

The Albany Academies magazine : SUMMER 2018

a²

rooted in tradition.
growing together.

ALUMNI AND ALUMNAE IN THE CULINARY ARTS *p.12*

Located in the AAG front circle, this tree has provided beauty and comfort to the Academies family for over four decades. Like this tree and the many others around The Albany Academies, our community is rooted in the traditions of this school and continues to grow stronger each day, together.

a²

The Albany Academies magazine

SUMMER 2018

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In every effort to create a smaller footprint we eliminated duplicate addresses in our mailing list. For additional copies of the magazine contact the Office of Institutional Advancement.

MISSION STATEMENT

Who We Are: The Albany Academies—The Albany Academy and Albany Academy for Girls—develop capable and confident students through single-gender education in the Lower and Middle School, and through coordinate education in the Upper School.

What We Do: Employing individualized and positive education, The Albany Academies provide students with the knowledge, skills, and character needed for leadership and success in the creative, entrepreneurial century that lies ahead.



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TALKING HEAD



I AM INCREDIBLY EXCITED, HONORED, AND HUMBLLED TO START MY FIRST YEAR AS HEAD OF SCHOOL OF THE ALBANY ACADEMIES! I also know I have big shoes to fill.

In the last issue of A² magazine, Dr. North distilled the focus of his tenure down to three main goals: "fix the buildings up, fill them with students, and get The Albany Academies on a sound financial footing." I believe that Dr. North more than accomplished these goals and has created a very solid foundation for our third century.

He also alluded to two emergent goals that I will gladly adopt. The first is to continue exploring how "Active Learning" informs the Academies' curricula and pedagogy, which is a pretty natural fit for someone whose previous school defined itself through "Active Learning for Life." The second is to expand upon the "egalitarian union" that Dr. North so ably facilitated between AAG and AA, looking for additional synergies while respecting each School's legacy. In this regard I have the benefit of "newness" and a fresh perspective on our unique model.

But I won't be new for long, and I believe that effectively leading The Albany Academies will require balancing my personal experience and perspectives with the collective wisdom of our community. Gathering this wisdom began with an "entry survey," conducted this spring that was analyzed this summer. Themes from this survey will play an important part in informing the strategic goals that the Board of Trustees and I will pursue in continuously improving upon what AA and AAG already does so well.

The relationships we build over the next year will also teach me a tremendous amount about the Academies, and I am eager to meet as many Cadets and Bears as possible, get to know you, hear your stories, and see your alma maters through your eyes. If the scores of wonderful people I have already met are any indication, this is going to be an absolutely joyful experience.

I would be remiss if I didn't close with sincere gratitude for the thoughtful and thorough job that The Albany Academies' community has already done in supporting my family and me in our transition from Buffalo to Albany. As we settle into the Academies and Leonard House, everything we have experienced so far suggests that this is the beginning of a beautiful relationship!

CHRISTOPHER LAURICELLA, ED.M. P'20, '22
HEAD OF SCHOOL



- Two Wedgwood plates depicting the old Albany Academy for Girls building from the 1800s and The Albany Academy building.

features

6

Q & A

Get to know Head of School Chris Lauricella

10

Why Single Gender?

An in depth look at our Middle School programs



12

The Academies Feed Entrepreneurship in the Culinary Arts

Dive into the restaurant scene with some of our local alumni and alumnae

departments

01 Talking Head

04 Commencement

06 Q & A with Chris
Lauricella

07 Admissions Events

08 Scholar Luncheon

10 Why Single
Gender?

12 The Academies
Feed
Entrepreneurship in
the Culinary Arts

18 Spring Gathering

20 A2 Fresh

22 Athletic Highlights

24 Reunion

28 Farewell, Dr. North
'58!

30 A2 Portrait:
Linda Emrich and
Kathy Polubinski

31 A2 Portrait:
James Poole '68

32 Alumni/ae
Gatherings

33 Communication is
Key

34 Class Notes

37 In Memoriam

events

04 Commencement

08 Scholar Luncheon

18 Spring Gathering

24 Reunion

32 Alumni/ae Gatherings

Commencement

June 11-12, 2018



OPPOSITE:
Red rose bouquets await the AAG graduates.

Left to right

FIRST ROW:
Secretary to the Governor of New York State Melissa DeRosa '00 inspired the young women of the Class of 2018 to take a chance in order to change the world; Albany Academy for Girls Class of 2018.

SECOND ROW:
The sound of bagpipes heard across the field denote the start of The Albany Academy Commencement ceremony; Albany Academy 2017-18 Student Council President Raghav Narravula '18 ties his last Academy uniform tie.

THIRD ROW:
Former Head of School Dr. Douglas North '58 addressed The Albany Academy Class of 2018 in a moving speech on the 60th anniversary of his own Valedictory.



chris lauricella



When did you realize your passion for education?

Most likely high school—when I look back at my high school yearbook there are a lot of inscriptions about me being an English teacher. I had an interesting childhood; my mom fell ill during my early adolescence and it was school that really helped pull me through that. I went to a large comprehensive public high school on Long Island, but it was small enough that it felt like family and I was a good enough student that teachers took interest in me. So, I think that is why I wound up wanting to be a teacher.

What is your favorite book?

A Tale of Two Cities: it's my favorite book that I've taught. It has everything just in the opening line, "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times..." It captures the entire range of the human condition. What I tell people about English is that it is the study of the human condition and that is going to come in handy regardless of what you do.

What is the most fulfilling part about being an educator?

It's when kids come back and they explain to me what happened in their life, and then they can locate a little piece in their life that I impacted—that's always cool.

What would you like Academies students to know about you going in to your new position?

I'm decidedly introverted, which does not mean that I am shy, it just means that I derive energy from solo activities. I tend to be a little reserved and removed at first. I like to observe things before I weigh in. But I want people to know that I am completely "all in." Take a chance and approach me if I'm not approaching you.

What is the biggest lesson you learned at The Park School? And how will you apply this lesson to the Academies?

Getting a group of people to become a team. If they have trust in each other and a vision that they believe in—they can accomplish really amazing things. And how do I plan to attack this? First and foremost it's building trust with people and trust among people. In a lot of ways I am a leader of leaders. That's why the Academies are so attractive to me. I really want to teach other people how to lead, because I can't get it all done by myself.

What are your goals for the future of The Albany Academies?

I want to pick up a couple of goals that Dr. North started and then figure out some new ones. The two that he has started that I need to pick up are figuring out the synergy between AA and AAG. What are the efficiencies here? How do we leverage this to be uniquely effective? And to make sure that we are honoring the tradition, legacies, and identities of the two schools. The other thing is the Academies use the term "active learning," and I'm coming from a school where our tagline was literally "active

learning for life," so I'm curious what this means to you and what I can lend to this conversation. My goal is to absorb and pull out the wisdom from the community and transform it into a strategic plan for the school.

What were you worried/excited about moving to Albany?

I was at The Park School for 10 years so it was very, very comfortable for me—it was in my bones; I knew Park very well. One of the things I was excited about and a little bit scared about was coming to a place where I don't know everything as deeply as I did at Park. I'm excited to be here because I get to learn and do new things.

What are you most looking forward to experiencing at both The Albany Academy and Albany Academy for Girls?

I get to experience the Academies as a parent as well as a leader, and I'm excited for that and for my kids. My daughter will be a junior and my son will be a freshman. They are both excited and nervous too. I'm really happy to give them this great gift of having grown up at one school and then getting to go some place else to compare and contrast, and to get a sense of what a new school environment will be like. It's good for them to be a little uncomfortable. I'm also excited to learn about single gender education and being a part of a physically larger school community.



where do our students come from?

50
school districts

79
zip codes

5
countries

90
cities

11
counties

59% Albany
13% Rensselaer
13% Saratoga
9% Schenectady
2% Columbia
2% Other

Lunch On Us
12:00—1:00 pm
Thursdays
Board of Trustees
Room, AA
October 11, 2018
December 6, 2018
January 10, 2019
February 7, 2019
March 7, 2019
April 11, 2019
July 11, 2019

Open House
1:00—3:00 pm
AA & AAG Campus
November 4, 2018

Scholarship/Entrance Exam
9:00—11:45 am
The Stevens Center, AAG
November 17, 2018
December 1, 2018
January 12, 2019

Visiting Weeks
8:00 am—2:15 pm
AA & AAG Campus
February 19 – 22, 2019
April 23 – 25, 2019

PS/PK Information Session
9:30—11:30 am
Board of Trustees
Room, AA
May 2, 2019
June 20, 2019

**Welcome Reception for
New Families**
4:00—4:30 pm
Leonard House
May 30, 2019



Scholar Luncheon

April 29, 2018

SPEAKERS: WILLIAM J. BELLEVILLE, JR. '89 AND TATTIANNA WELSH '18

“The Albany Academies will always be a part of my life. One day I hope to return the favor and provide a student with the same wonderful opportunity that has so graciously been given to me.” Caleb Phelan '18

OPPOSITE:

Tattianna Welsh '18 expresses her gratitude to scholarship donor William Brooks P'91, '93 at her final scholar luncheon.

From One Academy Lifer to Another



Jeff Levine '67 is a proud Academy alumnus who is passionate about giving back to his alma mater. He started at The Albany Academy as a kindergartener in 1954 and his recent scholarship provides an Albany Academy student to follow in Jeff's footsteps: an opportunity to receive a scholarship beginning in kindergarten. "I want to allow a student the same opportunity I had, and because of this scholarship I will enable another child to have this incredible education that may

otherwise not be available to a young person," said Jeff.

Since his education at The Albany Academy, Jeff has gone on to lead a very successful life as a tax attorney, financial planner, author, and speaker. Most recently he has co-authored a book titled *Quantum Millionaire* and is a contributing writer for the book *From Adversity to Success: Change your thinking, change your life* (both to hit stands soon). He was also involved in the making of the documentary titled *The Quest*, and he has co-founded the Carnegie Principle: "a mastermind group that provides high level training for those interested in bettering their lives," noted Jeff.

