

Taft

BULLETIN



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ON THE COVER
Senior Class Dean and Science Teacher Michael McAloon's office is one of the most fascinating spaces on campus.

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On
MAIN HALL

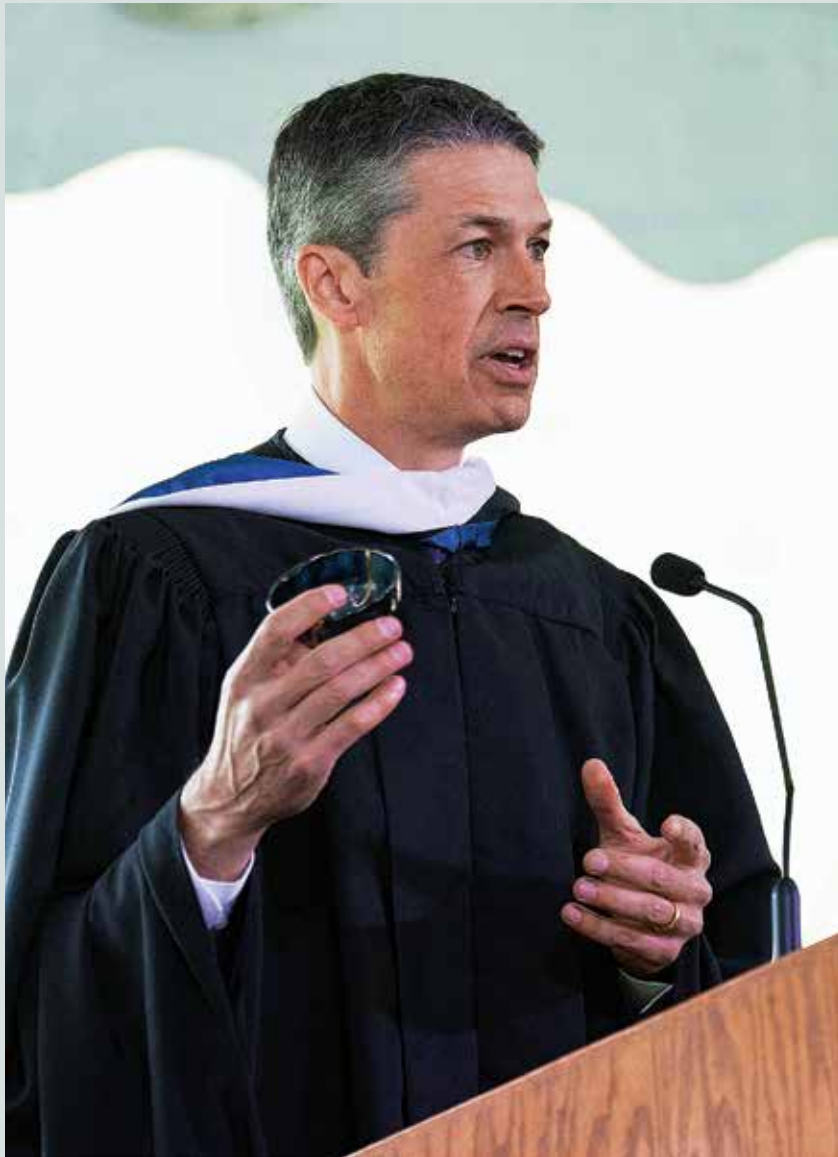
A WORD WITH HEAD OF SCHOOL PETER BECKER '95

What Do Strategic Plans Have to Do With Commencement?



One of the great privileges of serving in this role is the opportunity to meet Taft alumni and parents from across the decades. As an alumnus myself, I once knew only my own classmates and those in the adjacent years. Moreover, I had no family ties to Taft before I enrolled as a lower mid—so no experience of Taft other than my own. But now, hearing stories that span generations, I'm struck by a few recurring truths.
First, Taft has always been a work in progress—holding fast to core values and evolving thoughtfully and deliberately. One example: for generations, students attended Vespers four nights a week, followed by a sit-down dinner. Then, in the fall of 1994—coincidentally, my senior year—Taft transitioned to the current schedule of Morning Meeting and two community dinners a week. The form changed, but the function endured: community, reflection, shared meals. Second, nearly everyone admits—often in a whisper—that they didn't love every minute of their Taft experience. They recount a season, a year, sometimes more, that was difficult. I relate deeply. My first two years were hard enough that I seriously considered leaving. And yet, those tough chapters often become the most formative.
Third, almost every Taftie names at least one faculty member who changed their life. Sometimes

Each year, I struggle to find the right words for graduates. What advice could possibly prepare them for the complexity of life ahead? That challenge felt even greater this year, in a world marked by fracture and rapid change, uncertainty and promise."



Head of School Peter Becker '95 gives his remarks at Commencement holding an example of a bowl mended by the Japanese art of *kintsugi*.

Finally, and most poignantly, the lives of our alumni reveal a universal truth: everyone’s path winds. People change professions, move across the globe, survive failure, discover purpose through grief, build new identities out of unexpected beginnings. It’s an extraordinary privilege to listen to these stories—and to recognize in them a common thread: growth, adaptation, resilience.

These were the themes I carried with me as I handed diplomas to the Class of 2025.

Each year, I struggle to find the right words for graduates. What advice could possibly prepare them for the complexity of life ahead? That challenge felt even greater this year, in a world marked by fracture and rapid change, uncertainty and promise. So instead of offering answers, I offered them an image: *kintsugi*.

The Beauty in the Broken

Kintsugi is the historic Japanese art of repairing broken pottery with lacquer and gold. Rather than hiding the cracks, the artist illuminates them, creating a piece more beautiful and valuable than before it broke. The break becomes part of the story—an honored, even sacred, aspect of the whole.

Makoto Fujimura, the Japanese-American artist and writer, describes *kintsugi* as “a somatic knowledge of healing,” a practice that refuses the impulse to conceal brokenness or erase history.

In his words:

“There is a false dualism that divides the ‘broken’ and the ‘perfect.’ At the heart of every ‘us versus them’ mentality is the notion that brokenness lies with ‘them.’ But *kintsugi* resists that. It invites us to behold the fragments, perhaps for generations, and to name the fissures in ways that open us to new generative possibilities.”

Why share this image with 18-year-olds preparing to leave Watertown? Because the world they’re entering was already cracked open before they arrived.

They were born in 2006 and 2007, into a world at war, on the verge of economic collapse, and bracing for technological and social revolutions. They grew up with mass shootings, America involved in wars on

it’s a Taft legend. Sometimes it’s a teacher who was here only briefly. Especially in recent decades, as our faculty has become more diverse, so too have the stories of impact.

Fourth, alumni nearly always speak of two or more classmates they’ve stayed close to—friendships that helped them navigate the ups and downs of life: first jobs and career changes, marriages and divorces, parenting, loss, reinvention. As one alumna recently told me, “I probably would not be alive today if not for ...”

two fronts far away, extreme weather, #MeToo, BLM, and as the guinea pigs of the social media experiment. The iPhone debuted just as they were learning to crawl. They’ve lived through a global pandemic and political upheaval.

In other words: the bowl cracked long ago. And it keeps cracking. For Tafties, however, living out “Not to be served but to serve” means that brokenness is not the end of the story.

The Choice to Reimagine

For generations, we have sent our graduates into the world with this call to action. Living a life of service is not passive—it is deeply creative. It invites us to be agents of wholeness wherever we find ourselves: to continually reimagine what a more beautiful future can look like and to seek the good of the other. In this way, service resembles *kintsugi*—mending the communities in which we have influence with care, humility, and beauty.

I told the Class of 2025 that they will create the future or let it be created for them. I am hopeful because I am confident that they will choose to create and will join the many alumni who have done the same.

The Importance of Strategic Design

This is where our newly adopted Strategic Plan comes into focus. At its root, the plan is a few things:

- ▶ A claim about the purpose of a Taft education in the second quarter of the 21st century: what we want Taft students to know and be able to do—the mission, the vision, and the Portrait of a Learner.
- ▶ A plan to articulate Taft’s theory and practice of boarding school education: the conditions we believe are required in the classroom, the dorm, in arts and athletics—and throughout the 24/7 boarding ecosystem—in order for students to grow in the ways we want for them—the core values, the learning principles, the Portrait of a Taft Educator.
- ▶ A plan to articulate Taft’s theory and practice of boarding school education, detailing the conditions needed across academics, dorm life, arts, and athletics to support student growth in core values, learning principles, and the Portrait of a Taft Educator.

- ▶ A commitment to develop ways of assessing the effectiveness of Taft’s theory and practice of boarding school education. What evidence can we collect over time that will demonstrate the degree to which all Taft students reflect the Portrait of a Taft Learner? We cannot take our effectiveness for granted—we must be a school that continually learns and improves on behalf of our current and future students, especially as we all continue to adapt to the constant opportunities and challenges presented by technology.

“I told the Class of 2025 that they will create the future or let it be created for them. I am hopeful because I am confident that they will choose to create and will join the many alumni who have done the same.”

- ▶ A plan that calls for more operational planning—long-range (and more immediate!) planning for Taft’s campus, campaign planning, and financial and operational sustainability.
- ▶ A plan to engage alumni more consistently, including finding ways to connect alumni with current Taft students to extend and deepen learning beyond the classroom and campus.

In short, the strategic plan is our statement about what we believe Taft—and you, Taft’s community—can do to ensure that future students are prepared to enter the world as self-driven, independently minded, creative, and courageous human beings who will live our motto.

Most of all, our plan affirms that adolescence is a remarkable season of growth and that boarding school, when done right, is a uniquely powerful context for that growth.

In a world increasingly shaped by machines, algorithms, and disruption, we believe that distinctly human capacities—character, creativity, moral courage, community—matter more than ever. Our work at Taft is to develop those capacities.

Peter Becker

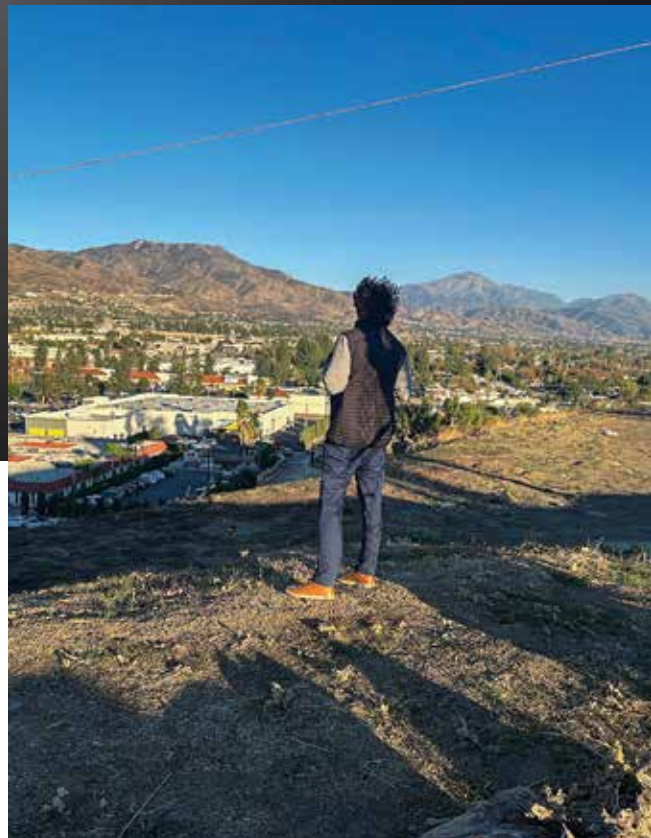
Peter Becker '95

“Living a life of service is not passive—it is deeply creative. It invites us to be agents of wholeness wherever we find ourselves.”



Left: Robert Carrillo '95, social impact developer, documentary filmmaker, and president of Carrillo Group CANY

Below: Carrillo on the 9.51 acres of land overseeing north San Bernardino, where the LaunchPad project will be built.



Creating Community Opportunities

ROBERT CARRILLO '95 wears many hats in his career, but his mission is consistent: He's devoted to the noble cause of improving life for underserved communities. With over 25 years of experience in the real estate industry, he now leads Carrillo Group, a brokerage firm committed to culturally responsive real estate practices that prioritize equity and justice. "My team helps renters become homeowners, helps homeowners leverage their real estate to purchase commercial property, and supports small

businesses similarly," shares Carrillo.

