The 2021 Academy Fund

Our fiscal year is ending, so please consider making a gift to the Academy Fund by June 30, 2021

HOW TO GIVE:

Online:  www.fryeburgacademy.org/give

Mail:  Fryeburg Academy Advancement Office, 745 Main Street. Fryeburg, ME 04037

Or Call:  Dawn Gale ‘81, Director, Academy Fund and Alumni Relations, 207-935-2001 ext. 3147

We thank all of you who have already participated in the 2020/21 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. Gifts made to the Academy Fund from alumni, parents, students, and friends, within the fiscal year running from July 1, 2020 - June 30, 2021, will be listed in the Fall 2021 Annual Report of Gifts.
Greetings to the Fryeburg Academy Community

As I write this letter, we are just about one week out of having successfully graduated the Class of 2021. I recently asked them: who would have imagined, back in 2017 when you were freshmen, how different the second half of your high school years would look? Last March, we didn’t immediately comprehend that campus closure and remote instruction would extend for the remainder of the school year, and we certainly didn’t imagine that the world crisis would be of such duration and so radically affect 2020-21, their senior year. It’s been a strange one, full of interruptions, suspended possibilities, and constant precaution; some of our graduates experienced the final year of high school study from home, while many came to campus for classes and navigated days full of masks, tents, one-way hallways, regimented seating, and open windows in all weather.

Those of us still finishing up the school year continue to live the realities I’ve just described, but we’re secure in the knowledge that they have indeed been temporary and are coming to an end. As much as they’ve affected and deprived our students, COVID-19 and its dictates have not defined them, as we here at school have witnessed again and again throughout this difficult year. There will be challenges ahead for all of us and for the Academy in rebounding, but as I’ve expressed before, abundant blessings have made us resilient: the trust, positivity, and kindness of our students; the all-in dedication of our faculty and staff; the low-transmission rate advantage conferred by our geography and now, by abundantly available vaccine; the faith and exceptional support of Academy families, our surrounding community, and you, our alumni body.

I wish you any and all of the following this summer: good health, connection with friends and family, live music, travel, sunshine, movie theaters, ball games, and peace.

My best,

ERIN P. MAYO

Head of School
LETTER FROM THE HEAD OF SCHOOL
1 “As much as they’ve affected and deprived our students, COVID-19 and its dictates have not defined them, as we here at school have witnessed again and again throughout this difficult year.”

FA ACADEMICS
4 100 + Years of Diversified and Boarding Enrollment at Fryeburg Academ by Laura Ayer
“LaCasce’s focus on diversifying the Academy’s enrollment from three distinct student funnels — local Fryeburg students, neighboring commuting students, and boarding students — would prove essential in keeping numbers stable, a strategy that still exists today.”

FA NEWS
8 Space Raiders by Dr. Warren Ziegler
“...The telescope purchase helps to further our mission for viewing and astrophotography of the planets, stars, galaxies, nebula, and comets.”

9 FA Math Teacher Erik Gustafson Retires by Laura Ayer
“Along with teaching math, Gustafson is also a notable honkey-tonk and blues musician (and ventriloquist!). He cites his first year in college as the time he first fell in love with the music genre.”

FA ATHLETICS
10 The Fundamentals of Being Teammates by Charlie Tryder
“...Sports have always contributed to my life with social camaraderie and learning how to be a good person, how to collaborate, and how to mesh with others while trying to reach a similar goal.”

11 FA Athletes Sign with Colby and University of Maine
12 Teammates for Life by Charlie Tryder
“The bonds formed in elementary school carried through

Dana Hamlin ’22 and Ian Jacobson ’22

Fryeburg Academy, and while they competed intensely with one another growing up, they also had each other’s back when necessary.”

14 FA Winter/Spring Sports Photo Gallery
16 Fryeburg Academy 2021 Winter Sports Awards

FA ARTS
17 Connect, Collaborate, Create: Certificate of Arts Capstone Presentations by Mike Sakash
“Capstone presentations are the culmination of each student’s work in the Certificate of Arts program. This program was designed to connect students and faculty from all arts disciplines, document student’s work in the arts, and support each student’s individual path in the arts.”

18 FA Students Join UM Buddy Defranco and MMEA Maine State Jazz Festivals by Mike Sakash
“While the live festivals offer a much richer experience, the virtual platform allowed our students to connect with nationally-renowned educators throughout the country.”
“Brendan is passionate about his company and the causes that he helps support. He is involved in every aspect of the business, whether it’s driving creative content for the company, collaborating with the team on ideas and concepts, heading up marketing efforts, event directing, or overseeing the timing teams.”

“With strong ties to the Fryeburg area and her love of aviation, Erin became involved with the Eastern Slope Aviation Academy, a 501(c)3 developed to fill a need in the Mount Washington Valley for affordable education and guidance in aviation.”

ON THE COVER: The Alumni House was purchased as a gift to FA by the Massachusetts Alumni Association in 1901 and was used as a girls’ dormitory (until the mid-1960s) and dining hall until the mid-1980s.

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, Jennifer Stacy Bartlett ’93, Lakyn Osgood Ela ’12, and Julian Zhu ’21.
Design by: Marianne Matte, Kennebunk, ME
Fryeburg Academy, founded in 1792, is one of the oldest private schools in the United States. Unlike many secondary schools during this early era, the Academy’s mission to provide an education beyond simple elementary training and the school’s unparalleled firsts to admit female students as early as 1806 and later, in 1947, to enroll African American students in the boarding program — set the course for the Academy’s defining legacy. These forward-thinking ideas would mark the turning points in the school’s 229-year-history — both for their innovation and groundbreaking shifts from what was the traditional educational landscape at the time.

However, the main challenge posed by Academy’s 1792 charter was not coeducation as much as it was to “operate a private institution with a public mission” (LaCasce p. 53). As a town academy, the school’s mission was primarily driven to accommodate varying levels of ability with different educational needs” and serve local students and those outside the area. No one understood the complexity of student diversity and maintaining “democratic demographics” as well as Elroy O. LaCasce, the Academy’s headmaster that served the school from 1922-1955. During LaCasce’s 33-year leadership, the Academy’s expanded boarding program and recruitment efforts flourished.

In 1922, during LaCasce’s first year as headmaster at Fryeburg Academy, the school “enrolled fifteen out of a total enrollment of 119 students who commuted from Center Conway by train.” That following year, Kennett High School was newly built, and Conway students could attend that school — eliminating nearly ten percent of the Academy’s enrollment. (LaCasce p. 56). The need for recruitment and diversification of the school’s student body was clearly evident. By 1933, after a long and arduous process in attending town meetings to recruit students and lobbying for increased state funding, LaCasce successfully enrolled most students from Fryeburg, Lovell, Chatham, East Conway, Hiram, and some from Brownfield, Sweden, and Denmark. Surprisingly, the main enrollment obstacle during the 1920s and 30s was unplowed winter roads. By 1934, the roads began to be plowed, which paved the way for more students from neighboring towns to enroll at the Academy. (LaCasce, p. 56).

Additionally, the consolidation of high schools in neighboring towns increased the Academy’s enrollment growth during this period with more commuting day students. LaCasce’s
LaCasce’s focus on diversifying the Academy’s enrollment from three distinct student funnels — local Fryeburg students, neighboring commuting students, and boarding students — would prove to be an essential strategy in keeping numbers stable, a strategy that still exists today. (LaCasce, p. 62).

LaCase wrote in a 1937 board report how important this recruitment strategy would be in the face of economic hardships. “During the depression, fewer students were going away to school from cities [boarding students], but we won [back] our own larger community about that time so that our registrations steadily increased...it was our local following which took us through the depression, while many institutions doing a purely private [boarding school] business went out of existence.”

Nevertheless, the Academy’s residential program (which began as early as the 1900s) had started expanding in 1926 with added rooms to the Frye House and additional housing purchased along Main Street to house faculty and staff. The following year, LaCasce purchased the Langdon House. (LaCasce, p.60).

In 1953 and 1954, the Academy welcomed its first international students: Pascal Woldemariam and Lulseged “Luis” Bekele, both from Ethiopia. Chase Hall was constructed in 1956. Karen Pike ’58, a former boarding student from Rangely,
Maine, recounts what life was like at the Academy during this time. “I started at the Academy living in the Alumni House on the top floor near the fire escape. During my junior year, I moved to Chase Hall, and by my senior year, I was back at the Alumni House, downstairs behind the dining room kitchen with my same roommate from Chase Hall. At the time, the Alumni House housed the dining hall downstairs, with elongated tables that sat ten per table. Each table had a teacher and served family-style meals. The headmaster also ate there with his family each night, saying a prayer at the beginning of the meal. And the following week, we would sit at a different table with different kids and teachers. It was a very important social event.”

Pike also recalls the diversity of the campus, which was very progressive for the time. “I remember seeing kids from Bailey’s Island. There were also some women from Ethiopia and some African-American girls from Texas, which was very novel in the north for the period,” says Pike.

While at the Academy, Pike formerly (Schildberg) also met her husband AO Pike (a former FA Board President and longstanding trustee). “He was a local student from the town, and I ended up going on a blind date with him on a Sunday, which was the very first day I arrived,” recalls Pike. “I believe we went to the movie theater, and we [dated] during our time here. AO ended up going to Bowdoin, and I went off to nursing school in Northwest, but we were able to reconnect.”

