LaCasce Bequest Society

There are many ways to ensure the future and the mission of Fryeburg Academy. The LaCasce Bequest Society was established in 1995, named for Mr. and Mrs. Elroy O. LaCasce, in honor of the LaCasce’s years of commitment to the Academy (1922-1955). We encourage you to join this group of benefactors who wish to support our school through estate directives, which often benefit the donor as well. For more information on planned giving options, please contact Dawn Gale ’81, FA’s Academy Fund and Alumni Relations Director, at 207-935-2001 ext. 3147 or dgale@fryeburgacademy.org.
Fellow graduates from Colby College in 2017, Michelle Boucher ’13 began her teaching career at the Landmark School in Beverly, MA. She and three colleagues traveled to Mozambique during school break this past winter to volunteer in three different schools to teach: vocabulary development and writing process. Michelle’s group focused on the Sunshine Approach that the Sunshine Foundation and visited the houses that their hosts have built through their foundation. One such house is a home to a Mozambican mother and 3-4 orphaned children. “The facility also hosts day programs for local children, and we had birthday celebrations, danced with kids, and even went on a safari,” continues Boucher. “We learned so much, experienced so much, and I’m even more grateful for our experiences and the difference in the lives of the Mozambican people.”

Michelle Boucher ’13
Academy Fund & Alumni Relations

207-935-2001 ext. 3147
www.fryeburgacademy.org/give

The Academy Fund
Our fiscal year is ending, so please consider making a gift to the Academy Fund by June 30, 2019

Online: www.fryeburgacademy.org/give
By Mail: Fryeburg Academy Advancement Office
745 Main Street, Fryeburg, ME 04037

WEEKEND
and friends within the fiscal year running from July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019 will be listed in the Fall 2019 Annual Report of Gifts.

Our fiscal year is ending, so please consider making a gift to the Academy Fund by June 30, 2019.

Gifts made to the Academy Fund from alumni, parents, students, and Alumni Relations: 207-935-2001 ext. 3147
By Mail:
Fryeburg Academy Advancement Office
745 Main Street, Fryeburg, ME 04037

We thank all of you who have already participated in the 2018/19 Academy Fund! Your donations have allowed us to provide the unique and exceptional experience for our students that has become a hallmark of a Fryeburg Academy education.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 16TH

WELCOME BREAKFAST
Learn about why our initiatives and enjoy a delicious home-cooked breakfast.
9:00 AM
Location: Lucille Darling Hall

ALUMNI GAMES: FIELD HOOP, SOCCER, & SOFTBALL
9 AM-12 PM
Location: Exact times and locations TBD; Check website for details.

INDIVIDUAL CLASS PARTIES
2 PM
Online: www.fryeburgacademy.org/Alumni

SCHOOL STORE OPEN
1-3 PM
Location: Main Building

SATURDAY CLASS PHOTO SCHEDULE
LOCATION: 85 MAIN STREET (DURING SENIOR ALUMNI RECEPTION)
9:00 AM
CLASS OF 1974
9:45 AM
CLASS OF 1975
10:30 AM
CLASS OF 1976
11:15 AM
CLASS OF 1977
12:00 PM
CLASS OF 1978
ALL YEAR RECEPTIONS CLASS PHOTOS
9:30 AM
Location: Alton-Cram-Woodward Arena
Trends and California

REUCHARN BANGUI
Presentation of the 2019 Distinguished Alumni Award
4 PM
Location: Alton-Cram-Woodward Arena

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18TH

GOLF @ KEELE LK RUTHVEN COUNTRY CLUB
For more information contact the Alumni Office or request on the reunion registration form. Please call 207-705-0482 to reserve tee times.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17TH

WELCOME BREAKFAST
Learn about why our initiatives and enjoy a delicious home-cooked breakfast.
9:00 AM
Location: Lucille Darling Hall

ALUMNI GAMES: FIELD HOOP, SOCCER, & SOFTBALL
9 AM-12 PM
Location: Exact times and locations TBD; Check website for details.

INDIVIDUAL CLASS PARTIES
2 PM
Online: www.fryeburgacademy.org/Alumni

SCHOOL STORE OPEN
1-3 PM
Location: Main Building

CAMPUS TOURS
1 & 2 PM
Location: Listening from the Lee Hill Extensive Performing Arts Center

SCHOOL STORE OPEN
1-3 PM
Location: Main Building

ALUMNI & VVIP COCKTAIL RECEPTION & CLASS PHOTOS (1969 & OLDER)
4:30 PM
Location: Alton-Cram-Woodward Arena

THE ACADEMY FUND
For just one day, the first school, presenting one day and even went on a safari,” continues Boucher. “We spent three days at the first school, presenting one day and conducting individual meetings or teaching classes for the second school. By the time we reached the third school, we were only able to spend a few hours. At each of the schools, we tail...
Greetings to the Fryeburg Academy Community

The 2018-19 school year, my sixth as head of school, is a wrap! It has been particularly special for me, as I expressed in a note to you last fall. Like seven of my FA colleagues — planters of a bumper crop — I’m parent to a graduate, Gunnar Gurnis, in the Class of 2019. We eight have each had the rare pleasure of sharing our children’s daily high school world: easily strolling from our offices or classrooms to catch one of their home games, or to check-in about pick-up time after drama rehearsal; knowing and working alongside their teachers; spotting them from afar as they laugh and horse around with friends.

We faculty-and-staff parents, too, have had the daily privilege of contributing to the Academy experience that has benefitted generations of young people. The year was bittersweet, as it is for all parents awaiting and then experiencing the official end of their kids’ childhoods. May Class of ’19 families and all of the FA community also feel joy and great satisfaction in having given our children the gift of these years at the Academy — a place of high expectations, vast opportunities, and uncommon kindness.

ERIN P. MAYO
Head of School
LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL
1 “…All of the FA community also feel joy and great satisfaction in having given our children the gift of these years at the Academy — a place of high expectations, vast opportunities, and uncommon kindness.”

FA ACADEMICS
4 Fryeburg Academy’s Strategic Directions: Empowering Students to Succeed in our 21st Century World by Laura Ayer
“To plan our five-year strategic goals for the Academy, it was imperative to hear the opinions and priorities of all stakeholder groups.”

7 “Passion Eyes” by Artem Laptiev ’19
“Most of the kids want to grow up and become lawyers, astronauts, doctors, or firefighters. When I was a child, I confidently knew that one day I was going to be a Googler.”

8 A Global Reflection on the FA Graduate by Joseph Manning
“It is because of this diversity that our community is so welcoming, kind, and supportive; it’s also a pivotal reason why the Academy is a special place.”

9 Fryeburg Academy Students Win 2nd Place at the 73rd Maine State Science Fair by Laura Ayer
“Out of over 200 teams who entered, representing 50 different schools from both public and private institutions in grades 9-12, Zakorchemna and Laptiev placed 2nd place overall…”

FA NEWS
10 James “Fuzzy” Thurston: A Storyline that Could Resemble a Sit-Com by Laura Ayer
“Often I wish I was Charlie [Tryder] and could write because to me, there is a book here. I look at my time at the Academy like a comparison to the hit series MASH.”

10 Students in the Center: Project Update by Dawn Gale ’81
“The excitement on campus and around the area is growing as the new dining hall takes shape…This wonderful new space will be ready for use at the start of the second semester of next school year…”

11 Joel Rhymer: Happy Trails and Next Adventures by Dawn Gale ’81
“Joel’s passion for nature and appreciation for life is contagious. During his time at Fryeburg Academy, he has been a consistent beacon of kindness— consistently offering support and encouragement to both his colleagues and his students.”

12 John Urgese: Retiring after 41 Years! by Dawn Gale ’81
“One message that he taught his own kids and continues to teach his students is: ‘learn to be resilient, take chances, and hope that they are good ones.’”

13 Fryeburg Academy’s Family Connections Program by Beth Ross
“The program brings local families and international students together for support, cultural exchange, and an introduction to American culture.”

FA ATHLETICS
14 FA Winter & Spring Sports Photo Gallery
Photography by Julian Zhu ’21

17 Casey And Reece: Individuals With Shared Selflessness by Charlie Tryder
“Both have achieved individual recognition and success, but both point back to team accomplishments and the accomplishments of others when recalling their favorite athletic memories.”
SAUNDERS AND BUZZELL: FROM WRESTLING AT RECESS TO CHAMPIONSHIP GAMES

by Charlie Tryder

“The days of wrestling every day during recess and arguing over favorite teams are fading, but the memories from the fields, the courts, and diamonds across the Western Maine Conference will travel with these two young men into their old age.”

FA ARTS

20 FA Jazz Shines Maine’s State Jazz Festivals

by Mike Sakash and Mimi Rohlfing

“The students’ dedication and many evening practices paid off for them, earning the group their 14th consecutive Division I State Championship and their fifth under the direction of Mimi Rohlfing.”

21 “Journeys” — FA’s 2019 Spring Concert

by Mimi Rohlfing

“The music reflected the sights, sounds, and experiences of travel to another country, another planet, another time period, or the transition from life to the afterlife.”

FA ALUMNI

22 Alumni Gatherings and Visits

by Dawn Gale ’81

22 A Message from the Advancement and Alumni Relations Office

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25 Alumni Profile: Ronald Saunders ’62

by Dawn Gale ’81

28 Alumni Profile: Chris Rothermel ’94

by Dawn Gale ’81

“Fryeburg Academy has been a touchstone of sorts for me for many years … and the friends I made there are actively involved in our lives today.”

32 Alumni Profile: Gefei Li ’13

by Dawn Gale ’81

“…The reason behind [my passion for education] is because of my experience at Fryeburg Academy which really changed who I am.”

33 Alumni Profile: Michelle Boucher ’13

by Dawn Gale ’81

“We learned so much, experienced so much, and I’m forever changed by the experience. It was truly a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.”

33 In Memoriam

ON THE COVER: On Tuesday, May 7, Ryan Kelly ’82 presented FA with a POW/MIA flag at the weekly all-school meeting. Kelly is a veteran of the United States Air Force and a member of Rolling Thunder — an advocacy group whose stated mission is to bring full accountability for prisoners of war and missing-in-action service members of all U.S. wars. Kelly’s chapter is located in Westbrook, ME. This gift is one way that the Rolling Thunder makes this veteran issue visible. The Academy will fly the flag on six federally specified days: Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, National POW/MIA Recognition Day, and Veterans Day. Among the students assisting with the flag raising is Jarrett Ensor ’21 (son of Jim Ensor ’93 and Bobby-Jo Gerry Ensor ’93) whose great-grandfather, Ernest Gerry ’41 was a POW in WWII.

CONTRIBUTORS

A special thank you to the contributors of Scenes Magazine. Your voices and imagery help convey the FA experience and tell our shared story about our vibrant community.

Photography credits: Mike Dana, Dawn Gale ’81, and Julian Zhu ’21.

