Ivory D. Hills Announced as Next Head of School

On April 5, St. Mark's announced the appointment of Dr. Ivory D. Hills as its next head of school. Dr. Hills will begin his tenure at St. Mark's on July 1, 2024.

In a letter to the St. Mark’s community, Head of School Search Committee Chairs Michael B. Moore ’80 and Elizabeth R. Santini ’95 wrote, “Amidst an exceedingly competitive nationwide search, during which we encountered numerous talented and highly qualified educational leaders, Ivory unquestionably emerged as the standout candidate.”

Following in-depth interviews with Dr. Hills, members of the search committee lauded his extraordinary intellect, his dedication to fostering a tight-knit community, his exceptional emotional intelligence, and his unparalleled grasp of the multifaceted financial, organizational, and cultural aspects associated with leading a boarding school.

Since 2011, Dr. Hills has served in a number roles at Deerfield Academy—most recently dean of faculty and assistant head of school for strategy and planning—where he has excelled as both a dedicated classroom teacher and an influential academic leader.

A distinguished scientist holding a B.S. in chemistry from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and a Ph.D. in organic chemistry from MIT, Dr. Hills brings an organized, data-driven approach to his work. His academic background significantly influences his teamwork, problem-solving, and decision-making techniques.

“Ivory is a brilliant thinker and a gifted leader,” said Mr. Moore, president of the St. Mark’s Board of Trustees. “He has a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing independent schools today and he is passionate about the St. Mark’s School mission. We are confident that he will be an outstanding head of school.”

In his current capacity at Deerfield, Dr. Hills oversees a 140-member faculty and provides comprehensive support for academic, artistic, athletic, co-curricular, college advising, health and wellness, and residential programs. He fosters a culture of positivity among the faculty, emphasizing student-centered growth, and deftly manages workload assignments, housing placements, leave replacements, and professional development requests. Additionally, he collaborates closely with the school’s advancement office to support faculty and curriculum-centered fundraising initiatives while ensuring that data-informed decision-making is at the core of the institution’s progress.

Before his tenure at Deerfield, Dr. Hills served as a senior research chemist at Merck Research Laboratories, leading medicinal chemistry teams involved in drug development for Alzheimer’s disease, migraine, schizophrenia, and colorectal cancer.

When he joins our community in Southborough, Dr. Hills will be accompanied by his wife, Christina, and their daughter, Sophie.

“With Ivory at the helm, we are confident that St. Mark’s will continue to flourish on the strong foundation it stands upon,” Ms. Moore and Mr. Santini wrote. “Together, we will embark on an exciting journey, starting next July, to shape a future filled with promise, excellence, and boundless possibilities.”

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

On February 24, St. Mark’s held its first TEDxYouth@StMark’s School event in the Putnam Family Arts Center’s Class of ’45 Hall. The entirely student-led event took Jackie Huang ’24 and Gina Yang ’24 more than a year to organize and featured big ideas and thought-provoking talks presented by Diya Bhaireddy ’25, Liam Childs ’25, Karry Kim ’25, Delin Liu ’24, and Darius Wagner ’23. These St. Mark’s TEDxYouth talks are now available to view on the TEDx Youtube Channel: https://www.youtube.com/user/TEDxYouth!
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EDITOR’S NOTE
In the Spring 2023 issue of St. Mark’s Magazine, there were two errors in captions on page 17. Members of the Sculley family were accidentally identified as members of the Patterson family, and members of the Class of 1975 were accidentally identified as members of the Class of 1974. We apologize for the errors.

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PHOTOGRAPH OF JENIENE MATTHEWS BY ADAM RICHINS

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Creating Special Experiences

ONE OF her great joys is watching faculty members bring their distinctive gifts and passions to their work that results in very special student experiences. Our two 2023 retirees, English teacher and Evill-Glavin Endowed Chairholder Jeniene Matthews and Director of Music James Wallace, provide excellent examples of this pattern.

During her 13 years on the faculty, Jeniene developed a VT Form English elective, Literature on Trial, that drew upon her previous 18 years in the legal profession. This course, mentioned to me frequently by graduates as the most memorable they experienced at St. Mark’s, required students to make a case either for the prosecution or the defense in front of a jury about the actions of characters in novels like The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde, To Kill a Mockingbird, and Fahrenheit 451.

Among its many virtues, Literature on Trial exemplified how experiential learning can be incorporated into the traditional academic curriculum. The jury that Jeniene’s students tried to convince could include a member of the legal profession, like Jeniene’s husband Greg Matthews, along with faculty members. When I served on a jury, Jeniene encouraged me to be as rigorous and challenging in my questions as I could be so that the students knew what it felt like to be litigators.

Jenie’s has said many times that changing professions was the perfect decision for her. However, any of us who have watched Jeniene in action during this class saw a special—and infectious—intellectual spark that clearly derived from her ongoing fascination with elements of the law.

When James Wallace joined the St. Mark’s faculty in 2013, he brought with him a deep love of the organ and of travel. We have been the great beneficiaries of that love. James’s passion as an organist has prompted him to recreate a year-by-year renovation of the Belmont Chapel organ that continues to this day. 1959 pipes have been replaced with 1928 and 1933 vintage pipes, and James even drove to Hampton, N.J. in 2014 to pick up organ pipes that he stored in the basement of his home until they could be installed in 2022. Morning Chapels, evening Chapels, and Lessons and Carols services are all the more special because of the organ, thanks to James’s efforts, is even more stunning in the beauty of its sound.

