

Kent Quarterly

FALL/WINTER 2024-2025



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KENT QUARTERLY
FALL/WINTER 2024-2025
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From the Head of School

Early in February, I reluctantly attended the annual meeting of the Heads & Principals Association. Truth be told, my attendance *every year* is a bit reluctant. One of the requirements, perhaps the only requirement, of membership in the organization is attendance at the annual meeting. No doubt part of my perennial reluctance to attend is fueled by the simple fact that the attendance mandate is so strong. In this way, I am staying in touch with my adolescent self: “I don’t want to go because you are making me go.” Mostly, I do not want to attend the conference because I do not like leaving campus while we are in session. Call it a fear of missing out or just being a homebody, but I do not like to travel for any reason while our students are here.

My subsequent gratitude for having gone is as predictable as my reluctance to go to the meeting. I always learn something from these gatherings, and this year was no exception. On the general (though not quite comprehensible, in my view) topic “Building Resilience for Future-Ready Communities,” I heard talks from Chris Bradford, President of the Moorehead-Cain Foundation, Cass Sunstein, Harvard Law School professor, and Abdullah Antepli, Vice President and Provost of Community Engagement at Duke University. Mr. Bradford lamented society’s pressure to have schools create “performance robots.” I could see the School’s reticent complicity in his charge as we prepare our students for the most competitive college process in human history.

Mr. Sunstein spoke about schools as the “arsenals of democracy” and said that if schools are not places where we can practice our most fundamental freedoms, society is at risk of losing them.

Lastly, Mr. Antepli provided a sobering assessment of the failure of liberal arts education in the United States, if not the world. Among other things, Mr. Antepli noted that the apparent aim of a liberal arts education and the narrower promise of civil discourse has been pacification. In his view, “let’s get along” has become an educational religion. So, too, the thirst for simplicity overwhelms the appreciation of ambiguity and complexity. He shared the fact that the Republican student group at Duke University could not find

a faculty advisor until he himself volunteered.

The speakers, particularly Mr. Antepli, were inspiring, but particularly so in the context of Kent School. More specifically, I thought about our aspiration, expressed as one of our Kent School Competencies, to have our graduates be engaged citizens.

Having returned from the conference the following week, I had lunch in the Dining Hall with a group of my teaching colleagues. As is usually the case, three or more conversations were happening at once among the seven of us—did the girls hockey team win yesterday? This is what I did with my Spanish students in class this morning; the upcoming play; the upcoming weekend...I am not sure what conversation I was a part of, but I was startled in the very best way by one of my colleagues saying, “I am a proud, life-long Republican.” I was even more impressed that his announcement did not interrupt any conversations around the table. No one appeared to care.

A few days later, a student came to see me in my office to discuss her participation in our Chapel services as a person who does not ascribe to any religious tradition. I enjoyed our conversation very much, and I will confess, I was flattered that the student felt comfortable enough to speak with me about her religious views and her experience in this important ritual of our shared life. It would have been easier for her not to engage with me.

In the context of these two encounters, I remembered the adage “it is not polite to speak about politics or religion,” and Mr. Antepli’s recognition of our impulse to “just get along,” and our predilection to simplify. While these two experiences are hardly a robust data set, they make me hopeful that Kent School remains a place of intellectual discomfort. This is how learning happens, and I also believe, where engaged citizens are born.



Michael G. Hirschfeld
Head of School

Kent School Competencies

Kent School equips students with the skills that will empower them to make an impact on the broader world. We call these skills the Kent School Competencies.



Active Empathy

The skill necessary not only to see and understand another's perspective, but also to act in ways that advance mutual understanding.



Engaged Citizenship

Understanding and fulfilling one's responsibilities to individuals in a community and to the community itself.



Critical & Creative Thinking

The ability to assess both quantitative and qualitative information critically, create knowledge from it, and apply that knowledge to novel contexts.



Effective Communication

The ability to communicate effectively in written and oral forms.



Servant Leadership

Understanding leadership as service to others.

Between the Hills and River Shore

FACULTY

A Fond Farewell to Two Beloved Teachers



Robert Ober

History teacher Rob Ober brought a uniquely global perspective to Kent School.

Appointed to the Faculty in 1991, he earned a Bachelor's and Master's degree here in the United States, but as the son of a parent in the diplomatic corps, his early education took place in Maryland, Moscow, the National Capital Territory of Delhi, Kent, and Athens.

Ober taught 10 different courses in the History Department, focusing on such topics as U.S. history, Soviet history, WWII, genocide, European history, the Middle East, and Africa.

His co-curricular resume includes debate club and coaching soccer, tennis, and ice hockey—all providing him occasions to fire-up his athletes and keep them mindful of the fact that they were playing for more than simply, "a win."

Lisa Brody

After a remarkable 52-year tenure in Kent's art department, Lisa Brody has retired.

A past holder of the Arthur Collins '48 Teaching Chair in Art and Architecture, she taught courses in painting, drawing, AS Studio Art, architecture, and art survey, and advised the student literary and arts magazine, *The Cauldron*. Brody encouraged and nurtured, with her singular, light-handed touch, the artistic creativity of hundreds of student artists and their works.

Brody will spend time living in and working on her turn-of-the-century farmhouse in South Kent, painting in her studio, and spending time with her sons, Jono '01 and Sam '06, and her grandchildren.





CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Celebrating Harold Orr: 50 Years of Service and Graduation

For countless Kent School students, faculty, and staff, Harold Orr has been a constant presence and a friendly face in the Dining Hall. After nearly 50 years of dedicated service to the school community, Harold retired in June 2024. In recognition of his many contributions, Kent awarded Orr an honorary diploma at the 2024 commencement ceremony.

Harold Orr started working at Kent in 1975 at the age of 21, during the tenure of former headmaster Sid Towle. Over the decades, he held roles in housekeeping, athletics, and most notably, food service.

Generations of students grew to adore Orr for his warm presence, thoughtful advice, and famous mac and cheese and

meatloaf recipes. He managed football, basketball, and lacrosse teams alongside coach Don Gowan and drove the van to games.

Orr's impact on the students extends beyond the dining hall and sports fields. He is known for his caring nature and willingness to lend an ear or offer guidance. "I love these kids so much," Orr says, reflecting on his interactions with students over the years. Many alumni maintained connections with Orr long after graduating, often introducing their children to him when they returned to visit Kent.

Earning his Kent School diploma carries special meaning for Orr as he

explains, "I promised my mom that I would get my GED." By presenting Orr with an honorary degree, Kent fulfilled his longstanding wish and recognized his dedication to lifelong learning.

Though retiring from his formal role, Orr plans to remain a fixture on campus. "This is my home, I'm not going anywhere," he says with a smile. His legacy of care and dedication will forever be part of the School. The Kent community will undoubtedly continue to see and feel his impact for years to come, as his presence has become an integral part of the Kent School experience over the past five decades.



CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Ambassador Makila James Shares Global Insights with Kent Students

Kent School welcomed Ambassador Makila James, who shared her global expertise with students during a two-day visit in December. With 52 years of foreign service behind her, James brought a rare, up-close look into international relations that captured students' and faculty's attention.

Spanning a remarkable career that includes serving as U.S. Ambassador to the Kingdom of Eswatini and Deputy Assistant Secretary for East Africa, James turned the campus into a living lesson about global diplomacy. Her academic background from Cornell University, the National Defence University, and Columbia Law School added depth to her stories.

Throughout her visit, James connected with students in multiple ways. An evening conversation in the Head of School's Study allowed students to ask questions about diplomatic life and world affairs. She continued these conversations during class visits and an informal lunch, helping students understand the real work of international service.

Students heard personal stories about diplomatic challenges, global negotiations, and what it means to represent the United States abroad. From her experiences in African diplomatic missions to leadership roles in the State Department, James offered an honest, personal view of international relations.

CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Student Volunteers Bring Spring to Life with Crocus Planting

A group of dedicated student-volunteers joined forces in the fall to plant 3,500 crocus bulbs—an incredible feat completed in under an hour! Keep an eye out for these future blooms on the hill near the chapel!



FACULTY

NAES Conference Brings Together Leaders for Reflection and Growth

Dean of the Chapel The Rev. Dr. Kate Kelderman, Chaplain Brian Cheney, and Director of Community Service Megan Sokolnicki traveled to Ft. Lauderdale, Florida to attend the National Association of Episcopal Schools (NAES) conference. This gathering brought together educators, chaplains, school leaders, and equity and inclusion directors from across the U.S. and around the world for three days of meaningful reflection and growth.

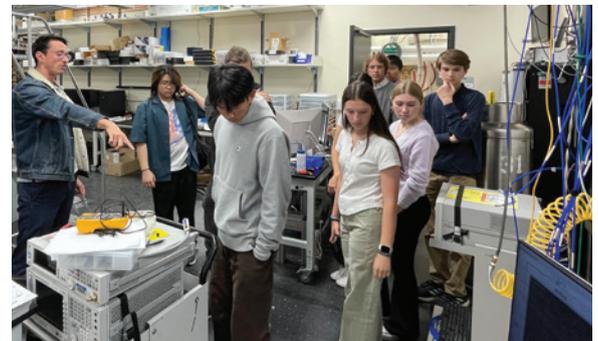


ACADEMICS

Students Explore Cutting-Edge Science at Yale Quantum Institute

Kent students an opportunity to visit the Yale Quantum Institute, diving into the forefront of quantum science and technology. The visit included an enlightening tour of the Cleanroom on the fifth floor of the Becton Engineering and Applied Science Center, where students observed groundbreaking work on qubits, microchips, and light-detecting circuits.

The group was hosted by Dr. Yong Sun P'27 and Dr. Florian Carle, with Dr. Lauren McCabe offering insights into the world of quantum research. This experience provided students with a hands-on at the innovative research shaping the future of technology.





CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Jim Millstein Visits Kent School for the Kepner Lecture Series

Jim Millstein, Co-Chairman of Guggenheim Securities, recently visited Kent School as the featured speaker for the David and Cristina Kepner Lecture Series. Drawing from his extensive career in business, finance, government service, and entrepreneurship, Millstein shared insights on financial markets, career growth, and lessons learned from the 2008 financial crisis.

He emphasized the importance of preparedness, humility, and building strong relationships, encouraging students to always ask for help when needed. Reflecting on his own experiences, Millstein advised, “You never know who’s going to turn up later in life, someone you met earlier who opens a door you never expected—but one you’ll be grateful for. That’s why it’s important to treat everyone with kindness and respect.”

During the lecture, he also discussed the instability of Bitcoin, the impact of subprime mortgages, and his own entrepreneurial ventures following his time in government. Students and faculty alike appreciated his candid advice and engaging discussion, making for a thought-provoking and inspiring event. Kent School extends its gratitude to Mr. Millstein for sharing his wisdom and experiences and to David ’60 and Cristina Kepner P’09 for establishing the lecture series.

IN THE WORLD

Student Delegates Take on Key Global Challenges at Columbia Model UN

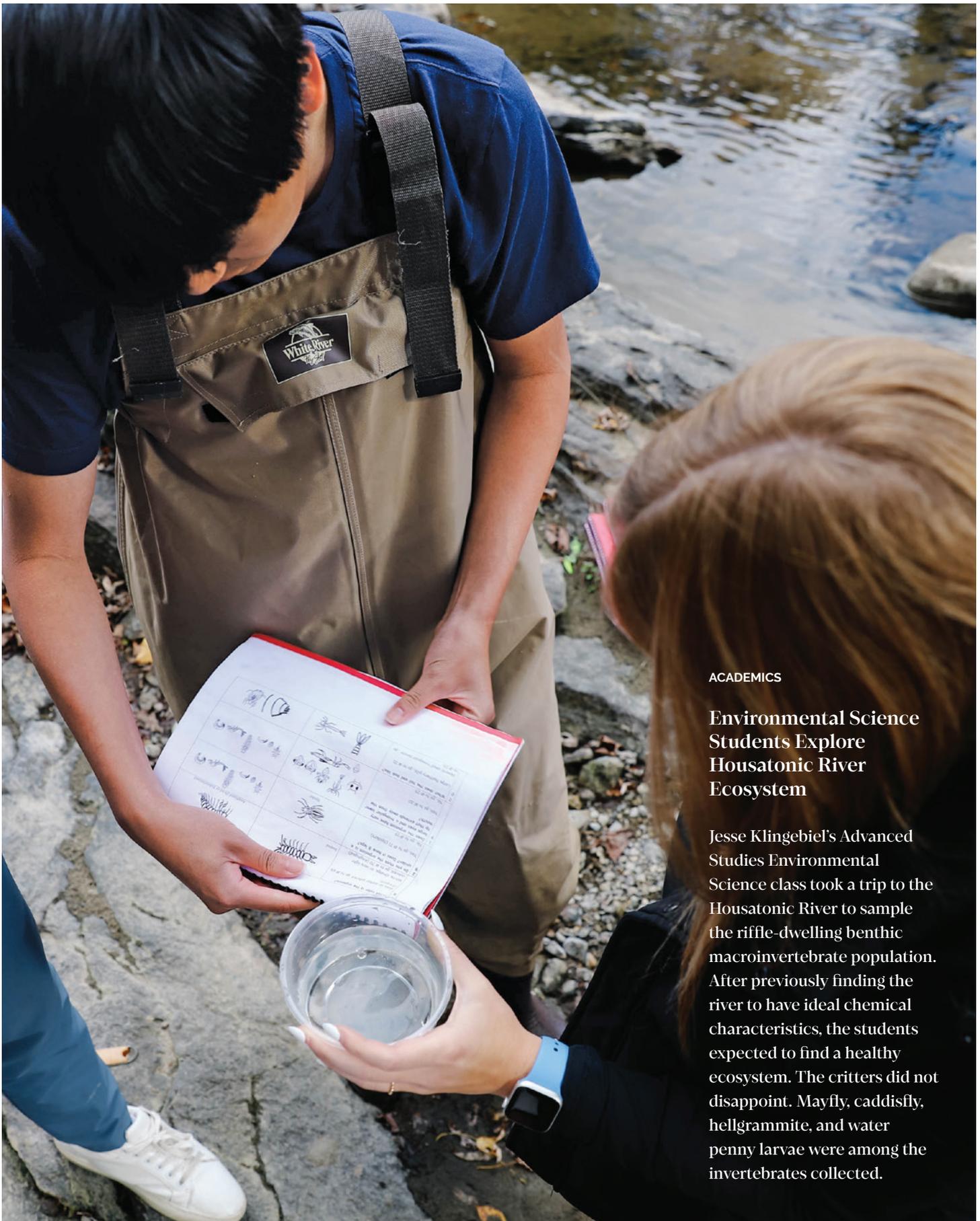
This January, the Kent School Model United Nations (KSMUN) team, led by faculty advisors Sierra Thomsen and Madeleine Schade, enjoyed an inspiring and challenging experience at the Columbia University Model United Nations Conference, continuing a tradition of excellence that spans more than 18 years.

Nine of Kent’s top debaters traveled to New York City to compete in one of the most prestigious and competitive Model UN conferences in the world. Representing Canada in UNESCO, WHO, and the OAS, they tackled critical global issues, from health policy to international law. Others argued cases in the International Court of Justice and negotiated access to the Arctic Circle, engaging in high-stakes diplomacy that mirrored real-world international relations.

Their dedication and skill paid off—Morgan Synn ’26 and Jaime Avancena ’26 took home Best Delegation and Best Memorial, with Synn also earning Best Orator. Sienna Park ’28 received a Verbal Commendation (4th place), recognized for her negotiation skills and strategic thinking.

Beyond the competition, the team had the opportunity to tour the United Nations, collaborate with students from Columbia and Barnard, and engage with UN diplomats, gaining invaluable insights into the workings of global governance.





ACADEMICS

Environmental Science Students Explore Housatonic River Ecosystem

Jesse Klingebiel's Advanced Studies Environmental Science class took a trip to the Housatonic River to sample the riffle-dwelling benthic macroinvertebrate population. After previously finding the river to have ideal chemical characteristics, the students expected to find a healthy ecosystem. The critters did not disappoint. Mayfly, caddisfly, hellgrammite, and water penny larvae were among the invertebrates collected.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Local Service Projects Highlight Student Commitment to Giving Back

This fall, Kent School students have demonstrated their commitment to community service through a variety of impactful activities that strengthen ties with the local community. Partnering with the Kent Lions Club, a national organization with a local chapter in Kent, CT, students volunteered at all their fall events. From selling food at seasonal festivals to assisting with town safety on Halloween night, the collaboration, dubbed “Lions Helping Lions,” showcased the school’s dedication to supporting the area.

