September 2025

GOW AT A GLANCE

A Monthly News Snapshot from The Gow School






Welcome Back Gow Students and Families!

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Grandparents Weekend

Friday, September 19, 2025

Spend time with your grandchildren, tour campus, meet their friends and understand more about Gow's program.



Schedule of Events and Registration

Scan QR Code or visit gow.org/upcoming-events

Gow Faculty and Staff Spotlight

New Staff

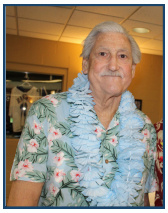


KIM RUPPEL

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT

Meet Kim Ruppel, Gow's new Director of Development, who brings nearly two decades of expertise and a passion for alumni engagement—discover why she calls her new role "almost too good to be true."

Former Faculty



Dan Kelley

Dan "Killer" Kelley devoted 40 years to Gow as a teacher, mentor, coach, and dorm parent, shaping generations of Govians and leaving a lasting legacy.

Upcoming Events

September 1	**Gow School Year Begins**
September 19	**Grandparents' Day**
October 10-11	**Fall Parents' Weekend**
October 11-15	**Fall Extended Weekend**
November 22 -December 1	**Thanksgiving Break**

ONLINE STORE

NOW OPEN

STORE OPEN YEAR-ROUND

ITEMS SHIPPED TO YOUR DOORSTEP

Scan or Click Here

WOMENS, MENS, AND KID SIZES AVAILABLE



Faculty Focus: Daniel Kelley











For forty years, Dan Kelley was the heart of The Gow School. Known affectionately as "Killer Kelley," he was more than a teacher—he was a mentor, coach, dorm parent, and steady presence whose empathy and high expectations changed lives.

Originally from Connecticut, Mr. Kelley joined Gow in 1976 after hearing about an opening from his friend Walter Sanieski. From the start, he embraced the "triple threat" of teaching, coaching, and living in the dorms, finding purpose in supporting students who learned differently. "Opening up to students and showing them I understood their difficulties helped me work with them," he reflected.



In the classroom, he made history, economics, and ancient civilizations come alive for students with dyslexia and other learning differences. Beyond academics, he guided students at the dinner table, on the soccer field, and in the dorm, modeling resilience and compassion. Over his tenure, he held nearly every leadership role, including Dean of Students, Assistant Head of School, and Head of Upper School, helping to shape the culture of the school.

Gow was also home for his family—he and his wife, Jody, lived on campus for 35 years and raised their children there. The community connections ran deep, extending to Jody's brother, Sandy '78, and to the many alumni Mr. Kelley continues to hear from today.

When he retired in 2016, his influence endured through countless former students who credit him for their confidence and success. "My experience at Gow showed me that if you believe in yourself, you really can do anything," he said. "I hope the school continues to flourish for the next hundred years."

This year, that legacy is being honored by a Gow alumni, who is naming the patio in the new Howard Hall building in Mr. Kelley's honor—a lasting tribute to the mentor who shaped generations of Govians.

WELCOME TO GOW'S 99TH YEAR!

We are so glad you're here!

































Meet Gow's New Director of Development

KIM RUPPEL



Ms. Ruppel with nieces Harper, Elora, and Nola, and nephew Asher.

As the new Director of Development at The Gow School, Kim Ruppel oversees fundraising efforts, development, and alumni engagement at Gow. A seasoned development expert who spent almost 20 years at The Park School in Buffalo, Ms. Ruppel described her new role as "almost too good to be true."

"From the very start, I sensed something special about Gow. I could tell from the interview process that Gow would be different and a great fit for me. Everyone has been incredible and supportive, and working with the board of trustees members, who go above and beyond out of love for the school, has been so inspiring," she added.

Ms. Ruppel said she thrives in a fast-paced, multitasking environment, which has been key to her success. "I do my best work when I am challenged. Having a lot on my plate and working toward important goals really motivates me," she said. She also leverages her creative skills in her role as a visual storyteller who uses graphic design and technology to share compelling stories with alumni, families, and donors.

"I embrace the 'Once a Govian, always a Govian' motto. I can feel a wonderful sense of Govian pride through every family and graduate I meet and I work to bring that commitment to kindness and hard work to my work in the office," she said.

Among the initiatives top of mind for Ms. Ruppel this year is the Annual Fund, where her focus will be on educating donors about its importance. "Donations to the Annual Fund give the school the most flexibility to pursue exciting updates and improvements," she noted. "We're also expanding our outreach by combining mailed appeals, the Gow magazine, and social media to reach people through multiple channels."

Another especially exciting major initiative for Ms. Ruppel is the Centennial celebration in October 2026 which represents a huge opportunity to reconnect and reengage the community. Currently working from Ellis Hall while preparing to move to Howard Hall, she said, "This is a busy and exciting time at The Gow School because it is a turning point. We're here, and we're going to be here for 100 more years and beyond."

A native of Kenmore, NY and a current resident of Cheektowaga, NY, Ms. Ruppel is a die-hard Buffalo Bills and New York Mets fan and an avid traveler. She lists Bar Harbor, ME and Nantucket, MA as her favorite places in the United States and Pushkar, India as her favorite international trip. She spends her free time doting on her nieces and nephews, creating and crafting, reading, and listening to music.





GOW ON THE ROAD

Development Travel

September

9/4-9/6 Baltimore/DC
9/25 New York City, NY

October

10/20-10/23 Lexington, KY and Cincinnati, OH

Join us if you can!

Want to catch up with Gow Development team while we're in town?

Let us know so we can make it happen!

Development@gow.org or 716.687.2075

Upcoming Events: New York City

You're invited!

GOW IN NYC.

Thursday, September 25 from 5-7pm

THE GOW SCHOOL



THE IVORY PEACOCK

38 W 26th Street, New York, NY 10010

Meet Head of School John Munro, GSSP Director Jon Chafin, and Director of Development Kim Ruppel plus alumni, parents, and friends of Gow and Gow's Summer Program. Enjoy light bites and hear about the latest happenings at the school, including plans for Gow's Centennial in 2026!

RSVP by September 18 to development@gow.org or 716.687.2075

Alumni News















1: Kaleigh Davidson '16 received her white coat from the University of Buffalo, School of Medicine; 2: Rodger Dillman '71 and daughter Cassandra visited Gow during their Father-Daughter trip from Niagara Falls to Michigan; 3: Adam Baxandall '02 and wife Carmen, daughter Addison, and son Hudson visited Gow on their family trip from Alberta, CA to NYC to show the kids where dad went to school and was a Class Representative; 4: Wayne Stubb '12 and girlfriend Kylie visited Gow from New Hampshire while attending a painters conference in Buffalo; 5: Eric Halls '84 welcomed his first grandchild, a baby boy named Chandler; 6: Richard Hottinger '04 received awards for leading a top performing real estate team in New York City and Florida Markets; 7: Kengar Dongatron '14 received several awards during the Rochester Game Awards hosted by the Rochester fighting game community: A Gamers Nostalgia.

Farewell

to our fellow Govian

William Stuart '93 passed away on August 6, 2025.

His family remembers him as loving and thoughtful, a beloved uncle, brother, son, cousin, nephew, and friend.



Keeping in touch with Gow has never been easier!

linkedin.com/school/the-gow-school

youtube.com/@thegowschool

instagram.com/thegowschool

facebook.com/GowSchool