

ST. MARK'S

THE MAGAZINE | SUMMER 2023

What a Ride

ST. MARK'S
HONORS RETIREES

P. 16



PLUS: **IVORY D. HILLS** APPOINTED NEXT HEAD OF ST. MARK'S | READ MORE INSIDE »



Ivory D. Hills Announced as Next Head of School

ON JULY 31, St. Mark's announced the appointment of Dr. Ivory D. Hills as its next head of school. Dr. Hills will begin his tenure at St. Mark's on July 1, 2024.

In a letter to the St. Mark's community, Head of School Search Committee Chairs Michael B. Moore '80 and Elizabeth R. Santini '95 wrote, "Amidst an exceedingly competitive nationwide search, during which we encountered numerous talented and highly qualified educational leaders, Ivory unquestionably emerged as the standout candidate."

Following in-depth interviews with Dr. Hills, members of the search committee lauded his extraordinary intellect, his dedication to fostering a tight-knit community, his exceptional emotional intelligence, and his unparalleled grasp of the multifaceted financial, organizational, and cultural aspects associated with leading a boarding school.

Since 2011, Dr. Hills has served in a number roles at Deerfield Academy—most

recently dean of faculty and assistant head of school for strategy and planning—where he has excelled as both a dedicated classroom teacher and an influential academic leader.

A distinguished scientist holding a B.S. in chemistry from the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill and a Ph.D. in organic chemistry from MIT, Dr. Hills brings an organized, data-driven approach to his work. His academic background significantly influences his teamwork, problem-solving, and decision-making techniques.

"Ivory is a brilliant thinker and a gifted leader," said Mr. Moore, president of the St. Mark's Board of Trustees. "He has a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing independent schools today, and he is passionate about the St. Mark's School mission. We are confident that he will be an outstanding head of school."

In his current capacity at Deerfield, Dr. Hills oversees a 140-member faculty

and provides comprehensive support for academic, artistic, athletic, co-curricular, college advising, health and wellness, and residential programs. He fosters a culture of positivity among the faculty, emphasizing student-centered growth, and deftly manages workload assignments, housing placements, leave replacements, and professional development requests. Additionally, he collaborates closely with the school's advancement office to support faculty and curriculum-centered fundraising initiatives while ensuring that data-informed decision-making is at the core of the institution's progress.

Before his tenure at Deerfield, Dr. Hills served as a senior research chemist at Merck Research Laboratories, leading medicinal chemistry teams involved in drug development for Alzheimer's disease, migraine, schizophrenia, and colorectal cancer.

When he joins our community in Southborough, Dr. Hills will be accompanied by his wife, Christina, and their daughter, Sophie.

"With Ivory at the helm, we are confident that St. Mark's will continue to flourish on the strong foundation it stands upon," Mr. Moore and Ms. Santini wrote. "Together, we will embark on an exciting journey, starting next July, to shape a future filled with promise, excellence, and boundless possibilities."



Joining Dr. Hills at St. Mark's will be his wife, Christina, and their daughter, Sophie.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY ADAM RICHINS



MY ST. MARK'S

TALK OF THE TOWN

ON FEBRUARY 24, St. Mark's held its first TEDxYouth@StMarksSchool event in the Putnam Family Arts Center's Class of '45 Hall. The entirely student-led event took Jackie Huang '24 and Gina Yang '24 more than a year to organize and featured big ideas and thought-provoking talks presented by Diya Bhairreddy '25, Liam Childs '25, Karry Kim '25, Delin Liu '24, and Darius Wagner '23.

These St. Mark's TEDxYouth talks are now available to view on the TEDx Youtube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/user/TEDxYouth!>

PHOTOGRAPH BY ERIC ADLER

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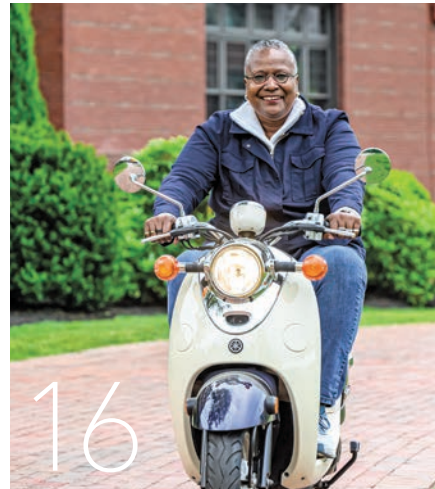
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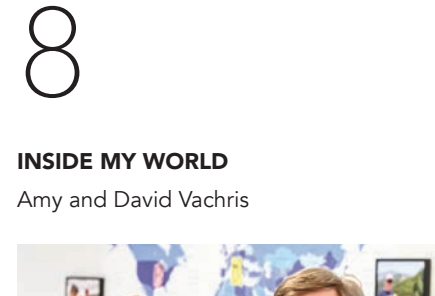
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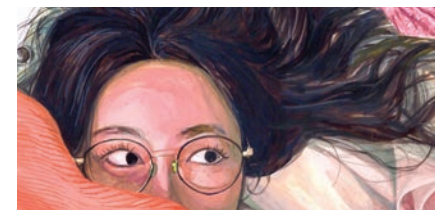
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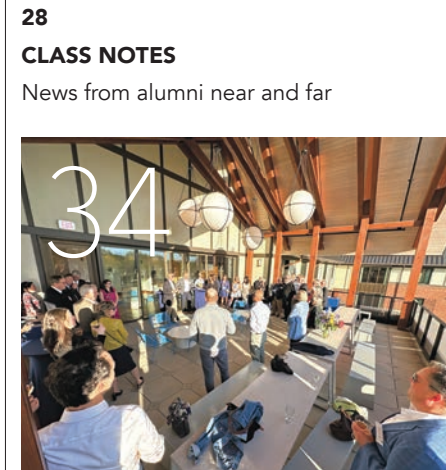
In the Spring 2023 issue of *St. Mark's Magazine*, there were two errors in captions on page 17. Members of the Sculley family were accidentally identified as members of the Patterson family, and members of the Class of 1975 were accidentally identified as members of the Class of 1974. We apologize for the errors.

ST. MARKERS



THIS IS ME

Edna Kilusu '19



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ST. MARK'S MAGAZINE

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Creating Special Experiences

ONE OF MY great joys is watching faculty members bring their distinctive gifts and passions to their work that results in very special student experiences. Our two 2023 retirees, English teacher and Evill-Glavin Endowed Chairholder Jeniene Matthews and Director of Music James Wallace, provide excellent examples of this pattern.

During her 13 years on the faculty, Jeniene developed a VI Form English elective, Literature on Trial, that drew upon her previous 18 years in the legal profession. This course, mentioned to me frequently by graduates as the most memorable they experienced at St. Mark's, required students to make a case either for the prosecution or the defense in front of a jury about the actions of characters in novels like *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll*

and *Mr. Hyde*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and *Fahrenheit 451*.

Among its many virtues, Literature on Trial exemplified how experiential learning can be incorporated into the traditional academic curriculum. The jury that Jeniene's students tried to convince could include a member of the legal profession, like Jeniene's husband Greg Matthews, along with faculty members. When I served on a jury, Jeniene encouraged me to be as rigorous and challenging in my questions as I could be so that the students knew what it felt like to be litigators.

Jeniene has said many times that changing professions was the perfect decision for her. However, any of us who have watched Jeniene in action during

this class saw a special—and infectious—intellectual spark that clearly derived from her ongoing fascination with elements of the law.

When James Wallace joined the St. Mark's faculty in 2013, he brought with him a deep love of the organ and of travel. We have been the great beneficiaries of that love. James's passion as an organist has prompted him to oversee a year-by-year renovation of the Belmont Chapel organ that continues to this day. 1959 pipes have been replaced with 1928 and 1933 vintage pipes, and James even drove to Hampton, N.J. in 2014 to pick up organ pipes that he stored in the basement of his home until they could be installed in 2022. Morning Chapels, evening Chapels, and Lessons and Carols services are all the more special because the organ, thanks to James's efforts, is even more stunning in the beauty of its sound.

James's long-standing passion for travel has prompted him to lead truly extraordinary Spring Break travel programs for the choir to Barbados (2015), Cuba (2017), and Ireland (2019), and for the choir and the orchestra to Canada (2023). Edna Kilusu '19, featured on page 26, participated in the Cuba and Ireland trips. Distinctive about James's approaches to these trips has been his commitment to incorporating the global citizenship principles of perspective-taking and reflection about culture into what he asks of his students at these extraordinary locales.

Thank you, Jeniene, and thank you, James, for making the experience of your students all the more special because of the long-standing passions you skillfully wove into your work at St. Mark's.

John C. Warren
JOHN C. WARREN '74, ED.D.
HEAD OF SCHOOL

PHOTOGRAPH BY KATHLEEN DOOHER

IN BRIEF

LESSON PLAN

LOST AND FOUND

BY JACKIE WATERS

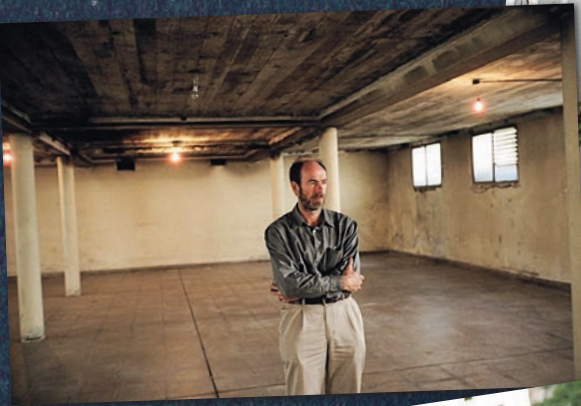
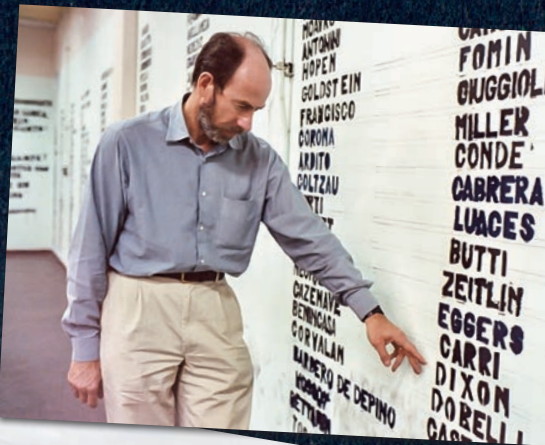
LAST SPRING, Spanish teacher Charlie Sellers posted to a message board in search of someone to speak to his students about *los desaparecidos* (the disappeared)—those who were kidnapped, tortured, and killed by the Argentine military dictatorship from 1976 to 1983. Sellers soon received a response from a U.S. Spanish teacher who put him in touch with a friend in Argentina, Alejandra Dixon.