In September, the REACH community service club hosted its annual Tag Sale, one of the largest community initiatives at Kent School. Students donated items last spring, filling an entire gym with treasures, including affordable clothes, dorm decor, and more. The sale not only diverted tons of items from landfills, but also raised funds for the club’s local outreach efforts, benefiting the broader community in meaningful ways.

In October, the entire 9th-grade class participated in the Third Form Day of Service, a hallmark event at the school. Students chose from over 20 service projects in and around town, offering their time and skills at nursing homes, daycare centers, CSA farms, food banks, soup kitchens, and land trusts.

Through these diverse initiatives, students continue to strengthen their connection to the community, making a lasting difference in the lives of many.



IN THE WORLD

School Leaders Visit Alumni and Families in Asia

Head of School Mike Hirschfeld and Chief Advancement Officer Bill Kissick met with alumni and current families in Seoul, Shanghai, and Hong Kong, highlighting the strong values and meaningful global connections that make our school truly exceptional.

A special thank you to Yoonjung Chung P'26 and Joohyung Chung P'27 for hosting a group luncheon in Seoul and Mandy Chan P'26 '28 and Alice Yee P'25 '27 for hosting a group dinner in Hong Kong.



SPIRITUAL LIFE

Kent Community's Annual Lessons & Carols Celebration

Every year, the Lessons & Carols service carries on a tradition from King's College, Cambridge, stretching back a hundred years. Through readings and music, it shares stories of enduring faithfulness. This holiday tradition brought warmth and peace to our Kent community, offering solace, inspiration, and connection to all who joined.



CAMPUS HIGHLIGHTS

Outgoing Trustees Recognized, New Member Joins Board

At the annual meeting last spring, the Kent School Board of Trustees honored five outgoing members: Robert Anderson '60 P'97, Peter Getsinger '71 P'02, Stephen Gladstone '60 P'18, Henrik Vanderlip '70 P'05 '10, and Magalen Crane Webert '69 P'98. Their dedicated service to Kent School was recognized with gratitude.

The Board also announced the election of Michael Smerklo P'27 '27, who began his four-year term this year. Smerklo is the co-founder and managing director of Next Coast Ventures, an Austin-based venture capital firm that invests in entrepreneurs building disruptive technology companies.

The Board's leadership team for the 2024-2025 academic year consists of James Lawrence P'15 as President, Kimberly Brainard Naylor '80 P'10 '11 as Vice President, Diane deCordova '79 as Treasurer, and Sarah Robertson P'23 as Secretary.

FACULTY

Modern Languages Faculty Share Takeaways from ACTFL Conference

Modern Languages department members Kristin Benjamin, Rachel Zimmerman, Johnny Torrez, and Gonzalo del Real attended the 2024 American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Conference, a professional organization dedicated to advancing language education and cross-cultural understanding across the United States.

Rachel Zimmerman described the conference as an invaluable professional development opportunity. "The ACTFL Conference allows us to be students for a weekend, exploring diverse presentations about language teaching and learning," she explained. Zimmerman personally attended sessions covering assessment techniques, classroom use of short films, and experiential learning approaches.

Kristin Benjamin found the experience particularly affirming. "It was inspiring to be among thousands of educators who are as passionate about language education as we are," she said. Benjamin also noted the conference's nuanced approach to emerging technologies, highlighting that despite significant discussions about artificial intelligence, the fundamental importance of language and cultural learning remains paramount.

Their participation reflects the department's dedication to ongoing professional development and forward-thinking approaches to language education.



IN THE WORLD

Trustee Robert F. Hoerle '52 Receives Prestigious Seymour Preston Award

Robert F. Hoerle '52, Trustee of Kent School and Managing Partner and Co-Founder of Stone Run Capital, has been named the recipient of the 2025 Seymour Preston Award, presented by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE). This distinguished honor recognizes Hoerle's exceptional dedication and leadership in advancing voluntary support for his alma mater. The award, established in memory of Lawrenceville School trustee Seymour Preston, is presented annually to a trustee who has demonstrated outstanding service to their institution.

Hoerle's connection to Kent School dates back to his time as a student, from which he graduated in 1952. Since joining the Board of Trustees in 1997, he has been a driving force behind key improvements at the School. In 1999, he established one of Kent's first endowed faculty chairs, inspiring the creation of 14 more over the years.

As Chair of the Investment Committee from 1999 to 2021, Hoerle guided Kent through economic ups and downs, helping the School's endowment grow steadily. "Nobody leads by example better than Bob Hoerle," said Trustee Emeritus Lynn Shipway.

James A. Lawrence, President of Kent School's Board of Trustees, praised Hoerle's ability to motivate others: "Bob's vision and leadership inspire everyone around him. He ensures people understand how their support makes a difference for Kent's students."

Hoerle's generosity has left a lasting mark on the campus. In 2012, Kent dedicated Hoerle Hall, which serves as a dormitory and home to expanded art studios. In 2022, he pledged to create an endowed scholarship fund that will

support four students each year.

"Bob's contributions to Kent are remarkable," highlights Head of School Michael G. Hirschfeld in Hoerle's nomination letter. "He has played a vital role in every major initiative over the past several decades. His thoughtful leadership and generosity have made Kent the School it is today."

The impact of Hoerle's dedication extends to individual faculty members as well. Jenna Lynch, holder of the Robert

F. Hoerle 1952 Endowed Chair in the Arts since 2002, praised his ongoing commitment to excellence: "Mr. Robert Hoerle inspires me to be the best teacher and administrator I can be. His interest in the Arts and generosity to Kent School are extraordinary."

As Kent's longest-serving current trustee, Hoerle continues to lead by example. His dedication reflects Kent's Mission "to contribute to the common good in the world beyond Kent."



ARTS

Fall Dance Recital Highlights Talent and Creativity

The Fall Dance Recital showcased an inspiring range of performances across multiple genres and styles. Kent School dancers captivated the audience with pieces in ballet, hip-hop, contemporary, modern, jazz, and musical theater dance, bringing energy and creativity to the stage.

Julianne Cerreta, Kent's new Director of Dance, reflected on the experience: "I really appreciate the students' trust in me as a new director, and it has been wonderful getting to know, learn, and create with them. This recital was a great example of the hard work they've been doing all term."



ARTS

Music Meets Mentorship: Orchestra Students Inspire at Kent Center School

Orchestra students brought their talents to Kent Center School (KCS) for a special community outreach event celebrating the joy of music and mentorship. The Kent students performed and led workshops with KCS students from two classes, creating a fun and inspiring musical experience for all.



ATHLETICS

Athletics Achievements and Championship Spirit

In November, Kent School proudly recognized its student-athletes on National Signing Day. Their hard work, dedication, and passion for their sports led them to this exciting milestone. Congratulations to all our signees—we continue to support you as you move forward in your athletic careers!



WELLNESS

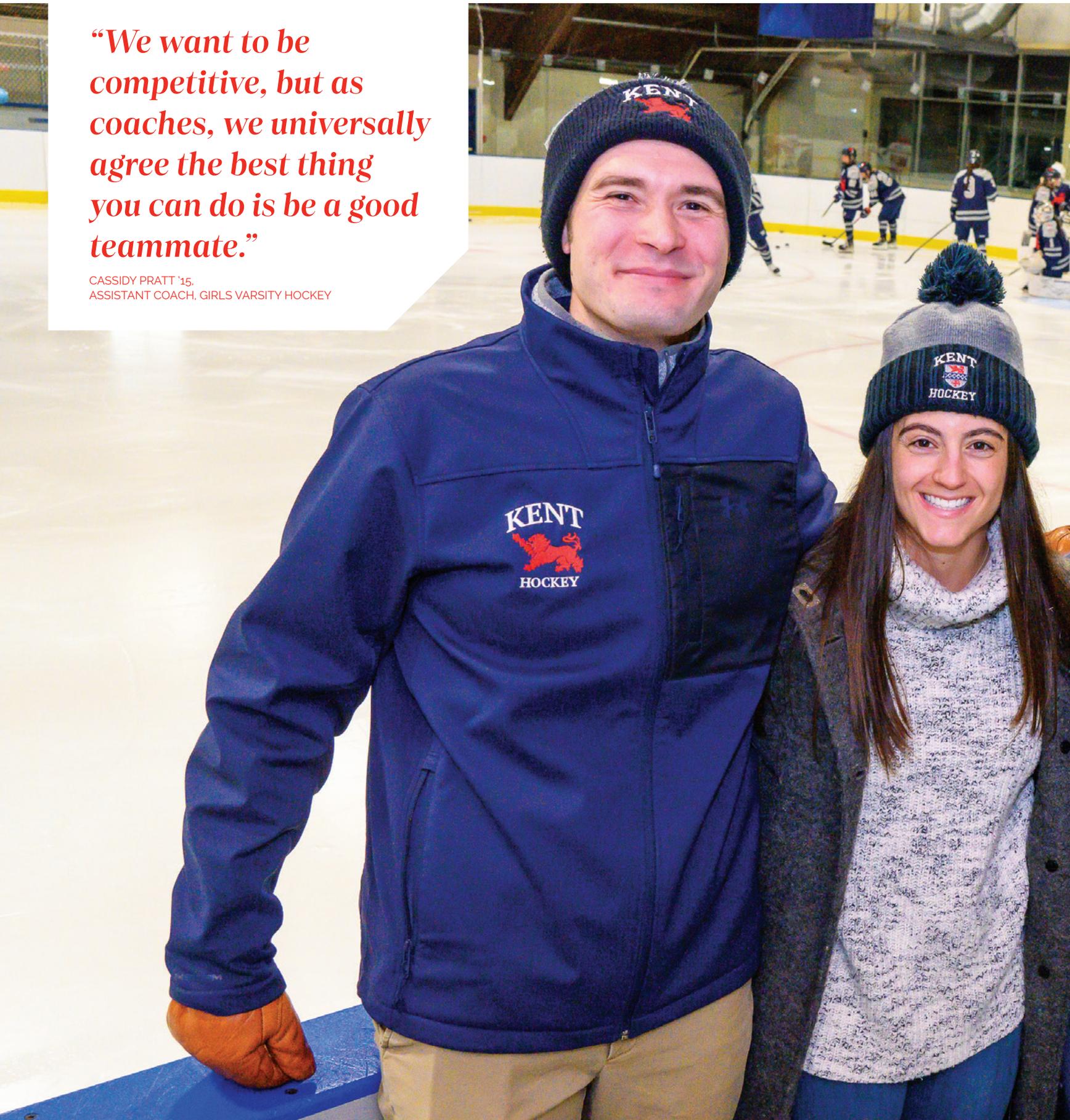
Kent Enhances Wellness Focus with New Nutrition Program

Kent School's Wellness and Athletics departments are partnering with Jennifer O'Donnell-Giles, MS, RDN, a Sports Dietitian, Nutritionist, and Exercise Physiologist. O'Donnell-Giles owns EAT4SPORT, a private practice dedicated to helping parents, coaches, and athletes optimize their nutrition to become the healthiest, fastest, strongest, and best athletes they can be.

This partnership will focus on consulting across various wellness topics and delivering in-person lectures to students, athletes, and coaches. Topics will include healthy snacks, meal ideas, performance nutrition, and more.

“We want to be competitive, but as coaches, we universally agree the best thing you can do is be a good teammate.”

CASSIDY PRATT '15,
ASSISTANT COACH, GIRLS VARSITY HOCKEY





ATHLETICS

Alumni Trio Guides the Next Generation on the Ice

Stepping onto the ice at Kent School, three familiar faces are now behind the bench instead of in the lineup. Head coach Elena Gualtieri '15, and assistant coaches Cassidy Pratt '15 and Andrew Abrams '09, have returned—not as players, but as coaches—guiding the girls varsity hockey team through a highly competitive season. Their journey from student-athletes to mentors represents a full-circle moment, one that highlights the lasting impact of their Kent experience.

The evolution from student to mentor has been a natural progression for all three coaches. “As a day student and Student Council member, being a role model was the most important part of my community responsibility as a student.” Abrams reflects. Gualtieri notes similar continuity: “I was Captain for both of my sports, leading by example as a student-athlete and now as a coach.” Pratt echoes her colleagues: “The value and the need and want for community responsibility within the program, both as a student and as a coach, has set a good example of wanting to be involved.”

Their own experiences as Kent students deeply inform their current approach. Gualtieri recalls, “The team culture, everybody was just so bought in, and they were family, which is now what we are striving for.” For Pratt, mentors like Ed Dunn and Shawn Rousseau set powerful examples: “Ed was my advisor, and he was just someone that you could rely on. Shawn set really good expectations for us, and laid those out very clearly.”

The trio’s commitment to teaching responsibility extends well beyond the ice. “The best thing you can be is a good teammate,” Abrams emphasizes, “knowing that the person next to you is fighting for the same goal.” Pratt adds, “We want to be

competitive, but as coaches, we universally agree that the best thing you can do is be a good teammate.” Gualtieri reinforces this holistic approach: “It’s important for the athletes to recognize they are more than just hockey players and understand that we care about them on another level too. The relationships outside of the locker room are all just as important.”

Their return to Kent reflects a deep connection to the School’s values. Abrams describes it as the place that has felt most like home outside of family. For Gualtieri, giving back is a way to honor the strong sense of community that shaped their experience. “The whole community is a big part of my life here,” Gualtieri shares, “and I see this as me giving back.” Pratt emphasizes the importance of creating opportunities for students to explore new things—just as they once did.

The impact of Kent’s emphasis on engaged citizenship extends beyond their coaching roles. “Having the opportunity to come to a place like Kent—trying a new sport, joining the choir—grows your confidence,” Pratt explains. Abrams emphasizes preparation for life beyond athletics: “Your career is going to end at some point... making sure that everything else about you as a person is prepared.” Gualtieri explains the broader impact simply by saying, “It wasn’t just hockey it was way more than that, which is why I’m back here.”

By returning to Kent, this trio of alumni is ensuring that the values they learned as students continue to thrive. Their leadership goes beyond the game, helping today’s student-athletes understand the deeper meaning of teamwork, responsibility, and community—lessons that last far beyond their time on the ice.

Engaged Citizenship

In today's world where people are both more connected and more divided, Kent School believes education must go beyond books and tests. The School focuses on teaching Engaged Citizenship—helping students understand they have responsibilities both to the people around them and to their wider community. This idea shows up everywhere on campus, from classroom conversations to community service projects. Kent students learn that their actions matter, whether they're helping a classmate or contributing to their town. By talking with students, alumni, and school leaders, we discover how this approach shapes how young people grow at Kent and prepare them to make a difference in our ever-changing world.





TRIPP CHRISTMAN '25
Leading campus health and wellness initiatives



TAYLOR HENNESSY '27
Bringing joy to hospitalized children through giving



SATCHEL CLENDENIN '16
Revolutionizing pediatric care with 3D-printed prosthetics and models



GENE CAMPBELL
Measuring Kent's community impact

BREAKING BARRIERS, BUILDING WELLNESS

For **TRIPP CHRISTMAN '25**, engaged citizenship began with transforming campus wellness culture through direct action. As a community life steward on the Wellness Advisory Committee, he has turned this responsibility into a passion with tangible results. “The biggest thing we tried to do is actually make it more known how you can reach out to get help,” Christman explains. “And how you can actually make a difference, instead of just talking about it.”

This commitment to action over words defines Christman's approach. When elected as Senior Prefect, he immediately prioritized wellness initiatives, particularly for male students.

Over 70 students participated in November's Movember men's health awareness event, which not only educated the community but also raised over \$5,000 for men's health research and support programs. Movember, a global campaign where men grow mustaches during November to raise awareness for men's health issues, has become an important tradition on campus. “It was honestly amazing to see how many people came out and supported this initiative,” Christman says.

He acknowledges persistent challenges, both from his personal experiences and what he has observed on campus, particularly among male students. “Men on this campus are very closed-minded sometimes,” he notes. “They aren't willing to get out of that shell they've been so accustomed to.” As someone who meets regularly with Director of Wellness Dr. Annie Carney, Christman has witnessed the transformation that happens when students finally open up. Working with

the Wellness Advisory Committee, he has seen firsthand how meaningful conversations about mental health can change perspectives and lives.

To break through these barriers, Christman is bringing in speakers who have faced mental health struggles themselves. The goal is to normalize conversations about difficult topics and encourage vulnerability among male students.

