



Graduation 2015

Matters

News for the Families & Friends of George Stevens Academy



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Matters is a publication of the offices of
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On the cover: Excitement builds
among members of the Class of 2015.
Photo by Jennifer Traub.

from the HEAD of SCHOOL

Timothy J. Seeley became Head of School on July 1st and has spent much of the summer becoming acquainted with the school and the community. Tim was appointed following an extensive search process last fall. He is a graduate of Dartmouth College and has Masters degrees from Harvard in both Theological Studies and Education. He has taught at The Lawrenceville School, served as Assistant Headmaster and then Headmaster of North Cross School, and most recently was Director of Summer Programs at Portsmouth Abbey School.



My wife Jill and I (and our dog Pinto) arrived on the peninsula two weeks ago, feeling a deep sense of good fortune and excitement: good fortune to be moving to such a beautiful and historic place, and excitement to begin our affiliation with George Stevens Academy. GSA embodies an ideal I have sought my entire career: a school with the flexibility and creativity of a private school, but one that serves as the public school for everyone in its community. In a word, I longed for a private school with a public purpose. I believe a town academy is better suited than other schools to serve its students and families well, because it has the freedom to structure its curriculum and programs to exactly fit what its students need, while remaining a community-based school. George Stevens has the added benefit of an international boarding program, which provides the opportunity for all its students to get to know peers from other countries, and for the life of the peninsula to be enriched by young people from around the world. Combine all these factors with the excellent faculty and staff who work here, and to my mind George Stevens is the perfect school. I could not be feeling more fortunate than I do to be its Head.

We are eager to get to know this area and the people who live here, and I look forward to working with the entire GSA community of students, their parents and grandparents, faculty, alumni, and the residents of every sending town (both year-round and summer) to enhance, develop and enrich GSA's already strong and varied program. Let's create together the most exceptional school possible, one renowned near and far as the finest place possible to go to high school.

It's great to be here.

Timothy J. Seeley

Timothy J. Seeley

Graduation 2015!

Sunday, June 14th was a lovely, sunny day as 81 excited students in traditional caps and gowns—white for girls, maroon for boys—processed to the familiar strains of Elgar’s *Pomp and Circumstance*, played by the GSA Band under the direction of **Mr. O**. Proud parents, siblings, grandparents, and friends, along with GSA faculty and trustees, took up every seat on the front lawn, and overflow spectators stood at the edges of the front campus under shade trees.

Head of School **Paul Perkinson** greeted the Class of 2015 and Board President **Marion Morris** welcomed members of the Class of 1965. Marion then took a moment to thank Paul Perkinson on behalf of the Board of Trustees for his service to GSA during the past four years, and to wish him well as he departs GSA. In response, the audience gave a long standing ovation reflecting their respect and affection for the outgoing Head of School.

Three graduating students spoke: First Honor Essayist **Anna Ludlow**, followed by Salutatorian **Alice Dillon** and Valedictorian **Claire Ciampa**. Paul Perkinson then introduced the Commencement Speaker, Blue Hill native and GSA alumna **Julie Jo Fehrle** ’85.

Dean of Students **Libby Rosemeier** ’77 announced local scholarship and book awards made to more than 40 graduates. Paul Perkinson then announced

the 2015 Headmaster’s Award, a double recognition: to long-time Athletics Director **Jim Murphy**, who retired at the end of the year after a 40 year career, and to former trustee **Dan McGraw**. Both men, Paul noted, have contributed inestimably to making GSA a stronger, enduring school.

Members of the Senior Class Gift Committee then rose and made a formal presentation of the class gift to the school: In the words of Committee Co-Leader **Katama Murray**, “a trio of benches surrounding a natural boulder, placed in front of the Butler Building.” One of the polished benches bears an inscription honoring retiring faculty: art teacher **Katie Greene**, industrial arts teacher **Tim Farrar**, athletic director Jim Murphy, as well as Paul Perkinson, **Buzz Moore**, and others.

Board President Marion Morris then distributed diplomas, assisted by Paul Perkinson, Buzz Moore, and **Gail Strehan**.

