

GOW AT A GLANCE

A Monthly News Snapshot from The Gow School



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Gow Spotlight Mary Ann Coulson and "Adam's Way"

In a touching account of her son Adam's journey with dyslexia, Mary Ann Coulson, former Trustee and Gow mom, shares her inspirational story for others.



Faculty Focus Lelaina Sullivan '15 - Reconstructive Language Teacher

Gow is a family affair for the Sullivans. Meet Lelaina and hear about how she is giving back to a place that changed her life.



THANK YOU to those alumni who joined our Gow Zoom Calls in January. They were a huge success and a great opportunity to meet Head of School John Munro, reconnect with old and new friends, and catch up on the latest news from Gow. We will be hosting class calls every few months and hope to see you then!

April 25-28

JOIN US! Crimson and Navy Spring Weekend
(See page 3 for schedule and registration info)

May 16

Athletic Awards and Honors Convocation

May 17

Senior Dinner at The Roycroft Inn
Commencement



Although Mother Nature didn't provide a lot of snow for Winter Carnival, students had fun shooting pool and hoops, playing in the bounce houses, eating popcorn and cotton candy, and participating in Color War competitions like Blitz Chess, a Slapshot Shootout, Name That Tune, Just Dance Challenge, Flag Football, an Obstacle Relay, and more. Thanks to the Student Council and their advisors for putting together a day of fun for everyone!



Faculty Focus

LELAINA SULLIVAN '15

For Ms. Lelaina Sullivan '15 teaching Reconstructive Language and Public Speaking at Gow is a family affair. After attending The Gow School Summer Program (GSSP) for several summers, she came to Gow when it became coed and is one of Gow's first female graduates. Her father, Michael Sullivan, served as Director of Technology and started Gow's Robotics program. Her uncle, Adam, graduated in 1999, and her grandfather, Dan Sullivan, served as a Trustee.

"Being a student at Gow saved my life, and I am so grateful for the support I received," said Ms. Sullivan. After graduating from Gow in 2015, she earned a degree in Health and Risk Management with a minor in Public Relations from Ashland University in Ohio. After working as a GSSP counselor for four years, she became a faculty member in 2021. In addition to teaching, she serves as a dorm parent in Ellis and is a faculty advisor for Operation Hope, Gow's community service club. She is also earning her Master's in Special Education at Canisius College.

"Working at Gow enables me to give back. As a Govain, I understand our students' journey and want them to know that I support them. I am especially proud to see so many female students at Gow. When I started, I was one of six girls and now we have 32 girls, including a female president and vice president of the Student Council," added Ms. Sullivan.

"Thanks to my mom and dad and the support I received at Gow, I am where I am today. My goal is to encourage every student on their Gow journey so that they too can realize their potential and succeed."



Ms. Sullivan with Student Council Vice President, Josie '24, and President, Noelle '24

Crimson and Navy Weekend and Auction April 25-28!

Extending a special invitation to alumni classes ending in '04 and '09. Celebrate your 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, and 50-year reunions with friends!

WEEKEND HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE

THURSDAY, APRIL 25 at 7:00 pm: Parents and Alumni Mingle at 42N in East Aurora.

FRIDAY, APRIL 26:

Presentations for Alumni and families including Welcome from Head of School John Munro, Panel Discussion featuring recent graduates, Student Athletic Contests and Arts Showcase, and dinner at The Columns with a Silent Auction.

SATURDAY, APRIL 27:

Spring Awards and Cresting Ceremony, Career Conversations, Alumni/Student Basketball Game, and dinner at Chef's Restaurant.

SUNDAY, APRIL 28 at 10:00 am: The Dyslexia Dash 5K, 10K, and 2-mile fun walk.

For a schedule and to register: click the QR code or visit: gow.org/spring-weekend

Scan me!



Donate Something Fun for the Auction!

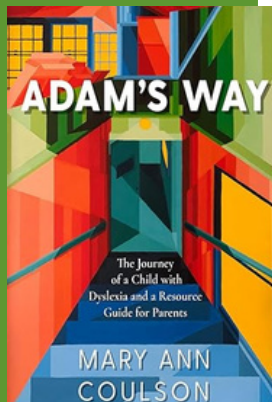
- Use of a vacation home
- A gift certificate to a favorite restaurant or store
- An experience (cooking classes, yoga, sports tickets, golf and dinner, fly fishing, etc.)
- A gift card or airline miles to complete an auction package

Got a great donation idea? Contact us at development@gow.org or 716.687.2075. Thank you!

Gow Spotlight: Mary Ann Coulson and "Adam's Way"

The Road to Gow

This heartfelt memoir chronicles a family's journey with dyslexia. Learn about their experiences and the life changing impact of discovering Gow. Included are resources for parents and children with language-based Learning Differences. Proceeds from the book graciously donated to Gow.



[Purchase on Amazon](#)

With honesty, compassion, and a keen desire to help parents who find themselves with similar challenges, Mary Ann Coulson, a Gow parent, and former Trustee, chronicles her twenty-year journey as a mother and educational advocate for her son, Adam, who graduated from Gow in 2004.