Dixon's sister Patricia was among the estimated 30,000 who “disappeared” during Argentina's Dirty War, the savage, state-sanctioned, seven-year crusade to silence the radical leftist movement fueled by progressive leaders and young activists. As it turned out, Dixon had been part of a documentary film, *Nuestros Desaparecidos*, focused on five families who lost loved ones during the dictatorship. The filmmaker, Juan Mandelbaum, was her sister Patricia's college boyfriend.

The story of how Mandelbaum and Dixon met, and how the documentary originated, is filled with tragic coincidences. As a young journalist, photographer, and educator, Mandelbaum chose to flee his native Argentina in August 1977. He moved to the United States only to discover 28 years later, through a “simple Google search for an old girlfriend,” that Patricia went missing a mere month after he left the country. He found her name on a list of *the disappeared*. This shocking discovery prompted Mandelbaum to reach out to a friend working in human rights in Argentina, which led him to a 1984 testimony of Patricia's kidnapping from Dixon.

Mandelbaum found Dixon's number in the phone book and contacted her. Soon, he was on a plane home to Argentina, and the two met in person at a cafe. Their intense conversation in 2005 was the beginning of *Nuestros Desaparecidos*, which took three years to complete. Fellow Argentinian expat and friend Gustavo Moretto composed original music for the film, and the Sundance Institute provided initial funding. In 2009, it aired on PBS's

(CONTINUED...)



Pictured are several images of Juan Mandelbaum filming *Nuestros Desaparecidos*, as well as an image of Patricia Dixon that Juan Mandelbaum took a few years before she disappeared. Alejandra Dixon had this picture published in the newspaper in Argentina on the date of Patricia's disappearance to keep her sister's memory alive.

(CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE)

“Independent Lens” and has since been shown at festivals worldwide.

Thanks to support from the Gray Colloquium and the post that put Sellers in touch with Dixon, Mandelbaum visited St. Mark’s in April and spoke about *los desaparecidos* with students in three Spanish IV classes as well as those in the Advanced Literature ISP (independent study project). Having pre-screened the documentary, St. Markers arrived prepared with questions about past political oppression in Argentina as well as the current state of the country. Dixon also joined the discussion, conducted entirely in Spanish, via Zoom from Argentina.

“Stories want to be told,” Dixon said. And the stories told in *Nuestros Desaparecidos* are equal parts engrossing and devastating. Rare archival footage, interspersed with home videos and interviews of those who knew the victims intimately, depict the horrors of history enacted on idealistic young Argentineans and illustrate how hard closure is to find for families of the disappeared. To quote St. Augustine, as Dixon does in the film, “Los muertos son seres invisibles, no ausentes” (“The dead are invisible but never absent”).

“Patricia’s memory, and the memory of others mentioned in the documentary, lives on because we keep it alive,” echoes Sellers, who appreciates the valuable lessons about democracy, freedom of the press, and habeas corpus that students gained—in addition to their practice with the Spanish language and learning about Argentina—through their discussion with Dixon and Mandelbaum. “What I really hope that students got out of this is an increasing social conscience, understanding, and empathy,” he says. “They were also able to learn, in the documentary and in conversation with Juan, about how history sadly repeats itself.”

For Mandelbaum, this documentary “was like riding the crest of a wave, a hell of a ride.” He admits that the process of making the documentary was also his grieving process for Patricia and the others he knew who disappeared.

For St. Mark’s students, the chance to meet with Mandelbaum and Dixon, to ask about their experiences and *los desaparecidos*, was an invaluable opportunity to learn about history through the lens of those who lived it.



UNPACKING THE ST. MARK’S C&E STRATEGIC PLAN

ST. MARK’S FIRST Community and Equity Strategic Plan was released in April. We asked Director of Community and Equity Affairs Rick DaSilva to share a few thoughts on the plan, which can be found at: stmarksschool.org/community/community-and-equity/strategic-plan.

WHY DOES ST. MARK’S NEED A COMMUNITY AND EQUITY STRATEGIC PLAN? WHY NOW?

With the implementation of our Community and Equity Strategic Plan, we are empowered to set clear expectations and involve the entire community in our initiatives. We are committed to allocating resources to provide oversight for this crucial work. This emphasizes that our commitment to equity and community is not only a current priority, but a long-term one as well.

Why now? In light of the ongoing need to address harm caused by incidents at the School, particularly affecting people of color, I believe that the time has come for us to broaden our efforts and transition into authentic and impactful action.

HOW WILL THE PLAN HELP THE SCHOOL MOVE FORWARD ON SOME KEY C&E GOALS?

The pursuit of change hinges on our attention to detail. Our objective is to maintain honesty and realism regarding our capacity for change while ensuring that our efforts are purposeful and aligned with the School's growth.

HOW DO YOU SEE THIS PLAN CHANGING AND EVOLVING IN THE YEARS TO COME?

One of the notable aspects of this strategic plan is its adaptability. It is designed to evolve alongside the growth of the School. It is crucial for individuals to recognize that transparency, honesty, and realistic growth are foundational commitments of this plan. Simultaneously, the task force, head of school, and other participants have the authority to hold us accountable if our actions do not align with our stated intentions.



It’s been a busy year at St. Mark’s! Below is a sampling of news from around the quad. You can read the full stories and more news from campus at stmarksschool.org/news.



LIZ AGOSTO APPOINTED DEAN OF STUDENTS

Head of School John C. Warren ’74 recently announced the appointment of Liz Agosto as St. Mark’s dean of students, effective July 1. “Ms. Agosto’s vision for a holistic approach to educating young people, including an emphasis on wellness; her excellent listening skills, including seeing the full complexity of topics; and her thoughtful consideration of the unique rewards, along with the unique challenges of boarding school education, made her candidacy stand out among a very strong pool of applicants,” Mr. Warren said.

Most recently, Ms. Agosto served as dean of students and chief student affairs officer at Amherst College. In this position, Ms. Agosto served as a member of the college’s senior leadership team, overseeing 15 departments and more than 90 staff members responsible for the well-being and residential experience of 2,000 undergraduate students.



TAFT STEM FELLOWS COMPETE AT STATE SCIENCE FAIR; SOPHIE CHIANG ’23 WINS FIRST PLACE AWARD

On May 5, St. Mark’s Taft STEM Fellows participated in the High School Massachusetts Science and Engineering Fair at MIT. Students from across the state competed with more than 300 project entries in categories such as biology, chemistry, psychology, engineering, computer science, and mathematics. When the results were announced May 9, three St. Markers were recognized for placing among the top 50 projects; Jiayi Yu ’23 and Arianne Motakef ’23 each earned an Honorable Mention, while Sophie Chiang ’23 won a First Place Award.



STORYTELLERS AND ACTIVISTS SARAH EAGLE HEART AND JOHN FRANCIS SPEAK AT ST. MARK’S

This year’s C. Boyden Gray Colloquium Speaker Series on “Conspiracies and Consequences” concluded with visits from social justice storyteller Sarah Eagle Heart and the National Geographic Society’s first education fellow, “Planetwalker” John Francis. A member of the Oglala Lakota Nation, Eagle Heart continues to advocate for indigenous people whose wisdom, she believes, is critical to protecting Mother Earth. Francis began his environmental work in 1971 after witnessing a tanker collision and oil spill near the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco Bay. The incident motivated him to travel on foot for 22 years without the aid of motorized transportation.



ENDOWED CHAIRS FOR ALLYSON BROWN AND DEJAI BARNES

The St. Mark’s School community assembled for a special celebration to formally install faculty members Allyson Brown and Dejai Barnes as endowed chairholders. Brown was bestowed with the Chris and Jan Mabley Chair, established through a bequest of a generous alumnus in honor of former Head of School Chris Mabley (1988-1994) and his spouse Jan Mabley. Barnes was honored with the Martin Fenton Sr. Chair in Humanities in memory of Martin Fenton Sr. ’25, who exemplified a strong commitment to academic excellence within the humanities.

INTRODUCING ST. MARK’S SUMMER!

St. Mark’s launched its brand-new summer day camp—St. Mark’s Summer—in June. Led by directors Bob Rojee and Kristi Jacobi, St. Mark’s Summer offers a variety of nature, aquatics, sports, arts and crafts, and adventure programming. To learn more, please visit stmarkssummer.org.



INSIDE MY WORLD

A RETURN TO ROOTS

Amy Vachris, Associate Director of Admission
David Vachris, Senior Leadership Gifts Officer

WHEN PATTERSON-SCULLEY HOUSE opened last fall, longtime faculty members Amy and David Vachris—who served as house parents earlier in their boarding school careers—couldn’t resist the opportunity to live among students again. Here, Amy shares some of the items that make their new apartment a home.

“Quad Games trophy. 10 years’ worth of winning teams are listed here, in celebration of the Harry Potter-like events Dave introduced to St. Mark’s shortly after we arrived in 2010. Teams Large, Phoenix, Thayer, and Fearing compete in events like 3-on-3 basketball, chess, and a tug-of-war down the main hallway (Go Thayer! Am I allowed to say that?).”

“Vac and I met teaching at a boarding school (Vermont Academy) and have raised our three kids (Maddie ’13, Taylor, and Gunnar ’19) in this type of environment. We feel so fortunate about the connections, mentorships, and friendships made in schools like St. Mark’s.”

“My ‘lucky’ rock. Before I worked in admission, I taught world languages, and students would touch this piece of Maine granite for inspiration before quizzes, tests, or presentations. It is now in my office for nervous interviewees!”