Both Karen and AO Pike credit the Academy as a wonderful launching pad for their success and their children’s. “We can’t give back to the Academy enough. You were proud of it and to be a part of it. You wore your FA jacket with your name on the front, and it was very important to have one of those!” exclaims Pike.

Over the next decade, Fryeburg Academy’s residential halls would increase by four in number with construction of Webster Hall (1960), Frye and Payson Mulford Halls (1963), and Hastings Hall (1966); the Alumni House ceased housing students in the early nineties. Boarding student enrollment expanded correspondingly, adding both more Americans and more nationalities to the mix. Significant cadres over the years have come to the Academy from Bermuda, Japan, and Thailand; more recently, Turkey, Vietnam, and China have presented some of the heaviest international demand.

Fei Wu ‘01 — a graduate from Beijing, China — recalls her time as a boarding student: “It was my first boarding experience. Coming from one of the biggest and most populated cities in the world to Fryeburg was a big transition. I remember the smell of Fryeburg being so different from China — it turned out to be the scent of mulch, which doesn’t exist in China! And back then, there were no cell phones, which I don’t think any Asian student could possibly relate to today! We had to walk to the store to buy an international phone card or wait in line to use the dormitory phone to call home. There was no such thing as WhatsApp to communicate.”

While at the Academy, Wu was the only girl to play on the boys’ ice hockey team and became the team captain, later starting a girls’ ice hockey team that season. Wu also played softball and learned the alto saxophone, but she recalls her close relationships with the Academy’s teachers as the highlight of her time. “I can’t tell you one name from the professors [I had] at Northeastern University during the five years I spent there, but I remember ALL my teachers from FA,” continues Wu. “I really enjoyed Mr. and Mrs. Tryder, who were such family to us. And the Vachon family, who were my dorm parents, and Mr. Vachon, my English teacher. I also remember the Academy being very diverse when I was there and evenly distributed. There were about a dozen Asian students (many with whom I’m still friends), but at the same time, there were also Japanese kids and a dozen Korean students as well as German and Bulgarian students.”

AO Pike notes, “The Academy is the same school I attended but different. The grounds and buildings have changed dramatically, and the challenges the administration faces are different, as is the student mix. The school has been progressive and handled enrollment issues well over the years. I think it’s the school’s ability to adapt that has helped the Academy overcome any challenges that come its way — especially during this most recent year.”

In a typical year, Fryeburg Academy enrolls students from 25 different countries. The boarding program’s high water-mark for enrollment came in 2015, with 156 students; though it’s at 75 currently due to COVID-19 and its many restrictions, school
leaders are planning for at least 100 resident students in the fall as the world re-stabilizes.

Post-pandemic rebuilding is only the latest evolutionary moment in Fryeburg Academy’s boarding program and overall goal of “democratic demographics.” But AO Pike describes what will remain consistent and true, saying, “The school enfolds you. The Academy still embraces its students into a community they can be proud of and delighted to attend.”

REFERENCES:

Hall of Excellence Induction Ceremony & Brunch
Homecoming Weekend: Friday & Saturday, October 15 & 16, 2021

Enjoy a weekend of FA sports and help us honor our newest Hall of Excellence members!

Please check www.fryeburgacademy.org/alumni/events for additional information as it becomes available.

The lounge at Alumni House, formerly a girls’ dormitory, 1937.
Fryeburg Academy's Space Raiders Club was founded in 2018 by physics teacher Dr. Warren Ziegler for astronomy and space science students. Dr. Ziegler is currently engaged as a Space Scientist with the University of Southern Maine and continues to mentor students from Fryeburg Academy’s Space Raiders Club. He is now working with Mr. Tyler O’Keefe ’14 who has joined as a faculty co-advisor. Despite the pandemic, the Space Raiders have many successful activities and events to report.

This past March, the Space Raiders purchased a 9.25” refractor telescope with a computer-controlled motorized “go-to” mount and camera adapter. Thanks to the generous donations from the Perloff Family Foundation, The Lucas Spencer Passion Fund, and Sally and Jim Gibson of Fryeburg, the purchase was possible. The telescope purchase helps to further our mission for viewing and astrophotography of the planets, stars, galaxies, nebula, and comets. We will be having open viewing events on campus and at the OLRC barn as weather and schedules permit.

The Space Raiders contributed to a successful NASA CubeSat Launch Initiative (CSLI) proposal to have a Maine-built satellite launched into orbit by NASA (MESAT-1). The Raiders contributed sections on remote sensing, telemetry, and attitude control to the overall proposal. A small satellite launch is worth as
FA Math Teacher Erik Gustafson Retires

BY LAURA AYER DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Erik Gustafson (“Gus”) has taught math for 37 years. He spent most of his career in Montana, later teaching at a private high school in Concord, NH, for a few years. He’s been teaching at Fryeburg Academy for the past six. “I have to say, the Academy has been my favorite place to teach,” says Gus. “The maturity of the students and the respect students give faculty as well as the professionalism and open-mindedness, and inclusion of everyone here is wonderful. [The Academy] has an extremely wide variety of students with a mixture of local students and international. It’s a totally unique teaching institution, and students are truly kind and caring.”

Along with teaching math, Gus is also a notable honky-tonk and blues musician (and ventriloquist!). He cites his first year in college as the time he first fell in love with the music genre. “In college, I ran into students from back east, and they turned me onto blues and artists like Hound Dog Taylor,” says Gus. “Some of my favorite artists include those who play the delta-blue style, such as Robert Johnson, Muddy Waters, and Houndwolf.”

In his solo act as “Erik Fingers Ray,” Gus plays the mandolin, harmonica, guitar, and sliding guitar and also writes his own music — by ear. And while at the Academy, he shared his musical talents with FA students. “I really enjoyed working with students in the Blues and Rock Band, coaching and mentoring them,” continues Gus. “It was a great experience to share my musical talents with them.”

Along with teaching math, Gus also coached the math team for five years, winning the Pi-CONE League every year and States twice during his tenure. He also taught his wildly popular May Term course, Cryptozoology, for four years.

Upon his retirement from the Academy this year, Gus plans to spend his summers on his cattle ranch in Montana, the fall months in New England, and winters in Florida, where he’ll continue to pursue his musical interests. Additionally, Gus shared the exciting news of his upcoming nuptials. “In October, I’m getting married to Melissa Ross, a teacher who works in Portland.” We wish Gus and his new bride the very best in their life together in this exciting next chapter.

The telescope purchase helps to further our mission for viewing and astrophotography of the planets, stars, galaxies, nebula, and comets. We will be having open viewing events on campus and at the OLRC barn as weather and schedules permit.

much as $100,000, so this is a significant award. The Space Raiders will have an experiment included in MESAT-1, which will carry cameras that will image the earth in different colors. By doing so, it will be able to assess the state of the waters around Maine. For example, the ratio of reflected green light from the water surface to reflected infra-red light indicates the presence of plankton and the number of solids (turbidity) in the water. MESAT-1 is scheduled to be launched into a polar orbit in April of 2022.

The Space Raiders have proceeded to the next phase of the University of Southern Maine’s CubeSat Competition. Schools from throughout the State of Maine were invited to submit designs for a satellite launched on a high-altitude balloon capable of reaching an altitude of 20 miles or more. The balloon will be launched in late June 2021. The Space Raiders entry in the competition will be used to map the estuaries at the Wells National Research Reserve using cameras controlled by a computer. The Space Raiders are working with Dr. Jason Goldstein, the lead scientist at Wells, to create a baseline map of the salt pools within the estuary. It is hypothesized that the size and number of salt pools within the estuary may change as the climate changes. Mapping the current salt pools will provide a reference point in time to be compared to future mapping efforts.

This past November, Space Raider’s member Andrii Obertas created a unique Venus Rover design that entered in a NASA challenge. The challenge was to design a rover that could maneuver around obstacles using mechanical sensors and minimal electronics as the high temperatures at Venus’s surface are detrimental to electronic components; Andrii’s design involved using a wheel at the end of an articulated boom connected to the rover body. This was an open competition for all ages; Andrii’s entry was very clever though it did not win overall, still a significant achievement given that he competed against professional engineers and scientists from around the world.
The Fundamentals of Being Teammates

BY CHARLIE TRYDER

Classmates and teammates, Ella Baptista, Sharlah-Mae Day, and Kayrin Johnson bring diverse experiences and interests to Fryeburg Academy. They embody the breadth of opportunities available at FA and the eclectic makeup of the student body. While their interests and passions took them in different directions for much of their FA experience, they worked together as teammates growing up and at FA on the soccer field. Combining individual pursuits with team experiences, the three classmates represent a healthy balance between individualism and joining together for a shared goal.

The value of having shared experiences is clear when these teammates speak of each other as teammates. Ella says of her friends, “I have been playing soccer with both Kayrin and Sharlah-Mae for many years. I have loved being able to count on both of them as teammates and as friends throughout my high school years.”

Sharlah-Mae shares her thoughts on her teammates as well, “I think that with them we played on soccer teams together growing up, so when we got to high school it was easy to click together. We could think along the same lines. We could be an example for the team because of how we clicked. All three of us always put in a lot of effort, so I was inspired by them to get better and work on my skills.”

Kayrin explains the importance of her teammates to her experience, “If it weren’t for teammates and the support you get from them, I don’t know if high school sports would be worth it. You can always count on Ella to smile and make jokes every practice and Sharla to give it her all.”