“It's very open conversations,” Christman explains about planned speaker events. “They're very interactive, like the community conversations that we have here at Kent, but it's for any male person on this campus to attend.” The format is intentional. Instead of traditional lectures, the focus is on creating dialogues about difficult topics. “Honestly, reading about it and talking about it sheds a light on something you would never have known unless you took a deep dive into it.”

This educational journey has transformed his own perspective. “What I've learned is that these aren't issues we should keep to ourselves,” he reflects. “The people that reach out for help and really try to gain something from this are going to prove to be better with it.”

Christman's wellness work extends beyond mental health initiatives. Through his involvement with the Nourishment Club, he is addressing another important aspect of student well-being: nutrition. Working with fellow seniors, he promotes healthy eating options through campus tastings and educational outreach designed to help students make better dietary choices.

Looking ahead, Christman and the Wellness Advisory Committee plan to host monthly speaker events throughout the spring semester and are developing a

Below:
Tripp Christman '25 speaking to the Kent
community in St. Joseph's Chapel.

On the right:
Taylor Hennessey '27 gathers stuffed animals for
donation at a Wichita Thunder hockey game.



peer support training program scheduled to launch next fall.

The realization that you don't need a leadership title to practice engaged citizenship is what strikes Christman the most. "People think, if they don't have a leadership position, that they can't make a difference in this community," Christman notes. "But every single person that participated in our Movember campaign came up and asked questions wanting to help. Right there they're being an engaged citizen."

Whether organizing campus-wide initiatives or simply showing up, every student can contribute to community's well-being. "Everyone always is going to have their own story," Christman reflects. "And if they're willing to share that story, that's when it's just going to make the biggest difference at the end of the day, since we all can learn and grow from each other."

FROM HOSPITAL PATIENT TO COMMUNITY HEALER

When **TAYLOR HENNESSY '27** found herself stuck in a hospital bed at 10 years old due to a medical condition, something unexpected happened. Toys, books, and games donated by strangers made her feel like a kid again, not just a patient.

Today, Hennessey is paying that kindness forward in a big way—demonstrating engaged citizenship through her commitment to community support.

"My hospital stay was made easier by the donations," she recalls. "It was difficult to stay in bed with nothing to do but watch hospital television. Access to the children's room let me be a kid, even though I was recovering."

That children's room became a sanctuary, a place where she could briefly escape the realities of her medical condition. "I was able to play and have fun

like a normal kid," she explains, "instead of thinking about what I was going through with my back."

This formative experience sparked a deep sense of compassion that now drives her to help others. Hennessey has mobilized her hometown community in Naples, Florida to support children at the University of Kansas-Wesley Children's Hospital in Wichita—a cause that holds personal significance. "My sister is a pediatrician at the hospital," she says. "It's in a rural, low-income area with very limited resources. The children there need our help."

Unlike Weill-Cornell Hospital in New York City, where Hennessey received care—a facility bolstered by generous donors and state-of-the-art technology—the Kansas hospital serves a community with fewer resources. "Right now, my donations come entirely from my hometown community, and they're so

happy to help. That shows me how much they care about me and the things I believe in.”

Hennessy doesn't just sympathize with hospitalized children; she understands their experience firsthand and responds with targeted, thoughtful action. “I hope they smile, knowing people care about them and that they enjoy the kits and toys,” she says.

Her efforts have only grown. Over Thanksgiving break, she partnered with the Wichita Thunder hockey team on their Teddy Bear Toss, helping distribute stuffed animals to foster children through DCCCA, Inc., a nonprofit dedicated to community well-being through health services, family support, and prevention programs.

Now, with her own nonprofit organization, Taylor's Creative Comforts, Hennessy is expanding her reach. Naples community members actively seek ways to support her initiatives, demonstrating how one student's commitment can inspire collective action. “When I go home for breaks, people ask me what I'll be doing next for the children at the hospital and how they can help,” she shares.

This experience has also shaped her future aspirations. “I want to be a doctor so I can help people,” she says. Once a dancer who performed through pain, Hennessy's successful surgery transformed her life. “Before my surgery, my legs were always in pain. I was an Irish dancer at the time, but felt discomfort every time I performed. Since then, I have become an Open Champion in Irish dance, I'm the goalie on our J.V. hockey team, and I play volleyball. Had it not been for my doctors and the surgery, none of this would have happened.”

Her personal transformation has reinforced her belief in the power of both

medical care and simple acts of kindness. She has seen firsthand how skilled professionals and generosity can change lives, and she is determined to do the same for others.

“It is so important to help others in any way possible,” she says. “We can all benefit from stopping, looking around, and seeing where we can make a difference.”

Through her dedication, Hennessy proves that one person—no matter how young—can create meaningful change through active, compassionate community engagement.

ENGINEERING A FUTURE OF CARE

When **SACHEL CLENDENIN '16** took a Kent engineering class, he had no idea it would change the trajectory of his life and the lives of countless children with limb differences.

Today, at Children's Hospital Los Angeles, Clendenin runs a groundbreaking 3D printing program

that provides free prosthetic hands to kids in need. “I am overly grateful to Kent School,” Clendenin reflects. “I first began on this 3D printing journey in my senior year. Without that introduction, I never would have even thought to pursue this field.”

This connection between Kent education and real-world impact demonstrates how engaged citizenship extends beyond campus boundaries and years at the School. The seed planted in that engineering classroom has grown into transformative healthcare innovation.

Clendenin's program revolutionizes pediatric care across multiple dimensions. In medical education, his team creates detailed anatomical models that transform how healthcare providers learn. “We are able to hand them an anatomically correct model that they can study and use for learning purposes,” Clendenin explains. “It can be a healthy model, or it can be a model that is



disease-ridden. It could be anatomy that has been broken, and we can show them exactly what that looks like at the smallest levels with 3D printing.”

These models provide tactile, three-dimensional learning tools that far surpass traditional textbook illustrations, allowing medical students and practitioners to develop a deeper understanding of anatomical structures and pathologies.

His innovation extends to surgical preparation as well. Surgeons use his anatomically-correct 3D models for pre-surgical planning, reducing time in the operating room. “NIH has done studies for this,” Clendenin notes, “and the research has shown that, on average, it saves about 60 minutes in the OR.” The implications are significant. “That means way better patient outcomes because the patient is under anesthesia a lot less,” Clendenin explains.

He’s also revolutionized medical training devices. His team produces

customized task trainers that allow doctors to practice procedures like lumbar punctures. “Traditional LP trainers on the market are going to be thousands of dollars,” he notes. “I’m able to produce this entire model for around \$100 to \$150. So it’s a huge cost savings. And you get a lot more customization.” This cost reduction makes high-quality training tools accessible to more healthcare providers, potentially improving care quality across healthcare systems. By democratizing access to medical training devices, Clendenin’s work demonstrates engaged citizenship on a systemic level—addressing inequities in healthcare education and, ultimately, patient care.

Perhaps most poignantly, Clendenin’s program provides custom prosthetic hands to children with limb differences at no cost to families. This aspect of his work enables children to participate more fully in daily activities and helps reduce the stigma associated with physical differences.

Clendenin developed the foundation to create healthcare solutions that serve society’s broader needs. His work demonstrates how Kent’s Mission translates into meaningful action that advances the common good, showing current students how their education prepares them for personal success, and making a positive difference in the world.

STRATEGIC PATHWAYS TO MEANINGFUL ENGAGEMENT

“What better way to practice adding to the common good than seeking to make your fellow students’ time at Kent better?” asks **GENE CAMPBELL, DIRECTOR OF**

ENROLLMENT, capturing the spirit of Kent School’s approach to engaged citizenship.

Campbell has driven Kent School’s innovative efforts to transform student

participation from passive observation to active community building. Through the Culture & Climate survey and Mission Metric initiatives, the School has created powerful tools that empower students to directly shape their educational experience and understand their broader responsibilities to the community.

These strategies are more than just data collection—they represent a commitment to student voice, institutional growth, and collective responsibility.

The Culture & Climate survey collected anonymous feedback that helped leadership make data-driven decisions about improving student experiences. The survey covered topics including overall satisfaction, school culture, programming, academics, belonging, social connections, and wellness.

The Mission Metric, a three-year project, has begun evaluating how effectively Kent educates students intellectually, socially, ethically, and spiritually.

“The confidential review and examination of the survey data will help our school leadership make data-informed decisions and set strategic institutional goals that will help steer the current state and future direction of our school,” says Campbell, “and improve the overall experience for every community member.”

Campbell points to tour guides, peer tutors, team captains, and clubs members such as REACH (Remember Every Action Helps) as living examples of students who make “an incredible impact on one another’s lives.”

This day-to-day commitment to engaged citizenship—where students actively improve their community—distinguishes Kent’s approach. The School doesn’t just teach values; it creates opportunities for students to live them.



Above:
Director of Enrollment Gene Campbell speaks with members of the Kent community.

To the left:
Satchel Clendenin '16 showcases one of his 3D-printed prosthetic hands.



By Larry Gile '73

THE CLUB SYSTEM

Memory Lane

Inspired to learn about Kent's traditions, practices and customs—some long lost, some still beloved—Larry Gile '73 mined the School's archives and interviewed dozens of alumni to unearth a treasure trove of history and memories.

"Algos forever."

"I always just assumed the Housies were superior. Not sure why."

"What, no Massie's speaking up here? Massies Club Soccer in '69 coached by Yovanovitch! Mixed club crew in spring of '74 totally ruined by an Algo who was a master crab creator."

"What about the night all the security lights at the Girls' School were spray-painted red? Or the big spring rainstorm when we just went out and played in the rain? As I recall, Mrs. Owens had a go-to-pieces over that one."

These comments, and many more in a similar vein, were not made over 50 years ago at Kent sitting around tables in our respective Dining Halls, but rather during

the past two months on a social media platform. From the late 1940s to the 1970s, the Club system was a part of virtually every student's life, and even many years later, Club identity and pride remain strong. The beauty of the Club system is that there was generally something in it for everyone, athlete, non-athlete, scholar, and non-scholar.

Alas, the Club system is no more. Let us look at where it came from, how it evolved and flourished, and why it faded into obscurity.

Leagues

Before Clubs, there were leagues. The first reference to leagues and their purpose is from the *Kent News* of Sept. 30, 1921: "Football has been recognized by the leading colleges and secondary schools as the

healthiest fall sport...In order to have a good squad of experienced candidates each year it is necessary that fellows play from the time they first enter the school...Nothing should keep a boy from football except, perhaps, a doctor's certificate. All other reasons are imagined."

The *Kent News* of Oct. 15, 1951, offers a closer look at how the Leagues are the crucible in which the school's first football teams are formed: "It has long been Kent's boast that its football teams are truly representative of the school; for the players that fill the positions are not Kent men merely because they wear the Blue and Gray. They have, with but one or two exceptions, come up the hard way from their second and third form years, and they have earned their positions after at least four years of competition."

The *Kent News* of Sept. 30, 1942, offers a slightly different perspective on the leagues' purpose. Wartime led to the ending of outside football contests and the start of "its first football season in the new war, with a new and interesting system and schedule: "A prediction of victory for any one team can not be made, but it will be a victorious season in football for the Blue and Gray as each boy chips in with his part for real victory."

Names and Colors

The first use of names for league teams was reported in the *Kent News* of Oct. 9, 1929. At the time, League football teams were divided into Seniors and Juniors. The Senior league teams named Algos, Housatonics, and Scaghticokes.

Apparently, the Junior Leagues stayed with the traditional Team A, B, C, D. However, the *Kent News* of Oct. 18, 1955, reported a fifth Junior League team named "The Choggams," after the creek flowing down Skiff Mountain that supplied the school's water.

The *Kent News* of Nov. 11, 1935, may well

have made the first reference to colors associated with Clubs in describing the "Macedonian blue-helmeted eleven" when talking about what is described as one of the "most powerful Junior League teams turned out by Coach Evans in a number of years." The *Kent News* of Nov. 16, 1949, article headline is "Reds Take First Place in Club Sport Competition" referring to the Algos. The *Kent News* of Jan. 31, 1951, headline "Algos Cop Fall Term Banner" refers to the privilege granted to the winning Club team of hanging their banner in the Dining Hall for the duration of their supremacy.

Most of us know the origin of Algo and Housatonic as Club names, but not necessarily Macedonians. The *Kent News* of Oct. 22, 1941, offers an answer based on a recollection by Fr. Sill: "Someone up in Macedonia (the valley west of Kent) sent word to a church in town to come there and help them, using the quotation from the Bible: 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' This was read by Fr. Sill on Friday night and recalled to him this story of how the suburb west of Kent was named."

Formalization

The *Kent News* of Jan. 14, 1948 announcement that a "Club System Adopted For Activities Within School," is the official birth date of the club system in effect through the 1970s. The outlines of the new system were broad: three teams, A, B, and C (i.e. clubs), as yet unnamed (the names Algos, Housatonics, and Macedonians appear in *Kent News* two weeks later) with officers (President, Vice President, and Secretary) elected for each. Club affiliation would be for the duration of your time at school. "Clubs accumulated points as follows: "A man on a winning league team will receive one point while a member of a first or second team (i.e. varsity or jv.) will receive two points. Grades, being on the Council, and extra-curricular activities all are good for points to



Opposite page:
Tug-of-war competition, 1972

This page:
John Samerjan '70, competing
for Housatonic Club.

a member's team."

At the end of the year a trophy would be awarded to the winning Club which is retained until another club wins.

The *Kent News* of Sept. 22, 1948, reported a broadening of club team competition to include competition with Taft School's club teams as well as a revision of the Club point scoring system:

- Winning club in each division: 50
- Second place club: 25
- Major "K" men: 8
- Minor "K" men: 6
- Undefeated club bonus: 10
- Undefeated 1st team "K": 1
- Numeral winner: 5
- Non-award 1st team: 4
- "K" 2nds: 4
- 2nds: 3

The *Kent News* of April 19, 1950, addressed a potential shortcoming in the existing system by asking, "Should Club System Cover Curriculum?" The article concluded that "the club with the greatest athletic prowess wins the competition,"

and in light of this, "is it fair for a system which is an integral part of Kent life to be confined only to the athletic program?" The *Kent News* of Jan. 31, 1951, answered this question as it reported that point totals for the just passed fall term included Glee Club, Club Debating, Honors, and High Honors. Further, an "Extra-Curricular Committee" was in the process of adding further non-athletic activities to this list.

The *Kent News* from the 1950s to the 1970s are full of reports of league activities, games, and competitions, most serious, some not. Doubts about the future of Clubs were expressed in a *Kent News* article of Feb. 9, 1956, titled "The Future of The Clubs." Three existential challenges were noted: First were club athletes who cared very little whether or not their team won. Second, were non-club athletes who couldn't be bothered to watch club contests, choosing to watch only varsity or junior varsity events. Finally, while some blame is accorded the club system itself, no specifics are offered. Remedies

were proposed and designed to increase awareness of club activities, which in turn, would hopefully lead to increased support and participation.

The article either had an impact or was raising false alarms because a *Kent News* article of April 19, 1956, reported a robust array of club activities leading the Housatonics to victory in the Winter term, with a scant half a point separating Massies and Algos. Points being awarded for players on varsity and j.v. teams as well as for club hockey and club basketball, chess teams, bell ringers, and academic achievement.

Clubs at The Girls' School

The *Kent News* of Oct. 21, 1960, makes the first reference to clubs at the Girls' School with the headline "Massies' Maidens Defeat Algos 10-0." The article says, "the intramural program started 'on the hill' last Wednesday with the beginning of a field hockey round robin tournament." In the event, each club team would play the other teams six times. The first captains

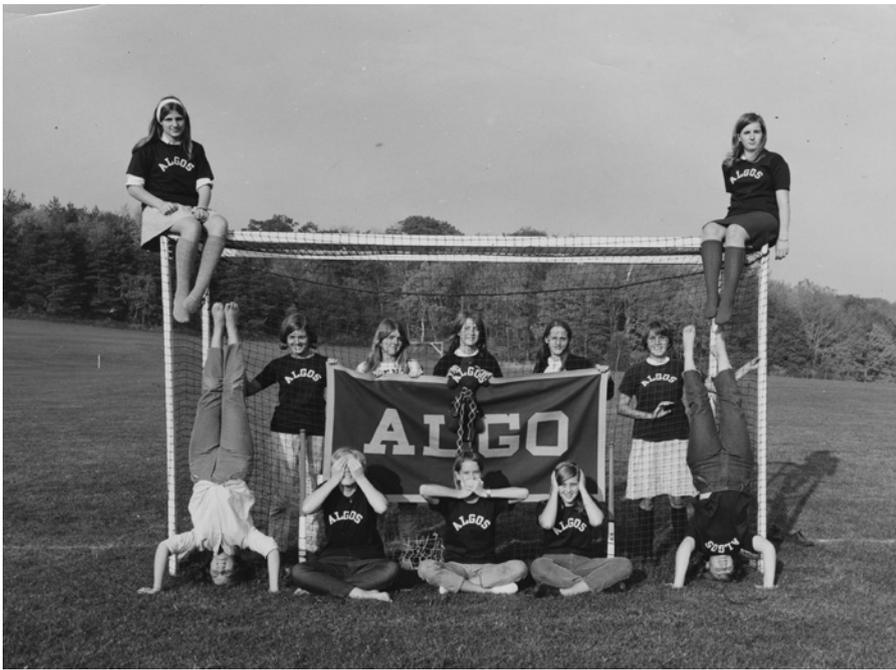


Scan the QR code to explore more clubs images.