James’s long-standing passion for travel has prompted him to lead truly extraordinary Spring Break travel programs for the choir to Barbados (2015), Cuba (2017), and Ireland (2019), and for the choir and the orchestra to Canada (2023). Edna Kilusu ’19, featured on page 26, participated in the Cuba and Ireland trips. Distinctive about James’s approaches to these trips has been his commitment to incorporating the global citizenship principles of perspective-taking and reflection about culture into what he asks of his students at these extraordinary locales.

Thank you, Jeniene, and thank you, James, for making the experience of your students all the more special because of the long-standing passions you skillfully wove into your work at St. Mark’s.
UNPACKING THE ST. MARK’S C&E STRATEGIC PLAN

ST. MARK’S First Community and Equity Strategic Plan was released in April. We asked Director of Community and Equity Affairs Rick DaSilva to share a few thoughts on the plan, which can be found at stmarksschool.org/community/community-and-equity/strategic-plan.

WHY DOES ST. MARK’S NEED A COMMUNITY AND EQUITY STRATEGIC PLAN? WHY NOW?

With the implementation of our Community and Equity Strategic Plan, we are committed to setting clear expectations and involving the entire community in our initiatives. We are committed to allocating resources to provide oversight for this crucial work. This emphasizes that our commitment to equity and community is not only a current priority, but a long-term one as well.

HOW WILL THE PLAN HELP THE SCHOOL MOVE FORWARD ON SOME KEY C&E GOALS?

The pursuit of change hinges on our attention to detail. Our objective is to ensure that our efforts are purposeful and aligned with the School’s growth. We recognize that transparency, honesty, and realistic growth are foundational to evolve alongside the growth of the School. It is crucial for individuals to align with our stated intentions.

ENDOWED CHAIRS FOR ALLYSON BROWN AND DEJAI BARNES

The St. Mark’s School community assembled for a special celebration to formally install faculty members Allyson Brown and Dejai Barnes as endowed chairs. Brown was bestowed with the Chris and Jan Mabley Chair, established through a bequest of a generous alumnus in honor of former Head of School Chris Mabley (1988-1994) and his spouse Jan Mabley. Barnes was honored with the Martin Fenton Sr. Chair in Humanities in memory of Martin Fenton Sr. ’25, who exemplified a strong commitment to academic excellence within the humanities.
A RETURN TO ROOTS
Amy Vachris, Associate Director of Admission
David Vachris, Senior Leadership Gifts Officer

WHEN PATTERSON-SCULLEY HOUSE opened last fall, longtime faculty members Amy and David Vachris—who served as house parents earlier in their boarding school careers—couldn’t resist the opportunity to live among students again. Here, Amy shares some of the items that make their new apartment a home.

“‘Our world map. This is how we keep track of where our daughter, Maddie ’13, is with the Navy, where we have traveled (and would like to), and where we can visualize our advisees and house residents in their lives away from St. Mark’s. This map also comes in handy during Jeopardy.”

“I am from a lobstering town in Maine, and the many-colored buoys on this Kate Nelligan mug remind me of home. Dorm tea nights are also a favorite, especially with Market Spice tea from Seattle!”

“My ‘lucky’ rock. Before I worked in admission, I taught world languages, and students would touch this piece of Maine granite for inspiration before quizzes, tests, or presentations. It is now in my office for nervous interviewees.”

“If you have a kneeling stone in Maine, and the many-colored buoys on this Kate Nelligan mug remind me of home. Dorm tea nights are also a favorite, especially with Market Spice tea from Seattle.”

“Vac and I met teaching at a boarding school (Vermont Academy) and have raised our three kids (Maddie ’13, Taylor, and Gunnar ’19) in this type of environment. We feel so fortunate about the connections, mentorships, and friendships made in schools like St. Mark’s.”

“A ‘Quad Games trophy. 10 years’ worth of winning teams are listed here, in celebration of the Harry Potter-like events Dave introduced to St. Mark’s when I was in the Office of Development. Dave’s teams—Large, Phoenix, Thayer, and Fearing compete in events like 3-on-3 basketball, chess, and a tug-of-war match. (Go Thayer! Am I allowed to say that?).”

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“Spider-Man. Marvel is better than DC. Also, ‘With great power comes great responsibility.’ Enough said!”

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WHEN DID YOU BECOME INTERESTED IN VIDEOGRAPHY, THEATER, AND TECH?
I’ve been interested in production, tech, and graphic design for as long as I can remember. My first roles were as a stage manager in middle school. After that time, I became more interested in the other aspects of production, specifically live broadcasts. Over the summer of 2020, I taught myself programs like Photoshop, Lightroom, After Effects, and Premiere Pro, which allowed me to explore my interests in ways I never thought possible.

HOW HAVE YOU HONED THESE SKILLS AND Passions AT ST. MARK’S?
I have had the opportunity to work alongside Mr. Boston and the rest of the Technology Department to run A/V for various livestreams and events. St. Mark’s has allowed me to explore and learn more about all of the elements that go into producing a live event in a collaborative environment. I am also very grateful for the opportunity to have worked in the technology booth inside the Class of ‘45 Hall. It was a tremendous chance to practice my skills with state-of-the-art equipment.

FAVORITE ST. MARK’S CLASS, PROJECT, OR PERFORMANCE?
I loved my filmmaking class that I took during the first half of my VI Form year. Mr. Kant did a phenomenal job at teaching the basics of camera movement, production, and storytelling. Those are all vital elements of broadcasting, and they are skills that I will be able to use for the rest of my life. Mr. Kant taught the class in a very engaging way, encouraging us to recreate iconic scenes from movies with partners, make our own movie scenes, and follow our creative instincts.