Sharlah-Mae notes that this past year has made bonds with teammates particularly valuable, “I don’t know if high school sports would be worth it. You can always count on Ella to smile and make jokes every practice and Sharla to give it her all.”

It will be team achievements that Sharlah-Mae, daughter of Kerri Sooter and Robert Day, will recall. One time honored FA tradition in particular will travel with her into old age, “Anytime that we got to ring the bell as a team formed a great memory for me. We would all get really excited to run to the Main Building and ring the bell.”

Kayrin, daughter of Andrew ’95 and Andrea Siklosi Johnson ’95, struggles to identify a particular memory that she feels will age with her, “In high school there are too many memories to choose from. Each practice, each team workout, leaves a trail of new memories and laughs, sometimes tears, but in the end it’s all worth remembering.”

All strong students and school citizens, Kayrin, Ella, and Sharlah-Mae have still had to overcome challenges. Ella still hurts from missing an entire season of her beloved ultimate frisbee career. Sharla-Mae has struggled with injuries, “I had a couple of concussions and some random injuries. I really like to be a part of things, so figuring out how to support my team when I am injured was a challenge. It was a struggle but I think I did well.”

Kayrin’s challenge has been more personal, “My biggest challenge I had to overcome is something I still am working on to this day. I struggle with depression. If it weren’t for my teammates and coaches, as well as some very special teachers like Mrs. Richardson, I would have never made it as far as I have. I still have a long way to grow, but if athletics have taught me anything it’s to keep your head down and keep fighting.”

The hope is that young people will leave their athletic experiences with improved self awareness as well as character traits that will serve them in adulthood. When Kayrin discusses the influence of athletics on her as an individual, it is clear that this has been true for her, “Sports have played a huge role in my life. Ever since I can remember I have been involved in athletics. My experiences have taught me to be determined and set goals, and they remind me every day to stay humble and show compassion towards teammates as well as opponents. That alone can be taken into everyday life.”

Ella found similar benefits from her athletic experiences, “Through sports and competition I’ve learned the importance
of self motivation and determination. I’ve needed these two qualities as I work towards my college goals, especially during Covid when so many in person events have been cancelled.”

Sharla-Mae values the fact that athletics enabled her to function in group situations, “Sports have always contributed to my life with social camaraderie and learning how to be a good person, how to collaborate and how to mesh with others while trying to reach a similar goal.”

Listening to Sharla-Mae, Kayrin, and Ella speak of their experiences and what they have learned from them, it is not surprising that they are strong proponents of getting involved with athletics. Sharla-Mae offers advice to young people preparing to enter Fryeburg Academy, “If you want to do something, commit to it 100%. Give it your very best. Sports can be a great stress reliever. If you are feeling a lot of stress academically, a great way to relieve some of it is to be on a sports team. It is cathartic to me.”

Kayrin’s advice to young people is music to coaches’ ears, “Give your best in everything you do. There is a lot you can’t control, but you can control if you are the hardest worker on and off the field. Give yourself credit and allow yourself to be proud of your small accomplishments.”

While some might argue that it is important to find your one area of expertise and pursue it, Ella suggests a different approach to the young people of her community, “I recommend trying a bit of everything in high school, whether it be trying a new sport, a new position in a sport you already play, or joining a new club. With so many amazing opportunities available to the student body at FA, I would first recommend keeping an open mind to trying new experiences.”

These three Fryeburg Academy teammates and classmates have bright futures. They are outstanding students as well as athletes and school citizens. Ella will attend St. Lawrence University next year where she will study environmental policy and political science. Kayrin and Sharla-Mae will attend St. Joseph’s and study nursing in the fall. Kayrin hopes to play soccer there as well. The FA community should be proud that one of these three teammates hopes to help develop policy that will lead to better care of our environment, while the other two hope to help people with their health in the medical field. If the fundamental quality of being a good team member is caring about others, then it is easy to understand why these three FA student-athletes are known as such good teammates.

FA Athletes Sign with Colby and University of Maine

Congratulations to Morgan Fusco ’21 on her signing to commit to playing softball at Colby College in the fall. She joins the roughly 6% of high school softball players who are fortunate enough to continue onto an NCAA softball career! Above: Morgan Fusco with her father, Mike Fusco (left), and mother, Amanda Fusco (right).

Eli Mahan ’21 signs with the University of Maine Black Bears to join their football program this fall. His parents Ryan Mahan (left), Nicole Goggin (right), and sister Maya Mahan ’24 (standing) were on-hand to celebrate the important day.
When asked about their earliest memories of one another, the disparaging comments ensue. Eddie Thurston, son of FA athletic director Sue and former dean, Fuzzy, shares his first impressions of Bryce Micklon and Will Galligan, fellow musketeers, “I thought, what an ugly group of kids, but then I got to know them and realized we had some stuff in common. After that we started hanging out and competing against each other.”

And therein lies the foundation of many adolescent male friendships: competition and giving each other a hard time. Bryce and Will recall that they started hanging together in middle school while playing hockey in North Conway. Bryce explains the competition that emerged between them, “Playing sports we pushed each other. We all wanted to be the best.”

The bonds formed in elementary school carried through Fryeburg Academy, and while they competed intensely with one another growing up, they also had each other’s back when necessary. Eddie describes the one for all and all for one approach when opponents enter the scene, “We started out just friends, but it turned into more of a brotherly bond. If someone hit one of our guys in hockey, the other two were going after that person.”

Will, who played lacrosse in the spring and soccer in the fall while Eddie and Bryce played baseball and football, points out that they even supported each other when they were playing different sports, “Whenever they had a football or baseball game, I would always go and cheer them on. They did the same for me.”

While their connections as teammates and classmates mirror the experiences of many FA alum, these swashbucklers dealt with more challenges than most of their predecessors. Most notably, they had to deal with the cruel covid-19 interruption of their shared athletic experience. Eddie points out the reality of sports during covid, “This whole pandemic has been a challenge. There is always an uncertainty about the next game. You are used to wanting to get better. That drive, that competitive side gets tough when you don’t know if you will have games. It gets hard to find something to push you and drive you.”

Will, son of Terry and Sheryl Dunlea Galligan ’90, agrees, “Trying to push yourself when you have that uncertainty takes a toll on you. This year in lacrosse it has been extra tough. Last year was cancelled. It has been 2 years since anyone played. It was like having to relearn the sport, but we have pushed each other.”

Along with the pandemic, Bryce, son of Colin ’94 and Rose Micklon, has dealt with serious injuries that impacted his promising career. Bryce tore his ACL and meniscus during his sophomore football season, underwent surgery, rehabbed, and then tore the same ACL again his junior year. He explains that the pandemic even impacted his recovery, “I had surgery and then covid pushed everything back, and I couldn’t work out at school.”

The three of them found a way around the school closings by lifting at Eddie’s house. Joined by other athletes, the three pushed each other and continued to improve their strength and athleticism. Dealing with covid did remind them of the importance of athletics in their lives in general and their academic worlds in particular. Will laughs, “Athletics always pushed us. If we didn’t have anything like sports to go to school for, we probably wouldn’t even go. Being on a team made us go to school and do well.”

Eddie follows up with more self-deprecating humor, “Yeh, none of us are what you would call academic weapons. Athletics helped us keep our grades up.”

Although the pandemic blew up several of their athletic seasons, the tenors will take many treasured memories with them. Bryce Micklon, Eddie Thurston and Will Galligan.
nonetheless. For Bryce, a favorite memory will always be from his sophomore year, “I will always remember when we went to states in football. That is one of my best memories.”

For Will, making the playoffs in hockey his junior year and lacrosse his ninth grade year will be highlights. When retired in his rocking chair, Eddie will recall beating Biddeford hockey in overtime his senior year. In addition, Eddie says he will carry a broader recollection with him as well, “I will remember playing with the same group of people growing up and watching everyone grow as athletes and young men.”

The power of athletics to shape perceptions and self-awareness is clear when the three teammates discuss what they learned through athletics. Bryce feels that his experiences have taught him two important lessons, “Sports have taught me respect and how to not take things for granted.”

Eddie shares one lesson with Bryce, “Yeh, don’t take what you have for granted. Play every game like it is your last. Now I realize how true that is. I wish I had listened to the people I know who have been there before, because they have been through it and know.”

For Will the lessons focus around working with others, “Sports taught me teamwork. I have always been super competitive. You might not always be the best, but your team can help you be the best you can be.”

When asked to share some parting words to middle schoolers and underclassmen at FA, the young men turn philosophical and speak like the three wise men

“Sports taught me teamwork. I have always been super competitive. You might not always be the best, but your team can help you be the best you can be.”

When asked to share some parting words to middle schoolers and underclassmen at FA, the young men turn philosophical and speak like the three wise men (minus the frankincense, gold, and myrrh). Bryce’s heartfelt advice is straightforward, “When you come to Fryeburg Academy work hard for what you want. Work as hard as you can. Don’t wait for things to come to you, go get them yourself.”

Eddie suggests that presence is the key, “Take advantage of all the opportunities that you have here. I didn’t really get involved ‘til sophomore year. I wish I had started right out as a frosh.”

Also appreciative of FA’s offerings, Will offers sage advice as well, “Don’t settle! You need to have that competitive edge and get better every time you step on the field.”