This page:
Junior Massies, 1961

Opposite page:
Girls' School club sports, Algos





elected as head of these club teams were Jinny McClenahan (Algos), Marcia Kline (Housatonics), and Carol Clark (Macedonians).

Girls' School club sports expanded to include softball in 1962, which, like field hockey, kicked off with a round robin between club teams. *Kent News* of May 4, 1962, listed ways girls might earn points for their club: being on the varsity or J.V. tennis team, honors or high honors, serving on the staff of the *Kent News*, and presenting to the Guild.

Clubs at Their Best and Quirkiest

One of the most remarkable Club success stories occurred during the Kent Varsity Crew's trip to the Henley Regatta in 1972. In the week before the competition started, a member of Kent's first boat experienced complications from an undiagnosed cardiac problem and could not stay with the boat. Fate and Coach William H. Perry selected Garth Griffin '72, first boat manager and member of the Second Algo crew in 1971, to fill in.

Garth adjusted quickly to his new and unexpected role, and rowing at number four helped the boat win the Princess Elizabeth Cup.

"Kent's Female Beauties Hold 'Grooming Week,'" so read a *Kent News* headline of March 14, 1964. The powers that be at the Girls' School ordained the two weeks between Feb. 17 and March 2 as Good Grooming Week, a time when shoes would be polished, skirts pleated, socks cleaned, hair neatly combed, and makeup added to apparently "improve the appearance of the majority of Kent's feminine beauties." Faculty, so delighted by the collective transformation, selected "15 of the best-groomed girls" and awarded clubs three points for each girl selected: Algos – 18 points (winners), Massies – 12 points, and Housies – nine points. We shall let the names of the anointed "beauties" rest in the pages of history.

The *Kent News* of May 28, 1969, reported that during the Spring Fathers' Weekend, each of the three clubs presented student-directed and student-

acted in a competition. The winning plays, a Housie production, "One Or Two... Tops," was directed by C.C. Lee. The Massies presented *The Apollo of Bellac* directed by Vicki Nargesian and the Algos presented *Pyramus*, a playlet taken from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*. We are not told who the Algo director was.

In Closing

Besides athletic competitions and recognizing achievement in many forms, the strength and beauty of the Clubs also lay in many quiet, often unseen, moments. A classmate of mine offered a memory: "I was always a Housie. Mr. Yovanovich was my soccer coach in my third form year and encouraged me to work hard and try out for the J.V. team in my fourth form year instead of playing in the clubs. His parting advice? 'Never cut corners!'...a wonderful man, indeed...I'll never forget the quiet, dignified demeanor he always carried with him..."

The Club System No Longer Exists – What Happened?

According to Todd Marble, former Kent Athletic Director, the club system no longer existed when he arrived in 1992. As Marble put it, "The primary reason the Club system has faded/died is the vastly increased menu of sport, intramural, and non-athletic options now available." Former Head of School, Fr. Richardson Schell, cited the consolidation of both campuses in 1992 as another important factor in the demise of the clubs. Apparently, similar changes were also occurring at Kent's peer schools. Attempts were made to revive the clubs in recent years yet, like many other things, COVID-19 largely injured efforts at resuscitation.

The Bequest Which Secured Our School

Part II: In the Wake of the Wilks Gift

By Robert F. Ober Jr. '54

The receipt of the \$2 million bequest in 1951 from the estate of Sylvia Wilks, the daughter of Hetty Green, and the widow of Matthew Astor Wilks, emboldened Fr. John Oliver Patterson, the Wisconsin priest selected in 1949 as Kent's third Headmaster and Rector, to undertake major improvements, most immediately in the School's plant and the staffing of its faculty.



Fr. Patterson at the Girls School construction site in 1959, marking a historic moment in Kent's expansion.



Although Fr. Patterson founded the girls' branch in 1960, four and a half miles up Skiff Mt. Road, on the so-called "coordinate" model, the funding for that project was derived independently. The idea of educating girls had gained momentum, however, from the "international symposium on Christian education," which Fr. Patterson organized in 1955-56 to celebrate the school's 50th anniversary. The two branches were then consolidated as a single school in the 1990s on the boys' historic campus.

I personally experienced only one aspect of Fr. Patterson's far-reaching changes, having arrived at the School as a second former in September 1949: the revitalization of its faculty and staff. After making an initial call on Fr. Sill that same month, along with Fr. Samuel West whom he had recruited as Chaplain, the new Headmaster and his family settled permanently on campus in November 1949.

Shortly before our Class of 1954's graduation, Fr. Patterson oversaw the removal of the original farmhouse from the center of the campus, opposite St. Joseph's Chapel, to the school's very entrance, along with the roadway which had coursed by it to the back of the Dining Hall. Students later converted the roadway to grass. According to the *Kent News* September 30, 1954, the design had been prepared by architect Willis Mills '25 to fulfill the plan conceived by Fr. Sill himself in 1950. Hence, Old Main, its central room already dedicated to the memory of Melvin Young '32, a wartime casualty, would become



Top:
Chapel Road through campus, undated.

Bottom:
Renovation of the Auditorium into the Library, 1955.

the first building to greet Kent School visitors.

Concurrently, the new administration oversaw the construction of a new Auditorium overlooking Macedonia Valley. Upon its completion, Fr. Patterson presided on June 2, 1955, along with the Bishop of Connecticut Walter Gray, at its dedication, without awarding it a formal name. Prayers for the repose of the soul of Fr. Sill were offered, and its cornerstone, which included Pater's crucifix, was cemented into place. The School's library was later transferred from what we then knew as the Library Building, its books essentially occupying two large rooms, to what we then deemed the Auditorium Building. The two older buildings naturally acquired new names: Middle Dorm, where the old Library had been, and the Schoolhouse, where the old Auditorium had occupied much of the main floor. Both continued to retain their numerous dorm rooms.

There was one further addition to the historic campus in the 1950s, and because Fr. Patterson had studied architecture at MIT before his ordination, he was involved in its design: namely, the Rectory on Chapel Hill. The gymnasium was also expanded, and minor improvements were made in the North Dorm as well as several faculty houses and apartments.

These initial projects did not draw on the Wilks bequest unless its very addition to the endowment helped secure borrowings at one or another point (the school's archive lacking most Business Office records). An article in the Kent News had alerted alumni to these projects but suggested no general solicitation of alumni and parents. Instead, it was noted that Graham D. Mattison '22, originally an attorney with White & Case in Paris but then at a

Manhattan investment firm, would oversee individual solicitations as the chairman of “The Thank Offering Fund,” in memory of both Fr. Sill and the School’s 50th Anniversary. The goal for these initial projects had been set at \$500,000. An article in the Kent News October 29, 1955, had made clear that the Wilks bequest itself would only be used for the school’s “scholastic” needs.

In 1957, at an October meeting of the Vance Committee (which had just recommended to the Board the establishment of the girls’ branch, after rejecting alternate proposals including funding another boys’ school), Fr. Patterson explained that the Wilks bequest “had been moved into a Special Purpose Fund” with “its income for special academic projects and [was] not to be used to meet deficits in the operating budget.” At the same meeting, a participant (not named) noted “a pressing need for a full-time fund-raising man to work with Graham Mattison.” The participant, perhaps Patterson himself, was likely aware that two substantial gifts already received by the school, though defined initially as “anonymous”, had come from Mr. Mattison, a trustee since 1954; they would be followed, several years later, by a third such gift, this time explicitly acknowledged; and in 1961, five years after its construction, a plaque with Mr. Mattison’s name would be installed in the Auditorium’s foyer, the Auditorium formally becoming “Mattison Auditorium” (Endnote 1).

Cyrus Vance ’55, a Manhattan attorney, already widely known for important assignments in Washington, and later Secretary of State under President Carter, had helped organize a committee of senior alumni (the total number shifting from time to time, representing Kent classes from 1908 to 1941) who would formally recommend the girls’ branch. The obvious expectation was that most of the Vance Committee’s first participants—men of substantial means—would be contributors to the project, as indeed turned out to be the case. Fr. Patterson,

attending an early meeting, underscored that expectation, stating that the Wilks bequest would not be drawn upon directly for the girls’ branch.

In September 1955, Fr. Patterson welcomed some two thousand alumni and their families to the campus for what he described as the start of a year-long celebration of the school’s 50th anniversary. He described his plan for the convocation of theologians and scholars from around the world to discuss the “Christian Idea of Education,” and indeed a succession of famous figures took part in such discussions during that academic year, culminating in two volumes containing their presentations published by Yale University Press. Volume One, in the school’s Library,



Above:
Kent School's 50th Anniversary celebration, September 1955.

was from a fourth printing; there may have been more, but Yale's publishing branch recently declined to provide a total sales number, citing that as "proprietary information." Fr. Patterson noted in a later summary that the November 1955 session had been attended by 450 educators from around the country. In January 1956, delegates from the monastic orders, both men and women, including from the Order of the Holy Cross, visited the campus to discuss their own contributions to Christian education, which included of course the founding of Kent.

Mr. Towle's Leadership from the Hill

A Boston attorney, Sidney Towle '32, appointed to succeed Fr. Patterson as headmaster in 1962, was the Vance Committee member charged with identifying and "closing on the property" on Skiff Mountain Road, which became the site of the girls' branch, the so-called Rawson property, estimated at a May 1958 Committee

meeting to cost the school \$150,000 to \$175,000. The school's Board ultimately agreed to \$200,000, and the closing was accomplished on November 5, 1958, funding secured by a loan from Hartford's Aetna Life Insurance Co. "on extremely favorable terms," as arranged by the Board and Vance Committee member Olcott Smith '25, an Aetna director who would be elevated to Aetna's chairmanship in 1965. As an attorney, Smith had also worked closely with a widow in the Hartford area, Julia McGovern, who, with a deep interest in girls' education, would leave a substantial bequest to Kent, later acknowledged by Headmaster Towle, who bestowed her name on one of the girls' four dormitories. The Committee estimated the entire Hill project would cost the school about \$2.5 million.

In 1960, Mr. Towle, as the Principal of the girls' branch and the school's Assistant Headmaster, and his family took residence



To the right: Dedication of the Julia K. McGovern Dormitory, 1961.

in the stately Rawson home, amid several hundred acres acquired with the \$200,000 purchase. He would remain in the Rawson residence through the entirety of his subsequent term as Patterson's successor. In researching this article, I was surprised to find that there existed a stained glass window in St. Joseph's Chapel "In honor of four Edward Rawsons, the first being memorialized as an early member of the Massachusetts Colony and the first treasurer of Harvard College..." Fr. Sill had overseen the selection of each of the windows in the Chapel, which had been consecrated in 1951, its first service occurring at Easter that year; and Pater had had a friendship with the Rawsons long before the Hill property's acquisition, confirmed by correspondence in the school's archive. The 1952 Yearbook includes Edward Rawson from "Kent, Conn.," and Edward's sister Priscilla had married Melvin Young '52, now memorialized in Old Main, in 1942, a year before his death in the RAF.

Early in 1959, a classmate of mine, Bill Balfour, and I were both at Harvard Law, paid a visit to Fr. Patterson at Kent. As I recall, he took us up to the site of the Rawson property to show us the construction that was then just beginning. I don't recall that ground had yet been broken for the original dormitories, but the project was underway.

The girls' branch opened in 1960, and its alumnae have since gathered there on its 50th and 60th anniversaries to celebrate its history and its impact on them as its trailblazers. Marcia Kline Sharp '65, the first girls' senior prefect, as the Spring 2021 *Kent Quarterly* reminds us, recalled at its first celebration that "...it was a harsh environment. Partly it was that architecture—cinder block inside and out, no matter how you looked at it. No rugs, no patina. Nothing soft. Nothing emotionally soft either... But in adversity, much is built. Fast friendships, still vigorous 50 years later, were formed." The school's retired head librarian, Marel Rogers d'Orbessan '65, has colorfully described some



of the original deficiencies to me. No Chapel had been included in the original plan, so space had to be carved out of the branch's auditorium cum athletic center. "When one lifted one's eyes, there was a basketball hoop." The organ, she explained, was "without pipes and rolled around like a large player piano."

Sidney Towle, replacing Fr. Patterson in September 1962, soon recognized the Hill branch's need for a real Chapel, so fundamental to a school founded under the auspices of the Order of the Holy Cross. His first major project, however, would be the addition of a Science Center on the boys' campus. In trustee Fairleigh S. Dickinson, the son of the founder of Becton Dickinson, he had the perfect candidate to assume the leadership of that undertaking. Mr. Dickinson's son, Fairleigh, was in the Class of 1968 (and, tragically, would die shortly after his graduation).

Mr. Dickinson generously supported that project on the historic campus. On Mother's Weekend, October 22, 1966, Bishop Lawrence Rose '19 formally dedicated the building in his name. Fr. John Beaven, then the school's Chaplain, had opened the ceremony with an

Above:
Girls school campus pond, 1966.

invocation; Headmaster Towle then read a lesson. The *Kent News*, reported that the Headmaster and Mr. Dickinson had visited various New England preparatory schools together to explore their own science programs. Mr. Dickinson's two daughters, Ann '64 and Tracy '75, would later figure importantly in the consolidated school's affairs in governance and philanthropy.

On the last day of November 1966, not long after the dedication ceremony, Mr. Towle approached the Manhattan architectural firm of Marcel Breuer to design a Chapel and Bell Tower for the girls' branch. He had previously established a committee to be led by Fairleigh Dickinson once again, and which also included Fr. Beaven and Art Historian James Breasted Jr., the latter one of Fr. Patterson's impressive hires. A series of exchanges followed, including a letter to Breuer's associate Robert Gatje, who took the lead on the project, from my immediate predecessor, Dick Whitaker, the school's first Director of Development, hired by Fr. Patterson and meeting the school's need for a professional fundraiser, as sought earlier by the Vance Committee. Dick asked Gatje for biographic material needed in his own fund-raising task. Other meetings between the school's representatives and those of the Breuer firm followed, including a presentation to the school's full board in May 1966.

But the fundraising did not go well (and although Dick Whitaker overlapped with me for a year or so in the late 1980s, I don't recall him ever alluding to any Chapel project). Approaches were made to trustees and potential donors, including the school's Chancellor Bishop Lawrence Rose '19, Graham Mattison '22 (Endnote 2), Bishop Christoph Keller Jr., and IBM's Thomas C. Watson (with whom I would later work in Moscow), the latter two gentlemen with daughters then at the



O.B. Davis in an undated photo.

school. An estimated \$1 million was already circulating as the project's likely cost. In his letter to Mr. Watson, Mr. Towle estimated the cost to be a "million one hundred thousand." But Bishop Keller wrote the Board chairman shortly thereafter, and citing his daughter's reaction, asked rhetorically, "Don't you think it is a little expensive?" (The Breuer firm's exchanges with Mr. Towle and school personnel are all online at Syracuse University.).

Early in June 1966, Mr. Gatje wrote Mr. Towle recapitulating the substance of a call he had earlier received from him: "I note that, for the moment, we are not to proceed with further drawings on the Chapel, but your present hopes are that, if fundraising goes well, you will be able to authorize us to begin working drawings early next year so as to break ground next spring." The school had been concurrently exchanging messages with a British firm, Meers and Stainbank, associated with Whitechapel Bell Foundry, prepared to

forge bells for the accompanying campanile. In April 1968, when the firm's American agent finally inquired about the status of the project at the Breuer firm, Gatje replied: "Unfortunately for all of us, Kent School decided to abandon the project for a new Chapel at the girls' school because of the philosophical decision on the part of the Episcopal Church that, at this point of its history, money was better spent for people rather than buildings." Because working drawings had never been developed, a final estimate of the Chapel's cost was never obtained.

