

THE BROWNSTONE



Alumni Newsletter Summer 2024



GATORS FOREVER!

ALUMNI DEEPEN THEIR CONNECTION TO RCDS

In this issue: Celebrating Alumni Connections with Memorable Events
Class of 2024 Commencement
Alumnus Inspires Change
Recognizing Faculty Years of Service



THE
RUMSON
COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

Truly Great N-8



Dear RCDS Community,
 As we look ahead in earnest to the start of the 2024-2025 school year, we are also reflecting on a busy and exciting summer here at The Rumson Country Day School. As always, it was our privilege to host our friends from Horizons Jersey Shore,

and in addition, the summer saw some exciting construction projects at school, as well. We are building an amazing new library in what was the Little Gym, and we have also moved the woodshop to what was formerly the computer lab, which, given the advent of our 1:1 iPad and laptop program in recent years, has become obsolete. Perhaps most excitingly, we are building a creative design lab, which will house tools of innovation and modern technology that will afford our students additional opportunities to develop creativity, collaboration, and problem-solving skills, among other benefits, through hands-on learning.

Our recently-adopted Strategic Plan, *Building on a Legacy of Excellence*, included aspirations to promote "modern skills necessary in the 21st century, such as collaboration, creativity, and problem solving," and to "evaluate the School's use of technology in support of the mission, curriculum, and program." I am confident that these new spaces will help us progress toward achieving those goals. Scan QR code below to see architectural renderings.

As always, I am proud to share with you news about your fellow alumni. No matter when you graduated from The Rumson Country Day School, our entire community celebrates your achievements, both professional and personal. Please do keep us informed of where your lives have taken you, both literally and figuratively. Your willingness to stay involved with our School strengthens the bonds that are essential to making our community the special place that it is. Finally, of course, know that you will always have a home at The Rumson Country Day School. We hope to see you soon.

Respectfully,

Carson T. Smith
 Head of School



CELEBRATING THE CLASS OF 2024

On Friday, June 7, we celebrated the Class of 2024 with pomp and circumstance. Longtime school nurse Anne Kerr delivered a moving speech that emphasized the importance of kindness, a strong work ethic, and the determination to never give up on achieving your goals.

Eighth-grade speaker Janaili Momplaisir followed with an equally inspiring message. **"As we step into high school, let us carry the lessons we have learned and the strength of our connections," she said. "We are kind. We are honest. We are respectful. We are responsible. These values and our friendships will guide us to overcome any obstacle and achieve great things together or apart."**

In keeping with RCDS tradition, several graduates were honored with awards to acknowledge their achievements.

COMMENCEMENT AWARD RECIPIENTS:

8th Grade Commencement Speaker:

Janaili Momplaisir

8th Grade Athletic Awards:

Lila Masserio, Samantha Wetmore, Cooper Menkowitz

The Blake Award:

Janaili Momplaisir, Gavin O'Brien, Jack O'Brien

The Swede Joseph Chevalier Memorial Award:

Oliver Day

The Joseph N. Dempsey, Jr. Award

Callie Crowell

The Second Highest Scholarship Award

Lila Masserio

The Highest Scholarship Award

Drew Marturano

The Trustees' Prize

Samantha Wetmore

RCDS Celebrates Alumni Connections with Memorable Events

Alumni returned to campus for a number of reunions this year, fostering a sense of community and rekindling cherished connections among esteemed graduates and educators. The events, a Friendsgiving family-style dining experience, a holiday cocktail party, and 50th reunion, were held in iconic locations, providing the perfect backdrop for celebration and reminiscence.



GatorsGiving, Members from the Classes of 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023



50th Reunion, Classes of '73 and '74



2023 Holiday Cocktail Party, Chris Torcivia '99, George Schildge '52, and Janie Schildge



2023 Holiday Cocktail Party, Alyssa Spector '98, Elizabeth Knopf Romano '03, and Erin Brennan '89



50th Reunion, Goose Henderson '74 and Margot Huber '74



2023 Holiday Cocktail Party, Kenny King, Nora Rahner King '94, Jessie Frost, and Lee Scott '94



2023 Holiday Cocktail Party, Event Chairs Chris Torcivia '99 and Matt Haddad '97



50th reunion, Sandi Gridley, Lev Gridley '73, Bob Chernow '73, Cynthia Connor, Bill Connor '73, and Jim O'Mealia '73