The future is still wide open for these three amigos. Eddie will attend Bridgton Academy next year as a post grad to continue developing his academic and hockey skills. After BA he hopes to continue playing hockey somewhere. Will is joining the army national guard and going to boot camp this summer. When he returns, he would like to play junior hockey somewhere. Bryce will attend the University of Maine at Orono and study civil engineering.

Their next steps and future careers will likely lead them to different locales and lives. In the coming years they will gain new teammates and friends, but there is little doubt that the brotherly bond these three guys formed along the way as kids and young men will endure. Regardless of where they end up or what they end up doing, it will be best not to mess with any one of them unless you want issues with the other two. They will likely still have each other’s back.
FA Winter/Spring
Sports Photo Gallery

Willow Carter ’22 (photo by Sue Thurston)

Kyle Littlefield ’21 Kyeni Musembi ’21 (photo by Julian Zhu ’21)

Yongseok “Brian” Yoo ’22 (photo by Julian Zhu ’21)

Boys’ Tennis Team (photo by Julian Zhu ’21)
Kacey-Jane Clark '23, Andrew Irwin '23, and Pauline Peirce '23 (photo by Julian Zhu '21)

Maddie Foreman '22 (photo by Jennifer Stacy Bartlett '93)

Girls' Tennis Team (photo by Julian Zhu '21)

Will Galligan '21 (photo by Jennifer Stacy Bartlett '93)

Maddie Foreman '22 (photo by Jennifer Stacy Bartlett '93)

Kacey-Jane Clark '23, Andrew Irwin '23, and Pauline Peirce '23 (photo by Julian Zhu '21)
Fryeburg Academy
2021 Winter
Sports Awards

**BOYS’ ALPINE SKIING**
Coach: Sam Dyer  
Assistant Coach: Jeff Juneau  
Most Valuable Skier: Will Marshall ’21

**GIRLS’ ALPINE SKIING**
Coach: Sam Dyer  
Assistant Coach: Jeff Juneau  
Most Valuable Skier: Olivia Krug ’21

**BOYS’ BASKETBALL**
Coach: Sedge Saunders  
Assistant Coaches: Oscar Saunders ’19 and Ben Darling ’16  
Coach’s Award: Will Hallam ’23  
Coach’s Award: Eloi Terricabras ’21

**GIRLS’ BASKETBALL**
Coach: Billie L’Heureux  
Assistant Coach: Lexi L’Heureux  
Carland ’16  
Raider Award: Brooke Emery ’22  
Raider Award: Emma Rydman ’22

**ICE HOCKEY**
Coach: Wayne Neiman  
Assistant Coach: Bo Apt ’04  
Most Valuable Player: Eddie Thurston ’21  
Team Leadership: Will Galligan ’21

**NORDIC SKIING**
Coach: John Weston ’93,  
Assistant Coach: Silas Eastman ’13  
Raider Award: Samantha Carus ’21

**WESTERN MAINE CONFERENCE RECOGNIZES SENIORS ALL-ACADEMIC (3.5 GPA)**
Ella Baptista  
Kyleana Carbone  
Samantha Carus  
Sharlah-Mae Day  
Livia DeVries  
Marra MacMillan  
Eli Mahan  
Will Marshall  
Kyeni Musembi  
Eloi Terricabras

**ALL-CONFERENCE SELECTIONS**
Hogan Bemis ’23: Alpine Ski  
Brooke Emery ’22: Basketball  
Will Galligan ’21: Ice Hockey  
Olivia Krug ’21: Alpine  
Armel Maliji ’21: Basketball  
Eli Mahan ’21: Basketball  
Will Marshall ’21: Alpine Ski  
Alanna Nataluk ’22: Nordic Skiing  
Eliza Thorne ’23: Alpine  
Eddie Thurston ’21: Ice Hockey

**WESTERN MAINE CONFERENCE SKI CHAMPIONSHIPS**
Nordic, Skate: Alanna Nataluk ’22, 1st  
Luke Dupuis ’22, 8th  
Alpine, Giant Slalom: Olivia Krug ’21, 12th  
Alpine, Slalom: Olivia Krug ’21, 5th  
Alpine, Slalom: Will Marshall ’21, 9th  
Alpine, Slalom: Hogan Bemis ’23, 10th

Three-Star Jackets awarded to athletes who have earned their 3rd Varsity letter:  
Kasey-Jane Clark ’23  
Sebastian Drosa ’22  
Will Hallam ’23  
Andrew Irwin ’23  
Will Marshall ’21  
Brody McGrath ’22  
Bryce Richardson ’23

Brooke Emery ’22 (photo by Julian Zhu ’21)  
Livia Devries ’21 (photo by Julian Zhu ’21)  
Alanna Nataluk ’22 (photo by Julian Zhu ’21)  
Eddie Thurston ’21 (photo by Kevin Murphy)
Connect, Collaborate, Create: Certificate of Arts Capstone Presentations

BY MIKE SAKASH ARTS DEPARTMENT CHAIR

On April 29th, the Fryeburg Academy community, both live and virtual, celebrated the exceptional work of the senior members of the Certificate of Arts program. Capstone presentations are the culmination of each student’s work in the program. This program was designed to connect students and faculty from all arts disciplines, document each student’s work in the arts, and support each student’s individual path in the arts. The presentations of our four senior members — Brendan Simkins, Grace Marshall, Will Marshall, and Jaden Fierman — exhibited outstanding individual dedication and hard work as well as collaboration between students within the program and within the larger FA arts community. For artists in all disciplines, countless hours are logged to pursue improved skills and techniques. Still, the real magic happens when artists come together to collaborate, share ideas, and present completed works.

The program began with Brendan Simkins’ presentation of eight transcriptions of improvised solos that traced the lineage of the jazz trumpet from Louis Armstrong to the present. The process of transcribing requires the musician to translate a recorded improvisation into musical notation using one’s ear and a lot of trial and error. A single transcription is a substantial task, but eight transcriptions represent a monumental undertaking. In his presentation, Brendan shared his notation of these solos, pointed out defining style characteristics of each solo, and played recordings of his own performances of the solo transcriptions. It was remarkable to hear the impact these solos had on Brendan’s own improvisations as he performed with Jaden Fierman’s ensemble later in the evening.

In her presentation titled “Writing, Illustrating, and Granting Wishes,” Grace Marshall described the preparatory work that led to the publication of her book Wish Kitten. Her presentation outlined the process of writing and revising the text, creating numerous process sketches, formatting for publication, and the challenges of working with traditional and digital mediums. Several of the process sketches for Grace’s published illustrations were on display in the student gallery, and audience members were eager to purchase signed copies of Grace’s book after the event.

Will Marshall has a passion for creating and editing film and performing and composing music that blends acoustic instruments with a variety of digital synthesis and editing techniques. In his...
description of the creation of his film, *Days Before Summer*, Will shared his composition processes in film and music and his influences. The film itself was visually striking. His story was enhanced with the liberal use of vibrant colors, unique combinations of mirrored images in motion, and a dramatic musical score that mixed acoustic and digital sounds. *Days Before Summer* was screened on the PAC’s full-size movie screen, which made for a breath-taking experience.

Jaden Fierman has played bass with numerous Fryeburg Academy music ensembles since his freshman year. Drawing on his experience in large and small jazz ensembles, Jaden assembled and rehearsed a jazz combo to perform and record some of the many styles he’s played at Fryeburg Academy. Over the past several months, his ensemble prepared a program for live performance and recorded a full-length album released on Spotify, Apple Music, and several other platforms. “The Fierman’s Five” enlisted the help of Will Marshall to record, mix, and master their album, as well as film and photograph the group to generate material for promotion. This group’s fabulous performance combined the talents of seniors Simon St. Pierre (saxophone), Riccardo De Maria (piano), Brendan Simkins (trumpet), 2020 alum, Matt Gunther (drums), and of course, Jaden Fierman (bass).

For the audience members in attendance at the PAC and the live stream audience, it was a joy to witness the maturity and depth of each presentation.

This January, Fryeburg Academy’s after-school jazz groups were able to resume limited rehearsals (following specific CDC guidelines for spacing, ventilation, masking, instrument covers, and rehearsal length), which allowed us to begin preparation for the spring virtual jazz festivals.

The FA Big Band and one of our jazz combos created videos in March and April to submit to the MMEA Maine State Jazz Festival and the Buddy DeFranco Jazz Festival at the University of Montana. And, due to the CDC guidelines, we had to be quite creative in our big band set-up.

In the coming weeks, our jazz groups will receive critiques, ratings, and potential awards from Maine State Jazz Festival adjudicators. As in past years, our ensembles will receive a “Gold” “Silver” or “Bronze” rating if the adjudicators feel the ensembles are worthy of these distinctions.

As part of the Buddy DeFranco Jazz Festival both the combo and big band received clinics via Zoom from the jazz festival clinicians. Adjudicators may also choose to recognize individuals or sections in our ensembles for awards.

While live festivals offer a much richer experience, the virtual platform allowed our students to connect with nationally-renowned educators throughout the country. The challenges of recording high quality videos of our ensembles also provided an excellent real-world music experience. We look forward to returning to live performance, and our virtual jazz festival project provided the bridge needed to keep jazz on the FA campus alive.