Second Honor Essayist **Adrian Van der Eb** bid farewell to the class and Paul Perkinson officially presented the newly-minted Class of 2015. As the band struck up recessional selections, beaming graduates filed off the risers into the waiting arms of doting family and friends.

(For more on the day’s speakers, see the following two pages.)



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Valedictorian **Claire Joan Ciampa**
daughter of Caroline and David Ciampa, Brooksville
Rice University - Humanities

“French novelist Anatole France said that ‘All changes, even the most longed for, have their melancholy; for what we leave behind us is a part of ourselves; we must die to one life before we can enter another.’ I think it’s true that we’re leaving something of ourselves behind as we graduate. But we should also remember that we enter the next part of our lives with the things we’ve gained, and I hope that we will welcome the changes in our lives, confident that no matter how difficult they may sometimes be, they will help us grow and become stronger.”

Salutatorian **Alice Genevieve Dillon**
daughter of Kathryn and Andrew Dillon, Blue Hill
Boston College - Undecided

“In order to throw ourselves into the unknown, we need somewhere we can ground ourselves; in a sea of changes and decisions, we need a reliable, steady constant. GSA’s promise of continuity encourages this process and has, like our parents and friends, taught us to look somewhere other than ourselves for support.”

First Honor Essayist **Anna Greenleaf Ludlow**
daughter of Deborah and David Ludlow, Brooksville
George Washington University - International Relations

“I am optimistic for our generation for we are collaborative, socially conscious, and innovative, qualities necessary to meet the demanding challenges of our time. Because of the internet and social media, we are a bigger part of the global community than any generation before us. We have an incredible array of technology at our fingertips, and we know how to use it. Most of all, we care. We want to make the world a better place.”

Second Honor Essayist **Adrian Johanna Van der Eb**
daughter of Joanne and Peter Van der Eb, Brooksville
Bowdoin College - Mathematics

“Having completed our journey through GSA, we will go on to create our own paths guided by the knowledge we have gained about ourselves over the past four years.”



Where Next?

Alfred University
Arizona State University
Babson College
Bard College
Bennington College
Bentley University
Berea College
Boston College
Boston University
Bowdoin College
Brandeis University
Brevard College
Bunker Hill Community College
California College of the Arts
Casper College
Castleton State College
Clark University
Clarkson University
College of Charleston
College of the Atlantic
College of the Holy Cross

College of William and Mary
Colorado College
The Culinary Institute of America
Dalhousie University
DigiPen Institute of Technology
Earlham College
Eastern Maine Community College
Eckerd College
Emerson College
Emory University
Fordham University
George Washington University
Green Mountain College
Hampshire College
Hobart and William Smith Colleges
Husson University
Ithaca College
Juniata College
Kennebec Valley Community College
Lasell University
Lesley University

Lewis & Clark College
Laboratory Institute of Merchandising
Lyndon State College
Maine College of Art
Maine Maritime Academy
Massachusetts College of Art & Design
Miami University, Oxford
Michigan State University
Montserrat College of Art
Muhlenberg College
New College of Florida
New England College
New York University
Newbury College
Northeastern University
Northland College
Norwich College
Occidental College
Pratt Institute
Pennsylvania State University
Plymouth State University

The Commencement Address:

An Alumna's Homegrown Wisdom

“
I'm here to tell you right now:
the journey is the destination!”

Thirty years ago Blue Hill native Julie Jo Fehrle '85 graduated from GSA. In the years since, Julie Jo has realized at least one of her goals: “To have an interesting life!” Julie Jo is an artist and designer and has been recognized and sought after by Barbara Walters, Ellen DeGeneres, Anderson Cooper, and numerous set designers in New York and Hollywood. She studied Art History at the University of Santa Barbara, and lived and worked in Paris for nine years. Since returning to Blue Hill, Julie Jo has designed sets for GSA and the New Surry Theatre. Last year, the 2014 Senior Class Gift Committee commissioned her to make Soaring Eagle, which now hangs proudly in GSA's gymnasium.

Julie Jo spoke to students as one who had sat where they sat now, dispensing wisdom and encouragement and humor. You can read the full text of Julie Jo's address on our website at www.georgestevensacademy.org/JulieJo2015.