So far as I can determine, neither the project nor its outcome had come to the notice of the school staff as such, nor to its alumni body. Contemplating Mr. Towle's natural disappointment, Robert Browning's well-known aphorism "A man's reach should exceed his grasp, or what's Heaven for..." comes to mind. As for the trustees, they certainly held fast to Fr. Patterson's original urging that the Wilks' bounty remain deployed for the school's

scholastic needs, although Patterson himself might have viewed a Chapel on the Hill differently.

Revitalizing the School's Faculty

When Fr. Patterson arrived at the school, he brought with him not only Fr. West as his first Chaplain but also Raydon P. Ronshaugen, a curricular expert whom he appointed as his Assistant Headmaster. After resigning in 1962, he took Mr. Ronshaugen to Rome, although shortly thereafter, the latter returned to Connecticut to become the Assistant Headmaster of Marvelwood School, located then in nearby Cornwall, before acquiring the girls' branch where it is today. (Suggestive of the esteem Ronshaugen enjoyed in Cornwall, his name was later added to a building there). Patterson also took another of his early hires to Rome, Robert Rourke, whom he had been appointed to head Kent's Mathematics Department. As one of Rourke's students in my sixth form year, I recall his dismay at how little math our class had earlier acquired; Rourke was later appointed Director of the College Board's Mathematics Division.

For his own era, and given the school's persistent stringencies, Fr. Sill had probably assembled as capable faculty as possible. He did appear, however, to value a candidate's religious commitment and potential coaching skills no less than his academic credentials when constituting his faculty. And a candidate with a Kent degree, of course, counted for even more. Two members of his faculty had come to the school without any college exposure (both active, mainly by coaching, during my era).

Fr. Chalmers had then made two extraordinary appointments during his tenure, namely, O.B. Davis '42 and William Armstrong, both starting shortly before

our Class arrived, to become in time "legendary teachers" (in English and History, respectively) but also coaching wrestling and rowing in the former case, overseeing the "hours" board" and job assignments in the latter.

Having arrived as a second former from the Midwest with a public school background, with women teachers invariably occupying the front desk, I was surprised to find—in two of my first classes—rather elderly men, and one inclined to twist an ear, the other to hurl a piece of chalk, at any one of us deemed insufficiently attentive.

Patterson and Ronshaugen wasted little time in imposing some retirements and, with the Wilks' bequest in hand, recruiting the best teachers they could find. In earlier Kent Quarterly articles, "Let Us Now Praise Fr. Patterson's Men," Fall 2014 and Spring 2015, I summarized the background and education of the first seventeen. With the arrival of Patterson and Ronshaugen, the tone in the classrooms and the quality of the teaching, to my mind at least, markedly improved.

Most of the newcomers were veterans, a few having experienced combat on the front lines, from Normandy to the heralded march of the 10th Mountain Division up the Italian peninsula, to B-24s on missions over the Pacific. A few years later, two others among Patterson's choices "marched" in our domestic conflict, to Selma along with Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Fr. Patterson's last hire, before his fateful sabbatical in Rome, was the school's first Director of Development, Dick Whitaker, my predecessor, who had survived the worst fighting on Iwo Jima.

But it was the education these recruits had obtained that stood out most. Virtually all had gained master's degrees, and several subsequently acquired Doctorates. Three had studied at Oxford

or Cambridge. Two would become ordained after leaving Kent. At least three ended up as school heads at Exeter, Wykeham Rise and, counting Fr. West, Kemper Academy. The British appointee later served the Commonwealth as the head of three schools in Ghana, Mali, and Pakistan. The new math chairman had headed a Canadian school before coming to Kent.

The lives of the members of my class, and of the classes which followed, were enriched by those whom Fr. Patterson and his team selected. Those selections were rendered largely possible by the Wilks bequest, which itself resulted from the influence of an Episcopal priest, presiding at a Church in Hyde Park, New York, who had married into the Sill family, and who had later worked closely with an Astor, Mr. Wilks, by then married to Hetty Green's daughter Sylvia, all as elaborated in Part I.

Fortuitous circumstances...by Heaven sent?

In our more secular age, it's difficult to say, yet in the hands of an entrepreneurial-minded priest, such as Fr. Patterson also turned out to be in Rome (Endnote 3) that very gift contributed to the success of three different schools.

Postscript

I ended my own career in education as a decade-long trustee of Marvelwood School which had acquired the girls' branch after Kent's consolidation of its two campuses. Having "retired" from Kent in 1998 (at the behest of a new trustee, poised to make a major gift to rehabilitate a dorm), I assumed the headship of a storied school in Beirut, Lebanon, International College ("College" in the Etonian sense), which had just emerged from Lebanon's 15-year civil war, but thriving still, thanks largely to the masterful leadership of its chairman, William H. Turner '58, later

Vice Chairman of Chase Manhattan Bank. After three years in Beirut, I returned to Connecticut and became involved with Marvelwood. What, then, had become of the Kent girls' one-time Chapel, later known as "St. Mark's?" I recently asked Marvelwood's capable, long-time Head of School, Blythe Everett, and she said that the space remains essentially as it had been yet now serves as a music classroom and a concert hall for musical productions. And the school is prospering on the Hill, she added, receiving a significantly impactful seven-figure gift recently from one of its own alumni.

Endnotes

1. Before the Towle era began, school buildings at Kent were described by their location or dominant function, e.g., North Dorm, Library, Auditorium, etc., with dorm rooms located in the latter two. A notable exception was the RAD House, the initials memorializing a boy who died shortly before matriculating, which soon became Pater's last residence and, more recently, the Deans' offices. Both Pater and Fr. Patterson had essentially confined their "namings" to those who had died. Apart from several gifts from three Kent classes and two schools, each of the St. Joseph Chapel windows seems to have been "memorial" in character, such as the cited Rawson window. Other memorials on the historic campus included the Melvin Young '32 Room and the Derby Bench '35. Naturally, Pater was steeped in the New Testament, reflected in the extensive advice he gave South Kent's Founder Sam Bartlett '18, urging him how to tutor students in his "Letters to Sam." Having been exposed to Fr. Patterson's Sacred Studies courses myself, I know he followed in Pater's footsteps in this regard, focusing also on the New Testament. In their shared reserve on bestowing the names of living donors about the historic campus, could both have been influenced by the injunction of St. Matthew 6, herewith in the translation,

which I prefer, as found in the Jerusalem Bible from the early 1960s: "Be careful not to parade your good deeds before men to attract their notice; by doing this, you will lose all reward from your Father in heaven." Fr. Patterson, who had studied architecture at MIT before his ordination, and who would have found that Catholic-sponsored Bible helpful in Rome, would have found St. Matthew's summons pertinent. It is interesting that the Auditorium building, completed in 1955, only received its "Mattison" name during Mr. Towle's subsequent administration. Yet no one would question Mr. Towle's decision, in June 1974, to bestow the name of "John Gray Park '28" shortly before Mr. Park's death on the library he had overseen for decades, foreswearing even his final years at Harvard to return to Kent as a faculty member. Regarding nomenclature, Fr. Patterson, in the "50 Years, 1906-1956, Kent School" anniversary publication, noted that a new organ had been installed in St. Joseph's Chapel "just in time for Prize Day" and "has been dedicated to the memory of Mrs. H. Sylvia Wilks, friend, and benefactress of Kent." If a plaque had also been mounted, it no longer exists and the organ itself was soon superseded. Tom Holcombe, the school's long retired music teacher and organist, later tracked down the organ to a Roman Catholic church in Ohio, the state where it had been originally built by Walter Holtkamp of Cleveland. It had evidently been found wanting in St. Joseph's, although the late Mrs. Wilks and the Astor she married still seem deserving of some tangible recognition.

2. With a Harvard Law degree, Mr. Mattison '22 left White & Case's Paris office and, in 1948, became a partner at the Manhattan investment firm Dominick and Dominick, remaining there until 1964 when he returned to Paris to retire. His earlier legal work came to the attention of an American writer, C. David Heymann who published a book entitled "Poor Little Rich Girl, The Life and Legend of Barbara Hutton" (New York: Random House, 1983). From its very publication, the book

was controversial, portraying Mr. Mattison and several others unflatteringly, and it was soon withdrawn from some libraries. It includes a statement that "Starting in 1946, and each year thereafter, she [Barbara Hutton] had signed a power of attorney granting Mr. Mattison total control over all her financial affairs" (p. 321). Larry Gile '73 found a scorching review of Heymann's various writings in the Newsweek issue of August 27, 2014, which included the statement that the Hutton book was "riddled with errors, exaggerations, and fabrications." Heymann himself failed in his book to identify a single institution such as Kent which might have benefited from the diversion of funds he seems to allege. Ms. Hutton had in fact married seven times, with various costly settlements involved, explaining probably why she, the granddaughter of the founder of Woolworth's from whom she had inherited millions, died nearly impoverished. In any case, it is highly unlikely that Heymann's book ever came to the attention of Mr. Mattison, for he died in Rio de Janeiro in 1987 "after a long illness, having suffered a stroke some years ago," according to his Class of 1926 obituary in the Princeton Alumni Weekly. He was then living with his second wife, Perla de Lucena. According to that memorial, Mr. Mattison's first wife was the former Gretchen Ridder (their marriage in Duluth, Minnesota, reported in the New York Times, May 13, 1941) with whom he had six children, one of whom, Margaret Mattison, graduated from Kent in 1968 (and whom neither the school nor I have been able to locate). The obituary of the oldest of their six, Mark Mattison, as reported in the New York Times of July 23, 2017, observes that Mark had spent "forty-five years" with "Ridder and Knight Ridder newspapers". A more recent Memorial, sponsored by an off-Broadway musical troupe (specializing in Gilbert and Sullivan productions) identifies Mr. Mattison's first wife as Margaret "Gretchen" Ritter Nicholas. It reports her death on December 7, 2019, describing her as the "longest continuous member" of its troupe having joined in 1939. Perhaps "Ritter" was originally Mrs. Mattison's stage name. The chief executive of the

Metropolitan Opera. Peter Gelb, in his Times memorial of December 14 honoring her "almost 50 fifty years" of support as a board member of the opera company, identifies her simply as Gretchen Nicholas, obviously reflecting a second marriage. The troupe's memorial explains further that, in 1939, "when she was married to Graham D. Mattison," he "had been a Trouper himself, performing in our productions in 1931 and 1932." Princeton's memorial had noted his role as the "manager of the Triangle Club," Princeton's famed student theatrical troupe, but not as a performer. Could this explain his enthusiastic commitment to Fr. Patterson's Auditorium project? It has of course enriched the school's culture, and likely also set the stage for the success later enjoyed by a few Kent alumni in the theatre and in Hollywood film.

3. In establishing St. Stephen's School, Fr. Patterson assumed a far more daunting challenge than that which confronted him at Kent. "We came over with nothing but an idea," he explained to a New York Times correspondent, who had interviewed him in June 1964 in advance of the school's opening at its 12-room villa in northwest Rome. Fr. Patterson also hired a succession of Kent School graduates whom he had personally known once St. Stephen's was underway: Alexis Troubetzkoy '53 as Assistant to the Headmaster, 1963-66; Ron Tooman '53, as the second Headmaster, 1973-79; Paul Escobosa '61 and Christian Kirkland '61, with various responsibilities; Duncan Pollock '61, as the school's first Admissions head, 1966-68, and later a trustee. There were perhaps others, too. Obviously, the initial capital expenses were enormous, but Fr. Patterson found several "angels," to use Duncan's word. The Times article cites Gover Hermann, the Chairman of the Board of Martin-Marietta. Dunc identifies Halstead Vander Pohl, Yale '35, who is described by a Getty Museum webpage as "one of the Founders of St. Stephen's School," a collector himself of Old Master paintings and 18th and 19th Century manuscripts, residing at the time in Rome, before returning

to the U.S. in 1997 shortly before his death. Alexis let me know that Donald Stewart Jr., an independently wealthy journalist who had taken residence in Rome with his new Italian wife around the time of Fr. Patterson's arrival, had also provided important support; Dunc Pollock told me recently that Stewart, a friend of the writer Gore Vidal, served for a time as the English Department head. Fr. Patterson failed, however, to interest Graham Mattison '22, who did not show up--as Ron Tooman explained when we met in the town of Kent on April 17, 2015—for a get-together at a Paris hotel (perhaps at the Ritz where Mattison's client Hutton then kept a suite). According to Ron, St. Stephen's was then in a difficult financial situation, with several older faculty members clamoring for back pay. By then, however, Fr. Patterson had established a relationship with the Vatican, having had at least one audience with Pope Paul VI, who, in turn, had recalled a thoughtful personal letter he had received from Patterson. This evidently culminated in a Patterson's meeting with the Vatican banker, Bishop Paul Marcinkus, and a \$250,000 loan at 6% extended to the school (to which I briefly alluded in my Fall 2015 *Kent Quarterly* article). As the Bishop is described in Gerald Posner's study, "God's Banker, A History of Money and Power at the Vatican" (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2015), this must have led to an agreeable discussion, both priests having extensive connections as younger persons in and around the Chicago area. I was unable, however, to secure more information about the loan from either Posner or the current Head of St. Stephen's.

Acknowledgments

Katy Armstrong '71 (Hon.), who is in charge of the Archive, and Larry Gile '73, who frequently writes for the *Kent Quarterly*, were indispensable as I pursued various aspects of this project. Katy located critical school memoranda and Larry extracted biographical information from the media. I drew on the recollections of many alumni/ae and, for the most part, incorporated their names in the text (my apologies to those I might have

overlooked). Marel Rogers nee d'Orbessan '65, the retired director of the John Gray Park '28 Library, helped me understand the initial years of the girls' branch. Amy Voorhees, the library's current director, and Joe Russo Jr., who works with her, helped me find several key books. The staff at Litchfield's library, the Oliver Wolcott Library, tracked down the controversial Heymann book. My daughter Elise LaFosse nee Ober '79, searching for me whether there were media reports on the failed Chapel project, discovered that the Syracuse University Library had put the school's entire correspondence with the Manhattan architectural firm online; the school's own archival holdings being extremely sparse. In my writing, I drew on my own '54 classmates for information about the Kent of our era: Bill Balfour, Ed Hughes, Fred Sharp, and John Riggs, the last now retired from the Paris firm of White & Case. When I heard that Choate Rosemary Hall had developed an exchange-like program with St. Stephen's, the former's Chief Communications Officer Alison Cady kindly forwarded me a copy of the Choate newspaper of December 9, 1988, which had published a report describing the first Choate student's experience in Rome, including his excited discovery that St. Stephen's campus was only "about a five-minute walk to the Colosseum." Ms. April Armstrong, at Princeton's Firestone Library Special Collections unit, secured Mr. Mattison's obituary from the Princeton Alumni Weekly. Fr. Roger White, retired from the town of Kent's St. Andrew's Church—his theology deriving from Yale's Berkeley Divinity School and Cambridge University—helped me as he had with earlier articles. Finally, a much belated thanks to my father, who had passed his copy of the King James version of the Bible to me upon his safe return from Murmansk in 1944; then, on my 32nd birthday, gave me the English translation of the new Jerusalem Bible as I was returning to a Foreign Service assignment in Warsaw.

Alumni News



In August 2024, Abby Miller hosted a gathering of alumni and parents at Versa's Rooftop Lounge in New York City, where a warm Kent spirit was shared by all.

2024 Alumni Council Meeting Highlights

At the Spring Meeting of the Alumni Council in May 2024, the Council recognized several members whose terms have concluded, expressing deep gratitude for their years of service to Kent. Those honored included **Robin Insley '85**, former Alumni Council President, **Peter Lewine '65**, former Alumni Council Vice President, **Tex Duncan '91**, **Tracy Craighead '81**, and **Scott Lister '88**.

Kent's Alumni Council, an elected body of up to 26 members, represents the alumni community through the Alumni Association.

This year, **Abby T. Miller '06** was elected as Alumni Council President, with **Gray Bullard '93** stepping into the role of Vice President, **Muffy Mallory '67** as Secretary, and **Christian Naylor '10** as Assistant Vice President.

We are also delighted to welcome **Dana Peirce '97** and **Ben Wright '80 P'24** as the newest members of the Alumni Council.

Kent School Supper Clubs

Kent Supper Clubs are a new and exciting way for alumni and parents to connect in the communities where they live and work. These gatherings can take many forms—from intimate potlucks at home to casual “pay-your-way” dinners at local restaurants. No matter the setting, the goal is simple: bring Kent people together around a table and let great conversations and connections unfold.