1

“Our world map. This is how we keep track of where our daughter, Maddie ’13, is with the Navy, where we have traveled (and would like to), and where we can visualize our advisees and house residents in their lives away from St. Mark’s. This map also comes in handy during Jeopardy.”

“Spider Man. Marvel is better than DC. Also, ‘With great power comes great responsibility.’ Enough said!”

“Mr. Vachris bobblehead. An amazing look-alike and treasured gift from the Mabbs family (Kahler ’17 and Von ’20).”

“I am from a lobstering town in Maine, and the many-colored buoys on this Kate Nelligan mug remind me of home. Dorm tea nights are also a favorite, especially with Market Spice tea from Seattle!”

CHATTER

ON AIR

WHILE AT ST. MARK'S, **Matthew Parry '23** took on a number of leadership roles, including head admissions prefect, dorm prefect, JV baseball captain, and head A/V prefect. The boarding student from Mansfield, Mass. was also the starting goalkeeper for the varsity boys' soccer team, the lead in this year's performance of *Shakespeare in Love*, and the head of the Film and Media Arts Club at St. Mark's. This fall, Matthew is headed to the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University. He plans to major in television, radio, and film, with a focus on sports media.

WHEN DID YOU BECOME INTERESTED IN VIDEOGRAPHY, THEATER, AND TECH?

I've been interested in production, tech, and graphic design for as long as I can remember. My first roles were as a stage manager in middle school. After that time, I became more interested in the other aspects of production, specifically live broadcasts. Over the summer of 2020, I taught myself programs like Photoshop, Lightroom, After Effects, and Premiere Pro, which allowed me to explore my interests in ways I never thought possible.

HOW HAVE YOU HONED THESE SKILLS AND PASSIONS AT ST. MARK'S?

I have had the opportunity to work alongside Mr. Boston and the rest of the Technology Department to run A/V for various livestreams and events. St. Mark's has allowed me to explore and learn more about all of the elements that go into producing a live event in a collaborative environment. I am also very grateful for the opportunity to have worked in the technology booth inside the Class of '45 Hall. It was a tremendous chance to practice my skills with state-of-the-art equipment.

FAVORITE ST. MARK'S CLASS, PROJECT, OR PERFORMANCE?

I loved my filmmaking class that I took during the first half of my VI Form year. Mr. Kent did a phenomenal job at teaching the basics of camera movement, production, and storytelling. Those are all vital elements of broadcasting, and they are skills that I will be able to use for the rest of my life. Mr. Kent taught the class in a very engaging way, encouraging us to recreate iconic scenes from movies with partners, make our own movie scenes, and follow our creative instincts.

HAVE YOU HAD A MENTOR AT ST. MARK'S?

My mentor at St. Mark's has absolutely been Mr. Boston. He has taught me everything I know about the equipment I use on a daily basis, what it means to produce a live event, and how to stay cool, calm, and collected while doing it. Working alongside him for the past few years has been an absolute pleasure. Additionally, Mr. Boston has helped me with numerous projects outside of official School events, like my creation of St. Mark's first podcast and digital media studio!

—JACKIE WATERS

Prize Day

THE 2022-2023 ACADEMIC YEAR CAME TO A CLOSE ON BELMONT FIELD ON SATURDAY, JUNE 10, AS 90 VI FORMERS GRADUATED AT THE 158TH PRIZE DAY EXERCISES.

PHOTOGRAPHY BY SANDRA LEVANDOWSKI AND AL WILLIAMS



Class of '23 graduates
Madeleine Yearout
and Ames Scott.



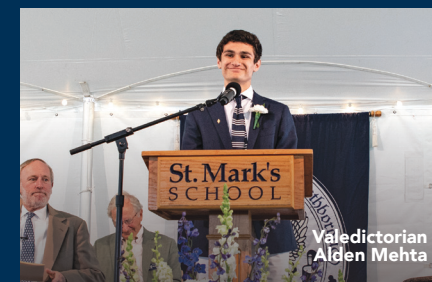
Global Diploma recipients



Keynote speaker Patricia Branch '04



George Howell Kidder Faculty Prize winner Caitlin Kosow



Valedictorian Alden Mehta



Head Monitors Kaitlyn Breslin and Joel Lawore



Class of 1961 Fred Burr Staff Prize winner Ron Boston

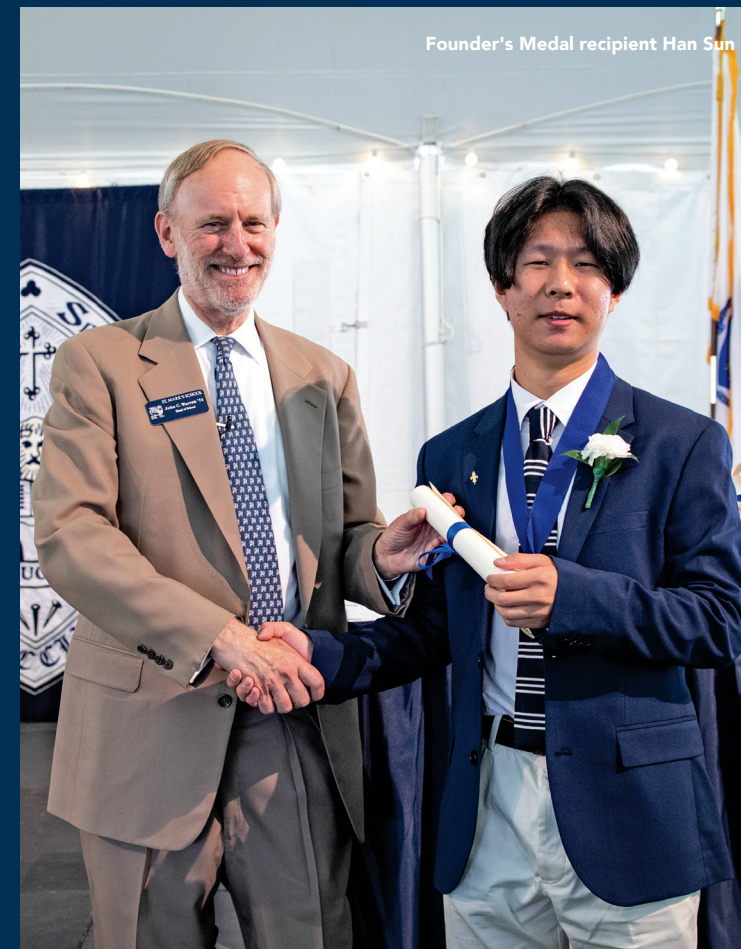
Class of 2023

In her keynote address to the Class of 2023, Trustee Patricia Branch '04 said "Be unapologetically yourself, St. Markers, because it's through that self-definition that you'll unlock your greatest potential." Valedictorian Alden Mehta '23 assured his classmates, "You are well prepared for wherever you are headed and for whatever you intend to do."

For a list of prize winners and more, visit <https://stmarksschool.today/prize2023>.



Si Jones '23 with John Warren (left) and grandfather the Rt. Rev. J. Clark Grew '58



Founder's Medal recipient Han Sun



Classics Diploma recipients

What a Ride

Celebrating our 2023 Retirees

BY JACKIE WATERS | PHOTOGRAPHY BY ADAM RICHINS

Jeniene Matthews »

JENIENE MATTHEWS P'22 remembers the exact day she signed her St. Mark's contract: May 10, 2010. As a practicing lawyer for 18 years, she certainly knew contracts, but she never expected to change careers and end up here.

"It was a lark," says Jeniene, remembering how she was having a bad day at McDermott Will & Emery LLP in Boston when a friend called; it was former St. Mark's counselor Jamie Greene. "What was your major?" Jamie asked. "And didn't you row?" Within a matter of minutes, Jamie was convincing Jeniene, an English major and former crew captain, to apply for an open faculty position.

A native Californian and globetrotter, who did a stint in the Air Force and spent time as a public defender in Alaska, Jeniene calls the move her "biggest detour." Sometimes, the detours in life turn out to be the roads we were destined to travel. "I was meant to be a teacher," Jeniene says. "I am at my most authentic in the classroom, and at my most alive!"

During her 13-year tenure at St. Mark's, Jeniene taught all four levels of English and chaired the department for four years. She served as a faculty representative to the Board of Trustees; established the role of digital learning coach; lived in Thayer; assisted on a duty team in Thieriot North; coached varsity, JV, and thirds sports; chaperoned a trip to

Chile; advised countless St. Markers; mentored new colleagues; savored summer professional development opportunities in Greece, England, and Scotland; and held the Evill-Glavin endowed faculty chair.

By her side have been Gregory, her partner of 30 years, and son Logan '22. Those well acquainted with Jeniene can attest that her abiding love for these two men is rivaled only by her love for tacos! Arguably, one of Jeniene's greatest gifts to the School (in addition to her family, her sense of humor, and her big heart) has been her signature VI Form elective, Literature on Trial. In this class, students read various novels while learning about the United States' legal system, then wrote legal briefs and participated in a live "trial" of characters presided over by Judge Matthews.