Jeff believes that an Academy education is the basis for success. "I want to encourage others to give to an existing scholarship or to establish their own." He has found richness in his mentor/mentee relationship by providing an unparalleled education to an Albany Academy student through his Scholarship. Jeff would like other alumni/ae to know that "you have the opportunity to change a little person's life forever."

THE ALBANY ACADEMIES' SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS

*Albany Academy for Girls Alumnae Association
Legacy Scholarship
The Albany Academy Alumni Association Legacy
Scholarship

*The Belleville Scholarship
*The Capital Bank Scholarship
The Class of 1940 Scholarship
The Class of 1941 Scholarship
The Class of 1984 Scholarship
The William A. C. Brooks Scholarship
*The James F. '52 and Cynthia Caird Scholarship
The Phyllis and Avron Cohen '39 Scholarship
The Dearstyne Scholarship
The Martha Decker Scholarship
*The Joan R. Dembinski '55 Scholarship for
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The Hannan Scholarship
The Hearst Foundation Scholarship
The Elisabeth Hessberg Scholarship
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*The Brady Atkinson Jones Scholarship
The Erin Jones Scholarship
*The Louise Farley Jones Scholarship
The Penny Jones Scholarship (AA)
The Penny Jones Scholarship (AAG)
*The Jeffrey Levine '67 Scholarship
The Robert Macfarland Fleet Scholarship
The Caroline B. Mason Scholarship
The William McEwan Scholarship
The Meislahn Scholarship
The William "Country" Morris Scholarship
The Amanda Morrison '02 Scholarship
The Gerald E. Mull Endowed Scholarship
The Carolyn M. Nardolillo Scholarship
*The Dr. Douglas M. North '58 Scholarship
The Frank E. O'Brien Jr. '53 Scholarship
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*The Opportunity Scholarship
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The Michael B. Picotte '65 Scholarship
The Dr. Herbert Schellenberger Scholarship
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The Lewis A. Swyer Scholarship
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*The Troy Savings Bank Charitable Foundation
Scholarship
The Thomas Tuttle '84 Scholarship
The William Walker Scholarship
The Elizabeth Allen Wallace Endowed Scholarship
The Peter Wells '52 Scholarship
The Marjorie Dearstyne Whiteside Scholarship
The Virginia O'Cain Wren Scholarship

*newly established scholarship during the Campaign
for the Third Century

If you are interested in starting a scholarship,
please contact Director of Institutional
Advancement Ann Wendth at 518-429-2385.

Thank you to the more than
1,500 donors who supported the
Campaign for the Third Century in
the 2017-18 fiscal year. Through your
generosity, The Albany Academies
raised \$2.74 million through the
Annual Fund, events, scholarships
and special capital projects.

why single gender?



What is your background?

Michelle Hughes I was an art major in college. I earned a Masters in Museum Education and obtained an Elementary Education certification. I worked with an organization that developed educational programs for museums along the Hudson River. I fell in love with being in a classroom in a very unexpected way. I started teaching fifth grade, then sixth and seventh, and was an advisor for eighth grade students. After 12 years in the public school system, I transferred to independent school education as a teacher before growing to Education Director and then to Head of School over my 16 years there. I started as the Lower and Middle School Director of Albany Academy for Girls last year.



Hilary King I have a Bachelor's Degree in History from Cornell University and a Master's Degree in Teaching from Seattle University. I came to The Albany Academies in the fall of 2012 as a part-time history teacher and graduated to full time by December teaching a Leadership class at AAG and working in the archives. I taught for five years in the Upper School: AP US History, US history, and World History II. I have served as a Class Dean and oversaw the May Project process for the Class of 2017 in addition to serving as Chair of the Faculty Evaluation Committee, participating on the Faculty Disciplinary Committee and the Leadership Committee, as well as serving as a faculty representative for the Head of School Search Committee. When AA Associate Head of School Dr. Milliken asked me to serve as interim AA Director of Lower and Middle School, I gladly accepted the new responsibilities and challenges. In January, I was asked by the Search Committee to take on the role permanently. Now, here I am!

Why is single gender education, especially at the critical developmental age of pre-teens important?

Hilary Middle School can be a very difficult time for kids. It is an awkward stage with rapid changes in the body and in the brain at different rates for boys and girls. Single gender education allows students to go through these changes without the added stress of the other gender. In addition, single gender education allows teachers to utilize teaching strategies that are proven to work for specific genders without sacrificing what's best for boys or girls.

What are some of the academic and social challenges Middle School students face?

Michelle Academically, having a sense of good organizational skills can be difficult. We don't want our students to overwhelm themselves because their physical things or minds aren't organized. Instead, we want them to take full advantage of the time they have to be productive and purposeful both in the classroom and outside of school. We help our students find what works best for them. Socially, this is an age of decisiveness and choosing where one belongs among peers. We all remember how it feels to be part of the "in" crowd and what it's like on the outside. The four years of Middle School are a constant fluctuation between those two places. The Academies have various support systems students can rely on if they are experiencing issues or need extra help.

How do The Academies work with and prepare Middle School students for success in their current stage of life and for high school?

Michelle Beyond the typical academic preparation needed to advance to the Upper School, our program offers choices, imbuing kids with a sense of purpose and leadership and challenging them to be agents of change by engaging in community service and mentorship. In addition, our program finds ways to bring the disciplines together, be it History, Dance, and English for the Renaissance Faire or Science, Mathematics, and English for the Science Symposium. It is important for students

not to have a compartmentalized view of the world, but to understand how everything connects and how they fit into it.

What is so special about the Middle School Advisory Program at The Albany Academies?

Hilary Advising is not only a point of contact, but it is about teaching kids how to do school. Advising teaches our students about the importance of staying organized, planning and time management, as well as crucial study skills and social skills needed to succeed both in and out of the classroom. Our advising and leadership programs are thoughtfully developed to target what boys or girls are experiencing at this age and where they might need some extra help.

What's your favorite aspects of the Middle School Program at AA and AAG?

Hilary

We offer a wide range of special courses where students get to try everything with fun and engaging teaching methods. We aim to cultivate a lifelong love of learning. Also, we do PE right! The fifth and sixth graders get a taste of all of the sports offered at Academy and then get to choose a Modified team in the seventh and eighth grades for a more in depth experience. It is ALL about participation and sportsmanship—NOT games and winning. We stress participation and effort more than anything and the students really learn that through our program.

Michelle

We allow girls to be themselves; to be silly, funny, sad, etc. Whatever they are feeling, AAG offers a safe environment for them to be open to the endless possibilities they can be. In addition, our fifth and sixth grade teachers work closely together as do our seventh and eighth grade teachers. This structure provides a unique opportunity for teachers to watch the boys and girls develop and build stronger relationships with them over two-years rather than just one year.

What advice do you have for parents thinking about placing their child in single gender education?

Michelle In an all-girl environment, girls are being compared to only girls. Challenges are addressed more openly or even just more readily recognized. Support is given in a way that will be most powerful for girls. It is well documented that single gender education is a benefit to the learning experience, especially at this pivotal age.

Hilary Single gender education promotes the soft skills that colleges and employers are telling us kids today are lacking. This approach promotes confidence and risk-taking in a way that coed classrooms just cannot offer.



“It is well documented that single gender education is a benefit to the learning experience, especially at this pivotal age.”



Who doesn't enjoy a great meal out on the town? Each of these alumni and alumnae have brought unique creativity, passion, and dedication to their businesses. Their entrepreneurial zeal is truly inspiring, and it is an honor that all of their stories share a beginning at The Albany Academies.

The Academies Feed Entrepreneurship in the Culinary Arts



Brunch Redone

Julia Sanzen '00 completed both her undergraduate and graduate degrees in Health Promotion Management before moving to New York City to begin a career in Corporate Health. After a few years in the profession, she realized that her true passion was cooking. With a change in career trajectories, Julia entered the Natural Gourmet Institute for Health and Culinary Arts with plans to start a private culinary business. This new business venture would merge both her love of health and wellness with her newly acquired cooking skills. The program she was enrolled in focused on nutritional science, and this would prove to be the perfect education to launch her into her new career.

Her introduction to the restaurant industry was alongside Chef Jean-George at Mercer Kitchen in Manhattan for a year before partnering with a long-time friend to open a New York City branch of Running with Forks, a personal chef business specializing in weight-loss and health restrictions. She then collaborated with celebrity Chef Rocco Dispirito in the creation of the *Pound a Day* cookbook, all the while fulfilling her duties as a personal chef to high profile clientele. Before returning to the Capital Region, she spent three years at Berkley Carroll School for Girls in Manhattan as the Assistant Director of Food Services.

While visiting home in the summer of 2016, Julia and her boyfriend Tyler Russell '01 were in search of a wholesome, casual lunch place and found that their options were limited. In downtown Saratoga the only options for brunch were either a diner style experience or the upscale and more expensive restaurants. She realized that there was a market for a brunch restaurant in the middle of the low-end/high-end scale.

After meticulous research, they knew that a fast-casual dining experience, similar to the Shake Shack model, would be the perfect solution. Their idea started as a pop-up restaurant that they would

manage during the summer break before returning to the city. After scouring for potential locations and exploring food trucks and tents, they found a building for lease at 35 Maple Avenue in downtown Saratoga. It was love at first sight with its well-maintained structure, deep rooted history and unique aesthetic. But, they ran into a small problem with this dream location: it didn't have a kitchen. The solution: converting a shipping container into a kitchen and attaching it to the back of the building. Everything worked out so smoothly that they quickly decided to forgo the temporary summer pop-up idea and open a permanent restaurant named after the building's first occupants, **Farmer's Hardware**. In the summer of 2017, Julia and Tyler changed the brunch scene in Saratoga with their stunning fast-casual dining spot that has since grown in popularity among locals.