Currently a resident of San Bernardino, California, Carrillo is working on three important initiatives in his city: combating gentrification, empowering girls of color through the sport of wrestling, and developing an economic and housing model to address homelessness.

Carrillo comes by these kinds of selfless pursuits honestly. He was born in Washington Heights, New York, to an immigrant Peruvian mother who was constantly volunteering to help those in need.

"Even though she didn't have much herself, my mom ran a food pantry and enlisted my sisters and me to volunteer with her," Carrillo remembers. "She also worked as a nutritionist at a center for children with AIDS. Her work ethic was remarkable."

At Taft and then Wesleyan, Carrillo continued volunteering and began to view this work in a more systematic type of way. After graduating from college, he began a job at Deutsche Bank, where he had completed two summer analyst programs while a student at Wesleyan, which was his

first exposure to the world of real estate. With his signing bonus, Carrillo set out to buy a place in Washington Heights, only to find that the area had become too gentrified. This discovery sparked Carrillo's interest in using his professional skills to combat the gentrification that permeates so many American cities.

Priced out of his childhood neighborhood, Carrillo instead moved to the South Bronx, where he immersed himself as a community resident, organizer, and special education teacher. Ironically, he worked at a Bronx-based school called Taft, which was located in the poorest congressional district in the country. In 2013, Carrillo, who wrestled at both Taft and Wesleyan, and was captain at each his senior years, founded a nonprofit called Lucha Vida, a youth wrestling program involving mentorship, nutrition, and tutoring.

"Lucha Vida was born from the urgent need to uplift at-risk youth in the South Bronx," says Carrillo. "The program has been a huge triumph and still exists



today, and we're bringing it out to San Bernardino come August. It's my hope that we can keep its expansion going."

Inspired by Lucha Vida's success, Carrillo decided to document several years of the wrestling program, and eventually created a feature-length documentary called *LUCHA* that has since been shown in 13 film festivals and won multiple awards (view trailer at www.luchamovie.com).

In 2020, Carrillo relocated to San Bernardino when his wife, also an educator, accepted a job in the area. Now, he's

primarily focused on his newest endeavor, LaunchPad, an innovative mixed-use, mixed-income development in San Bernardino that he firmly believes will be a solution to the city's economic and housing issues.

"LaunchPad provides affordable housing across income levels ensuring safe and stable homes for vulnerable populations including immigrants, youth aging out of foster care, and veteran women with children," says Carrillo. "The housing is upstairs. The ground floor includes micro-retail incubator spaces, commercial kitchens, a daycare, and an indoor vertical farm." Mayor Helen Tran says, "This innovative approach addresses San Bernardino's systemic challenges and positions San Bernardino as a hub for inclusive, accessible, and environmentally responsible economic growth."

The building, which plans to open its doors in December, is made of modular construction and features 100% solar and energy conserving materials. "The LaunchPad model can be replicated throughout other cities, regions, and maybe even the country," says Carrillo. "I see many more Launchpads in the future as a solution to addressing America's housing crisis." ■

—Carola Lovering Crane '07

Above: Carrillo, far left, and a fellow coach from NYC's Taft high school attended a tournament in 2022 to see two of their former female wrestlers who received scholarships to wrestle at Umpqua Community College in Oregon.

Left: Carrillo and members of the San Bernardino Small Business Resource Group meet a local store owner after distributing resources, part of a broader outreach effort across several commercial corridors.



Sound Machine



Audio engineer
Athena Wilkinson '15

THE NEXT TIME YOU HEAR a pounding drumbeat, showstopping keyboard solo, or electrifying guitar lick, you might have Athena Wilkinson '15 to thank for making it sound so good. A Colorado-based audio engineer, Wilkinson and the team at Evergroove Studio produce albums for indie-folk groups, hard rock bands, classical ensembles, and everyone in between, always striving to put listeners inside the music.

"It was a little bit by mistake," says Wilkinson of the path that led her to a career in audio production. Already passionate about music when she arrived at Taft, she needed a little encouragement

from classmate Zoë Klimley to convince her to enroll in guitar lessons. These soon developed into songwriting and recording sessions—including lessons with influential guitar teacher Fred Krug '95—and, coupled with her time singing in Collegium under the great Bruce Fifer, confirmed that she had a future in the music industry.

After graduation, Wilkinson continued her education at the University of Denver's Lamont School of Music, and at the same time, she interned at Evergroove. There, in addition to taking out the trash and cleaning the floors, she received valuable firsthand training

setting up microphones in the recording studio, helping with vocal tuning, and working directly with clients. It was such a formative experience that, just a few years later, she found herself back at Evergroove as a full-time engineer.

For Wilkinson, listening lies at the heart of her craft. "Our job is to realize the artists' vision for the music. Whatever they hear in their heads, we want to achieve that sound," she explains. A typical album can take up to 10 eight-hour sessions to record, followed by weeks of mixing and mastering, and at every step, Wilkinson and her colleagues are in close contact with the



Above: Wilkinson speaking at NAMM (National Association of Music Merchants), one of the largest music conferences.

Right: Wilkinson talking about Dolby Atmos with the Mix with the Masters instructor, David Wrench (Jungle, Frank Ocean, Bon Iver, and more), during a masterclass in Paris, France.

Below: Wilkinson in the studio with a client. RICHARD HAWES



client. "We might give production ideas or suggestions, but in our minds, the music always comes first, not our egos. It ends up being a very collaborative process."

Evergroove specializes in the use of immersive Dolby Atmos technology, a new format that adds height channels to give added dimension to traditional surround sound. Wilkinson describes her first time hearing the spatial audio format as a light-switch moment. "I almost cried," she recalls. "It viscerally placed me inside of the music in a way that I have never experienced before."

Working with hundreds of individual instrument tracks—including strings, keyboards, flute, bagpipe, cittern, saz, melodica, handpan, percussion, and vocals—Wilkinson recently helped produce the Dolby Atmos mix for David Arkenstone's sweeping fantasy album *Quest for the Runestone*. "It was particularly exciting to hear that music performed in a Dolby theater—the kind of space that this music is meant for," she says. "It was so powerful and such a special moment in my career, to be able to step back and say, 'I did this.'"



Wilkinson also contributed to Aaron Lazar's *Impossible Dream*, featuring Josh Groban, Kristin Chenoweth, Lin Manuel Miranda, and dozens of Broadway superstars. That project earned a Grammy nomination for Best Traditional Pop Vocal Album, but greater than any accolade is the satisfaction she derives from helping clients realize their musical dreams. "So many artists have told us, after listening to their work mixed in Atmos, that they've always wanted their music to sound like that, and now it can. It's life changing in so many ways!" ■

—Christopher Browner '12



Castagnetti and his former business partner to begin seeking projects with impact-driven clients and compelling characters.

“We started to look at it as, if you have a worthwhile story to tell, then we can tell it with heart, soul, and style,” he says. “Another north star we followed was how to take a really complicated concept and translate it to the cinematic language in a way that’s fun, inspiring, and relatable.”

That approach shines in *Hungry Life: Yellowstone River*, a short series he codirected for YETI. Over two four-day travel shoots, Castagnetti followed chef Eduardo Garcia down the Yellowstone River as he prepared meals with found ingredients. Striking visuals aside, it’s the intimacy and sense of adventure that linger. “I’m always trying to connect with the soul of the person on the other side of the camera,” he explains. “A thinking face is one of the most interesting things in the world to me.”

Establishing trust is at the core of Castagnetti’s work. He recently served as cinematographer for *The Program: Cons, Cults, and Kidnapping*, a Netflix docuseries examining the troubled



teen industry. Castagnetti interviewed dozens of survivors who had endured horrific abuse at a behavior modification program. “My biggest job was building trust and honoring that trust,” he says.

In one shoot, they returned to the program’s abandoned facilities in upstate New York. The visit stirred painful memories but yielded powerful footage, including an interview in the same room where one subject had been held in solitary confinement.

Before filming someone, Castagnetti always made a point to spend time with them. “We’d find some things to connect on

as human beings, so by the time I’m pointing a camera at them, I’m just Pete,” he says.

Last year, Castagnetti gave his own DO Lecture titled “How do we make it special?” The talk captured the creative approach he’s been developing since his earliest days at Taft.

“Two of the most important things are that I absolutely love to learn, and creative problem solving is my happy place,” he says. “Production, at the end of the day, is just a hurricane of creative problem solving.” ■

—Elliott Grover

Framing Impact

THE PROPHECY SECTION OF PETER Castagnetti ’99’s eighth-grade yearbook predicted that he would become a film critic. “I always loved movies,” he says. “But where I grew up, it really wasn’t considered that you could grow up to actually make them.”

That perspective shifted when he arrived at Taft. “Taft had a video program before a lot of colleges did,” Castagnetti says. As a mid, he learned to edit on a VHS-to-VHS system and started making his own films.

While Castagnetti downplays those early projects, they proved formative, helping him develop technical skills and a feel for storytelling. “That gave me a leg up when I got to college because I was thinking a little more dynamically about the process,” he says. Castagnetti studied film at Emerson

College before moving to Los Angeles to pursue a career behind the camera.

Over the past two decades, he has established himself as a filmmaker and photographer focused on purpose-driven storytelling. His production company, WorkLikeHell, collaborates with brands and nonprofits—such as YETI, lululemon, and the Gates Foundation—to tell stories with heart and intention.

His cinematography credits include the 2023 dark comedy *Adventures of the Naked Umbrella* and *Accidental Courtesy: Daryl Davis, Race and America*, a stirring documentary that won the Grand Jury Prize at the 2015 South by Southwest (SXSW) film festival.

A pivotal moment in Castagnetti’s journey came in 2013, when he joined

Easton Sports’s in-house content team. The iconic baseball company gave him access to high-end gear and creative freedom. “They bought us a super slow-motion camera so we could shoot 1,500 frames per second,” he says. “You’re watching the millisecond the baseball mashes on the bat as it makes contact.”

Through Easton’s brand director, he was introduced to The DO Lectures, a speaker series similar to TED Talks that features people who’ve taken bold paths or followed their instincts to success. This experience led

Above: Cinematographer and photographer Peter Castagnetti ’99 works behind the scenes on an ad campaign for Goodr Sunglasses as the director of photography, pictured with his former business partner and longtime collaborator, Barret Bowman.



Above: Castagnetti works behind the scenes on an ad campaign for Goodr Sunglasses as the director of photography.

Left: Castagnetti (in tan shirt) shoots macro miniatures in the desert for a PBS (SoCal) series, *Off the Beaten Path*; also pictured is Director Georg Kallert. JAY STEGER

Below: One of Castagnetti’s artistic photos, *Rust Abstract No.5*. He says he often sees an abstract painting in rust and other decay textures.