Design by: Marianne Matte, Kennebunk, ME
Good Group Decisions issued a final report synthesizing the committee’s findings. The stakeholder survey garnered 544 responses and identified the following as the Academy community’s top three core values: Community: Belonging and Contribution (75%), Access to Opportunity (71%), and Challenge and Support in Balance (58%). Survey respondents also ranked goals for FA graduates in the following priority order:

1.) FA graduates will possess skills for 21st-century success; if they have not found their passion, they will have the tools to do so;
2.) FA graduates will be characterized by integrity and a strong work ethic;
3.) FA graduates will understand that people of all races and incomes have valuable contributions to make and are enthusiastic about contributing to their own communities.
After reviewing the findings and recommendations from the report, the Board and school leadership went to work outlining the Academy’s goals and action plan. “Through early 2015,” continues Mayo, “we drafted and re-drafted. We wanted our aims to be ambitious but attainable, to create new opportunities in technology and outdoor education, and to employ longer-term enrollment strategies that would combat the demographic challenges that boarding schools were then just beginning to face, and that now are even more significant.”

In June that year, the Board ratified a strategic plan with three lead goals: first, empowering FA students to succeed in our 21st-century world; second, enhancing campus resources in support of program and enrollment needs; third, sustaining Fryeburg Academy amidst demographic challenges.

Four years on, the school has made much headway in achieving its aims — read on for progress highlights:

**GOAL 1 Completed Key Developments — Empowering FA students to succeed in our 21st-century world:**
- In partnership with Molly Ockett Middle School, addition of first-year world language offerings for eighth-grade students;
- Establishment of a five-year Mandarin language program;
- Establishment of the Outdoor Learning and Research Center, including field classroom and study, school gardens, low-ropes course, and climbing wall;
- Expansion from single computer science offering to array that includes Intro. to Programming, New Media, AP Computer Principles, AP Computer Science, and Robotics Club;
- Addition of credit-bearing workplace internships for juniors and seniors; and
- Re-design of daily schedule to enable longer periods for project- and performance-based learning.

I really enjoy working in the Film Lab and Media Center. It’s nice to have all the equipment available that I need to create my videos. I’ve edited quite a few videos for the school this year and like that I have access to professional software and gear to get my projects done.

— William Marshall ’21

FA’s Film Lab and Media Center was renovated in the summer of 2017. It includes new paint and windows, modern furniture, a new suite of the latest Apple iMacs with professional photo and video-editing software, new lighting and production equipment.
The Outdoor Learning Research Center was a fun and unique experience. It made learning chemistry so much more bearable. It’s great for students who want a more hands-on experience than the conventional classroom provides and for those who are not afraid to go outside and get their hands a little dirty!

— Julianna Stanton ’20

**GOAL 2 Completed Key Developments — Enhancing campus resources in support of program and enrollment needs:**

- Comprehensive update of FA campus master plan;
- Implementation of numerous master plan elements: 686 Main St. purchase; enhanced student recreation quad; construction of four competition tennis courts on Howe St.; installation of irrigation system for athletic fields; renovations to Film Lab and Media Center;
- Renovation of Page House for use by the Academy’s Pequawket Valley Alternative School; and
- First phase of Students In the Center underway with construction of new dining hall, slated to open in January, 2020.

**GOAL 3 Completed Key Developments — Sustaining Fryeburg Academy amidst demographic challenges:**

- Expansion of commuter-day student enrollment;
- Establishment of summer program for new international students;
- Enhancement of communications and marketing with hire of communication director;
- Implementation of PPRRSM (Provision for Plant Replacement, Renewal, and Special Maintenance), a long-term planning and funding approach for capital projects; and
- Successful execution of Students In the Center Campaign.

I’m excited about the new dining hall and space it will provide. I’ve created a lot of great relationships here and love that I can have dinner and meals with friends. The new dining hall will offer more food choices, and I think having a dedicated space just for students to hang out will be great.

— Eloi Terricabras ’21

The new dining hall will add an additional 10,000 square feet to the LaCasce Building’s 11,600 square feet, providing ample room for seating, food preparation, and storage.
Each year Fryeburg Academy hosts an Annual Prize-Speaking Night where students from each grade compete against each other. Finalists are then selected to compete in the Leura Hill Eastman Performing Arts Center in front of a panel of judges, their peers, and teachers and staff. Speech contestants are judged on the content, delivery, and language style of their speeches. Artem Laptiev won first place this year. Below is his speech.

"PASSION EYES"

BY ARTEM LAPTIEV ’20

Most of the kids want to grow up and become lawyers, astronauts, doctors, or firefighters. When I was a child, I confidently knew that one day I was going to be a Googler. In fact, most of my closest friends from my Ukrainian school wanted to work at Google. We had what I call the “passion eyes” about technology. In our tiny corner at the local coffee shop, we would gather our laptops and would spend days and nights doing coding competitions, writing our own computer games, or building some silly electronic devices. Most often, however, we would daydream about how one day we would suddenly become these perfect tech geniuses like Googlers and turn from all this kids’ play to changing the whole wide world with technology. And also become super rich.

Among my group of friends, I was the lucky one. I was selected to the Future Leaders Exchange Program to go study for a year at a high school in California. Boy, when I was getting on that plane, I knew that I had to see this beautiful, fabulous, perfect Google company with my own eyes. Sure enough, a few months later, my moment came. I was on this exchange student trip that planned to spend exactly 6 hours in San Francisco. All the kids were planning where to have fun and what places to see. I had one single thing on my list — Google. When the time came, I grabbed two of my German friends and we rushed through the city to see the headquarters. When we got there, however, we realized that we didn’t account for one little tiny detail: you can’t really just walk into Google if you wish so. The security guards won’t like it. The only semi-smart solution we came up with was walking up to every random employee who walks past the reception and tell them “Hi, my name is Artem Laptiev, I am from Ukraine and I love technologies, could you please show us Google?” And they all obviously said no. Rejection, after rejection, after rejection. After the whole hour of rejections, we turned to the exit elevator with this bitter aftertaste of the reality. And as the door was closing, this man walked in. And we do the same “Hi my name is Artem Laptiev, and I love technology, could you please show us Google?” and he says, “Sure.” *wow*

Moments later, he was walking us through these perfect white hallways. We were shaking with excitement. For the first time in our lives, we were about to witness Googlers, these alien geniuses, tech masterminds, world changers that we wanted to become, reveal their true brilliance right before our eyes. Ready, we walked through the big glass door, and SPLASH. Surprised, as we turned our heads to the noise, and the very first thing we saw at Google was one of these geniuses in the room’s corner spilling the whole cup of coffee over his and two of his colleagues’ laptops. We laughed. But wait a second... What about Googlers being so perfect? What we saw was nothing like what we expected, and we spent the whole day getting even more evidence proving that they were actually humans. Google was amazing and I just loved it, and the Googlers were indeed super-smart and brilliant, but still, these guys talked the same language, looked the same way, procrastinate the same way, and had the very same “passion eyes” as my old friends from my Ukrainian school. The only large difference was that they were already changing the world here and now, and my friends and I were still waiting to become Googlers to do it.

When I came to Fryeburg, I saw so many of these “passion eyes” right here. Steve Jobs once said that the most important thing in life is to realize that the world was built by people no smarter than you. Here is my message: “There will not be a better time than now to participate in Model UN, the Math Team or Vocal Jazz; launch your own clubs or companies; build satellites with Dr. Z; join the robotics team; create music; write a book or learn to take pictures. Don’t wait for your own Google and start changing the world now.”
A Global Reflection on the FA Graduate

BY JOSEPH MANNING Assistant Head of School

A s Fryeburg Academy’s May Term draws to a close, I pause to reflect on what recent graduates view to be their most positive educational experience. In addition to an experiential-based curriculum, May Term affords students opportunities to integrate with ways that semester courses do not allow. A curriculum focused on project-based learning allows students from mixed grade levels, abilities, and backgrounds to come together with a common goal. I recall an image from a recent May Term in which ten Fryeburg Academy students worked to shingle a roof on a shed they had designed and built during the term with Mr. Strange. A true cross-section of young men and women from grades nine, ten, and eleven — this group was a great mix of students from a variety of ethnic, socioeconomic, and racial backgrounds. The expression often used at the academy to describe a student body “from Brownfield to Beijing” was manifest in this class; the two students working side by side on the roof were Elaine from Beijing and Clayton from Brownfield. A few years later, Elaine graduated from the Academy and went on to study engineering at MIT while Clayton moved on to trade school and a successful construction career. Invaluable to the Fryeburg Academy grad are those experiences that encourage students from different walks of life to work together, to learn together, and to cultivate new friendships.

When my wife Maria and I moved to the area in 2002, we had never heard of Fryeburg Academy. We were surprised to find such a diverse student body in rural western Maine. FA is a place of diversity in many areas: socioeconomic, cultural, ethnic, religious, and learning styles. We are fortunate to have a student body that hails from more than twenty countries, and an alumni base that reaches across the globe, including individuals from more than fifty counties throughout the United States. It is because of this diversity that our community is so welcoming, kind, and supportive; it’s also a pivotal reason why the Academy is a special place. It’s amazing that our alumni can share similar memories of their FA experience with such vast differences in background.

In my role at the Academy, I have the opportunity to regularly meet not only with prospective and current families but also with alumni from across the country and around the world. Through these experiences, some of the most common shared memories and inquiries from our boarding alumni over the past twenty years include the following: “Is House of Pizza still there?”, “Do they still deliver the chicken finger subs to the dorms at 9:30?”, “Is Alan still in the kitchen? I loved working in the kitchen.”; “Is my dorm parent (Mr. Ouellette, Mr. & Ms. Strahler, Ms. Norkin, Mr. Minnich, Mr. Wahlgren, Ms. Chappell) still at the Academy? Please tell them I say hi!”; “How is Mr. or Ms. (Allen, Weitz, Rhymer, Atwood, etc.)? — I really loved their class.” And for those alumni who are more than twenty years out, you always hear great stories about Mr. Kelly, Mr. Turner, Mr. Gordon, Mr. Sturdevant, and others.

These common questions transcend time, state, and national origin. Despite the geographic spread of our alumni, they share a common sense of belonging to our small piece of the world here in western Maine. This is a place where they made lifelong friendships and developed deep relationships with their fellow students, faculty, and staff, and other community members. Fryeburg Academy alumni understand the value of relationships and the importance of kindness to others.

Fryeburg Academy is a beautiful school in an idyllic location, and the campus has seen significant capital improvements over the past twenty-five years. These facilities allow us to offer dynamic programming in an optimal learning environment. These campus improvements have been made possible by generous contributions from alumni and other friends of the school. Many of these gifts have been inspired by a donor’s great experience at the school and the relationships formed here. At its core, the Academy is a place where people form relationships that inform and influence the course of their lives. This is what makes — as it always has and always will — Fryeburg Academy special.
On Saturday, March 23, senior Antonina “Tonia” Zakorchemna and junior Artem Laptiev — both international resident students from Ukraine — participated in the 73rd Maine State Science Fair at Bowdoin College in Brunswick, ME. The annual fair is organized by the Jackson Laboratory and the Reach Program — a program of the Maine Mathematics and Science Alliance.

The students’ project was the design of a braille e-reader and an Android app powered by Google Assistant. “We competed in the engineering and mechanics category with our project titled, “Developing a Low-Cost Braille Electronic Reader for the Blind,” says Tonia Zakorchemna ’19.