CHATTER
ON AIR
WHILE AT ST. MARK’S, Matthew Parry ’23 took on a number of leadership roles, including head admissions prefect, dorm prefect, JV baseball captain, and head A/V prefect. The boarding student from Mansfield, Mass., was also the starting goalkeeper for the varsity boys’ soccer team, the lead in this year’s performance of Shakespeare in Love, and the lead of the Film and Media Arts Club at St. Mark’s. This fall, Matthew is headed to the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University. He plans to major in television, radio, and film, with a focus on sports media.

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HAVE YOU HAD A MENTOR AT ST. MARK’S?
My mentor at St. Mark’s has absolutely been Mr. Boston. He has taught me everything I know about the equipment I use on a daily basis, what it means to produce a live event, and how to stay cool, calm, and collected while doing it. Working alongside him for the past few years has been an absolute pleasure. Additionally, Mr. Boston has helped me with numerous projects outside of official School events, like my creation of St. Mark’s first podcast and digital media studio!

—JACKIE WATERS

SNAPSHOT
AWARD TOUR
CONGRATULATIONS TO RISING VI Former Gina Yang ’24, who won a National Gold Medal from the prestigious Scholastic Art & Writing Awards for her pencil drawing “Mirrored” (above, top center). Gina also received Regional Gold Key awards from Scholastic for this piece, along with two of her paintings, and a second drawing entitled “Dreaming Girl” (above, bottom left), which won the annual Congressional Art Show for Massachusetts’ Second District and will be on display in the United States Capitol Building this year.

This sampling of Yang’s impressive artwork includes pencil drawings, Gouache on paper, and oil paint.

REGIONAL AWARD WINNERS
St. Markers who received Scholastic Art & Writing Regional Awards:

GOLD KEY
- Jihu Choi ’25
- Jonathan Hernandez ’24
- Kirsten Pak ’25
- Gina Yang ’24

SILVER KEY
- Cathy Shi ’24
- Ke Yang ’24
- Coco Xia ’24
- Gina Yang ’24

HONORABLE MENTION
- Jackie Huang ’24
- Ke Yang ’24
- Cathy Shi ’24
- Ke Yang ’24
- Coco Xia ’24
- Gina Yang ’24
- Ye Yang ’24
- You Yang ’24
- Gina Yang ’24

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY ADAM RICHINS
IN BRIEF
IN BRIEF
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ST. MARK’S | SUMMER 2023
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The 2022-2023 academic year came to a close on Belmont Field on Saturday, June 10, as 90 Vi Formers graduated at the 158th Prize Day exercises. 

Photography by Sandra Levandowski and Al Williams
n her keynote address to the Class of 2023, Trustee Patricia Branch '04 said “Be unapologetically yourself, St. Markers, because it’s through that self-definition that you’ll unlock your greatest potential.” Valedictorian Alden Mehta ’23 assured his classmates, “You are well prepared for wherever you are headed and for whatever you intend to do.”

For a list of prize winners and more, visit https://stmarksschool.today/prize2023.
“It was a lark,” says Jeniene, remembering how she was having a bad day at McDermott Will & Emery LLP in Boston when a friend called; it was former St. Mark’s counselor Jamie Greene. “What was your major?” Jamie asked. “And didn’t you row?” Within a matter of minutes, Jamie was convincing Jeniene, an English major and former crew captain, to apply for an open faculty position. A native Californian and globetrotter, who did a stint in the Air Force and spent time as a public defender in Alaska, Jeniene calls the move her “biggest detour.” Sometimes, the detours in life turn out to be the roads we were destined to travel. “I was meant to be a teacher,” Jeniene says. “I am at my most authentic in the classroom, and at my most alive!”

During her 13-year tenure at St. Mark’s, Jeniene taught all four levels of English and chaired the department for four years. She served as a faculty representative to the Board of Trustees; established the role of digital learning coach; lived in Thayer; assisted on a duty team in Thieriot North; coached varsity, JV, and thirds sports; chaperoned a trip to Chile; advised countless St. Markers; mentored new colleagues; savored summer professional development opportunities in Greece, England, and Scotland; and held the Evill-Glavin endowed faculty chair. By her side have been Gregory, her partner of 30 years, and son Logan ’22. Those well acquainted with Jeniene can attest that her abiding love for these two men is rivaled only by her love for tacos! Arguably, one of Jeniene’s greatest gifts to the School (in addition to her family, her sense of humor, and her big heart) has been her signature VI Form elective, Literature on Trial. In this class, students read various novels while learning about the United States’ legal system, then wrote legal briefs and participated in a live “trial” of characters presided over by Judge Matthews. As friend and colleague Maggie Caron, associate dean of students and director of residential life, explains, “It was truly a class like no other, and students raved that it was ‘so hard, but so cool.’ One section grew into two, and waitlists ensued. Jeniene’s course became the stuff of legend, the talking point on tours, and the class that III Formers couldn’t wait to take.” Jeniene calls the class her “swan song” and notes that she loved the opportunity to teach students in their “bookend” years—as III Formers and then again as VI Formers—because it allowed her to witness their “phenomenal growth.” Her connection to students—and impact on them—is evident in the number of alumni with whom she regularly keeps in touch. “To this day, former advisers and students seek out ‘Ms. M.’ for a visit, a cup of coffee, or sage advice,” says Caron. “They sit with her at the Starbucks on Route 9 and reminisce about Lit on Trial and ask for guidance, knowing they always have a champion and a supporter in Jeniene.” For Jeniene, that support has been reciprocated over the years by St. Mark’s colleagues, students, and parents, especially during her battle with cancer. “There is nothing like this community to rally around you when you need them,” she shared, grateful to feel that care here, where she has been “the happiest in [her] professional career.” Fortunately for St. Mark’s, Jeniene plans to stick around. Although she is retiring from teaching, she will “be here for this community” as a consultant to the School, utilizing her interpersonal strengths to listen, counsel, and continue to advocate for students.
James brought “incredible devotion and passion” to his work and to the students, says colleague Rev. Katie Solter. “He goes above and beyond in all things.”