**FA COMBO MEMBERS**

- Ethan St. Pierre ’24: Drums
- Jaden Fierman ’21: Bass
- Simon St. Pierre ’21: Alto Saxophone
- Riccardo DeMaria ’21: Piano
- Brendan Simkins ’21: Trumpet
- Rohan Hikel ’22: Baritone Saxophone

**FA BIG BAND MEMBERS**

- Simon St. Pierre ’21: Alto Saxophone
- Nyla Charest ’22: Alto Saxophone
- Sharla-Mae Day ’21: Tenor Saxophone
- Emily Sakash ’22: Tenor Saxophone
- Rohan Hikel ’22: Baritone Saxophone
- Lilah Felix ’21: Flute
- Andrew Irwin ’23: Clarinet
- Brian Lucy ’24: Bass Clarinet
- Kevin Lucy ’24: Clarinet
- Ethan St. Pierre ’24: Drums
- Will Marshall ’21: Trumpet
- Chris Kwon ’23: Trumpet
- Riccardo DeMaria ’21: Piano
- Jaden Fierman ’21: Bass

**FA Students Join UM Buddy DeFranco and MMEA Maine State Jazz Festivals**

*By Mike Sakash, Arts Department Chair*

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Greetings from the Alumni Relations Office!

Dear Friends,

I hope this finds you in good health and spirits. It’s been a long stretch!

We are excited to be planning for Reunion in August and look forward to seeing many familiar faces return to campus. We are approaching the event a little differently to keep visitors safe and healthy and we hope that you will get involved to help make it a success.

Most of the activities will take place on Saturday, August 21, beginning with the always popular alumni field hockey game. Current and former players (of all ages!) turn out for this fun gathering each year and Coach Dede Frost loves to see her former players return!

Our typical reunion evening banquet will be replaced with a delicious Reunion Brunch on Saturday at 11:00 am. Seating will be spread out and mostly outside under tents as we honor classes ending in 0, 5, 1 and 6 as well as announce the recipient of the 2021 Distinguished Alumni Award. Class photos will be taken immediately after the brunch.

Campus tours will head out from from the PAC and the F.A. Alumni Association will host a gathering at nearby Saco River Brewing from 3-5 pm with complimentary beverages, door prizes, and a raffle. We encourage local alums to plan afternoon and evening gatherings as desired with their classmates. Please check FA’s website for www.fryeburgacademy.org/reunion for updates and to purchase brunch tickets.

We are cautiously optimistic that we will be able to schedule our normal local and regional events starting in the fall and we will keep you posted on all plans. For now, the Alumni Office is open and we welcome visitors this summer, so if you are in the area, please stop by and say hello!

Best wishes,

DAWN GALE ’81
Director, Academy Fund and Alumni Relations

Please email Dawn at dgale@fryeburgacademy.org or call 207-935-2001 ext. 3147 with any questions.
**1960s**

**ELEANOR BLAKE MEEKINS ’60** and husband John have lived in Columbus, OH, since August 1972. Their daughter Michelle and son John both live about 20 minutes away in the opposite directions. John and Eleanor, both retired, survived the pandemic very well and actually managed to enjoy the time by staying physically active, gardening, traveling the Maine Coast with friends last October, and taking day trips in Ohio. They look forward to some traveling and attending Eleanor’s reunion at the Academy in August.

**KAREN CARLSEN ELLIOTT ’61** is retired and spending this winter in Vero Beach, FL! She shares, “I worked as a CNA until the age of 75. I will be living in a condo in Harwich in June. Life is good!”

**RONALD SAUNDERS ’62** was honored by the Pittsburgh Courier with a 2021 Men of Excellence Award. Ronald is the president of the Dr. Edna B. McKenzie Branch, Association for the Study of African American Life and History. He is presently spear-heading an effort to establish an Advisory Council to the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission in Penn Hills, PA.

**JOYCE FOX KENNEDY ’64** retired from the Memorial Hospital in North Conway, NH, last July after 47 years at assorted positions — the last 40 in accounts payable. “We wish to travel as soon as COVID is under control.”

**ELAINE NEWCOMB PLACZEK ’65** “My husband Peter and I just celebrated our 50th anniversary and live in the small town of Blandford, in the foothills of the Berkshires. We have two children, Rachael (48) and Andrew (46). Our grandchildren, Madison (24), Matt (18), Andrew (17 ½), and Avery (14 ½) are all an essential part of our lives. We are also avid Labrador people, our current one, Scout, is a rambunctious four-year-old. I spend my time reading, visiting my sister, and going out to breakfast with past co-workers. I’m a staunch Democrat and a lover of Bruce Springsteen music. I loved my time at Fryeburg and think of the friends I made many years ago.”

**DAVID GREENIDGE ’66** “I have been elected president of the International Association of Basketball Officials (New Hampshire Board #117). I am a 30-year member!”

**KEITH LAWRENCE ’67** “I live in Waltham, MA. I joined the U.S. Navy in 1968, became a cook for the crew on the U.S. Austin out of Norfolk, VA, for four years then moved on to earn a Bachelor’s Degree in Gerontology at UMB. I became a Born Again Christian for Jesus Christ in 1977 and work in the Human Services field helping people. I am 73 years young, worked hard at giving up my bad habits, exercised to stay healthy, hiked the Grand Canyon with a friend in July 1973, and joined a church group and went to Israel in October 2013. In 2019 I joined a group of friends on a Soul Care Retreat, camping out at Gunstock Mountain in Gilford, NH, enjoying 13 Christian bands on four separate stages and the weather was terrific. I also experienced a Zipline for the first time. I am still single and during the pandemic I have remained healthy, working, enjoying my friends and family. My mother is 99 years young and healthy — God has been good to her! I would enjoy receiving emails from classmates keithlawrence20@gmail.com! I hope things are well with you during these tough times. Life is a journey. How is your journey?”

**KATHLEEN CHUTE KING ’69** “All dressed up with nowhere to go? It has been a strange year: no travel, no concerts, no live performances, and yet it has been a year of learning new skills: lighting, videography, costumes, hair and makeup effects, creating playlists, hosting parties and performances as we switched our entertainment focus online.”

Steve Wilson ’62 shared this classic photo of students enjoying a jam session. Steve is playing the baritone, Bob Ellis ’62 on trumpet, and Mark Allen ’63 on drums.

Handmade clock donated by William Ela ’68 in memory of Clarence Walker. Bill made the entire clock by hand in shop class with Mr. Walker.

Kathleen Chute King ’69 and her partner Lee.

**1970s**

**KENN KAMINSKI ’70** “I am still in contact with my two best friends from FA, CHUCK SULLIVAN ’71 and TERRY SULLIVAN ’71. I have a stone job in Huntington, MA, this year involving 50-60 stone step treads on a steep hillside down to the lake in case anyone would like to come watch and/or help! Just email me kjkam@yahoo.com.”

**ALVINA DAY ’71** “I retired from 11 years of working for the good citizens of Denmark, ME, in January 2020, and planned on traveling with the love of my life for 47 years C. FRANK DAY ’70 but COVID-19 shot down our plans. Life has been good. We have a shared daughter and three sons, 10 grandchildren, and are the proud...”
owners of two labs from Acorn Ridge owners, DEBORAH MERRILL DAY ’98 and TRAVIS DAY ’91 of Brownfield. Our grandchildren ISIAH DAY ’21, ANDREW DAY ’21, DANIEL DAY ’23, and LILY DAY ’24 attend Fryeburg Academy and Samuel and Noah will soon follow. We had a wonderful first year of retirement together. Spending time working together on our home, land, and going for lots of hikes. On March 19, 2021 Frank had a quadruple bypass and as of today (March 26) he is doing very well. God has been so good to us. May God continue to bless our nation and each other.

LYNN DAVEY WUNDER ’71 “I’ve been living in Colorado since 1975. I enjoyed a very rewarding Physical Therapy career in Denver and then moved to Steamboat Springs in 1998 with my husband Mitch and daughter Mollie. We love the Rocky Mountains and all they have to offer...hiking, skiing, wildlife. I continued with P.T. here by volunteering with a hippotherapy program but also had second and third careers working with friends at their B&B and starting a yarn and fabric shop. I really found my passion for creating things with fiber but also teaching and helping others with their creations. We’re retired now but still enjoy Steamboat and our proximity to the desert area of southern Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico. My “New England” aesthetic was so blown away by the “foreign” beauty of the desert, and we will be back there as soon as we feel safe enough to travel. We’ll also be back in Lovell for our yearly visit and hope to see classmates at our 50th reunion!”

WAYNE FARRINGTON ’72 and SUSAN BROWN FARRINGTON ’77 purchased a home in Summerfield, FL, and have officially become snowbirds.

KATHLEEN HALEY DAY ’74 “It has taken nearly two years but I am finally learning to enjoy being retired after 38 years working at the nursing home in Ossipee. My bridal shop “I Do” Dreams here at my home is a long awaited hobby come true. With this virus starting to ease up from disrupting our lives this year will be better. I was unable to make our last class reunion as our family reunion took place the same day and I look forward to the 2024 Reunion. Hope all my classmates are well and until we meet again, God Bless.”

GLENN GILMAN ’77 “I’m working my way closer to retirement so I have more time to complete my first novel and work on the next story idea. Also, I have made my return to photography which I used to do professionally. My focus is nature photography and it’s the reason I bought an RV to explore the west for great shots.”

