



VIRTU

A Publication for Parents, Alumni, and Friends of MacLay School

Fall/Winter 2023-24



A LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL *JAMES MILFORD*



Pulling onto campus feels different than it did 10 years ago when I arrived on our beautiful 100 acres. Mr. Jablon turned over an ambitious school with strong roots and I've been honored to serve in this position for the past decade.

In the pages that follow, you will see our faculty have continued to build on that strong foundation, as programs have rapidly expanded in the Fine Arts, Athletics, and Academics at all levels. Programming and enrollment on campus have been so strong over the last few years that we are actively preparing for the construction of new classrooms and multi-purpose spaces to accommodate the performances, guest lecturers, and expanding courses and concentrations for our Upper School students.

To say our faculty and students' ambitions and dreams have outgrown our facilities would be an understatement. However, amid all the excitement and confidence that record enrollment and generous giving brings, we must never forget the true gift of Maclay. As we are guided by our Mission, we seek to build a community where each student can be their best selves, where they can feel that Maclay is "their place" where they can be known, loved, and rise to the high bar of expectation of being a Marauder.

This is a special place and I'm honored to be your Head of School. Enjoy reading through these pages. They are filled with the great stories of our faculty, students, and families over the last several months.

Go Marauders!

Head of School

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Fall/Winter '23-'24 | Volume 16 | Issue 24



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On the cover: In art class the first graders were having a blast celebrating International Dot Day and the book, *The Dot*, by Peter H. Reynolds. Each student created a 3-D sphere illusion using the Quivervision App and Mrs. Hicks's iPhone.

Contributors: Kim McWilliams, Collins Barton, Carol Frances Hoffmann, Ellen Agrella, Annie McMillan, Langley Clark Photography, Garrett Robinson, Carri Lauder, Deborah Mayer, Morgan Lewis, Kim Daniel, Kaitlyn Dressel, and the staffs of the *Yearbook* and the *Andalusian*.

Design: Mamatey Graphic Design

We make every effort to provide accurate information about the Maclay Community, and apologize for any errors or omissions. If you have story ideas for *Virtu*, please email: news@maclay.org

1 SCHOOL 1 COMMUNITY



Convocation Opens 23-24 School Year

At the One School Convocation on August 11, 2023, Jennifer Corzine, a 50-year veteran faculty member, rang the bell to commence the new school year. Convocation is a beloved tradition at Maclay, particularly for our Seniors who eagerly anticipate escorting our 1st-grade Marauders. It was a wonderful start to what promises to be a fantastic year ahead!



Hurricane Collection

After the devastating impact of Hurricane Idalia, Maclay families came together to collect water bottles and much needed supplies for Taylor County. Volunteers from the Cheer team loaded up trucks and delivered the items collected from our One School effort.



Better Together

In the fall, Maclay School introduced BETTER TOGETHER, a One School initiative, inspired by the work of faculty, staff, and Board of Trustees members, who served on planning committees to guide the future direction of the school and establish the Strategic Plan for the next several years. Though Maclay School has historically been very active in supporting many various causes and programs, BETTER TOGETHER will look to make a larger impact locally as our 1100+ students focus on a single initiative - the ongoing challenge of Food Insecurity in the Big Bend area. BETTER TOGETHER is off to a terrific start thanks to the work of the students and faculty at Maclay.

Here's a look back at the launch of Better Together:

August: Faculty/Staff Pre-Planning Week

- Guest speaker from Second Harvest
- 150+ faculty packed 500 sandwich lunch bags and delivered to the Kearney Center
- The faculty wrote 500 notes for children's snack packs for Second Harvest
- Student Leadership Retreat with 80 Upper School students featuring a guest speaker on Food Insecurity in Leon County from Second Harvest

September: Homecoming Canned Food Drive sponsored by MCSC

- Grade by Grade Competition collected 1,887 cans for Second Harvest
- Guest speaker came to the Pep Rally to talk with students about where cans were going

October: Middle School Day of Service

- 6th Grade students took a field trip to Lott's Community Garden where they planted and harvested vegetables
- 7th Grade created 1,000 snack packs for Second Harvest
- 8th Grade held a canned food drive Amazing Race Challenge and cans were donated to Second Harvest

November: Thanksgiving Food Drive

- The Maclay Womens Service Club along with the Better Together Club held a Thanksgiving Canned Food Drive and collected 1,087 cans for the Oasis Center for Women and Girls
- Backpack Buddies and the Maclay Football team collected canned goods and items for Second Harvest.



Maclay Community Association

Spaghetti Supper

The first big event of the year for MCA was the Spaghetti Supper. On September 9, our One School Community celebrated the start of the football season with the Annual Spaghetti Supper. The event was an enormous success, and we owe it all to our amazing parent volunteers, talented student performers, and enthusiastic spirit! We enjoyed delicious food, drinks, and treats from popular local spots, such as Brickyard Pizzeria, Riccardos, Little Italy, Kona Ice, and Momma P's Ice Cream.



Donuts for Dads or Special Someone

Cartee Gym was filled with dads, special guests, kids, and donuts on Friday morning, October 6th! Many thanks to our MCA volunteers and chair **Ashlei Richardson** for a fabulous event for all of Pre-K and Lower School!





Volunteers in TruBru

Our parent volunteers have worked hard at TruBru filling in when **Mr. Jarod** is out.



Parent Socials

MCA hosted some awesome grade-level parent socials where parents could mix and mingle with other parents in their child's grade.



Veterans Salute

MCA hosted a wonderful Veterans Salute on November 9th honoring those who served. Nearly 60 veteran guests attended the event this year. Students led their veteran guests and paraded through the school before gathering for a program in the Dining Hall.

Center for Academic Excellence

The Center for Academic Excellence

continues to grow and thrive in the heart of the Maclay campus. Now serving over 200 students, the CAE staff of 10-plus and contracted specialists such as speech pathologists, occupational therapists, and behavioral specialists have broadened services in 2023. One of the largest areas of growth has been in enrichment. The CAE now offers Math at Maclay afterschool for students who strive to excel and improve math skills, the iTHINKERS, an enrichment class for 2nd through 4th graders that focuses on exploration of STEM topics through collaborative and hands-on learning. Also new this year is the addition of competition teams for both math and robotics all in addition to the tutoring and student support the CAE already provides.





Making a Splash

You can't miss the new colorful furniture that arrived at the CAE the week of October 2nd! These new pieces provide students in all divisions with a comfortable environment to learn and grow and some fun spaces to study.





LOWER SCHOOL NEWS

Taylor Swift Pre-planning

Maclay's Lower School Teachers welcomed the 2023-24 school year with a Taylor Swift theme! The teachers rocked matching t-shirts reading, "It's me. Hi I'm the teacher. It's me," Lower School version. It was a memorable way to welcome the school year.



Invention Guest Speaker

Jeffrey Phipps, co-inventor of the Marshmallow Shooter, spoke on September 9th to 5th graders in connection with their unit "Inventors at Work." Mr. Phipps shared the inspiration behind the idea, as well as the process of developing a new invention. Students learned about the importance of conducting research, applying for a patent, developing a prototype, working collaboratively with a team, and the production and marketing of an invention.

Halloween

Halloween is a favorite in Maclay Lower School where students dressed up in costumes and paraded through the entire school in the morning.



Egg Drop

The third graders got creative with their egg drop contraptions, and watched them drop from the sky hoping their invention would defy gravity and not break. The experiment was part of their science unit and helped students learn about physics in the process.



Community Helpers

The Kindergarteners showcased their adoration for various community helpers by dressing up. We spotted police officers, astronauts, firefighters, and a variety of others!



Grateful Gatherings

The first-grade students had a grateful gathering with their loved ones and enjoyed a Thanksgiving feast prepared by **Mr. Jim**. The atmosphere was filled with joy and laughter as the children and their families came together to celebrate this special occasion. It is one of our favorite traditions in the Lower School!



MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWS

8th Grade Rez Trip

8th Graders took a field trip to the FSU Reservation. The students enjoyed rock wall climbing, volleyball, and fun challenges for the day as a way to get to know each other at the beginning of the school year.



Spanish Heritage Speaker

In collaboration with Hispanic Heritage Month, **Dr. Janet Lee Decosmo**, a retired professor of Caribbean Studies at FAMU, presented traditional Hispanic clothing and artifacts with the Middle School students. She also sang and played guitar.

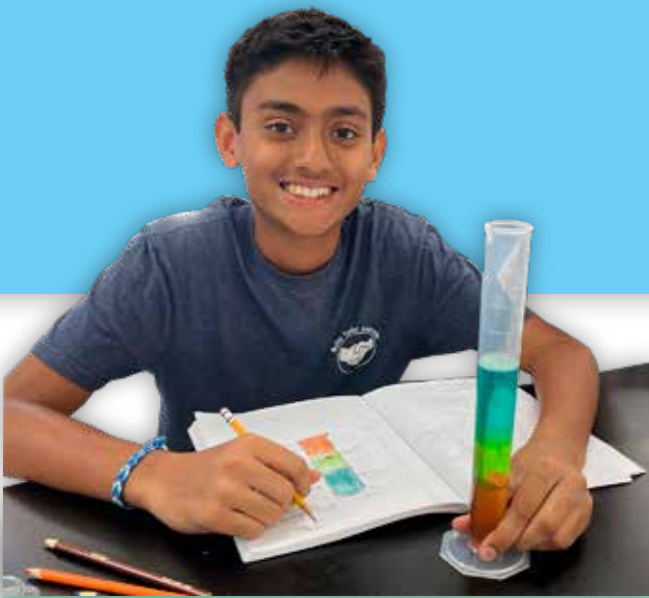
Club Fair

At the beginning of the school year, the Middle School students visited classrooms in the Middle School to sign up for clubs at the annual Club Fair! Maclay Middle School offers

nearly 20 clubs for students including the Rock Climbing Club, Green Club, Sewing Club, Strategy Gaming Club, the new Fishing Club and more. Some of the clubs meet during the school day during lunch, after school, or even on the weekends for activities.