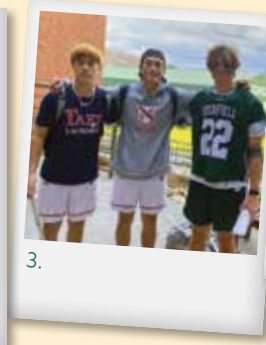
Alumni Snapshots



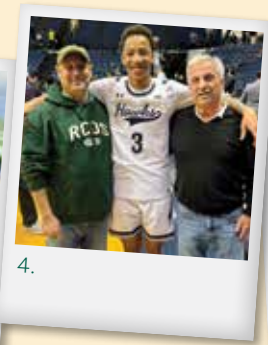
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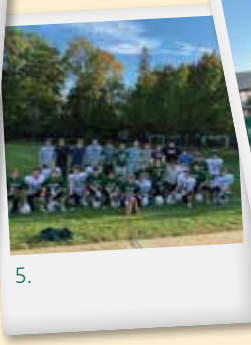
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8.

1. Anne Kerr was delighted to run into alumna **Katerina Chrysanthopoulos '15** while shopping at Trader Joe's.

2. Eileen Elsas, **Kelly Elsas '08**, **Mara Bey '08**, and Lina Bey celebrate Mara at her bridal shower.

3. **Vincent Raphaelian '21**, **Bennett Raphaelian '19**, and **Quinn Stankovits '19** reunite at a Deerfield vs. Taft lacrosse game.

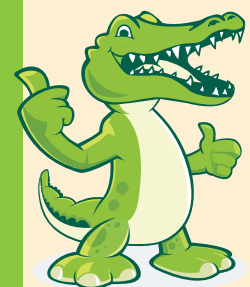
4. Coach Campy and Mr. Horner cheered on **Jakari Spence '16** at Monmouth University's men's basketball game vs. North Carolina.

5. **Alumni athletes** returned to campus to offer advice to the RCDS football team and join in a friendly scrimmage.

6. **Jack Puma '20** returned to the historic RCDS Dining Room to address students and parents at the Beginners' Dinner.

7. **Jack Devlin '15** and **Josh Harmon '17** play each other in a Hamilton vs. Wesleyan football game.

8. **Mickey Walker '21**, **Meredith Harmon '21**, **Ava DiPiero '21**, **Isabel Martens '21**, **Olivia Eckert '21**, **Claire Leabee '21**, **Biz Farrington '21**, and **Cam Feiler '21** pose for Trinity Hall's prom.



Matt Hoidal '87 Inspires RCDS Students to Become "CHANGE- MAKERS"



195 lbs of coins
\$2,600 raised



For the 2023-2024 school year, RCDS partnered with World of Change (WOC), a nonprofit organization founded by alumnus **Matt Hoidal '87** that aims to provide essentials to families in need while educating youth about the importance of philanthropy. Hoidal visited RCDS students

in grades N-8 to share the WOC mission and inspire them to collect spare change to support organizations they frequently engaged with through the RCDS Service Learning Program. On

the day of the change collection truck visit, students could choose to donate the coins to the following categories: food (Red Bank Crop Walk), health (American Red Cross), housing (Pajama Program), education (Horizons at the Jersey Shore), nature (Red Panda Network), or play (Rally Cap Sports). All that spare change amounted to 195 pounds of coins with total donations exceeding \$2,600!

***Matt Hoidal '87** is a graduate of the Hill School and St. Lawrence University. He is also a lawyer and a marathon runner, but among his many achievements, one of his most notable is becoming a "change-maker" by founding World of Change.*

Reconnecting at the Riverhouse

On Friday, May 19, mothers of RCDS's Class of 2020 gathered at the Rumson Country Club's Riverhouse to celebrate their now 2024 high school graduates. Organized by past parent **Maryann Baret P '20, '22**, the reunion was a way to make up for the 2020 8th grade luncheon, an event lost to the pandemic during their year as 8th grade parents. Donations were collected and given to RCDS's Annual Giving Campaign honoring Haig English '20 with love from the Class of 2020 moms.