ROSE FARRINGTON MCKENZIE ’77 retired after 20 years of owning and operating her much-loved Rosie’s — a Lovell landmark, restaurant, and village store. Rose and her fabulous crew brought great food, conversation, and a lively sense of community to the small village and will be missed. Thanks to Rose and everyone who worked with her for creating many wonderful memories over the years. We all wish you a happy and well-deserved retirement.

SCOTT DUNHAM ’78 “My wife and I recently traveled to Singapore, Japan, and Vietnam. After retiring from Portland PD, I’m now an ed tech at a technical high school, teach driver’s ed, am an adjunct at a community college, and have my PI license.”

WENDY BURNELL EATON ’78 “David and I moved to Lake Havasu City, AZ, in December 2019. Loving the great weather here.”
VICKI-LYNNE HOPLER KITZMAN ’86
“...I now live on a farm in Costa Rica. We grow coffee, bananas, vanilla, citrus fruits, and more. I work online from a mountaintop in the jungle. The big news is that in June 2020 I had a baby! Her name is Lia. We live here with her dad (Ben) and her brother (Ian). We’ve been riding out the pandemic on our mountaintop farm and it is just now, with Lia now 10 months old that my mom (former FA teacher) and stepdad are visiting and getting to meet her. My dad...”

LEIGH BUCKNELL KIESMAN ’86 “I married PAUL KIESMAN JR ’83 on July 4, 2011 and we have a 10-year-old daughter who takes after both of us. My stepson ALEX ’11 is engaged to JAMIE TIBBETTS ’12. Paul and I own a spray foam company in Denmark, ME, and I am still cutting hair (now going on 30 years). Can’t wait to see everyone at the Reunion this year.”

AMANDA KEATEN STUEBNER ’89 “My wife became president of Colby Sawyer College in New London, NH, five years ago and I began working for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in White River Junction, VT. I spent 20 years in Cleveland, OH, but it is nice to finally be back in New England. I think it is so cool when I see that a Fryeburg Academy graduate chooses Colby Sawyer! One of the highlights of being in New Hampshire was getting to meet some of the Presidential candidates as they campaigned and visited our small college.”

1990s

DANA MILLS ’91 “Greetings from South Florida. Despite the turmoil caused by the pandemic, this past year has had some glimmers of hope for the Mills family. About a year ago, I was afforded a new opportunity as the Associate Dean of Research and Strategic Planning in the College of Education and School of Criminal Justice at Nova Southeastern University. My son, Jack, will be graduating from high school 30 years behind me and will take his talents to Florida State University. My daughter, Grace, is wrapping up her freshman year of high school and has earned grades that place her in the top 5% of her class in a highly competitive school. While we missed our annual trip to Fryeburg we hope to travel north later this summer. Best to all my fellow Raiders!”

JOHN WESTON ’93 was awarded the 2021 Larry Lebrie MIAAA Distinguished Service Award for Outstanding Contributions to the MPA Interscholastic Division by Sue Thurston, FA’s Athletic Director at the annual Maine Principals’ Association Spring Conference (held virtually in April 2021). This award, according to the Maine Principals’ Association, “was created by the Interscholastic Management Committee to honor former Assistant Executive Director Larry LeBrie who retired in June 2008 after sixteen years of service to the association. The award recognizes individuals who make outstanding contributions to the Interscholastic Division of the Maine Principals’ Association.”

John Weston ’93 was awarded the 2021 Larry Lebrie MIAAA Distinguished Service Award.
HASTINGS ’68 will come to visit with my stepmom next month. It is so relieving to be reunited with family. I’m planning to be in Maine in August and hope to attend my 25th Reunion if it happens in person.”

ETHAN KIDHARDT ’96 caught us up on his journey to date! “My life has been a series of fairly unique experiences. Growing up in Brownfield, I think I’ve definitely had a counter cultural life so far. Here’s the highlight reel:

After graduating in 1996, I moved to Massachusetts and joined the volunteer group Cape Cares doing medical and dental work in Honduras. Later on in college I majored in Spanish and Biology, and received a scholarship to study in Ecuador as a senior where I lived for over a year, learning Spanish, exploring the wilderness, jungles, climbing volcanoes, and taking in the culture.

I then settled in San Diego, CA, where I worked in IT for several years as a technology specialist. During this time I started to learn Salsa of all things. I really loved it and joined a performing team, then advanced to a professional competition team and traveled all around the US and internationally performing shows and participating in competitions. In 2011 and 2012 my team won the world championship. It was a lot of fun!

In 2014, having met my goals and tiring of the corporate life in Biotechnology and IT, I decided I wanted to travel and teach. A complete life change. I moved to Spain and became an English teacher and received my CELTA Certification (Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages) from Cambridge University. I was there for about a year, before volunteering as an English teacher deep in the Amazon Rainforest for the Achuar Tribe — no roads, no electricity, and stick huts. It was crazier than one might imagine but it was great and I survived. After that, life took me in another direction and I moved to Japan for over a year, teaching English to children in the south of Japan, which, of course, was an amazing experience!

I then spent time in Vietnam and continued to teach children English for about a year and a half. While there, I explored Vietnam, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, and Malaysia. For the past three years, I’ve been teaching at a great international school in China.

During this time, I finished my Master’s degree in Educational Leadership, my teaching license in the USA, several IB certifications, ISTE (Technology Certification), and I’m in the middle of my second Master’s degree in Teaching English as a Foreign Language all this while enduring the entire COVID situation from within China.

After I finish the second Masters, I will be aiming for a PhD in Education or EdD (Doctorate in Education) and expect to continue traveling the world, learning new languages and cultures. What’s funny is that in my family, growing up in Brownfield, education was never important. I recall during my senior year seeing a wall with students who were accepted into universities, and I didn’t understand what college was about, nor why I should go — so I didn’t, not until about seven years after graduation. Additionally, my brother PAUL ’88 will complete his PhD in Sociolinguistics this year, and my sister, ELIZABETH ’95, has an advanced degree in Nursing, is a professor at a university in CA, as well as a Nurse Practitioner. Meanwhile, I’ll be finishing two Masters degrees shortly and then will pursue my Doctorate — in education.

Go figure! It’s not a trajectory that one would expect for someone from a family with little means living in a little town in the woods of Maine, but it’s a crazy story, right? I thought this might serve as inspiration for those other families of little means and for students who didn’t have a clear future or belief in the purpose of education, and encourage international mindedness for others as well.”

2000s

HEATHER MASSE ’00 is excited to share a project that she recorded remotely with her friend Ivan Rubenstein-Gillis called Heather and Ivan’s “Songs From Home.” She writes, “We recorded five cover songs including, Neil Young, Billy Joel, The Eurythmics, The Police, and Led Zeppelin. We are offering the songs as a little pandemic gift and hope they can lift your spirits in these tough times. Check it out at: https://heatherivan.bandcamp.com/releases. I hope everyone is staying safe and sane, and look forward to seeing you all when this madness is over!”

BEN HAMMOND ’01 “Hi everyone; I’m settled down in Denver, CO with my wife Julie and our two daughters Nora (2) and Emma (8 mos). 2020 was obviously a difficult year for live music, but I was able to spend a lot more time with my family, and to invest in a new career in software engineering. I look forward to bringing my family back to Maine this summer for a long overdue trip to the lake.”

AARON THIBAULT ’01 “2020 halted our 50 State Expedition, but we’re excited to get back on the road and see more of this beautiful country we live in. We are currently up to 30 states as a family. Our goal is to end in Hawaii before the kids start leaving the house.”

RENEE JOHNSON REINER ’02 “Hi all! 2020 sure was a crazy year and it was also the...
happiest year of my life! My wife and I finalized the adoption of our two children! We are also foster parents to a 3 month old baby boy. We reside in Florida where we own and operate a soil business. Many of you I am connected with on Facebook, but if not, send me a request!"

AARON HARNEY ‘04 "I’ve just purchased my fourth investment property in St. Catharines, Ontario, close to Niagara Falls. I spend my time these days between being a Marine Technician and renovating and flipping houses. I also enjoy rebuilding old motorcycles! I have two amazing kids Adriana (10) and Mateo (8). I have many fond memories of my years at Fryeburg Academy and all the interesting people I met there from both locally and from abroad! I hope to get back for a reunion someday! All the best to the class of 2004!"

LEANNAMARIE ERICKSON MASSEY ‘04 "My husband Richard and I are loving life raising our two incredible children. Richard III is in seventh grade this year and Montana is in second grade. I am still a stay at home mom while my husband works so hard with his masonry. We are so blessed even in these difficult times!"

ASHLEE MCGONAGLE ‘04 and Ronald Amaral welcomed their son, Elliott Scott Amaral on November 23, 2020. He joins Veronica Amaral (21) and Riley Amaral (2½).

CORY ALLEN ‘05 and Lisa Murray of Lovell, ME, welcomed Leonard Maverick Lee Allen on January 20, 2021, at Memorial Hospital in North Conway, NH. Leonard joins Elisabeth Bushey (8) and Blaine Allen (1 1/2). Grandparents are Loretta and Joe Rogerson and WALLACE ‘75 and CHRISTINE HATCH ALLEN ‘73 of Lovell, ME.