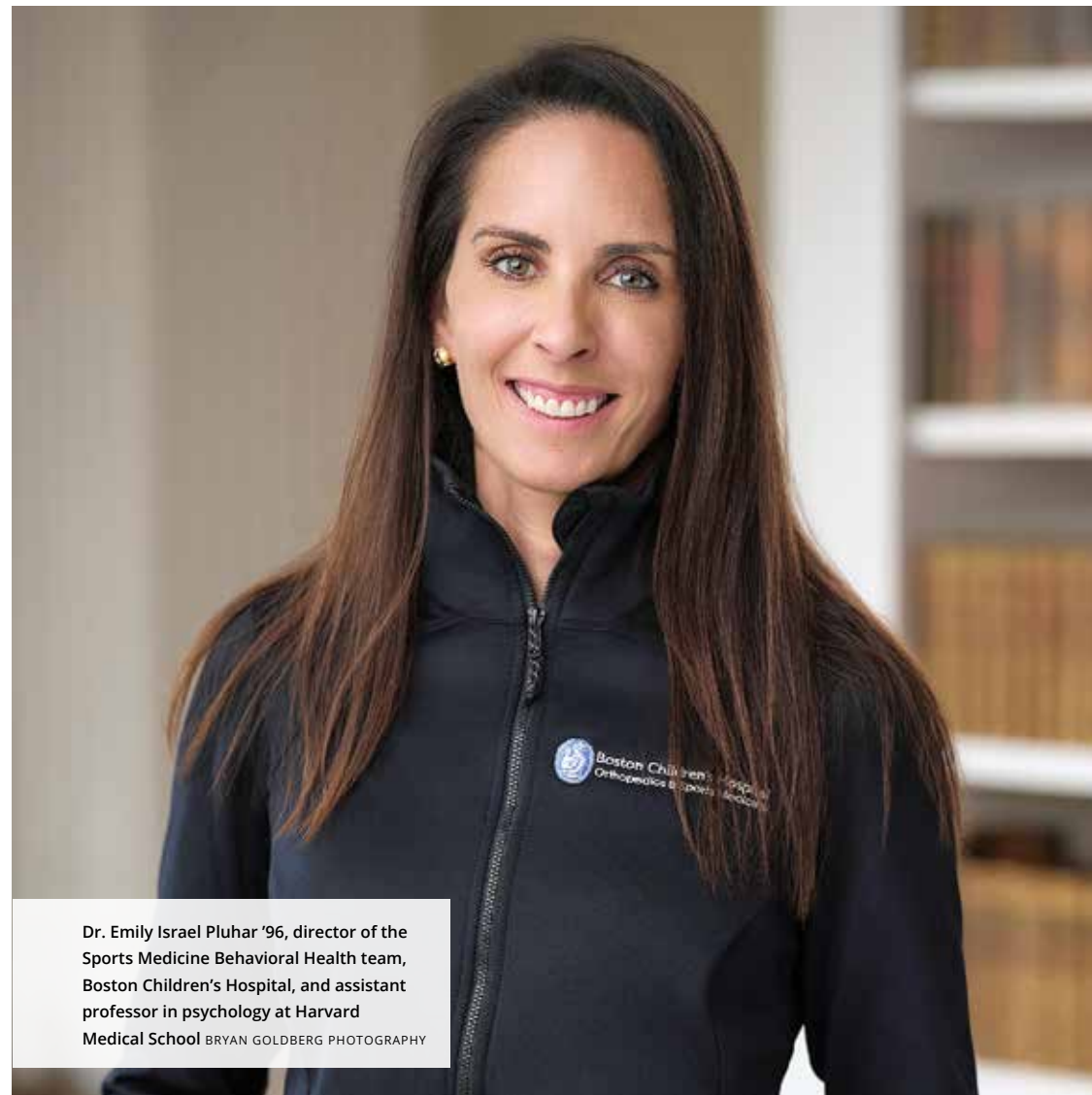
Injured Athletes and Mental Health

“Injured athletes frequently experience a profound sense of loss of physical function, structure, social connection, and identity.”

WHEN AN ATHLETE IS INJURED, healing the mind is often as important as healing the body. Dr. Emily Israel Pluhar '96 spends her days providing clinical care and researching injured adolescent athletes who are experiencing increased levels of anxiety, depression, and other emotional responses related to sports injuries. She is the director of the Sports Medicine Behavioral Health team, part of Boston Children's Hospital, and is an assistant professor in psychology at Harvard Medical School, where she has also run an Adolescent Medicine Psychology Fellowship.

“What makes sports injuries particularly complex is the psychological impact is often underrecognized,” Pluhar explains. “Injured athletes frequently experience a profound sense of loss of physical function, structure, social connection, and identity. They lose the camaraderie with their peers, endorphins, and the high of exercise, their relationships with coaches, and the motivational focus that competition provides that is the driving factor behind their passion for their sport.” “Many student-athletes thrive on the structure that school and sports provide. When that framework is disrupted by injury, they can struggle significantly. For many of them, their identity is deeply tied to their role as an athlete.”

The pressure to succeed in sports is intense, Pluhar says. “For middle and high school athletes, the focus is often on college recruitment. For college athletes, it's the next step—semi-professional leagues or



Dr. Emily Israel Pluhar '96, director of the Sports Medicine Behavioral Health team, Boston Children's Hospital, and assistant professor in psychology at Harvard Medical School BRYAN GOLDBERG PHOTOGRAPHY

national teams. There is a constant drive toward the next milestone. The persistent pressure can be detrimental.” The need to be the top athlete in their sport can lead to injuries both physical and mental. “These perfectionistic athletes [when injured] struggle with not being able to do what they love to do. You see it

manifest in the recovery process.” For example, a common injury—particularly injury to the Anterior Cruciate Ligament (ACL)—can occur when young athletes overtrain. Pluhar's research focuses on the link between ACL injuries and anxiety and depression in female adolescent and young adult athletes, who are

more prone to ACL tears. “Our goal is to improve overall recovery—not just physically but emotionally as well,” she notes. “We want the best possible outcomes.”

Concussion—when a hit to the skull causes internal damage to the brain—is another area Pluhar studies. Both ACL damage and concussions can derail an athlete not only physically but emotionally as well, Pluhar's clinical work and research has revealed.

“There has been substantial progress in recognizing and treating concussion,” she explains. “But even with improved protocols, many athletes still experience significant emotional distress. Still, athletes wonder ‘Am I ever going to get better?’

or they [express the] fear, ‘Am I ever going to return to my sport?’ These concerns can trigger underlying anxiety or depression caused by the injury.”

Pluhar has studied and consulted with many different competitive athletes. “I've [worked with] some really cool sports. I have had the opportunity to work with an extensive range of sports, including Olympic rowers, elite Nordic and alpine ski racers, fencers, and professional dancers.”

Much of the recovery process for injured athletes experiencing anxiety and depression involves educating the athlete on how the mind and body are integrated.



“Often in medicine we just focus on the physical healing, but understanding the mental health piece is crucial. When a [young person] is recovering from injury, they will benefit from meeting with a mental health professional. We want them to have a better understanding of the psychological recovery as well as the physical recovery,” she says.

“I love working with adolescents and young adults. That has been consistent throughout my career,” she says. Pluhar is also an active athlete who is passionate about tennis and skiing.

Pluhar, who also serves as a Taft trustee, credited a mentor in the field with igniting a passion for adolescent health, as well as her desire to mentor others.

“She mentored hundreds of women in the field of adolescent health,” Pluhar says. “If I can help promote other's careers, if I can train other people the way my mentor did, that's going to have a meaningful, long-lasting impact on mental health. The most meaningful, important part of my career is mentoring others and furthering the field.” ■

—Bonnie Blackburn-Penhollow '84

Above: Pluhar enjoys time with her family.

Left: Pluhar, far left, with her husband, Drew, and close friend Whitney Tremaine O'Brien '96

Stats Wiz

"A really cool part of my job is explaining to a player, 'Hey, here's why this number matters [to your game].'"



WHEN JACOB GOLDSTEIN '15 was offered a job in the National Basketball Association, he worried briefly that it might be hard to maintain a work-life balance.

He told me this a week after the 2024–25 NBA regular season had ended in April; he had just returned from a vacation in California. It had been a great trip, he said. He got to watch a lot of basketball.

"It's almost ironic, but vacation is really the first chance I have to sit down and watch other teams play," Goldstein says. "Despite being in the league, I still am deeply, deeply obsessed with basketball."

Goldstein spends almost all his waking hours—and some of his sleeping ones—thinking about basketball analysis for the Washington Wizards, for whom he is "the data guy"—technically, the manager of basketball research. His analytical input is now integral to almost every decision for the team, from whom they draft and sign to how players can improve their performance on the court.

"A really cool part of my job is explaining to a player, 'Hey, here's why this number matters [to your game].,'" says Goldstein, 28. "Even though you are a million times better than me at basketball, here's why getting better at this skill can make you a more impactful player."

Left: Jacob Goldstein '15, manager of basketball research for the Washington Wizards

Data analytics was introduced into professional sports by baseball's Oakland Athletics in the early 2000s, and its influence exploded after the success of the book, *Moneyball*, by Michael Lewis. Professional basketball has embraced the numbers more eagerly than perhaps any other league.

It has created an entry point for people like Goldstein, who couldn't play the game competitively at Taft because of head injuries he experienced when he was younger. He connected with the sport as a fan, and on social media he discovered a community of other "nerds," he says, who loved introducing new ways to understand the game through creative stats.

Goldstein's claim to fame is the invention of a new metric called Player Impact Plus-Minus, which he developed in college. It gauges a player's value, relative to a replacement player, in terms of how they help a team win. The leaderboard rankings are filled with the usual suspects—LeBron James, Stephen Curry, Luka Dončić. But where Goldstein's metric stood out was its recognition of non-superstars—particularly lengthy, athletic forwards who can defend and shoot 3-pointers—whose contributions go beyond the standard box scores.

What he considered a hobby turned serious when met Dean Oliver, a basketball statistics guru at ESPN. Oliver got hired as an assistant coach for the Wizards—fancy that, an analytics expert on the *bench*—and

in 2020, he approached Goldstein about working for the team's research department. It was a dream opportunity, but Goldstein questioned his own qualifications.

"I didn't have any academic background in statistics," he says. "I took some stats courses in college, but I was not a stats major or a data science major. I was a mechanical engineer. I just taught myself everything I know."

The Wizards hired him anyway, teaming him with Katherine Evans, who has a doctorate in statistics from Harvard and had been working with the Toronto Raptors. Goldstein said it could not have worked out better for him. "I generally think there are three things you need to get a job working for a sports team," he says. "One of them is doing a good job. One of them is being in the right position at the right time. And the other one is getting lucky."

A sports career isn't for everyone. It demands almost complete devotion, eats up weekends and holidays, and the rebuilding seasons (as the Wizards have been shown) can be torturous. But Goldstein has caught the basketball bug. He says he wants to eventually run a franchise, as the general manager, and lead a championship dynasty.

"This was a hobby for me well before I ever dreamed it could be a career," Goldstein says. "It still doesn't seem real." ■

—Zach Schonbrun '05

BY DEBRA MEYERS
For more information, visit www.taftschool.org/news



GLI Project Support

The Global Leadership Institute (GLI) is a competitive and rigorous co-curricular program that brings students from Taft and Waterbury public schools together both for shared learning and leadership training experiences. The program's mission is to develop a generation of global leaders with a genuine concern for world problems, multiple perspectives on global issues, and the knowledge and skills needed to contribute to worldwide change. For more than 10 years, each program cohort has identified a global problem they wish to address locally, then spent 18 months developing solutions. Three GLI projects received funding this year from the Live Our Motto Fund:

- Taft's Heidi Li '26 partnered with Zahixa Deboulet-Lopez from Crosby High School on a project they named, Hope for Tomorrow: Empowering Survivors. Their work focused on support for survivors of sexual harassment and assault. In coordination with Safe Haven of Greater Waterbury and with help from a grant from the Taft Class of 1970 Live Our Motto Fund, Heidi and Zahixa provided clothing for survivors—whose clothing is often taken into evidence by police at the time of the assault—as one component of their project.
- Through a project entitled Addiction Does Discriminate, Taft's Vi Vu '26 and Crosby's Amani Bien-Aime studied the role that poverty and stigmatization play in substance abuse disorders. In addition to detailed academic research, Vi and Amani spent time with in-house clinicians at a residential treatment facility and partnered with CT

Renaissance, a nonprofit organization providing comprehensive behavioral health services, as well as housing, case management, and skills training for individuals transitioning from incarceration back into the community. Live Our Motto Fund dollars helped Vi and Amani create gifts and essentials bags for those receiving residential services.

- Kaylee Graham '26 worked with Braelyn McDougall from the Waterbury Arts Magnet School on a project dedicated to helping families in greater Waterbury find and access after-school programs. They explored the advantages of after-school programs and looked at access to local programs, then presented their findings to Waterbury Public School families. Through a Live Our Motto Fund grant, and other initiatives, Kaylee and Braelyn raised \$1,000 to provide financial assistance for families looking to enroll in after-school programming.

Below: Heidi Li '26 and GLI partner Zahixa Deboulet-Lopez present their research on sexual assault and harassment, as well as details of their work with Safe Haven, during the GLI project presentation night.



Effecting Change

The Class of 1970 Live Our Motto Fund

MEMBERS OF TAFT'S CLASS OF 1970 were looking for ways to support the Taft community while connecting with current Taft students. The result is a fund rooted in the school motto—*Non ut sibi ministretur sed ut ministret*; Not to be served but to serve—which strengthens their legacy while helping current Taft students build their own.