Beyond the Hall: Evelyn Jones '20



This spring, **Evelyn Jones '20** returned to the RCDS classroom for her "Beyond the Hall" experience, a signature program at Trinity Hall that allows each senior the opportunity to independently explore an area of interest by interning with a professional in the industry. Evelyn shadowed Mrs. Clark, her former

teacher who inspired and was the subject of her college essay. She spent time observing Mrs. Clark and interacting with students in Carmody School classes, speech, and OT sessions.

"It was a full circle moment," said Evelyn. "I love working with little kids and wanted to give back to a place that helped me grow and flourish."

This fall, Evelyn will attend the University of Michigan Marsal Family School of Education and hopes to pursue a dual degree in elementary education and computer engineering.

FROM RCDS TO THE CANCER INSTITUTE OF NJ

When Gators pass through the hallway that leads to the Head of School's office, they are greeted by a long line of Phi Beta Kappas, graduates of RCDS who've gone on to be inducted into the nation's oldest and most prestigious academic honor society. This year, a plaque to commemorate **Nicole Molnar '15** joined that hallway.

Nicole was inducted to PBK as a junior, an honor that only 7.5% of juniors are eligible for. She graduated *summa cum laude* from TCNJ in 2023 and is currently working at the Rutgers University Cancer Institute in Newark as a Research Teaching Specialist III. "It's a great opportunity for me to learn," said Nicole. "I'm taking a few years in between college and graduate school to decide if getting my master's and Ph.D. or medical school is the right path for me."

Nicole credits RCDS teachers with instilling her love of science and art: "I think I've always been drawn to science, and I got a really strong foundation at RCDS. My science teachers were Mrs. Tilmont and Mr. Garside — both were big inspirations to me. Mrs. Petersen (Head of the Art Department) was also a big influence. I would try to get out of gym all the time to go to the art room. I just found myself reorganizing my home studio and I still have a lot of the art I created in her class."

Nicole pursued the dual passions as an honors student at TCNJ, majoring in biology, minoring in fine art, and conducting undergraduate research in a developmental genetics lab. Today, her focus at the Cancer Institute involves using zebrafish as a model organism to study immunity and how certain white blood cells can promote inflammation and wound healing.

"Find something you are passionate about, that you want to do every day," said Nicole. "The cliché that 'You don't have to work a day in your life if you actually enjoy what you are doing' is so true. I'm so excited to come to work every day and excited to be in this field doing research because I'm passionate about it."



Announcing Paul "Campy" Campanella as RCDS's Inaugural Director of Alumni Relations

This spring our beloved Paul "Campy" Campanella, retired from his long-standing role as the RCDS Athletic Director, but will remain an active part of the RCDS community as the inaugural Director of Alumni Relations. A natural connector, Campy and his continued presence will ensure strong bonds between past and present members of our RCDS family.

"One of the keys to any good school is relationships...I truly believe in that ideal, and no one exemplifies that more than Campy. He fosters relationships with our students here in school, and they extend to Campy's Camp and, after they graduate, to lacrosse and football games at RFH and elsewhere, and they live on years and decades after our students leave The Rumson Country Day School."

—Carson Smith, Head of School

WANT TO CONNECT WITH CAMPY?

Contact him at pcampanella@rcds.org to make a plan — let him know about your next athletic event, catch up over a pork roll, egg, and cheese, or play a friendly round of golf!

In Memoriam:

Julia Lovett Ashbey '45
Peter W. Blake '55
Ingrid J. Barrett '62
David Crane Miller '64
Rusty Young '65
Lisa Belshaw '75
Tania Huber Landauer '74
James Snyder '75
Zachary Wald '88
Rob Creutzburg '97

ALUM NOTES

Share Your News at rcds.org/alumninews

- ✓ Earned an award?
- ✓ Been named captain?
- ✓ Set a school record?
- ✓ Been inducted into the National Honor Society?

- ✓ Landed an internship?
- ✓ Got married?
- ✓ Had a baby?
- ✓ Been inducted to the Phi Beta Kappa Society?