“Current braille e-readers are extremely expensive due to the specialized piezoelectric crystals used during production. This makes e-readers unaffordable for the majority of customers in need. Artem and I used a new alternative technology called ‘stepper motors’ to build a functional braille e-reader prototype that maintained the same efficiency but reduced the cost of the hardware dramatically.”

Out of over 200 teams who entered, representing 50 different schools from both public and private institutions in grades 9-12, Zakorchemna and Laptiev placed 2nd place overall as well as capturing 2nd place in the engineering category. It was also the Academy’s first appearance at the fair in over two decades, earning Fryeburg Academy a Reach Award that is given to newly participating schools for outstanding entry.

The idea for the prototype initially began last summer during a ‘makeathon’ event the two students attended, and the inspiration for the prototype came from a blind friend back in Ukraine. “We have a blind friend who told us a lot about the issues the blind are faced with in education and literacy,” continues Zakorchemna. “Artem and I had the idea to try and solve some of those issues and brainstormed the idea to design the prototype.”

Zakorchemna and Laptiev’s 2nd place win comes with an invitation for them and their science teacher and project mentor, James Wauer, for an all-expense paid trip to the 2019 International Science and Engineering Fair in Phoenix on May 12-19 — one of the world’s largest international pre-college science competitions.

“Their success is the product of a great deal of hard work and a lot of lost sleep,” concludes science teacher and mentor James Wauer. “I couldn’t be prouder of what they have accomplished.”

Update: At the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair held on May 12-19 in Phoenix, AZ, the team placed 3rd in the mechanical engineering category and was awarded a $1,000 dollar prize for their efforts. They competed among 1,800 other entrants. Congratulations on a job well done!
James “Fuzzy” Thurston: A Storyline that Could Resemble a Sit-Com

BY LAURA AYER Director of Communications

It’s been 32 years since James “Fuzzy” Thurston left his job as an arborist to join Fryeburg Academy. And, nearly as long since he originally got the nickname “Fuzzy” from his high school football coach — aptly named after Fuzzy Thurston of the Greenbay Packers. After graduating from the University of Maine at Orono with a degree in secondary education, Thurston found a job teaching at Telstar School in Bethel, Maine but that was short-lived. “I taught for about a year and made about $5,300,” says Thurston. “But I had a buddy of mine who was an arborist that pulled in nearly double my salary in just 3 months,” exclaims Thurston. “I thought, yeah, I can cut down trees instead.”

Thurston would spend several years as an arborist until another friend, Gerry Durgin ’68, (who happened to be married to the sister of the girl that Thurston dated in high school) told him about an open teaching position at Fryeburg Academy. As it turns out, in the summer of 1986, Thurston received a call from Head of School “Pinky” about a position at the Academy.

Thurston spent the next four years as a dorm parent in Payson-Mulford Hall and taught history. “Some of my most memorable years were the years living in the dorm,” reflects Thurston. “At the time, I had my kids, Katie ’05 and Tyler ’08, who both graduated from the Academy. I remember little Katie walking down the hallways with her blanket and stuffed animal to go visit one of her 34 ‘older brothers.’ Whenever study hall was over, one of the guys would come lugging her back and put her in her crib. The dorm during that last year catered to older post-graduate students and one, in particular, was a 23-year-old from Bermuda named Kibbles who I really enjoyed working with. I also enjoyed my time coaching the wrestling program and football as the assistant coach.”

At this point in the interview, Thurston leans back in his chair with a look of nostalgia when asked about a few favorite anecdotes from his time at the Academy. With a broad smile and chuckle, Thurston recounts, “Often I wish I was Charlie [Teddy] and could write because to me, there is a book here. I look at my time at [the Academy] like a comparison to the hit series MASH. But

Students In the Center: Project Update

BY DAWN GALE ’81 Director, Academy Fund and Alumni Relations

For those of you who do not live in the Fryeburg area or have not driven by the Academy recently, there’s been a lot of activity on campus since last September. The new dining hall building is taking shape and construction crews, led by T. Buck Construction general contractor, Terry Buck ’74, will continue their work through the summer and fall. We look forward to the first phase of the Shaffner Student Center opening in January 2020.

Board President, Chris Gordon ’81 remarks, “The excitement on campus and around the area is growing as the new dining hall takes shape. The foundation and structure are complete, the roof is in place, and the interior work is starting. This wonderful new space will be ready for use at the start of the second semester of next school year and will provide nearly twice as many seats, stylish new furniture, a state-of-the-art kitchen, and a serving area that allows quick access to a variety of nutritional food selections — all in a building that will become another architectural gem on our campus. Following the completion of the dining hall is a full renovation of the old dining hall into a student center with a student union, college counseling, a robotics lab, and classrooms — ready for use for fall of 2020. These
there is one story in particular that I recall: A kid on his way home to serve a week of suspension ended up jumping out of a school vehicle. He rolled out of the car on Main Street near the bank and ran off to a friend’s house in southern New Hampshire. At the time, of course, I wasn’t happy. Ironically, though, this kid later became my daughter Katie’s babysitter, and I never felt she was in safer hands as when he was watching her.”

Since then, Thurston has lived off campus for 20 plus years, married his second wife, Sue, and had his third child Eddie, who currently attends the Academy and plays on the football, hockey, and baseball teams. In the nearly three and a half decades that Thurston has been a fixture here, he has held many positions that grew in responsibility, including the chair of the history department and his current role as the sophomore class dean.

“When we certainly have seen the pendulum swing back and forth,” continues Thurston when recalling how the Academy has changed over the years. “When I first started, we had a military-like head of school who was extremely regimented. I mean, we even had to pull every single window shade in the dorms to halfway during the breaks,” says an incredulous Thurston. “Then after that, we had quite a few years under headmaster Dan Lee and things got a bit less rigid. But don’t get me wrong, the prior head of school was an extremely forgiving guy.”

When asked in his final question what words of wisdom or advice he’d like to leave with others, Thurston thoughtfully sat back in his chair, arms folded and with a slight tilt of his head responded, “Many years ago I had a colleague tell me that ‘it’s not you, but it’s their perception of the system that they are upset with... and in the end... this school is nothing but bricks and mortar and boards and nails, no matter how much you love it, it will never love you back’. What I came to understand from this statement was it’s the people that make a school what it is, not the shiny baubles and flashy do-dads. I will miss those people.”

Joel Rhymer: Happy Trails and Next Adventures

BY DAWN GALE ’81 Director, Academy Fund and Alumni Relations

Since 1998, many Academy students have had the good fortune of experiencing a science class taught by Mr. Joel Rhymer. Originally from North Carolina, Joel found his way to New England, after completing his undergraduate (University of North Carolina, Asheville) and graduate degrees (University of Wisconsin/Stevens Point). His first job in the area was as Executive Director of The Tin Mountain Conservation Center, before making the switch to teaching and accepting a job at the Molly Ockett Middle School. After a year at MOMS, he was hired to teach science at Fryeburg Academy. He quickly became much more than just a classroom teacher. Joel’s adventurous and nature-loving spirit has led students far afield into areas and regions that have inspired curiosity and fostered a love of nature. Student trips to the Puerto Rican Rainforest, Costa Rica, Arizona, and the Florida Everglades during April vacations and May Terms treated participants to an exciting blend of data collection, exploring local landscapes and ecosystems, and often volunteering and assisting with important causes.

In 2004 and 2014, students dedicated the yearbook to Joel citing: “throughout his tenure, he has brought smiles to both students and faculty with his kind-hearted nature. Through trips off campus, both across the street and across the country, he has engaged with his students by making his teaching both relevant and exciting.”

In 2016 when the Academy was gifted 63-acres, Fryeburg Academy launched the OLRC (Outdoor Learning Research Program) and Joel was named its director. OLRC is a two year, experiential learning curriculum which presents FA students with challenging learning experiences focusing on our local environment, exploring ecological field study and environmental biology in year one, followed by a year studying global systems, particularly as explored via sustained research in environmental chemistry.

Joel is teaching his final May Term class this year and making his final FA trip to Arizona; we’ll see where life takes him. He is very focused on completing his work at FA and wants to close this chapter before opening a new one: “I feel fortunate that I was able to take the time to say goodbye and honor the process of letting go of something that has been such an important part of my life.” He is confident and thankful that he will leave behind a talented science faculty that is strong and vibrant with some new faces and ideas, and he feels good about the direction that the program is headed in. In his next chapter, he will look for opportunities that offer him some freedom with his schedule and more time to pursue other passions.

Assistant Head of School, Joe Manning, worked closely with Joel for much of his tenure and specifically as the OLRC was developed and implemented: “Joel’s passion for nature and appreciation for life is contagious. During his time at Fryeburg Academy, he has been a consistent beacon of kindness — consistently offering support and encouragement to both his colleagues and his students.”

Joel and Elizabeth, live in Freedom, NH, where they have lived for 25 years, raising their two daughters Ellie ’08 and Mary ’10. Both girls are now living in Brooklyn, NY where Joel enjoys his visits to the city. However, they have no plans on moving anywhere soon.

Former student, Jonathan Dana ’11 remembers Mr. Rhymer as a gentle, witty, typically sandal-clad man, and a brilliant teacher. “Not only did he have a Jane Goodall level of passion for the natural world, he also embodied a Mr. Rogers level of kindness and patience for his students. He is and will continue to be a person I look up to. If I make a fraction of the positive difference that Joel has made, I will be a very happy person! I hope he has a fulfilling, photography-rich retirement. He deserves it.”

Needless to say, Joel will be greatly missed by everyone here at FA, but we wish him luck finding his next great adventure.
John Urgese will officially retire in June after an incredible 41-year career at Fryeburg Academy. Hired by Director of Guidance John Gordon and Headmaster Ronald Hill ’49 in the fall of 1978, he initially served as a dorm parent in Hastings dormitory and taught earth science, biology, and mechanics of English. Prior to finding his place at FA, John spent three years as a middle school special education instructional aid in Amherst, MA, where lived and had done graduate work in education at UMass Amherst. He later earned his Master’s of Science from Mississippi State University in 2010.

During his years at FA, he served as both assistant dean of students and dean of students, and over the years has been called upon to teach fitness, basic math, field science, special education, and recently, AP environmental science.

Many alums (and thankful parents) will remember “Mr. Urgese” as the guy who taught them how to drive! John served as the driver’s ed instructor for 25 years, winding in and out of the streets of Fryeburg with student drivers — an important job that is not for the faint of heart! It takes a person with a calm demeanor, a lot of patience, and no small amount of courage to instruct the teen driver. John was the last of a line of faculty to offer the driving program at FA. Others before him that held the post included Scott Kelly ’53, Harold Briggs, and Harry True.

John spent 14 consecutive fall seasons coaching boys’ soccer starting in 1978 and added a 15th season in the late 90s. One winter, he joined fellow faculty member, John Atwood, on the ski slopes coaching ski jumping back in the day when FA had a ski jumping team that practiced on the jump located off of the Kancamagus Highway.

In 1983, John married Debbie Osgood Urgese ’74, and the couple has made their home in Fryeburg ever since. He looks forward to having the freedom to enjoy more downtime with Deb and their children, Kaitlin ’02 and son Zach ’04, and his two grandchildren — as well as working around the house, traveling, and enjoying family vacations and cruises. Debbie is also retiring after operating her daycare that has served many Fryeburg Academy families and others in the Fryeburg area since the early 80s.