Hosts choose the venue, while the Alumni & Development team helps spread the word to alumni and parents in the area. It's a fun, low-pressure way to build relationships and strengthen the Kent network. Last year 15 Kent Supper Clubs were held, with the goal of over 20 this year.

Visit kentschoolsupperclub.rsvpify.com to learn more about what Supper Club is and how you can host one!



Christ Dineff '14 and Sam Haack '15 at the Jackson Hole, Wyoming Supper Club held in July.



The Jamestown, Rhode Island Supper Club event included: bottom row left to right: Louise (Weezie) Potter '66, "Perk" Perkins '79 & his wife Lynn, Alice Huse Tanner '65. Second row: Charlie Whitin '68; Barbara Gravidahl Trout '76, and John Horton '64. Third row: Elijah Duckworth Schachter '87, Heather Ruhsam '96, Deborah Rinehart Fowler '69, and Leslie Gleason Smith '66. Top row: Christopher Vaughan '94, Pebbles Wadsworth '66, Gordon Potter '68, and Jeff Crowell '01.



Rebecca Fryer Fenton '06 and her husband Pete hosted, "Virginia Is for Lions: A Holiday Cocktail Party," in Richmond. Left to right: Ross Grogg '05, Rebecca Fryer Fenton '06, Vanessa Griggs '92, and Lloyd Spruill '84.



Kent School Supper Club Cocktail Party in La Jolla, California. Left to right: Alex Fondrier '03, Meg Dennis '71, Cristina Noor P'06, Lex Lyon '68, Faith Dennis Morris '74, Viktor Nemeth '93, Ana Lyon, Muffy Mallory '67, Bob Morris, Dick Ahlborn '59, Sill Society '23, Susan Mallory, Peter Mallory '63, and Arthur the bull dog!



Alumni Council secretary Muffy Mallory '67 co-hosted a Supper Club Potluck Happy Hour at the home of Beth Ferree '66 and John Eaton '66 in Lafayette, California in October. Back row left to right: Beth Ferree '66, Peggy Fearey Walsh '65, Rupy Ahluwalia Krishnan '91, Lisa Faulkner '97. Bottom row Brian Lewis '75, John Eaton '66, Doug Henry '66, Muffy Mallory '67, Deron Marvin P'23, Bill Hellendale '70.

Kent Classmates Create International Youth Baseball Exchange

After a chance reunion conversation, classmates Ernest Fair '70 and Jere Fletcher '70 spent the last two years organizing a first-of-its-kind international youth baseball exchange between the Sister Cities of Rochester, New York, and Puerto Plata, Dominican Republic.

Having retired from commercial real estate investment, Ernest and his family now operate Serenity Youth Development (SYD) in Puerto Plata. In addition to developing youth baseball talent, Ernest's not-for-profit emphasizes the importance of achievement in education.

Jere convinced the City of Rochester to participate through its International Sister Cities program (ISCOR). Starting in the summer of 2023, the city designated a community sports director and baseball coach, who selected a team of 14 boys to train and travel. Jere and his ISCOR colleague undertook extensive fundraising efforts, with the City of Rochester eventually funding a significant portion of the project for the Rochester participants. Along with the city's baseball training, Jere provided families with cultural and travel education based on his own experiences.

In late June 2024, 38 people from Rochester — players, parents, coaches, and family members — traveled to



Ernest Fair '70 (far left) and Jere Fletcher '70 (fourth from left) with fellow attendees.

Puerto Plata. The group stayed in resort accommodations arranged by Ernest's SYD. Players from both teams ranged in age from 11 to 14.

After a day of warmup training with donated equipment to community teams. The Rochester players distributed clothing and gear in a rural, mountainside village where children played baseball in a cow pasture. Before leaving, they learned that two recent Major League Baseball players had come from this village, where a woman serves as the coach. Ernest and Jere reminisced about their own Kent School experiences, which included a farm with cows.

The trip concluded with a banquet dinner organized by Ernest. Puerto Plata city officials, whom both Jere and Ernest had contacted, attended the event. Jere spoke with them in Spanish, using skills he had learned in high school. Medals and awards were presented to the players, and

the Puerto Plata team received the first trophy in what is expected to become an ongoing exchange between the two cities. The trophy is named for the Dominican-born chair of the Rochester-Puerto Plata Sister Cities committee.

Rochester parents, the Puerto Plata coach, and local politicians expressed enthusiasm for continuing the youth baseball exchange between the two cities.

Ernest, who spends about half the year in Puerto Plata when he is not on Long Island, continues to be active in sports and athletics. In addition to his work in baseball, he is bringing basketball programs to Puerto Plata with professional trainers and players.

This was Jere's second trip to Puerto Plata after an earlier Sister Cities visit. He previously helped the City of Rochester host Puerto Plata firefighters at Rochester's public safety training center 10 years ago.



Colorado Holiday Reception

Alumni and parents joined Kent faculty and staff Bill Kissick, the late Michael Wright '81, Sierra Thomsen, Robert Harry, and Gonzalo del Real for a holiday reception on Thursday, December 5 at The Corner Office Restaurant in Denver. Gray Bullard '95 Vice President of the Alumni Council served as the Alumni Council representative.

Washington, D.C. Reception

Head of School Mike Hirschfeld, members of the Alumni & Development team Greg Carter '95 P'28 '28 and Candie Fredritz, and Alumni Council Representative Kristine Palmero '97 shared laughter and lively conversations with alumni and parents at The Hamilton Restaurant in Washington, D.C. on January 26, 2025. The evening was filled with heartfelt connections, memorable stories, and plenty of smiles.



New York City Reception

Summer nights, NYC rooftop views, and the chance to meet nearly 70 new Kent friends—it's where the connections start! This year's event took place at Versa in New York City, providing the perfect backdrop for an evening of laughter, conversation, and community.

Alumni Athletics

Alumni games are making a comeback. The Co-Ed Alumni Soccer Game was held on September 7, 2024 and the Co-Alumni Hockey Game on Saturday, January 17, 2025. Women's and Men's Lacrosse games will be held on Saturday, May 3, 2025. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Alumni Basketball game had to be cancelled this year. Dates for next year will be announced as the fall, winter, and spring game schedules are finalized.

Soon, a date will be set for Fall Alumni Weekend, where you will be invited to Kent programming including the Athletic Hall of Fame Ceremony. Stay the afternoon and cheer on the Lions at home.





Go, Women's Ice Hockey!
Navy jersey girls: Abby Miller '06, Jacqueline Wilmont '05. White jersey girls: Cassidy Pratt '15, Carly Denora '18, and Elena Gualtieri '15.



Class of 2005 players: Jacqueline Wilmont, Denis Desjardins, and Brendan Lavery.



An alumni hockey dinner was hosted by John Rooney at the Fife 'n Drum the night before the Alumni Game. Back Row: Bill Kissick, Chief Advancement Officer, Ian Coffin (Hon) '93, John Rooney '73, Art Collins '73, and David Andrews '76. Front Row: Lisa Rooney, Julie Coffin, Nancy Morse, Ted Morse, Donna Collins, Mike, Margaret Theobald, Cy Theobald, and George Ann Gowan.

Day of OutREACH



Prospect Park, Brooklyn

In May, students, faculty, staff, alumni, and parents participated in the third annual Day of OutREACH, a day of service sponsored by Kent School's REACH (Remember Every Action Can Help) community service club, the Alumni & Development Office, and the Alumni Council. The Day of OutREACH connects directly to Kent's competencies—specifically Engaged Citizenship, Active Empathy, and Servant Leadership.

In Kent, volunteers spent hours assisting the Kent Food Bank, Kent Land Trust, Kent Affordable Housing, Kent Historical Society, Kent Memorial Library Book Sale, Morningstar Nursing Home, Pond Mountain Preserve, as well as many activities on Kent's campus (planting trees, building a pollinator garden, and hosting local children for field day activities to name a few).

Additionally, with the support of the Alumni Council, alumni and parents volunteered at locations across the country and around the world including Prospect Park in Brooklyn, New York, LuvMichael/US Autism Homes in Southampton, New York, Filling in the Blanks in Norwalk, Connecticut, Feeding Hong Kong in Hong Kong, and San Francisco–Marin Food Bank in San Francisco, California.



San Francisco



Norwalk



Save the Date for Kent's fourth annual Day of OutREACH. Town of Kent events will take place on Saturday, May 10, 2025. Global events will take place during the month of May as part of an initiative managed by the Alumni Council. To learn more about hosting an event, please contact Guilaine Jean-Pierre '85 at gjeanpierre@gmail.com.



Hong Kong

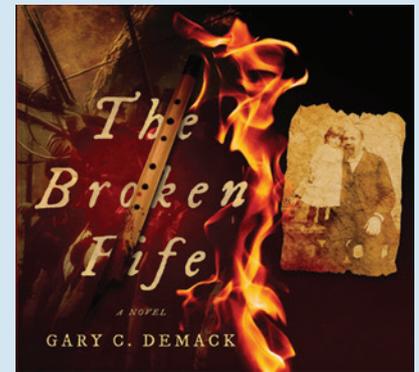


Kent

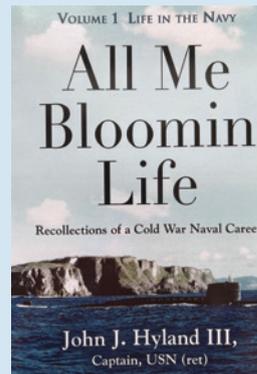
KENT AUTHORS



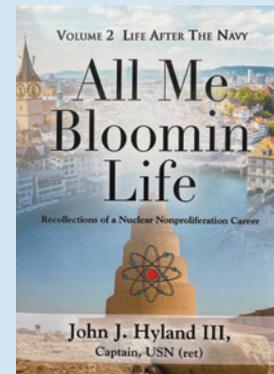
Gary Brayshaw '58
Strangers in Our House
GARY BRAYSHAW (2024)



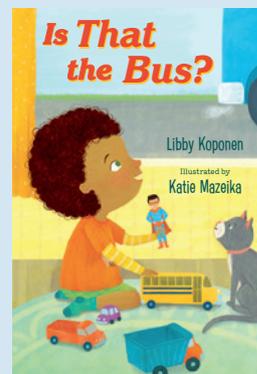
Gary C. Demack '69
The Broken Fife
ATMOSPHERE PRESS (2025)



John J. Hyland III '58
All Me Bloomin Life
Vol. 1 *Life in the Navy*
BOOKLOCKER.COM (2024)

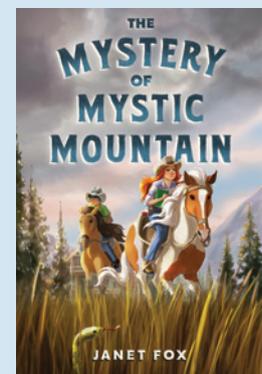


John J. Hyland III '58
All Me Bloomin Life
Vol. 2 *Life After the Navy*
BOOKLOCKER.COM (2024)



Libby Koponen '68
Is That the Bus?
CHARLESBRIDGE (2024)

Recent recipient of the silver medal for The Margaret Wise Brown Board Book Award.



Janet Stroup Fox '69
The Mystery of Mystic Mountain

SIMON & SHUSTER, BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS (2024)

New York City Holiday Reception

Festive cheer and Kent pride filled the air at the annual New York Holiday Reception at the New York Yacht Club.

Save the Date for this annual party on Monday, December 8, 2025.





Kent School

Gather & Give

FARTHEST DONATION

Australia

FARTHEST U.S. DONATION

California



2024 DAY OF GIVING

TOP 3 ALUMNI
CLASS YEARS

1978, 1967, 1994

NUMBER OF STATES

34

NUMBER OF COUNTRIES

10

TOTAL DONORS

877

ALUMNI: 418
PARENTS: 282
EMPLOYEES: 131
GRANDPARENTS
& SPECIAL FRIENDS: 46

TOP DORM

NORTH DORM

Total Dollars

\$1,005,231



ALUMNI
LEADERBOARD
CLASS OF

1978

28

DONORS

PARENT
LEADERBOARD
CLASS OF

2028

44

DONORS

REUNION
LEADERBOARD
CLASS OF

1964

13

DONORS

2024 Sill Society Inductees

As a tribute to our Founder, the Alumni Council established The Reverend Frederick H. Sill, O.H.C. Society in 2006. The Sill Society recognizes Kent alumni/ae whose personal achievement and distinguished service bring honor and distinction to themselves and Kent School, especially through service that creates a meaningful impact and extends its benefits to the broader community, nation, or world.

All alumni/ae of Kent are eligible for consideration, except for those currently serving on the Board of Trustees, the Alumni Council, or as an employee of the School.

This year the Alumni Council inducted two alumni into the Sill Society, John H. Magruder III '36 and Edward B. "Ted" Danson '66.

Please visit www.kent-school.edu/alumni/alumni-recognition to learn more about the Sill Society.



John H. Magruder III '36



Edward B. "Ted" Danson '66

John H. Magruder III '36

Col. John Magruder '36's (retired) achievements and service brought honor and distinction to himself, Kent School, and the United States. Col. Magruder graduated from the Naval Academy and served the United States honorably as a Marine during World War II in Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Saipan, and Tinian. Col. Magruder was one of the few Marines who served in the European Theater of World War II, where he was a liaison between the Free Dutch Forces and the 21st United States Army Group during the liberation of Holland. He created the Marine Corps exhibit at the Hall of Military and Naval History at the Smithsonian Institute in 1954. In 1960 he developed the Marine Corps Museum in Quantico and served as its first director. He was the director of the

Armed Forces Museum Advisory Board of the Smithsonian until he died in 1972. The Marine Corps continues to honor Col. John Magruder by awarding the Col. John Magruder Award for Exhibit and Historical Display. This award is given out to recognize exemplary work that furthers the understanding of Marine Corps history, traditions, culture, and service. It is a great honor to call Col. Magruder an alumnus of Kent School.

Edward B. "Ted" Danson '66

Kent School is proud to call Edward B. "Ted" Danson '66 an alumnus. His achievements range from entertainment to activism. After graduating from Kent in 1966, Ted Danson, attended Stanford University, later transferring to Carnegie Mellon for the acting program. Ted is well known for his countless roles on

television and the big screen. He has been nominated for over 50 awards and won many, including Golden Globes, Primetime Emmys and more. Several generations have laughed with him and enjoyed his entertainment from his days on "Cheers" as Sam Malone to "Curb Your Enthusiasm."

Ted is equally well known for his activism for ocean conservation. He co-founded the American Oceans Campaigns in the 1980s, which later merged with Oceana, where Ted remains on the board. Ted has also co-authored a book, "Oceana: Our Endangered Oceans and What We Can Do to Save Them." Ted has testified in front of Congress and the World Trade Organization regarding destroying the oceanic biosystem. He truly brings honor and distinction to himself and Kent School.

Reunion Weekend 2024

Reunion Weekend 2024 was filled with laughter, memories, and plenty of opportunities to reconnect. Alumni from classes ending in 4 and 9 gathered back on campus to catch up with old friends, revisit favorite spots, and celebrate the traditions that bring them together.

The weekend featured class dinners, the always-popular Saturday night dinner dance, class pictures, and the Athletic Hall of Fame induction ceremony—perfect for capturing the spirit of the occasion. A special tea on the Hill campus with Liesbeth Hirschfeld provided a more intimate setting for alumni to share stories and reflect on their time at the School.

Whether reminiscing about past adventures or making new memories, Reunion Weekend was a celebration of friendship, community, and the lasting bonds that make Kent feel like home.





**SAVE
THE
DATE**
Reunion 2026
June 26-28



Athletic Hall of Fame Ceremony

During Reunion Weekend, Kent School honored outstanding athletic achievements at the annual Athletic Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony. **Elizabeth H. Burrall McCann '65** and **Denver J. Smith '99** were inducted as individuals, while several legendary teams were recognized for their contributions to Kent's athletic legacy, including the **1960 Varsity Field Hockey Team**, **1961 Varsity Girls Tennis Team**, **1965 Varsity Field Hockey Team**, **1964 Varsity Girls Lacrosse Team**, **1975 Boys Cross Country Team**, **1985 JV Girls Squash Team**, and **1985 JV Girls Tennis Team**.

The ceremony also celebrated **James C. MacLeod** for his impact as a coach, while **Esther Ma '84** and **Michael C. Brooks '65** received special recognition plaques. Congratulations to all honorees!

Visit: www.kent-school.edu/athletics/athletic-hall-of-fame to learn more or submit a nomination.