David Halsey '73 retired from full-time Orthopaedic Surgical Practice in January 2024 after 32 years in academic and private practice. He transitioned to a new career as Chief Clinical Officer for TurningPoint Healthcare, leading a team of 100+ specialists and 80+ nurses who serve 45+ million Americans through personalized chronic condition management and support. He and Katie Doremus Halsey (married 43 years) are blessed with two grown children, Stephen and Kirsten (both working in the medical field), and three grandchildren — Charlotte, Maxwell, and William.

Mara Bey '08 is the Senior Partnerships Manager in Culture and Entertainment for Adobe. This summer she spent time in Nice, France, partnering Adobe with TikTok. Mara and her fiancé, Jack Ritterbush, met at grad school at Northwestern and will be married on September 14 in Tahoe. Her sister, **Olivia Bey '11** will be maid of honor and best friend, **Kelly Elsas '08**, will be a bridesmaid.

Brennan Feldman '09 attended NYU Dental and became a dentist three years ago. He recently graduated from Rutgers Orthodontics.

Coulston Feldman '13 has completed his medical education at The Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine and recently began rotations in Ocean City, NJ.

Drew Feldman '13 recently completed his third year at Midwestern University's College of Veterinary Medicine.

Rosie Sweetwood '13 graduated *summa cum laude* from the University of Southern California with a master's in higher education and student affairs and was their fellowship award winner. She is a student advisor at USCB for nursing students and will be teaching courses on leadership.



Vaughn Coleman '14 is a writer, filmmaker, actor, and comic book editor with a bachelor's degree in film production. He recently raised over \$12,000 to support his first self-published comic book, *Phenomenova*.



Conor Kelly '14 is a midfielder for the Maidstone United soccer team in England. This year, his team achieved media attention with a major upset against second-tier Ipswich Town in the FA Cup, the world's oldest soccer tournament, to reach the competition's final 16.



Bridy Molyneaux '15 was highlighted in *The Asbury Park Press* for her leadership role in the Rutgers field hockey team's impressive season.



Drew Frankel '16 led the Colgate Raiders in a 37-21 win against Lehigh when he was selected as the Gameday Captain.



Jakari Spence '16 played for Monmouth University's men's basketball team. He

was named to the CAA Spring Commissioner's Academic Honor and graduated this spring with a degree in business marketing and management.



Henry Devlin '17 and Ellie Mitsch '17 connected across the globe when they both spent the fall 2023 semester abroad in Florence, Italy. Henry is enrolled in the Business School at Loyola Marymount majoring in Marketing and Ellie is majoring in Business and Enterprise Management at Wake Forest University.



Sarah Silbert '17 recently spent a semester studying abroad in Barcelona, Spain, teaching non-English-speaking adults English.

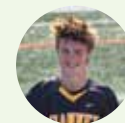


Noelle Leland '16 was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa Society, the nation's oldest and most prestigious academic honor society.



Lydia Lu '18 took a five-week intensive French course last summer at a language institute in Lyon, France, which happens to be Madame Ronzier's hometown. While she was there she met up with Madame Ronzier to enjoy shopping and dinner. To keep up with her French, Lydia and Madame Ronzier have met almost weekly over the years to read and discuss French novels.

Grace Silbert '19 is pursuing modeling and studying at Barbizon in Red Bank.



Colin Bradley '20 had a phenomenal lacrosse season his senior year playing attack for Saint John Vianney High School. Colin was recently named one of the Top 8 Performers of the Week, Clutch Player of the Week, and one of the Top Seniors in the Shore Conference. This year alone he has scored 46 goals and had 30 assists. A four varsity sport athlete, Colin will attend the University of Miami Herbert Business School as a Cane Scholar studying finance and will play for the UMiami Club Lacrosse team.



Alex Baret '20 completed his Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps Midshipmen New Student Induction. He graduated as part of the Cycle 2 class from Great Lakes Naval Station and received the Alpha 1 Company Midshipmen Leadership Award. He was one of 25 to receive the award out of 656 graduates. Alex has transitioned from candidate to Midshipman, soon embarking on his collegiate journey to the University of Southern California on the Marine ROTC Scholarship.