Though it has been successful, this business venture has not gone without some obstacles. Julia noted that "being a young woman has its challenges when it comes to being that authority figure who's taken seriously." She finds herself reminding people that this isn't just a pastime for her. This is her career and, more importantly, her passion.

Leading up to the grand opening, Julia and Tyler found that their backgrounds complimented each other in the interest of the restaurant. Tyler's background in business and marketing allowed for Julia to focus on the food. Their teamwork has made Farmer's Hardware into what it is known to be today. Julia remarked, "It was unexpected how wonderful and responsive the town has been to Farmer's Hardware...I see comments online of people recommending Farmer's Hardware to friends as the place to go for brunch. It's amazing how far we've come since the start only two years ago."

For those interested in going into this industry, Julia advised, "Do your homework and be prepared for the unexpected. It's the hardest thing I have ever done, and the best decision I ever made!"



“Do your homework and be prepared for the unexpected. It’s the hardest thing I have ever done, and the best decision I ever made!”





Wine Not?

Cardona's Market and Catering in Albany may be renown as the finest Italian specialty store in the area offering up succulent imported cheeses and olives since 1945, but founder Augusto Cardona's grandson **August Cardona '96** has been the one earning raves in the New York City restaurant scene since the mid 2000's. He is the press-shy

force behind the West Village gems **dell'anima**, **L'Artusi** and the wine bar **Anfora**.

It was his days at The Albany Academy that August fondly recalls as we met up in Manhattan. "Football, basketball and baseball were a big part of my memories. We had a great class, and I loved the battalion. That setting was such a beautiful and magical place to learn in," said August. His brothers, Robert '94 and Nick '11, also attended the Academy, and his sister Gabriella graduated from Albany Academy for Girls in 1998. Another brother, Anthony graduated from Albany High School.

After football games, August would head to the family store where he worked the sausage machine and shelved goods. "I cleaned and cleaned. It's what I knew," said August. He headed to Cornell University upon graduation, where he also played football. A member of the ATO fraternity, he says the class that was the most informative was Introduction to Wines. "It really sparked my interest in learning more about wine. We had wine tastings back at our frat house focusing on the Finger Lakes region." A hustler even back then, August worked at a deli, as a bartender, and a teacher's assistant all at the same time. Graduating in 2000 with a Business Degree and a concentration in Food Marketing, many of his friends from Cornell were heading to Chicago. August soon joined them. "I worked in finance but I didn't really like it," said August of his time spent as Zack's Investment Research where he rose to an Associate Vice President position. He left the lucrative corporate job to take a position as a server in an Asian fusion restaurant "It was a real impactful area of my development. I still have their training manuals to this day."

Leaving Chicago, August spent almost two years working at Cardona's with his brothers as it expanded. He knew he wanted to work in New York City and headed there in early 2004. "I wanted to go in the restaurant path." First up was learning more about wine. He landed at Italian Wine Merchants (IWM), working on the floor as a sales associate. "I wanted to learn about high quality wines so I started reading voraciously about them. I found something I could sink my teeth into."

August moved his way up into the office dealing with wine collectors. "I was pouring amazing wines," he said. "It really helped me develop my palette." He became a Sales Manager then Director of Operations and Director of International Sales for the company. In 2007, his third year at IWM, August and a Cornell friend opened dell'anima, an Italian restaurant that seats 50 guests. Leaving IWM after four years, August helmed the opening of his larger restaurant L'Artusi in 2008. Anfora, his sophisticated wine bar, which focuses on natural and amphora-aged wines came along in 2010.

When not working as the CEO and co-founder of the Epicurean Group which oversees the three properties, as well as concentrating on business initiatives and branding future businesses, August stays in shape by boxing at a local gym. A diehard Yankees and New York Giants fan, August likes to go to Fire Island in the summer but is happiest when he spends time with his two daughters, Kailey, 16 and Mariana, 6. A travel buff, he and his girlfriend, Becca, recently returned from Bhutan. Going back to The Albany Academy is something Cardona truly appreciates. "I still love that place," he said. "It has a ton of history."

"I still love that place... it has a ton of history."

AUGUST CARDONA '96

Sue Carswell '79, a freelance writer based in New York City, contributed this story.



From Fashion Design to the Farm and Wine

“As my mom says every horse farm needs a winery,” said **Nikki Borisenok '08**. After four years of working for Victoria's Secret's product development and innovation team, Nikki traded her corporate world in New York City for country life on the family farm, **Old Tavern Farm** in Saratoga Springs to start her own winery.

Old Tavern Farm is a boutique thoroughbred horse breeding farm with 15 horses, a chicken coop, and Porkchop the pig. Now Nikki has expanded the business with the addition of her boutique winery. She graduated from Ithaca College in 2012 with a degree in International Business and Marketing.

Spoken like a true entrepreneur, Nikki said, “It's all about developing your product, sourcing your product, establishing your brand, selling your product, and

knowing and connecting with your customers.” She started this journey in June 2017 with the help of Cornell University's Viticulture and Enology Program.

This summer marks her first vintage sourcing grapes from both Lodi, California and Columbia Valley, Washington. So far, she has introduced three unique wines to the region. Nikki's future vineyard is already underway. She will begin planting her own vines in May 2019 and intends to grow Riesling, Chardonnay, and Marquette grapes. In addition, she plans to open a tasting facility for special events and parties.

As Nikki was describing the wine-making process she pointed to a machine and said, “This is Marcia—the corkscrew.” She continued to explain the inspiration behind the names of her wines:

Hen and Hay Chardonnay was inspired by the chickens that flaunt themselves on top of the hay; Farm Fresh Rosé was inspired by the fresh cut flower garden alongside the horse paddock; and Big Barn Cabernet Sauvignon was inspired by Old Tavern Farm's signature horse barn.

When asked about her time at the Academies, Nikki replied, “Academy gave me the foundation and pushed me to feel confident that I could go on and take the next step.” Her advice to aspiring entrepreneurs, “Do it! It's hard but equally rewarding.”

Nikki's wines can be purchased at www.oldtavernfarmwinery.com and are also available in local wine stores and bed and breakfasts around Saratoga Springs.



Family Legacy

While driving through parts of Altamont, one expects to see the picturesque rolling hills and quaint back country roads dividing the acres of farmland. What might surprise some is tucked away near Thatcher Park at Indian Ladder Farms where

hundreds of rows of hop plants are grown to make locally crafted beer.

Founded in 1916 by Academy alumnus Peter Gansevoort Ten Eyck, Class of 1889, Indian Ladder Farms is a consolidation of the five original farms beneath the cliffs of the Helderberg Escarpment which Peter expanded into a lucrative apple orchard and dairy farm. Passed down to his son, Peter Gansevoort Dederick Ten Eyck, Class of 1925, served as the president of the farm from 1939-1970 before handing the family business over to current owner **Peter G. Ten Eyck II '56**. In 2016, Peter's daughter Laura Ten Eyck and her husband, Dietrich Gehring became the fourth generation of Ten Eycks to oversee Indian Ladder Farms.

Two years ago Indian Ladder's 102-year-old family farm expanded their successful repertoire with the addition of Indian Ladder Farms Cidery and Brewery, LLC. As Dietrich Gehring said, "Liquor is recession proof."

The farm grows everything in their ciders and beers—hops, barley, oats, apples, raspberries, blueberries, and pumpkins. With 14 hop varieties, 36 different types of apples, five kinds of raspberries, and six varieties of blueberries there is always something unique in their tasting room. "You know how people like to say 'Farm to Table'? Well, here we like to say everything is Farm to Farm," said Dietrich.

The harvesters also run the tasting room to provide customers with genuine knowledge about the beer brewing/cider making process. This allows the beer/cider makers to answer questions with authority. Currently their IPA is the most popular brew, but sour beer is becoming more popular, too. The tasting room is open Wednesday-Sunday, and the brewery and cidery are consistently keeping customers happy with weekend festivals, live music, and cookouts.

Indian Ladder Farms Cidery and Brewery generates over 100 different craft brews. They change all the time according to the seasons and the ingredients that are readily available. Dietrich said, "Part of the fun coming here is that there is always going to be a whole new list of beers and ciders; so we tell people if you really like something, enjoy it now!"



NEXT LEVEL HOSPITALITY

Justin Smith '96 grew up in the hotel business watching his father, Gary Smith, travel around with The Desmond companies and then with Marriott. It was his dad's influence that inspired Justin to get involved in the hotel industry and form a hotel management company called Prestige Hospitality Management Group in Albany where he was a partner.

After graduating from The Albany Academy in 1996 Justin attended SUNY Plattsburgh then transferred to Cornell University where he received a Bachelor's Degree in Hotel Administration. Justin decided to start his career by working for what he felt was one of the finest hotels, Four Seasons in New York City.

"Then 9/11 happened and I thought it was time to move out of the City and relocate to Lake Placid. I opened a new restaurant on the shores of Mirror Lake called The Boathouse," said Justin. Although he loved the work he was doing there, Justin also felt it was time to return home to Albany and work with his dad and the management company.

While Justin was working on a hotel project in downtown Albany, he was contacted by a college roommate about purchasing Hotel Northwoods in Lake Placid. Justin went to work quickly and was able to bring partners in and raise the money to buy the hotel. He was only 26.

In 2008 Justin was building Prestige Hospitality Group along with a partner, Jim Frenis. Together "Jim and Justin's adventure" as he fondly refers to the partnership has expanded to include 26 hotels, with five of them located in the Capital Region.

As Justin reflects back on his days at The Albany Academy, he recognizes the importance of relationships, many still with him today. "It was the discipline and sense of entrepreneurship that have inspired me in my career, along with family and friends." Justin currently resides in Menands with Elissa Campbell P'23, '26, Grant Smith, Lorelai Fanion '23, and Evelyn Fanion '26.