Never was that dedication more evident than when James “chased down an organ during COVID, envisioned and produced the Chapel backdrop for the PFAC, and managed to keep the choir singing and the hymns coming, even when we were on Zoom,” echoes Rev. Barbara Talcott, adding that while James had many responsibilities as director of music, he never gave short shrift to the Chapel experience.

Throughout his decade at St. Mark’s, James led the Chapel music program; directed the orchestra and choir; nurtured and supported the a cappella groups; taught Music Studio and Advanced Music Theory; supervised the private lesson program; planned music festivals, including the Wick Festival and the Cutler Jazz Festival; and served on the house duty team in Thieriot North. He also took a turn as Arts Department head and was the School organist (and organ clinician). In addition, James organized the Southborough Sounds concert series for the wider community; led the church choir at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church in town; and brought St. Markers on engaging global choir trips to Canada, Cuba, Ireland, and Barbados.

The biggest highlight for James during his tenure at St. Mark’s was the Sesquicentennial Lessons and Carols service, when the entire School traveled to Trinity Church in Copley Square, and filled it with families and alumni. The performance that evening in 2015 was one for the history books!

James says he will miss “the joy of making music with the choir and orchestra, my colleagues and friends, and of course, the students.” To be sure, countless St. Markers have benefited from his encouragement, including recent Juilliard graduate Jason Hwang ’18, who credits James with recognizing his gift. “Mr. Wallace was one of the absolute best supporters I could ask for during my St. Mark’s years,” says Jason. As Barbara recognizes, “He knows not just music; he knows kids.”

For his “indelible support of the arts in the lives of countless young people,” James was recently honored with the Community Arts Service Award from Symphony Pro Musica—a well-deserved recognition of his commitment to inspiring student musicians and nurturing their talent.

Even though James is retiring from teaching, he will continue to lead musicians as the director of music at the Episcopal Pro-Cathedral of St. Peter in Salisbury, Md. He also plans to play the carillon at Salisbury University, carve out time for traveling and gardening, and enjoy walks with Sir Walter, his beloved cavalier King Charles spaniel.

“St. Mark’s is a community of smart, caring people who hold each other to high standards while caring about the wellbeing of each individual person,” says James. It is clear that the School community thinks highly of him, as well. “James has been a real partner, every minute, in my chaplaincy,” says Barbara. “I could not have asked for better.” Adds Katie, “We are forever grateful for his talents, faith, good humor, stellar work ethic, creativity, and devotion to bringing music to St. Mark’s School and the greater Southborough community.”

James brought “incredible devotion and passion” to his work and to the students. “He goes above and beyond in all things.” —REV. KATIE SOLTER

James Wallace

TEN YEARS AGO, Director of Music James Wallace arrived at St. Mark’s from the Putney School in Vermont. “I loved the country but missed life closer to an urban area,” he says. “St. Mark’s offered both.” The fantastic music facilities were also “a big draw” for James, who has shared his talent with the St. Mark’s community—and the greater Southborough community, as well.

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BOYS’ HOCKEY

The St. Mark’s varsity boys’ hockey team earned their second consecutive ISL Eberhart Championship, finishing 13-1 in league play (22-5-1 overall). The team earned the David Coe Trophy for the Most Improved Team. Ife Lawore ’25, Joel Lawore ’23, Justin Lu ’25, Ben Markle ’24, Seedi Sheriff ’26, Albert Wu ’23, and Jiayi Yu ’23 all competed in the New England tournament, where Yu finished second and Lu Lawore finished third. Yu was the team’s season MVP.

SQUASH

The St. Mark’s varsity boys’ squash team won the Division IV National Championship, defeating Louisville Collegiate High School in a thrilling 4-3 victory on February 26. Elgin Zou ’23 clinched the match with an exciting four-set win. The varsity girls’ squash team also enjoyed a fantastic season, finishing eighth at Nationals in Division IV. Alden Mehta ’23 (boys) and Coco Xia ’24 (girls) were season MVPs.

WRESTLING

The wrestling team finished sixth at the 2023 Graves Kelsey ISL Championships. The team earned the David Coe Trophy for the Most Improved Team. Ife Lawore ’25, Joel Lawore ’23, Justin Lu ’25, Ben Markle ’24, Seedi Sheriff ’26, Albert Wu ’23, and Jiayi Yu ’23 all competed in the New England tournament, where Yu finished second and Lu Lawore finished third. Yu was the team’s season MVP.
Levy DelSilva ’25 and Liam Childs ’25 combined for St. Mark’s baseball’s first no-hitter since 2013 in a 3-1 win over BB&N on April 15. The duo tallied 10 strikeouts in the win. The MVP for the team, which went 8-11 on the season, was Brayden Michaelson ’23.

Boys’ Crew

The varsity boys’ crew first boat (Rachel Goldberg ’25, Brendan Kelly ’24, Bennett Jones ’23, Will O’Malley ’24, and Will Ryckman ’23) won the duplex Cup on May 11, defeating Taft, Frederick Gunn, BB&N, and Pomfret. This was the first St. Mark’s win in 13 years at this event.