KIMBERLEE WIGGIN ‘06 and Dillon Richards of Brownfield happily announced the birth of Remington Alexander Richards born on November 30, 2020, at the Memorial Hospital in North Conway. He joins sister Madeline Grace (6) and brother Benjamin Nolan (3). His grandparents are William Wiggin of Conway and SUE COOMBS WIGGIN ‘79 of Fryeburg and Penny and Bob Richards of Center Conway, NH.

AMANDA BEACH ‘07 and JAYSEN MALLETT ‘08 welcomed daughter Melody Aurora Mallet on May 29, 2021, at the Memorial Hospital in North Conway, NH. She weighed 7 pounds, 5 ounces. She joins Araina Joy Mallet (20 mos.). The maternal grandparent is Patti Beach of Oxford, MA. The paternal grandparents are Donna Durgin, of Denmark, ME and JAY MALLETT ‘77 of Fryeburg, ME.

VINCENT OSGOOD ‘07 was awarded the 2020 Rising Star Award by the 26-member Maine Association of Agricultural Fairs. The award is designed to recognize a young person who is an agricultural fair contributor and leader and deemed a well-rounded outstanding individual.

Vincent has worked in the ticket department of Fryeburg Fair for many years, following in his grandfather JIM OSGOOD ‘56’s footsteps (Jim served as superintendent from 1984-2015). Vincent took over the superintendent position in 2015 and now manages more than 48 staff members during Fryeburg eight-day fair. Vince and his team are an integral part of establishing the Fair’s new online ticketing system.

Vince grew up in Fryeburg and his family has been a part of the Fryeburg Fair for many generations. He works at Norway Savings Bank as an AVP, Commercial Loan Officer in their Fryeburg Branch. He serves on the loan committee for the Mt. Washington Valley Economic Council, and has served as a past board member of the Fryebug Recreation Department, Rufus Porter Museum, Lakes Region Community Health Board at Bridgton Hospital, Bridgton Economic Development Corporation, and Mount Washington Valley Housing Coalition. Vincent and his wife Hillary have two children, Asa (3) and Raelynn (1), and live in Fryeburg.

KELSEY DREW CANDELORA ‘08 and her husband Richard are the parents of Maisie River Candela born on February 8, 2021, at the Memorial Hospital in North Conway, NH. Maisie joins Jasper (5) and Olive (1).

HEATHER JOHNSON ‘09 and partner, Roman, welcomed their son Luca Thomas Scrensi born on 2/21/2021.

DYLAN ANDERSON ‘09 and his wife Nolyn, along with their one-year-old daughter are moving back to the Fryeburg area from Savannah, GA! Dylan will be joining the office of Jones & Matthews, PA in Bridgton. The Andersons are looking forward to being back near family and friends as well as getting involved in the community!

OLIVIA BOIVIN ‘09 and CODY OSGOOD ’09 welcomed their son, Wilder James Osgood, on March 6. Wilder weighed 7lbs 10oz. He joins brother Finn (5). Maternal grandparents are BONNIE BODEAU BOIVIN ‘83 and KEITH BOIVIN ‘83 of Brownfield and paternal grandparents are ANDREA SMITH OSGOOD ‘86 and JAMES OSGOOD ‘85 of Fryeburg.

2010s

JACOB DUNHAM ‘10 received a shoutout from the company Inside Broadway. Jacob is an award-winning theatre director based in Manhattan, NY, and a Resident Teaching Artist with Inside Broadway. His work has varied
**ALUMNI PROFILES**

**Brendan Dagan ’00**

**BY DAWN GALE DIRECTOR, ACADEMY FUND & ALUMNI RELATIONS**

Brendan Dagan remembers his days at FA fondly, especially his time running cross-country and track. He is extremely grateful for the support he received from faculty and his coaches, including coach Bill Reilly who he remembers, “giving me rides home from more practices and meets than I can count. Coach Reilly was one of many people from that time in my life who went above and beyond in the community to make my life better.”

Brendan met his wife, Jen, in college while running cross-country at Hofstra University. About ten years ago after working and timing hundreds of road races throughout New England, New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey as independent contractors, the couple decided to go out on their own. They moved to Long Island where Jen grew up and started their race timing and marketing company, Elitefeats. The company specializes in small events — they are the folks you call when your local non-profit wants to put on a turkey trot or other community road race fundraisers.

The crew at Elitefeats works on pre-race organization, including ecommerce, social media and promotional marketing. On race day, their team comes in and sets up the event and helps coordinate the volunteers. In a typical year, they work on just over 300 individual events. Elitefeats is the largest organization in the country dealing with small road races, and last year, over 150,000 participants crossed over their finish lines: more than the Boston Marathon, NYC Marathon, and Chicago Marathons combined!

Then COVID-19 arrived. “When COVID hit, we owed it not only to our employees and ourselves (to find a way to continue racing), but also to the non-profits with which we partner. Oftentimes the races are the largest, or only, fundraising events that the charities do and they count on the donations to keep their doors open,” shared Brendan. Elitefeats quickly pivoted to the virtual platform and in 2020 raised over 1.5 million dollars for non-profits in the greater NYC area and nationwide. Virtual participants were already part of their traditional run/walk program, so they had a robust virtual platform ready to go. They were prepared to offer a turnkey production and work with many organizations that they had partnered with in the past, as well as attract new clients. Part of the virtual platform will stay on as an important component of the business model in the long term.

Elitefeats was the saving grace for many smaller non-profits during the pandemic that had to switch their fundraising events from in-person dinners and galas to virtual run/walks. Brendan and his team understand that the heart of a good virtual event is moving a participant’s involvement from just a donation to an experience. They are experts at making participants feel involved and engaged.

Elitefeats’ first virtual event to top 10,000 participants happened in February 2021. The run/walk was in honor of Ahmaud Arbery, the young black man from Georgia, who was murdered in 2020 while out jogging. The event raised scholarship money for the 2:23 Foundation, a non-profit committed to engaging, educating, and equipping young Black and Brown men and women for social justice advocacy.

Brendan is passionate about his company and the causes that he helps support. He is involved in every aspect of the business, whether it’s driving creative content for the company, collaborating with the team on ideas and concepts, heading up marketing efforts, event directing, or overseeing the timing teams. No matter the event, whether it is a fully produced program or just a timed 5K, Brendan is involved with the details. His schedule is crazy but he was able to make a quick visit to the Fryeburg area last fall and visit with his sister Amy Wright-Meade ’04, who had just begun teaching at the Academy last fall and who is a dorm parent in Frye Hall. He hopes to make it back up again soon and, we hope to offer a fun virtual/in-person event at FA in the near future.

Check out [www.elitefeats.com](http://www.elitefeats.com)
from directing and casting for Broadway, Off-Broadway, Regional Theatre, Opera, and TV/Film. He is a proud graduate of the Temple University School of Drama, where he earned his degree in Theatrical Direction.

**SARAH FLAHERTY ’10** “Even though COVID has made everything crazy, I am a mom to a little boy named Colton James Arnold who turned three on April 17, 2021. I am in college working on my education degree to become a teacher and will have my special education certificate in May 2022. I am engaged to my son’s father and we own our own house in West Fryeburg. I can’t believe it has been 11 years since graduation. Some days I wish I could go back to high school and see friends and go to classes again. I miss cheerleading for the football team to high school and see friends and go to classes graduation. Some days I wish I could go back to my family live in Aurora, CO.

**TAYLOR PATTERSON ‘10** and his fiancee Catherine welcomed their daughter, Michele of 2007 when we went to the playoffs, I hope again. I miss cheerleading for the football team to high school and see friends and go to classes graduation. Some days I wish I could go back to high school and see friends and go to classes again. I miss cheerleading for the football team to high school and see friends and go to classes graduation.

**KATIE HEGGIE ’11** “After graduating from college I moved to France to learn a second language. I am back now and live in Boston where I am the Editorial Manager for the Jewish Community Center of Greater Boston. I live with my boyfriend and my French bulldog named Greg and Audrey’s high school cell number is still my pin number :),”

**DEVIN LACASCE ’11** received her MBA from Sacramento State School of Business in May 2021 and lives in Sacramento with her boyfriend Neil and two rescue dogs, Phoebe and Jackie. She started a new job in January with Intel as an operations analyst.

**LEVI LUSKY ’13** and Brittanie Jones welcomed a son Waylon Christopher Lusky on April 4, 2021. Waylon joins Jase (5) and Braden (2). The grandparents are SCOTT ’84 and ANNETTE LUSKY ’84 of Fryeburg, Maine.

**MITCHEL MAHANOR ’13** was one of 56 students in Vermont Tech’s Professional Pilot Technology Program to graduate in the fall of 2020.

**HARRISON CORTHELL-WOOD ’14** just wrapped his first television production with the third season crew of NBC’s Manifest. Filmed at the infamous Silvercup Studios in New York City, the new season premiered on April 1, 2021 on NBC. He is particularly thankful that he has been able to work in an adjacent industry while theaters are closed during COVID-19. Harrison will continue to work in film and TV until theatre in New York City restarts.

**KRYSTINA ROBBLEE ’14** and Dylan Ancitl of Brownfield, ME, are the parents of Angela Alice-Lee Robblee born on May 1, 2021, at the Memorial Hospital in North Conway, NH. Angela joins Ryker (6).

**HELEN DRIESEN ’15** “I moved to Denver, CO, this past summer and I will begin pursuing my Master of Arts in Journalism at CU Boulder in August!”