Make 'em smile!

From a simple burger to a glass of fine wine, residents of Altamont know that **Veronica's Culinary Tavern** is the place to be for any occasion. Academy alumnus **Peter Blackman '89** is the man responsible for this "casual fine dining" experience.

Peter is a seasoned restaurateur. He began his steady climb to the top of the food-chain as a waiter and host for The Butcher Block in Albany. At the young age of 22, he became the general manager at Café Mangia in Slingerlands, and maintained the restaurant for

Following a brief hiatus from the restaurant business, he was approached to buy an Italian restaurant from a man named Michael Giorgio. After years of changing management, cuisine and style, the restaurant had challenges appealing to the locals. Giorgio sold to Peter, confident that he could take the restaurant to the next level. He was right. After closing on the restaurant, Peter hit the ground running. He began a rigorous ten months of renovating, rebranding, and retraining. This transformation created a new atmosphere with the perfect blend of casual and high-end dining. That new and improved restaurant is now known as Veronica's Culinary Tavern located at 186 Main Street in Altamont.

Vineyards to develop a red blend called Veronica's Remedies. "For a local New York red wine, it delivers well," remarked Peter. "We are now working on a white blend that we hope to debut in the fall."

Though Veronica's has successfully won the hearts of locals, Peter and his team are working on social media outreach to win over the surrounding areas. "I try to touch each of the tables and offer the opportunity for anyone to enjoy the restaurant," Peter said. Besides his strong background in finance, management and customer service that are crucial to being successful in such an inconsistent industry, Peter believes that his time at The Albany Academy was a major factor in his success. "The socialization at the Academy and



17 years. He also spent just shy of a decade managing the Clifton Park location before the owners closed the doors.

After almost 20 years of managing restaurants, he mustered the courage to own a restaurant of his own. In 2009, he partnered with Angelo Mazzone at Aperitivo Bistro in downtown Schenectady. He led the restaurant for eight years before taking on life's next adventure.

Peter and the staff of Veronica's channel a lot of energy into planning the menu, and are always switching things up to keep the interest of their patrons. Being in Altamont, the tavern is able to take advantage of local fresh produce and incorporate it into dishes like their Caprese salad. Recently Veronica's partnered with Bella Floral and Remedies—a local florist and liquor store that delivers wine with your flowers—and Altamont

learning how to speak and handle people in different situations was astronomical as far as me becoming who I am."

He assures that those visiting will be impressed by the enjoyable experience and spectacular food they'll receive at Veronica's Culinary Tavern.

Spring Gathering

April 21, 2018 THE ALBANY CAPITAL CENTER

Spring Gathering, our annual fundraiser for scholarships and financial assistance, brought together over 300 attendees for an evening of fun, friendships, and festivities and raised \$156,000. A very special thank you to the many parents, faculty, staff, alumni, alumnae, and friends who attended and to those who volunteered their time and talents to help make the event so successful. Special thanks to our major sponsor New Country Motor Group, as well as our many other corporate sponsors and honorary committee members!



FIRST ROW:

Money does grow on trees at the silent auction table! Senior administrators proudly celebrate the generous support of all our families.

Left to right Donna Ruggiero, Ann Wendth, Scott Milliken P'14, '16, '19, '31, Pam MacAffer P'12, '14, '17, and Bramble Buran P'07, '08, '10, '16

SECOND ROW:

Floating candles with delicate yellow flowers drew eyes to the elegant table settings.

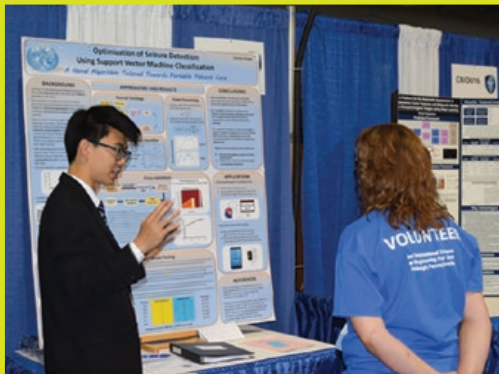
THIRD ROW:

This table of Academy superstars enjoyed the wonderful evening together as old friends.

Left to right Mark '80 and Caroline DiStefano '81, P'13, '16, '22, Michael '50 and Carol O'Brien '51, P'77, '79, '80, '85, GP'04, '18, '19, '21, '22, '25, '26, Former Head of School Dr. Douglas North '58 and his wife Dr. Ellen Cole, and Joan Dembinski '55



One Scientific Step Closer



Zachary Huang '19 has been participating in an Independent Science Research (ISR) project that earned him recognition at the Greater Capital Region Science and Engineering Fair this past March and as a finalist for the 2018 Intel International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF), the most prestigious international science fair for high school students. At Intel ISEF, Zachary was one of a handful of more than 1800 students that won an award from the American Statistical Association. Recently, his research was accepted by the Society for Neurosciences for presentation at their largest annual international conference in San Diego, CA this coming November.

Zachary designed a novel computer algorithm that uses machine learning to analyze general trends in data to detect seizures, significantly reducing the computational cost. While other algorithms rely on powerful devices to analyze the data, this algorithm is specifically tailored towards low-power devices such as wearables. His simple, robust algorithm is the first of its kind to be optimized in accuracy and speed for wearables and has the potential to drastically improve patient care by allowing patients to monitor their brain activity through their wearables.

A Picture's Worth 1,000 Words

Malika Umar '18 has certainly made our community proud for her many accomplishments as a student at Albany Academy for Girls, but her awards and recognition in the arts has been remarkable. This past year, she placed first in the High School Regional Arts competition and was the recipient of the Mayor's Select Award, Juror's Award and Albany Center Gallery Award. Malika's artwork was selected for the 19th Annual High School Regional Juried Art Exhibition sponsored by the Capital Area Art Supervisors, the NYS Art Teachers Association and the Albany Center Gallery. She was also awarded runner-up for a piece presented at the national 2018 Congressional Art Competition, held annually with a reception in the Wallace Gallery at the Art Center of the Capital Region and hosted by Congressman Paul Tonko. Emily Argoff '19 and Jack Hayes '18 were also recognized for their art pieces at this event.

In addition to all of these accolades, Malika and her sister Kauthar Umar '95 have their works included in an anthology of photographs taken by black female photographers and published by Laylah Amatullah Barryn, a photographer based in Brooklyn. *Mfon: Women Photographers of the African Diaspora*, funded by a grant from the Brooklyn Arts Council as well as a crowdfunding campaign, features 100 female photographers from the African diaspora, including those based in the US, Africa, Europe, and the Caribbean. It's



named after Mmekutmfon 'Mfon' Essien, a young Nigerian-American photographer who passed away in 2001. The book is the first of what will be an annual publication.

Remix



Zach DiBlasi '18 always had a love for music while a student at The Albany Academy, and this passion has led to well received work on streaming platforms like Spotify. Zach has two official remixes: "Sweet Tooth"—a collaboration with Rosè and John the Dropout, a producer from Nashville, TN—and "Lie"—a remix with Indiana based singer-songwriter Jay Putty, whose songs have reached over 200k streams on Spotify alone. "My remix has grown to more than 20k views on my Soundcloud, thanks to Putty's promotion," says Zach. All of this has led to Zach actually getting paid for his work, receiving his first paycheck on the day of his Commencement! Zach is currently working with a singer from London on an original song called "Just Getting Started" which will soon be available on all streaming platforms. Zach will be studying at the Los Angeles music production school Icon Collective this fall.

#MSDStrong



On Wednesday, March 14, 2018, Caroline Crowell '19 took a stance against gun violence in a nationwide student walkout. As the self-appointed chief organizer of the walkout at The Albany Academies, Caroline reached out to public figures including local Assemblywoman Patricia Fahy. She rallied many of her classmates, as well as faculty and staff members, to walk out of class with her in the freezing rain for 17 minutes in memory of the 17 victims of the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School shooting in Parkland, Florida just one month prior.

In an interview with News Channel 13 reporter Dan Levy, Caroline justified missing more class to participate in the regional walkout to the New York State Capitol Building in April because "some kids are missing the rest of their life and will never get to go back to school. We shouldn't have to feel lucky to make it through a day of school." This level of political activism was new to Caroline, but she knows she'll never again be satisfied standing on the sidelines when there is something this important to fight for.

Case Closed

The 2018 AAG Mock trial team had an outstanding season. Coached by AAG alumna Carol Crummey McCardle, Esq. '04, the team won the fierce competition against Hudson Valley Consortium in the Albany

County Mock Trial Tournament Finals on April 11, 2018. "It was an incredibly close match, but the team has been preparing and practicing since December," according to the team's faculty advisor and coach Tim Service.

The team won the coveted spot to represent Albany County at the Regional Competition in Columbia County on April 15, 2018. There they put up another strong fight throughout the day defeating both Salem Washington Academy and Potsdam. Unfortunately, the AAG team was eliminated by a margin of a single point in the final round against Bishop Gibbons.

Congratulations to team members Tattiahna Welsh '18, Takeya McFee '18, Vali Banerjee '18, Eleanna Sakoulas '18, Hannah Klausner '18, Hannah Chaput '19, Morgan Sears '19, Marlow Tessier '19, Haleila Harrison '19, Arzoo Dawoodani '19, Allison Plante '20, Renee Pascoe '21, and Tia De Wolf '21.



The Stevens Center Dedication

On Saturday, May 18, 2018, AAG's cafeteria, formerly known as the Dining and Events Center, got a new name! As part of the Campaign for the Third Century, this space was renovated in 2014 from the Lower School Gymnasium into a beautiful, spacious focal point for students, faculty, and staff to gather, eat lunch, and host events. During Reunion



Weekend, The Albany Academies officially dedicated The Stevens Center.