Maclay Middle School's Day of Service

This was the first year that Middle School hosted its own Day of Service with each grade participating in their own project for the Better Together initiative. Maclay 6th grades' Service-Learning Field Trip was to Lotts Community Garden where they learned about food insecurity, fertilized and planted in the fields, weeded and picked vegetables. The 7th graders packed 1,000 snack packs for Second Harvest and the 8th grade students held a canned good competition similar to the Amazing Race.



Science in Middle School

The science classes in Middle School at Maclay are always active and engaging. Whether it's **Mrs. Barton's** Space Science, **Mrs. Paul's** Physical Science, or **Ms. Stewart's** Life Science, there is always tons of action and learning going on.

Robotics Take Center Stage

Maclay had two teams participate in the FIRST LEGO LEAGUE CHALLENGE this year held at Cobb Middle School on Saturday December 2nd. *The Robonauts*, **Alhasan Kamakhi, Daniel Bjorkland, Colgan Dudley, Will Cintron, Evan Ho, Cormac McCabe and Ben Gregory** placed 6th overall in the Robot Challenge. *Team Rowdy Robotics*, **Luke Jackson, Thomas Ferraro, Grant Ulrich, Krish Patel, Oliver Ramos-Roberts and Sean Foes**, placed 8th overall out of a field of 22 teams. Each team formulated a strategy and then designed, built, and programmed robots to perform a multitude of tasks. Teams also presented innovation projects to a panel of judges, who grilled them on a number of topics.



Discovery Path

The Humanities Discovery Path continues to thrive. This semester, the students learned from several guest speakers who covered graphic design, photography, interviewing techniques, and branding. On the STEM side, the Robotics team also grew and began a competition league.



Jr. Beta

Jr. Beta hosted its annual pink lemonade sale raising money for Breast Cancer and the Joanna Francis Living Well Foundation. The service club also participated in the annual Guardian Ad Litem program and purchased gifts for children that are part of the program in Leon County and surrounding counties.





UPPER SCHOOL NEWS



Anchor Day

Upper School started a little different in 2023 with a first day called Anchor Day which was a day before Lower and Middle School started. This gave the students a chance to have campus to themselves and acclimate to all of their classes. There was also special programming including the dress code trivia, a spirit cheer session, scavenger hunt, and a fun pep rally!

Honor Signing

New students and faculty members in the Upper School came together for the annual Honor Signing ceremony which was held in the Cartee Gymnasium. Our speaker, Tallahassee **Mayor John Dailey** ('90), spoke inspirationally to each student and faculty member while Maclay musicians from all divisions performed.



National Merits

Maclay School had four seniors named National Merit Semifinalists: **Mary Clayton Soto**, **Shiv Patel**, **Louis Dearman** and **Sophia Krizner** were among the 21,000 out of 1.3 million who qualified. In addition, Maclay had three seniors, **Gracie Koeppel**, **Venkat Maddipoti**, and **Clark Mitchell** were named National Merit Commended Scholars. About 34,000 Commended Scholars throughout the nation are being recognized for their exceptional academic promise.

WeEvolve Speaker

The new WeEvolve Club in conjunction with the School Counseling Office brought in special speakers for an assembly this semester. **Dr. Mike Tompkins** a psychiatry resident at HCA Capital Hospital and **Dr. Jeffery Ferraro** of HCA Healthcare talked with students about good sleeping habits, mental health, and a career in the medical field.



Freshman Challenge

The class of 2027 spent a day at the FSU Reservation making memories. The Freshman Challenge is a favorite tradition for 9th grade students who, along with their upperclassman counselors, played games, acted out skits, and bonded as a class. At the Rez, freshmen participated in a variety of activities such as kickball, volleyball, flag football, and swimming. The day ended back on campus with an exciting lip-sync battle.



Career Day

Upper school career day was a huge success! Eighteen amazing individuals came to campus to share their insights with our students, including FBI Agent **Kathryn Sherman**, who zoomed in from London. Our

students were so grateful for the opportunity to learn from these professionals and get a glimpse into different career paths. Career Day is an annual event held for all our students to get a wide exposure of professions so they can have an idea of fields they may want to pursue.



Junior Interview Series

Each year, 11th graders participate in the Junior Interview Series where they receive invaluable experience preparing for future interviews. Parents, alumni, and community volunteers visit campus or conduct virtual mock interviews and provide feedback to the students during the spring semester. In November, the students got started by attending a resume writing workshop so they can practice formatting and writing the perfect resume!



Multicultural Appreciation Club

The Multicultural Appreciation Club hosted its annual lunch where MAC club members brought in foods from countries such as Ethiopia and the Netherlands. Students, faculty, and staff all enjoyed the variety of food from many cultures.

Mu Alpha Theta

The Mu Alpha Theta team took 2nd place in the Region and 3rd place overall at the Rickards Invitational in November. **Diya Patel** placed 2nd overall as an individual and club sponsor **John Gussaroff** was named Region 1 director for the Florida Association of Mu Alpha Theta. Maclay will, for the first time, host the February regional competition, with approximately 400 mathletes competing from schools across the region.



College Counseling

The College Counseling Team at Maclay has over 30 years of experience in advising high school students in select college admissions. Their expertise spans all regions of the country, which includes public and private institutions.

The College Counselors at Maclay understand the rich history of Maclay graduates getting into the finest colleges and universities in the country and are equipped to continue the great tradition of college admissions success.

The Comprehensive College Counseling Program at Maclay starts early and spans through high school, culminating in the all-important Junior and Senior years. It's never too early to think about college, and the college counseling team is always available to meet with individual students and their parents to start the discussion and create plans.



In January, eight recent graduates returned to campus to hold a panel discussion and Q&A with Maclay juniors and seniors. The panelists talked about everything from what they wish they had done before they graduated Maclay to prepare for college, to how to handle a tough roommate situation. Many thanks to our alumni guests: **Shane Croston** ('23, FSU), **James Milford** ('23, Auburn), **Molly Johnson** ('22, Auburn), **Danielle Collins** ('22, UF), **Judy Wang** ('19, USC and Georgetown), **Chari Beamer** ('23, FAMU), **Mason Cardman** ('22, UGA), and **Kate Smith** ('22, UGA).

Meet the Staff



Daron Gallina, Director



Lauren Furman, Asst. Director



Shana McComb, Registrar

College Counseling at Maclay

- Monthly Study Hall Drop-in
- College Representative Visits on campus
- Financial Aid Night
- Parent Coffees
- Freshman Academy
- Sophomore Academy
- On-Campus Testing
- Alumni Panel
- Junior Retreat
- Middle School Programming
- Schedule Advisement



Homecoming



Marauders celebrated this year's Homecoming. *There's No Place Like Homecoming* – inspired by Wizard of Oz. The festivities included dress-up days, homeroom games, class rivalry, a Homecoming pep-rally, and a winning football game to top it all off. Marauder alumni were warmly welcomed back to the campus they know and love.



The Arts



Musical Theatre Expansion

This year, Maclay saw an increase in participation and in classes offered including dance classes in the Middle and Upper School and in the Musical Theatre Program. In January, String and Orchestra Director **Aaron Seiler** launched the Marauder Music Academy offering private lessons with professional instructors afterschool and on the weekend for cello, guitar, and piano. Additionally, the Visual Arts has expanded by offering experiential field trips and film studies. The Arts is growing at Maclay!



Boeing Boeing

The Theatre Department hosted three performances on the Cartee stage this fall. *Boeing Boeing* ran on December 1st, 2nd, and 3rd and showcased stunning costumes, backdrops, props, and acting! A great performance by all.



Capital City Holiday Spectacular

The Holiday showcase starring the **Pebblettes** (not quite the Rockettes!) sang and danced on the Cartee Stage this December. The Middle and Upper School Dance classes and theatre students entertained an audience with holiday cheer and some fun music.



Music on the Plaza

The 3rd Annual Music on the Plaza, which was actually held in the Cartee Gym this year, showcased an array of Marauder talents including String Orchestra, Maclay Band, Junior Company, Senior Company, Upper School Popular Music Class, Upper School Music Club, and the Marauder Dance Company.

Thespian Troupes Qualify for State

Our Maclay Senior Thespian Troupe competed in the Florida District 1 Festival and received numerous awards including eight Superiors, six Excellence awards along with a Critics Choice for a large group musical. The troupe is headed to Tampa this March for the State competition. The Middle School Troupe with 30-plus members strong also qualified for State. The 6th graders received Superior for large group 'Revolting Children,' and the 7th and 8th graders won super and Critics Choice for their large group number at the District Festival.



The Lower School Theatre

The Lower School students hit the stage this semester with a performance of *The Pajama Party* and *The Nutcracker*. We love seeing our PreK-5th students showcasing their talents!