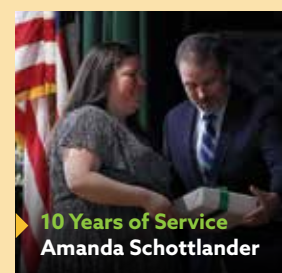
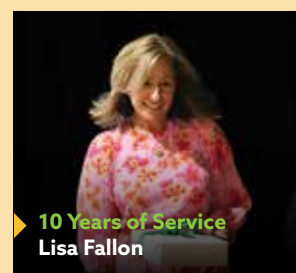
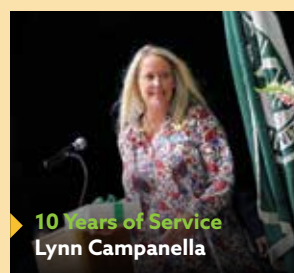


Hudson Skove '20 was named Valedictorian of RFH's graduating class and delivered the 2024 commencement speech.

Emmett Croddick '20 was ranked in the highest group of the Effort Challenge at Trinity Pawling, the school's distinct approach to inspiring and measuring student growth. He was named to the National

Make a Gift

Your gift supports educational excellence and enhances the RCDS student experience. It is an investment, not only in our students, but also in our dedicated teachers. At this year's Class Day we recognized a large group who achieved milestones in their time of service to the School, a testament to the dedication of our faculty and staff to RCDS and its students.



There are many reasons to celebrate our alumni. Each of your stories is a chapter in our School's legacy, and your accomplishments resonate as a source of pride, inspiration, and a testament to the transformative power of an RCDS education.

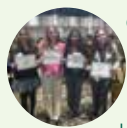
Don't forget to keep us in the loop! www.rcds.org/alumninews

Honor Society and will attend Providence College on the Albertus Magnus Scholarship for academic excellence this fall.

Braden Chavez '20, Colin Bradley '20, and JT Cook '20

came in an impressive 103rd place globally in the 2023 Bloomberg Global Trading Challenge out of thousands of graduate school, undergraduate, and a very small number of high school competitors. Teams used the Bloomberg terminals to define market assumptions, develop a return-generating strategy, and execute trades within a closed network to experience firsthand what real-world investing looks and feels like.

Reed Elsas '20 was named First-Team Defense All-Area Football Team by *The Two River Times*.



Grace Lamb '20 attended the YMCA Model UN Conference in Hershey, PA, with

over 1,300 delegates from surrounding states. She was selected as an alternate delegate for the Conference of National Affairs this summer and along with her teammates, the Trinity Hall Model UN team, was recognized with outstanding delegation honors.



Ella Mason '20 was recognized for her contributions on and off the athletic field with the

2023-2024 Shore Conference Sportsmanship Award.



Max Baret '21 was awarded the Hastings Award, which is awarded to the most improved sophomore at Trinity Pawling's end-of-the-year awards ceremony.



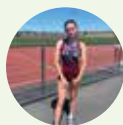
Peter Bird '21 was named co-captain of St. Andrew's cross country team and took second in the Delaware Independent School Conference Championship. He earned all-state, all-county, and all-DISC honors.



Bo Popham '21 committed to play lacrosse at the University of Notre Dame.

Dan Tsimbinos '21 helped earn the CBA Colts both Monmouth County and Shore conference championship titles as a rock behind the plate and a stand-out hitter this baseball season.

Jack Harris '22 was named First-Team Offense All-Area Football Team by *The Two River Times*.



Anna Petersen '22 qualified for the 2024 Meet of Champions, was named RBR's Track and Field Female Athlete of the Year, and earned a 4.0 GPA.



Kathryn Smith '22 was named All-Founders League and was recognized as a Western New England Prep School Field Hockey Association all-star. She has been appointed

Team Captain of the Loomis Chaffee field hockey team for fall 2024.



Henry Bird '23 ran for St. Andrew's varsity cross country team as a freshman and took 11th in the Delaware Independent School Conference Championship.



Ava Faustini '23 founded a handcrafted artisanal dessert company called PopZ, which features

vegan gelato and frozen ice pops. You can find Ava at the Boondocks Fishery in the Red Bank Marina all summer and follow her on Instagram at @popz.us and @1023_gelato.

Harbour Goldsmith '23 made the RFH varsity volleyball team as a freshman and a national volleyball team called Princeton 14-1.



Sadie Lawrence '23 received Girls Soccer All-MAPL honors as a freshman at Peddie.