The Class of 1970 Live Our Motto Fund helps support student-led initiatives that reflect Taft's mission and motto—to educate the whole student and encourage leadership, service, and meaningful engagement with community.

The fund empowers students to design and manage projects, sharpen leadership and fiscal skills, and create lasting, positive change on campus and beyond.

In fall 2024, the fund was introduced to the Taft community. By January, students were actively applying for grants and gathering weekly to share ideas, collaborate, and refine proposals. Under the guidance of Assistant Head of School for Student Life Jeremy LaCasse, they learned how to align their visions with the school's values while navigating the grant application process. LaCasse noted the “immediate

impact [the fund] has had on the campus and local communities,” and praised students' thoughtful engagement.

The fund is already making a tangible difference. In its first full year, it awarded nearly \$20,000 to 10 students and student groups working to effect change on campus and beyond. Here is a quick snapshot of just a few:

Above: During Alumni Weekend 2025, Class of 1970 Live Our Motto Fund grant recipients met with members of the class to express their gratitude and talk about their work.

Radio Tower and Bird Observation Cameras

Yuqi Qian '27 is leading an innovative project designed to advance science and learning while growing wildlife habitats. In addition to the installation of a Motus radio tower on campus to track bird migration using automated telemetry, birdhouses with live-feed cameras will pop up around campus. Funded in part by the Class of '70, both components will expand wildlife habitats and create new opportunities for scientific observation and the integration of data in science classrooms.

Below: Grant recipient Yuqi Qian '27 oversees the radio tower and bird observation project.



Community Arts Program

Funding provided art and craft supplies for an after-school program at a local elementary school. Taft students volunteer weekly through Taft's community service program to lead creative activities and build relationships with younger students.

Live Our Motto Fund grants also helped amplify student voices and the

arts by defraying the cost of publishing *Red Ink*, Taft's literary magazine; sharing critical health information and providing critical resources to the community through Taft's Public Health Club; supporting service travel to Costa Rica; and developing Taft's climbing program. The largest grant to date was awarded to Eleanor Lemon '26 for her work on the Ukrainian Refugee Book Project. ■



Left: Fiona Chou '25 is cofounder of Taft's Public Health Club and recipient of a Class of 1970 Live Our Motto Fund grant to support the Club's work. Since its founding in 2022, the Public Health Club has engaged in a range of projects and activities; to name just a few: brought professional medical practitioners to campus for educational sessions; conducted COVID education sessions and prepared COVID "essentials" bags for local health center clients, with federal financial assistance; raised funds for the American Heart Association; and, in photo, led classes in personal hygiene (handwashing, dental care) with second and third graders at the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Waterbury.

Above: A Class of 1970 grant supported the printing of both the fall and spring issues of *Red Ink*, the school's literary magazine, amplifying student voices through original poetry, prose, and artwork. This photograph, which appeared in the spring issue of *Red Ink*, features an origami sculpture entitled *A Delicate World*, crafted by Titania Wang '28, and displayed in Potter Gallery this year.



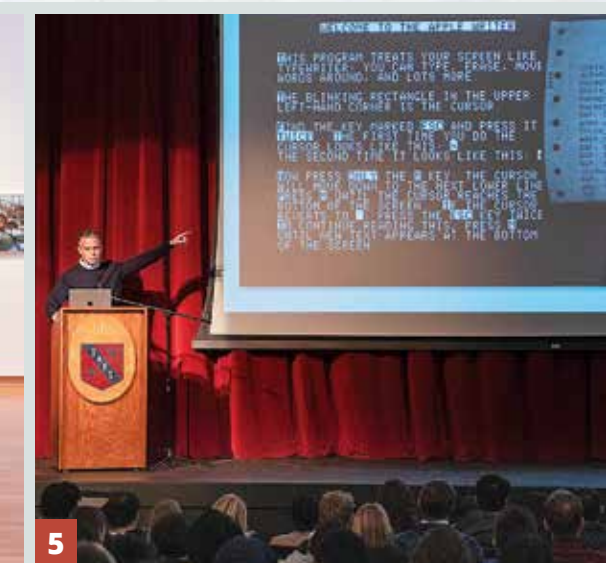
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Alumni Connections

BEYOND THE RELATIONSHIPS TAFT STUDENTS BUILT WITH MEMBERS OF THE CLASS OF 1970, THE SPRING TERM WAS FILLED WITH OPPORTUNITIES TO BUILD AND STRENGTHEN STUDENT-ALUMNI CONNECTIONS. AMONG THEM:

1. Christopher Browner '12, senior editor at New York's Metropolitan Opera, returned to campus to deliver a fascinating lecture on Giuseppe Verdi's *Aida*. To the great delight of the audience, he brought young Met performers with him, who brought bits of the show to life. Through the extraordinary generosity of James Barton '60, Tafties traveled to the Metropolitan Opera House at New York's Lincoln Center two days later to take in the full show at the storied venue.

2. It was a special and truly uplifting day on campus, as alumni—many former hockey players and coaches—family, fans, and supporters gathered in Odden Arena for two extraordinary events: the annual "Scotty Cup" Alumni Coed Hockey Game and luncheon, and the celebration of the 50th anniversary of girls' varsity hockey.

It was a thrill to welcome so many familiar faces back to Taft, and a privilege to honor those who led the way in developing and growing the girls' varsity ice hockey program at Taft and beyond.

3. JD Deardourff '04 is a widely recognized and celebrated muralist and printmaker who has exhibited in Paris, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Chicago, Brooklyn, Philadelphia, Baltimore, and his native Washington, D.C. He has also collaborated with commercial clients including Apple, Microsoft, the MLB, DC Comics, Hilton, Sam Adams, Heineken, D.C. United, Burton Snowboards, Mellow Mushroom, Framebridge, Cava, Sweetgreen, and Taylor Gourmet. His latest work is now on display in the Jig. Deardourff shared his talents and guided Taft students to apply theirs through the creation of

a mural in the recently updated Jig space. "The concept in general is sort of a 'good morning' vibe," says Deardourff. "The kids were also very insistent on 'chill' vibes. So I tried to keep it chill, but also have a lot of that good morning positive energy."

4. Eileen B. Mooney '96 brought her incredible artistic talent to the spring show in Potter Gallery. *Recent Work* included a stunning self-portrait series, landscapes, still lifes, memories, explorations, and more.

5. Owen Mahoney '85 got his first job when he was 14: selling video games at a computer store in San Francisco. Now he leads Nexon, one of the biggest and most successful gaming companies in the world. He shared the story of his career in the industry during a Morning Meeting visit to Taft. ■

History, Art, Culture, and Comfort



1

IT IS, AT ONCE, A MUSEUM, A LIBRARY, A DEN, A RETREAT. IT IS A REFLECTION, A HISTORY, AND A STORY. IT IS COMFORT AND CONNECTION. A PLACE WHERE ART MEETS SCIENCE. A WORK OF ART AND A PLACE FOR WIDE-EYED WONDER. SENIOR CLASS DEAN AND SCIENCE TEACHER MICHAEL MCALOON HAS TURNED HIS MORTARA WING OFFICE INTO ONE OF THE MOST FASCINATING SPACES ON CAMPUS.



2



3



5 6

1. McAloon brought these elephants home from southern India, where he spent time studying parasitic diseases of elephants with the Elephant Welfare Association of Kerala. This research allowed him to publish the first report of the elephant tapeworm life cycle.

2. A porcupine fish keeps watch over McAloon's treasures and memories.

3. While most of us have a collection of books waiting for us on our nightstands, McAloon's office collection is particularly diverse, fascinating, and reflective of his passion for the natural world.

4. Mike McAloon meets with students in his captivating office space.

5. One of McAloon's "comfy chairs" sits below a tourism poster for Tucuman, his ancestral homeland in Argentina.

6. McAloon's relationships with his mother and grandmother helped shape his deep connection to Argentina. The bolas (in above photo on left), come from Argentina and are a traditional way for Argentinian hunters to take down llamas and/or vicuñas. They hang beside an oar from the Maijuna people (who use the pointed end to move a boat in shallow water and the other end to row) and a Cherokee arrow from North Carolina.

7. In 2018, McAloon traveled to the Peruvian rainforest as part of a pilot program for science educators. During this and his return trips to the region, McAloon has formed a close bond to the Maijuna people, a group indigenous to Peru's forest region along the Sucusari River. Maijuna artisans crafted these birds from natural dyes and chambira—a palm native to the Amazon.

8. He may look cute, but don't be fooled: this little guy is letting no one near one of McAloon's prized possessions—his photo with world-renowned environmental scientist and activist David Suzuki, taken during his visit to Taft.



4



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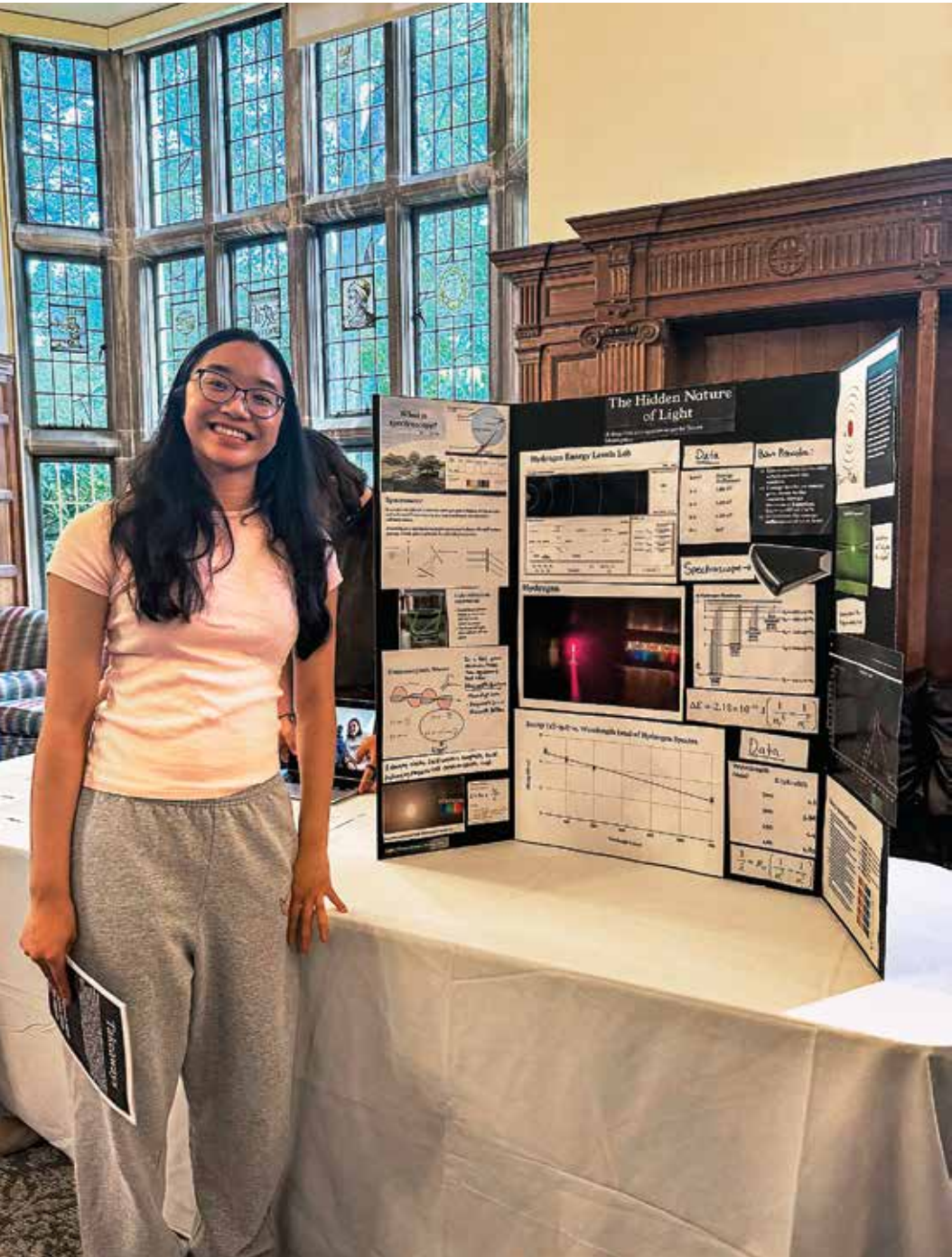
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Academic Spotlight

High-Level Inquiry

TAFT STUDENTS HAVE MULTIPLE OPPORTUNITIES TO ENGAGE IN SELF-DIRECTED, DEEP LEARNING. AS THEIR WORK FALLS OUTSIDE OF TAFT'S TRADITIONAL CURRICULUM, IT IS CONDUCTED—AND ROOTED IN—PURE PASSION, A PERSONAL QUEST FOR WISDOM AND KNOWLEDGE, AND IN CELEBRATION OF THE JOY OF LEARNING.