As friend and colleague Maggie Caron, associate dean of students and director of residential life, explains, "It was truly a class like no other, and students raved that it was 'so hard, but so cool.' One section grew into two, and waitlists ensued. Jeniene's course became the stuff of legend, the talking point on tours, and the

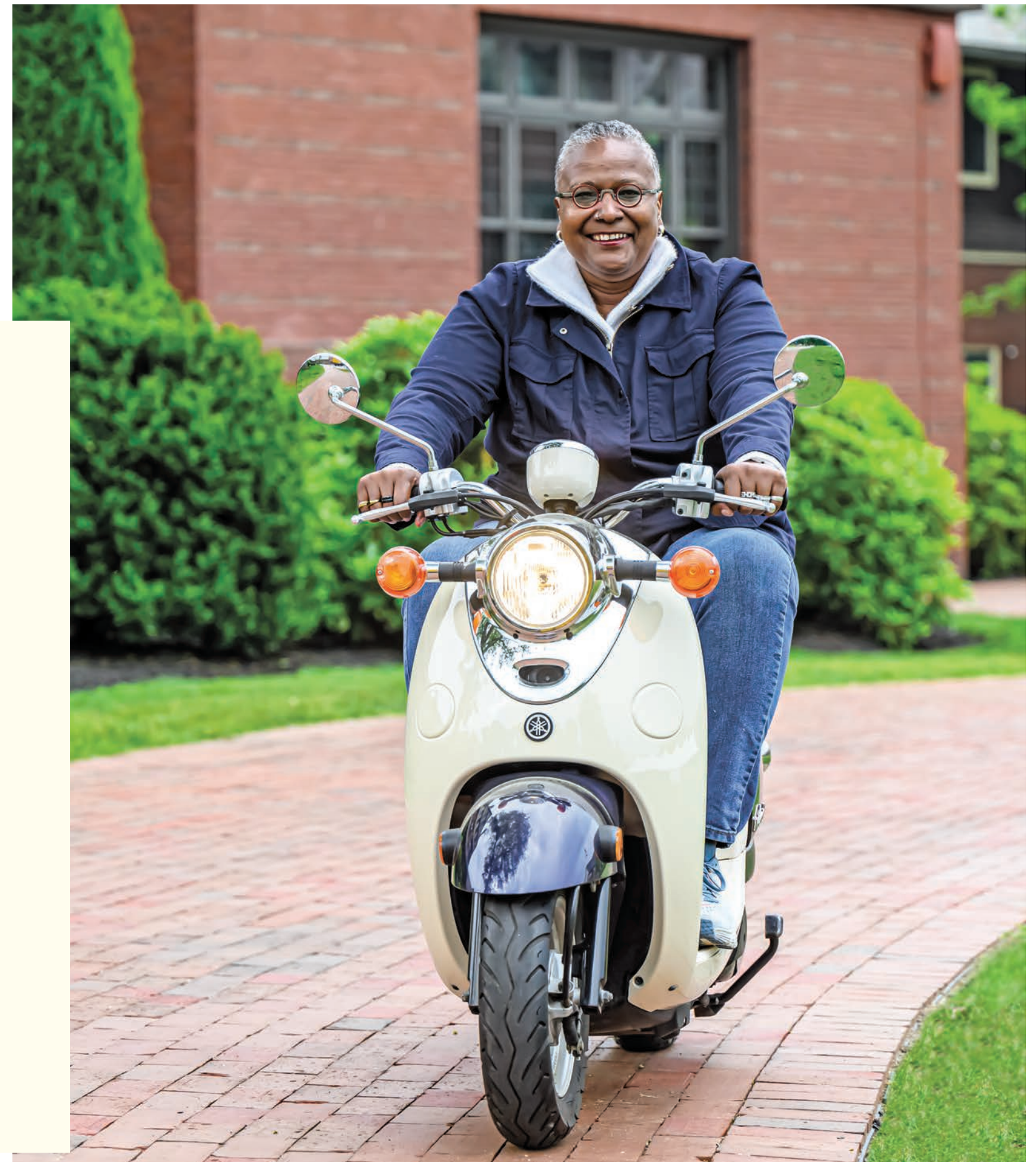
class that III Formers couldn't wait to take."

Jeniene calls the class her "swan song" and notes that she loved the opportunity to teach students in their "bookend" years—as III Formers and then again as VI Formers—because it allowed her to witness their "phenomenal growth." Her connection to students—and impact on them—is evident in the number of alumni with whom she regularly keeps in touch.

"To this day, former advisees and students seek out "Ms. M." for a visit, a cup of coffee, or sage advice," says Caron. "They sit with her at the Starbucks on Route 9 and reminisce about Lit on Trial and ask for guidance, knowing they always have a champion and a supporter in Jeniene."

For Jeniene, that support has been reciprocated over the years by St. Mark's colleagues, students, and parents, especially during her battle with cancer. "There is nothing like this community to rally around you when you need them," she shared, grateful to feel that care here, where she has been "the happiest in [her] professional career."

Fortunately for St. Mark's, Jeniene plans to stick around. Although she is retiring from teaching, she will "be here for this community" as a consultant to the School, utilizing her interpersonal strengths to listen, counsel, and continue to advocate for students.





Wallace with his beloved pal, Sir Walter

«James Wallace»

TEN YEARS AGO, Director of Music James Wallace arrived at St. Mark’s from the Putney School in Vermont. “I loved the country but missed life closer to an urban area,” he says. “St. Mark’s offered both.” The fantastic music facilities were also “a big draw” for James, who has shared his talent with the St. Mark’s community—and the greater Southborough community, as well.

James brought “incredible devotion and passion” to his work and to the students, says colleague Rev. Katie Solter. “He goes above and beyond in all things.”

Never was that dedication more evident than when James “chased down an organ during COVID, envisioned and produced the Chapel backdrop for the PFAC, and managed to keep the choir singing and the hymns coming, even when we were on Zoom,” echoes Rev. Barbara Talcott, adding that while James had many responsibilities as director of music, he never gave short shrift to the Chapel experience.

Throughout his decade at St. Mark’s, James led the Chapel music program; directed the orchestra and choir; nurtured and supported the a cappella groups; taught Music Studio and Advanced Music Theory; supervised the private lesson program; planned music festivals, including the Wick Festival and the Cutler Jazz Festival; and served on the house duty team in Thieriot North. He also took a turn as Arts Department head and was the School

organist (and organ clinician). In addition, James organized the Southborough Sounds concert series for the wider community; led the church choir at St. Mark’s Episcopal Church in town; and brought St. Markers on engaging global choir trips to Canada, Cuba, Ireland, and Barbados.

The biggest highlight for James during his tenure at St. Mark’s was the Sesquicentennial Lessons and Carols service, when the entire School traveled to Trinity Church in Copley Square, and filled it with families and alumni. The performance that evening in 2015 was one for the history books!

James says he will miss “the joy of making music with the choir and orchestra, my colleagues and friends, and of course, the students.” To be sure, countless St. Markers have benefited from his encouragement, including recent Juilliard graduate Jason Hwang ’18, who credits James with recognizing his gift. “Mr. Wallace was one of the absolute best supporters I could ask for during my St. Mark’s years,” says

Jason. As Barbara recognizes, “He knows not just music; he knows kids.”

For his “tireless support of the arts in the lives of countless young people,” James was recently honored with the Community Arts Service Award from Symphony Pro Musica—a well-deserved recognition of his commitment to inspiring student musicians and nurturing their talent.

Even though James is retiring from teaching, he will continue to lead musicians as the director of music at the Episcopal Pro-Cathedral of St. Peter in Salisbury, Md. He also plans to play the carillon at Salisbury University, carve out time for traveling and gardening, and enjoy walks with Sir Walter, his beloved cavalier King Charles spaniel.

“St. Mark’s is a community of smart, caring people who hold each other to high standards while caring about the wellbeing of each individual person,” says James. It is clear that the School community thinks highly of him, as well.

“James has been a real partner, every minute, in my chaplaincy,” says Barbara. “I could not have asked for better.” Adds Katie, “We are forever grateful for his talents, faith, good humor, stellar work ethic, creativity, and devotion to bringing music to St. Mark’s School and the greater Southborough community.”

James brought “incredible devotion and passion” to his work and to the students. “He goes above and beyond in all things.”

—REV. KATIE SOLTER

HIGHLIGHT REEL

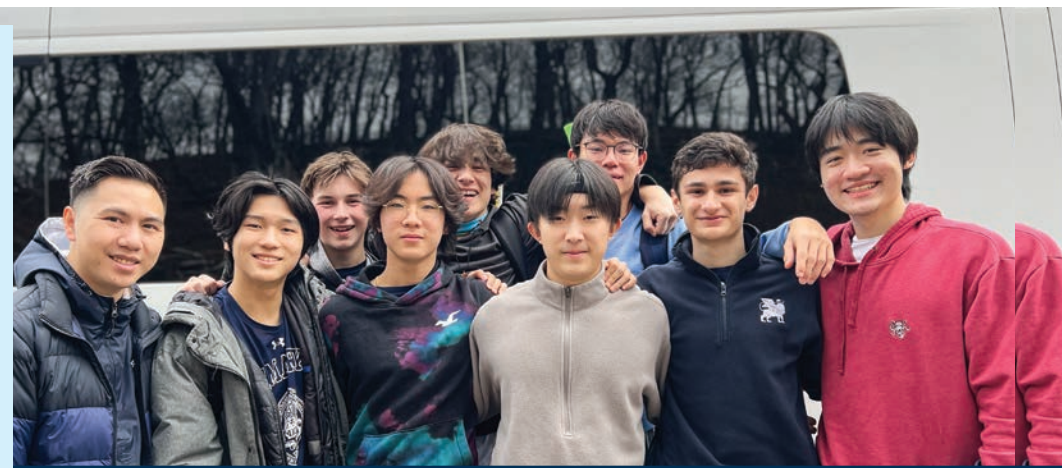
Athletic success stories from 2022-2023

BY CALEB COCHRAN



SQUASH

The St. Mark's varsity boys' squash team won the Division IV National Championship, defeating Louisville Collegiate High School in a thrilling 4-3 victory on February 26. **Elgin Zou '23** clinched the match with an exciting four-set win. The varsity girls' squash team also enjoyed a fantastic season, finishing eighth at Nationals in Division IV. **Alden Mehta '23** (boys') and **Coco Xia '24** (girls') were season MVPs.



WRESTLING

The wrestling team finished sixth at the 2023 Graves Kelsey ISL Championships. The team earned the David Coe Trophy for the Most Improved Team. **Ife Lawore '25, Joel Lawore '23, Justin Lu '25, Ben Markle '24, Seedi Sheriff '26, Albert Wu '23, and Jiayi Yu '23** all competed in the New England tournament, where Yu finished second and Ife Lawore finished third. Yu was the team's season MVP.

BOYS' HOCKEY

The St. Mark's varsity boys' hockey team earned their second consecutive ISL Eberhart Championship, finishing 13-1 in league play (22-5-1 overall). The team earned the top seed in the New England Piatelli/Simmons Tournament, where they fell to New Hampton in overtime, 5-4. **Sebbie Johnson '23** was team MVP, ISL MVP, and the recipient of the Maker Prize, awarded to the player who scores the most points over the course of the season.





BASEBALL

Levy DaSilva '25 and **Liam Childs '25** combined for St. Mark's baseball's first no-hitter since 2013 in a 3-1 win over BB&N on April 15. The duo tallied 10 strikeouts in the win. The MVP for the team, which went 8-11 on the season, was **Brayden Michaelson '23**.