She was named All-League and a 2023 All-Prep Team honorable mention.



Michael Malia '23 secured an impressive third place in his weight class at the 2024

USA Powerlifting New Jersey High School and Youth State Championship Meet.

RCDS CLASS OF 2020 STUDENT-ATHLETE COMMITMENTS:

Braden Chavez '20 committed to play tennis at Carnegie Mellon University.



JT Cook '20 committed to Lafayette College's track and field program.



Katie Kiely '20 committed to the Southern Methodist University equestrian team. SMU equestrian recently checked in at No. 1 in the National Collegiate Equestrian Association team rankings.



Troy Monte '20 committed to play lacrosse at Bucknell University.



Alastair Orr '20 committed to play football at Hamilton College and was named to the First-Team Offense *Two River Times* All-Area Football Team.



Brody Page '20 committed to play lacrosse at Williams College.



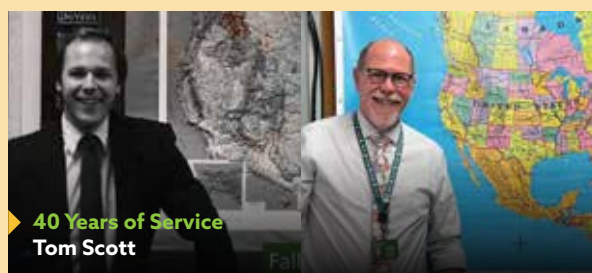
Hudson Skove '20 committed to wrestle at Harvard University.



Ryan Wachtel '20 committed to play hockey at Princeton University.



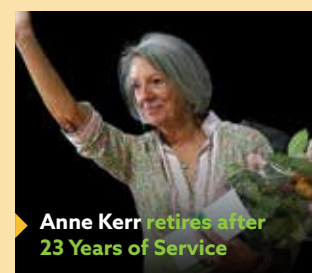
25 Years of Service
Paul Campanella



40 Years of Service
Tom Scott



45 Years of Service
Jeff Brown



Anne Kerr retires after 23 Years of Service



THE
RUMSON
COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL

35 Bellevue Avenue
Rumson, NJ 07760



Name
Address

CALLING RCDS CLASSES OF '21, '22, '23, '24: **SAVE THE DATE!**

Monday, November 25 • Young Alumni Gators Giving Dinner

Join us for a Thanksgiving feast and reconnect with classmates and faculty.
Don't miss your invite!

Please ensure we have your most up-to-date contact information.
Contact our Advancement Office at advancement@rcds.org.



BEGIN HERE. SUCCEED ANYWHERE.

Students who begin at RCDS are prepared with all the skills and capabilities they need to succeed at a wide range of secondary schools and colleges. The Classes of 2020 and 2024 are poised for success and ready to embark on their next educational journey at the following secondary schools and colleges...You've got this, Gators!

CLASS OF 2024 MATRICULATION: A SELECTION OF SECONDARY SCHOOL MATRICULATIONS

Blair Academy	Choate Rosemary Hall	The Peddie School	Rumson-Fair Haven High School
The Browning School	Gill St. Bernard's School	The Pingry School	Shore Regional High School
Canterbury School	The Lawrenceville School	Ranney School	Trinity Hall
Christian Brothers Academy	Millbrook School	Red Bank Catholic High School	

CLASS OF 2020: A SELECTION OF COLLEGE MATRICULATIONS

Arizona State University	Hobart and William Smith Colleges	Rutgers University	University of Michigan
Auburn University	Keene State College	Sacred Heart University	University of Notre Dame
Barnard College	Lafayette College	Salve Regina University	University of Southern California
Bucknell University	Lehigh University	Southern Methodist University	University of St. Andrews (Scotland)
Carnegie Mellon University	Miami University of Ohio	Trinity College	The University of Texas at Austin
Cornell University	Northeastern University	Tufts University	University of Wisconsin
Dartmouth College	Ole Miss - University of Mississippi	Tulane University	Villanova University
Fordham University	Pennsylvania State University	University of California San Diego	Virginia Tech
Georgia Institute of Technology	Princeton University	University of Colorado Boulder	Wagner College
Hamilton College	Providence College	University of Florida	Williams College
Harvard University	Rowan University	University of Miami	