North Florida Fair Winners

The Visual Arts fared well at the North Florida Fair this year. Maclay students won two Best in Shows from Lower School and students accumulated 15 first place ribbons, 12 second place ribbons, seven third place ribbons, 14 fourth place ribbons, five fifth place ribbons, and six Honorable Mentions.



Winter Festival

Maclay Art students showed their talents at the annual Winter Festival held at City Hall. The exhibit featured art from K-12 students from public, private, and charter schools in the Capital City region. Teachers selected only two student art pieces to submit into the competition. **Cole McGinley** won 3rd place with his photograph "Anyone can Start a Podcast" and **Collins Dickson** won honorable mention for his 2D drawing.



ATHLETICS

TRACK RING CEREMONY

During halftime at the homecoming football game, the State Champion Varsity Girls Track and Field team got their well-deserved bling at the Track Ring Ceremony. Coaches, parents, and supporters of the team cheered and applauded the girls for their outstanding performance over the season.

VOLLEYBALL

The Marauder Volleyball team had a successful season, finishing with a 13-12 record. They emerged victorious in both home and away games against Meridian Road rival, North Florida Christian. On Wednesday, October 11, the team celebrated Senior Night and honored their seniors, Brooke Nohle, Katelyn Eldred, and Abbie Hartmann. The team dominated with a 3-1 win over St. John Paul II. The Maclay Volleyball team has a strong history of success and will undoubtedly continue to thrive in the years ahead.

CROSS COUNTRY

The Cross-Country team had yet another dominating season this year on both the girls' and boys' sides. The girls defeated 30 teams with a dominating 1st place finish at the New World Spectacular in Jacksonville. On October 31, the girls' team won the District Champions while the boys' team finished District Runner-Up. **Caroline Couch** and **David Barton** finished first in both races at Districts. Maclay's top-tier Cross-Country teams will continue to progress and remain one of the leading teams in the state.

BOYS GOLF

The Boy's Golf team concluded the regular season at the regional tournament. The team defeated Chiles, Florida High, Lincoln, Leon, Community Christian, and Rickards to win the City Championship. The boys came into the post-season with a team scoring an average of 7.698 over par. On October 4, at Hilaman Golf Course, the boys availed themselves as District Champions, and later took 4th at Regionals, just one place short of the qualifying spot. Sophomore **Jack Cook** finished third with a 72 at Regionals and secured an individual spot for the State Tournament. With the wealth of young talent and leadership of next year's upperclassmen, the future of the boy's golf program is certainly bright.



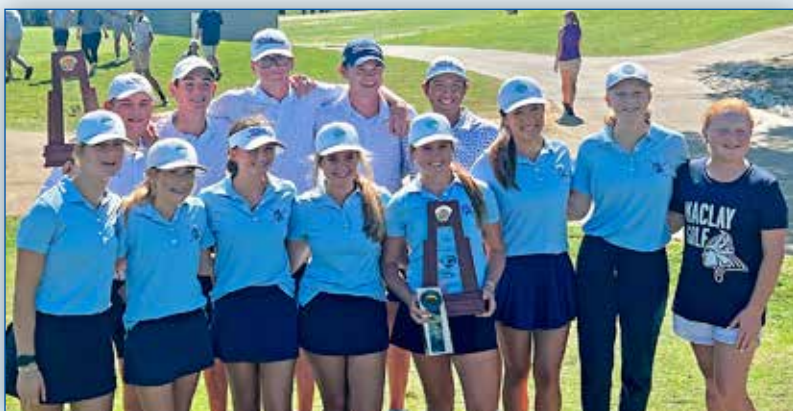
FOOTBALL



TRACK



CROSS COUNTRY



GOLF



SWIMMING AND DIVING

GIRLS GOLF

The Girl's Golf team finished the regular season undefeated, with a 15-0 record winning the District Championships. **Ellie Riner**, who recently signed with North Georgia, tied for 20th at the State Tournament after shooting 74/74.

FOOTBALL

The Maclay Football team finished up the season with a 5-6 record but qualified for the Regional Play-offs against JPIL. It was a gritty game that went back and forth but showed a promising future for the Marauders. The team was led by an awesome group of seniors with one of the largest squads in our football history. On Senior Night, Maclay clinched a 35-34 victory over Taylor County with a game-winning block by Senior **Armon Rutledge** under the lights of Frank Shaw Field.

SWIMMING AND DIVING

The Maclay Swim and Dive team had an outstanding season this year. The girls' team was runner-up at the district meet, while the boys team won the championship and many swimmers qualified for State. **Bella Ekk**, who signed with Auburn, was 2023 runner-up in her events and set new school records in the 200 free, 100 free and 50 free. **Hanson Higdon** also set a new 50 free school record, outpacing the legendary record from 1986. All four relays swam in finals at 1A States.

ATHLETICS

SIGNINGS



Payton Bundy

Payton Bundy signed with the University of Tennessee at Martin to continue her Equestrian career.



Ellie Jane Riner:

Ellie Jane Riner signed with the University of North Georgia to continue her golf career.



Katelyn Eldred:

Katelyn Eldred signed with Maryville College to continue her Volleyball career.

ALL BIG BEND

GIRLS GOLF

Coach of the Year: **Cindy Stockstill**

Player of the Year: **Ellie Riner**

1st Team: **Ellie Jane Riner, Lily Smith, Reece Erwin, McClaine Ulrich**

2nd Team: **Tessa Cooper, Kylee Cronin, Mollie Sprague,**

HM: **Josey Becker**

BOYS GOLF

Coach of the Year: **Joe Kupiszewski**

1st team: **Jack Cook, Hayden Chairs**

2nd Team: **Zachary Lowe, Alejandro Ortiz**

HM: **Cameron Kise, Jacob Parrish, Brody Mitchell**

SWIMMING AND DIVING

Girls Swimmer of the Year: **Bella Ekk**

1st Team: **Hanson Higdon**

2nd Team: **Blake Rhodes**

HM: **Vukasin Usina, Emmanuel Squitier**

1st Team: **Bella Ekk, Sara Mnookin**

2nd Team: **McKay Yearty**

HM: **Lauren Carter, Zara Jaffe**

CROSS COUNTRY

Coach of the Year: **Angie Milford**

Girls Runner of the Year: **Caroline Couch**

Boys 1st team: **David Barton, HM: Logan Phillips, Charlie Wilson**

Girls 1st team: **Caroline Couch, Gracie Koeppel, Lillian Koeppel, Mary Clayton Soto**

2nd Team: **Payton Thumm**

FOOTBALL

2nd Team **Nash Beshears**

HM: **George Grant**

VOLLEYBALL

2nd Team: **Landri Ross**

HM: **Journey Kramer**

HM: *Honorable Mention*

ALUMNI AFFAIRS



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latest news
for the next *Virtu*

Email:
alumni@macclay.org
and add a photo

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SAVE THE DATE!

Homecoming & Reunion Weekend

October 18-19, 2024

Reunion Classes: 1974 1984, 1994, 2004, 2014

Leadership Maclay

October 20-21, 2024

Applications are now open at

www.maclay.org/LeadershipMaclay



In Memoriam

Betty Ann Skelton

September 25, 2023
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Mary Catherine Visconti

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Maclay Clinic
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December 11, 2023
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Judson Freeman

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ALUMNI AFFAIRS



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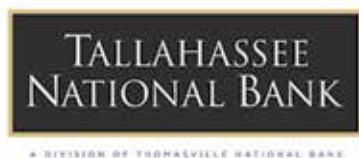
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Hangar 38
Cheesecakes by Sylvia
Webster Boiled Peanuts



ALUMNI AFFAIRS

ALUMNI PROFILE

Sarah Casteel Dean '11

Sarah (Casteel) Dean started at Maclay in the fall of 2007 in the ninth grade. Throughout her four years at Maclay she wore many hats. Sarah was a member of Company, photo editor of the school yearbook, ran cross country, played softball, swam, played JV tennis, a member of the Green Club, and was class historian her senior year. She was known for being kind to every person she encountered and was so beloved by her classmates, that they elected her the 2010 Homecoming Queen. Sarah graduated from Maclay in the spring of 2011, she went on to Samford University where she graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Graphic Design. Sarah now lives in Greenville, South Carolina with her husband Matthew. During the lockdown Sarah began her journey creating *The Midnight Post* and this fall *The Midnight Post* and *The Post Box Clock* (her debut novel) were published.

Enjoy the Q&A interview with Sarah Dean about her time at Maclay, the creation of The Midnight Post, & her journey of becoming a storyteller.



What was your time at Maclay like?

This might sound a little silly, but my time at Maclay was like a tulip planted in the winter. I was a transplant from another school, and it honestly took me a little while to find my roots, but through my time there I really bloomed. By the end of my senior year, I had kindled friendships with some of my closest friends who I still cherish to this day and learned that I loved creating art, which set me on the path that led me to where I am! I am so grateful for Maclay!

What is your favorite memory from Maclay?

That's so hard! Probably laughing with friends around the quad. It's the little things, you know?

What teacher or class had the biggest impact on you?

My favorite class at Maclay was Yearbook. My junior year I met Mrs. Mayer, and she was the first person to introduce me to visual storytelling. She gave me a camera assignment and I fell in love with photography! I really don't think I would be where I am without her creative encouragement.

What lessons did you learn at Maclay that you still carry with you today?

Make sure to respond when someone emails you.

How did Maclay prepare you for success in college and beyond?

Maclay was just academically incredible and really fostered my sense of loving to learn which has helped in every season of life.