The Stevens Center was made possible through the generosity of Mrs. Shirley Stevens French '47 (pictured above with her family) in honor of her late father, Winthrop P. Stevens Sr. Class of 1916, P'44, '47 and his many contributions to the Academies.

You Can't Dream If You're Hungry

AAG fifth grader Ella Schoenborn '26 realized that it's hard to accomplish your dreams when you're hungry. She launched "Project Ella" with one goal: to help the local organization Street Soldiers feed the homeless and needy people of Albany. She and her dad have put out a request for donations of any redeemable recyclables. With the money collected from the bottle returns, Ella purchases food to make as many sandwiches as possible to feed the Capital Region's hungry. Thanks to Ella, a few more people are able to dream a bit more easily.



AA HIGHLIGHTS

Varsity Baseball

The Baseball team, led by head Coach Dave Rider '73, P'04, had a record of 22-3, the most wins by any Cadet baseball team. The team won the Colonial Council, the Section 2 Class B Championship, and the East Regional Championship plaque. The team advanced to the state semi-finals, but unfortunately came up short in the semi-final game. The team was also selected as a NYSPHSAA Scholar Team. Ben Seiler '18 was named the *Times Union* Baseball Athlete of the Year. Congratulations to the three Academy baseball players who signed letters of intent to play Division I baseball next year: Johnny Decker '18 (SUNY Stony Brook), Ben Seiler '18 (Siena College), and Brett Young '18 (Virginia Commonwealth University).

Varsity Cross Country

The Cross Country team completed the regular season undefeated at 10-0 and was declared the Colonial Council League Champion. The team captured the Class C NYS Section 2 Championship title and then went on to finish 7th in the NYS Championship Meet. The team was also named a NYSPHSAA Scholar Team.

Varsity Golf

The Golf team continued its tradition with another great season, ending at 13-1, and was crowned league Champion and Colonial Council Tournament Champion. The team was also named a NYSPHSAA Scholar Team selection.

Varsity Basketball

The Basketball team had an impressive season with a 15-7 record, playing a tough independent schedule. The team captured the NYSAIS Class A Championship and then was a finalist in the NYS Federation Class A tournament. Marcus Filien '18, August Mahoney '18, and sophomore sensation Andre Jackson '20 were awarded the most prestigious all-area News Channel 13 All Star selection.

Varsity Track & Field

The Track and Field team had a perfect 10-0 season capturing the Colonial Council League Championship title and Section 2 finalists. Ahmad Praileau '20 finished 3rd in the pentathlon at the NYS Championship meet. The team was also selected as a NYSPHSAA Scholar Team.

Varsity Swimming and Diving

The Swim team ended the season with a 7-2 dual meet record. The team placed 4th at the Section 2 Championship meet. Bryce Henkel '21 broke many school records, was selected to the Section 2 all-star team, and qualified for the NYS Championship meet in several events. The team was also selected as a NYSPHSAA Scholar Team.

Varsity Tennis

The Tennis team had another incredible season with an overall record of 11-2, competing against most of the large AA schools in the Capital Region. The team was a finalist at the Section 2 Class AA tournament. The doubles team of Aidan O'Brien '19 and William O'Brien '21 advanced to the state tournament while Conners O'Brien '18 captured the Section 2 individual title. Both Conners and our doubles team won the back draw tournament at the NYSPHSAA State tournament and finished the season 5th in NYS. Conners O'Brien '18 was named the *Times Union* Tennis Athlete of the Year.

AAG HIGHLIGHTS

Varsity Lacrosse

The Lacrosse team finished undefeated within the league with an overall 12-4 season. They closed out their season as Colonial Council Champions and Section 2 Class C runner up.

Varsity Track and Field

Three members earned individual Championship titles: Morgan Sears '19 in 800m, Cate Tomson '19 in 3000m, and Julia Zacher '21 in high jump.

Track finished 3rd at the Colonial Council Championship. Eleana Sakoulas '18, Rose Atkinson '18 and Julia Zacher '21 were the Colonial Council Champions in the 400m, pole vault, and high jump.

Varsity Skiing

Congratulations to Alexa Moynihan '18 for finishing 9th in the NYS Championships in Slalom.

Varsity Indoor Track

The 4x400 team finished 2nd in Section 2. Congratulations to Eleana Sakoulas '18, Morgan Sears '19, Stephanie Szelest '18 and Mia Milliken '19.

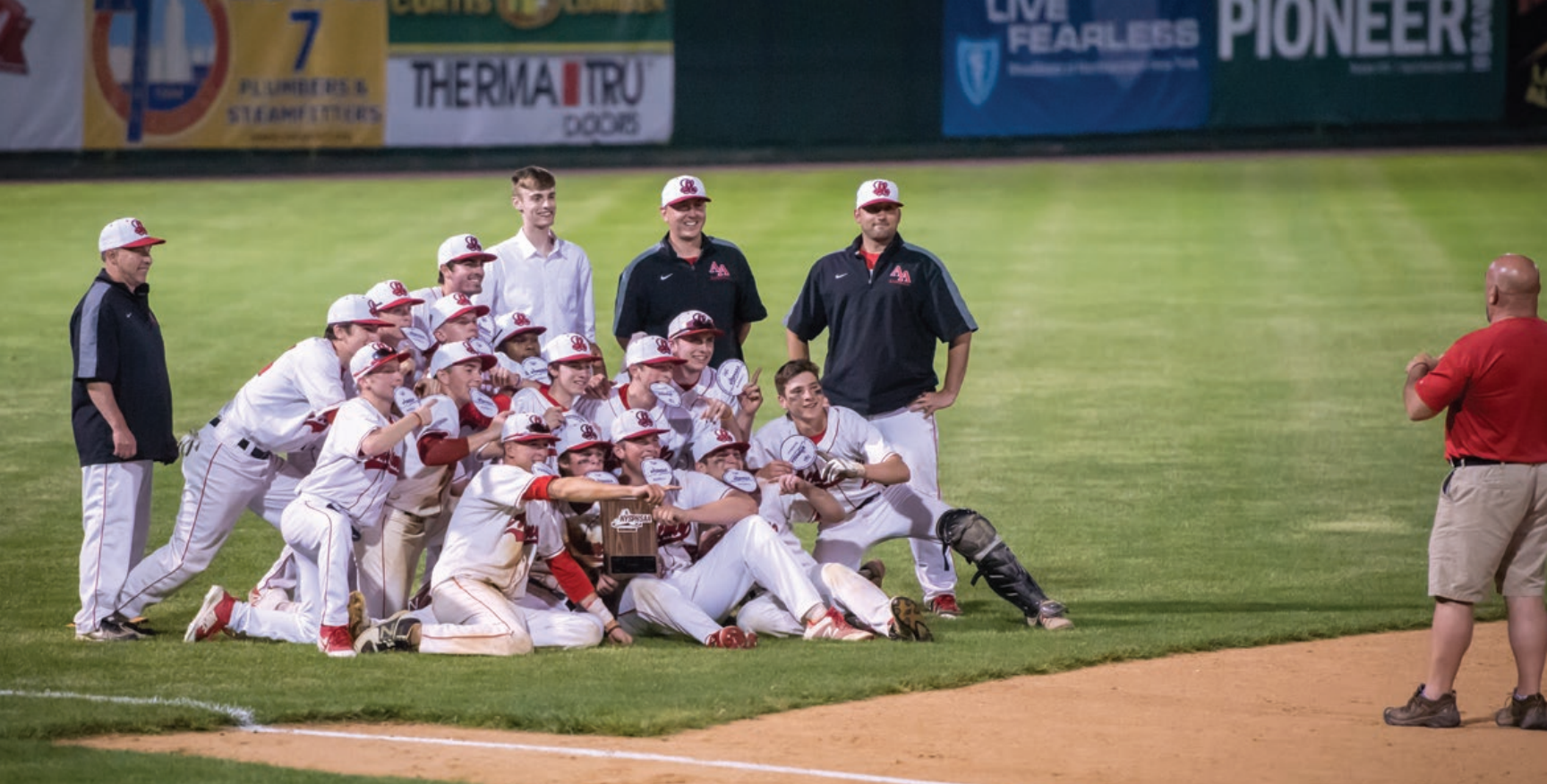
Varsity Swimming

The Swim team finished 2nd in Section 2 Division 2 with a 7-1 season, sending five girls to the NYS Championships. Claire Gerdeman '21 was named Section 2 Champion in the 50m.

Varsity Cross Country

The Cross Country team finished strong with 3rd place in the Section 2 Class CC, which is the best ranking in the program's history.

For teams and schedules go to: albanyacademies.org





Reunion

May 18-19, 2018

ABOVE:
Members of the Class of 1998 celebrate their 20th reunion together.

AT RIGHT:
The Albany Academy Cadet Corps welcome returning alumni at the Old Guard Luncheon.



More photos at: albanyacademies.org



Left to right

TOP:

Todd Curley '93 and fellow 1992-93 Varsity Football teammates celebrate their induction into The Albany Academy Athletic Hall of Fame; Joan Dembinski '55 was honored with the 2018 Fredericka Voorhaar Slingerland Volunteer Award for her dedication to The Albany Academies.

MIDDLE:

Mrs. Shirley Stevens French '47 is surrounded by her family and friends at the ribbon cutting of The Stevens Center, formerly known as the Dining and Events Center at AAG. This space is dedicated in memory of Shirley's late father Winthrop P. Stevens, Class of 1916 and his legacy at The Albany Academies.

BOTTOM:

The Albany Academy Class of 1968 celebrated their 50th Reunion and met with their fifth grade pen pals.





