Grace Broughton '21.

To see more photos from the show, visit www.georgestevensacademy.org/StudentArtShow.



Cleveland '13 Wins Arts Grant

The first-ever Hylan Family Alumni Fund for the Performing Arts award was given to Drew Cleveland '13 in early June. The fund supports GSA alumni who are performance majors and have chosen to study theater, dance, or musical performance.

Drew will play Claudio in Brown Box Theatre Project's production of Shakespeare's *Measure for Measure* in several venues in the Northeast this summer. The \$1,000 award will help pay his expenses. For more about the Hylan award, visit www.georgestevensacademy.org/HylanFund.



Planet Pan plays at our Spring Concerts.

Spring Concerts Draw Crowd

The rain couldn't stop more than 200 friends, family, and community members from turning out for George Stevens Academy's annual public Spring Concerts on May 14.

The period 6 pan class kicked things off in the cafeteria under the direction of Fiona Schubeck, then Planet Pan took over without dropping a beat. The rhythms were irresistible to dozens who got up to dance.

Later that evening, the GSA Band, the Jazz Band, and the jazz combo Jam Bake put on a show in the gym. During that show, Steve Orlofsky thanked Deb Kingston for heading up the crew of parents and other volunteers who made it possible for GSA to host the district jazz festival in February. Looks like we're slated to host again next year!

Sharing our tradition of music excellence through these concerts is just one way GSA enriches the larger community.



The GSA Band performs.



Jam Bake at the state festival. Photo by Port City Photography

Jazz Ensembles Hit High Note at State Festival

The GSA jazz combo Jam Bake, who came in third at the Berklee festival earlier in the year, earned a Gold Medal 1 rating from the judges with a score of 96 points.

The GSA Jazz Band and the jazz combo Up Too Early earned Silver Medal 1 ratings for their sets.

Jazz combos Octessence and Out Too Late earned Honorable Mentions for their performances.

Individual awards were given to Dawsen Astbury '20, Courtney Bianco '19, Amara Birdsall '21, Emma Brown '21, Edward Conte '19, Morgan Davis '22, Gabe Hall '22, Erika Hipsky '20, Duncan Howell '20, Ian Howell '20, Adam Mathewson '21, Joseph Mitchell '20, River Muise '22, Zeke Sacaridiz '21, Hunter Sargent '20, Quinn Stabler '20, LeeAnn Varnum '19, Elana Williamson '19, and Tess Williamson '19.

To read more about GSA jazz at states, visit www.georgestevensacademy.org/artsinthenews.

Want to hear the GSA Jazz Band live? Come to the Blue Hill Fair on Saturday, Aug. 31, at noon. We hope to see you there!

Jam Bake Featured on Maine Public

The GSA jazz combo Jam Bake was featured on Jazz Tonight with Rich Tozier on Maine Public Radio on May 10!

If you haven't heard Jam Bake in person, you can hear them live at the Deer Isle Jazz Festival at the Stonington Opera House on Friday, Aug. 2, at 7 P.M. Thank you, Jam Bake, for representing arts excellence at GSA so well in the community!

Spring Sports Highlights

GSA's athletics programs help our students improve their physical and mental fitness, and have fun, but they also unite our communities in support of our teams and our school.

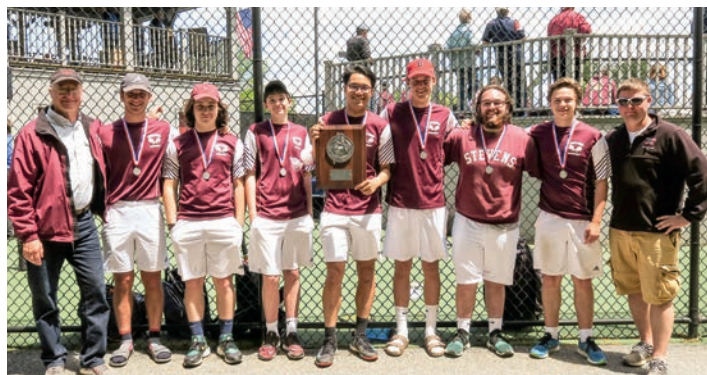
Many thanks to the families, fans, coaches, and community members who cheer on our students as they strive for excellence in athletics and in life.

Congratulations to our Eagles for their hard work and achievements on the courts, tracks, harbors, and fields!

Tennis



The Northern Maine Class C runners-up



The Northern Maine Class C runners-up

Our girls' tennis team finished the season in second place with a 10-2 record, advancing to the Class C North finals.

PVC First Team: Julianna Allen '19, singles

PVC Second Team: Courtney Bianco '19, singles

PVC Third Team: Chloe Politte '20, singles

GSA All Academic*: Julianna Allen, Hattie Slayton

Our boys' tennis team finished the season in third place with a 9-3 record, advancing to the Class C North finals.

PVC Class C Player of the Year: Kent Fang '19, singles

PVC Second Team: Chris Bennett '19 and Lars Hooper '20, doubles

Honorable Mention: Quinn Stabler '20

GSA All Academic*: Chris Bennett, Kent Fang

Visit www.georgestevensacademy.org/Tennis to see photos from the season.

Sailing



The sailing team



Ryan Mitchell '21 and Clementine Bannon '22 at the home regatta.

Racing against teams from four states, our sailors faced the most competitive field of any sport. They fared well in the home Downeast Regatta, hosted with MMA. Thank you to everyone who helped make that event, with 130 sailors on 19 teams, go smoothly.

Katie Forrest '19 received the Butch Minson award for outstanding sportsmanship at the Downeast Regatta.

Visit www.georgestevensacademy.org/Sailing to see photos from the season.

**seniors with an unweighted GPA of 90 or higher throughout high school*

Baseball and Softball



The baseball team



The softball team

Our baseball team finished the regular season in first place with a record of 15-1, advancing to the Class C North semifinals.

PVC Class C Player of the Year: Austin Snow '20

PVC First Team: Caden Mattson '20, outfielder; Ben Parker '19, catcher; Garrett Parker '21, pitcher

PVC Second Team: Tanner Ashley '19, third base; Owen Vinall '20, second base

PVC Coach of the Year: Dan Kane

Visit www.georgestevensacademy.org/Baseball to see photos from the season.

Though our softball team finished the season with a record of 1-15, they "showed continued progress," said Athletic Director Larry Gray. The team's offensive output grew by 60% in the second half of the season, and their opponents' offensive output decreased by 20%.

GSA All Academic*: Mallory Charette, Heather Munroe

Visit www.georgestevensacademy.org/Softball to see photos from the season.

Outdoor Track



The outdoor track team

Our girls' outdoor track team finished fourth in the Class C PVCs.

PVC First Team: LeeAnn Varnum '19 Shot Put

PVC Second Team: Grace Broughton '21, 300M Hurdles

State Champion in Shot Put: LeeAnn Varnum '19

GSA All Academic*: Susanna Jakub, Riley LaMarre, Naaki Lehto, Ivy Manner-Wheelden, Oshi Ragot, LeeAnn Varnum, Tess Williamson

Our boys' indoor track team finished sixth in the PVCs.

PVC Second Team: Ian Howell '20, 1600M Race Walk; Ian Renwick '21, Long Jump

GSA All Academic*: Daniel Li, Jeremiah Scheff

Visit www.georgestevensacademy.org/OutdoorTrack to see photos from the season.

LET'S GO
EAGLES!



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Our Eagles are ready to soar. Find out where they're headed on p. 5.