John will not be a stranger to the FA campus. He has already expressed his desire to substitute teach and work in the archives as needed. When I asked him what he feels is the most significant change in the teaching experience, he quickly answered, technology. “The kids have the same basic needs, same agendas, but technology changes everything and we have to teach them when to use it and how to use it wisely and appropriately.”

One message that he taught his own kids and continues to teach his students is: “Learn to be resilient, take chances, and hope that they are good ones. Nothing is ever going to go exactly as you plan; you have to be willing to change pace, change gears, and be willing to move in another direction.”

A longtime co-worker and former science department chair Scott Cote-Crosskill, wishes John the best as he closes this chapter. “I worked with John for almost four decades until my own retirement in June of 2018. Many of those years were spent with him in the science department, both in the main building as well as in the Eastman Science Building beginning in the fall of 1995. As his department chair for over 20 years, and as his colleague, we shared many adventures within the confines of the science world and a few outside that venue as well! John gave his all to his science teaching, which basically involved his freshmen earth science classes. He did his very best to mold these young minds in the disciplines that were under the umbrella of the “Earth Sciences.” He also accepted the challenge of teaching AP Environmental Science within the last five years and I feel he found this to be a welcome and invigorating challenge after many years in the freshmen trenches. I wish him the very best in his well-earned retirement and know that he and Debbie will continue to travel, enjoy their children and grandchildren, as well as spend many a happy day at the ocean beaches, which John has always loved. Happy travels John!”
This year, Fryeburg Academy’s international students received a warm welcome from local families who volunteered to host new students as part of FA’s new Family Connections Program. The program brings local families and international students together for support, cultural exchange, and an introduction to American culture. “I was all for getting involved,” said Andrea Macht ’86. “It was a total blessing that Mia was from Germany. My children know the language and visit family in Germany once or twice a year.”

The Academy has enrolled international students from all over the world for 60 years. We know it can be overwhelming to arrive in the U.S. to study for the first time. To ease the transition, new students were paired with well-known local families. These families agreed to take students on special outings twice during the school year, to help celebrate their birthday, and attend athletic events and performances. The Academy also offered opportunities to meet including a mini-orientation at the beginning of the school year and a dessert gathering at the Fessenden House with Head of School Erin Mayo and her family in February.

Many families connected with their student by exploring the area. “We went on drives to see the beautiful scenery and apple picking at Pietree Orchard,” says Macht. Families also helped students adjust by taking them to get their hair cut or shopping for school supplies. “We helped Mia pick out skis and check out Cranmore before she joined the ski team,” continued Macht. “The milk is richer in Germany so we would also drop off milk from Sherman’s farm to remind her of home.”

Faculty and staff members volunteered too. “We learned to keep it simple,” said Mike Sakash, Arts Department Chair. “We really enjoyed just having dinner and playing a game together. It’s been great for my kids. They’ve connected with Crystal and learned so much more about her life in China; more than they would have from school.” Not all participating families had school-age children, however. One student shared that visiting his host was reminiscent of spending time with his grandmother in Shanghai. Another couple followed their student’s lead, making space for him to study along with respite from the dorm. Families also learned that when a student was shy or reluctant to participate the best way to make them comfortable was to encourage them to bring a friend.

An unexpected outcome of the program is that parents have connected with each other, too. “I have a lot of pictures,” recounts Tara Pearce. “I take them to send to Dani’s mom. I know she is reassured that Dani has a local family connection.” The Pearce’s also found that dropping off surprises like a Valentine or homemade treat, helped seal their bond. And even though families were asked to commit only to one school year, many have created bonds that will last a lifetime.

It’s one more way that Fryeburg Academy and the local community offer a sense of belonging to all the students who come here to share in the Academy’s warm and nurturing environment.
FA Winter & Spring Sports Photo Gallery

PHOTOGRAPHY BY JULIAN ZHU ’21

Liam Chisari #11 with teammate drive the puck down the ice toward goal.

Boys’ Ultimate Frisbee Team

At the WMC Indoor Track Championships, Abigail Hewes ’21 placed 3rd in the 800 and the mile. Casey Kneissler ’19 took 3rd in the shot put.

Girls’ Lacrosse Team

Boys’ Tennis Team
Brooke Emery ‘22 drives the ball against the defender from the opposing team.

THE GIRLS’ ALPINE TEAM WON THE WMC ALPINE CHAMPIONSHIP FOR THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE YEAR! Brooke Juneau ‘19 won the WMC giant slalom as well as the slalom race. Abby Novia ‘21 placed 4th in the WMC giant slalom race and 3rd in the slalom. Congratulations!!

Girls’ Tennis Team

Girls’ Ultimate Frisbee Team

Boys’ Lacrosse Team
Alfie Walker ’19, coming off an injury, won the skate portion of the WMC Nordic Championship! Zoe Maguire ’19 finished 2nd and Alana Nataluk ’22 placed 3rd! Alfie Walker ’19 also took the top spot in the skate portion and went on to win the overall Pursuit race! Zoe Maguire ’19 won the classic portion, and she too, went on to win the WMC Pursuit race! Alana Nataluk ’22 finished 3rd in the skate race! Both girls’ and boys’ teams came in 3rd.

Tucker Buzzell ’19 goes for a layup against a Lake Region defender.

At the Western Maine Wrestling Championship, Graham Blood ’22 placed 2nd at the Class B qualifier.

Girls’ Softball Team

Tucker Buzzell ’19 goes for a layup against a Lake Region defender.

At the Western Maine Wrestling Championship, Graham Blood ’22 placed 2nd at the Class B qualifier.
Casey and Reece:
Individuals with Shared Selflessness

BY CHARLIE TRYDER Dean of Student Life

They share a last name, a home, parents, Brandy Cler-Kneissler and Adam Kneissler, a birthday, and they marched across the stage this May to receive their FA diploma on the same day. They also share a strong work ethic, academic focus, and athletic success, and both are very visible and well liked in the FA community — but still, a surprising number of people at FA don’t even know that twins Casey and Reece Kneissler are related.

Along with the likenesses, each possesses characteristics that make it hard to imagine them as twins. Reece explains, “I think because people always looked at us as one and the same, we both made efforts to be our own independent person. As such, we never wanted to be in the same class and we became very different people in our interests.”

Casey reflects on growing up as a twin and you hear her sense of independence as well: “Being a twin never really occurs to me. We are almost opposites. A lot of people don’t even know that we are related. It has really never been a big deal, but is cool to share some of the same experiences.”

The first and easiest difference that you notice when you meet Casey and Reece is their demeanor in a crowd. Casey is outgoing and verbal, instantly looking to create conversation and interact with others. Reece is the classic man of few words who is more inclined to offer one-word answers than ongoing conversation. Although he engages once the group takes action, Reece would rather leave the talk and socializing to others. Each used their way of interacting with teammates to lead their respective teams and contribute to FA student life.

Partly due to gender, Reece and Casey’s athletic careers did not bring them together much growing up. They did share football games during their childhood in Massachusetts, however. Casey recalls, “My brother did Pop Warner football, so the first year that he did that I joined cheerleading. I cheered for his team for 3-4 years.”

At FA, Casey played field hockey for two years. She played basketball in the ninth grade, but she transitioned to indoor track her sophomore year. Casey competed in outdoor track all four years. She remained connected with basketball by participating on the Unified Team grades 9-12. This winter, Casey placed 3rd in the WMC indoor track meet in the shot put and 7th place at the state meet. She earned the Coach’s Award due to her dedication and performance. She was also named to the All-Academic Conference indoor track team.

It is in outdoor track that Casey stands out. Casey was 2nd in the Western Maine Conference in the shot put as a junior and is looking forward to the state meet again this year. While preparing for the state meet this spring, Casey left her mark in the FA record books with a 35’ 8 1/4” throw in the shot put, breaking a 17-year-old FA record by 4 inches. In recognition of her efforts, she received the Raider Award and Grover’s Woman’s Athletic Award.

Reece started out in soccer, basketball, and baseball as a kid, but he made the switch to football in the third grade. He played football, basketball, and baseball through his junior year, and football and basketball his senior year. Along the way, Reece earned four varsity letters in football and two in basketball. Known around the Campbell Conference as one of the hardest hitters in the league, Reece earned All-Conference status his junior and senior years. He was named to the football and basketball All-Academic teams as a senior, and this August, Reece will represent FA in the Lobster Bowl.

Another shared quality that emerges as you learn more about Casey and Reece is their selflessness. Both have achieved individual recognition and success, but both point back to team accomplishments and the accomplishments of others when recalling their favorite athletic memories. Casey’s favorite memories grew from the relationships she formed with others and their successes. “My favorite part of athletics has been coaching and helping younger athletes, says Casey. “That is more fun than any track meet. I love seeing when it clicks and they get it.”

The team focus of Reece’s memories are evident: “I will remember going to the State Championship Football game, winning the Class C South State Championship, going to the AYBSA Baseball Town Championship, and going to the Expo for basketball twice.”

Casey is thankful for the opportunity to compete on FA athletic teams and the influence it had on her as a person: “It has helped me develop as a leader and I think I brought that into the classroom and in other activities. I did a stats project to see if student-ath-

Kneissler twins Casey ’19 and Reece ’19 receive Western Maine Conference Citizenship Awards with their parents in attendance at the February 27th banquet, held at the Italian Heritage Center in Portland.
Saunders and Buzzell:  
From Wrestling at Recess to Championship Games  

BY CHARLIE TRYDER  Dean of Student Life

When asked about the earliest memories of his buddy Oscar, Tucker sinks into the recesses of his memories to Debbie Urgese’s pre-school. Pressed for more detail, Buzzell reminisces and smiles saying, “We used to wrestle every day when we went outside for recess.”

Saunders, when asked of his earliest memories of Tucker, recalls high stakes negotiations and trying to persuade Buzzell to switch his NFL allegiances in daycare: “I tried to convince him to like the Eagles over the Dolphins. I couldn’t do it.”

The wrestling sessions and favorite team debates foreshadowed the future. The interest in NFL teams and wrestling soon turned into football, basketball, and baseball practices and games. After pre-school, Tucker went to New Suncook School in Lovell and Oscar attended C.A. Snow School in Fryeburg, but their shared passion for athletics kept them close. Oscar recalls, “We didn’t go to elementary school together, but we still played football, basketball, and baseball together every year.”

Even outside of athletic seasons, the friendship grew. Buzzell would board a school bus at the end of the school day at New Suncook in Lovell and go to Fryeburg Academy every day to meet with his mother, Jacki Eastman Buzzell ’90, who worked in the FA fitness center. From there, Tucker would find his way to Legion Hall where his father Rick Buzzell ’87 directed the Fryeburg Recreation Program or to Oscar’s house on the FA campus. Oscar, son of history teacher and FA varsity basketball coach, Sedge Saunders, and Amy Saunders, lived on the FA campus. He had video games, footballs, baseballs, and basketballs, so Buzzell felt right at home there. Plus, the bowling alley was right across the road. Tucker had a favorite: “We would go to the bowling alley and get candy. Two-cent Jolly Ranchers were the favorite.”