Independent Study Program Projects

ESTABLISHED IN 1964 BY THEN Head of School John Esty, Taft's Independent Studies Program (ISP) was the first of its kind in the nation. Now, more than 60 years later, it continues to challenge Taft students to think about learning in new ways, offering ISP scholars both an avenue and opportunity to extend their learning beyond the traditional curriculum. ISP scholars create, research, and explore, purely for their own interests, passions, and the joys of learning. It is an opportunity to fulfill their intellectual curiosity. Here is a look at just a few of projects completed this year:

- ▶ Jabari King '26 wrote an original musical entitled *Death on Deck*.
- ▶ Ukraine native and Taft Class of '25 valedictorian Natalie Shyika explored energy insecurity in Ukraine.
- ▶ Caroline Lent '26 analyzed global trade.
- ▶ Christopher Mompoint '26 produced a film called, *The Mask We Wear: The Importance of Mental Health Through Storytelling*.
- ▶ Tanya Muangman '25 studied the application of spectroscopy on a star.

GLI Scholar Projects

For more than a decade, Taft students have had the opportunity to study and impact real-world problems through the Global Leadership Institute (GLI), a partnership program with the city of Waterbury. Working in pairs, GLI

Left: Tanya Muangman '25 at the annual ISP Fair at Taft. YUQI QIAN '27



understand and impact voter apathy, specifically, among younger voters. They took to the streets to engage with and film, they note, "real voices." They also developed and distributed a comprehensive voter's guide designed to get more young voters to the polls.

Teni Arole '26 and Dara Cabrera's project, STEMpower Her: Inspiring Future Innovators examined the gender gap in STEM fields. They held a series of events for young girls in Waterbury, during which they explored STEM careers, taught coding basics, learned about anatomy and health through games, and heard from women working in STEM fields. ■

*Additional projects detailed in the Class of 1970 grant story on page 16 of of this issue.

Left: Christopher Mompoint '26 talks about his original film at the 2025 ISP Fair. PHOTO COURTESY YUQI QIAN '27

Below: Steven Zhang '26 (right) and Ethan Soto with the voter education brochures they distributed on the streets of Waterbury.

scholars—one from Taft, one from greater Waterbury—engage in in-depth, academic research around a global issue. Over the course of 18 months, they develop essential questions, action plans, and hands-on activities designed to impact that global issue at a local level. Here is a quick look at the Cohort X projects:*

Alex Werner '26 partnered with Wilby High School's Daisy Muñoz on a project called, *She Still Shines: A Celebration of Self-Care and Sisterhood*. Their work focused on combating the isolation often experienced by elderly women by fostering self-love through intentional self-care practices and community connection.

Eden Thompson '26 and Cheyenne Buzzeo, Kennedy High School, worked to impact sustainability and pollution by studying recycling initiatives at their respective schools.

Steven Zhang '26 worked with Crosby High School's Ethan Soto to





All-School Summer Read 2025

Everything Sad Is Untrue (a true story) by Daniel Nayeri

TAFT IS PLEASED TO SHARE THE selection of *Everything Sad Is Untrue (a true story)* by Daniel Nayeri as the 2025 all-school summer read.

Nayeri was born in Iran and lived as a refugee for a few years before immigrating to Oklahoma with his family when he was eight. In *Everything Sad Is Untrue (a true story)*, Nayeri weaves stories of his

family's deep, rich history in Iran with their plight as refugees, and, ultimately, their life as émigrés in the United States.

Nayeri is the publisher of Odd Dot, an imprint of Macmillan, making him one of the youngest publishers in the industry. He has served on the CBC diversity committee and the CBC panel committee. He lives in New York City.

Alumni, why not read along then then tune into social media to follow the conversation around Nayeri's visit to Taft? ■

Watch a video message from Nayeri to the Taft community through this QR code:



Non ut sibi Spotlight

Living the Taft School Motto in 2025

FAIR CHANCE INITIATIVE IS AN extraordinary organization doing amazing work at Taft and beyond.

“Fair Chance Initiative is a group that is devoted to raising awareness about mental health issues in youth and disadvantaged communities,” explains Jabari King ’26. “We understand how difficult it can be to deal with mental health issues in many communities, especially when there is a lack of resources.”

Their work is largely built on outreach, education, and engaging a broad range of communities. They conduct educational workshops to equip individuals with the knowledge and skills to support their

mental well-being and that of their peers. Their workshops cover a wide range of mental health topics and coping strategies.

In the spring, Fair Chance Initiative members traveled to the Washington Montessori School to host a Mental Health Day.

“Overall, this was a way to show the middle schoolers there how to tackle mental health issues,” says Jabari.

The day started with a group presentation about stress management, being a better support system, and accepting not being okay; the presentation was followed by small group workshops.

“The first activity was a slime workshop,

which helps de-stress through creation and sensory awareness. The next session was a painting workshop, where participants wrote down three or more personality traits, and painted them on butcher paper. This activity helps with identity and community—when you see the whole community’s drawings together, it creates somewhat of a mural). Finally, we did a gaga ball workshop to alleviate stress through a fun activity.”

Learn more about Taft’s Fair Chance Initiative work at: www.fairchance.info. ■

Below: Jabari King ’26 talks to Washington Montessori School students about spreading kindness as a wellness strategy. YUQI QIAN ’27



Spring Dance Showcase

TAFT DANCERS SOARED TO NEW HEIGHTS, CHOREOGRAPHERS STEPPED INTO BROADER SPACES, AND ARTISTIC VISION CAME INTO CLEAR FOCUS DURING A TRULY POWERFUL SPRING CELEBRATION OF MOVEMENT AND ART.





KATYUN XU '27

New Beginnings

We honor and celebrate the Class of 2025, and four members of our faculty as they take the next step in their journeys.

Though your destination is not yet clear
You can trust the promise of this opening;
Unfurl yourself into the grace of beginning
That is at one with your life's desire.

Awaken your spirit to adventure;
Hold nothing back, learn to find ease in risk;
Soon you will be home in a new rhythm,
For your soul senses the world that awaits you.

—excerpt from "A New Beginning,"
by John O'Donohue

Memories and Milestones

THE CLASS OF 2025 FOUND GREAT SUCCESS IN their journeys to college. Throughout the college search process, the students reflected deeply on their time at Taft and who they hope to become in the future. From the University of Southern California to Vanderbilt, to Brown, and McGill, class members are off to study medicine, acting, finance, art history, engineering, education, and so much more. They submitted over 2,500 applications and received almost 700 acceptances. Headed to 88 different institutions, they will make their mark on campuses all over the country and around the globe. Taft is incredibly proud of what they accomplished on our campus, and we look forward to hearing about the impact they will have on their college communities. Cheers, Class of 2025! ■



From left: Elle Smiley, Emily Smith, Kourtnee Smith, and Jeffrey Solomon after receiving their diplomas during the May 25 Commencement ceremony.

Catherine Ganung

Guidance With Care

SENIOR ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF College Counseling Catherine Ganung has been helping Tafties learn about colleges and the college admissions



process for close to 20 years. Along the way, she helped students learn a lot about themselves—their priorities, values, hopes, dreams, and visions for the future—all things that are essential to finding the right college fit.

"Catherine's legacy at Taft is one of shaping the future—of helping students take the next and important step in their lives," says Head of School Peter Becker '95. "The success and fulfillment many Taft alumni found at the college and university level was predicated on the wise and compassionate guidance Catherine provided. That so many alumni stay connected to Catherine long after they matriculate testifies to her deeply personal approach."

Over the years, Catherine has served

as a coach, advisor, and mentor to many Taft students. She has embraced the Taft School motto in her work across the community, and in her work as faculty advisor to Taft's *Global Journal*. Catherine and her husband (and Taft's chaplain), Bob, also supported students through their work in the dorms.

Catherine worked in higher education for 12 years before coming to Taft and earned an M.B.A. with a focus on financing higher education. She served as the Connecticut representative to the New England Regional College Board and worked with the Pacific Association of Financial Aid Administrators, Hawaii Association of College Admission Counselors, and Massachusetts Association of Financial Aid Administrators. ■



Bruce Fifer

A Legacy in Harmony

KNOWN FOR HIS PASSION FOR THE performing arts, dedication to teaching, and extraordinary ability to bring voices together in harmony, Bruce Fifer has been a true leader in Taft's Arts Department for a remarkable 29 years.



"Bruce has had a wonderful impact on choral music—and the arts overall—at Taft over the last three decades," said Head of School Peter Becker '95. "He is well-loved by thousands of Tafties throughout the world for his joyful presence, love of the arts, and his dedication to his Taft students and colleagues. As a former member of Collegium, I am very grateful that Chris Shepherd introduced me to Bruce almost 30 years ago, on the eve of his start at Taft, and that I have gotten to work with him these last two years and see how choral music has flourished under his leadership."

Fifer has led Collegium Musicum, Taft's showcase choir, since he arrived at Taft in 1996. Under his direction, the choir has performed in New York City, as well as San Francisco, Spain, China, France, and Italy—a country and culture so dear to his heart that, along with his wife, Helena, and former Taft faculty member Ann Romano, he created an immersive residential program with Collegium called "Living the Arts in Italy." Fifer also inaugurated Taft's Music for a While performing artist series, the Rockwell Visiting Artist program—an endowed visiting professional artist residency—and the Kilbourne Grant program, an endowed scholarship program that enables Taft students to further their artistic education in the summer.

With more than 60 years of experience in singing and choral contracting, Fifer

has performed and recorded with virtually every vocal ensemble in the New York metropolitan area, including Musica Sacra, Waverly Consort, Ensemble for Early Music, New York Choral Artists, Gregg Smith Singers, Camerata Singers, Men of Song Enterprises, Robert Shaw Festival Singers, the Philadelphia Singers, the New York Vocal Arts Ensemble, and Alice Parker's Melodious Accord, an organization he helped found.

He can be heard on the soundtracks of *Beauty and the Beast*, *Aladdin*, *Pocahontas*, *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, and *Mulan*. He has also provided backup vocals for James Taylor, Art Garfunkel, Paul Winter, Tom Hulce, and Pete Seeger. Fifer is a member of the Connecticut Music Educators Association, American Choral Directors Association, Chorus America, the Screen Actors Guild, and the American Federation of Television and Radio Artists.

"I've always felt there was something beautiful and even magical about Bruce," said former Head of School Willy MacMullen '78. "When you combine excellence and humility in a teacher, it looks like Bruce. He has the rarest spirit—loving, loyal, empathic, warm, humorous. There's a faith and optimism and cheer in Bruce that for me was always bracing, and I suspect I am just one of many who found that a conversation with him, in the office or dining hall or on the sideline, made me a better and happier person." ■

Luz Lara

Light and Language

IT SEEMS FITTING THAT LUZ LARA'S name should translate to "light," as her warm smile and compassionate demeanor lit up Spanish language classrooms at Taft for almost two decades.

A native of Colombia, Luz graduated from Universidad Pontificia Bolivariana with majors in Spanish and literature; she later earned a master's degree in classic literature and Latin American literature. She was a teacher in Colombia for nearly 20 years, then nearly 20 more at Taft.

"Luz went beyond teaching students grammar, translation, and reading," says Head of School Peter Becker

'95. "She brought cultural and global awareness to the classroom, helping students understand the deep value of learning a second language as they prepared to take their place in communities beyond Taft, and she introduced them to a range of experiences, from theater and food to immersive travel."