REUNION 2018 AWARDS

OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNA:
Sharlina Hussain-Morgan '03

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA:
Lynne Robbins Greene-Karlan '65

OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNUS:
Michael Zabinski '03

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS:
Steven Sumberg '63

FREDERICKA VOORHAAR SLINGERLAND '32
VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD:
Joan Dembinski '55

AAG HIGHEST DOLLAR CUP:
Class of 1991

AAG HIGHEST PERCENTAGE CUP:
Class of 1968

THE PACE SETTERS CUP:
Class of 2004

THE MILLENNIAL CUP:
Class of 2004

THE OLD GUARD CUP:
Class of 1963

THE 1813 CUP:
Class of 1937

THE HEAD OF SCHOOL CUP:
Class of 1963

THE JOHN C. O'KEEFE MD '35
MEMORIAL CUP:
Class of 1987

THE BICENTENNIAL CUP:
Class of 1937





CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE HALL OF FAME 2018 INDUCTEES!



Naomi Krakower Storch '03 is both supermom and an AAG Athletic Hall of Fame inductee.



Kimberly Reed Ortale-Coluccio '85
Kimberly Darnall Robben '87
Christina Alphonso Lewis '91
Naomi Krakower Storch '03
Ellen DiStefano '08



Kevin Darby '88
Christopher Clark '93
Patrick Ryan '93
Eric Cavosie '98
1967-68 Varsity Swimming Team
1992-93 Varsity Football Team

This page

The Class of 2008 are all smiles celebrating their 10th reunion.

Opposite page

TOP:

The Albany Academy Class of 1963 celebrate their 55th reunion at the Friday evening Welcome Reception.

MIDDLE:

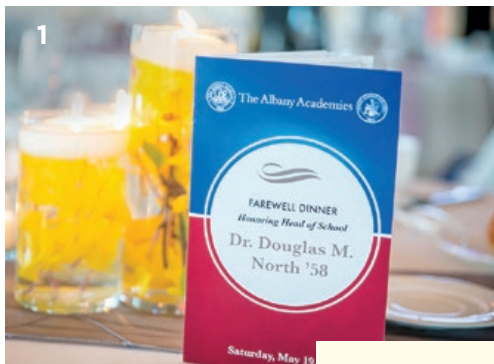
Albany Academy for Girls Class of 1968 celebrated their 50th reunion and were inducted into the Jane Lathrop Stanford Society.

BOTTOM:

Susan Swyer Earle '68 meets her fifth grade pen pal Zoey Halverson '25 in the AAG Courtyard.

Farewell, Dr. North '58!

May 19, 2018



Dear Friends:

I thank you for a wonderful evening of surprises, festivities, laughter, tears, dancing, and good feeling all around. Thank you also for the best and most meaningful nine years of my professional life. When I first came back to The Albany Academies, I thought that restoring the schools to their historical pre-eminence would make a challenging and appropriate epilogue to my career, but over time I realized that all the rest had been prologue and that I was “meant” to come back to where I started and where I was formed so that I could return the favor. Now with this generous tribute I feel complete and fulfilled in a deep way. The Albany Academies are both great schools, and put together in harmony they are uniquely powerful—a school like no other. This evening was a kind of recognition celebration for all the efforts the Academy Team made on behalf of the school we love.

Ellen and I were particularly gratified that the three parts of our life together were all in one place: our Academy family, our family family, and our classmates and spouses of the Class of 1958. What an evening it was! We wish The Albany Academies ever greater success in its future, and let me assure you that whatever we may have done for the school we have received back many times over.

Here’s to the Future,

Douglas North

Doug North

- 1 What better color scheme to use than AAG Blue and AA Red to celebrate the legacy of Dr. Douglas North '58
- 2 Dr. Ellen Cole and Dr. Douglas North '58 extend a heartfelt thank you to all of the Academy friends and family who supported them these past nine years.
- 3 Kimmey Carnell Decker '54, P'78, '81, GP'12, '14, '17, Dr. Ellen Cole, and Prentiss Carnell '52 enjoy the celebrations.
- 4 Former Board of Trustees Chairs Bert Trombly P'10 and Stu Jones '59, P'90, '93, '97, and current Chair Nancy Carey Cassidy P'13, '15, Trustee toast Dr. Douglas North '58 and Dr. Ellen Cole.
- 5 Dr. Martin Seligman '60, Dr. Douglas North '58, and Dr. Suzanne Rapoport P'11.
- 6 Dr. Sarah Elmendorf '70 and Mr. Bruce W. DiStefano '70, P'06, '08, '10 enjoy the evening among Academy friends.
- 7 Faculty members Theodora Lois, Vince Zabinski P'99, 03, '04, '04, and Karin Epstein P'18, '21.
- 8 A strong community gathers together under a tent to celebrate former Head of School Dr. Douglas North '58.

a new chapter awaits

Linda Emrich P'03, '08 and Kathy Polubinski | PRESCHOOL

ONCE KATHY POLUBINSKI SAW THE MAGNIFICENT ACADEMIES CAMPUS, the standard approach to early childhood education stood no chance against her creativity, passion and intellect. First hired as an aftercare employee, the Academies quickly realized her natural gift for program development and asked her to help design and launch an educational program that would not only prepare the youngest children for the rigors of an Academy education, but also develop a lifelong love of learning. In 1996-97, the Early Childhood Program at the Academies (ECA) was formally created with Kathy Polubinski at the helm. As the program continued to grow dramatically with much success, Preschool teaching assistant Linda Emrich P'03, '08 became just as iconic as the blue and white tile floor and the sandbox station in their classroom.

Throughout their tenure, both Kathy and Linda have had a hand at reshaping the classroom and their approach to teaching. "I love seeing the world through their

eyes when they discover something new or see something for the first time. That's the part that really warms my heart. They are so genuine and filled with wonder," said Kathy.

"Preschool is their first experience at school. I wanted to make it enjoyable for them and I wanted them to feel comfortable. It's amazing to me how much a three-year-old can do when given the opportunity to do it themselves," added Linda.

Their wish for the program is that it continues to have high standards and a strong curriculum, so it will prepare the children. "If you stay in touch with what is cutting edge you stay ahead of the game. We always want to be ahead of the game. We want the Academies to be the model for other schools to follow."

The Academies community wishes Kathy Polubinski and Linda Emrich farewell as they head into retirement, ready for the next chapter of their lives. While Kathy will have more time to

spend at their family home in Fort Myers, Florida with her husband, Linda plans on spending quality time with her parents, children and grandbaby—whom she hopes will be promoted to big brother soon!

For nearly 20 years, this dynamic duo has grown to be an integral part of the Academies experience and they will be missed by all who had the pleasure to learn, grow and work with them.

JAMES POOLE '68 STARTED AT THE ALBANY ACADEMY AS A FORM I (SEVENTH GRADE) STUDENT IN THE FALL OF 1962. After graduating from Hobart College and serving in the Peace Corps for three years, Jim returned to his alma mater to teach English, becoming a pillar in the Academies community over the last 42 years.

Jim discovered a passion for teaching during his senior year while teaching a military map course to a group of seventh graders as part of his requirement for the battalion. "I remember thinking this is something I think I can do," Jim said. When asked if there was a particular Academy teacher that inspired him to teach English he was quick to respond, "Yes, without a doubt it was Frank Nash. He was an amazing man."

In his many years of teaching, his favorite books to teach include Pat Conroy's *The Lords of Discipline*, J.R.R. Tolkien's *The Hobbit*, and Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. He recalls that during the 15 years that he taught *Lords of Discipline* his students were so fascinated with the story that even the most reluctant of readers raced to the end.

Not only did Jim teach English, inspiring young minds for decades and revealing the many wonders a book can bring someone, but he also coached a grand total of 115 seasons of three different sports: Varsity Cross Country,

Varsity Track and Freshman and Modified Swimming. Jim swam all throughout his Academy days and into his college years, and he still competes in the occasional Masters Swim Meet. And while you can take a man out of the Academies, you can't quite take the Academies out of the man. Jim has plans on spending his retirement officiating swim and track meets which will undoubtedly bring him back to campus regularly.

Reflecting on his time at the Academies, Jim states, "I got up every single morning looking forward to coming in here and working with great kids. I enjoyed it, and there was never

a moment when I said 'ah man I have to go to work today,'—never, not once. I've been so fortunate and so blessed to have been given a contract 42 times. I've loved every minute of it."

At the end of one of Jim's favorite literary works, J.D. Salinger's novella *Seymour: An Introduction*, narrator Buddy Glass states, "Seymour once said that all we do our whole lives is go from one little piece of Holy Ground to the next." And so, Jim proudly states, "The Academy has been such a piece of Holy Ground for me."

the student became the teacher

James Poole '68 | ENGLISH



Alumni & Alumnae Gatherings



More photos at: albanyacademies.org



Opposite page

FIRST ROW:

Mary Beth O'Brien P'84 and her family surrounded by proud alumni at the annual Frank O'Brien III '84 Memorial Hockey Game on February 3, 2018.

SECOND ROW:

Members of the Class of 2010 reconnect in New York City (Jane Ramage '10, Erica Eglow '10, Nolan Hart '10, Ankur Patel '10, Kevin Finin '10, and Michaila Stevens '10); Kenneth Lyons '56, P'81, '85, Barry Fischer '60, and Ken Kudon '60 enjoy an evening with friends hosted by Greg Oberting '90 and Monica Kasselman Oberting '91, Trustee at their home in Palm Beach, Florida.

This page

FROM TOP:

James '52 and Cynthia Caird enjoy the Alumni/ae reception in Palm Beach; Gretchen Freihofer '04 and Michael Pensack '95 enjoy catching up at our Boston Gathering.

communication is key

It has been an exciting year in the Marketing and Communications Department with more changes still to come!

In an era where new technologies, social media trends, and ways of communicating with one another evolve so rapidly, it can be overwhelming to navigate these uncharted waters. The Albany Academies are always adapting our communication strategies with parents, alumni and alumnae, students and prospective families because we know your time is precious and information is important.