Girls’ Tennis

The varsity girls’ tennis team advanced to the New England Class B semifinals with a 5-0 win against Worcester Academy in the quarterfinals on May 20. They fell to Hopkins School in the semifinals. Emma Schillinger ’26 was the season MVP and earned All-NEPSAC honors.

100-Win Club

In May, Channing Weymouth tallied her 100th win as head coach of St. Mark’s varsity girls’ lacrosse. Weymouth is one of five current St. Mark’s coaches who have earned 100 or more varsity wins in their careers at the School.

“I’m so grateful for the fantastic coaches we have at St. Mark’s,” says Director of Athletics Lauren Ames. “Not only are our coaches experts in their sport, but more importantly, they are people of strong character and integrity. They positively motivate, inspire, and serve as role models to our student-athletes. The wins are the added bonus to the outstanding experience they provide our students.”

Current St. Mark’s Coaches in the 100-Win Club are:

David Lyons, Baseball, Boys’ Cross Country, Golf
Channing Weymouth, Girls’ Lacrosse, Field Hockey
Carl Corazzini, Boys’ Ice Hockey
Casey Bates, Girls’ Ice Hockey, Softball
Anne Behnke, Girls’ Tennis

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PHOTOGRAPHS BY LEVY DASILVA ’25, MAX DUSHNEY ’24, LIAM CHILDS ’25, AND ADAM RICHINS
The St. Mark’s Athletic Hall of Fame honors the spirit and achievements of our student-athletes and exemplifies the School’s conviction that athletics are vital to the development of a student’s character, discipline, and leadership abilities.

**Call for Nominations**

FOR THE NEXT CLASS OF INDUCTEES!

Deadline for nominations: October 15, 2023

Submit online at www.stmarksschool.org/ahof-nominee or contact Advancement at 508.786.6279 or advancement@stmarksschool.org.

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**MOVING UP**

15 members of the Class of 2023 are moving on to participate in athletics at the college level. Two student-athletes will play at the Division I level, one has committed to a Division II program, and 12 will compete at Division III schools. Congratulations to all!

1. Jeevan Anand, Colby College
2. Katie Breslin, University of Connecticut
3. Carly Brush, Amherst College
4. Dante D’Avanzo, Babson College
5. Ma Iwicki, Hobart and William Smith Colleges
6. Juliana Kiley, Colby College
7. Molly LeFebvre, Colby College
8. Buck Lewis, Colby College
9. Jimmy Lyver, College of the Holy Cross
10. Alden Maines, Bowdoin College
11. Brandon Mihalos, St. Anselm College
12. Elizabeth Politi, Bates College
13. Lillian Phipps, Haverford College
14. Tru Styles, Hobart and William Smith Colleges
15. Judy Xie, Haverford College
Full Circle: Edna Kilusu ’19

This is me

Historically, most women and girls in Lendikenya do not complete primary school; however, Edna’s parents prioritized her education. For two and a half years, from grades six through eight, she attended the Orkeeswa School, three hours away from home. At Orkeeswa, Edna learned English, and through the school’s Scholars Program, earned the opportunity to attend school in the U.S. As the first student from Tanzania to attend St. Mark’s, Edna also became the first person in her family to attend high school. This was a huge accomplishment—one that required a great deal of courage, as it meant uprooting from home and immersing herself in an unfamiliar culture. “I came for precision tryouts for soccer, and everyone was so different from me,” Edna remembers. “Changing classrooms was confusing, and I did not want to talk. I was afraid to speak.”

English is Edna’s third language after Massi and Swahili, and during her first few months as a St. Marker, she was self-conscious of her accent and worried about her word choice. “Classmates did not understand me,” she says. “Teachers were patient.”

Navigating a new school is hard enough, but when everything—from the dorm rooms to the washing machines to the dining hall food—feels like a far cry from home, the culture shock can be overwhelming. At St. Mark’s, Edna felt like there were “too many options!”

Slowly, she began to open up to the adults in the community, creating her own version of what she affectionately refers to as her “St. Mark’s village”—a circle of women she grew to trust, and with whom she could discuss daily challenges. This group included advisor Karen Bryant, dorm head Alyson Brown, Director of Global Citizenship Laura Appell-Warren, counselors Veronica Roditi and Jennifer Taylor, and the Health Office staff led by Abra Parks; among many others, Edna included (I was fortunate to be Edna’s St. Mark’s tutor).

The more Edna stretched herself at St. Mark’s, the more confidence she gained. In English, she painstakingly worked her way through the Odyssey, learning how to dissect Homer line by line. She made the varsity basketball team, played softball and soccer; participated in strength and conditioning; and even tried crew despite not knowing how to swim. Edna looked forward to math classes with Scott Dolesh, and expanded her worldview through travel to Cuba and Ireland with James Wallace and the choir.

Edna believes that “the good, the bad, and the ups and downs” were worth it. “At St. Mark’s, I gained a sense of independence and a clear vision of who I could become,” she says. “I wouldn’t have done it without the support from this community.”

By the time VI Form year arrived, the once shy and soft-spoken student used her voice to educate St. Markers on the struggles she faced as an African in America and an American in Africa. On May 7, 2019, Edna delivered her Chapel Talk to the entire audience. As she recalled her early years in Tanzania—walking hours on dirt made to get to school or to the market, gathering firewood, doing laundry by hand—it became clear to her peers that access to an education is a privilege, one not often afforded nor easily accessible to girls in Edna’s village or in many other places around the world.