Through the years their shared football, basketball, and baseball experiences forged ties that bind. Buzzell explains, “Competing together made our friendship a close one. Hanging out and playing sports helped us out because we were just playing together all the time.”

Saunders’ thoughts are similar: “We are both very competitive and it was easy to connect through sports. It was easy to make conversation and just hang out. We have never been on a different team. We would have probably had a rivalry if we were on different teams, but we would have still been friends.”

While their friendship grew, Oscar and Tucker developed into stellar athletes. Buzzell earned 12 varsity letters at FA, a rare feat. In football, Tucker earned All-Conference status grades 10-12, was named the Player of the Year in Southern Maine Class C this year, and he will represent FA in the Lobster Bowl this August. He also received the Buck Austin Award in football this fall and showed that he excels in the classroom earning a spot on the All-Academic team. Tucker followed up his Southern Maine Player of the Year in football with an All-Western Maine Conference basketball season, another all-academic team spot, and he received the Pinky True basketball award this winter. This spring, Tucker made the WMC baseball
All-Star team for the second year in a row, received the Cliff Gray Baseball Award, and made a third All-Academic team in his senior year. For all of his exploits, Buzzell was named the Graustein Male Athlete recipient at graduation.

Saunders earned 11 varsity letters at FA. Oscar was named All-Conference and All-Academic this year in football while leading the Raider offense as the quarterback. Oscar's exemplary basketball career included being named All-Conference in grades 10-12, All-Academic as a senior, and he played in the McDonald's State All-Star game this winter. Oscar finished out his career with an All-Academic recognition this spring in baseball. Oscar also received the Daniel Turner Award at graduation.

While Oscar and Tucker have accumulated impressive individual awards along the way, it is clear when you speak with them that the team accomplishments and friendships formed are valued more. Captains of the Southern Maine Champion Raider football team, quarterfinal basketball team, and 12-4 baseball team, Buzzell and Saunders have provided tremendous leadership for a group of strong athletes at FA.

For Buzzell, there are the memories of middle school football wins over Lake Region and catching Oscar in baseball, but beating Leavitt twice this year is the accomplishment that he treasures most. Defeating their longtime powerhouse rival represents the culmination of the team's shared commitment to Buzzell. The years together in the weight room, as well as the hard work through elementary, middle, and high school will remain with Buzzell: “We spent so much time getting to that point, and we saw the work pay off when we beat Leavitt twice in one year.”

For Saunders, favorite memories include the basketball trips to Bar Harbor for turkey tip-off games, the last baseball game of freshmen year when Tucker hit a walk-off home run with him on base to put them in the playoffs, and of course, the Leavitt wins in football. Another memory that Oscar will carry with him is watching his friend Tucker emerge as a leader this fall. Tucker always led by example according to Oscar, but this football season he noticed a change: “I will remember this football year and seeing Tucker as a leader. He really stepped up.”

As might be expected, when asked about how being an athlete shaped who they are, Oscar and Tucker give answers that could serve as advertisements for the value of athletics. Their answers reflect how much a part of each of their lives athletics has been. Saunders notes, “Athletics taught me that you can’t win every time. You have to accept defeat and then become a better version of yourself. You need to cooperate with other people, the coaches, teammates. Sometimes you need to put your ego aside for the team.”

“Athletics is 90% of my day and life in general,” says Buzzell. “The fact that I am involved with three sports kept me in shape and doing the right things in life. Being an athlete is a lifestyle. I feel like when you grow up playing sports, you not only learn the sport, but you learn how to act and how to represent yourself. You are taught if you are wearing a jersey, then you need to behave, keep up with your school work, and do the right thing. Athletics kept me from doing something dumb, and it kept me busy. I always wanted to be able to be a part of the team.”

Buzzell will take his experiences with him to Husson College where he will continue his football career and study sports management. He is interested in entrepreneurship and could see himself working his way up in an athletic facility. Saunders will head out to California in the fall to Santa Barbara City College. He hopes to graduate from there and transfer to a University of California school. He is undecided on a major at this point, and he is still deciding if he will play athletics in college.

The days of wrestling every day during recess and arguing over favorite teams are fading, but the memories from the fields, the courts, and diamonds across the Western Maine Conference will travel with these two young men into their old age. “We formed a tight bond,” continues Buzzell. “We spent about four hours together every school day. He will be in California, but I plan on seeing him during breaks and whenever.”

Oscar's father and basketball coach to both, Sedge Saunders, explains why the two of them will be missed at FA: “I’ve had some players who were more physically gifted, I’ve had some players who had a greater skill set, and a lot who have worked really really hard, but these young men were the most well-rounded athletes I’ve had the privilege to coach. They combine skill, athletic IQ, and the drive to succeed. They are the total package as far as a high school athlete is concerned. They also were gentlemen on and off the court, represented their school with class — and interestingly enough — were quiet leaders. They also were multiple-sport athletes who have had an indelible impact on this school and community. It will be tough to replace these fine young men.”
The Maine Music Educators Association State Jazz Festivals bring together the top high school musicians in the state for performances, critique, and awards. To perform at a Maine State Jazz Festival, instrumental and vocal jazz ensembles must achieve a score of 70 out of 100 at their district jazz festival. For Fryeburg Academy, the state jazz festivals are an exciting capstone to a very active jazz season that includes the annual fall jazz residency, individual student performances at the Maine Jazz All-State Festival, performances at the Berklee Jazz Festival, numerous run-out concerts, an annual performance at the Stone Mountain Arts Center, and performances by all seven Fryeburg Academy jazz ensembles at the District II Jazz Festival.

This year all five of Fryeburg Academy’s instrumental jazz ensembles qualified for the Maine State Instrumental Jazz Festival, hosted by South Portland High School on March 15th and 16th. After two days of performances and critique, Fryeburg Academy’s Big Band and New Standard Combo were recognized with silver medals, the Yukon King Combo and the Fryeburg Academy Jazz Orchestra were recognized with Bronze Medals, and the International Combo received an honorable mention. Bassist Arlo Stevenson received an Outstanding Musicianship award for his performance with the Fryeburg Academy Jazz Orchestra, and Georgia Stafford was honored with the top individual award, the Dale Huff Outstanding Musicianship Award, for her performance as vocalist and pianist with the New Standard Combo. Mike Sakash, Arts Department Chair and director of FA’s instrumental jazz ensembles, couldn’t be happier with the progress each group made over the course of the year, performing at the state jazz festival with precision, energy, and inspiration.

On Saturday, March 30, the FA Vocal Jazz Ensemble, led by Fryeburg Academy Music Director Mimi Rohlfing, performed at the Maine Music Educators Association Vocal Jazz and Show Choir Festival, where they earned the coveted Gold rating, averaging a score of 97 out of 100 points possible. And, since they secured one of the top two spots in their division, FA’s Vocal Jazz Ensemble was invited to compete for first place in the “Night Finals.” The students’ dedication and many evening practices paid off for them, earning the group their 14th consecutive Division I State Championship and their fifth under the direction of Mimi Rohlfing. Georgia Stafford, who won the Berklee High School Jazz Festival Solo Singing Competition, last year, was named one of four Outstanding Musicians for her solos and her sophisticated vocal improvisation on “Bli Bli.” All FA soloists were given the highest ratings possible, and the group was praised for their engaging stage presence, focus, and versatility.

Mike Sakash and Mimi Rohlfing are currently planning next year’s jazz season, which opens with the annual jazz residency. Fryeburg Academy will welcome world-famous saxophonist, Jeff Coffin to campus November 18th - 20th. A three-time Grammy winner as a member of Bela Fleck and the Flecktones, Jeff Coffin is one of the most innovative jazz saxophonists today, and has been a regular member of the Dave Matthews Band since 2010. Fryeburg Academy’s music students will perform with Jeff Coffin at the jazz residency capstone concert on Wednesday, November 20th.
On June 9th, music students presented “Journeys,” this year’s spring concert. The music reflected the sights, sounds, and experiences of travel to another country, another planet, another time period, or the transition from life to the afterlife. The theme was inspired by Guillermo Nojechowicz’s musical composition, “Trains,” which the Fryeburg Academy chorus, vocal jazz ensemble, and big band performed with guest artist Kim Nazarian this past fall during our jazz residency.

The band opened with “Jupiter,” a movement from Gustav Holst’s orchestral suite, “The Planets,” completed in 1916. The majestic music was accompanied by images collected by NASA’s Voyager space probe as it passed Jupiter in 1979, the Juno space probe in 2016, and the Hubble Space Telescope which was launched into orbit in 1990.

Journeys to foreign lands were represented by the “Armenian Rhapsody” and the Cuban rhythms of “Las Colinas.” Travel to America was the subject of “African Dreams,” which was accompanied by a video about a young man’s invention of a life-saving windmill that brought water to his village.

The big band, chorus, and vocal jazz members joined the chorus for “Trains,” for which senior Georgia Stafford stepped into Kim Nazarian’s shoes to evoke the images of the composer’s grandmother and father. As a little boy, Nojechowicz along with his grandmother and father fled Poland by train in the early 1930s during Adolph Hitler’s reign, leaving behind the rest of his family who perished in the concentration camps. They boarded a steamship in Bordeaux, France, and found refuge in Argentina.

Dream and imaginings were spun in “Over the Rainbow,” while “I’ll Be Home Before Ye,” and the chorus’ “Ride the Chariot,” and “Omnia Sol” were songs of parting, love, and the final passage.

The concert closed with the spirited song “Music, Lead the Way,” concluding that although we’ve made progress, we still have far to go to heal our wounds and divisions, and that making music together can bring our hearts, spirits, and minds close in ways that nothing else can.

“Making music together can bring our hearts, spirits, and minds close in ways that nothing else can.
Alumni Gatherings and Visits

We enjoyed a busy winter and spring visiting with FA alums near and far. Receptions and dinners were held in the local area, as well as in Beijing, China; Taipei, Taiwan; New York City; Boston, MA; Philadelphia, PA; and Portland, ME. As in past years, the Fryeburg Academy Alumni Association hosted its annual Ski & Race Night at Shawnee Peak in Bridgton, ME, which is always a fun event! Enjoy these images from our gatherings and please check our website and newsletters for upcoming events in your region. We are always open to suggestions, so please contact Dawn Gale ’81 dgale@fryeburgacademy.org, if you have ideas or would like to host a reception in your area!

Erin Mayo and her son, Gunnar Gurnis ’19, met with recent alums in Beijing in March. (l to r) Xiyao “Sherry” Wang ’13, Wenhua “Kimmy” Ji ’13, Gefei Li ’13, Erin, Gunnar, Yanqi “Robinson” Jian ’14, and Hengliang “Andrew” Yao ’13.


Dear Friends,

After a seemingly endless winter, all of us are looking forward to summer and all that it brings — including, Reunion Weekend! I hope that you all have set aside August 16, 17, & 18 and are planning to join us. Reservation forms were sent out last month and you’ll find an additional form and schedule in this edition of Scenes for your convenience. We are expecting the exterior of the new dining hall to be completed by mid-August, so you’ll get a chance to see the newest addition to our beautiful campus.

I’m happy to introduce Elizabeth “Betsy” Marcello as our new advancement assistant. Betsy worked in FA’s library as an assistant prior to accepting the position in this office in January. Her main task is maintaining our database and keeping track of all of you. You can reach her at emarcello@fryeburgacademy.org or call 207-935-2001 ext. 3131. Please keep us updated on any changes in your contact information.

