



LEGACIES

— SPRING 2025 —

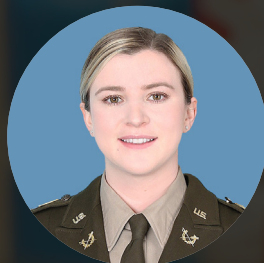


LEGAL MINDS, LASTING IMPACT

Alumni return to inspire and guide the next generation at the Law Lunch & Learn. (Page 10)



**Melanie
Clayton '01**



**Haley
Haynes Combs '13**



**Alex
Paschal '12**



**Katheryn
Thompson '12**



Grady Bradshaw '13

President, Carolina Day School Alumni Board

Building Momentum: A Thriving Year for the CDS Alumni Community

Happy belated New Year! As we have now firmly stepped into 2025, I trust you are no longer incorrectly dating items, your resolutions are sticking and well underway! I'm thrilled to share an update on the incredible momentum our Alumni Association has built since the last newsletter. It's been inspiring to see so many of you reconnecting with our community, contributing your time and talents, and celebrating our shared CDS and former schools' legacy.

This past year, we celebrated milestones that reminded us of the vibrancy and dedication of our alumni. The annual Alumni Awards Ceremony honored outstanding achievements and contributions, highlighting the impact our community continues to have in the world. The Alumni Basketball Game brought together familiar faces on the court and in the stands—rekindling the spirit and camaraderie that make CDS so special.

As we look ahead, we want to ensure we're connecting with as many of you as possible. Please take a moment to update your contact information so we can keep you informed about exciting events, news, and opportunities. By staying connected, we can better serve you and even plan gatherings in regions where

our alumni community is thriving. Your participation is key to strengthening our network!

Additionally, I encourage you to nominate deserving alumni for the 2025 Alumni Association Awards. Your nominations help us shine a spotlight on those who exemplify Wildcat values in their personal and professional lives.

We're also continuing to grow our Rising Alumni Programs, supporting recent graduates with mentorship, career advice, and meaningful connections. If you're interested in contributing to these initiatives, we'd love to hear from you!

Mark your calendars for our upcoming events, which will be featured in detail in this newsletter. We hope to see you there to share stories, laughs, and memories—and to create new ones!

Lastly, thank you for your continued involvement, passion, and dedication to our alma mater. Together, we're creating a community that grows stronger with every passing year.

Cheers,
Grady Bradshaw

Stay Connected, Get Involved, and Share Your Story!

Help Us Reconnect: Class Agents, We'd Love to Hear From You!

The Class Agent and Regional Ambassadors Committee met in January to begin looking at what needs to be done to get our Class Agents back into action. If you are a Class Agent, we would love to connect with you and make sure all of the information we have on file for you is up to date.

Not sure who your class agent is or you think maybe you are one, but aren't sure? Please connect with the Director of Alumni Relations and Rising Alumni Programs, Becky Vlachoyannis (bvlachoyannis@carolinaday.org).

Class Agents are invaluable and have an essential role in helping us maintain strong connections among our graduates. Our goal is to build a vibrant and engaged alumni community, and the efforts of this committee and our Class Agents play a key role in making that happen!

Got a Life Update? We Want to Hear From You!

Did you land a new job? Grow your family? Something else you're really proud of? We'd love to hear your story!

As a thank you for sharing, we'll send you some exclusive Alumni Association swag. It's our way of staying connected and celebrating your accomplishments.

Drop us a line at alumni@carolinaday.org—we can't wait to hear from you!

Join a Committee & Make a Difference for CDS Alumni!

We'd love to have more alumni join our committees and help us grow and engage with the Carolina Day community! You don't need to be an Advisory Board member to get involved. Here's a look at our current committees:

- **Young Alumni Committee:** Focuses on ways young alumni can stay connected and celebrates their achievements.
- **Community Outreach & Impact Committee:** Identifies alumni to recognize, celebrates their stories, and gathers feedback to improve engagement.
- **Class Agent & Regional Ambassadors Committee:** Helps connect and engage alumni in specific regions or classes, organizing reunions and networking opportunities.
- **Alumni Giving Community:** Works to strengthen alumni involvement in the Annual Fund and other philanthropic efforts that support the school and students.

Interested in joining one of these committees? Reach out to alumni@carolinaday.org for more details.