Of the 81 seniors who graduated in June, 93% are heading off to college. The rest are entering the workforce or the military. The following colleges and universities accepted one or more GSA students this year.

Prescott College
Rhode Island College
Rice University
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rollins College
Saint Joseph's College
Saint Michael's College
School of the Museum of Fine Arts
Seattle University
Simmons College
Smith College
Southern Maine Community College
Springfield College
St. Lawrence University
Stetson University
Stonehill College
Stony Brook University
Suffolk University
Susquehanna University
Syracuse University
Temple University

The New School - Eugene Lang College
The Ohio State University
Unity College
University at Buffalo, SUNY
University of California, Davis
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, San Diego
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of Denver
University of Edinburgh
University of Iowa
University of Kentucky
University of Maine
University of Maine at Augusta
University of Maine at Farmington
University of Maine at Machias
University of Maine at Presque Isle
University of Massachusetts, Amherst
University of Miami
University of New England

University of New Hampshire
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill
University of Pittsburgh
University of Southern California
University of Southern Maine
University of South Florida, Tampa
University of Vermont
University of Washington
Wake Forest University
Warren Wilson College
Washington County Community College
Wentworth Institute of Technology
West Virginia University
Western New England University
Wheaton College (MA)
William Paterson University of New Jersey



THE EAGLE'S EYE

Eastern Maine Skippers Program

The challenge was: *How can we turn an explosion of green crabs into a financially viable market product?* Teams of Eastern Maine Skippers representing six schools presented their research findings and possible solutions to a panel of judges on May 28 at The Grand in Ellsworth, and GSA's team was awarded first place! The Eastern Maine Skippers Program was created in 2012 by Penobscot East Resource Center and DISHS to teach students how to navigate not only fishing waters but government and industry organizations that regulate fishing. The winning team: **Maddie Dodge '16**, **Joe Maier '15**, and **Caleb Wiesing '15**; other GSA participants were **Patrick Gray '15**, **Sara Pickering '15**, **Mary Connolly '15**, **Sam Allen '16**, **Nick Wells '17**, and **Christian Smit '16**.



Nonprofit Experience

In May, GSA junior **Alex Wang** co-hosted WERU's Wicked Good Music Hour in a show that included GSA's Maine State Jazz Festival Champion J-A double Z Combo, and GSA seniors **Julia Luk** (pictured with Alex) and **Charcy Ye** performing Chinese selections. Alex was a participant in GSA's Nonprofit Experience program doing project-based volunteer work at local radio station WERU.



Lilla Bowden 1904 Memorial Speaker

This year's Lilla Bowden '04 Memorial Speaker Series was an all-school presentation by Dr. Paul Mayewski, Distinguished Professor and Director of the Climate Change Institute at the University of Maine, Orono. Dr. Mayewski, author of *The Ice Chronicles*, spoke about the Institute's work analyzing ice samples to measure historical trends in environmental pollution over many thousands of years. The Speaker Series was established in memory of GSA graduate Lilla Bowden, who died in Blue Hill at age 99 in 1986, and was endowed by Lilla Bowden's daughter, **Dr. Rebecca Bowden Wanbaugh '41** and her late husband, Robert.



The Helen Dunn Award

Senior **Jordon Soper** was the second recipient of a book award given in memory of Helen Wolfe Dunn. Ms. Dunn was an educator and a Holocaust survivor who was a frequent guest in **Bill Case's** Holocaust class. The award was intended to recognize a student in the class who best embodies Helen's intellectual curiosity and passion to improve tolerance and understanding in the community.