“Four years ago, I made the tough decision to leave my friends, my family, my culture, and my country for St. Mark’s.” Edna shared, noting that she was the first in her community to study abroad, and that her father’s illness at the time made the decision difficult. She candidly acknowledged her setbacks (such as breaking her ankle during IV Form year) and dreaming events (the death of her father, her “biggest supporter,” during V Form year) only magnified her struggles as a student.

Despite the hardship and heartbreak, Edna believes that “she guided, she bad, the ups and downs” were worth it. “At St. Mark’s, I gained a sense of independence and a clear vision of who I could become,” she says. “I wouldn’t have done it without the support from this community.”

For her final VI Form Lion Term, Edna landed an internship in Partners in Health in Cambridge, Mass., founded by Harvard Medical School global health physician and medical anthropologist Paul Farmer. “Dr. Farmer inspired me to stay a health physician and medical anthropologist in the future,” Edna said. “Dr. Farmer inspired me to stay in the health profession.”

When I first got to campus, it was so lush and green,” Edna recalls, struck by the stark contrast between Southborough, Mass., and her home in the hills of Lendikenya, located in the Monduli district of Arusha.

In this northern region of Tanzania, Edna grew up surrounded by family and close friends in a Maasai village of mud-walled bomas atop a dusty brown landscape dotted with dense bushes. Her hard-working, agricultural community raised cows, sheep, and goats; they grew corn, wheat, and beans. Edna’s father taught her how to milk cows, and Edna’s mother walked alongside her two hours each day till the fields and harvest the crops, and her father’s village is “too many options!”

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edna acknowledges. “I want to help returning to Lendikenya to establish a worker), with the ultimate goal of school for clinical social work and become certified as a LICSW (licensed independent clinical social counselor for Youth Villages in

3. Alan Poole ’66

1. Brian Thompson ’79
2. David DiCicco ’99
3. Alan Poole ’66

1. St. Mark’s School of 1957. I had arrived, brought by my

uncle, full of trust and anticipation. I had just spent two years in Ankara, Turkey, where my father was stationed at the American Embassy. Being back in the United States was exciting. Everything was new. New, especially, was the same old, the loneliness. I lived in my heart even before my uncle had departed. Harpy and cold, it sunk my spirits like nothing I had ever known. How had I come to this place, where I knew no one, where nearly a century’s worth of traditions, foreign and forbidding, haunted endless and confusing halls? I took note of some of the old boys brought a day early from home to welcome new boys. How was it possible for them to seem so at home in this alien place? There was a space of about two hours that first afternoon where new boys had no commitments and we could do as we pleased. I drifted around and found myself in front of the bulletin board outside the convocation School. Good grief!”

Douglas Pfitz. It was a mild, sunny day and Douglas and I, getting acquainted, decided to take a walk. We plan to return to our shared country place in Normandy in August, a regular trip that was so don’t give it to your grandkids. The story is a lot of fun, and I had a blast recording it. Another book, Kids are Hell, is in the works. If you know me, or my brother Dan ’67, or our Dad, who taught music and did shows at St. Mark’s for 35 years, it shouldn’t surprise you that I’ve gotten into this at this time of life! The family houselamb has been passed down, and down again.”

1964

William Phillips writes: “My II Form year was my first at St. Mark’s, and I remember distinctly Boyden Gray’s towering presence in Sunday Morning. He displayed an arcanistic grace and a powerful intelligence even then and evinced an authority that was clearly palatable.”
1966
Alan Poole sends warm greetings from the highlands of Costa Rica, where he now spends two to three months each winter based at a research station operated by the Organization for Tropical Studies. “Spin-out from time spent there is a new book on an extraordinary birding and tourist attraction—a species that anchors our company Viomerse participated in corporate and charitable boards of directors. My wife, Karen and I (along with our great danes) divide our time between Miami Beach, Fla., and Boulder, Colo.”

1968
Robert Maland III writes, “On March 26, the Stack family (Nathan, David and Pete) hosted a tribute to their brother and our classmate Chris at the Amcera Comedy Theater in New York City. Class of 1968 classmates attending were Victor and Carol Stewart, Archie and Karen Reid. Ed and Mary Tan, Michael Kinschnitt, Tack Eddy, Kip Forbes, Paul Stapag, and Bob Malcolm. Another 15 classmates followed the event on Zoom. Chris was a devoted member of the club and built many of the sets, continuing an interest he started in high school. I am in my 40th year of continuous sobriety and am grateful for the blessings in my life. I rarely see people that I know from St. Mark’s, no doubt my loss! I hope that everyone from the class of ’69 is well and as lucky as I have been.”

1970
Nelson Neal Stone shares, “We just returned from the annual American Urologic Association (AUA) meeting in Chicago where our company Viessmann participated in several hand-on training skills labs. I am about to enter a kidney tumor biopsy lab holding one of the synthetic cadavers we developed of two tumors and other relevant anatomy. Even though I am retired from clinical practice, having the opportunity to continue teaching remains a lifelong mission. My wife Gloria and daughter Laura (director of business operations) joined me at the meeting.”

1971
Trey Kelsey writes, “Once again, so sorry I missed the big reunion. A wonderful combination of doctors and new drugs are keeping me going. I am going on 50 years teaching almost normal and hope to reach out to many of you soon. Best wishes to all.”

1972
Kevin Burke shares, “Moose and bones got together with some mutual friends in Nisaa, Costa Rica, in February for a week of relaxation, food, and some wonderfully significant hydrating. Great to catch up again after the 10th. I tried to play tennis for the first time in 30+ years and several muscle groups screamed ‘are you out of your mind?’ More hydrating followed to reduce inflammation. Bones has not lost a step since varsity tennis. OK, maybe a teeny bit of a step.”