As we celebrate classes ending in “4” and “9” this August, we also always encourage alumni from other classes to join in on the weekend’s events. This year, we are adding a co-ed softball game on Saturday and we hope to see alumni of all ages participating in this “fun” contest. Alumni field hockey and soccer games are also planned for Saturday morning. Please check the FA website for up to date information on these events.

I would like to send a big thank you to members of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, led by current president, David Richardson ’84 for their incredible support and commitment. This group meets once a month planning and hosting local alumni events such as our Shawnee Peak Ski Night and Saco River Brewing Social, as well as staffing and funding our senior class cookout every May, and supporting FA faculty by funding requests for a variety of items or projects. Additionally, the Association awards a number of scholarships to graduating seniors every spring. This is a great group of dedicated people who are all involved in supporting and sustaining Fryeburg Academy and its alumni effort.

I look forward to seeing many of you in August!

Warm Regards,

DAWN GALE ’81
Director, Academy Fund and Alumni Relations
Vietnam alumni and current parents with Joe Manning and Jeremy Angell ’99 in Hochi Minh City.

Pahrada Sapprasert ’07, Peat Sathavonmanee ’07, and Nattapong Tassawong ’06 joined Joe Manning and Jeremy Angell ’99 in Bangkok.

Dave Richardson ’84, Dawn Gale ’81, Jen Stacy Bartlett ’93, Heidi Blake ’82, Barbara Gushee ’84 and Jason Irish at Shawnee Peak.

Race winners at the Alumni Association’s Shawnee Peak Ski & Race Night, Logan Cline Maxwell ’09, Cooper Maxwell ’08, Foster Maxwell ’05 (and sons), and Terry MacGillivray ’81.

Erin Mayo and Dawn Gale ’81 visited with Marilyn and Marvin Goldstein ’61 in Philadelphia.

Alana Landano ’06, Macey Hall ’07, Bright Amoako ’13 (and guest), Corey Beaton ’10, Zach Drew ’03, and Kevin Park ’07 in NYC in April.
Guests enjoyed a great reception at Dillon’s in Boston: Jon Delli-Priscolli ‘74, Sienna McMahon ‘17, Chris Gordon ‘81, Debbie Carol Rogers ‘83, Sheila Duane ‘82, Dawn Gale ‘81, Carlos Hernandez ‘82, Mike Chen ‘17, Forest Edson ‘13, Casey Sherman ‘88, David Jillson ‘74 (and his wife, Jackie), Wayne Rose ‘87, Joe Manning (Assistant Head of School), Steve Wilson ‘62, Mike Doody ‘87, Toby Duane ‘87, Erin Mayo (Head of School), and Ameeth Deenanath ‘94.

Sophie Creegan ’12, Meghan Bradley ’11, Susan Thorman Hodge ’81, Mike Hill ’79, Dawn Gale ’81, Ryan Kelly ’82, Doug Albert ’81, Melanie Ridlon Eldracher ’81, and Chuck Moody ’81 at Bissell Brothers Brewery in Portland, ME.

Save the Date: Homecoming Weekend & Hall of Excellence Induction Ceremony

Friday & Saturday
September 27 & 28, 2019

A full listing of the weekend’s events will be posted on the Fryeburg Academy website.
ANDY BURGESS ’57 just returned from Paris, France where he visited his brother and family. He toured Notre Dame a week before the fire and took the featured “selfie.”

DIANNE HALE DURGIN ’59 recently remarried and is looking forward to the reunion this year! She now lives in South Paris and has a great apartment.

CAROL SEVERANCE TAYLOR ’60 writes, “In the past several years with the help of my family, other family members and friends, I have been working on a book about the history of Severance Lodge. For much of the book I’ve used my father’s writing from his unfinished memoirs of his spring catalogue called Woodsmoke and have been pleased that many copies have sold in the valley. My classmate, GEORGE WESTON ’60 and his wife LAURIE BURNELL WESTON ’64 have sold several copies at Weston’s Farm Stand. I have also sold them at the Lovell Historical Society and the Lovell Library where I have made a donation from a portion of my sales. I’m ordering more copies for the summer season and am honored by the response.”

JANE LASSALLE ’60 writes, “I’m co-coaching a Matter of Balance class under the auspices of Memorial Hospital, and am stumbling my way through a Tai Chi Chuan class of theirs, as well. I will visit the Canadian Maritimes with a friend this summer and, as everyone of my vintage, am faced with the delegating of treasures for others to enjoy!”

KAREN CARLSEN ELLIOTT ’61 is retired and living in Chatham, MA, and daughter, CHRISTINE ELLIOTT BALCH ’85, works as an administrative assistant for a Boston doctor at Ophthalmic Consultants of Boston.

STEPHEN THAL ’62 writes, “Hello 1962 classmates! Life continues to be an exciting journey. Eleanor and I continue to live in a retirement community in Wallingford, CT. While attending the Academy I did so with a

Ronald Saunders ’62 lives in Pittsburgh, PA, and is the president of the Dr. Edna B. McKenzie Branch of the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH). The branch recently received recognition and accolades for its exceptional work — advocating for and gaining — the first state-wide proclamation recognizing the 1619 African arrival in Virginia. The group was also heralded for establishing March 1, as Abolition Day in Pennsylvania (the first state in the nation to do so). Ronald and his branch members worked tirelessly to make the Pennsylvania governor aware of the importance of commemorating the 400th year.

For African Americans, 2019 marks 400 years of perseverance. Records from 1619 reveal that at least 20 Africans arrived in the fledgling English colony of Virginia. This English colony was founded only a few years earlier in 1607. Today, a website serves as a clearinghouse for local, national, and international events to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the arrival. The ASALH launched the site in December 2018 in honor of the birthday of its founder, Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson, the “Father of Black History” and a pioneer of multiculturalism.

Additionally, as part of the national 400-year celebration, Ronald read a proclamation (issued in January 2019) from Clarence Armbrister, president of Johnson C. Smith University, in honor of William Henry Lavender Wolfe, who was Ronald’s great grandfather. William Wolfe attended Biddle Institute in the late 19th century before it became Johnson C. Smith University located in Charlotte, NC. Wolfe boldly claimed his right to a quality education during Reconstruction, and through his actions, made it possible for generations of his family and an entire sector of Americans as a whole.

Another recent initiative taken on by the Dr. Edna B. McKenzie Branch is the adoption of Negro Mountain in Garrett County through Maryland’s Adopt a Highway Campaign. The branch members are required to pick up litter four times a year at the site of the marker where there is also a picnic area. Negro Mountain is a long ridge of the Allegheny Mountains stretching 30-miles from Deep Creek Lake in Maryland, north to the Casselman River in Pennsylvania. Dr. Edna B. McKenzie signs are located on the highest point on the national road. The group’s first visit was scheduled for May 11, 2019.

We recognize and congratulate Ronald for his endless dedication in promoting awareness about a crucial part of African-American and American history!
hearing loss. My experience there allowed me to find other talents and skills not previously known. In my late twenties I started to lose my vision due to a recessive gene. Since 1982, we have had four Seeing Eye Dogs and am now on my fifth one. I currently sit on two boards, host my own radio shows (25 years), where I have wonderful opportunities to interview folks and to develop the appropriate subject matter for our listening audience. I am also involved with the safety committee in our retirement community. We have held many leadership positions in the Masons. The key thing in retirement is to identify specific interest areas, exercises that will help your body like yoga and core exercises, select good nutritional foods and using alternative medicine prior to going on drugs or having surgery. Acupuncture and deep tissue massage have been keys for me! I congratulate the folks at Fryeburg for their dedication and hard work that will benefit them for years to come.

RHONDA MAYNARD ROWE ’63 writes, “Exciting news for me. I am back in Maine at the Betsy Ross House in South Portland.”

ALFREDO VALLADARES ’63 lives in Sanford, FL, with his wife, Carol. They live close by to one of their daughters and her family. He writes, “Retired and enjoying our close family.”

JAMES ARCHIBALD ’63 was the invited keynote speaker at the 2018 Clavier Conference, Knowledge Dissemination, Ethics and Ideology in Specialized Communication: Linguistic and Discursive Perspectives – which took place at the University of Milan in November 2018. His talk dealt with the public discourse of healthcare professionals concerned with the implementation of medical assistance in dying legislation.

BRAD YORK ’69 is retired and living in Brownfield. He enjoys hunting, golf, and his three grandchildren. His children, SUSAN YORK KNOLLA ’98 and KYLE YORK ’05, are both FA grads!

BARBARA HARRING STRUBE ’69 is enjoying time playing with her two awesome grandchildren, Cody (5) and Dylan (3). She also volunteers as a “baby cuddler” and plays golf. DIANNE STERITI DOUCETTE ’69 lives in Peabody, MA, and teaches dental assisting at Greater Lawrence Technical High School in Andover and works part-time as a dental hygienist.

GEORGE PERRY ’69 lives in Chatham, NH, and is busy working three days a week, bee keeping, hunting, fishing, and gardening. STEVEN JONES ’69 retired last year and has since purchased two condos in Hampton, NH, and a home in Tucson, AZ.

LINDA BROWN DUTIL ’69 is semi-retired and currently working as a long-term substitute teacher of Gifted and Talented at the Lake Region Middle School.

JANE ABBOT SWEATT ’69 lives in New London, NH, and is a reading specialist in the Lebanon, NH, school district.

CATHERINE TROTT WOOD ’69 and her husband, DON ’68, are enjoying spending time with their grandchildren. Catherine is also very active in the Order of the Eastern Star, the largest men’s and women’s organization dedicated to charity.

DIANE WARREN JONES ’69 was presented with the Pythagorean Chapter #11 Order of the Masons Community Achievement Award in January.

FLETCHER MCKINNEY ’69 is living in St. Paul, MN, and has been married for 37 years. He is semi-retired, but hoping to find a part-time job for a non-profit organization.

RALPH MORSE ’69 is retired after 50 years of full-time driving (the past 35 years with Hutchins Trucking) although he still drives part-time. He enjoys snowmobiling in the winter months and camping in the summer with his wife of 48 years, Pearl, and their three cocker spaniel dogs!

1970s

NITA CRAIG BARKER ’70 writes, “In July 2018, I went on a land/cruise to Alaska. We spent five days on land visiting lodges owned by Princess Cruise Lines — enjoying two nights at Fairbanks Lodge, one at Denali Lodge, one at McKinley Lodge, and a night at a really nice hotel in Anchorage. During that time we panned for gold, enjoyed a train ride into Canada, and went on a river boat tour. We left Anchorage and were on the Coral Princess for seven nights, with stops in Skagway, Juneau, and Ketchikan. We also went into Glacier Bay while at sea. It was a wonderful experience and one that I will never forget.”

KEITH DURHAM ’72 was recently inducted into the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, Massachusetts Chapter, for his lifetime service to wrestling. Keith has had the good fortune to coach high school wrestling in Massachusetts for 34 years at four different schools. During this time, his wrestlers earned many individual and team honors/championships. At the induction ceremony held in April, Keith thanked former FA faculty and coaches, including Dave Woodsome, Dan Turner, MaryEllen (Brown) Mackin, and Ken Brown.