SPRING SPORTS AWARDS

Baseball

PVC All-Conference First Team:

1st Baseman - Jacob Keenan '17
3rd Baseman - Garrison Looke '17
Outfield - Beckett Slayton '17
DH - Kelsey Allen '15

Coach of The Year - Dan Kane

PVC All-Conference Second Team:

Catcher - Dakota Chipman '16
Shortstop - Harrison Vinall '15
The team won the 20th Annual Peter Webb Sportsmanship Award given by the Eastern Maine Baseball Umpires Association

Softball

PVC All-Conference First Team:

Shortstop - Katrina Limeburner '16

Tennis

Boys Team – Eastern Maine Class C Champions title for 6th straight year

PVC Tennis All-Conference:

First Team Doubles - Tim Dentino '15 & Matt Stephens '16
Second Team Singles - Tate Yoder '15
Third Team Singles - Nate Boechat '15

Girls Team

PVC Tennis All-Conference:

First Team Singles – Shuxin (Sophia) Chen '15
Girls Honorable Mention Singles - Adrian Van der Eb '15

Outdoor Track

State Champions:

Morgan Dauk '17 - Javelin
John Hassett '17 - 3200m Run

PVC All-Conference First Team:

Morgan Dauk - Javelin
Erik Taylor-Lash '17 - 1600m Race Walk
Alex Taylor-Lash '17 - Pole Vault

Girls Team Coach of the Year – Erich Reed

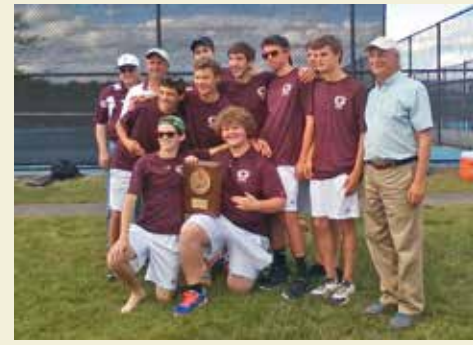
PVC All-Academic Seniors

Boys Tennis: Tate Yoder

Girls Tennis: Adrian Van der Eb, Xin (Clare) Yue, Wanlin (Linda) Zhang

Girls Track: Jennifer Burton, Madison Cole, Alice Dillon, Anna Ludlow, Yixin (Lauren) Ran, Taylor Venema, Chun (Charcy) Ye

Boys Track: Liam Adams, Finn Davis-Batt, Willem Hilliard





Young Alumni Spotlights

TARA TAYLOR '06: Award-Winning Digital Designs



A digital designer at WGBH, Tara Taylor '06 is a member of the team that won an Emmy Award this year in “Outstanding New Approaches—Original Daytime Program or Series” for the PBS show Design Squad.

According to Tara, the show’s mission is “to get middle-schoolers excited about engineering.” Design Squad began as a TV show but in recent years has been run as a web site with video features, games, and rich user-generated content. “Kids can send in ideas [for product designs], and other kids can draw them.”

Tara says it is especially rewarding to receive an Emmy for work in the digital arena. Design Squad has won the Emmy once before and been nominated several times, but this was the first time Tara was part of the project. She served as lead designer and helped to redesign the show’s website.

Tara started at WGBH right out of college five years ago. She studied Graphic Design at University of the Arts in Philadelphia where friends *Ricky Leighton '06* and *Justine Conte '05* were also students. Although the program was traditional, with a focus on print layout, Tara was drawn to digital work and learned coding and animation on her own.



Thinking back to her days as a student at GSA, Tara recalls her favorite art class, Art II, which involved lots of collage. She also loved Math and was on the Math team. As a digital designer, she has been able to combine her math skills and her natural inclination for layout and design.

Although project funding is always a concern, Tara enjoys working at a nonprofit. Some of the “pluses” include accountability for educational content and the ability to work on multiple projects. In fact, Design Squad competed for its Emmy against Plum Landing, another of Tara’s projects. Other WGBH shows Tara has worked on include Curious George, NOVA, and Antiques Roadshow. She specializes in digital media approaches, such as user interface, storyboarding, and user experience.

The best part of Tara’s job is how her co-workers relate to one another. “It’s a super collaborative place,” she says. For example, the executive producers let the team’s project manager attend the award ceremony and deliver the acceptance speech. The project manager, in turn, circulated the Emmy, giving it to each team member for one week. This hands-on sharing of the Emmy was both fun for Tara and “a wonderful acknowledgement of everyone who is part of it.”

To check out Design Squad, go to pbskids.org/designsquad.