1974 (SS)
Katrina Deria (Trina) Morris writes, “Excited to attend the 50th reunion of the first year/class of the Southborough School following a stint aboard The RV Cramer studying North Atlantic right whales. It is kind of a replay of my Senior ISP and a new book on an extraordinary birding and tourist attraction—a species that anchors our company Viomerse participated in corporate and charitable boards of directors. My wife, Karen and I (along with our great danes) divide our time between Miami Beach, Fla., and Boulder, Colo.”

1975
Christopher Carey writes, “Happy to find John Keen, my IV Form roommate, now has a home just down the road from me in Vero Beach. Cindy and I were guests at John and Abby’s first Vero dinner party.”

1976
Charles Lowrey shares, “During Covid, my wife and I pulled up stakes from Park City, Utah, and in late 2020 moved to the Roaring Fork Valley outside Aspen. A significant upgrade in mountain living. We recently completed designing and building a home here, and if you visit the Aspen area, you should look us up! Had hoped to make it to the reunion last spring, but was busy framing and welding on the project.”

1982
Carlos Garcia writes, “After 37 years working at the company I founded and recently sold, I retired in June and will dedicate myself to serving on corporate and charitable boards of directors. My wife, Karen and I (along with our great danes) divide our time between Miami Beach, Fla., and Boulder, Colo.”

1985
Emilie (Dyer) Oyen writes, “After 20 years of raising a UNICEF family in Senegal, I’ve settled in London to let Ukraine develop as a freedom loving, peaceful democracy. The resilience and unity here, in the face of untruetract evil and terror, is truly humbling. With best wishes from Kyy!”

1986
Karinka Shahan writes to share: “I crossed one of nature’s last remaining borders with my friends and if you visit the Aspen area, you should look us up! Had hoped to make it to the reunion last spring, but was busy framing and welding on the project.”

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ST. MARKERS

school community as well. Anyone passing through London, please don’t hesitate to reach out!”

1987
Barrett Heaton writes, “Howdy St. Markers! Not that I have tons to report, but I definitely enjoy reading notes from my classmates of the class of 1987, so I feel like I should offer a few words. I’m still in the New York City area so if you are around let’s schedule another get together sometime soon! If you are curious about me, I am still a teacher at a public school in Central Highlands, Brooklyn. It is challenging and exhausting work at times, but I enjoy getting up to go to work each and every day. I continue to enjoy playing in a local rock band to check us out on SoundCloud/iTunes/Spotify/Instagram. If you search up “Paw the Fox,” you will hear some of our intense rock instruments. You can even see me rocking out on live videos, so see if you can identify me (I play guitar). I would love to hear from any of you so keep writing class notes and let’s make efforts to connect!”

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1996
Andrew Donsett writes, “After 20 years of service with the NYPD I was finally promoted to lieutenant. It has been a rewarding career and one that I am not quite done with yet. Hopefully my next note will be when I get promoted to captain.”

1997
Beth Lewis shares, “I am finishing my 22nd year of teaching this year and will lose my job as a reading specialist in Westborough, Mass. My son, Matthew (14), has been attending Milton Academy for the past two years and is thoroughly enjoying his experience in the ISL. My younger son, John (11), is thrilled to join his brother as a Elevon Mustang at Milton Academy next year. I hope everyone is well!”

2003
Michael Greenwald shares a photo with fellow St. Mark’s graduate John Scully ’57 at the 2003 Elks Island Medal of Honor Awards Ceremony.

2006
Christopher Blondin shares a photo: “Chris Blondin, Phil Pullitzer, Lance Stratton, and Ben Hindman (left to right) got together for some spring skiing in Big Sky, Mont. We made it just in time for the season’s last blast of cold smoke in April. A fun time was had by all!”

2004
Andy Herring writes, “The Herrings are moving to The Hague! I recently accepted the role of director of engagement at American School of The Hague, where I’ll lead the school’s marketing, admission, and advancement efforts. We’ll be moving to the Netherlands over the summer to get settled before the start of the school year. We’ve loved our time at Holderness School and New Hampshire’s Lakes Region, but we can’t wait for this new European family adventure!”

2006

2010
Kate Nordstrom writes, “Barrett, Lilly (3), and I are thrilled to announce the arrival of Clara Caroline “Carla” on December 26, 2022. We look forward to introducing both girls to St. Mark’s sometime this fall.”

2006
Heather Tatar (McCormack) welcomed a baby girl, Charlie, on March 28, 2023.

2012
James Longley writes, “I am still enjoying my time in Washington, D.C. As of January, I am working as a policy advisor to Senator Shelley Moore Capito of West Virginia. I still enjoy Mr. Suarez and Mr. Lyons for fostering a love of our system of government. Many of the lessons I learned in Mr. Lyons class are directly related to my everyday work.”

Cynthia Pando shares, “I recently became a PhD candidate in health services research at the University of Minnesota. I am one MAJOR step away from becoming Dr. Pando.”

2011
Carolyn Kimminck married Robert Reche of Charlotte, N.C., on October 8, 2022 in Locust Valley, N.Y. They had several alumni in attendance including Carolyn’s brother, Daniel Kimminck ’14, and friends Bryana Michael ’11, Dominic Carbome ’11, Jessica Craig ’11, Henry Romney ’11, and Jessica Surgoone ’11.

Morgan (McCall) McCarthy shares, “I am a learning specialist at the Tower School in Marblehead, Mass., and the proud mom of Theodor (Teddy) McCarthy, born in September 2022. My husband Matt and I live in Charlestown and would love to get together with any classmates who have also returned to the Boston area!”