Reunion Weekend 2025

June 20-22

Calling All Classes Ending in o's and 5's!

It's time to *come home to Kent* for an unforgettable **Reunion Weekend** filled with laughter, memories, and reconnecting with lifelong friends. Mark your calendars and get ready for a weekend of fun, nostalgia, and campus adventures!

Registration Now Open!

www.kent-school.edu/reunion2025

Take advantage of early bird pricing, available until May 16.

Exclusive Perks:

- Register by April 18th for one of five **\$150 Reunion Weekend Discount Coupon!**
- Become a Reunion Volunteer and earn an additional chance to **win a FREE weekend stay!**

We can't wait to welcome you back to campus. Spread the word, rally your classmates, and let's make this reunion one for the books!

See you at Kent – where the memories live on!



MORE WAYS TO WIN!

Become a Reunion Volunteer and you could WIN a FREE WEEKEND STAY!

That's right—your entire Reunion Weekend stay could be on us just for stepping up as a volunteer.

Don't miss out on the savings, the perks, or the fun.

Update, volunteer, and you could WIN BIG!

The Impact of Two Kent Oarsmen on Cornell Rowing

By Gary S. Brayshaw '58

Since Bill Stowe '58 and I were the only Kent students to attend Cornell University in 1958, I am uniquely qualified to report on Kent's Olympic Champion's college rowing years. Happily, the report is a glowing one.

Bill rowed stroke on an undefeated freshmen crew from the first day of practice in the fall of 1958 when 100 hopefuls showed up to vie for what pared down to three boats, after many days rowing at first in the barge, then in an extra-wide training shell, before venturing into a sleek brand-new racing shell the varsity had rejected as too slow. I joined Bill in the first boat taking seat three. We were the only two oarsmen in that first boat who had ever rowed before, and I had only rowed in the club system at Kent for a couple of months. Bill, a former Kent Varsity and Henley oarsman, was a standout at Cornell from that first day on, but he didn't act like it. He took nothing for granted, wearing extra sweat gear during every practice to burn off the extra weight that always plagued him, a fact he later admits in his book about his Olympic rowing success, *All Together*.

Besides having Bill at stroke, that Cornell Freshman boat had four outstanding advantages: a coach who was as demanding as he was loving, eight oarsmen who were of extraordinary size and strength, a coxswain who had an extremely commanding manner, and a total buy-in attitude on each oarsman's part of our coach's dream for us and the work it would take for us to become the fastest crew in the Country that year.

Our Coach, Carl Ullrich, was an ex-Marine Captain who had served in the Korean War. He was as tough as he was loving, able to convey not only the nuances of the perfect stroke, but also the necessity



1958 Kent Boys Rowing Team at the dock by the boathouse.

of a near obsessive attitude toward rowing, a total commitment that saw us row 700 miles before our first race. He continually shared his dream for us as an undefeated boat, a dream he instilled into the heart of everyone in that crew.

Our coach realized early on that the eight boys he chose for that First Boat comprised the biggest crew in the Country that year, averaging 6'4" and 185 lbs., four of them the strongest boys he had ever met, rowing seven, five, four, and two. It was an

advantage our coach was determined to take advantage of.

Moreover, we had a coxswain who had a commanding personality and the voice of a General with the inherent confidence to back it up. When he called out, "Three, you're skying before the catch," I knew I best correct the position of my blade before my next catch, or I would hear about it! Most importantly, he always sounded confident, always assuming we would win, even when we trailed Harvard

in the Sprints by over a length of open water with only a quarter mile to go. He called for a silent big twenty to bring our bow even with Harvard's rudder, then yelled, "Strokes going up!" Bill took the stroke up from 52 strokes a minute to 58 strokes a minute, all of us pulling our oars through the water that much faster, not rushing our slides, pulling the boat by, our coxswain calling out the number of each Harvard seat we gained with each stroke until he looked out on open water: i.e. "I've got their seven-man; give me their six-man. I've got their six-man; give me their five-man. I've got their five-man; give me their four-man. I've got Harvard's deck; give me open water. I've got open water. Let's finish it!" Accompanied with the rapid wrapping of the cedar rudder handles against the shell's cedar gunnels.

Bill and the rest of us believed with all our hearts right from the beginning of that freshman year the dream our coach shared with us: that we could be the fastest crew in the Nation. What he also shared with us, and we believed, was just how hard it was going to be to accomplish that goal, starting in those early practices in the fall, ultimately rowing that 700 miles out on Lake Cayuga before our first race in the spring, rowing every weekday in the tanks throughout those chilly Ithaca winter days when only three practices a week were required by the varsity coach, running five miles a day throughout the winter, until racing season began, when we cut it down to one mile after each practice. Bill never missed a run despite his wearing all that extra sweat gear to lose weight through every one of those grueling dead-water and moving water sessions in the rowing tanks.

Our practices were arduous, but no one ever complained. We knew what was at stake, and we respected the other crews too much to let down in our preparations. What is more, as a crew, we did everything together: ate together informally until the season officially began in the spring;

then, we ate training table together every night throughout the season; we went to the movies together on Saturday night; we stopped regularly at Purity Ice Cream together, a favorite spot just down the shoreline from our boathouse. It is no accident that we became brothers, and still to this day refer to each other as such.

We began our season with the Goes Cup, a two-mile race against Navy, Syracuse, and Rutgers, beating them all with a time faster than that recorded by the winning varsity boat that day, a phenomenon we repeated with each race. Next, we took the Carnegie Cup, a two-mile race against Yale and Princeton. In The Sprints, a 2,000 meter (Olympic Distance) race, we beat all the Eastern Crews, along with Harvard. Then we subsequently beat the University of Pennsylvania in the two mile Penn race. And, finally, the moment of truth came in the IRAs, the Nationals, when we would also face again crews we had already beaten, but also undefeated Washington, and their ongoing West Coast opponent, California, along with Dartmouth, MIT, and Columbia.

Our undefeated season was on the line, and we felt it. Every one of us waited with our oars already feathered, already in the water, listening for the starter's cannon. When the cannon went off, we flew forward as though propelled by its blast. Unlike all our other races, we were first off the start. Instead of our coxswain calling out the seats of the other boats we were passing, he was calling out the crews we were passing, rowing into a twenty-mile-an-hour headwind. Our set-up was perfect. Our timing was perfect. We were clearing our puddles with ease, rowing a confident 52 strokes a minute, while some of the crews pulled their oars by at 40 strokes a minute.

With a quarter mile to go in a two-mile race, we were 10 lengths of open water ahead of Washington; that is more than two football fields.

Then disaster struck: our two-man

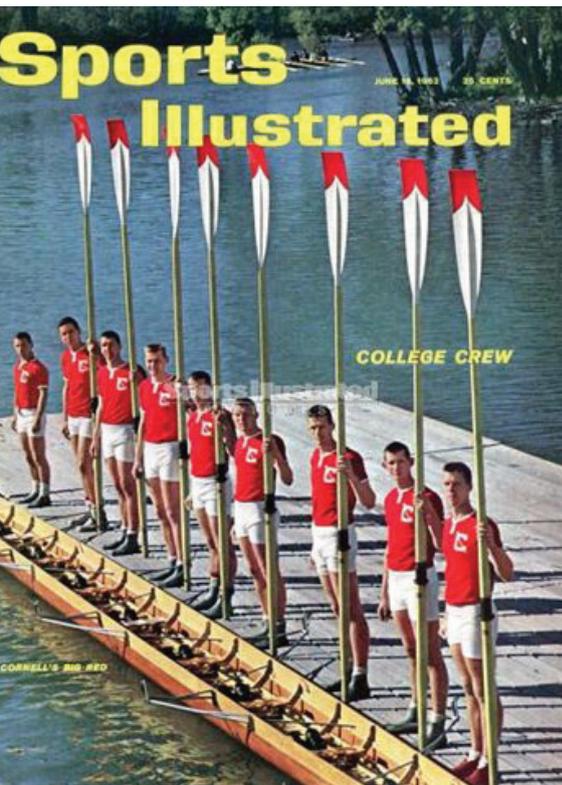
collapsed, having had a sleepless night, suffering from an illness he kept from us all. The remaining seven of us rowed in a boat that had suddenly lost all its run. Only our bowman, coxswain, and stroke knew why the boat was suddenly so sluggish in the water. Still, determined to win that last race we pulled with everything we had left and went across the finish line a length and a half of open water ahead of Washington.

Decades later, our four-man, having moved to the Seattle area, was at a gathering where he overheard a Washington oarsman tell of that IRA and how he subsequently suffered real depression because they weren't able to overcome that 1959 Cornell Freshman boat. The Washington oarsman explained that before the race their coxswain told them that their coach was counting on them beating that Cornell boat.

The Washington oarsman went on to say that years later in Vietnam he was caught in a crossfire for an entire night. He explained that his overriding concern throughout that night was that he would not survive to apologize to his coach for having lost that race.

Needless-to-say, he survived, and seeing his coach on a ferry outside Seattle one day after getting back from Vietnam, he sidled up to him and took the opportunity to tell him how sorry he was, only to have the coach break up laughing. When the Washington Coach finally got ahold of himself, he calmly explained that there was no way they could have beaten that '59 Freshman Crew. He went on to say, "They were fastest crew in the Country that year!"

Bill and my senior year, four of the oarsmen from that undefeated Cornell freshmen crew appeared on the front cover of *Sports Illustrated*. Bill was still rowing stroke. I had taken over the bow seat. During that season we beat Navy, Syracuse, Rutgers, Yale, and Princeton, but we lost The Sprints, and lost to Penn just a



Above:
1962 cover of *Sports Illustrated*.

week before the IRAs.

Coach Harrison Sanford, infamous for his musical chairs approach to finding the most effective combination of oarsmen, having let me be throughout the entire season, practice after practice, suddenly—just days before the IRAs—made me switch seats with number three seat in the JV boat, and made our six man, Vic, switch with the six seat in the JV crew; then, Coach immediately announced that the resulting lineups would stand for the three-mile IRAs. Neither Vic nor I had ever lost an IRA, and we had both rowed in that undefeated freshman boat. It was an irony that was hard to swallow.

Bill, rowing stroke, did bring the Cornell Varsity boat across the finish line first in the 1962 IRAs in 17 minutes and 2.9 seconds. In our JV boat the man set to stroke had been our two-man who collapsed our freshman year. He told me later he was worried about collapsing again in a three-mile race; so, he kept the stroke down to 29 stokes per minute, until a half-mile left to go when we then made up our 6 boat-length deficit by taking the stroke up to 39 stokes a minute, finally coming head to head with Navy's Varsity just before the finish line, our boat ahead just before and just after that finish line, with Navy's blades in the water pulling across the finish line first, they winning by less than a deck-length, or 1/16th of a second. Navy's time was 16 minutes 57.3 seconds. An old salt in the crowd later told me that in all his years watching the IRAs he had never seen a crew close so fast.

Although both Bill and I rowed offseason for Cornell our Sophomore year, we did not qualify to row during rowing season, and that was an Olympic Year. Bill was on social probation for stealing baby Jesus from the nativity scene as a fraternity prank. I was on academic probation for not keeping my grades up as I should have freshman year. Then, despite my making the Dean's List before the official rowing season began, the Dean would not allow

me off probation because I was doing so well, another bitter irony.

Our entire Junior year, Bill stroked the Varsity, and I rowed five-seat on the JV crew. Except for the Sprints, our JV boat was undefeated, rowing the best race I ever raced beating California, Navy, Washington, Pennsylvania, MIT, Princeton, Columbia, Dartmouth, Rutgers, Syracuse in the 1961 three-mile IRAs. We swung as one from the first stroke on, clearing our puddles, all the way across the finish line, winning by three lengths of open water.

In that 1961 season, our junior year, Bill's Varsity boat lost to Navy in both the Goes cup and the Sprints, and to California in the three-mile IRAs, crossing the finish line ahead of MIT, Washington, Pennsylvania, Navy, Brown, Wisconsin, Syracuse, Princeton, Dartmouth, Rutgers, and Columbia. Earlier in the season Bill's Varsity boat defeated Yale, Princeton, Rutgers, Syracuse, and Pennsylvania in dual races.

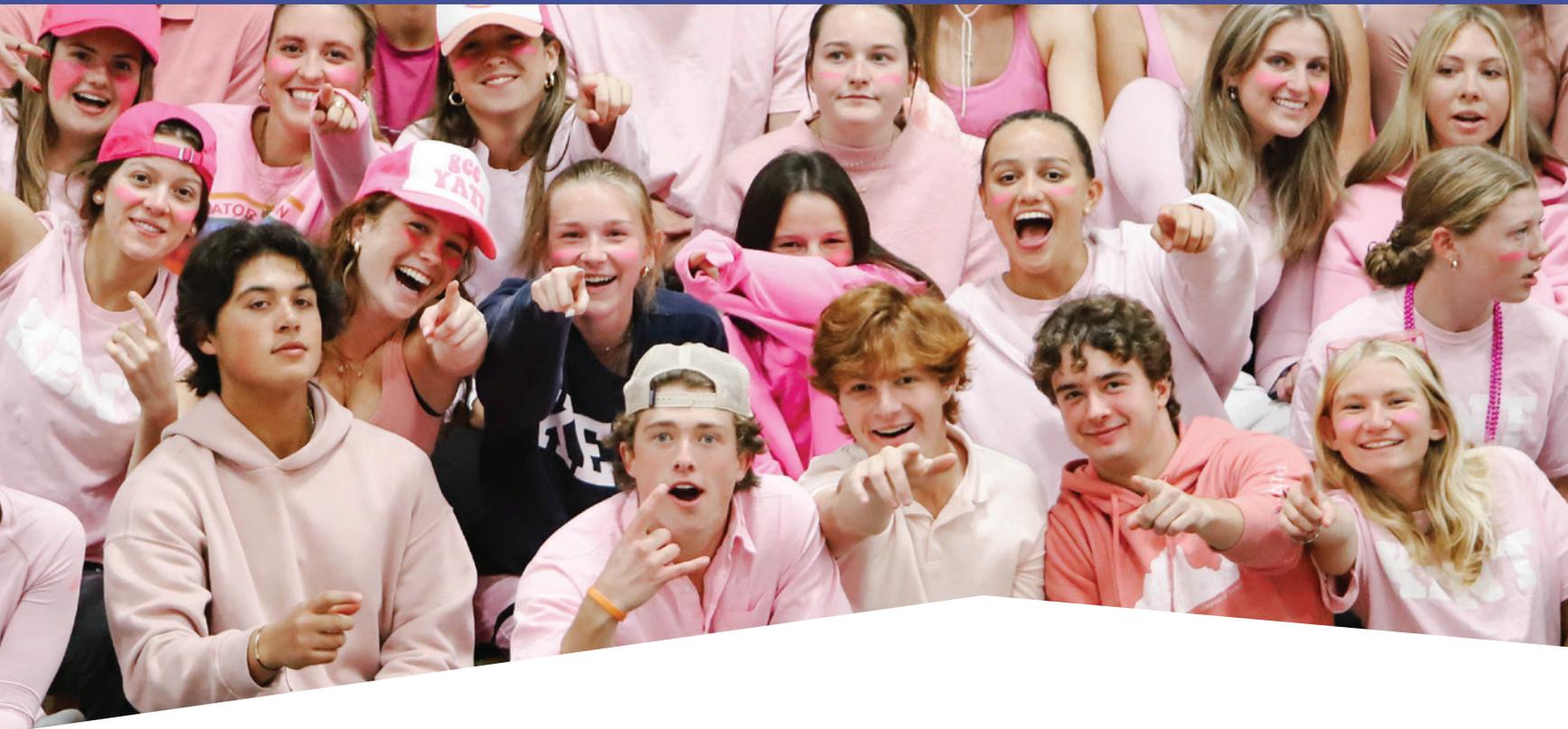
When Coach Harrison Sanford said goodbye to us at the 1962 IRAs, he commented that our class had very much been the backbone of Cornell Crew for four years. Bill was our Varsity stroke for three those years. On the water he was all business, respected by every oarsman in the boat.

A day or two before the 1962 IRAs, our final Cornell race, Bill asked me if I would join him rowing in a pair without coxswain to compete in that summer's Pan Am Games. He told me he had never met anyone who wanted to win as much as I did.

I thought about it overnight, and the next day turned him down. It was a mistake I regret to this day.

Today, on the wall of the Cornell Boathouse in Ithaca, New York is affixed a life-size copy of that *Sports Illustrated* cover. At both stroke and bow is pictured an oarsman who had been a schoolboy at Kent.