Honoring Dr. Diane Milner

A Legacy of Dedication and Impact

After 27 years of dedicated service, Dr. Diane Milner will retire at the end of the 2024-2025 school year as Principal of Key School. Her leadership has transformed the lives of hundreds of students with dyslexia, making an immeasurable impact on Carolina Day School and beyond.

We will be honoring Dr. Milner with a special retirement celebration open to everyone in the community—of all ages. Please save the date! Wednesday, May 28, from 3:30-5:30 p.m. in the Alumni Gym on the campus of Carolina Day School.

We also invite you to share your memories and well wishes in Dr. Milner's online guestbook. Your messages will be a meaningful way to celebrate her incredible legacy: carolinaday.org/dianemilner.

Recognizing Excellence: Alumni Awards & Updates

After the Holiday Hoopla game (see page 9), alumni, staff, and special guests gathered in the Oreck Library for a heartfelt awards ceremony. Chase Pickering '06, Stephen Nadeau '10, Jonathan Glover '93, and Nicky Booth '20 were celebrated for their achievements, with warm words of appreciation shared by all.



Chase Pickering '06

C. Robert Bell, Jr. Distinguished Alumni Award

“Chase’s passion for conservation began right here in our Southern Appalachian Mountains. ... His work shows us the power of passion, vision, and dedication to a cause greater than ourselves.”

— Dora Nelson

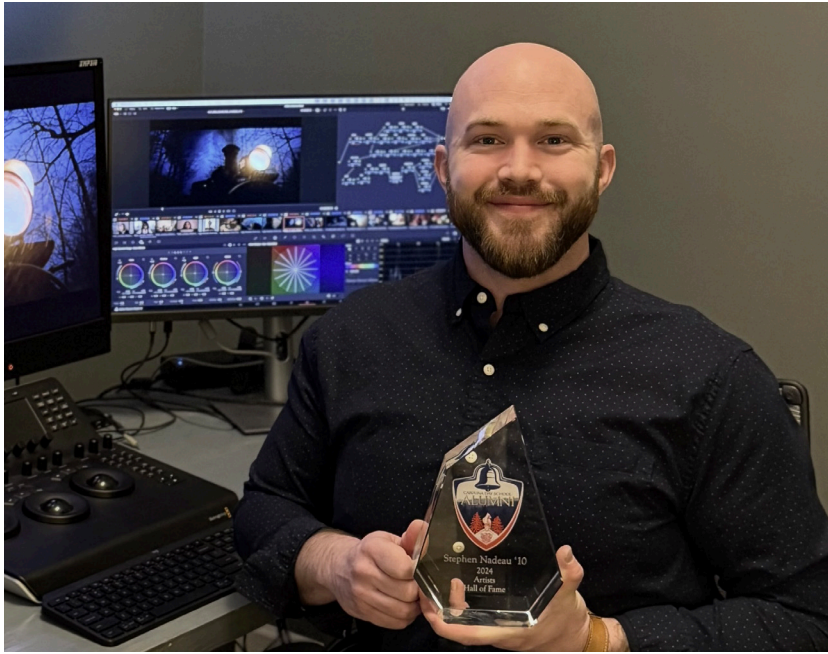


Jonathan Glover '93 (1974-2023)

Athletic Hall of Fame Award

“Jonathan cared deeply about Asheville, Carolina Day School, his family—all of us. He gave and gave and gave, whether serving in civic organizations, conducting soccer clinics, or refereeing. ... And the legacy he leaves with us is meaningful.”

— Steve Henry



Stephen Nadeau '10

Artists Hall of Fame Award

"It was while creating lightsaber effects for a Star Wars short that Stephen discovered the magic of color grading. ... Now as an accomplished colorist for major productions, his path reminds us that sometimes the most unexpected moments spark curiosities and the brightest passions."

-- Grady Bradshaw



Nicky Booth '20

Young Alumni Award

"There's this yin-yang quality to Nicky. How is someone so accepting and discerning at the same time? How is someone so elevated, and yet so grounded? ... A person of service, wisdom, adventure, and *quest*."

-- Nina LaFerla

Nominate an Inspiring Individual Today!

Celebrate a graduate's impact and leadership—submit your nomination for the Carolina Day School Alumni Awards.