ALUMNI AFFAIRS



When did you first realize your love for graphic design & illustration? Have you always been creative?

When I was at Maclay I took drama and yearbook, but, funny enough, I never took any of the art classes, so it wasn't until my college Journalism orientation that I realized I needed to switch majors. When I took my first design class, I loved it and knew immediately I was in the right place.

Tell us about *The Midnight Post*

So exciting! Well, *The Midnight Post* all started from a few letters, illustrating around midnight, and lots of *Animal Crossing* during the pandemic. It had been a dream of mine since I started graphic design to illustrate and write a picture book, and so during Covid, I started creating this fantasy world in which there would be six animal couriers who delivered letters of hope, wisdom, and heart. As our world started opening back up again, I decided to end my time working as an Art Director and fully launch a card company directly tied to the story as I worked on the series. Each month I started debuting an animal character over email, but what I didn't realize at the time was that the world and the story had really grown beyond the scope of a picture book. By the end of the year, I had a fully written manuscript that was ready to go into editing, and I suppose the rest is history! The first book, *The Midnight Post* and the *Postbox Clock* follows *Frederick the Fox* as he moves to the small town of Burrowood, and unravels the mystery of a magical post office, *The Midnight Post*.

Do you do all the illustrations yourself?

I do!

When did you realize you wanted to make *The Midnight Post* into a children's book series? Or was that always the plan?

It was always the plan! The cards were just a way that I could start paving a path for the story. I can't wait to share more about the world! There's a lot to unpack in this series!

When did you know you wanted to be an author?

This one is funny! I really didn't want to be an author in a traditional sense. In fact, I was terrified of being an author because of my low marks in grammar from school. My husband was the one who encouraged me to write the book. I think it's one of the things that makes this story so special...like Mrs. Mayer encouraging me in photography or my husband cheering me on to write, I think sometimes people can come into your life and notice something you don't really realize about yourself, but by them voicing what they see in you, it can have a profound impact on your life.

How did Maclay specifically impact your writing?

When I was at Maclay I was in the drama club, and I really realized how important being able to "get into character" was to writing character dialogue. It can feel very similar!

What has been the most rewarding part of being an author & illustrator of your own book?

Getting to encourage others to write and illustrate their own stories! It's simply the best!

What is your writing process like?

Well, first I spend a long time working through a master outline that has just about every idea I can think of inside of it. Then I put on some music that fits the feel of the chapter I'm working on and then I get to writing. Some days it's amazing, some days it's the worst, but like the feeling you get from a book – getting to the end is the best part!

What advice would you give to aspiring authors?

Being an author isn't about loving to write. It's about having a story you want to tell. You never know the potential your words can bring.

What is next? A sequel?

Oh yes! We're going to have a ball!

FUN QUESTIONS:

What is your favorite book?

The Great Gatsby. (Thanks Mr. Norment!)

What is your cat's name?

Tohsaka! It's Japanese for "crown." She's basically royalty at the Deans.

What is your favorite thing to do when you aren't working?

Go on walks with Hubs.

Do you have a favorite author?

I do, it's C.S. Lewis. Who couldn't fall in love with a world inside a wardrobe?

Be sure to check out *The Midnight Post* at www.themidnightpostshop.com and on Instagram.



ALUMNI AFFAIRS

20 in 20

Meet 20 Alums from the past 20 graduation years who are doing remarkable things. Cheers to 20 years!



1 |

Alum: Cassidy Criag
Class of 2016
Florida State University
Multifamily Development at
Trammell Crow Residential
Atlanta, Georgia



2 |

Alum: Austin Cook
Class of 2016
Florida State University
Digital Product Manager
Red Bull Media House
Tampa, Florida



3 |

Alum: Jacob Leoni
Class of 2018
Northeastern and Florida State
Co-Founder Leoni & Sons
Analyst Ackman-Ziff Real Estate Group
Broker at Volare Real Estate
Tallahassee, Florida



4 |

Alum: Emily Green-Conrad
Class of 2016
Presbyterian College
and American University
Associate at Constitution Partners LLC
Washington, DC



5 |

Alum: Temi Omotayo
Class of 2015
Florida State University
Speech Language Pathologist,
Texas Children's Hospital
Houston, Texas



6 |

Alum: Will Boyd
Class of 2013
Florida State University
Belmont University, MBA
Financial Accountant
at Specialty Dental Brands
Nashville, Tennessee



7 |

Alum: Chase Mitchell
Class of 2011
Florida State University
Director of Legislative Affairs
and Policy Office of Chief Financial Officer
Jimmy Patronis
Tallahassee, Florida



8 |

Alum: Raymond James
Class of 2013
University of South Florida
Partner at Fortif Law Partners, LLC
Birmingham, Alabama



9 |

Alum: Taylor Yohner
Class of 2012
Florida State University
College of Business
Vice President, Mergers & Acquisitions
at Three Sixty Seven Advisors
Tampa, Florida



10 |

Alum: Meagan Sweeney
Class of 2017
University of Kentucky
Product Manager, Spectrum Reach
Cincinnati, Ohio

ALUMNI AFFAIRS

20 in 20



11 |

Alum: **Chas Dudley**
Class of 2017
Florida State University
Investment Banking Analyst
at Dowling Hales
New York, New York



16 |

Alum: **Javier Masferrer**
Class of 2015
Florida State University
Senior Leasing Associate
for JBL Asset Management
Miami, Florida



12 |

Alum: **Haley Kole**
Class of 2013
University of Virginia
Florida State University College of Law
Attorney at Shumaker, Loop
& Kendrick, LLP
Tampa, Florida



17 |

Alum: **Carson (Stratton) Blake**
Class of 2016
Auburn University
Marketing and Public Relations
Coordinator at East Alabama Health
Auburn, Alabama



13 |

Alum: **Sarah Clark Ballard**
Class of 2015
The University of Texas at Austin
Account Coordinator at LTK
Dallas, Texas



18 |

Alum: **Mark Salters**
Class of 2016
Florida State University
Director, Legislative Information Services.
Stateside Associates
Arlington, Virginia



14 |

Alum: **Alex Secreast**
Class of 2019
Auburn University
Fidelity Investments
Dallas, Texas



19 |

Alum: **Shannon Duncanson**
Class of 2015
Clemson University,
Florida State University College of Law
Government Affairs Specialist, Becker
& Poliakof
Washington, D.C.



15 |

Alum: **Mercy Bickell**
Class of 2018
Pomona College
Software Engineer at Revere CRE
Niwot, Colorado



20 |

Alum: **Ben Grubbs**
Class of 2015
University of Florida
Environmental Consultant at
the Florida Department of
Environmental Protection
Tallahassee, Florida

*Would you like to be featured in the 20 in 20?
Email carolhoffmann@maclay.org for details.*



ALUMNI AFFAIRS

HOMECOMING 2023



Alumni Tailgate Gathering

The alumni tailgate is a long-standing tradition that is a celebration of the Maclay legacy. Sponsored and hosted by the Maclay Alumni Association, it is always the perfect kick off to the Homecoming Weekend. What is better than old friends, good food, and football?



All-Class Reunion

Second time's the charm! The 2nd Annual All-Class Reunion brought Langford Hall alive with laughter, music, and memories spanning generations. We celebrated the milestone years of 1973, 1978, 1983, 1988, 1993, 1998, 2003, & 2013. Generations collided, memories ignited, and Langford Hall echoed. Who says you can't go back to high school? From photobooth fun, reminiscing in the courtyard, and looking at yearbooks from years past, one thing is for sure: school spirit never fades.

ALUMNI AFFAIRS

HOMECOMING 2023



Leadership Maclay III

On October 1-2, 2023, Maclay held its 3rd Annual Leadership Maclay retreat. This year's Leadership Maclay class consisted of 21 Maclay graduates and 15 different graduating classes. Participants got a behind the scenes view of the school, participate in discussions with senior school administration and took part in generative discussions about the future of Maclay, sharing alumni perspectives. This year's Honorary Chair was **Melissa Williamson Nelson '91**.

Applications for Leadership Maclay 2024 will be held October 20-21, 2024 and applications are now open at www.maclay.org/LeadershipMaclay.



Daniel Bowen
Class of 2002

Richard Cassidy
Class of 2004

Robert Celander
Class of 2013

Michelle Haskell Eubanks
Class of 1979

Becky Meisberg Healy
Class of 1983

BaShaun Palmer Henry
Class of 1990

Mark Herron
Class of 2002

Todd Hunter
Class of 2003

Anne Johansen
Class of 2001

Joe Kalicki
Class of 2010

Byron Knight
Class of 1977

Clayton Knowles
Class of 2001

Austin Mall
Class of 2011

Meghan Gould Marchant
Class of 2009

Bronwyn McCreary
Class of 1995

Kim Datillio McLeod
Class of 1986

Thomas (Tom) Proctor, Jr.
Class of 1989

Sarah Doolin Roy
Class of 2003

Elizabeth Sheward
Class of 2006

Marcia Garcia Warfel
Class of 1989



ALUMNI AFFAIRS

HOMECOMING 2023

2023 Hall of Fame and Distinguished Alumni



Daniel Bowen,

Soccer ('02)

Bowen competed on the track and field teams two seasons, as well as weightlifting, diving, and basketball team for a season. As a track athlete, Bowen's 4x400m relay team won the state title his senior year helping the Marauders to a

team State Championship in 2002 and as a diver, he was the District Champion his junior season. A four-time starter on the varsity soccer squad, Bowen led the team in scoring in both his junior and senior years with a combined 78 goals. His career total includes 86 goals, including a record 52 in his final year at Maclay. He is also tied for the record for most goals scored in a game (7), alongside Molly Jones. In his senior year, he was named MVP of the North vs South All-Star Game, where he scored three goals, his accolades did not end there. He was also named an All-Big Bend player and to the All-State team. While Bowen was at Maclay, the soccer team made four successive Regional appearances, including State runner-up in 2002.