In April of this year, we redesigned albanyacademies.org to offer users a straightforward way into the heart of our school in a sleek, captivating design that highlights all of the wonderful things about the Academies. We hope that you have had a chance to browse the new site and watch the overview video featured on our homepage as well as our testimonial videos from parents, alumni and alumnae, students, and faculty. The website is a great tool to keep in touch with the School be it upcoming events or news stories that provide a glimpse into the day to day life at Academies.

During the 2018-19 school year, we are building on the changes made in the past year and reworking how we communicate with our constituents. The biggest change is the implementation of a new student information system that will provide a more organized, user-friendly experience when logging into your MyAcademy account. Another change will be the addition of a monthly letter from Head of School Chris Lauricella P'20, '22 to The Albany Academies community and a weekly "Head Lines" email to parents.

If you don't already, follow and like The Albany Academies on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter! With the addition of our new Marketing Assistant Wylia McLeod, [#thealbanyacademies](https://twitter.com/thealbanyacademies) will be trending in no time across social media. We'll be featuring faculty and student spotlights, fun facts, events, and throwback photos for everyone to enjoy and share.

We're so excited for the next academic school year and for our community to also experience our traditions and transformations through our channels of communication. To do this, please keep in touch with us by updating your contact information through our website at albanyacademies.org!

Best wishes,

Erika Steuer
Marketing and Communications Associate
steuere@albanyacademies.org | 518.429.2432

class notes



1940s

Charles B. Cameron, Jr. '46 assures us that he is doing well and keeping himself busy with committee activities at his retirement home. Charles and his wife Marilyn are enjoying life in Marin County.



Evan Gray '49 and **Matt Bender '49**, lifers at The Albany Academy, shown here at their 65th Princeton University reunion. Matt and Evan were roommates at Princeton for four years and have stayed in touch for the last 65 years. Matt noted that "Lifetime friends are among the best you can have!"

1950s

Bob Barton '53 represented the AA class of 1953 at the Old Guard luncheon. Barton collaborated with Bob Sharlet, professor emeritus of political science at Union College, in editing a book about football and furor at Yale and Harvard in 1969. Among many quoted in the book is Dr. John Waldman '65. **Judy Tischler Rogers '53** shared that her husband of 30 years, Jim Rogers, passed away in April 2017. She since moved to Colorado Springs in July. She lives in a lovely, 1400 sq. ft. cottage and is happy to be back home where she met and married her late husband, and currently has many good friendships. **Herta Deichmann Holly '54** is now Executive Support for Advancement for The Cushman School. Cushman honored Herta Deichmann in 2017 by having the yearbook dedicated to her. She believes that the coming year will be an exciting one for her. **Jim Moore '57** married Geri Biddle at the Third Presbyterian Church in Rochester, NY on October 1, 2016. Their combined 16 grandchildren each played a role in the ceremony. Although retired from active law practice, Moore is called upon frequently to arbitrate or mediate commercial disputes.



H. James "'Jim" Sears, Rear Admiral, MC, USN (Ret.) '55 found his name among the long list of Albany Academy Student Council presidents that's proudly posted in the lobby of AA.

1960s

Thomas D. Laquidara '60 noted "At the age of 75, one regrets not having achieved some of the lofty goals set during an overconfident and untested youth. On the other hand, there is great rejoicing for what has been achieved especially in marriage, parenting, and grandparenting. There is also joy for the felicitous job changes, wonderful mentoring, and happy discoveries in friendships, professional work, and volunteerism. There was perspiration, anxiety, and even angst, but, taken as a whole, the journey has been a wondrous adventure. Who thought that learning continues forever? Technicolor sunsets, great loves, striving teams, and challenging offspring have made for recollected bliss. Another year is slowly ticking off. It is amazing how some AA memories have been lost, others corrected by classmates and yet others very vivid still, 58 years later. Phil Voss, if I have offended you with my memory of you in biology class, I apologize. I still feel that it was a wonderful anecdote of courage in action which I shall never repeat. Many of my classmates became famous achievers. But today I applaud those who have been quiet achievers; nurturing their spouses and children, courageously dealing with adversity, helping other people, and encouraging justice in our society. Ave atque vale!" **Steven D. Ranney '63** enjoyed his

time at The Albany Academy's 55th Reunion in May, 2018. He would like to thank Tom Evans for opening up his home for an afternoon party for the class. At the Welcome Reception, his class was honored when **Steve Sumberg '63** was presented the 2018 Distinguished Alumnus award. **Burton Wilcke '63** retired September 1, 2017 as an emeritus faculty member at the University of Vermont. Prior to an academic career at UVM, he worked for 25 years in public health practice at the county and state level in California, Michigan, and Vermont. He remains

active at the state and national level in several public health professional organizations. His plans for the future include travel and more time with the family, particularly his three grandchildren. He also hopes to return to some global health work, primarily in the area of communicable disease control and prevention. **Elizabeth "Libby" McKenzie Evans '65** and husband, August Wally, have now been married for 50 years. While her husband is retired, Libby is working part-time for Organize Senior Moves, and sews with friends and relatives in some of her free-time. Libby and her husband Wally will be spending May through October at their summer home on Wellesley Island in the St. Lawrence River. There, they will fill their days with golfing, swimming, and boating. They enjoy watching their granddaughter play basketball. They plan to continue their 37-year tradition of camping with family on the islands in Lake George this summer.



Louise Dubb Gutoski '65 spent 2017 traveling the world with her husband Walter. They visited Atlanta and San Diego, kayaked in Sedona, were invited guests at a sacred Hopi Native America ceremony in Arizona, soaked in the hot springs of Colorado, and set sail on a transatlantic cruise along the coasts of Spain and Portugal. Semi-retirement life is agreeing nicely with them!



Catherine Rosenblatt '65, P'94 visited Katalin Toth, of the Toth Athletic award, over spring break. Toth taught at AAG for 18 years, between the years of 1970-1988. **Ruth Wolberg '65** works as an adjunct mentor for Heritage University in Washington State. She is mentoring and assessing new teachers. Wolberg also works for the city of Pasco as a substitute office manager at the senior center. Wolberg visited Albany this past year and enjoyed a wonderful lunch with **Cathy Rosenblatt**

'65, Kathy Kayne Bilfield '65, Margaret Lamar King '65 and Cindy Urbach '65 at The Albany Academies. Wolberg took a great tour of all the new construction of our school. **Jane Pioli '68** decided on a different career path and went back to school at Cal for her CPA exam. She practiced accounting in San Francisco and Sacramento for 10+ years, before deciding to move back east with her husband and children. Pioli has been a CPA for more than 30 years and has no plans to retire. She enjoys making time to travel, and is in the process of planning future trips. **Catherine Ann Slingerland '68** attended Stephens College in Columbia, MO, and obtained her Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in 1972. Afterward, she explored a wide variety of jobs and enterprises. She traveled through every state and 55 countries, stopping for a few years to have two children, Zoey (31) and Zakory (25). Slingerland had been living in New Zealand for about 25 years (since 1985), when in 2010 she made the move back to the U.S., to live out her dream of living near Central Park in Manhattan.



The Albany Academy Class of 1968

The Class of '68 had 28 of its surviving 58 members attend some or all of the Reunion Weekend events. **Peter O'Keeffe, Bill Pickett, Jeff Weiss, and Allen Schade** (with fiancé Josie) all came from California. **Stu Pack** (Denver) and **Mark Hoffman** with wife Heidi (Alta, Utah) had slightly shorter trips to make. **Don Duffy** and **Neil Taylor** came from Florida. They enjoyed meeting their 5th grade Pen Pals after the Old Guard Luncheon. **John Hill** and his wife, Linda, joined **Adam Lefevre, John Jones, Stu Pack, Chris Furlong and Jack Gordon** on a visit with **Ernie Steck** at Atria Shaker on Friday afternoon. They were graciously hosted by retiring Head of School Dr. Douglas North '58 and his wife, Dr. Ellen Cole at Leonard House for a Friday night dinner with our good friends from the AAG Class of '68. Saturday's events included the induction of the 1967-68 Swim team into the AA Athletic Hall of Fame. Swim Team Captain **Peter O'Keeffe** was joined by teammates **Steve Sorensen** with his wife Cathy and **Alex Walter** with his wife Debbie. Swimmers **Sam Kauffmann** and **Zandy Gabriels** came later in the day, and **Jim Poole** missed the weekend as he had a college graduation to attend. "Jim, you were an outstanding teacher and coach at the Academy, and we wish you well in your retirement!" **Mark Bates, Dan Lantz, and Marc Cavanagh** all came from Rhode Island, and two of them have

fishing boats! **Steve Wulf** stole away from his Senior Editor writing responsibilities at ESPN to make their Class Dinner at the Desmond on Saturday night. If anyone had a question about a classmate, **Bob Plunkett** had his '68 Cue readily available. They discovered that **Steve Shaye** is a championship bridge player and his bridge partner for the past 25 years is **Rob Laufer's** brother-in-law. **Andy Stern**, who had a long career as a health care administrator, was brought into Puerto Rico last year as a consultant after Hurricane Maria. **Bob Wagner** had conflicts for most of the weekend, but took the time to drive all the way from Blackwood, NJ to the Desmond Hotel in order to spend an hour with his classmates before driving home. **Wayne** and **Bonnie Howe** cranked up the tape machine to record the Celtics playoff game and joined them at the Desmond as well as at Sam's Italian Restaurant with some of the classmates who arrived early on Thursday. **Fred Grober** is one of the few in their Class who has made every reunion since graduation. They were also joined by Cully Nyquist and Dan Dibble who left the Academy before graduation. They enjoyed seeing the Class of '67 at the Recovery Room on Friday night and at the barbecue on Saturday. Many thanks to Ann Wendth and her staff for making it easy for us to relax and enjoy each other's company! All weekend we also remembered our deceased classmates: **Ed Akullian, Jeff Blackwell, Dick Hunsdorfer, Dan Merin and Fred Plunkett.**

Bruce Wagoner '69 and his wife Sue Carter Wagoner '70 are pleased to announce the birth of their granddaughter, Kate Amelia Wagoner, born on 11/16/2017, to their son Brad and his wife, Kristen. Kate is a joy to behold.