2000
Dr. Pando.”

2023
Ibrahim Ayub shares, “Completed my MBA from I insead and launched bitworks (gaming.com), a platform for content creators to find and manage brand deals through workflow automation and AI. Creators are the new class of solopreneurs, and we hope to give them the tools to create sustainable and passion-driven careers.”

By providing for St. Mark’s in your will or trust, or by designating St. Mark’s as a beneficiary of a retirement plan, life insurance policy, or another asset, you can continue the legacy of philanthropy St. Mark’s was built upon while achieving your own financial goals and providing for your family.

If you have already provided for St. Mark’s in your estate plans, please let us know so we can properly thank you and celebrate your gift.

Learn more about becoming an esteemed Androcles Society member by contacting Meaghan Kilian, Director of Major and Principal Gifts, at 508-786-6129 or meaghan.kilian@stmarksschool.org.

1. Ahmed Lundgren-Bekov ’95
2. Andrew Donsett ’96
3. Christopher Blondin ’03
4. Michael Greenwald ’02
5. Kate Kordtsrend ’04
6. Roger Hunt III ’04
7. Ibrahim Ayub ’10

Become a Member of the Androcles Society.

Create a lasting legacy.
ST. MARK’S HOSTED more than 300 guests from May 5-7 for Reunion Weekend 2023, which celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Southborough School and St. Mark’s graduates in classes ending in 3 and 8.

A great turnout from the Class of 2008.

Saturday night selfies with the Class of 1998.

Cort Devereux ‘03 and Andrew Pfaff ‘03 with Annie Pfaff.

Southborough School alumnae and former faculty gather to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their arrival in Southborough.

How Sweet it Was

SPECIAL MOMENTS FROM REUNION 2023

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANDY WEIGL

Michelle Scott ‘08 with guest Simon Wallace.

Rob Buffum ‘73, Russell Pyne ‘73, Helen Pyne gather for the 50th Reunion dinner at Choate House.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ANDY WEIGL

A great turnout from the Class of 2008.
Save the Dates!

REUNION
May 5-6, 2023
The Class of 1974, 50th Reunion Celebration
APRIL 26 AND 27, 2024
A CELEBRATION HONORING JOHN C. WARREN ’74
AND LAURA P. APPELL-WARREN ON APRIL 27, 2024
and
Classes that end in 4 and 9, Reunion Celebration
MAY 10 AND 11, 2024
Visit us in Southborough for Reunion Weekend!
More information to come at www.stmarksschool.org/reunion.
Richard E. Morrier died peacefully at his home in Southampton, N.Y., on February 11. He was 92. Dickie, as he was known to his many friends, was a member of the Southampton Club, where he had breakfast nearly every day while working on completing his New York Times crossword puzzle in ink. He was an excellent billiards player, winning many tournaments, and spent countless afternoons at the club playing and teaching those games to others.

He was an astute and accomplished backgammon player. Dickie grew up in New York City, Tuxedo Park, and Southampton, N.Y. He was the last of his generation and is survived by his children Tony Morrier, Richard J., and Peter Augustus. A memorial service will be held at Saint Andrew’s Church in Watch Hill, R.I. Dickie is survived by his wife Charlotte, five grandchildren, Angus and Charlie by his first wife, Joy Cagiati in Frankfurt, Germany on October 23, 2022. Born to the late Alessandro and Anna Cagiati, Jr. —in his first book, The Adventurer’s Dictionary of Life—Best. A full obituary was published in January. He recently published his first book, The Adventurer’s Dictionary of Life—Best. A full obituary was published

St. Markers University Committee on University Development, the Board of Trustees of the Francis of Assisi and the War Memorial Fund, and National Cathedral School. Boyden married Carol Taylor in 1984, and they divorced a few years later. In addition to their daughter, Eliza Gray, Boyden is survived by two brothers, Remond and Gordon, and two grandchildren.

Douglas P. McBain, of Scituate, Mass., died on July 13, 2021. He grew up in Brandon, Vt., and was the son of the late Robert and Jean McBain. He was predeceased by his wife of 59 years, Janet, who died on November 29, 2004. His survivors include his wife, Sally; his sons, Robert and Stephen; his daughter, Elizabeth; and five grandchildren, Angus and Charlie by his first wife, Joy Cagiati in Frankfurt, Germany on October 23, 2022. Born to the late Alessandro and Anna Cagiati, Jr. —in his first book, The Adventurer’s Dictionary of Life—Best. A full obituary was published

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GIFTS TO THE ST. MARK’S ANNUAL FUND HAVE A DIRECT AND IMMEDIATE IMPACT ON ALL ASPECTS OF THE SCHOOL—the academic program, athletics, arts, financial aid, professional development, facilities, and campus life. Every contribution, of any size, helps St. Mark’s fulfill its mission of educating young people for lives of leadership and service.

In 2023–2024, we are pleased to announce that unrestricted gifts may be designated in honor of John C. Warren ’74 and Laura P. Appell-Warren.

It’s easy to donate today.
Give online at: www.stmarksschool.org/AFmagazine

Thank you for your support!
St. Mark’s School

Helping Hands

RISING VI FORMERS Judy Rodolakis and Calvin Beard (seated, center) were named co-Head Monitors for the 2023-2024 School year, alongside fellow Monitors (left to right) Charlotte Crawford, Yunna Syed, Crystal Hui, Eli Zahavi, Munene Muindi, and Jonathan Hernandez.

The position of Monitor at St. Mark’s dates back to 1866-1867, the School’s second academic year.