Over the years, she served as an advisor, helped make the dorms feel more like home for students, and taught and coached—most recently, intramural tennis. Fully embracing Taft's motto, Luz served selflessly throughout her career. She also completed a spring semester



teaching sabbatical that took her to underserved classrooms in Colombia and Kenya. She received numerous accolades during her time at Taft, including the Drummond and Ruth Bell Fellowship, awarded each year to an outstanding member of the faculty in recognition of their inspirational leadership of Taft students. ■

Yee-Fun Yin

Art and Vision



AS BOTH AN EDUCATOR AND professional artist, Yee-Fun Yin's gift to his students was one of vision and possibility. He engaged as a teacher and mentor at Taft, while creating his own art as he immersed himself in the broader professional arts community—building connections, making art, teaching and learning, and embracing self-expression.

Yee-Fun's life has offered a seemingly infinite trove of inspiration and perspectives that inform his art. He spent his childhood in Burma and Laos, studied architecture at Yale as an undergraduate, and earned an M.F.A. degree in photography from the University of Hartford Art School. The focus of his personal work is documentary portraiture and has been featured in numerous prestigious art shows. He has been a member of

PhotoArts Collective, the Council of the Arts in New Haven, the Westport Arts Center, and the Washington Arts Association.

"In teaching the craft and art of photography, Yee-Fun taught students to see more clearly and to use technology to create and make, rather than simply to consume. He received The van Beuren Family Chair for excellence in teaching, but also saw himself, I believe, as a student—a lifelong learner continuing to grow in ways that enriched his art and teaching and served as a model for Taft students."

During his time at Taft, Yee-Fun has earned individual awards from the Davis, Lo, and Palamar Fellowship funds, and The Regina and Earle W. Brauer, M.D. Faculty Enrichment Fund—to name a few—allowing him to continue his personal studies in the arts. ■

The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee

SO MUCH TALENT.
SO MUCH ENERGY.
SO MUCH FUN!
THE SPRING MUSICAL DID NOT DISAPPOINT!





Welcome New Trustees!

TAFT IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE THREE NEW APPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES. PLEASE JOIN US IN WELCOMING JOYCE KWOK '00, DAVID SIM P'27, AND LOUIS SO P'27 TO TAFT'S VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP COMMUNITY.

Joyce Kwok '00

Born and raised in Hong Kong, Joyce Kwok first came to Taft as a new middler and quickly immersed herself in campus life. She served as an editor of the literary magazine, was a peer tutor, sang with Collegium, and discovered a lasting passion for the visual arts. Joyce went on to earn an A.B. Magna Cum Laude from Harvard College and later received an M.B.A. from Columbia Business School, where she was part of the selective Value Investing Program.

She began her career in investment research on Wall Street, spending six years at Credit Suisse and UBS. After business school, she held a senior role in global corporate strategy at Coach (now Tapestry, Inc.), working across its New York and Hong Kong offices. She currently serves as Investment Director at her family's private office.

Deeply committed to community engagement and philanthropy, Joyce sits on the Associate Board of the Ronald McDonald House, the Associates Committee of the Society of Memorial Sloan Kettering, and the Associate Board of the Robin Hood Foundation (Rising Leaders Collective), which aims to alleviate poverty in New York City. She also volunteers as a Harvard alumni interviewer.

A passionate supporter of the contemporary arts, Joyce is a member of the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Modern Circle, and the Artemis Council at the New Museum of Contemporary Arts, a group dedicated to supporting gender equality in the arts by elevating the work of women artists at the museum.

Joyce lives in New York City with her husband, Alex, and their two children, Abigail (age 7) and Ethan (age 5).

David Sim P'27

Based in Seoul, Republic of Korea, David Sim founded and manages multiple firms engaged in M&A advisory, venture capital, and private equity investments globally. David spent over 20 years at J.P. Morgan, Deutsche Bank, and Credit Suisse, focusing on M&A and capital market transactions. He served as Head of Industrials Sector Coverage, Asia, for Deutsche Bank based in Hong Kong.

Prior to his investment banking career, David served over three years in the Korean Air Force as First Lieutenant. His roles included an instructor at the Air Force Education & Training Command and U.S. Desk officer at the Ministry of National Defense. David graduated from Korea University with a degree in Business and received a Master of Global Finance degree from NYU Stern School of Business and Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

David's eldest son, Eric Hyun ('27), joined Taft School after graduating from Eaglebrook School in 2024. David's family includes his wife, Sarah, a graduate of Northwestern University who manages the trading unit of her family business, a younger brother, Robert, a U.S. Air Force veteran and an alumni of Georgetown University, and Eric's younger brother, Jason, who is a member of the Class of 2026 at Eaglebrook School.

David and Sarah serve as Advisory Board members at Eaglebrook School.

The Sim family is actively involved in supporting various nonprofit and education initiatives, including representing Korea Chapter of International Women's Coffee Alliance (IWCA) to support underprivileged female coffee producers around the world, as well as founding the American Football Academy (AFA), a training institute for Korean boarding students who wish to learn and train football in Korea. They love traveling and also skiing in Hokkaido, Japan, during winter breaks.

Louis So P'27

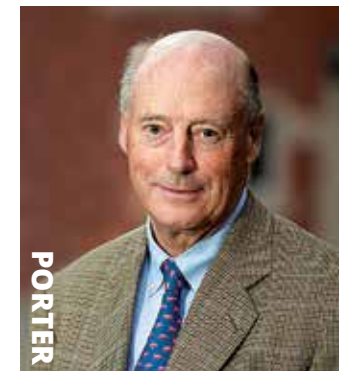
Louis So previously served as Co-Chairman and Co-Chief Investment Officer of Value Partners Group (806.HK), a Hong Kong-based asset management firm specializing in value investing across Asian markets. His tenure spanned over two decades, during which he oversaw investment strategies and operations. The firm focused primarily on Greater China and emerging markets during his leadership.

His work in portfolio management was recognized with two industry awards: the Outstanding Manager of the Year for Greater China equities (Benchmark, 2017) and the CIO of the Year in Asia (Asia Asset Management, 2011). Louis holds a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Auckland and a Master of Commerce from the University of New South Wales.

Since retiring from his executive roles, Louis pursues his interests in snowboarding and wakesurfing. He remains engaged with the financial community while enjoying these outdoor activities. ■

Four Distinguished Leaders

Named Trustees Emeriti



TAFT IS PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THE NAMING OF FOUR FORMER TRUSTEES AS TRUSTEES EMERITI, IN RECOGNITION OF THEIR EXCEPTIONAL LEADERSHIP, LONGSTANDING DEDICATION, AND TRANSFORMATIVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY.

Through the newly established Board of Trustees Emeritus Program, the school celebrates individuals whose impact has shaped Taft's trajectory and who continue to inspire its future.

The Board of Trustees Emeritus Program honors former trustees who have demonstrated extraordinary service to Taft through strategic leadership, philanthropic commitment, and meaningful engagement in the life of the school. The program not only recognizes past achievements but also affirms the school's ongoing connection with these former trustees, whose wisdom and experience continue to guide and support Taft's mission.

The 2025 Trustees Emeritus Honorees

Rod Moorhead III '62, P'97,'98 (Emeritus Memoriam)

Rod Moorhead's legacy at Taft is one of unwavering dedication and deep institutional impact. A trustee for 25 years, Rod served as Chair of the Board from 2006 to 2016, and was a key contributor to numerous committees, including Development, Finance & Investment, and Governance. His service extended beyond the boardroom as a former Assistant Class Agent, a member of the Parents' Committee, and a loyal supporter of the HDT Legacy Society. Rod was honored with the Horace Dutton Taft Alumni Medal in 2012, a fitting tribute to a life of extraordinary service. He passed away in December 2024 and is honored posthumously with deep appreciation and respect.

Grant Porter '69, P'00

Grant Porter served as Chair of the Board from 2016 to 2023 and as a trustee for 24 years. His leadership helped steer the school through

periods of growth and change, particularly through his work on the Finance and Audit, Investment, and Governance committees. A loyal class agent and member of the HDT Legacy Society, Grant has been a cornerstone of Taft's financial strength and strategic direction. His dedication to preserving and advancing Taft's mission continues to leave a lasting legacy.

John Vogelstein '52, P'80,'85, GP'16,'17,'20,'23

John Vogelstein served as a trustee for two decades and as Chair of the Board from 1998 to 2002. A member of both the Finance and Audit Committee and the Investment Committee, John's financial acumen and forward-thinking leadership helped lay the foundation for the school's future success. His contributions were recognized in 2005 with the Horace Dutton Taft Alumni Medal. A steadfast supporter and strategic leader, John's influence is still felt across the Taft community.

Abra Wilkin P'92, GP'22

For more than 30 years, Abra Wilkin brought insight, compassion, and dedication to her role as trustee. A valued member of the Admissions and Campus Planning committees, Abra offered thoughtful leadership on matters shaping student life and campus development. Her multigenerational ties to the school and her enduring commitment to Taft's mission underscore the spirit of community that defines Taft at its best.

Taft is deeply grateful to these remarkable individuals for their leadership, service, and enduring love for the school. Their legacy lives on in the lives of Taft students and in the continued strength of the institution they helped shape. ■

Winter SPORTS wrap-up

BY SEAMUS F. CONWAY
Photography by Robert Falcetti



Boys' Squash

12-1

FOURTH PLACE, DIVISION I, U.S. HIGH SCHOOL SQUASH CHAMPIONSHIPS

SECOND PLACE, CLASS A
NEW ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

Boys' squash placed second in the Class A New England Championships, falling to Brunswick 6-1 in the finals. At Nationals, the boys' finished fourth overall in a competitive Division I field, defeating Choate 7-0 and Kent 6-1, before falling to Hotchkiss 6-1 in the semifinals, and 4-3 to St. Andrew's in the third-place match.

Eyad Awad '25 in action against Kent on January 29. WILLIAM YANG '26



Girls' Squash

6-6

SEVENTH PLACE, DIVISION II,
U.S. HIGH SCHOOL SQUASH
CHAMPIONSHIPS

FIFTH PLACE,
CLASS B NEW ENGLAND
CHAMPIONSHIPS

Girls' squash placed fifth in the Class B New England Championships, falling to Groton 5-2, and defeating Middlesex and St. Paul's 5-2. At Nationals, the girls finished seventh, defeating both Darien High and Germantown Friends Academy 5-2, and fell to Sacred Heart Greenwich 4-3, and Winsor 5-2.

Mehar Trehan '26 finishes off a point
against Kent on November 20.