Honor a fellow alumnus or alumna who has made a meaningful impact in their field, shown kindness through service, inspired others with their leadership, and used their Carolina Day education to make a difference in the world. By celebrating their achievements, we inspire future generations and strengthen our alumni community. Nominate someone today by completing the Carolina Day School Alumni Awards Nomination form at carolinaday.org/alumniawards.

In Case You Missed It...

Highlights from Last Summer and Fall

Here are some standout stories we shared last summer and fall. These moments reflect the incredible achievements of our alumni and the strength of our community.



Sarah Arison '02

*Named Youngest President of the Board of Trustees
at the Museum of Modern Art*

In leading MoMA's Board of Trustees, Arison guides one of the world's most influential art institutions, calling upon her skill at connecting business leaders and creative visionaries.



Michelle Fidelia '10

*Represented NC at the Ms. Black USA
national competition*

A mother, Peace Corps alumna, mentor, nonprofit owner, and disaster relief professional, Fidelia added a new title in 2024: Ms. Black NC USA. She went on to represent North Carolina at the Ms. Black USA national competition.



Mission in Action

*CDS Leads Rapid Response to Aid
Families in Greater Asheville*

After Hurricane Helene, CDS alumni and other volunteers transformed the school grounds into a warehouse and distribution site. This allowed our neighbors to obtain essential supplies and connect with medical personnel. Pictured are some of the many alumni who joined in this effort.

Holiday Hoopla 2024: An Alumni Victory 3-Peat!

Winterfest 2024 wrapped up with a fun alumni vs. varsity athletes game in Nash Gym. Over a dozen alumni joined Coach Scott Groce '95 for the game, and for the third year in a row, the Alumni team came out on top! It's always a great way to end the calendar year, and we can't wait for this annual event next year. Thank you to everyone who came out to play!







**Melanie
Clayton '01**

*Estate Planning & Non-Profit
Organization Work*



**Haley
Haynes Combs '13**

*Criminal Defense
with the US Military*



**Alex
Paschal '12**

Real Estate Law



**Katheryn
Thompson '12**

*Medical Malpractice
Defense Litigation*

Law Lunch & Learn

Alumni Share Insights with Rising Leaders

We had an amazing time at our Feb. 19th Law Lunch & Learn, where four of our incredible alumni returned to share their expertise with Upper School students interested in law. Hosted by the Alumni Association, the event welcomed Katheryn Thompson '12, Melanie Clayton '01, Haley Haynes Combs '13, and Alex Paschal '12, who offered valuable advice about law school and the legal profession.

The alumni answered questions on topics such as law school admissions, the importance of good study habits, work-life balance, and the wide range of career opportunities available with a law degree. They discussed the benefits of aligning undergraduate studies with personal interests and the value of becoming an attorney with subject-matter expertise in a specific area, such as STEM fields. Being able to “speak the same language” as clients is crucial for building strong relationships and becoming a better attorney, so they encouraged students to lean into their personal passions.