1970s

Cowles Campbell '71 finished his orthopedic board re-certification process, so he can practice for another 10 years if he so desires. His son, Colin, was commissioned as an Ensign in the Naval Reserve as he completes medical school. His son, James, is joining the Air Force to begin Pararescue training. Campbell and his wife, Robin, can be found in Sugarloaf, Maine on weekends during the winter. He welcomes any alumni spending time in Maine to pay them a visit. He recently ran across his CUE for 1971 and realized that he always needs a new pair of skis and still enjoys mountains without snow. He jokes, "I hope all my classmates enjoy their Medicare parts A, B, and C and age gracefully." **Leslie Knauf '71** was invited in Spring 2017 to assist long-time Thoroughbred racing broadcaster Steve Byk in serving as an on-air correspondent for the newly launched "Equestrian Scene" segments. These segments

delve into the world of horse sports on Byk's "At the Races with Steve Byk" radio program. The live, 3-hour, morning talk show is heard weekdays on Sirius/XM (Ch. 219), and anytime online on stevebyk.com. She has discussed major equestrian competitions, including the Kentucky Three-Day Event and the Retired Racehorse Project's "Thoroughbred Makeover," and has shared the mic with top-level riders discussing riding and competing at equestrian sports' highest levels. **Ellen Roznowski Taylor '71** is moving to Albany from DC. She still spends a lot of time in DC, since her son Emmett and, daughter-in-law, Vibha rely on her to babysit while they pursue their PhD's. Taylor is rehabilitating a house she bought from the Albany County Land Bank to be a sustainable urban "mini-farm". The house is about a mile from where she grew up. She is enjoying rediscovering haunts, both new and old. She hopes to be able to move in to her new home soon. **Nicholas Pavelchak '79** jokes, "At age 55, I retire with all of my hair, no gut, and my soul mate Joyce Ann. Now the irresponsible half of life begins."

1980s



Bill Harbour '85, Justine Franklin Cunningham '82, Adam Bouloukos '85, and Michael Hayes, '83, P'18, '20, '23, '27 attended the Harvest Fest at Gore in October 2017 to see **Rob Beaulieu '85** in Raisinhead.



The Class of 1988 enjoyed reconnecting over reunion weekend!

1990s

Neerav Patel '96 was elected to The Albany Academies Board of Trustees in June 2018. **Meghan Poukish Bodnar '99** and her husband, Kendall, are proud to share news of the birth of their second son, Grady Miles, on August 30, 2017. Their oldest son, Duncan (5), is thrilled to be a big brother. Bodnar is an active duty Naval Officer, currently a Lieutenant Commander, stationed in Arlington, Virginia. As a nuclear-trained Surface Warfare Officer, since her commissioning in 2003 from the US Naval

Academy (where she matriculated after AAG), she has served on a variety of conventional and nuclear-powered surface ships throughout the United States. She is currently assigned in a shore position working for the Chief of Naval Personnel. She expects to be in the DC area for the next year before heading back to sea-duty for Executive and Commanding Officer duties. She invites alumni in the DC area to pay her a visit.

2000s



Dilip Sidhu '01 and **Clayton Macomber '07** attended the wedding of **Chris Macomber '01** to Grace Thorne in October 2017.

Michael Raymond '06 of Prime Companies, Inc. and **Derek Foster '07** of Daigle Cleaning Systems, Inc. were both among this year's 40 Under 40 by the *Albany Business Review*.



Alexandra Burstein '07 married John Winslow Becker on September 16, 2017 at the Saratoga Hall of Springs.



Alexis "Biz" Deeb '08 and **Ellen DiStefano '08** stood side-by-side as **Alex Brix '08** married the love of her life, Robert Rezin. Ellen and Alexis were honored to witness their best friend exchange vows and begin the next chapter of her life. All together, we agreed, **nothing** compares to an Academy friendship.

2010s



Olivia N. Huffman '11 has joined the Keller Williams Capital Region office in Saratoga, NY in February 2018. Previously, Huffman worked with Amy Sutton and Gerard Wise at Roohan Realty, where she learned the dynamics of commercial real estate in Saratoga County. Together with Professor James Kettlewell, author of *Saratoga Springs: An Architectural History*, Huffman also created a monthly architectural blog focusing on unique buildings in the city.

Adrienne Phelps '13 graduated from the Outdoor Leadership Program in Greenfield, MA in 2015 and is now working for Outward Bound North Carolina as a Mountains Instructor. She instructs backpacking, rock climbing, and whitewater canoeing courses.



Alixandra Rutnik '15 shares her favorite recipe from her cookbook *The Chic Chef*: "This recipe is perfect for summertime parties as well as cold winter nights. It pairs well with chips and salsa or hummus and fresh veggie appetizers beforehand. For this lasagna, vegetables are used instead of meat, making this recipe a much lighter meal than traditional lasagna."

To submit a class note, please visit the alumni/ae page at albanyacademies.org

Stay in Touch!

Dear Alumnae,

I am delighted to begin my new role as President of the Alumnae Association! My family has a long history with the Academies, so it gives me great pride to serve in this role. The Association is a great way to connect and network with other alumnae and with the greater Academy community. I look forward to working with you this year and to hearing your ideas!

Carol Crummey McCardle, Esq. '04

Dear Alumni,

I am pleased to begin my new role as President of the Alumni Association! I've been involved with the Alumni Association for the past several years and have enjoyed making connections with students, classmates, and the greater Academy community. I look forward to seeing my fellow alumni at Homecoming, the Mid Winter Dinner, Opening Chapel, Reunion, and gatherings this year.

Nicholas Faso, Esq. '02

We welcome you to attend our regular Alumni or Alumnae Association meetings, and to join us at events such as Homecoming, regional receptions, and Reunion.

Even if it's been years since you last came to campus, we would love to have you join us and see what's new at The Albany Academies. Our new Head of School, Chris Lauricella, is also looking forward to meeting you!

If you would like to learn more about how to get involved or of upcoming events and meetings, please contact the Office of Institutional Advancement at 518.429.2391 or visit the Academies website at albanyacademies.org/alumni/ae.

In Memoriam

Jay F. MacNulty '54 6/27/2017

Edward Mullen '62, P'89 7/3/2017

Dr. Richard A. Anderson '44
7/8/2017

Carol Graff Ernsting '51 7/10/2017

Joseph T. Meda *Past Faculty Member*
7/23/2017

Richard K. Winslow '36 7/24/17

Russell F. Pound, Jr., USA '50
7/29/2017

R. Kyle Wallace '82 7/29/2017

Suzanne Sutherland Ninabuck '54
8/1/2017

John R. Peterson '83 8/1/2017

Linda E. Klein '66 8/4/2017

Peter V. A. Ten Eyck '43 8/6/2017

Mary Shear Brennan '48, GP'15
8/16/2017

Dr. Alan R. Meyer '52, P'85 8/19/2017

Rada Greasley *Past Faculty Member*
8/24/2017

John E. Higgins '79 9/4/2017

Arden Ewalt Leach '46 9/16/2017

Jane Hanna *Past Faculty Member*
10/5/2017

Donald A. Mader '61 10/10/2017

Frank LaGrande III '63 10/12/2017

William S. Haase '59, GP '93
10/21/2017

Parker D. Thomson '49 11/3/2017

Harold M. Sporborg, Jr. '43 11/7/2017

Dr. E. Scott Macomber '64 11/9/2017

Dr. Donald C. Schmalberger,
Past Faculty Member 11/13/2017

Jane Kennedy Kimmey '40
11/15/2017

Benjamin C. Cubbage, Jr. '46
11/15/2017

L. Stephen Berns '61 11/27/2017

Col. Richard E. Hoyt USA(Ret.) '52
12/4/2017

E. Wayne Harbinger '55 12/25/2017

George P. Gatenby '59 12/27/2017

John W. Abbuhl '43 1/6/2018

Stephen V. Lewis II '39 1/19/2018

Gretchen Schabtach Kolsrud '56
1/31/2018

Jack M. Dehler '16 2/5/2018

Thomas C. Laine '40 2/12/2018

Elizabeth Robinson Bharucha '44
2/12/2018

Jeffrey J. Blackwell '68 2/20/2018

William D. Taylor '43 2/27/2018

Henry J. Haase Jr. '61 3/17/2018

Joan Copeland Benson '62
3/30/2018

George Holzworth '45 4/1/2018

Walter S. Gifford '48 4/3/2018

Walter D. Mott '50 5/26/2018

Harry G. Taylor '41 6/30/2018



On March 28, 2018, a touching service was held in Caird Chapel at The Albany Academy in memory of Henry “Hank” Haase, Jr. '61. His wife Mary Ellen and children Stephanie and Brandon Haase (pictured above) were touched by all of the loyal friends who attended to pay their respects.



The Albany Academies



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Save the date!

2018-19

Homecoming Weekend
September 14-15

Legacy of Dreams
September 29

Maryland/D.C. Alumni/ae Gathering
October 4

Grandparents & Special Friends Day
October 19

Boston Alumni/ae Gathering
November 15

Splash! The Art of Brunch
November 18

Beverwyck Holiday Luncheon
December 12

Alumni Mid-Winter Dinner
February 7

NYC Alumni/ae Gathering
April 4

Spring Gathering
April 13

Reunion
May 17-18

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HOMEcoming 2018