Wrestling

12-5

FOURTH PLACE, WESTERN
NEW ENGLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

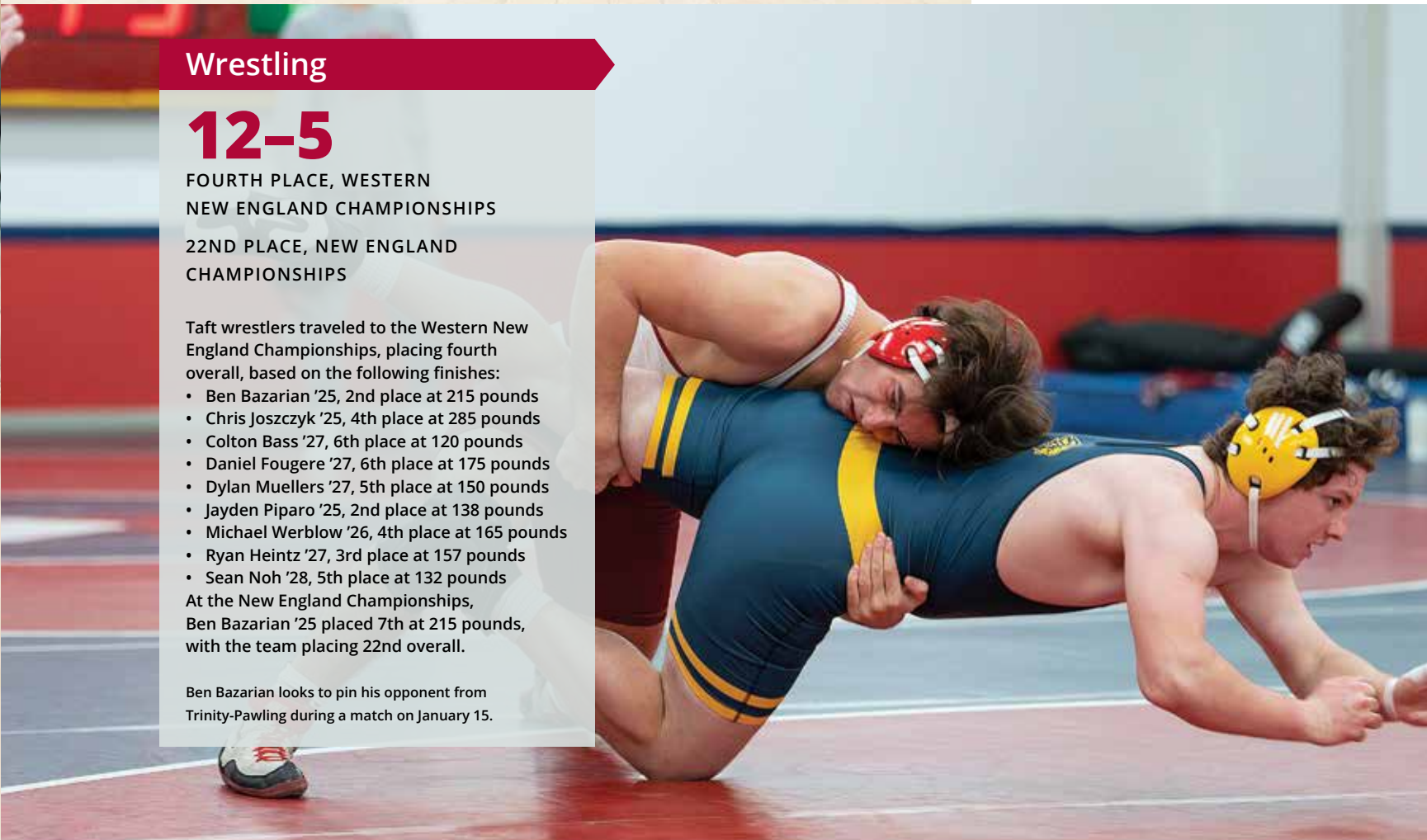
22ND PLACE, NEW ENGLAND
CHAMPIONSHIPS

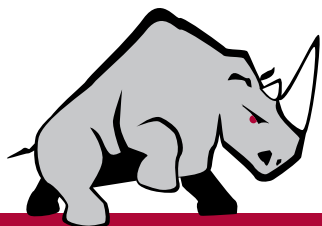
Taft wrestlers traveled to the Western New England Championships, placing fourth overall, based on the following finishes:

- Ben Bazarian '25, 2nd place at 215 pounds
- Chris Josczyk '25, 4th place at 285 pounds
- Colton Bass '27, 6th place at 120 pounds
- Daniel Fougere '27, 6th place at 175 pounds
- Dylan Muellers '27, 5th place at 150 pounds
- Jayden Piparo '25, 2nd place at 138 pounds
- Michael Werblow '26, 4th place at 165 pounds
- Ryan Heintz '27, 3rd place at 157 pounds
- Sean Noh '28, 5th place at 132 pounds

At the New England Championships, Ben Bazarian '25 placed 7th at 215 pounds, with the team placing 22nd overall.

Ben Bazarian looks to pin his opponent from
Trinity-Pawling during a match on January 15.





**WINTER 2024-25
ATHLETIC AWARDS**

Boys' Squash

Boys' Squash Award—
Carl Roux '25, Wei Yan Tho '25

Girls' Squash

*1986 Girls' Squash Award—*Britty Page '25
*All-NEPSAC—*Mehar Trehan '26
NEPSAC Honorable Mention—
Lindyn Morocho '27, Britty Page '25

Wrestling

*Harry F. Hitch Award—*Ben Bazarian '25
*Wynne Award—*Jayden Piparo '25

Skiing

*Boys' Ski Racing Award—*Viktor Maag '25
*Girls' Ski Racing Award—*Bella Kembar '27

Girls' Hockey

Patsy K. Odden Award—
Samantha Richard '25
All-Founders—
Emily Smith '25, Rachel Turer '25
NEPSAC Honorable Mention—
Brooke McLaughlin '26

Boys' Hockey

Coach's Hockey Award—
Joey Crescimanni '25,
Noah Jettelson '25
Angier Hockey Trophy—
Theo Weisman '25
Founders League First-Team—
Noah Jettelson '25, Matt Lemay '25
All-NEPSAC—
Noah Jettelson '25, JT Rothstein '26
NEPSAC Honorable Mention—
Matt Lemay '25, Brady Morris '25

Girls' Basketball

1978 Girls' Basketball Award—
Julia Whelan '25

Boys' Basketball

*James Paynter Logan Memorial
Basketball Trophy—*Ford Okehi '25
Founders League Second-Team—
Ford Okehi '25

Girls' Skiing

SECOND PLACE, NEPSAC
CLASS B CHAMPIONSHIPS

Bella Kembar '27 placed first in both the slalom and giant slalom, with Isa Hadden '27, Tessa Lawson '26, Clarisse Moucha '26, and Louisa Prentice '26 also contributing to the second-place overall finish.

Bella Kembar '27 carves through a tight turn on the way down the mountain at Ski Sundown on February 5. YUQI QIAN '27



Boys' Skiing

12TH PLACE, NEPSAC
CLASS B CHAMPIONSHIPS

Viktor Maag '25, Colin Barlow '28, Sky Comfort '25, Rory McNamara '25, and Harris Schwab '27 all contributed to the 12th-place New England championship finish.

Viktor Maag '25 races down the mountain at Ski Sundown on February 5. YUQI QIAN '27



Boys' Hockey

11-10-3

FOUNDERS LEAGUE
CHAMPIONS

Boys' hockey claimed the Founders League title this winter, with victories against Avon Old Farms, Choate (2), Westminster, Kent, Loomis, and Hotchkiss, along with other key wins against Brunswick, Hill, and Gunn.

Joey Crescimanni '25 cuts across the neutral zone against Loomis on January 22.



Girls' Hockey

9-14-1

Girls' hockey finished the season with an overall record of 9-14-1, opening with wins over Millbrook and Gunn, and defeating Hotchkiss twice—4-0 in the first matchup, and 3-1 in the last game of the year to wrap up the season on a winning note.

Brooke McLaughlin '26 heads into the offensive zone against Berkshire on December 11.

Girls' Basketball

10-10

Girls' basketball finished a 10-10 record season with signature wins against Kingswood Oxford, Pomfret, and Deerfield, before ending the season on a four-game winning streak, with a final victory of the year against Hotchkiss, 42-36.

Maddy Little '26 drives to the lane, looking to score against Miss Porter's on January 18.



Boys' Basketball

9-16

Boys' basketball wrapped up the season with an overall record of 9-16, with key wins against St. Sebastian's, Kent (2), Salisbury, Avon Old Farms, and Berkshire, whom they had lost to earlier in the year.

Ford Okehi '25 pulls up for a three-pointer against Kent on January 15.

Spring
SPORTS
wrap-up

BY SEAMUS F. CONWAY
Photography by Robert Falcetti

Boys' Golf

6-0-1

- FOUNDERS LEAGUE CHAMPIONS
- KINGSWOOD OXFORD INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT CHAMPIONS
- WESTERN NEW ENGLAND PREP SCHOOL GOLF INVITATIONAL, SECOND PLACE; AMAN DHIMAN '25, INDIVIDUAL CHAMPION
- INDEPENDENT INTERNATIONAL INVITATIONAL, FOURTH PLACE

Boys' golf ended the season with an overall record of 6-0-1, with an impressive showing in tournaments, rounding out the year by claiming the Founders League Championship.

Aman Dhiman '25 hits a tee shot in match play action against Brunswick on April 16.





Boys' Golf Wins Back-to-Back Founders League Titles

BOYS' GOLF BROUGHT HOME THE FOUNDERS LEAGUE title on Saturday, May 17, pulling away from the rest of the field by five strokes, shooting a team total of 387 (+32), marking the second year in a row that they've claimed the league title. ■

Softball

2-10

Amy Goldthorpe '27 delivers a pitch during a game against Kingswood Oxford on April 2.



Girls' Golf

11-3

FOUNDERS LEAGUE
TOURNAMENT, THIRD PLACE
NEPSAC PIPPY O'CONNOR
INDEPENDENT SCHOOL
GIRLS' GOLF CLASSIC
TOURNAMENT, SIXTH PLACE

CC Kaplan '25 tees off during a match against Choate and Ethel Walker on May 7. WILLIAM YANG '26

Baseball

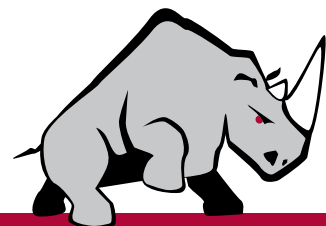
13-8

FOUNDERS LEAGUE
CHAMPIONSHIP FINALISTS

Winning three out of their last four regular season games, and beating Hotchkiss in extra innings in their regular season finale, the baseball team rode that momentum all the way to the Founders League Championship game, before falling to Kingswood Oxford 10-6.

Noah Jettleson '25 tries to turn a double play against Kingswood Oxford in the Founders League Championship game on May 21.





SPRING 2025 ATHLETIC AWARDS

Boys' Golf

Galeski Golf Award—Malin Adams '25, Aman Dhiman '25

Girls' Golf

Girls' Golf Award—Samantha Richard '25, CC Kaplan '25

Baseball

Stone Baseball Award—Cayden Van Dolah '25

All-Founders First Team—

Noah Jettelson '25, Cayden Van Dolah '25

All-Founders Second Team—

Oliver Lefkowitz '26, Omar Minaya '26

All-Founders Honorable Mention—

Owen Palmer '26, Cooper Tantraporn '25

Founders League Player of the Year—Noah Jettelson '25

Softball

Softball Award—Molly Hagymasi '25

All-Founders League—

Emily Brownell '25, Julianna Picard '26

Western New England All Star—Molly Hagymasi '25

NEPSAC Honorable Mention—Molly Hagymasi '25

Girls' Lacrosse

Wandelt Lacrosse Award—

Britty Page '25, Reiley Pascale '25

Boys' Lacrosse

All-New England West I—

Angus Brown '26, Charlie Lowe '25, Asher Ziv '25

All-Founders League—

Russell Fitzgerald '25, Brendan Mullahy '25

All-NEPSAC—Thomas Sheumack '25

Odden Lacrosse Award—Russell Fitzgerald '25

Girls' Tennis

George D. Gould Tennis Award—Callie Curtis '27

Boys' Tennis

Alrick H. Man, Jr. '09 Award—Kaiel Casserly '26

Crew

Girls' Crew Award—Caroline Clague '26

Boys' Crew Award—Jeffrey Solomon '25

Girls' and Boys' Track & Field

Seymour Willis Beardsley Track Award—

Charlotte Murphy '25, Tate Celebi '25



Girls' Lacrosse

6–8

FOUNDERS LEAGUE TOURNAMENT
SEMIFINALISTS

Girls' lacrosse wrapped up the season with a 6–8 record, earning a spot in the Founders League tournament. They advanced to the semifinals at Hotchkiss, where they were narrowly defeated 12–8.

Sofia Smith '26 advances up the field against Canterbury on April 2.

Girls' Tennis

9–2

NEPSAC CLASS A TENNIS
CHAMPIONSHIPS QUARTERFINALISTS

Charlotte Van Ert '28 serves during a match against Westminster on April 23. KAIYUN XU '27



Boys' Lacrosse

10–8

FOUNDERS LEAGUE
TOURNAMENT
SEMIFINALISTS

Boys' lacrosse finished the season with a 10–8 record, securing a berth in the Founders League tournament. They reached the semifinals against Choate but came up just short in an 8–6 defeat.

Russell Fitzgerald '25 wins the faceoff and looks for an outlet against Choate on April 23.