DEBRA MURPHY BROCK ’77 of Cuddebackville, NY, graduated from SUNY Delhi in December 2018 with a BSN degree in nursing.


**1980s**

**TONY LENNON ’81 and MIKE HAGENOW ’10** had a chance meeting at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. Tony is a market manager for MathWorks, makers of software used in engineering programs at the university. Mike is pursuing his Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering and is a teaching assistant in undergraduate labs using the software. Their FA connection was discovered when Mike mentioned his Maine roots and that he attended Fryeburg Academy.

**RYAN KELLY ’82** writes, “My daughter gave birth to my third grandchild, Sebastian, in December. He joins older brothers Joshua and Gabriel. I am a founding member of the Rolling Thunder Maine Chapter 2, serving as the Sergeant at Arms and member of the board of directors. Our chapter presented a POW/MIA Flag to the Academy during a short ceremony in May. In February, I also donated a POW/MIA chair to the school. I will be attending the 32nd and final Rolling Thunder National Freedom Ride in Washington, DC, on Memorial Day weekend this year. Next year, the ride will move to a regional format. I am in my 8th year at Hussey Seating Company in North Berwick where I am the lead associate in the Metal Cutting Shop. I am working with **BRAD LITTLEFIELD ’80** and Hussey in hopes of acquiring bleachers for the new Recreation Center in Fryeburg.”

**ELIZABETH THORMAN ’84** writes, “Greetings to my fellow FA alumni! I have had some amazing adventures in the past few years. I live a sort of bohemian lifestyle and am currently living in a small beach-side town just north of Seattle with my fiance. We work remotely and can live and travel anywhere as long as we have internet access. In 2016 we took a five month road trip from Texas to Maine and back. Before heading back to Texas, we spent six weeks in South Africa. We spent four of those weeks at the Kariega Game Reserve doing volunteer work for their wildlife conservation program. After that we stayed in Cape Town for two weeks and were mesmerized by the beautiful scenery such as Table Mountain and Camps Bay. During this time, we realized that we didn’t want to feel trapped by conventional expectations and the standard American work life. Our goal was to work remotely while traveling. My fiance, Jason, worked in the tech industry in Seattle and Austin and has been investing in real estate since the 1990’s (investing on the side while working as a videogame & software automation tester). After Africa, he decided to build a set of software tools that would allow us to work as a “behind the scenes” real estate investor partner. We did a lot of networking and found several investors that fit our needs as “boots on the ground” partners that would take inbound seller calls, go on appointments, and put properties under contract. We handle the highly targeted leads, list analysis, and marketing. The properties we hunt for are not the vanilla deals that are found on the MLS. Instead, these are the dirty, stinky, hoarder, flea infested, flood and burned out houses that need a great deal of work. Our partners put these houses under contract and then will either fix and flip the house or assign the contract to another buyer who wants it as a fix and flip or buy and hold. Since 2016, we have traveled to six countries and have taken three USA road trips. On these road trips we travel with our two dogs in our converted SUV/mini RV with a bed in the back and 200 watts of solar panels on a custom built roof rack. We plan on being in the Pacific Northwest for about a year. If you want to reach out to us the best way is to contact us @realestatenomads on Instagram and Facebook.”

**STACY REILLY KNAPPE ’91** was recently named the Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) Europe South District Teacher of the Year. Stacy teaches AP Literature, English 12, and drama at Vicenza High School in Vicenza, Italy and has 17 years of teaching experience, ten of which have been with the DoDEA. She also serves as a teacher leader, literacy leader, drama club sponsor, and cross country coach. Stacy is a graduate of the University of Maine, and in 2011 she received her Master’s in Education in Globalization and Educational Change with a certificate in International Counseling from Lehigh University. She is completing her Gifted Education certification and will begin a year-long program with Mindful Schools to become a K-12 mindfulness instructor in June.
JENNIFER STACY BARTLETT ’93 writes, "I am still here at FA, teaching photography as well as coaching JV field hockey, unified basketball, and serving as president of FA’s Teachers’ Association. I keep myself busy in the summer with my weddings, portraits, and family photography business. My oldest son, Brayden, will be graduating this year and heading off to SMCC for precision machining training and he will continue to play baseball. My daughter, Alegra, will be a freshman at the Academy next year.”

MONROE MANN ’95 writes “Hi All! I’m proud to report that I’m finally a college professor! My PhD, MBA, law degree, and EMT training are finally paying off! I’m teaching psychology, business law, and health law at the College of Westchester outside of NYC. In other news, my team and I at Break Diving are proud to have coded and launched the world’s first not-for-profit social media site and the first to focus on helping members find success, happiness, and friendship! We hope you will come check it out at www.breakdiving.io. For some background info, we were written up in the national newspaper The Epoch Times in December and you can find the article at our parent company’s site at www.breakdiving.org. In the world of writing, I released a well-received 52-week inspirational planner to help you get more done each year called “Successful New Year,” and also a manual on how to raise money for risky projects called, “T.R.U.S.T.” What does that acronym stand for? You can read more about both books on Amazon! Finally, for those who are still curious about the feature film we shot up in Lovell, I’m excited to share that we sold “You Can’t Kill Stephen King” to Amazon Prime last summer so if you subscribe, you can watch the film for free! All my best, and for all those reading this who also suffer from depression: DON’T GIVE UP. A brighter day is right around the corner. Email: roe@monroemannlaw.com”

JONATHAN WADE DREYER ’96 writes, "I’ve been in Portland, ME, since my accident in 2004 and living in my own apartment in downtown Portland since late 2005. I’ve worked multiple part time jobs in the area. I now work for the Portland Home Depot and have been there for a little over two years now. I would like everyone to know that life does go on even after a catastrophic event. The only thing that I can say is don’t ever quit, if you want something, put your mind to it and push yourself to the limit to achieve your goals.”

Chris Rothermel ’94’s love of the visual arts was already quite evident during his time at Fryeburg Academy. Following graduation, he pursued his dreams earning a BFA from the University of Georgia, and an MFA from the University of Oregon. Chris went on to complete a full apprenticeship at the Johnson Atelier Technical Institute of Sculpture located in New Jersey, where he focused on metal casting and stone carving.

From 2005-2011, Chris was an assistant sculpture professor at Hong Kong Baptist University in China, where he became a founding member of the Academy of Visual Arts in Hong Kong. He also sought and received research grants to travel throughout China to different sculpture zones in search of raw materials. One of those trips led him to the materials he would use to create “The Granite Ring” — one of his most well-known sculptures. The piece now sits on the City Hall campus in Roswell, Georgia by the bridge adjacent to the Cultural Arts Center. The “Granite Ring” was purchased by the Roswell Arts Fund and the Hagan Family Foundation as a tribute to Robert Farley for his contributions to the arts in the city of Atlanta, GA.

His works are (and have been) exhibited in shows throughout the U.S. as well as international locations, and his private work gallery representation includes NYC, New Jersey, Maine, Oregon, and Georgia. There are larger works on the horizon for Chris as he has quite a few public commissions for later this year. He often speaks as a visiting professor, offering specialized symposiums and guest lectures, as well as serving limited term positions at Indiana University, Georgia State University, and the University of North Georgia. He and his wife, Laura, recently developed and introduced to the market, a hand-pressed stone product named CercaTrova®. The material’s hardness is between marble and granite and offers an exquisite look.

Chris frequently travels through Fryeburg to visit his family in Lovell: “Fryeburg Academy has been a touchstone of sorts for me for many years … and the friends I made there are actively involved in our lives today.” He and Laura have developed an offbeat and artistic approach to life in the modern world and split time between Atlanta and New England to focus on their creative endeavors and family.
JASON GREY ‘96 writes, “Hi Everyone! I just got home from 12 weeks in Australia and New Zealand completing my 7th contract with Princess Cruises as a shipboard paramedic. I’m looking forward to spending some time around the area this summer as I start my 27th year as a member of Fryeburg Rescue. I’m remaining on as the President of the New Hampshire Association of EMTs for the immediate future while we continue to fundraise for, and construct, a memorial to honor those EMTs killed in the line of duty in the State of New Hampshire.”

MATT SEAVEY ‘97 writes, “I recently took a position at Heat Biologics, Inc. in Durham, NC, as the Senior Director of Research. We are a cancer vaccine and immuno-oncology biotech focused on stimulating the patient’s immune system to fight cancer. I reside in the Research Triangle Park area of North Carolina with my wife Beena John and 13 year old daughter, Sejal Seavey, whom recently became a full member in attendance at the American Association of Cancer Research (AACR) and attended their annual meeting in Atlanta, GA. She was the managing editor of Extra Newspaper in Chicago from 2012-14. She has also written for several publications in the US and abroad. Her collection of poems is being published this year in the second Bulgarian Foreign Writers’ Journal. Nikoleta’s niche is entertainment. She has interviewed people from all walks of life from the local communities to politicians to celebrities like Paul Chavez (Cesar Chavez’s son); Martin Luther King III, President of Bulgaria, Rosen Plevneliev; Sasha Pfieffer (award-winning journalist Boston Globe); Eva Longoria; Gabriel Iglesias; Marlon Wayans; Marc Anthony; Ana Ortiz; Jaime Camil; Il Volo; Rob Schneider; Chris Kattan; Jennifer Lopez’ dancers; Mario Lopez; Anna Faris; Kellan Lutz; Mike Tyson; Messi; Carolina Herrera; Holly Holm; Jason Derulo; Paula.”

JESSE SMITH ‘99 writes, “I’m still living in sunny Australia, spending most of my time in Sydney running my litigation consulting firm. My girlfriend and I enjoy living near the beach, and we try to travel as much as we can when work allows. We’ll be visiting my family in Brownfield and Fryeburg for at least a month this summer, and are even considering buying a summer home to come back to every year.”

2000s

LAUREN LAPLANTE TRIPP ’00 and JEFF TRIPP ’98 are the parents of a baby boy, Cole Alexander, born on November 16, 2018 in Norway, ME. Cole weighed 8 lbs 11 oz and 20 3/4” and joins his sister MCKAYLA TRIPP ’22 and brother HUNTER TRIPP ’24.

HEATHER MASSE ’00 and her husband, Ian Duncan, are the proud parents of a baby girl, Ida Rose, born in January. Ida Rose joins big brother, August. Heather is beginning to tour again and she will be performing a few shows with Jed Wilson (jazz pianist and husband of DEANNA MASSE WILSON ’99) starting in May, and the Wailin Jennys will be back out on the road in the fall (baby Ida in tow). Heather and Jed recorded a new album that they are excited to share this summer or fall as well — so stay tuned!