From a young age, Adam was a talented artist who struggled with reading and writing. According to him, "The letters and words were moving all over the pages and I couldn't explain that to anyone."

After challenging years in different schools, they discovered Gow where Adam enjoyed "a total teenage experience," including skiing, soccer, crew, lacrosse, swimming, and becoming an Eagle Scout. For Adam, his Gow experience is defined by strong friendships, beloved teachers, Reconstructive Language, graduation from Gow, and two bachelor's degrees from The University of Cincinnati. With degrees in Architectural Engineering Technology and Construction Management, Adam works for the Kroger Corporation as a senior store designer and serves as a Gow Trustee.


In writing this book, Mary Ann seeks to give back. She hopes that their story and resource guides can inspire, comfort and help guide other families.


Mary Ann recently retired from management at Morgan Stanley. She and her husband, David, live in Niagara Falls, Ontario.





Mary Ann and Adam at the Crimson and Navy Weekend Luau in April 2023.


1  **1 - Dick Leatherbee '66** and his wife, Tracy, have two sons. They live in Santiago, Chili, and Bariloche, Argentina. A 1968 Chilean Olympic ski team member, he still loves to ski.

2  **2 - Peter White '85** is a consultant supporting design teams working on Li-ion, hydrogen, and internal combustion vehicles. He and his wife, Leigh, and daughter Alex (pictured) live in Portland, OR, and enjoy hiking.

3  **3 - Adam Steinberg '86** and his wife, Tracy Beckett, are busy cheering for their son Zack, a swimmer at the Gunston School in St. Michaels, MD.


4  **4 - Eric Davis '89** and his wife, Nancy, live in Vero Beach, FL, where he owns a fishing charter company.

5  **5 - Soren Messner '98** works at the Brookings Institute in Washington, DC where he runs the digital and creative practice. Last summer, he and his family visited Toyko.


6  **Josh Johanson '99** and his partner live in Crossville, TN where he owns a clock repair business.


7  **6 - Tee McGuire '99** lives in Cincinnati, OH, and has started a mental health program for prisoners. He has a 10-year-old son.


8  **7 - Dale Kester '06** and his wife, Emily, have a 2-year-old daughter, Stella. Dale is the chef for a restaurant group in Santa Fe, NM.

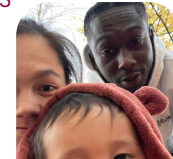
9  **8 - Colin Mann '06** owns a forestry engineering company on Vancouver Island and enjoys mountain climbing in his spare time.


10  **9 - Jimmy Ayers '11** and his wife, Hillary, have three children and live in Freedom, PA. The family loves to play outdoors and are skiing this season. Jimmy is an engineer.

10  **10 - Tim Bates '16** married Sara in May 2023. He is the Manager of Marketing for the Cleveland Institute of Music.

11  **11 - Rosalie Halls '16** graduated from the University of New Brunswick and is teaching French Immersion in Riverview, NB. She, her sister, and dad **Eric Halls '82**, traveled to Barbados to visit **Brian Talma '84**.

12  **PJ Scocchi '18** graduated from the University of Maine. He is a Manufacturing Engineer at Nichols and bought a house in Portland.

12  **12 - Jack Dreschler '20** is a senior at Marquette University majoring in Mechanical Engineering. He interned at Eaton last summer.

13  **13 - Oksana Wilday '20** and her partner, Damani Posey, and their son, Clarkson, live in Buffalo, NY.

Clinton Peterson '88 is a Chief Judge for the 26th Judicial Court in KS. He has three children and writes, "Two of them were diagnosed with dyslexia, including my daughter who is in law school. Stealing from what I garnered from Gow and my mother, I told my children that the only limitations to their success are those they impose on themselves. Others may suggest limitations, but only you can accept them."

Fondly Remembered

ALUMNI

James Todd '53 passed away on April 17, 2022, in Cincinnati, OH. Jim graduated from the University of Cincinnati and was president of Cincinnati Steel Products where he worked for 57 years. He enjoyed his houseboat on the Ohio River and sailing in Sarasota.


John Daker '55 passed away on July 22, 2023, in Discovery Bay, CA.

Augustus "Skip" Ledyard '61 passed away on July 14, 2023.

Samuel Adams '66 passed away on June 7, 2023, in Savannah, GA. Sam graduated from Roanoke College, served in the Army, and worked in banking before starting his own intermodal shipping maintenance company. He is survived by his wife, Berta, their daughter, and her family.

Derek Parker '99 passed away on June 8, 2023, in Portland, OR after a long illness.

FACULTY AND STAFF

 **Jennifer Diehl (Maintenance)** passed away on December 27, 2023, after a courageous battle with cancer. Jen served as a member of Gow's maintenance team and community for more than 20 years and her humor, dedication, and friendship will be missed. She is survived by her husband, Kevin, and son, Nathan.



Keeping in touch with Gow has never been easier!



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