In 2013, as a member of the Navigators Christian Fellowship, Boston University student Makaela Reinke '12 helped set up a one-week camp in Croatia for disadvantaged Roma youth. (The Roma, often referred to derogatively as “gypsies,” are a minority culture within Croatia, representing less than .5% of the population.) Returning last summer and again this summer, Makaela continues to build the camp and foster community development for the Roma people.

“Originally the camp focused on teaching English to children aged 6 to 16,” explains Makaela. “As we began working with the children, though, we realized it was incredibly difficult for the campers to think about learning English when their basic needs—food, clothing, warmth, and security—were not met. We have been developing the camp curriculum over the past two years to support and empower the next generation of Roma in Croatia.”

The number of campers has grown five-fold. Typical activities include sports, art, music, hiking and nature exploration, science experiments, skits, and special outings such as a day-long excursion to the Adriatic Coast.



MAKAELA REINKE '12: Building Multicultural Community

In addition to camp administration, Makaela enjoys working directly with the children as a counselor during the camp week. “I’ve found a great passion in empowering their dreams and building relationships with the older campers.” She hopes to reconnect with many of the same girls from last year. “I love seeing how far they have come in life from year to year,” she says. “Many of the girls, now about 16 years old, are approaching the decision of marriage versus secondary education, and I value walking with them in that decision-making process, whatever the outcome may be.”

Makaela hopes to see opportunities increase for the Roma in Croatian society. “Community development, secondary education, and employment would all be positive growth areas.” Last year, a dozen Croatian college students assisted at the camp which will, ideally, help improve relationships between the Croatian and Roma communities.

Makaela feels that GSA prepared her well for doing this sort of multicultural community-building. “I came into college equipped with a global perspective from GSA’s social science department,” she said. GSA’s residential program and spring break trips were valuable additions to Makaela’s high school experience. “The more exposure students have to environments that are different from theirs, the wiser and more global their mindsets can become.”

Makaela's major at BU is in Hospitality Administration, and she would like to go on from her experience in Croatia to work in the field of corporate social responsibility and citizenship, encouraging hotel chains to be more invested in their local communities.

You can get in touch with Makaela at makaelareinke@gmail.com



KARA VAN EMMERIK '12: Culinary Artist

Since graduating from the Culinary Arts program of Eastern Maine Community College, Kara van Emmerik '12 has cemented her skills and expertise with several recent achievements.

In partnership with Michael Rossney and Michele Levesque of El El Frijoles, where she worked for several years as sous-chef, Kara is running Dudley's Refresher, a take-out restaurant on the pier in Castine. "It may not be what you expect from a dockside take-out," says Kara. "We have a lobster roll, but we offer it three different ways: traditional, curried, or sesame orange." Other featured items include "a proper chippy"—fish and chips with the traditional mushy peas and Kara's homemade tartar sauce—and Bagaduce oysters on the half-shell.

Kara is responsible for the day-to-day operations of Dudley's. "Really, it is one step away from running my own restaurant," she explains. "I love food, and I love sharing my love for food with others, including my incredible staff." Among the Dudley's staff this season are GSA students *Lucas Theoharidis* '16 and *Mikayla True* '17, and alumnae *Maddie Theoharidis* '12, *Sara Clifford* '13, and *Mary Prescott* '13. Kara's sous-chef is a recent EMCC culinary program graduate, and she also employs an EMCC extern.

In June, Kara and Michele competed in—and won!—the Seafood Throwdown at Maine Fare in Belfast with a yummy fish dish, shown left.

Yet another exciting endeavor for Kara is the job she accepted last winter as sous-chef for the culinary program at EMCC. As a graduate of the program, she credits it for "a great portion of my success" and calls the position "a really fun job, allowing me to teach students and mentor them using my culinary knowledge." In the fall, Kara will continue in this position at EMCC.

Check out Dudley's Refresher at dudleysrefresher.com.



Keep in touch, Alumni, wherever you are!



When brothers Sam '11 and Ben Eley '13 hiked the Swiss Alps, they took a selfie at 13,474 ft and sent it to us.

Please remember to send us pictures and stories that we can share in Matters, Class Notes, on Facebook and our website. We're always interested to hear from you, and your classmates will appreciate it, too!