Katy Gimble,

Multi-sports ('01)

During her time at Maclay, Katy Gimble made her mark in numerous sports with her outstanding athleticism. She earned eight varsity letters playing for the Marauder softball, golf, and basketball teams all while being

active in Anchor Club and the National Honor Society. In her senior year, she was named to the 2nd All State team and the 1st All Big Bend team for basketball. She recorded an incredible 3.7 assists per game and led the team in total points scored (481), scoring average (15.1), rebounds (7.4), and free-throw percentage (80%). At the time, she set the school and county record for three-pointers and the second top 3-point shooter in the state. Gimble also reached the 1,000-point milestone to cap off an impressive basketball career. In addition to being a great basketball player, Gimble also excelled on the golf course. She was named to the 1st All Big Bend team in her 9th, 11th, and 12th grade years. She also won the Individual City Championship in her junior year and the Individual District Championship in her senior year.



Precious Hall

Basketball ('12)

Very few people have dominated the sport of basketball the way Precious Hall has. When Hall was at Maclay, she quickly became an offensive dynamo, scoring 1,000 points in under two years. From 2010-2012 alone, she

scored over 1,400 points and recorded 225 total steals, 493 total rebounds, and 36 total blocks. She also served as team captain and was named Most Valuable Player and Maclay School Team Outstanding Athlete. In 2011, she was named Big Bend Player of the Year, and to the 1st All Big Bend team in 2012. According to her coach, Rapheal Harris, "Precious Hall was a phenomenal basketball player. A great competitor and student-athlete. One of the top student-athletes in this area."



Ross McMillan

Cross Country and Track ('03)

When Ross McMillan was at Maclay, he exemplified what it means to not only be a great athlete, but a great leader as well. McMillan attended Maclay for six years, playing basketball and running on the track & field

and cross-country teams. As a senior, McMillan served as captain and helped lead the Marauder track & field team to the State title in 2003. His coach, Gary Droze said, "(Winning State) could never have happened without Ross setting a tone of relentless determination."

In 2002, McMillan won the State Champion in the 4x400m and was runner-up in the 800m and his senior year, he was the 1600m State Champion, 4x400m State Champion and 800m runner-up. McMillan still owns three school records that have not been broken in 20 years. Besides the amazing impact Ross made on the track, he was equally as successful in his student life. He was elected President of the Student Government his senior year and was named the Most Outstanding Freshman in 2000, the Most Outstanding Sophomore in 2001, and the Most Outstanding Senior in 2003.



Bowen



Gimble



McMillan



Hall

ALUMNI AFFAIRS

HOMECOMING 2023



1986 Softball Team



Under the leadership of first-year head coach Kim Googe, the 1986 softball team exemplified what it means to be a Maclay Marauder through their hard work, perseverance, and determination. After losing the season opener 0-5 to Rickards, the team rebounded and steamrolled the competition, finishing the regular season with only one other loss. In the State semifinal matchup against powerhouse Fort Lauderdale Westminster, Maclay dominated the entire game in a 17-1 rout. The Marauders then set their sights on the final obstacle: Lake Butler County Union. The team was hungry to win the State Championship, having lost in the Final Four the year prior. The game was deadlocked until the sixth inning when the Marauders erupted with five runs and then held on late to win the game and the Championship with a 9-7 victory. This band of 19 girls were a tight-knit group who displayed resilience, determination, and a ton of athleticism, and were prime examples of what it means to be Marauders.

2023 Distinguished Alumni



Byron Knight

Class of 1977

Byron Knight was known as a well-traveled citizen of the world when he came to Maclay having lived in England and toured Europe. During his four years as a Marauder, he was active in a service club where he served as Vice-

President. He was also a member of the band and had a reputation of being a 'super mechanic' since he was fascinated by automobiles and airplanes.

Dr. Knight is a native of Tallahassee. Both of his parents were graduates of FSU and sacrificed to give Byron a 'top-notch education.' After graduating Maclay in 1977, Knight headed to the University of Michigan where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering. He later continued his education with a Masters in Mechanical Engineering from North Carolina State University in 1990, and a Doctorate of Philosophy in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Florida in 2000.

Knight began his career in 1982 with the Harris Corporation developing ground-based and space borne antenna systems, and then with Lockheed Corporation as a National Aeronautics Space Agency (NASA) space shuttle thermal protection systems engineer for the Shuttle Atlantis. From 1986 to 1988,

he worked for the Unisys Corporation as the division mechanical engineer developing signals intelligence hardware systems for the Department of Defense.

Dr. Byron F. Knight is currently a United States Department of Defense Intelligence Senior Leader and serves as the Chief Scientist in the Advanced Systems and Technology Directorate at the National Reconnaissance in Chantilly, Virginia. In this capacity, he is responsible for developing research technologies for space and ground reconnaissance systems. His leadership, vision, and technical expertise helps guarantee that the U.S. will continue, its space dominance, providing an unblinking eye of vigilance over the United States and its armed forces around the world.



Additionally, Dr. Knight is also an active member of the community, offering his time and expertise as a volunteer teacher, tutor, and even science fair judge at various educational events. He has spoken to ROTC and Military Academy cadets promoting the 6-week NRO internship program and volunteers with the American Heritage Girls Organization and Wreaths Across American program.

Knight is the first Distinguished Alum to be nominated by a group of his classmates – the Class of 1977 – demonstrating the immense respect and admiration they feel towards their fellow Marauder and all his accomplishments since leaving Maclay.



ALUMNI AFFAIRS

CLASS NEWS

CLASS OF 1983



Brett Anderson (Class of 1983) is pictured with his son **Dustin**, daughter **Jamie**, son in law **Dylan**, and wife **Pauline**. Brett retired from the Tallahassee Fire Dept in 2017 after serving 29 years. Dustin is a financial administrator in New York and his daughter, Jamie owns her own hair salon, The Willow, in Bannerman Crossing!

CLASS OF 1984



Holly Hughes Moffett and her husband **David** hosted a beautiful wedding for their daughter **Emmala Moffett** and **Steven Valois** on October 14, 2023. Other Maclay alumni that joined in on the celebration were
Wells Hughes '81
Leslie Williamson '84
Nikki Cotton Bishop '84
Sarah Skelton Rich '84
Kelly Boyd Kirby '84

CLASS OF 1985

A "McClure-Maclay Family Reunion" in Atlanta! Sisters **Clara Frances McClure** (Class of 2014) and



Anne Jackson McClure Shenker (Class of 2017) met their mom, **Julie Meisburg McClure** (Class of 1985) shopping for Clara Frances' upcoming wedding! While their husband/dad, **Bob McClure** (Class of 1983), was around the corner enjoying a cold beverage with future son-in-law **Cole Dawkins**, former Maclay Men's Tennis Coach, who is currently working for Ernst & Young CPA, in Atlanta, GA.

CLASS OF 1988



At the 1988 class reunion during Homecoming Weekend 2023, this is who showed up who were part of the 1975 1st kindergarten class of Maclay: **Woody Burgert**, **Mayo Woodward**, **Katherine Moore Reed**, **Gavin Phipps**, **Susie Brown-Vasquez**, and **Cecilia Cola McMullian**.

CLASS OF 1993

Downtown Quincy is on the move and in a good way. **Robby** and **John Hinson** are the proprietors of White Rabbit Market, and are very excited to be a part of the revitalization that is taking place in their hometown. Their motto



and that of others is "Support local, shop local, eat local, stay local."

CLASS OF 1997

Allison Walton Jordan is thrilled to announce that she has come full circle back to her creative roots as the new Director of Development for Opening Nights at Florida State University. Through her new position, she will contribute to the growth and advancement of a program focused on the arts which she notes played an essential role in shaping her personal and professional journey. Congratulations, Allison!



Jake Garner will be the new tournament referee for the U.S. Open as of this year's tournament. He is responsible for making the draws, preparing the daily match schedule and overseeing all officiating.

CLASS OF 2001

Kathryn Kendricks Sherman has been a Special Agent with the FBI for 12 years where she has served in the Dallas and Washington Field Offices, as well as FBI Headquarters. In the summer of 2023, she



reported to her newest assignment at the US Embassy in London. Special Agent Sherman will be the first female Cyber Assistant Legal Attaché (ALAT) for the FBI in London. Congratulations, Kathryn!

ALUMNI AFFAIRS

CLASS NEWS



CLASS OF 2002

Rosie Dargan Hunter is a psychologist with over 15 years specializing in anxiety and performance under pressure in varied and challenging environments. As a psychologist in the United States Army, Rosie was responsible for ensuring elite Army pilots, commanders, and soldiers could effectively perform under pressure when it mattered most. Since leaving the Army, Rosie's expertise, curiosity, and adaptability led her to business consulting. Rosie's portfolio as a principal consultant of Wolf & Hunter Consulting includes Fortune 100 companies, family offices, equity, asset and investment management, healthcare, technology, and other industries. In addition, Rosie is a licensed clinical psychologist in private practice and a sought-after speaker and presenter. In January 2023, Rosie launched Test Wolf to provide on demand, personalized programs to reduce test anxiety. Test Wolf represents a continuation of a career-long effort to transform moments of adversity into an opportunity to build the mindset and behaviors required for a more confident, courageous future.