NIKOLETA KRAVCHENKO MORALES ’03 is an award-winning writer, journalist, publicist, poet and a photographer based in Chicago with a passion for entertainment, hiking, and travel. She writes for FF2 Media, Montana Press, Cultured Focus Magazine NY, Lawndale News Chicago and has her own award-winning blog (nikoletamorales.blogspot.com), which recently won first place in the state IWPA (Illinois Woman’s Press Association) competition and third place in the national NFPW (National Federation of Press Women). In addition, she is a celebrity publicist and has done PR for companies such as ComEd, Gift of Hope, Made Good, among other top brands. One of her biggest achievements is attending and covering the 2019 Oscars for the first time in history for FF2 Media, as well as the 2019 Sundance Film Festival. She was the managing editor of Extra Newspaper in Chicago from 2012-14. She has also written for several publications in the US and abroad. Her collection of poems is being published this year in the second Bulgarian Foreign Writers’ Journal. Nikoleta’s niche is entertainment. She has interviewed people from all walks of life from the local communities to politicians to celebrities like Paul Chavez (Cesar Chavez’s son); Martin Luther King III, President of Bulgaria, Rosen Plevneliev; Sasha Pfeiffer (award-winning journalist Boston Globe); Eva Longoria; Gabriel Iglesias; Marlon Wayans; Marc Anthony; Ana Ortiz; Jaime Camil; Il Volo; Rob Schneider; Chris Kattan; Jennifer Lopez’ dancers; Mario Lopez; Anna Faris; Kellan Lutz; Mike Tyson; Messi; Carolina Herrera; Holly Holm; Jason Derulo; Paula.”
Abdul; Blondie; among many more. In 2014 she photographed Mayor Rahm Emanuel and President Barack Obama on Air Force One as the only female photographer.

ROSITSA ATANASOVA ’03 writes, “After completing a Master of Theological Studies at Harvard Divinity School and a law degree at the University of Cambridge, I am now back in Bulgaria working with refugees and migrants for a number of organizations, including Doctors Without Borders and Lumos, the charity founded by J.K. Rowling to end the institutionalization of children globally.”

JOE SARCIA ’04 and ERIN PROUTY SARCIA ’05 are the parents of Ariyah Sarcia born on January 28, at Memorial Hospital in North Conway, NH. Ariyah joins siblings Kylie Prouty-Allen and Reegan Sarcia.

MITCHELL BROWN ’05 and Bridget McAvoy announced the birth of their son, Cole Anthony Brown, on February 17, 2019. Cole joins brothers Beckham, Owen, and Ryker.

ELI HUTCHINS ’05 and Dianna DeBie of Lovell announced the birth of their daughter, Grace Ann, on October 3, 2018.

KEVIN PARK ’06 and his wife Samantha welcome their daughter, Eleanor Aurore, who was born on March 20, 2019. Kevin is an active duty Army Captain presently assigned to the New York District of the United States Army Corps of Engineers. Samantha recently departed her position as a career counselor at a local college at their previous duty station located in northern New York.

ANTHONY MCINNIS ’07 and Hallie Anthony announced the birth of their daughter, Kelsey Lynn McGinnis, who was born on February 12, 2019 at Memorial Hospital in North Conway, NH.

JOSH ENOS ’07 recently received a fabulous write-up in the Bridgton News for the success of his new food truck, a new addition to his business Worth the Wait BBQ, is now open for business four days a week — even in the winter. His transition from a part-time catering business to a now full-time gig seems to be a big hit. Josh is a veteran, who served in the Coast Guard where he did a lot of grilling. He and his wife, Leann, live in Waterford and recently made a quick trip to Texas to “bone up on his barbecuing skills.” You can follow his adventures and find out where you can find his food truck by following Worth the Wait Catering’s Facebook page.

VINCE OSGOOD ’07 recently celebrated his five-year anniversary with Norway Savings Bank. An active member of his community, Vince is a trustee of the Fryeburg Fair, a board member of the Fryeburg Recreation Department, and a member of the Loan Committee for the Mt. Washington Valley Economic Council where he was named co-winner of the Volunteer of the Year Award in 2018! He was also recently promoted to Assistant Vice President, Commercial Lending. Vince lives in Fryeburg with his wife, Hillary, and son, Asa (2).

DYLAN ANDERSON ’09 attended Stonehill College in Easton, MA, where he graduated with his bachelor's degree in finance. He was heavily involved in the Charles River Battalion Army ROTC program, ultimately commissioning as a Logistics Officer. He spent the last five years on active duty, but is transitioning out of the Army and beginning a career in the Financial Services industry in May. He recently married Nolyn (Hartley) Anderson of Ponte Vedra Beach, FL, last April. They currently live in Savannah, GA, with their dog Jerry “Remdawg” Remy.

JARED THOMAS ’09 and Alexis Bell announced the birth of their son, Jayce Scott Thomas, on December 30, 2018.

NICOLE BODEAU ’11 has been named to Husson University’s Honors List for the fall 2018 semester. Nicole is a junior who is currently enrolled in Husson’s Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice/Master of Science in Criminal Justice Administration program.

LAURA PULITO ’12 was selected as one of the NAC Women of the Year in a vote of the league’s Athletics Directors and Senior Women Administrators. Pulito, a two-sport athlete in
women’s cross country and women’s outdoor track and field for the Beavers, will be presenting her award during the 2018-19 academic year. “Once again we had a strong pool of nominees this year and it was no surprise that both Evelyn and Laura were selected as the NAC Women of the Year honorees,” said NAC Commissioner Marcella Zalot. “Impressively, they excel as students, have had successful careers as athletes and have had positive impacts on their campus communities.”

ASHLEY WISSMANN ’14 a mechanical engineering major, and a math and project management minor and was named a Presidential Scholar for the fall 2018 semester at Clarkson University in Potsdam, NY. Ashley received her B.S. degree with distinction in December.

HARRISON CORTHELL ’14 was recently accepted into Columbia University for his MFA in Stage Management and is moving to NYC! Look for him on Broadway!

ALYSON KRUGER ’15 is a senior English and secondary education certification major at Grove City College in PA. She was named to the dean’s list for the 2018 fall semester.

ALISON UPTON ’15 was named to the dean’s list at Rochester Institute of Technology for the 2018 fall semester. Allison is in the graphic design program.

JOSEPH COFFEY-SLATTERY ’15 graduated from Hofstra University in Hempstead, NY, in December 2018. He earned a BA degree in film studies and production.

TREVOR HENSCHEL ’15 is a senior at Stonehill College and was named to the dean’s list for the fall 2018 semester.

COLIN MKEITH ’15 is a senior business administration major at St. Michael’s College and was named to the fall 2018 dean’s list.

LIAM LAMOUNTAIN ’15 is majoring in mathematics and business administration at Northeastern University in Boston, MA. He was named to the fall 2018 dean’s list.

JOE SCHRADER ’15 was named to the fall 2018 dean’s list at the University of Maine/Orono.

ALLISON WATSON ’15 was named to the fall 2018 dean’s list at the University of Maine/Orono.

ERIN FRIBERG ’15 was named to the dean’s list at Muhlenberg College for the fall 2018 semester.

SHUQIAN ZHANG ’15 of Taiyuan City was among more than 1,000 students from Miami University who received degrees during fall commencement exercises Friday, December 14, 2018, at Millett Hall. Shuqian graduated with a BA degree, majoring in economics.

MARY SHEA ’15 was appointed by Maine Governor, Janet Mills, to the Board of Trustees of Maine Maritime Academy. The board consists of 16 members all appointed by the Governor. The Board has full legal responsibility and authority for the governance of Maine Maritime Academy, appoints the President of the Academy, approves the establishment of academic programs, confers degrees on students who have completed all requirements for graduation and sets tuition rates and operating budgets among other responsibilities. Members are appointed for a five-year term and may be reappointed at the Governor’s discretion. Mary is a senior at Maine Maritime studying Marine Systems Engineering. She is enrolled in the 5 year Unlimited Horsepower Coast Guard License Program and currently works as a Cadet First Assistant Engineer on the Training Ship State of Maine and as an Academy Representative in the Maine Maritime Academy office of College Relations. Shea previously worked at Tyco Electronics Subsea Communications as an Engineer Cadet and Cable Ship Global Sentinel.

SEAN CHASE ’16 is a communication major at Lasell College, and was named to the dean’s list for the fall of 2018.

MCKENNA GERCHMAN ’16 has been named to Husson University’s Dean’s List for the fall semester. McKenna is a junior who is currently enrolled in Husson’s Bachelor of Science in Sport Management/Master of Business Administration (MBA) program.

PATRICK CARTY ’16 is a junior at Emmanuel College where captained his cross country team and consistently finished among its top two runners. Patrick also finished eighth of 54 runners at the Great Northeast Athletic Conference championship.

JULIA QUINN ’16 and LEXI L’HEUREUX-CARLAND ’16 played important roles in St. Joseph’s College march to the NCAA women’s Division III tournament. Julia, a guard, and Lexi, a forward, are both juniors are likely to see significant increases in their final collegiate season.
Gefei Li ’13

BY DAWN GALE ’81 Director, Academy Fund & Alumni Relations

After graduating from the Academy in 2013, Gefei enrolled at Cornell University in Ithaca, NY, double majoring in economics and statistics at the College of Arts & Science. Although she thoroughly enjoyed her college days and knows that Cornell helped her grow into a better person, she credits Fryeburg Academy for starting the process.

Gefei returned to China after college and began working at McKinsey & Company, a top global consulting firm. When asked to describe her job, she commented, “2018 consisted of 70 plus flights, 200 plus nights in a hotel, 16 hour work days, juggling six major projects across different industries (consumer, healthcare, insurance, education, etc.) and city tiers.” A worldwide management consulting firm, McKinsey employees can be found in 65 different countries, helping organizations across the private, public, and social sectors create the change that matters to assist their clients in identifying and executing strategies to achieve company goals.

Gefei hopes to help other students experience the opportunities that Fryeburg Academy gave her. “I’m very passionate about education and plan to eventually join or start an education company,” says Gefei. “The reason behind [my passion for education] is because of my experience at Fryeburg Academy which really changed who I am. I want to give more students similar opportunities to help them grow.”

Gefei has offered her time and connections and is volunteering with the FA alumni and admissions offices. She has started a Chinese alumni network and recently helped organize a dinner gathering in Beijing with other Chinese alums, Head of School Erin Mayo, and Erin’s son, Gunnar ’19 in March. She hopes to expand FA’s network and presence in China and invites alums to add her on WeChat; her WeChat ID is 15801651180. Additionally, Gefei plans to meet with middle-school students in China, share her Fryeburg Academy experience and help identify prospective admission candidates.

Many thanks to Gefei for her continued work and enthusiasm in forging FA connections around the world.
WEEKEND To the Academy Fund from alumni, parents, students, and friends, We thank all of you who have already participated in the 2017/18 Our fiscal year is ending, please consider making a gift to the Academy Fund by June 30, 2019. By Mail: Fryeburg Academy Advancement Office 745 Main Street, Fryeburg, ME 04037 By Phone: Alumni & Alumni Relations: 207-935-2001 ext. 3147 Online: www.fryeburgacademy.org/give
LaCasce Bequest Society

There are many ways to ensure the future and the mission of Fryeburg Academy. The LaCasce Bequest Society was established in 1995, named for Mr. and Mrs. Elroy O. LaCasce, in honor of the LaCasce’s years of commitment to the Academy (1922-1955). We encourage you to join this group of benefactors who wish to support our school through estate directives, which often benefit the donor as well. For more information on planned giving options, please contact Dawn Gale ’81, FA’s Academy Fund and Alumni Relations Director, at 207-935-2001 ext. 3147 or dgale@fryeburgacademy.org.