100-Win Club

In May, **Channing Weymouth** tallied her 100th win as head coach of St. Mark's varsity girls' lacrosse. Weymouth is one of five current St. Mark's coaches who have earned 100 or more varsity wins in their careers at the School.

"I'm so grateful for the fantastic coaches we have at St. Mark's," says Director of Athletics Lauren Ames. "Not only are our coaches experts in their sport, but more importantly, they are people of strong character and integrity. They positively motivate, inspire, and serve as role models to our student-athletes. The wins are the added bonus to the outstanding experience they provide our students."

CURRENT ST. MARK'S COACHES IN THE 100-WIN CLUB ARE:

David Lyons , Baseball, Boys' Cross Country, Golf:	329
Channing Weymouth , Girls' Lacrosse, Field Hockey:	158
Carl Corazzini , Boys' Ice Hockey:	155
Casey Bates , Girls' Ice Hockey, Softball:	117
Anne Behnke , Girls' Tennis:	114

PHOTOGRAPHS BY LEVY DASILVA '25, MAX DUSHNEY '24, LIAM CHILDS '25, AND ADAM RICHINS



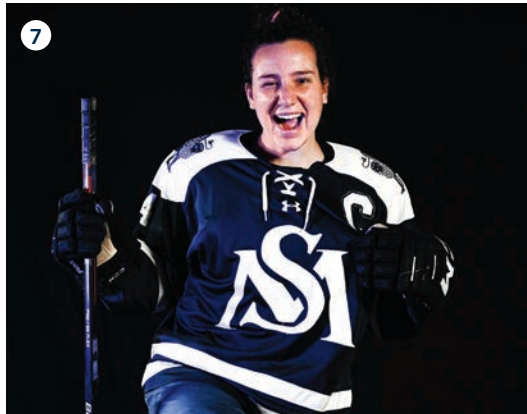
GIRLS' TENNIS

The varsity girls' tennis team advanced to the New England Class B semifinals with a 5-0 win against Worcester Academy in the quarterfinals on May 20. They fell to Hopkins School in the semifinals. **Emma Schillinger '26** was the season MVP and earned All-NEPSAC honors.

BOYS' CREW

The varsity boys' crew first boat (**Rachel Goldberg '25, Brendan Kelly '24, Bennett Jones '23, Will O'Malley '24, and Will Ryckman '23**) won the du Pont Cup on May 13, defeating Taft, Frederick Gunn, BB&N, and Pomfret. This was the first St. Mark's win in 13 years at this event.





MOVING UP

15 members of the Class of 2023 are moving on to participate in athletics at the college level. Two student-athletes will play at the Division I level, one has committed to a Division II program, and 12 will compete at Division III schools. Congratulations to all!

1. Jeevan Anand, Colby College
2. Kaitlyn Breslin, University of Connecticut
3. Carlisle Brush, Amherst College
4. Dante D'Avanzo, Babson College
5. Mia Iwicki, Hobart and William Smith Colleges
6. Juliana Kiley, Colby College
7. Molly Lefebvre, Colby College
8. Buck Lewis, Colby College

9. Jimmy Lyver, College of the Holy Cross
10. Alden Mehta, Bowdoin College
11. Brayden Michaelson, St. Anselm College
12. Elizabeth Pellini, Bates College
13. Lillian Peña, Ithaca College
14. Tru Styles, Hobart and William Smith Colleges
15. Judy Xie, Haverford College



Athletic Hall of Fame

Call for Nominations

FOR THE NEXT CLASS OF INDUCTEES!

The St. Mark's Athletic Hall of Fame honors the spirit and achievements of our student-athletes and exemplifies the School's conviction that athletics are vital to the development of a student's character, discipline, and leadership abilities.

Submit online at www.stmarksschool.org/ahof-nominee
or contact Advancement at 508.786.6279 or advancement@stmarksschool.org.

Deadline for nominations: October 15, 2023

ST. MARKERS

THIS IS ME

Full Circle: Edna Kilusu '19

THE FIRST TIME Edna Kilusu '19 saw St. Mark's was when she arrived for her III Form year. The 24-hour trip was her first to the United States. In fact, it was her first flight out of Tanzania.

"When I first got to campus, it was so lush and green," Edna recalls, struck by the stark contrast between Southborough, Mass. and her home in the hills of Lendikonya, located in the Monduli district of Arusha.

In this northern region of Tanzania, Edna grew up surrounded by family and close friends in a Maasai village of mud-walled bomas atop a dusty brown landscape dotted with dense bushes. Her hard-working, agricultural community raised cows, sheep, goats, and donkeys; they grew corn, wheat, and beans. Edna's father taught her how to till the fields and harvest the crops, and her mother walked alongside her two hours each way to collect water for cooking.

Historically, most women and girls in Lendikonya do not complete primary school; however, Edna's parents prioritized her education. For two and a half years, from grades six through eight, she attended the Orkeeswa School, three hours away from home. At Orkeeswa, Edna learned English, and through the school's Scholars Program, earned the opportunity

to attend school in the U.S.

As the first student from Tanzania to attend St. Mark's, Edna also became the first person in her family to attend high school. This was a huge accomplishment—one that required a great deal of courage, as it meant uprooting from home and immersing herself in an unfamiliar culture.

"I came for preseason tryouts for soccer, and everyone was so different from me," Edna remembers. "Changing classrooms was confusing, and I did not want to talk. I was afraid to speak."

English is Edna's third language after Maasai and Swahili, and during her first few months as a St. Marker, she was self-conscious of her accent and worried about her word choice. "Classmates did not understand me," she says. "Teachers were patient."

Navigating a new school is hard enough, but when everything—from the dorm rooms to the washing machines to the dining hall food—feels like a far cry from home, the culture shock can be overwhelming. At St. Mark's, Edna felt like there were "too many options!"

Slowly, she began to open up to the adults in the community, creating her own version of what she affectionately refers to as her "St. Mark's village"—a circle of women

she grew to trust, and with whom she could discuss daily challenges. This group included advisor Karen Bryant, dorm head Allyson Brown, Director of Global Citizenship Laura Appell-Warren, counselors Veronica Barila and Jennifer Taylor, and the Health Office staff led by Adria Pavletic, among many others, myself included (I was fortunate to be Edna's St. Mark's tutor).

The more Edna stretched herself at St. Mark's, the more confidence she gained. In English, she painstakingly worked her way through the *Odyssey*, learning how to decode Homer line by line. She made the varsity basketball team, played softball and soccer, participated in strength and conditioning, and even tried crew despite not knowing how to swim. Edna looked forward to math classes with Scott Dolesh, and expanded her worldview through travel to Cuba and Ireland with James Wallace and the choir.

By the time VI Form year arrived, the once shy and soft-spoken student used her voice to educate St. Markers on the struggles she faced as "an African in America and an American in Africa." On May 7, 2019, Edna delivered her Chapel Talk to a rapt audience.

As she recalled her early years in Tanzania—walking hours on dirt roads to get to school or to the market, gathering

firewood, doing laundry by hand—it became clear to her peers that access to an education is a privilege, one not often afforded nor easily accessible to girls in Edna's village or in many other places around the world.

"Four years ago, I made the tough decision to leave my friends, my family, my culture, and my country for St. Mark's," Edna shared, noting that she was the first in her community to study abroad, and that her father's illness at the time made the decision difficult. She candidly acknowledged how setbacks (such as breaking her ankle during IV Form year) and devastating events (the death of her father, her "biggest supporter," during V Form year) only magnified her struggles as a student.

Despite the hardship and heartbreak, Edna believes that "the good, the bad, the ups and downs" were worth it. "At St. Mark's, I gained a sense of independence and a clear vision of who I could become," she says. "I wouldn't have done it without the support from this community."

For her final VI Form Lion Term, Edna landed an internship at Partners in Health in Cambridge, Mass., co-founded by pioneering Harvard Medical School global health physician and medical anthropologist Paul Farmer. "Dr. Farmer inspired me to stay

(CONTINUED...)



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strong in the face of adversity,” she says. “I still remember his commendation for my dedication and will to learn and serve my community.”

Edna took that dedication and will with her to Gettysburg College, where she majored in psychology and anthropology and minored in writing. In 2022, Edna was accepted into the Entrepreneurial Fellowship at Gettysburg and awarded a grant to launch a nonprofit, Nasaru (“Savior” in Swahili) Designs, which provides women in her Maasai community with economic opportunities.

Nasaru has “a dual purpose,” Edna explains, “to start conversations about the importance of mental health with women in my community, and to provide these women with funding to send their daughters to school.” The circle of women meets weekly to engage in important conversations about Maasai gender roles and the impact these roles have on their mental health.

“Mental health is not something that is talked about at home,” Edna admits. She plans to change that.

Now, Edna is working as a family counselor for Youth Villages in Indianapolis, as well as a grant writer for Mutera Global Healing. Her short-term goal is to apply to graduate school for clinical social work and become certified as a LICSW (licensed independent clinical social worker), with the ultimate goal of returning to Lendikeny to establish a women’s health clinic.

“I found my voice at St. Mark’s,” Edna acknowledges. “I want to help women and girls in my community find theirs and create that space where they can feel valued.”

-JACKIE WATERS

CLASS NOTES

1950

Bill Elkins writes, “I’m out on pasture, doing fine, but doubt I could still bat .300 for Brotherhood 11th. I’m very proud of my granddaughter and niece, recent and happy grads from SM now in good colleges.”

1951

James Skinner shares, “I have reached the ripe old age of 90. I am doing OK. We have had 58 inches of rain and am dealing with tons of weeds. I grow sweet pea flowers, roses, tomatoes, wine grapes, and avocados, to name a few. My wife Sharon died three years ago from a rare auto immune disease, CIDP. I am a big fan of professional basketball and am cheering for the Boston Celtics since the L.A. Lakers were knocked out by the Denver Nuggets.”

1954

Sheldon Clark II shares, “I am living in Tampa with kids here, in Honolulu and Kanai.”