**ELIJAH THOMPSON ’15** was named to the dean’s list for the 2020 fall semester at the University of Hartford.

**JORDAN KRUGER ’16** “I am graduating this May from Harvard University with a BA in Applied Mathematics. I recently completed my senior honors thesis and will be working after graduation in Cambridge with a startup at the Harvard Innovation Labs.”

**BRIAN WORD-SIMS ’16** earned a spot on the dean’s list at Stonehill College.

**EMILY CARTY ’17** participated in the annual Ski, Shoe, and Farbike to the Clouds up the Mount Washington Auto Road on February 28. The race, celebrating its 25th year, attracted a record 250 competitors. Carty was the fastest female racer on the day finishing in 1:04:31. (as seen in the Conway Daily Sun March 2, 2021). Emily was also named to the dean’s list at Bates for the 2020 fall semester.

**ALEXIS CHARLES ’17** was one of over 2,050 student-athletes from more than 140 Division III institutions who earned recognition on the 2020 NFHCA Division III National Academic Squad. A total of 15 Saint Joseph’s College student-athletes claimed the high academic accolade.

The Division III National Academic Squad program honors student-athletes who have achieved a cumulative grade-point average of 3.3 or higher through the first semester of the 2020-2021 academic year. Alexis, a senior, claims special mention for having earned NFHCA Division III National Academic Squad honors during each of her four years at Saint Joseph’s.

**LAURA FRIEDMAN ’17** was named to the dean’s list at Curry College for the 2020 fall semester. Laura is majoring in communications.

**ERIK PORTER ’17** “I graduate in June 2021 from MIT with a double major in physics and electrical engineering. I’m going to return to Seattle for the upcoming summer to continue working with the quantum computing team at Microsoft and hike the Pacific Northwest as much as possible. This fall, I will begin my PhD at Stanford University in California. I look forward to all the upcoming adventures I get to share with my friends and family!”

**EMILY SIMKINS ’17** “I’ll be graduating from the University of New Hampshire this May with my BS in Neuroscience and Behavior!”

**BRIDGET TWEEDIE ’17** was named to the dean’s list at Bates for the 2020 fall semester.

**EBONIE WALKER ’17** is a student at Fairleigh Dickinson University’s Florham Campus in Madison, NJ, and was named to the honors list for the 2020 spring semester.

**STEPHANIE YORK ’17** graduated Summa Cum Laude from Southern New Hampshire University with a BS in Business Administration and Marketing. She is now an assistant manager for Craghoppers.

**NATHANIEL ‘WILL’ PERKINS ’18** was named to the dean’s list at Rochester Institute of Technology Golisano College of Computing and Information Sciences for the 2020 fall semester. Will is a third-year student at RIT.

**JOSEPH TRUMBULL ’18** was named to the dean’s list at Rochester Institute of Technology for the 2020 fall semester.

**OLIVIA PELKIE VAJENTIC ’18** “I was married and moved to Japan in 2020 and will live here for three years.”
After graduating from FA in 2010, Erin Meltzer went on to graduate from Johnson & Wales University in Rhode Island, earning a degree in Hospitality Management and Travel and Tourism. Erin shared, “Shortly after graduation I started working on private yachts as a stewardess. I also did a brief stint as a flight attendant with Delta Air Lines, which is when I decided to pursue my pilot’s license. However, I found myself missing the ocean and the freedom and creativity yachting offered and went back to working on yachts.” She was able to pay off her student loans and start flight school while working full time. When COVID hit, she started freelancing on yachts rather than working full time. It was during this time that she purchased an airplane to finish her training and use it to commute to her new job as the Household Manager of the largest estate in Maine, located in Bar Harbor.

With strong ties to the Fryeburg area and her love of aviation, Erin became involved with the Eastern Slope Aviation Academy, a 501(c)3 developed to fill a need in the Mount Washington Valley for affordable education and guidance in aviation. She now serves on the Board of Directors as its secretary. In addition to participating as a board member, she is responsible for coordinating and disseminating information about board decisions and activity as well as social media outreach, marketing, and events. Despite the challenges of 2020 and 2021, the organization purchased an FAA approved Redbird Flight Training Device (simulator) capable of providing qualified training time, renovated and repurposed an underutilized room at Eastern Slope Regional Airport (KIZG) in Fryeburg, Maine as a classroom and simulator base, and procured a defunct Grumman trainer dubbed the “Ramp Bird Refurb” project that will provide hands-on experience for students interested in airframe, powerplant, and avionics.

The Aviation Academy has also partnered with the Mount Washington Valley Career Technical Center to adopt the AOPA STEM Aviation curriculum for high school freshmen interested in pursuing a career in aviation. Erin is excited that the Aviation Academy’s STEM curriculum will introduce Fryeburg Academy students to aviation possibilities during this spring’s May Term.

Future plans for the Aviation Academy include reaching out to other area schools in both Maine and New Hampshire to make them aware of STEM aviation opportunities and offering membership to the general public as a way of connecting with more potential aviation students who might be further along in their career aspirations or those who simply want to take flight. You can follow the Aviation Academy on Instagram @easternslopeaviationacademy or on Facebook and a website will be online soon.

Thanks to Erin for sharing this news; we look forward to hearing more.
Join our growing list of alumni small business owners! Email alumni@fryeburgacademy.org with your name and business information! A list of businesses can be found on our website with live links to their websites or social media site. www.fryeburgacademy.org/alumni/small-business-directory

FA Alumni Small Business List

Mary-Lou Nash ’85
Laura Cummings ’85
Jeff Blake ’85
Trish Burnell ’90
Michael Lain ’91
Brea McDonald ’93
Reuben Bell ’93
Jennifer Stacy Bartlett ’93
Vickie Merchant-Kenyon ’94
Matt McGrath ’94
Christopher Rowan ’95
Maria Gomiz Maillett ’95
Michele Hatch Dutton ’00
Brendan Dagan ’00
Jessica Blasi ’01
Ben Hammond ’01
Michael Davis ’01
Doug Walker ’02
Spring Smith McKenney ’02
Spring Smith McKenney ’02
Renee Strange Farnham ’03
Renee Strange Farnham ’03
Shannon Palme ’04
Catherine Gilmore Allen ’05
James Davenport ’05
Clint Davenport ’07
Wei Deng ’09
Kasie Ballard DiNella ’09
Mary Rhym ’10
Mary Rhymer ’10
Dan Stackhouse ’10
Wayne ’72, Nate ’96,
David ’99, Michael Infinger ’00
Black Pearl Wines
White Birch Books
Fox & Sons LLC
Camp Little Paws
Mobile Technician Mike
Brea McDonald Photography
Blue Elephant Events & Catering
Jennifer Bartlett Photography
R+F Skincare
Maine Spoon Co.
Maple Hill Naturals
Maillett Photography
Sherman Farm
Elitefeats
Love Life Massage & Wellness
Ben Hammond Music
The White Gables Inn
Walker Electrical Services
Spring Smith Studios
Spring McKenney Real Estate
Strange Events
Mainely Handmade Goods
CIRQUA
Allen Realty Group
Long Lake Marina
Sports Haus Snow & Water
Bosen American Capital, Inc.
Mend Interiors/Interiors
Clock & Cherry Creative
Brooklyn Decal
Positively Thriving
Infinger Insurance
blackpearlwines.com
whitebirchbooks.com
facebook.com/Fox-Sons-LLC-
facebook.com/CampLittlePawsLodge
breamcdonald.com
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maillettphotography.com
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elitefeats.com
justlovelifemassage.com
benhammondmusic.com
whitegablesinn.com
walkerelectric.me
springsmithstudios.com
theclife.com
strangeevents.org
facebook.com/mainelyhandmadegoods
cirqua.com
hmerealty.kw.com
longlakemarine.com
sportshausski.com
bosenus.com
mendinteriors.com
clockandcherry.com
brooklyndecal.com
positivelythriving.us
infingerinsurance.com
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 LaCasces’ years of commitment to the Academy (1922-1955). We encourage you to join the Academy’s LaCasce Bequest Society — benefactors who wish to support our school through estate directives 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.

In Memoriam

We are saddened by the loss of members of the Fryeburg Academy community. We honor and remember them here.

WALTER FLINT ’50 on February 22, 2021
TERRY BUCK ’74 on February 25, 2021
AGNES BLAKE BIRCH ’51 on March 1, 2021
MARGARET WARNER PULLIAM ’46 on March 14, 2021
DAVID THURSTON ’58 on March 25, 2021
ROBERTA BUCK (Former Staff) on March 26, 2021
DANIEL L. KIESMAN, SR. ’68 on March 28, 2021
CHARLES MORSE ’63 on April 3, 2021
VIRGINIA M. BLAKE ’58 on April 4, 2021
LUTHER E. SMITH ’41 on April 7, 2021
MARY ALLEN CHAISSON ’63 on April 8, 2021
VELMA PAYNE ELLIS ’54 on April 12, 2021
BARBARA KOLLANDER (Former Staff) on April 17, 2021
EMILY GILMAN STOCKER ’66 on April 18, 2021
BEVERLY EDWARDS ROGERS ’50 on April 19, 2021
ATWOOD DICKSON, JR. ’53 on April 26, 2021
JOHN REED ’62 on May 2, 2021

To read full obituaries, please go to: WWW.FRYEBURGACADEMY.ORG/IN-MEMORIAM