2015 Alumni Art Show

This year's alumni art show was held in the Cynthia Winings Gallery in Blue Hill. Over forty community members attended the opening reception on May 11. The show stayed up for a week and featured work by ten alumni from the classes of 1959 through 2010 and included a range of styles and media. Participating artists were *Janice (Woods) Prior-Crofoot '59, Jim Murray '75, Kathy (Mitchell) Hally '82, Penny Ricker '82, Laurie (Fehrle) Coleman '84, Julie Jo Fehrle '85, Sam (Stanko) Jones '92, Cade Overton '04, Lilian Day Thorpe '09, and Tynan Byrne '10.*

Cynthia Winings, who generously provided the space, was excited to host the show and saw it as "a great opportunity to expand the role of the gallery in the community and make connections with the school and alumni." Our thanks go to Cynthia, and also to GSA parent Heather Lyon and alumna Sam Stanko Jones '92, who curated and hung the show.



Cynthia Winings, Heather Lyon, and Sam Stanko Jones '92 at the Opening Reception.



Giving Day 2015

We surpassed our goal of 100 Giving Day donations! Thanks to everyone who participated, and to all who supported GSA this fiscal year.

See a complete summary of the day's successes at www.georgestevensacademy.org/GivingDay2015.

2015 Class Gift

Fourteen seniors served on the Class Gift Committee: *Katama Murray* (co-leader), *Tim Dentino* (co-leader), *Susan Bell, Jennifer Burton, Emily Coleman, Sinai Vargas, Catherine Nevin, Emma Richardson, Michael Salois, Jordon Soper, Taylor Venema, Rowan Waring, Jacob Williams, and Peter Wu.* The four stones, arranged in front of the Butler Building, provide casual courtyard seating and honor faculty who departed at the end of the year: *Mr. Perkinson, Mr. Farrar, Mrs. Greene, Ms. Lehto, Mr. Moore, Mr. Murphy, Mr. (Charlie) Read, and Ms. Rizzo.*



(See photo of the installation on the back cover.)

Now Accepting Donations!

George Stevens Academy
SPORTS & RECREATIONAL EQUIPMENT SALE
 Saturday, September 26 • 9:00 am • GSA Gymnasium
NOW ACCEPTING DONATIONS
 George Stevens Academy is collecting donations of sports, athletic, and recreational equipment and gear. All items, large and small, in good, clean condition, are gratefully accepted. Items may be dropped off at the school's Main Office Tuesday through Thursday from 9 am until 2 pm beginning July 1st. Arrangements can be made for pickups. Proceeds from the sale support George Stevens Academy's 2015 - 2016 Annual Fund.
 For more information, to donate items or to arrange for donations, contact:
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 tel. 206-225-6166
 or
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On the web at www.Georgestevensacademy.org/4SeasonSale
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Tim and Jill at the Blue Hill Fair

Stop by the Blue Hill Fair and meet Head of School Tim Seeley and his wife, Jill Clendenen.

Thursday, September 3
 6:00p - 8:00p GSA Booth

Saturday, September 5
 11:00a - 12:00 GSA Booth
 12:00 - 1:00 Grandstand Stage with GSA Jazz Band
 1:00p - 2:00p GSA Booth

Homecoming 2015 - Preview

September 25 + 26 + 27

Friday, September 25
 10:00 Golden Eagles Reception

Saturday, September 26
 9:00 Sports and Rec Equipment Sale
 11:00 Girls Varsity Soccer with Bucksport
 1:00 Boys Varsity Soccer with Bucksport
*Halftime Dedication of New Soccer Building in
 Memory of Duane B. Gray '64*
 4:00 - 6:00 Alumni Reception, The Farmhouse Inn

Sunday, September 27
 8:30 - 4:30 Duane B. Gray '64 Memorial Golf Tournament - Blue Hill Country Club
 (Rain date: October 4)
 8:30 Morning Tournament
 Noon - Lunch
 1:30 Afternoon Tournament
 10:30 TradeWinds Great Pumpkinfest 4K Road Race



23 Union Street
Blue Hill, ME 04614

www.georgestevensacademy.org

Thank you for supporting GSA! You made our four years possible!