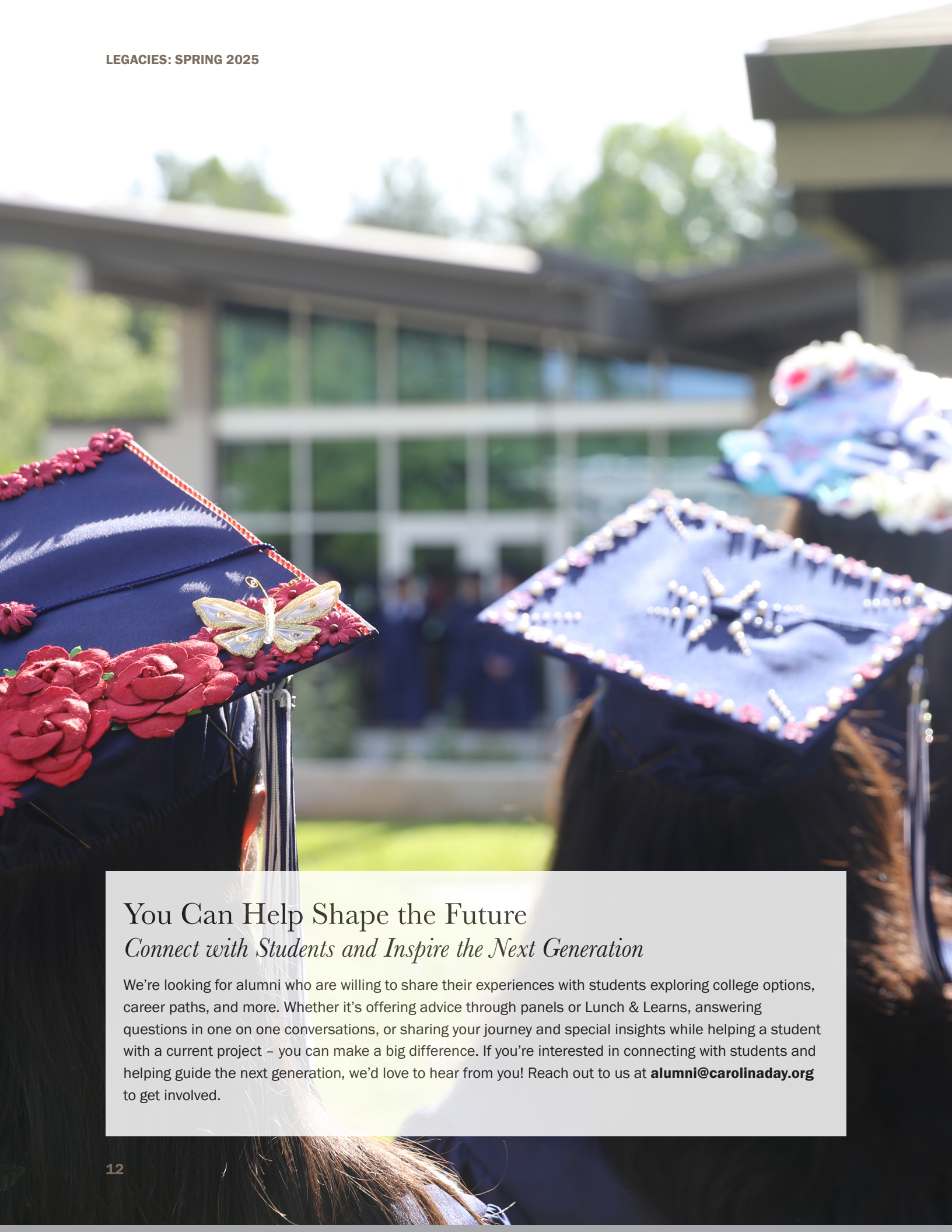
They also shared insights about the realities of a legal career, including both the rewards and challenges. One alum reflected on the early years of practicing law, saying, “Practicing law requires a lot of learning while you’re practicing.”

The conversation also touched on the rigors of law school and the importance of effective study habits. One alumna shared this:

“Undergrad was a breeze after Carolina Day. Then I went to law school and had to refer back to my CDS experience on how to study. What got me through law school was my CDS education.”

The discussion also addressed the financial aspects of law school and ways to ease the burden, including government programs that forgive student loans for those committed to public service work.

Thank you to our alumni for making this event possible! Programs like this Lunch & Learn give back to Carolina Day and inspire the next generation of leaders. Alumni who want to make a difference by sharing their experiences with Rising Alumni are encouraged to reach out to alumni@carolinaday.org.



You Can Help Shape the Future

Connect with Students and Inspire the Next Generation

We're looking for alumni who are willing to share their experiences with students exploring college options, career paths, and more. Whether it's offering advice through panels or Lunch & Learns, answering questions in one on one conversations, or sharing your journey and special insights while helping a student with a current project – you can make a big difference. If you're interested in connecting with students and helping guide the next generation, we'd love to hear from you! Reach out to us at alumni@carolinaday.org to get involved.

100 Day Breakfast

Alumni Association Celebrates the Class of 2025 with a Countdown to Commencement

With commencement near, we were delighted to celebrate our Rising Alumni and thank the families of the Class of 2025. The Alumni Association kicked off the countdown with our beloved “100 Day Breakfast.” Seniors and their families gathered to share laughter, good food, and fond memories, marking this cherished tradition. Each senior also received their special Alumni Association gift—a senior t-shirt that many are already proudly wearing. Here’s to the next chapter!





Daniel DeBrecht '05

Daniel DeBrecht '05 to Keynote “Share the Promise”

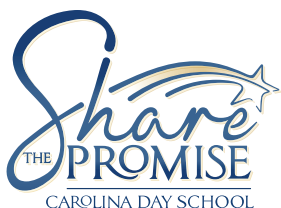
Join us on April 26th as Daniel returns to speak at Carolina Day School in support of need-based financial aid and bright futures for our students.