1959

David DiCicco writes, “Adaptation is the key to aging. This happens, do that, that happens, do this, and so it goes. We had fun skiing at Snowmass this winter with record snowfalls. This fall Vicki and I will embark on another river cruise starting in Luxembourg and ending in Basel, Switzerland. I am enjoying my retirement, which has provided an opportunity for reflection and the pursuit of hobbies such as writing and photography. My wife is my

best friend, and we enjoy our time together.”

Geoffrey Platt Jr. writes, “June 2023 marked the 60th anniversary of my graduation from Harvard College and the 50th anniversary of my graduation from the Harvard Business School. Good grief!”

Brian Thompson shares, “After Marie-Claude’s bad fall while helping out at EVkids summer camp in Vermont (see evkids.org)—broken arm, shattered shoulder (expertly replaced at the Dartmouth Medical Center)—our sons Eric and Dan practically obliged us to move from our long-term residence in Cambridge to a place without stairs. They even found us a great apartment backing up on Alewife Brook Reservation, Dan took charge of the decoration, and we are now almost entirely settled in. We are still giving away case after case of books. We plan to return to our shared country place in Normandy in August, a regular trip that was shot down by Marie-Claude’s fall last summer. We continue to derive enormous pleasure from our sons, our seven grandchildren, and are eagerly awaiting our first great-grandson this May. May you all be so blessed!”

1961

Sam Goodyear shares: “Certain experiences leave an indelible impression, ineradicable, permanent, everlasting. Such was my first day at St. Mark’s at the age of 13 in September of 1957. I had arrived, brought by my

uncle, full of trust and anticipation. I had just spent two years in Ankara, Turkey, where my father was stationed at the American Embassy. Being back in the United States was exciting. Everything was new. New, especially, was the stone egg the loneliness bird laid in my heart even before my uncle had departed. Heavy and cold, it sank my spirits like nothing I had ever known. How had I come to this place, where I knew no one, where nearly a century’s worth of traditions, foreign and forbidding, haunted endless and confusing halls? I took note of some of the old boys brought a day early from home to welcome new boys. How was it possible for them to seem so at home in this alien place? There was a space of about two hours that first afternoon where new boys had no commitments and we could do as we pleased. I drifted around and found myself in front of the bulletin board outside the cavernous Schoolroom. Another kid was standing there, a fellow III Former, from, as it happened, Guatemala. **Douglas Plihal.** It was a mild, sunny day and Douglas and I, getting acquainted little by little, wandered outside and sat in the Cloisters. We confessed to each other how homesick we felt, he for his family in Guatemala, I for mine in Turkey, now perceived as an entire universe away. By the end of our conversation we had become friends. Lucky me. By the end of the day I felt better already. We roomed together VI Form year and in the decades that followed I visited him and his family twice in Guatemala, and twice in Belize, where his family had a vacation house on an island. Waiting recently at Kennedy Airport for a flight to Paris, I received an email from Douglas’s wife Sandra. She said

that it had taken her a week to work up the courage to write to me. Douglas had died. Several of my classmates have died and the moment always hits hard. But this was my first friend on that first day and there was a bond of 66 years between us. The night across the Atlantic was smooth outside but in my heart it was storm-tossed and rough. It all flooded back on me from that afternoon in the Cloisters. Such sadness, and yet, recalling some of Douglas’s antics, especially in algebra class, I burst out laughing in the darkness. He was funny, generous, kind, intensely creative, my first friend on that first afternoon. He has gone, and a part of me has gone with him.”

Joe Sheppard writes, “I’ve just published my first audiobook, available on Audible, Amazon and iTunes. Called *Stripper Noir*, it’s a steamy story of murder and mayhem at the Pink Pussycat in Las Vegas. It’s not G-rated, so don’t give it to your grandkids. The story is a lot of fun, and I had a blast recording it. Another book, *Kids are Hell*, is in the works. If you know me, or my brother Dan ‘67, or our Dad, who taught music and did shows at St. Mark’s for 35 years, it shouldn’t surprise you that I’ve gotten into this at this time of life! The family hambone has been passed down, and down again.”

1964

William Phelps writes: “My II Form year was my first at St. Mark’s, and I remember distinctly Boyden Gray’s towering presence as Head Monitor. He displayed an aristocratic grace and a powerful intelligence even then and evinced an authority that was clearly palpable.”



1. Brian Thompson '59
2. David DiCicco '59
3. Alan Poole '66



4. Leif Rosenberger '68
5. Members of the Class of '68
6. Nelson Neal Stone '70

1966

Alan Poole sends warm greetings from the highlands of Costa Rica, where he now spends two to three months each winter based at a research station operated by the Organization for Tropical Studies. “Spin-off from time spent there is a new book on an extraordinary cloud forest bird, the resplendent quetzal, a species that anchors \$10-15 million birding and tourist efforts annually in that region. See <https://www.cornellpress.cornell.edu/book/9781501772214/quetzals/> for book details. St. Markers would be welcome at the station and are encouraged to visit. See <https://costa-rica-guide.com/nature/refuges/wilson-botanical/> for further info.”

1968

Robert Masland III writes, “On March 26, the Stack family (Nathan, David and Peter) hosted a tribute to their brother and our classmate **Chris** at the Amateur Comedy Theater in New York City. Class of 1968 classmates attending were **Victor and Carol Stewart, Archie and Karen Reid, Ed and Mary Tan, Michael Kinnicutt, Tack Eddy, Kip Forbes, Paul Szapary,** and **Bob Masland.** Another 15 classmates followed the event on Zoom. Chris was a devoted member of the club and built many of the sets, continuing an interest begun at the SM Drama Society. It was a party that Chris would have enjoyed.”

Leif Rosenberger shares, “Since June I have been working on the energy war between Russia and Europe and the international food crisis at the U.S. Peacekeeping and Stability Operations

Institute (PKSOI) at the Army War College. I’m looking forward to reconnecting with my classmates at my 55th reunion at SM.”

1969

Crans Baldwin writes, “Hello all. I just wanted to check in. I have been in home furnishings for my entire career, never retired, and now run two tiny companies that my wife and I own based in Darien, Conn. Ann and I have been married for 48 years and are going strong, and we have two great children and three amazing grandchildren. I am in my 40th year of continuous sobriety and am grateful for the blessings in my life. I rarely see people that I know from St. Mark’s, no doubt my loss! I hope that everyone from the class of ’69 is well, and is as lucky as I have been.”

1970

Nelson Neal Stone shares, “We just returned from the annual American Urologic Association (AUA) meeting in Chicago where our company Viomerse participated in several hands-on training skills labs. I am about to enter a kidney tumor biopsy lab holding one of the synthetic cadavers we developed of a patient’s flank containing a kidney with two tumors and other relevant anatomy. Even though I am retired from clinical practice, having the opportunity to continue teaching remains a lifelong mission. My wife Gloria and daughter Laura (director of business operations) joined me at the meeting.”

1971

Trey Kelsey writes, “Once again, so sorry I missed the big reunion. A

wonderful combination of doctors and new drugs are keeping me going. I am going on for weeks and feeling almost normal and hope to reach out to many of you soon. Best wishes to all.”

1972

Kevin Burke shares, “Moose and bones got together with some mutual friends in Nosara, Costa Rica, in February for a week of relaxation, food, and some wonderfully significant hydrating. Great to catch up again after the 50th. I tried to play tennis for the first time in 30+ years and several muscle groups screamed ‘are you out of your mind?’ More hydrating followed to reduce inflammation. Bones has not lost a step since varsity tennis. OK, maybe a teeny bit of a step.”

1974 (SS)

Katrina Deria (Trina) Morris writes, “Excited to attend the 50th reunion of the first year/class of the Southborough School following a stint aboard The RV Cramer studying North Atlantic right whales. It is kind of a replay of my Senior ISP and coming back ‘home’ to school! Can hardly wait to see everyone!”

1975

Christopher Carey writes, “Happy to find **John Kean**, my IV Form roommate, now has a home just down the road from me in Vero Beach. Cindy and I were guests at John and Abby’s first Vero dinner party.”

Charles Lowrey shares, “**Charles Ewald** and I were at St. Mark’s in April for our final board meeting, following six years each on the

board. What a pleasure it was to be with Charles again—we even roomed next to each other in Choate House when we were up there! It was a privilege to serve and a pleasure to have the excuse to go back to the campus regularly, observing all the amazing changes (including the new dorm being built). Other than that, everything remains pretty much the same: our son is still in graduate school; Susie Rodriguez, my wife, is still practicing architecture (doing amazing work—go to her website); I am still at Prudential; and we still live in New York City. I hope to see many of you at our big reunion coming up in 2025. (I won’t say the number, because it can’t be true.)”

1977

Carlos Garcia writes, “After 37 years working at the company I founded and recently sold, I retired in June and will dedicate myself to serving on corporate and charitable boards of directors. My wife, Karen and I (along with our great danes) divide our time between Miami Beach, Fla., and Boulder, Colo.

1982

Michael Foster shares, “During Covid, my wife and I pulled up stakes from Park City, Utah, and in late 2020 moved to the Roaring Fork Valley outside Aspen. A significant upgrade in mountain town living. We recently completed designing and building a home here, and if you visit the Aspen area, you should look us up! Had hoped to make it to the reunion last spring, but was busy framing and welding on the project.”

1983

Chris Russell writes, “I rejoined Microsoft in 2022 and am working in Redmond, Wash., as a software architect for the high-performance computing/AI group whose systems power efforts like OpenAI ChatGPT. Outside of work I am an avid adventure motorcycle rider and love to get out with friends exploring the wonderfully varied landscapes of the Pacific Northwest on two wheels.”

1984

Petro Rondiak writes, “Greetings from Ukraine! I just wanted to express my gratitude and appreciation for the support from St. Mark’s classmates during this difficult but very important time in Ukraine’s history. Descended from generations of Ukrainian freedom fighters, it has been personally inspiring to see Ukraine develop as a freedom loving, peaceful democracy. The resilience and unity here, in the face of unrestrained evil and terror, is truly humbling. With best wishes from Kyiv.”