CLASS OF 2004

Dr. Myles Walker Rowley opened her own dream veterinary clinic in Tequesta, FL on November 13, 2023. She will be able to share her love and expertise to all the animals and their families at her full-service small animal hospital. The Beach House Vet provides a comfortable home-like environment for her community. They are lucky to have you Myles!



CLASS OF 2006

Amanda Fletcher Hughes has been busy! She got married in 2022 and is currently working in Atlanta at Childrens Hospital of Atlanta as a PICU nurse. She is also an established artist in the Atlanta area. She was recently featured in the Charlotte Home Design and Decor magazine. We are so proud of you Amanda!



CLASS OF 2008

Who likes chicken salad? Well, lots of people actually and **Devon Cavanaugh Chamberlin** is one of them. In fact, she likes it so much that she is now an owner and operator of a Chicken Salad Chick franchise in McLean, Virginia. So, if you happen to be in the area, stop and have a bite of lunch with Devon, and be sure to mention that you are a McLay alum – as you know, we're all family.



David Healy received his MBA from Chapel Hill, worked as a consultant for a couple of years, then as the Pandemic hit, came onto the corporate team of Instacart, where he has been for three years. He married his college sweetheart, Sarah (a dietician,) in 2012, and are raising their family in Atlanta. Their children are Silas (8), Everly (4), and Juliette (2).

CLASS OF 2011

Congratulations to **Kyle Goller** who was promoted in July 2023 to the new role as Father of Dragons. Continuing in his coaching career, Kyle became Head Coach of the Windemere Laker Aquatics. WLA is a year-round competitive swim team offering professional coaching and high quality technique. Kyle was also named Age Group Coach of Florida for 2023 by Florida Swimming.



CLASS OF 2016

Emily Stevens has been working toward a Masters of Arts degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Central Florida. After an internship at the VA hospital in Orlando, she spent her final semester doing an internship at IMPACT in Tallahassee. She graduated on December 15, 2023 and moved to Chattanooga, TN to start her new job as a Speech Pathology Clinical Fellow in a skilled nursing facility.





ALUMNI AFFAIRS

CLASS NEWS

Mary Kathryn Healy

graduated from Emory University with degrees in Arabic and foreign affairs. She spent one semester abroad studying in Chile, Nepal, and Jordan.

The State department paid for her to spend a summer studying and working in Oman. She received a Fulbright Scholarship and would have taught in a university in Morocco, but the pandemic hit and grounded her for a year. She worked as a paralegal in Atlanta, and instead of taking the Fulbright the following year, she decided to start Law School at the University of Chicago. Mary Kathryn completed her first year and then worked in Tunisia for the summer. In September 2023, she began L3 and is the Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal. Upon graduation Mary Kathryn is looking forward to clerking for Senior US Judge Restani. She will go on to work for the international law firm of White & Case LLP in their DC office.



CLASS OF 2018

Education and teaching are two things that **Jewel Strawberry** is very passionate about! Jewel is teaching 5th grade in Georgia for the second year.



Overcoming the odds of a spinal cord injury, this guy, **Zach Karpinski**, “WALKED” across the graduation stage in May and officially became a UF Chemical Engineer – he is the epitome of what hard work and perseverance can achieve!

CLASS OF 2020

Congratulations to **Hunt Deison**! Hunt graduated from FSU in the summer of 2023, completing his studies in Media and Communications. He has since accepted a job as Senior Associate with Woodberry Associates - a public affairs consultancy firm in Washington DC.



CLASS OF 2017

Anne Jackson McClure Shenker and



her husband John Samuel Shenker celebrated their one year Anniversary on July 9th. They met at Auburn University where he had a record-breaking career as Tight End for the Auburn Tigers. Anne Jackson is an Auburn

University Dean's List Graduate in the school of Communications. John Samuel graduated with Honors from Auburn University with a degree in Finance.

ALUMNI AFFAIRS



BIRTHS



Rose Estelle Lancaster
February 19, 2023
Chad ('09) and Laura Lancaster
Nashville, TN



Brayden Joseph Cwirka
June 25, 2023
Kevin and Cayelan ('07) Loucks Cwirka
Tallahassee, FL



Zeppelin Massey Richardson
June 29, 2023
Brad ('09) and Savannah ('14) Watson Richardson
Jacksonville, FL
Joins 2 big sisters: Rylee (6) and Scout (2)

Robert "Bobby" Chase Lancaster
July 2, 2023
Chase ('09) and Emily Lancaster
Philadelphia, PA
Joins big sister Livi (3)



Robert "Clarke" Weaver
July 7, 2023
Mack and Catherine Sandon ('11) Weaver
Denver, CO
Grandson of Phillip ('84) & Fran Sandon ('85)

Luke Robert Hunter
October 23, 2023
Liz Morales ('08) Hunter and John Hunter
joins big sister Maggie (2)



Simms McDaniel Caughran
August 24, 2023
Katy Kiser ('01) and Jack Caughran
Joins big sister Libby (4)
Chip & Marty Kiser (former Maclay teacher and Lower School Director)

Francesca Josephine Sposaro
September 20, 2023
Dr. & Mrs. Frank & Stephanie Becker ('09) Sposaro



Paige Callaway Singletary
November 8, 2023
Jenny Singletary ('07) & Lewis Moore
Joins sister Poppy (3)



Pwopwo Haven Lucas
November 18, 2023
Eldonna Steffen ('18) & Micah Lucas



Davin Stirling Van Winkle
November 22, 2023
Stirling ('05) & Maria VanWinkle
Joins big sister Emmy (2)



ALUMNI AFFAIRS

WEDDINGS



Logan Whiddon ('11) and Shane Powers
February 25, 2023
Rosemary Beach, FL
Maclay Bridesmaids:
Leigh (Gould) Brown ('11)
Amanda (Conner) Jones ('11)
Maclay Groomsman: Taylor Whiddon ('09)



Marco Cagnetta ('11) and Sae Han
September 30, 2023
Atlanta, GA



Kristin Sweeney ('13) and Chase Marso
April 15, 2023
Good Shepard Catholic Church
Tallahassee, FL
Maclay Bridesmaids:
Katherine Kirby ('13),
Kristen (Fontela) Massey ('13)
and Elizabeth Santoro ('13)
Maclay Groomsman:
Matthew Sweeney ('15)
Daniel Sweeney ('18)
and Michael Sweeney ('21)



Chris Bang (12) and Ayoung Song
June 3, 2023
Suwon, South Korea



Kate Sellers ('13) and Andres Masferrer ('14)
January 7, 2023
Goodwood Plantation
Tallahassee, FL
Maclay Groomsman:
Javier Masferrer ('15) Bestman
Walter Moore ('14)
Aaron Appiah ('13)
Edgar Moore ('13)
Maclay Bridesmaids:
Jessica Sellers ('09) Maid of Honor
Haley Kole ('14)
Wedding Officiant: Murray Moore ('83)



Amanda Fletcher ('06) and Spencer Hughes
October 28th 2022
Watercolor, FL

ALUMNI AFFAIRS

WEDDINGS



Callie Corbin Langford ('10)
and Andrew Reese
September 30, 2023 in Tallahassee, FL
Maclay Bridesmaids:
Annie Draper ('10), Colson Barnes ('09)
Maclay Groomsmen:
Giles Langford ('07)
Jack Langford ('38)
Ring Bearer & Flower Girl:
William and Eleanor Stockstill
(legacy children of Sam Stockstill '10)



Kolby McWilliams ('14)
and Cameron Gilreath
November 4, 2023
Dallas, Texas
Maclay Bridesmaids:
Caroline Parrish ('13) Maid of Honor
Maclay Groomsmen: Kyle McWilliams ('16)



Kayla Becker ('10) and Jasper S. Lee
September 9, 2023, Boston, MA
Maclay Bridesmaids:
Stephanie (Becker) Sposaro ('09)
Matron of Honor
Chandler Russell ('10)
Officiant & Bridesmaid:
Carrah Olive-Hall ('10)



Hannah Mahdavi ('15)
and Tyler Starnes
November 4, 2023
Riverchase Plantation
Cairo, GA



Carol Frances Shaw ('15)
and Travis Hoffmann
June 10, 2023
St. Peters Anglican Cathedral, Tallahassee, FL
Maclay Bridesmaids:
Sarah Clark Ballard ('15)
Sarah Bishop (Hyde) Manning ('10)
Clara Frances McClure ('14)
Anne Jackson (McClure) Shenker ('17)
Emmy Boyd ('15)
Nikki (Buford) Trafton ('15)
Liz Houston ('15) *Maid of Honor*
Maclay Groomsmen:
Frank Shaw ('11), Jimmy Wheeler ('16)
Ring Bearer:
Fox Shaw (legacy child of Frank Shaw '11)
Flower Girl:
Eleanor Harris '35 (legacy child of Bentley Frazee Harris '00)



ALUMNI AFFAIRS

WEDDINGS



Nikki Buford ('15) and **Jack Trafton**
on May 6, 2023,
Holy Mother of God Greek Orthodox Church
Tallahassee, FL
Maclay Bridesmaids:
Carol Frances (Shaw) Hoffmann ('15)
Liz Houston ('15), Kate (Murray) Chase ('15)



Kate Murray ('15) and **Stephen Chase** ('15)
December 2, 2023
at The Other Side in the Bahamas
Maclay Groomsmen:
Luke Langford ('15)
Sam Chase ('20),
Jack Diamantis ('15)
Slaton Murray ('12)
Matron of Honor:
Anna (Thomas) Harvell ('15)
Maclay Bridesmaids:
Emily (Chase) Beattie ('13)
Maggie Chase ('18)

YOUNG ALUMNI

Tuesday before Thanksgiving? More like a Family Reunion! Young Alumni gathered at Brass Tap, catching up with fellow Maclay Marauders and proved that once a Marauder, always a Marauder. From classrooms to careers, the Young Alumni Council (led by **Carol Frances Hoffmann** '15 & **Kolhman Minter** '17) is forging the future of Maclay connections.