We are thrilled to announce that Daniel DeBrecht '05 will be the keynote speaker at the upcoming “Share the Promise” event on Saturday, April 26th. This biennial celebration supports need-based financial aid at Carolina Day School, ensuring that deserving students can access the exceptional education our school offers.

Unique in its format and cause, Share the Promise begins with a communal Promise Party event and culminates in one-of-a-kind dinner parties, hosted by CDS families and friends in their homes. This joyful evening promises a special blend of friendship, food, and philanthropy—all in support of the very best cause: our students.

Please plan to join us for this memorable event as we come together to make a lasting impact on our school community!

Info and tickets: carolinaday.org/share



An evening of fun. A lifetime of impact.



Upcoming Events

Alumni, mark your calendars and plan to join us!



Local Alumni Pint Night

Thursday, March 20
5:30–7:00 p.m.

Wicked Weed Brewery

Looking for a fun way to connect with fellow alumni? This is the perfect opportunity to celebrate the spirit of Carolina Day School and our predecessor schools. Enjoy cold drinks, amazing food, and great company.

Alumni Association Annual Meeting

Friday, May 16
6:00 p.m.

Oreck Library, Love Hall

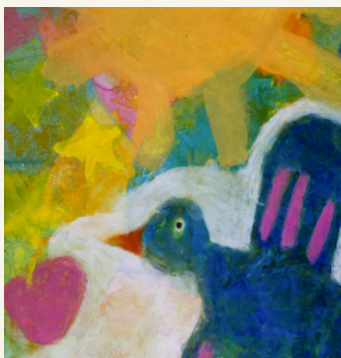
Join the Alumni Advisory Board for its final meeting of the fiscal year, and hear about accomplishments, current initiatives, and considerations for the 2025-26 academic year. Refreshments provided.

Highlanders at the Highland

Saturday, May 17
3:00–6:00 p.m.

Highland Brewing Company

It's been too long since the Highlanders have had the chance to reconnect, and we'd love to see you! Join us for a wonderful afternoon to catch up, reminisce, and enjoy being together again.



CDS Family & Alumni Business Directory

Discover and support the small businesses, private practices, and professional services owned by our talented Carolina Day School families and alumni. This year's directory features vibrant artwork from our Lower School's *Maybe Something Beautiful* project, reflecting our shared spirit of resilience and hope.

carolinaday.org/businessdirectory



No matter the era, our Carolina Day School community is all about connection.

See any familiar faces?



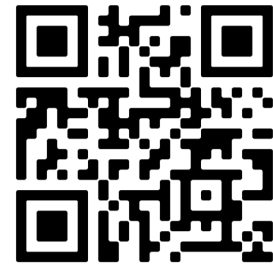
Let's Connect!

Tell your friends!

The Alumni Association Advisory Board needs your help in reconnecting with classmates! Life changes—careers, families, moves—but that shouldn't mean losing touch. Unfortunately, outdated contact info means only a small group of alumni hear from us. But yours is up to date, which is why you're getting this newsletter!

If you've stayed in touch with your classmates, please encourage them to update their info and reconnect with us. It's easy to do so by sharing the form supplied by the QR code on this page. Thank you for helping us stay connected!

Scan the QR code & share with alumni!



Alumni Association: Now on LinkedIn!

An alumni network isn't just about staying in touch—it's about creating lasting impact, both personally and professionally.

For our Wildcats entering the workforce, your mentorship and advice can make all the difference. Together, we can guide the next generation toward success.

Professionally, let's use this community to support each other, share opportunities, and build meaningful connections. Our bonds as Wildcats shouldn't end at graduation—they should grow into lifelong relationships.

Let's collaborate, innovate, and create a network that fosters belonging, ideas, and partnerships across industries.

Join our Carolina Day School Alumni Association page and help us grow professionally as a community!



On Facebook or Instagram?

Connect with us there!



facebook.com/carolinadayalumni/



instagram.com/carolinadayalumni

The Class of 2025, our rising alumni!



Carolina Day School Alumni Association

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carolinaday.org/alumni

If you are receiving email for a family member or someone who no longer uses this email address, please update the Advancement Office at **advancement@carolinaday.org**.