Boys' Tennis

6–7

SOUTHERN
NEW ENGLAND
TENNIS LEAGUE
TOURNAMENT
CHAMPIONS

Denzel Seetso '25 volleys during a match against Brunswick on May 7. KAIYUN XU '27

Girls' Track & Field

5-3

FOUNDERS LEAGUE TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIP, 2ND PLACE

NEPSTA DIVISION I TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIP, 5TH PLACE

Meredith Hui '26 hurdles toward the finish line during a meet against Choate, Hopkins, and Miss Porter's on April 9. YUQI QIAN '27

Girls' Crew

5-3

FOUNDERS DAY REGATTA:
BOAT 1, 3RD PLACE;
BOAT 2, 4TH PLACE;
BOAT 3, 5TH PLACE;
BOAT 4, 6TH PLACE

NEW ENGLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC ROWING ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIP REGATTA:
BOAT 1, 5TH PLACE;
BOAT 2, 15TH PLACE;
BOAT 4, 9TH PLACE

DU PONT CUP:
BOAT 1, 6TH PLACE;
BOAT 2, 2ND PLACE;
BOAT 3, 4TH PLACE;
BOAT 4, 3RD PLACE;
BOAT 5, 5TH PLACE;
BOAT 6, 4TH PLACE

2025 Girls' Varsity Crew Team.

Boys' Track & Field

5-5

FOUNDERS LEAGUE TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIP, 5TH PLACE

NEPSTA DIVISION I TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIP, 13TH PLACE

Ebenezer Lamptey '25 passes the baton to Jonathan So '27 during a race against Avon Old Farms, Choate, and Hopkins on April 9. KAIYUN XU '27

Boys' Crew

7-1

FOUNDERS DAY REGATTA:
BOAT 1, 3RD PLACE;
BOAT 2, 2ND PLACE;
BOAT 3, 1ST PLACE;
BOAT 4, 1ST PLACE

NEW ENGLAND INTERSCHOLASTIC ROWING ASSOCIATION CHAMPIONSHIP REGATTA:
BOAT 1, 6TH PLACE;
BOAT 2, 5TH PLACE;
BOAT 3, 4TH PLACE;
BOAT 4, 7TH PLACE

DU PONT CUP:
BOAT 1, 3RD PLACE;
BOAT 2, 1ST PLACE;
BOAT 3, 1ST PLACE;
BOAT 4, 1ST PLACE;
BOAT 5, 1ST PLACE

2025 Boys' Varsity Crew Team.

In a word, what makes Taft Taft?

We are thrilled to share the outstanding results of this year's Taft Fund—a remarkable achievement made possible by the **unwavering generosity, dedication, and *Non ut sibi* spirit of our extended community.** With the support of 3,007 donors we raised more than \$6.2 million. These gifts directly enhance the Taft experience, helping students flourish, programs thrive, and our mission endure.

We are especially grateful to the many volunteers—class agents, Parents' Committee members, board members, and event leaders—whose time and energy power the impact of every gift. **Your commitment to Taft makes all the difference.** Thank you for showing up, for giving back, and for keeping Taft strong—this year and always.



\$6.25 million
Taft Fund cash & commitments

Approximately
\$3.05 million
contributed by Alumni

Approximately
\$2.7 million
contributed by Current Parents

Approximately
\$500,000
contributed by Former Parents, Grandparents, & Friends

3,007
Taft Fund donors

2025 Taft Fund Class Awards

Chair of the Board Award

Highest percent participation from a class 50 or fewer years out
Class of 1975: 50%
Rob Barber

Class of 1920 Award

Greatest increase in Taft Fund dollars from a non-reunion class
Class of 1969: Increase of \$81,925
Bob Leary

Kerr Award

Highest percent participation from a class more than 50 years out
Class of 1960: 70%
Sam Crocker

McCabe Award

Largest Taft Fund amount contributed by a non-reunion class
Class of 1969: \$224,669
Bob Leary

Romano Award

Greatest increase in participation from a non-reunion class 50 or fewer years out
Class of 1988:
Increased participation by 2%
Charlie Watson

Snyder Award

Largest Taft Fund amount contributed by a reunion class 50 or fewer years out
Class of 2000: \$303,129
Andrew Goodwin and John McCardell

Spencer Award

Highest percent of gifts from classmates who have not given in the last five years
Class of 1975: 27%
Rob Barber

Welch Award

Honors a long-serving class agent for their dedication to fundraising over the years
Class of 1975: Rob Barber

Young Alumni Dollars Award

Largest Taft Fund amount contributed from a class 10 or fewer years out
Class of 2023: \$9,521
Ashanti Legare

Young Alumni Participation Award

Highest percent participation from a class 10 or fewer years out
Class of 2018: 22%
Joe Hardison and Maddie Savage

Awards determined by dollars raised as of June 30, 2025

Parents' Committee

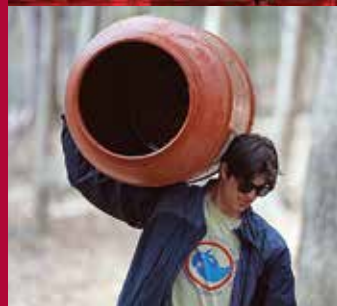


Parents' Committee chairs, Whitney and Raja Chatterjee, at Commencement with son Xander '25 and daughter Cece '27.

Whitney and Raja Chatterjee, *Chairs*
Allison and Matt Abbott
Chris Barbuto and Dianne Duffey
Anderson Brown and
Barbara Dillard-Brown
Mona and Simon Brown
Gina and Steven Burrows
Michelle and John Camp '92
Kim and John Church
Hélène and Stuyvie Comfort

Rebecca and Charles Cooper
Adi and Vikram Dhiman
Rudette Dias
Tammy Shewchuk Dryden '96
and Michael Dryden
Marjorie and Nat Furman
Adrienne and Ted Goldthorpe
Katie and Doug Harris '97
Debbie and Adam Heine
Bing Hsu '83 and Christine Wai
Polly and Alastair Hunt
Andrea and Christopher Ip
Deb and Chris Jaroch
Jana and Tim Kierstead
Courtney Gerber Kunzelmann
Man San Law and Lillian Wang
Sumner and Yein Mei Lemon
Victoria Larson Maggard '94
and Jeff Maggard
Gloria and Michael Masterson
Rina and Brian McNamara
Derek McNulty and Catherine Corry
Paige and Chad Meuse
Katie Michel
Aaron Dickson Millhiser '98
and Ross Millhiser

Kay Noh and Chloe Kang
Liza and Dan Oneglia '95
Kim and Doug Pepper
Meredith and Andy Petitjean
Adrianne and Brian Raphalian
Karen and Andy Richard
Scott Schereschewsky and Emma Risley
Marni and Bill Schwartz
Marisa and Nicholas Sheumack
Charlotte and Douglas Snyder
Anne and Wally Sze
Chihiro and Teppei Takanabe
Sharon and Tom Teles
Annette and Mitch Theiss
Tara and Paul Vittone
Lu Wang and Xiaoqin Xiang
Lisa and Jake Watkins '93
Anne and Charlie Watson '88
AnaPaula and Mark Watson
Kristen and Dan Williams
David Xu and Tiffany Hu
Jason Xu and Yilei Sun
Lida Yan and Zheng Wan
Liana and Derek Yeung
Joanne and Wayne Yow
Zhanna and Dauren Zhaksybek



\$6.25 million
Taft Fund cash & commitments

Approximately
\$3.05 million
contributed by Alumni

Approximately
\$2.7 million
contributed by Current Parents

Approximately
\$500,000
contributed by Former Parents, Grandparents, & Friends

3,007
Taft Fund donors

27%
Alumni participation

71%
Current Parent participation

196
First-time donors (\$614,506)

1,993
Donors with at least 3 consecutive years of Taft Fund giving (\$4,779,453)

\$158
Median Gift Amount



TAFT ALUMNI WEEKEND 2025

Photography by Robert Falcetti,
Seamus F. Conway, Kay Bermudez-Pires,
Kelly Gereski, James Shannon,
Anne Walluck, and Neil Simpson



75TH REUNION

CLASS OF
1950



55TH REUNION

CLASS OF
1970



A WEEKEND TO REMEMBER!

Big Red spirit and joyful energy—
it was a weekend full of memories
and memorable moments,
of community, connection,
and great fun.

To view more photos from
Alumni Weekend, scan the QR code.
v



25TH REUNION

CLASS OF
2000



Former tennis coach and faculty member Peter Frew '75 and former faculty member Baba Frew with their son, Max '10, and daughter, Amanda '05, at the dedication of the Peter Frew '75 Tennis Facility



CLASS OF 1975

50TH REUNION



65TH REUNION

CLASS OF 1960



45TH REUNION

CLASS OF 1980



5TH REUNION

CLASS OF 2020



40TH REUNION

CLASS OF 1985





CLASS OF
1990

35TH REUNION



Holcombe T. Green Jr. '57 was honored with the 2025 Horace Dutton Taft Alumni Medal at the Old Guard Dinner on Alumni Weekend in recognition of a lifetime of service and his steadfast dedication to Taft; pictured with Head of School Peter Becker '95.



CLASS OF
2005

20TH REUNION



60TH REUNION

CLASS OF
1965



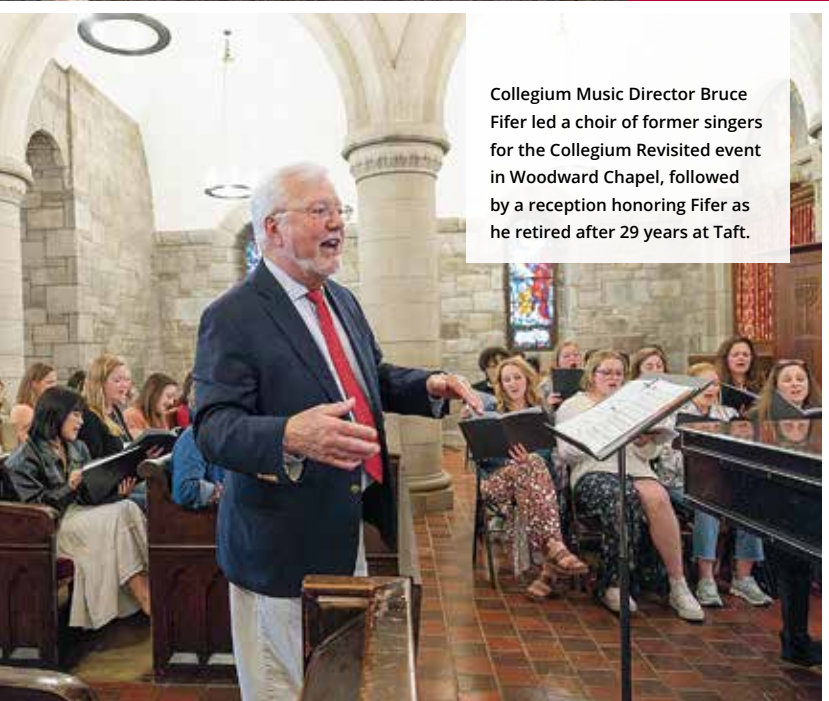
CLASS OF
1995

30TH REUNION



70TH REUNION

CLASS OF
1955



Collegium Music Director Bruce Fifer led a choir of former singers for the Collegium Revisited event in Woodward Chapel, followed by a reception honoring Fifer as he retired after 29 years at Taft.



CLASS OF
2015

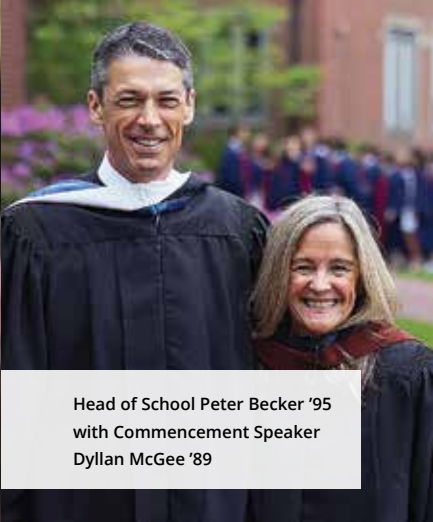
10TH REUNION



135th Commencement

Photography by Robert Falcetti

WILLIAM YANG '25



Head of School Peter Becker '95
with Commencement Speaker
Dyllan McGee '89



Congratulations to the
Class of
2025!



For more photos,
visit TaftPhotos.com.

Taft BULLETIN

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