1985

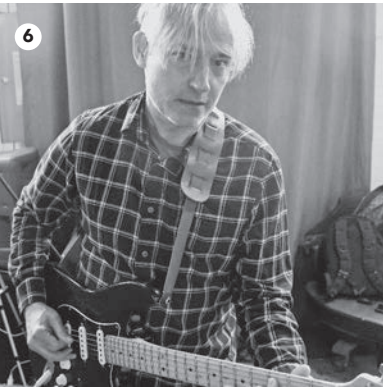
Kartika Shahan writes to share: “I crossed one off my bucket list and did a tour to Athens, Mykonos, and Santorini! It was everything I hoped for!”

1986

Emilie (Dyer) Oyen writes, “After 20 years of raising a UNICEF family in Uganda, Kenya, New York City, and Senegal, I’ve settled in London to let the dust settle and return to writing full time. With my son at Kent School and my daughter just graduated, it’s been lovely returning to the boarding



1. **Trey Kelsey '71**
2. **Christopher Carey '75 and John Kean '75**
3. **Chris Russell '83**



4. **Kartika Shahan '85**
5. **Emilie Dyer Oyen '86**
6. **Barrett Heaton '87**

Connect with your St. Mark’s Online Alumni Community: SM Lions Connect



To join, visit www.stmarksalumni.com or download the app at: www.stmarksschool.org/SMLionsConnect.

school community as well. Anyone passing through London, please don't hesitate to reach out!"

1987
Barrett Heaton writes, "Howdy St. Markers! Not that I have tons to report, but I definitely enjoy reading notes from my classmates of the class of 1987, so I feel like I should offer a few words. I'm still in the New York City area so if you are around let's schedule another get together sometime soon! If you are curious about me, I am still a teacher at a public high school in Crown Heights, Brooklyn. It is challenging and exhausting work at times, but I enjoy getting up to go to work each and every day. I continue to enjoy playing in a local rock band so check us out on Youtube/iTunes/Spotify/Instagram. If you search up "Pass the Poi," you will hear some of our intense rock instrumentals. You can even see me rocking out on live videos, so see if you can identify me (I play guitar.) I would love to hear from any of you so keep writing class notes and let's make efforts to connect!"

1993
Loch Gallagher shares, "Emily and I are so proud of our youngest daughter's decision to attend St. Mark's next year as an incoming freshman. We tried to stay impartial during the process (which wasn't easy), but were ecstatic when she chose it on her own. Looking forward to reconnecting with the SM family in the years to come. And if you're ever in the Aspen area, look us up!"

1995
Ahmed Lundgren-Bekov shares,

"Still in the foreign service: Fatima, Adam (4), and myself shall relocate from our neighborhood posting in Romania in August, back to Berlin. Reuniting with my daughter Marta (16), my eldest Fjodor (18) went off to study in Switzerland. If in Berlin, drop me a line—offer good thru 2026 ;-)."

1996
Andrew Dorsett writes, "After 20 years of service with the NYPD I was finally promoted to lieutenant. It has been a rewarding career and one that I am not quite done with yet. Hopefully my next note will be when I get promoted to captain."

1997
Beth Lewis shares, "I am finishing my 22nd year of teaching this year and still love my job as a reading specialist in Westborough, Mass. My son, Matthew (14), has been attending Milton Academy for the past two years and is thoroughly enjoying his experience in the ISL. My younger son, John (11), is thrilled to join his brother as a fellow Mustang at Milton Academy next year. I hope everyone is well!"

2003
Michael Greenwald shares a photo with fellow St. Mark's graduate **John Sculley '57** at the 2023 Ellis Island Medal of Honor Awards Ceremony.

2003
Christopher Blondin shares a photo: "Chris Blondin, **Phil Pulitzer**, **Lance Stratton**, and **Ben Hindman** (left to right) got together for some spring skiing in Big Sky, Mont. We made it just in

time for the season's last blast of cold smoke in April. A fun time was had by all!"

2004
Andy Herring writes, "The Herrings are moving to The Hague! I recently accepted the role of director of engagement at American School of The Hague, where I'll lead the school's marketing, admission, and advancement efforts. We'll be moving to the Netherlands over summer to get settled before the start of the school year. We've loved our time at Holderness School and New Hampshire's Lakes Region, but we can't wait for this new European family adventure!"

Roger Hunt III shares, "New baby Cecilia Andrea Hunt born 1/27/23. Business is great. Happy and healthy."

Kate Nordstrom writes, "Barrett, Lilly (3), and I are thrilled to announce the arrival of Clara Caroline "Carlie" on December 26, 2022. We look forward to introducing both girls to St. Mark's sometime this fall."

2006
Heather Tatar (McCormack) welcomed a baby girl, Charlee, on March 28, 2023.

2010
Ibrahim Ayub shares, "Completed my MBA from Insead and launched Movig (getmovig.com), a platform for content creators to find and manage brand deals through workflow automation and AI. Creators are the new class of

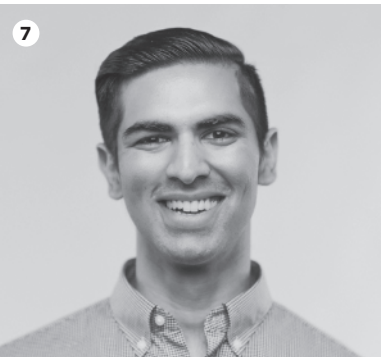
solopreneurs, and we hope to give them the tools to create sustainable and passion-driven careers."

2011
Carolyn Kimmick married Robert Roche of Cheshire, Conn., on October 8, 2022 in Locust Valley, N.Y. They had several alumni in attendance including Carolyn's brother, **Daniel Kimmick '14**, and friends **Bryana Michael '11**, **Dominic Carbone '11**, **Jessica Craig '11**, **Henry Romeyn '11**, and **Jessica Surgenor '11**.

Morgan (McCall) McCarthy shares, "I am a learning specialist at the Tower School in Marblehead, Mass., and the proud mom of Theodora (Teddy) McCarthy, born in September 2022. My husband Matt and I live in Charlestown and would love to get together with any classmates who have also returned to the Boston area!"

2012
James Longley writes, "I am still enjoying my time in Washington, D.C. As of January, I am working as a policy advisor to Senator Shelley Moore Capito of West Virginia. I still credit Mr. Suitor and Mr. Lyons for fostering a love of our system of government. Many of the lessons I learned in Mr. Lyons class are directly related to my everyday work."

Cynthia Pando shares, "I recently became a Ph.D. candidate in health services research at the University of Minnesota. I am one MAJOR step away from becoming Dr. Pando."



- 1. Ahmed Lundgren-Bekov '95
- 2. Andrew Dorsett '96
- 3. Christopher Blondin '03
- 4. Michael Greenwald '03
- 5. Kate Nordstrom '04
- 6. Roger Hunt III '04
- 7. Ibrahim Ayub '10



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How Sweet It Was

SPECIAL MOMENTS FROM REUNION 2023

PHOTOGRAPHS BY
ANDY WEIGL

ST. MARK'S HOSTED more than 300 guests from May 5-7 for Reunion Weekend 2023, which celebrated the 50th anniversary of the Southborough School and St. Mark's graduates in classes ending in 3 and 8. »



A view of the special reception for members of the 25th and 50th in the Classroom in the Sky.



Saturday night selfies with the Class of 1998.



Cort Devereux '03 and Andrew Pfaff '03 with Annie Pfaff.



A great turnout from the Class of 2008.



Michelle Svelti '08 with guest Simon Walker.



Rob Buffum '73, Russell Pyne '73, Helen Pyne gather for the 50th Reunion dinner at Choate House.



Southborough School alumnae and former faculty gather to celebrate the 50th anniversary of their arrival in Southborough.



Riya Shankar '18, Sophie Haugen '18 and Ben Hunnewell '18.



Members of the Class of 1973 celebrate their 50th reunion.



Members of the Class of 1998 celebrating their 25th reunion in the Classroom in the Sky.



Members of the class of 1983.



Members of the Class of 2018 with Arts faculty member Aggie Belt.



The Class of 2018 kicks off its fifth reunion at the Empire in Boston.



Class of 2018 alumni with faculty member Jason Eslick P'26.



The Class of 1993 celebrates their 30th reunion.



Jane McRoberts '93, Myeta Moon '93, and Joe Birbiglia '93.

ST. MARK'S SCHOOL REUNION

Save the Dates!

Visit us in Southborough for Reunion Weekend!

The Class of 1974, 50th Reunion Celebration
APRIL 26 AND 27, 2024

A CELEBRATION HONORING JOHN C. WARREN '74
AND LAURA P. APPELL-WARREN ON APRIL 27, 2024

— and —

Classes that end in 4 and 9, Reunion Celebration
MAY 10 AND 11, 2024

More information to come at www.stmarksschool.org/reunion.

IN MEMORIAM

1950
Richard P. Mortimer died peacefully at home in Southampton, N.Y., on February 11. He was 92. Dickie, as he was known to his many friends, was a member of the Southampton Club, where he had breakfast nearly every day, working on and completing the *New York Times* crossword puzzle in ink. He was an excellent billiards player, winning many tournaments, and spent countless afternoons at the club playing and teaching those games to others. He was also an avid and accomplished backgammon player. Dickie grew up in New York City, Tuxedo Park, and Southampton, N.Y. He was the last of his generation and is survived by his children Kathryn Tilford, Richard Iselin, and Peter Augustus. A memorial service will be held at Saint Andrew’s Dune Church, where Dickie served as a trustee.