Be on the lookout for another Young Alumni event this spring and if you are interested in joining the Maclay Young Alumni Council or have any questions email carolhoffmann@maclay.org.

ALUMNI AFFAIRS

ALUMNI NEWS



Welcome Annie McMillan ('02)

Advancement Officer for Alumni Affairs

Maclay is excited to share that Annie McMillan ('02) has been named Advancement Officer for Alumni Relations succeeding **Debbie Hurley**. For the past 27 years, Debbie nurtured a robust and supportive community within our alumni and has joyfully continued to support the special relationships that are seeded here on our campus. It goes without saying that we are ever grateful and in awe of Debbie's dedication to the school and her love for our alumni.

Annie joined the Advancement team part-time on November 1st and will transition to a full-time presence in the role at the conclusion of the 2023-2024 school year. We are fortunate to have an alum like Annie who is passionate about Maclay School and enthusiastic about making connections with all our alumni.

"I have been interested in taking on a new role within our Maclay community and had even mentioned working with Mrs. Hurley and the alumni board in recent years, so when this opportunity popped up, I was excited to put my name in the hat. As an alum, I am especially excited and looking forward to building on the great foundation that has been created and growing our alumni program!"



The Maclay Oak

For hundreds of years the Maclay Oak thrived on top of what is labeled on the old maps as Oak Knoll. The Maclay Oak was perched on the highest point in this area of Tallahassee and has been a hallmark and anchor point for Maclay classes throughout our 55 years. During Hurricane Idalia, our Maclay Oak received significant damage. The beauty of our oak was how her branches have reached far and low enough that generations have been able to play on and enjoy. The damage of the Oak limited structural support where a crack continued to widen. After receiving multiple recommendations from local arborists, it was clear we must retire our Maclay Oak as it became unstable and unsafe. We are heartbroken over the loss of this icon on our campus. After reflection, we will find a way to create memories from the wood as well as engage our alumni and students in dreaming about what will replace the Maclay Oak in this prominent position on campus.





GIVING DAY 02.29.2024

As we prepare to 'Get Rowdy' for Giving Day 2024 on February 29th, we are celebrating many of the qualities that make the Maclay community such a special place for our alumni, parents, faculty, and friends. We hope you enjoy this article featuring alumni who get rowdy, involved, inspired, creative, and together with the boarder Maclay community.

Katy Gimbel '01 **Let's Get Rowdy!**

Upper School Mathematics
Department Chair
Girls Basketball Head Coach
Maclay Athletics Hall of Fame 2023
Parent to Jonathan J.J. '29



What inspires you as a coach and teacher at Maclay?

I have always been very competitive and as both a teacher and a coach, I want to be the best and continue to improve every year. Basketball and math are two things I love to do, which is why teaching and coaching is a dream job. I get to do math all day, then after school, I get to go to the gym and play basketball, all while helping others along the way.

How did your time as a student at Maclay shape your experience as a student athlete? Does that experience shape how you coach your students?

Having been a student at Maclay has helped me better understand and relate to the students. I know the ups and downs of being in a smaller school where EVERYBODY knows your business. I know the academic demands of the classes at Maclay and the pressures that the students are under to be successful. I try to make my classes challenging, but fun. I try to ensure that all students are given the opportunity to be successful and provide support in areas needed.

What is it like watching J.J. learn and grow as a student and athlete at Maclay?

I have loved watching J.J. grow over the years. When he was in Lower School, I would walk by the playground just to see him playing with his friends, and I would smile knowing how lucky I was to have that opportunity. There are many reasons to teach at Maclay, but getting to watch your child grow academically, athletically, and socially is by far the best!

Will Fixel '98 **Let's Get Involved!**

Board of Trustee Member
Leadership Maclay 2019
Parent to Raleigh '30 and
Arthur '33



What motivates you to get involved as a volunteer at Maclay?

Maclay School has been a central part of my life for nearly 40 years. Beyond providing an excellent education, Maclay provided me with lifelong mentors and friendships that have been foundational for my life. I am motivated to ensure that my Maclay experience is passed forward to the current Maclay students, and my efforts in volunteering for the school have been focused on that goal.

How did your time as a student at Maclay prepare you to get engaged across campus?

Maclay School is, and always has been, an institution that concentrates on supporting each individual student's talents while fostering a healthy community environment. That's rare -- particularly in today's world. My engagement on campus derives from Maclay's community based focus that is fundamental to the Maclay experience.

What is it like as a parent watching Raleigh and Arthur learn and grow as students? How has being a parent shaped your motivation to volunteer and support Maclay?

It has been incredible. Both Raleigh and Arthur have thrived at Maclay, and my wife, Sarah, and I are so appreciative of all the Maclay teachers and administrators who work tirelessly to support our children. I am motivated to support those teachers and administrators so that they can continue to set the foundation for my children's lives, as their predecessors set the foundation for mine.

GIVING DAY 02.29.2024

Cameron Lewis Barton '88 *Let's Get Inspired!*

Middle School Science Teacher
Maclay Athletics Hall of Fame 2023
Parent to Collins '25



What inspires you as a teacher?

The greatest motivation for me is working with students and helping them be successful. When the graduates return for a campus visit, it is always satisfying to hear the success that they are finding in their grown-up lives. It really hits home when I see my former students in the grocery store, and they introduce me to their young children, the newest batch of young Marauders. These relationships that I've formed over the years help me continue to understand the important role that I play as a teacher for all of our students. I believe that my empathy and compassion for each student is genuine, real, and deep, and I can confidently say that I care about each student more than they will ever know. It makes me proud to have been a teacher here for over 20 years, as I have a soft spot for the thousands of students that I have been honored to teach.

How did your time as a student at Maclay shape your path as an educator?

I started at Maclay as a fourth grader. As a new student, I was immediately welcomed and forged friendships with classmates, teachers, staff, and administrators that continue to this day. My mom was a third grade teacher at the time, and my older sister and younger brother both attended Maclay with me. Little did we know the impact that the small school would have on our lives. Throughout my career at Maclay, I forged the strongest bonds with some of my dearest friends to this day. The teachers I loved most were the ones that pushed me to be better and encouraged me to think beyond our small world here at Maclay. That certainly impacts the way I deliver myself in the classroom today.

What is it like as a parent watching Collins embrace opportunities in academics, athletics, the arts, and leadership at Maclay?

It has been an incredible ride, being both a teacher and a parent here at Maclay watching all of the opportunities present themselves to my daughter. Collins has been here over 12 years and has had the most incredible role models, touchstones, and inspirational influences. Every relationship here at Maclay offers infectious enthusiasm for making a difference in my child's life. This manifests in a wider community, in her classroom, and in our lives.

Collins is embraced by an excellent team of college counselors. These counselors know and understand my daughter's academic goals, her interests, and her vision for the future. As a parent, it is incredibly comforting, knowing that support system is top notch. Collins will no doubt benefit from the strong foundation here at Maclay.

Garrett Kuersteiner Robinson '95 *Let's Get Together!*

Assistant Director of Admissions
Parent to Britton '21, Kenley '24, and Raynes '30



How did your annual trip with the Class of 1995 come together?

Our tradition began shortly after college graduation as we navigated the early stages of adulthood. Initially, only one of us had a baby – my daughter, who is now 20 years old.

What impact has the lasting connections with the Class of 1995 had on you and how did your time at Maclay foster deep connections with fellow alums?

Most of us met in middle school and the lasting connections have been incredibly impactful. Our shared experiences, celebrations, and challenges have created bonds that have lasted decades. These connections have enriched my life, offering support, friendship, and memories that I cherish.

Do you have a favorite trip or experience as an alumna with the Class of 1995?

Most of our "girls weekends" are at the beach, however we recently changed this up and went to Las Vegas. No matter where we go, or what's happening in our lives, the fun is a constant. Occasionally, maybe too much fun.

What is it like as a parent and staff member at Maclay watching your three children and their peers embrace opportunities in academics, athletics, the arts, and leadership at Maclay?

I think it gives me a multidimensional perspective. Watching our three children and their friends, grow and thrive in the same environment is rewarding. They've delved into many aspects of the school: the arts, AP math and science courses (I never took those), leadership roles, Upper School concentrations, different clubs, sports, etc. It fills my heart to know that they're creating their own lasting friendships and memories just as I did.



GIVING DAY 02.29.2024

Sarah Doolin Roy '03 **Let's Get Creative!**

CEO of Young Actors Theater, Tallahassee, FL

Where do you find inspiration for your creativity?

I find inspiration in the human connection fueled by the performing arts. For example, the shared experience audience members have when taking in a live production, and the power that stories have to foster relationships, new perspectives, and the understanding of one another.

How did your time as a student at Maclay shape your path as a creative professional?

Maclay taught me that ideas matter. I learned at a young age how to analyze a position from several vantage points and perspectives, with respect and integrity. The rigorous nature of the academic program also instilled an unmatched work ethic, which is critical to success in the performing arts industry.

What is it like to contribute to the creative community impacting students and families across Tallahassee?

There is nothing more rewarding than investing in the next generation of talent in Tallahassee. Research states that children who have access to the arts have higher GPAs and test scores, and are less likely to drop out of school. The transferable skills that are the result of exposure to the arts are countless. A few include: conflict resolution, collaboration, accountability, public speaking, and problem-solving when the show must go on! It is an honor to steward a 50 year old nonprofit that helps kids find their unique voice, and observe parents beam as their babies shine on the Young Actors stage -- the best!

Photo caption: I also included a photo with Dr. Kathy Scott...When I worked at American Ballet Theatre, we premiered a new full-length ballet of Jane Eyre at the Metropolitan Opera House. Dr. Scott's Honors British Lit class was one of my favorites, so I reached out and was able to host her at the ballet! It was a special evening with someone who had such a positive influence on my life. She taught me how to write.

*Thank you to all the alums who graciously participated in this article and shared their memories of Maclay. For more information or to participate in Giving Day visit: maclay.org/givingday. **Thank you and let's get rowdy!***



2022-2023 MACLAY FUND IMPACT REPORT

Thank you!

for coming together to help us as we *Write the Next Chapter!*
Through the remarkable generosity and giving spirit of the
Maclay community, the following was made possible:

Weight Room Enhancements

The Weight Room is a resource to all students in Middle and Upper School and is used consistently year-round by classes, individual athletes, and for team training. Funds contributed this year provided support to add new equipment to the weight room, which increased both the safety standards and usability of this essential facility on campus.

Baseball Facility Improvements

Contributions made significant upgrades possible to the baseball facilities on campus. The addition of new crimson stone and other field upgrades including two new batting machines were immediately utilized during fall baseball training for all athletes in the program.

CAE Collaborative Learning and Study Spaces

The Center for Academic Excellence has added collaborative spaces for studying and group work that are being utilized by students in all Divisions. These spaces provide an opportunity for students to work independently, or to gather and collaborate in a small to mid-sized group environment.

Enrichment Opportunities

Enrichment Opportunities were expanded through the Center for Academic Excellence for students in all Divisions. *Math@Maclay* enrichment has continued to expand with a new format and a position was added within the Center to lead and grow these initiatives. Support for academic competition teams in grades 5th – 8th was also enhanced through this generous funding. The iTHINKERS program was launched to serve Lower School students in 2nd – 4th grades with extension activities and new curriculum.

Professional Development

The collective generosity of the Maclay Fund continued to support essential Professional Development opportunities for faculty. Faculty members in all three Divisions were able to attend Professional Development specific to the work they do in the classrooms, bringing back many new ideas and cutting edge practices for the over 1,100 students on campus.

Curriculum Extension

The Biomedical Concentration benefitted from further expansion with the addition of another year of the Project Lead the Way curriculum. In addition to *Principles of Biomedical Science*, students are now able to take a yearlong course in *Human Body Systems*. For the next two years, additional courses will be added for students to pursue their interests and passions in the Biomedical Sciences.

Middle School Service-Learning

The Middle School has adapted a Service-Learning component at all grade levels. This faculty-developed initiative brought the whole middle school together to engage in a service-learning day supporting the Tallahassee community through various projects.

Middle School Experiential Learning

The Middle School's focus on experiential learning has been longstanding with the tradition of the 7th grade Washington, D.C. trip and now has expanded with the Civil Rights Trip that was added in the Spring of 2023. This experience provides a journey through history that left a positive mark on everyone involved.

Flexibility & Innovation

Each year, the Maclay Fund provides the school with essential fiscal flexibility, allowing for a nimble response to challenges and opportunities that arise. It also provides funding for continual improvement of campus resources including new active learning furnishings in classrooms and the addition of new spaces for learning and collaboration such as the new classrooms that were created on campus for this school year.



College Counseling

The College Counseling journey is a signature component of the Maclay experience and the addition of staff and resources in the College Counseling Office is ensuring up-to-date and personalized guidance for Upper School students and families through the college process.

Robotics Expansion

Building on the robotics program expansion that was initiated through Maclay Fund support in years past, the 2022-2023 school year was the first year that a robotics competition team was developed specifically for the Middle School.

Pre-K Playground

Through the generosity of Giving Day, the Pre-K added several pieces of upgraded equipment to the playground including a new climbing structure and a variety of pieces of multipurpose imaginative equipment.



*Thank you for
your support and
for all that you do for
Maclay School!*



ANNUAL GIVING REPORT 2022-2023

CUMULATIVE GIVING

The list below recognizes cumulative gifts to the school over the period of August 1, 2022 – December 31, 2023 through various sources including the Maclay Fund, Capital Projects and other initiatives. We are incredibly grateful for the tremendous generosity and remarkable commitment that the donors below have shown ensuring the best possible resources and educational experience for Maclay's students.

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ADVANCEMENT NEWS

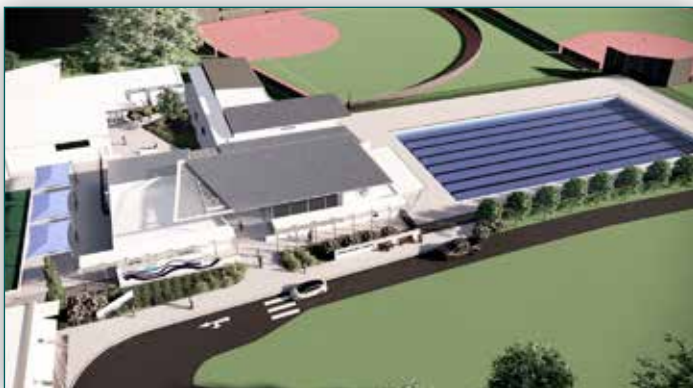
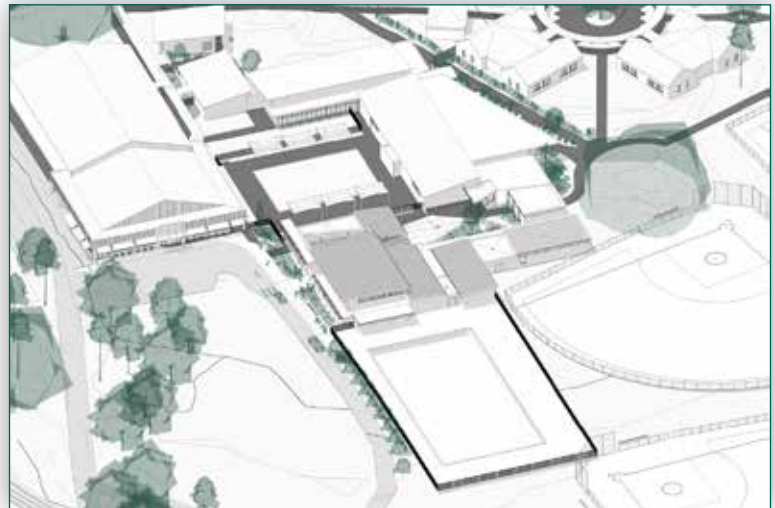
CAPITAL PROJECT UPDATE



2024 promises to be an exciting year for Maclay's ever growing campus. The largest classroom expansion that the institution has seen in recent years will be put into motion with construction planned to break ground in June of 2024 on a new Math & Aquatics facility which will expand the school's academic and athletics footprint with the following additions:

- *Swim Locker Rooms & Coaches Offices*
- *Dryland & Multipurpose Facility*
- *6 Classroom Spaces*
- *A.I. & Technology Lab*
- *Additional administrative offices for the expanded College Counseling and Upper School administrative department*

At the same time, earthwork and initial stormwater steps will begin for the Athletics Master Plan Improvements on the North Side of Campus. These will lay the groundwork for the new performance field and track, stands, gathering spaces, and expanded training and performance facilities for all athletes.



The Math and Aquatic Expansion will be added as an addition to the Beck Family Innovation Center and will provide spaces that will match the ambitions of our students and faculty, both in the classroom, lab, in the pool, and on the track and field.

For more information on this exciting growth and steps forward and to become involved and help, please contact the Advancement Office MLewis@Maclay.org or 850-893-8465.



We invite you to write the next chapter at Maclay School

by making a gift to **The 2023-2024 Maclay Fund**. Gifts to The Maclay Fund provide meaningful support essential to all aspects of the Maclay experience.

You can easily increase the impact of your gift by making a recurring donation or adding a corporate match to your Maclay Fund gift. Simply select "Make this a recurring gift" on the gift form to make manageable gifts on your own timeline or talk to your company's personnel department to explore what matching gift options may be available to you.

The 2023-2024 Maclay Fund supports:

- continued professional development opportunities for our faculty and staff
- the growth of academic programming throughout the three divisions including curriculum expansion and additional academic support
- enhancement of our facilities including upgrades to The Center for Academic Excellence and increased technology in the classrooms
- the continued expansion of co-curricular programming including athletic nutrition, sports psychology and training, and additional performing and visual arts opportunities for all students

We invite you to Write the Next Chapter at Maclay School as we continue the pursuit of excellence in academics, the arts, and athletics.

Thank you for all your support and for all you do for Maclay School!

maclayfund.com



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