1952
Arthur Maxson Cottrell III, 87, died on March 16 at his home in Westerly, R.I., surrounded by his wife Charlotte, son Max, and daughters Sophie and Lydia. Art was born on September 15, 1935, in Westerly, son of Violet Tangeman and Arthur Maxson Cottrell, Jr. He lived there until age 4, when he and his mother, father and older brother Toby moved to nearby Ashaway, R.I., where they lived for many years. After graduating from St. Mark’s in 1952 at age 16, he completed a post-graduate year at the Hill School in Pottstown, Penn. Art attended Yale University for a year before leaving to join the Army in 1954. He served for two years, training in Texas for

the medical corps and a posting in Nürnberg, Germany, as an X-ray technician. After completing two years of service, Art was honorably discharged and enrolled at Middlebury College, where he majored in economics and graduated in 1961. While in college, he met and married Susan Drinkwater. After graduation the couple moved to Farmington, Conn., and Art started a banking career with Hartford National Bank & Trust. Art and Susan had three children, Max, Sophie, and Lydia. Art and Susan divorced in 1974. Art then met and married Charlotte Karhu, and the couple returned to Rhode Island in 1976. Art joined Fleet National Bank in Providence, where he worked through 1987. He subsequently took a position with the Washington Trust Company in his hometown of Westerly, where he served as a trust department officer until his retirement in 1997. Art was an athlete throughout life. He played six years of football at St. Mark’s and was a member of the wrestling team. He discovered crew while at St. Mark’s and rowed for four years. His lifelong love of golf also began around this time. Art loved spending time outdoors with his children, skiing in Vermont, and sailing in the waters off Watch Hill, R.I. As a member of the Misquamicut Club in Watch Hill, Art played more than 4,000 rounds, considered by many to be a club record. Art followed his children’s athletic endeavors with dedication and commitment. In 1987, while watching one of Sophie’s races as a member of the Brown University Women’s crew, Art decided to get back into rowing. He purchased a shell and rowed and raced avidly for the next 20

years, competing in the Head of the Charles’ Masters Event. Art was devoted to the Westerly Chorus and sang in its productions for decades. He was elected treasurer of the town of Hopkinton, R.I., a role in which he served for several years. Art also actively supported the Westerly Hospital for more than 30 years in various roles including member of the board of trustees and chairman of its first development committee. Art’s passion for music was evident to all who knew him. He was also an avid reader and crossword puzzler. Visitors to the house would often find Art in his favorite chair with a book in hand and The New York Times Sunday Magazine opened to the crossword, which would be complete or nearly so. Art had an inner peace, a sense of devotion to people and ideas, a patience and a wit that endeared him to many. He will be remembered as a devoted father, husband, and friend who was happiest spending time with those he loved and admired. Art was predeceased by his brother Toby in 2002. Art is survived by his wife Charlotte, children Max (and wife Christine), Lydia, and Sophie (and husband Paul Caminiti), and five grandchildren, Angus and Charlie Cottrell, and Theodora, Lila, and Felix Caminiti.

1958
Thomas Gaston died on November 29, 2022. While at St. Mark’s, he lettered in crew, served as captain of the wrestling team, and earned the William T. White Prize, awarded to VI Form student-athletes who are judged by coaches and captains to have made an invaluable contribution to team success because of their enthusiasm, skill, determination, and unselfishness. A full obituary was not available at press time.

1959
Brinley M. Hall Jr., P’84, ’88, ’91, GP’13, ’16, ’19, died on February 2. He was 82. Brinley was born in Boston on June 19, 1940, to Brinley and Elizabeth (Jaques) and grew up in Beverly Farms, Mass. After graduating from St. Mark’s, where he lettered in ice hockey and was later inducted into the Athletic Hall of Fame, he attended the University of Pennsylvania. A stint in the Marine Corps Reserves followed before he started his own family. He married Ann Eichelberger in 1963 and raised three children, Morgan, Tuck, and Wendy in Hamilton, Mass., before moving to Southborough. His primary work was as an educational administrator for various schools in Massachusetts. An avid Boston sports fan, he was fortunate to enjoy with friends and family many successes by the teams—especially “reversing the curse” in 2004. This joy for athletics carried into many years coaching youth sports. Brinley enjoyed retirement in Blue Hill, Maine, and Fort Myers Beach, Florida. He continued his love for cooking and gardening while volunteering his time and talents with various organizations such as Brantwood Camp in Peterborough, N.H., the Deck House School in North Edgecomb, Maine, and Habitat for Humanity of Collier County, Fla.. He also was an active member of both St. Francis by the Sea Episcopal Church in Blue Hill, Maine, and St. Raphael’s Episcopal Church of Fort Myers Beach, Fla. He leaves behind his wife of 59 years, Ann “Rooney” Hall of Blue Hill, Maine; children Morgan of Petersham, Mass.; Tuck of St. John, U.S. Virgin Islands; and Wendy (Bryan) Speth, of Hailey, Idaho; and grandchildren Boyd, Brynna, Colby, Dawson, and Kyler.

Brinley also leaves his siblings, Dolly (Skip (d)) Howard of Naples, Fla.; Denny (Lynn) of Manchester, Mass., and Bobby (Meg) of Annisquam, Mass.; along with numerous cousins, nieces and nephews.

1960
C. Boyden Gray died on May 21 at his home in the Georgetown section of Washington, D.C. He was 80. Boyden was born on Feb. 6, 1943, in Winston-Salem, N.C. Boyden did much for St. Mark’s over many decades. He was a trustee from 1971 until 2012, and he chaired the board between 1994 and 2000. Once retiring from active board service, Boyden became a trustee emeritus. He played an important leadership role in the 21st Century Campaign between 1997 and 2002, and was particularly helpful in working with other members of the campaign steering committee to identify the campaign’s priorities. Boyden was very generous to St. Mark’s over many years. Especially significant was his endowment gift in 2010 that created the Gray Colloquium, a program that brings speakers to St. Mark’s every year who focus on some aspect of democracy. Boyden’s father, Gordon, was a national security adviser to President Dwight D. Eisenhower and president of the University of North Carolina. After graduating from St. Mark’s, Boyden studied history at Harvard College, graduating in 1964. In 1968, he graduated at the head of his class from the University of North Carolina School of Law. He served in the United States Marine Corps Reserve from 1965 to 1970. In 1968, Boyden joined the firm Wilmer Cutler & Pickering, where he became a partner in 1976. Once a Democrat, he switched to the Republican Party by the end of the

1970s. In 1981, Boyden took a leave of absence from the firm to serve as legal counsel for Vice President George H. W. Bush. He later served as director of the Office of Transition Counsel for the Bush transition team, and as counsel to President Bush from 1989 to 1993. During this time, Boyden became one of the main architects of the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments that suggested market solutions for environmental problems. In 1993, Bush awarded him the Presidential Citizens Medal. He returned to Wilmer Cutler & Pickering in 1993, where his practice focused on a range of regulatory matters with an emphasis on environmental issues, including those relating to biotechnology, trade, clean air, and the management of risk. He also served as chairman of the section of Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice of the American Bar Association. In 2002, he founded the Committee for Justice, a Washington, D.C.-based nonprofit dedicated to screening judicial and U.S. Justice Department nominees. In 2006, President George W. Bush gave him a recess appointment as United States Ambassador to the European Union. He took a leave of absence from the law firm of Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr to accept that position. Boyden’s last government position was as special envoy for European affairs and special envoy for Eurasian energy at the Mission of the United States to the European Union, having been nominated by United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in 2008. Boyden was a member of the board of directors at the Atlantic Council, the European Institute, FreedomWorks, and America Abroad Media. In addition, he was also a member of the Federalist Society,

Harvard University’s Committee on University Development, the Board of Trustees of the Washington Scholarship Fund, and National Cathedral School. Boyden married Carol Taylor in 1984, and they divorced a few years later. In addition to their daughter, Eliza Gray, Boyden is survived by two brothers, Bernard and Gordon, and two grandchildren.

1961
Douglas Plihal McLennan died in January. He recently published his first book, *The Adventures of Joe Roberts of Belize*. A full obituary was not available at press time.

1973
Alessandro Cagiati, Jr., 68, of New Bern, N.C., died on December 9, 2022. Born to the late Alessandro and Joy Cagiati in Frankfurt, Germany on June 6, 1954, he spent his childhood in Washington, D.C., Trinidad, and Beverly Farms, Mass. After graduating from St. Mark’s, he received a B.S. in natural sciences from the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Alessandro could accomplish anything he set his mind to and was always willing to help someone in need. He enjoyed gardening, scuba diving, fishing, travel, photography, and most of all, his pottery. Always a perfectionist, he would break any piece of pottery that he didn’t think was worthy to be called art. Always pursuing his passions, he worked as an arborist for his own business. He became a talented carpenter and photographer. These skills took him to the West Coast, where he worked on movie sets and then as a photojournalist for NBC and CBS Sports. Returning to Massachusetts, he rediscovered his love for the ocean and

started another career as a commercial fisherman and diver. Shortly after moving to North Carolina, he found a new passion in creating art through his pottery. He is survived by his loving wife Kathy Cagiati, brother Anthony Cagiati, stepson Bruce Goodson, stepdaughter Heather Tankersley, and many loving family members and close friends.

1988
Alexandra Gehring died January 12. She was 52. Shortly before her death, she published these words: *Well Wow! That was an exhilarating ride! What a privilege. My body! My constant companion. Her fortitude. She gave me everything I asked of her! And now she will rest deeply as she has long deserved. She & I are ready. To have the education I received! To have the freedom to decide the exact shape my family and my work would take. The magic of loving my daughter, Jesse! Our twenty-nine years together! Watching her grow and create a family of her own. Meeting Mercedes! The sound of slow steady rain on the roof! A sky thick with stars! A long run! The smell of coming snow! A perfectly sharpened pencil! The thrill of cold water on my skin! A paper lantern floating up through the darkness! The tastes! The smells! And to all of you, thank you, thank you, thank you. I’ll see you in the stars! Love, Alex*

Helping Hands



RISEING VI FORMERS Judy Rodolakis and Calvin Beard (seated, center) were named co-Head Monitors for the 2023-2024 School year, alongside fellow Monitors (left to right) Charlotte Crawford, Yumna Syed, Crystal Hui, Eli Zahavi, Munene Muindi, and Jonathan Hernandez.

The position of Monitor at St. Mark's dates back to 1866-1867, the School's second academic year.



Feedback on this issue? Email
editor@stmarksschool.org.

PHOTOGRAPH BY SANDRA LEVANDOWSKI

MAKE AN Immediate Impact



GIFTS TO THE ST. MARK'S ANNUAL FUND HAVE A DIRECT AND IMMEDIATE IMPACT ON ALL ASPECTS OF THE SCHOOL—the academic program, athletics, arts, financial aid, professional development, facilities, and campus life. Every contribution, of any size, helps St. Mark's fulfill its mission of educating young people for lives of leadership and service.

In 2023–2024, we are pleased to announce that unrestricted gifts may be designated in honor of John C. Warren '74 and Laura P. Appell-Warren.

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PRIZE DAY

P. 12