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For more information please contact:

Alumni > Michael Ganchegui: gancheguim@kent-school.edu / 860-927-6268

Parents > Elizabeth Vitek: viteke@kent-school.edu / 860-927-6269

Class Notes

1944



Bob Weltzien couldn't make it to campus for his 80th Reunion, so Denny Mantegani and Todd Marble from the Alumni & Development Office brought the celebration to him. They joined Bob, his wife Marie, and his daughter Jen to mark this special milestone together.

1953

John Moore shared: **Kibbe Fitzpatrick** and I have been carrying on a delightful email dialogue for several years now. He has settled in Naples, Florida with his wife Merrill after a very rewarding career as a United Nations interpreter. He has related the interesting way he met Merrill. When he decided he wanted to get married, a friend advised him to go to the ballet because the dancers were athletic, beautiful and smart. Merrill was a lead dancer with the New York City ballet and the rest is history. Kibbe is still deep into the study of languages.

1954

From **Taylor Keith**: Dear Class of 1954, our 70th reunion has come and gone. Unfortunately, there were only two of us there, brother **Lang** and me. **Bob Ober**

had planned to attend but had a sudden medical problem that forced him to cancel. He's much better now and home with new heart valves. Lang carried on Kent's great rowing tradition by car-topping his single scull and taking a nostalgic row on the Housie. Show off! At Sunday's chapel service Lang read the class necrology in memory of classmates who had died since the last reunion. I had that honor and privilege five years ago at the 65th. It was a pleasure to be back in the Happy Valley. The academics, athletics, and extracurricular activities are extremely varied, challenging, and are designed to curry the interest of as wide a group as possible. On Saturday, Head of School Mike Hirschfeld spoke to alumni. It was an impressive report. Of particular note was Mike's presentation of the proposed St. Joseph's Chapel expansion. When completed it will allow the entire school to attend chapel together. We think our class will approve of how the architect has made the Chapel larger, while keeping it looking as if very little has changed. Quite a feat! The academic and administrative staff are equally impressive. It seemed to Lang and me that Kent is in good hands. While much has changed since 1954, Simplicity of Life, Directness of Purpose, and Self-Reliance is alive and well. We wish more of '54 could have joined us. Lang joins me in sending regards to you all. From **Bob Ober**: I had planned to attend yet found myself instead undergoing cardiac surgery at Poughkeepsie's Vassar Hospital, prompting **Fred Sharp** to quip

that I'm the first member of the Class to be accepted by Vassar. I then underwent two months of rehab at two Connecticut facilities, Lang Keith helping me regain "a semblance of myself" by sending me two current bestsellers, before I was released to his Litchfield home in mid-August.

1958

Gary "Doc" Brayshaw shared that his new book *Strangers in Our House* is about. When Gary Brayshaw meets Senator John F. Kennedy as a prep school student, he has no idea that their paths will cross again in the most momentous of circumstances. Years later, now a decorated Navy hero, Gary is personally awarded the Medal of Honor by President Kennedy and brought into his inner circle. But as Gary navigates the corridors of power in 1960's Washington, he uncovers a web of dangerous secrets. With the CIA, military brass, oil tycoons, and industrial giants all circling the President, Gary finds himself in a race against time if he is to head off what looms ahead.

1960

Jim Mell shared: It is with great sadness that we report that two of our classmates have passed away since the last *Quarterly*: **David Baiter** and **Tim Black**. Although our classmates were notified of this news previously, we felt that members of other classes, who were their friends at Kent, might like this information. In the event that anyone would like family contact information

to express personal condolences, please contact Jim Mell by email stepaheadcounseling@gmail.com or by text 975.229.6049). On a happy note, **Ken Korfmann** writes from Switzerland that he and his wife, Sabina, continue to be active in the field of photography, having published five books since 2016 and delivered lectures at the University in Zurich from time to time. Recently, they were honored with a 600-page book about their photographic projects since 2019, authored by one of the leading art history professors in the world, Professor Dr. Wolfgang F. Kersten. The book is titled *Photographic Thought Pieces*. It is in English with comments in German for each image. The book will be published on September 11, 2024, by the University of Heidelberg Press in both open access and print-on-demand form. Ken said that they would gladly provide the dial-in address to anyone interested in seeing the book. If contact information is needed, please contact me. Also, Sabina has a PR agency that focuses on the financial sector. According to Ken, her business "...is booming with top ranked international asset management firms and continues to add new clients." Kudos to you both! In the middle of July, my wife, Karen, and I vacationed in Maine and stopped by to have lunch with **Hugh Hardcastle** and his wife, Surrey. It was a short visit but allowed enough time to bring each of us up-to-date with our comings and goings, parting on a "to be continued" basis! I hope each of you is looking forward

to our 65th reunion at Kent in early June 2025. Let me hear of any ideas or questions you might have regarding the occasion.

1961

Dick Crosbie shared: **Mike McCann** and I managed to squeeze in our annual, sometimes semiannual, breakfast at the Country View Restaurant in Stratham, New Hampshire in August. Both of us are healthy and heavier than our Kent days. Mike is doing some traveling, and I am having to stay close to home. I am the Chair of the Resident Council at The Riverwoods CCRC in Exeter, New Hampshire. A job I wish on no one. There will be pictures taken at our next breakfast as “proof of life.” Submitted by **Michael McCann**: Life continues to be enjoyable. I sing with a hospice singing group called *Journey Song*. We sing at the bedsides of those nearing death (which has helped me to understand what I want and do not want for my own death, which is coming inexorably closer). Portsmouth, New Hampshire is a vibrant town on the seacoast. Divorced in 1989, I live with a partner, Martha Cunningham. We do a good job, IMHO, of sharing chores. **Dick Crosbie** and I get together for breakfast. He lives in Exeter (a few miles away). We keep threatening to meet up with **Bruce McClenahan** but now that **Tim Carnes** is gone (our intermediate location) we have mostly failed. It seems like a long time has passed since our days in the Lovely Valley Land. And it surely has been a long time. **John Orange** shared: I have not

The Class of 1960 has been circulating among themselves a copy of former Kent English teacher Edmund Fuller’s book *Successful Calamity*. Classmates who have read it found it interesting, entertaining, and even educational regarding farming techniques in Vermont in the early 1950s. Below is **Joe Bright’s** description. If you are interested in obtaining a copy, used copies are available online.

I had occasion recently to read *Successful Calamity* by Edmund Fuller, a teacher a while back at Kent. The book tells the story of the years before he came to Kent. He worked as a writer in New York City. He experienced a medical, neurological crisis. As a result, he quit his job, bought a farm on Lake Champlain in Vermont, and moved there with his family. The book spends most of the time on his experience as a farmer, at which he was, at best, only barely successful. It is full of entertainment about domestic and wild animal life and the remarkable geography and weather in Vermont. I was reminded of my ventures from time to time in my grandparents’ place outside Reading, Pennsylvania. They hired a tenant farmer. On occasion, he would call in his Pennsylvania Dutch friends to slaughter a steer or calf. It was bloody, hard work, but it was masterful and nothing was wasted; everything was put to some useful purpose. Towards the end of his farmer years, Edmund applied his eldest son to several boarding schools and chose Kent. That led to Edmund being made head of the English Department. After his Kent years, he followed the Reverend John Patterson to teach at a school in Rome, Italy. Apart from farm entertainment, a major point of the book is a version of stay-in-your-lane. It was too stressful for him to work full-time in an office, he was only marginally competent as a farmer, and he hit his stride when he combined teaching and writing. Before Vermont, he was notably successful as a writer and he became even more so once he added teaching to his skill set. Some of our class were beneficiaries of his talents while he was at Kent. I recommend the book to you. It reads a bit like Hemingway: short punchy sentences, little explanation, and many points made by examples.



Class of '64 members: Dave Losee, Al McCoy, Peter Jacobi, and Bill Raymond at South Point.

much to report. I am living 90 miles northwest of London in the Cotswolds—a very scenic, beautiful area—renting a stone house, where I have been for 10 years. In 1990 I had a mid-life crisis, and my legal career came to an end. I did not have much sense then going for a music degree, but I hugely enjoyed it. In the midst of all this, my Christian faith has meant a lot to me, and still does. I walk miles and miles, and money is short. Anybody from Kent can come and seek me out. I am short of friends, so you would be welcome. Scottish Country Dancing is excellent for keeping the mind active, and giving social interaction. I recommend it.

1964

Submitted by **Trudy Smith**: The anticipation we felt for our 60th reunion had energized us for a year! Friday came along with record heat and humidity, and a downpour as we were ready to memorialize our fallen classmates at the point. No worries! Instead we greeted each other in Field Common Room, hugs punctuating those precious first encounters (my favorite moments)! **Puck Purnell** led us with his tremendous gifts of compassion and gratitude, then others shared stories



The Class of 1964 had a great turnout for their 60th reunion in June.



Elizabeth Calhoun McKenzie '65



Class of '64 members, Debbie Crow Mills, Jim Roselle, John Horton, and Guy Rowley, looked spry at their 60th reunion in June 2024.



Members of the class of 1964 at the 2024 Reunion, Athletic Hall of Fame Award Ceremony on June 22. Mary Barnes Jenkins, Trudy Ashcroft Smith, Pam Willoughby Field, Pam Gerdau Griffin, Sandra Hyde Jacobi, honoree Betsy Burrall McCann, Nannie Talbot Brown, Barby Howe, Carolee Neuendorffer Ziegenhagen, Holly Burton Cooney, Susan Strange, and Snooze Leigh Fisher.



1965ers Meg Little Warren, Blue Magruder, and Margo Ayres Smith.

about their friends, many were gently amusing and poignant. Delicious dinner followed, and some of us headed to the dorm rooms, where box fans helped. Mine was five inches from my face! Saturday started early with a riveting talk by Professor **Al McCoy!** His knowledge of the Cold War era, Vietnam, and covert operations was astounding. We learned that much lies beyond what we are told by the news or the government. Al was generous with his time, answering our many questions. A tribute at the point followed for **Lloyd Buzzell**, led by Al McCoy and Peter

Jacobi. An honor a full decade in coming was **Betsy McCann's** induction into the Kent Athletic Hall of Fame, attended by most of her classmates (boys and girls)! We thank **Todd Marble** for his help in this honor. **Pam Field** introduced her, and for about four minutes Betsy brought everyone back to Skiff Mountain in 1960! She accepted this honor on behalf of all early Kent talented female athletes proving themselves in our new school. Later that afternoon may be my personal favorite this steamy weekend – the ice cream truck, woo hoo, even strawberry! The time just flew,

it always does. Suddenly it was a brilliant Sunday morning, and we gathered for the Memorial Eucharist. Some already had to leave early. Surrounded by close friends, the solemnity was soothing. In our 60th year after Kent each of us prayed for ALL of us, and that God will keep the Kent community in his care. The School Song we belted out lustily, those last words rising to the cavernous St. Joseph's ceiling, and then it was over. Parting hugs were a little tighter, a little longer. How does one rate this reunion? Simple, each reunion is always the best one! But miracle upon miracles,

this reunion featured GOLF CARTS! They were everywhere, giving rides to and from your car parked in the field across from the hockey rink...or to any other place you wanted to go. Zooming, bumpity bump, a solid breeze, and friendly chatter from young cheerful volunteers. And the Alumni Office, especially **Denny Mantegani**, just did an outstanding job, with challenging circumstances! With organizers **Clai Carr (Sill Society '22)**, **Bill Raymond**, **Carolee Ziegenhagen**, Pam Field, **John Horton**, Puck Purnell and **Susan Strange**, we couldn't miss! Our classmates



Bill Williams '65 on the air hosting *The Kingfisher Project*.



1965ers John Watkins, Stephanie Brooks Elliman, Lucy Berry Ackemann, Peter Lewine, and Nanci Cruikshank Rowe.



1965ers Francie Symonds, Jessie Pollock, and Margo Ayres Smith.

love getting together! We still know the songs but not all the words. We've felt loss, but that has made each occasion more meaningful. And so we look forward to next time!

1965 G

From **Betsy Calhoun McKenzie**: Hi! I seldom have anything to offer, but here is an update. We are all doing well! Merrill's kids are growing up - two are now in college (Patrick Henry, UVA) and two are in high school. They are becoming remarkable humans, smart and positive and loving, despite the loss of their Mom. Eric remarried, as many of you know, and we all love Laura, who is also widowed and has two kids and three dogs of her own. Shortly after they married, Eric's mother died, and his 92-year-old Dad moved in, too. The expanded household (nine people and three dogs) has been a huge adjustment for everyone! I continue to be grateful that I found my own place to live when I moved down here. Sarah and Nico and their two are also doing well - both kids are in college (Yale, Middlebury) and making us all proud! Last fall, I took advantage of an opportunity to go to

Greece with a group of friends. The trip was a year and a half in planning. It was a phenomenal experience, though I think four weeks was a bit too long to be away. Still, I would go back to Crete and Athens and Delphi in a heartbeat and to a small hotel near Mt. Olympus that was unforgettable! Glad I did it - it might be a while before I can do something like that again. For now, shorter trips are easier to plan. Miss you all, and planning on being there for our 60th next spring! From **Stephanie Brooks Elliman**: I just left Savannah for a few weeks to visit friends up north. While I was there, I spent several days with **Lucy Berry Ackemann** and **Nanci Cruikshank Rowe** with partners/husbands at Lucy's seaside home in Connecticut. We had a fun evening with **John Watkins**, **Peter Lewine** and his wife, Deb. I also had lunch with **Lyn Hutchings**. It was great to catch up with all of them. We are looking forward to our 60th Reunion next year. From **Pam Lincoln Tuttle**: Am too computer challenged to send photos. My husband of 44 years, David Tuttle, died on July 2, 2024. Just wanted to let you all know. Unfortunately, my daughter died in 2022, my mother in 2023 now

David. Only the ancient crabby cat is left! From **Margo Ayres Smith**: I was so pleased to be able to go to **Blue Magruder's** husband's Celebration of Life gathering at their home on the Cape. It was lovely to be there with Blue, meet her extended family and also spend some time with **Meg Little Warren**, Blue could not have orchestrated a more loving and joyful tribute to John. After our 50th Reunion **Francie Symonds Riggs**, **Jessie Pollock** and I figured out that in the summer when Tom and I are in our cabin in New Hampshire we are all living about 20 minutes from each other. Every summer we try to get together. We had a lovely, hilarious time together in August.

1965 B

Since November of 2019, **Bill Williams** has been the radio host of *The Kingfisher Project*, a monthly radio show dedicated to issues surrounding addiction and the drug epidemic. *The Kingfisher Project* is broadcast on WJFF 90.5 FM, an NPR station serving the Catskills and eastern Pennsylvania. Guests have included people in recovery, recovery advocates, national and local government officials,

authors, addiction doctors, law enforcement officers, and lobbyists. The show was a 2025 nominee for the New York State Broadcasters Award for Best Show. *The Kingfisher Project* can be found locally at 6:00 Eastern time on the first Tuesday of each month. For those beyond the broadcast signal area the show is available via livestream at wjffradio.org. More recently the show has also become a podcast. The podcast, an extended version of the radio show, can be found at: <https://wjffradio.org/thekingfisherproject/> where both the most recent show and archived broadcasts of earlier shows are available. You can also find the podcast on YouTube under *The Kingfisher Project* - WJFF Radio.

1966 G

Leslie Smith (Rocco) shares: Sadly, we received news of the recent death of **Lanie Lippincott Peterson** following a heart attack. Lanie attended Skidmore College and earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Michigan. She had a long, successful career as an award-winning journalist for several news organizations and publications,

including The Los Angeles Times, The Seattle Times, and The Savannah Morning News, where she worked alongside her husband, Larry Peterson, who predeceased her in 2014. She is survived by their daughter, Lindsay. Lanie lived for many years on the West Coast before relocating to Georgia in 1995 where she lived on Tybee Island. She switched careers in 2007 to become an elementary school teacher but continued to work as a freelance reporter until her retirement a few years ago. She loved gardening, living by the ocean, and volunteering for causes she believed in. Rest in peace, dear friend. I made a special trip to Jamestown, Rhode Island on July 18 to attend a Kent Supper Club event hosted by **Pebbles Wadsworth**, **Weezie Potter**, and **Barbara Gravadahl '76**. Thankfully, no broken arms or wrists like last year. About twenty alumni/ae enjoyed a night of good conversation and camaraderie. During the evening, Weezie and I, and Weezie's brother **Gordon Potter '68**, discovered we had grown up in New Jersey with **Jeff Crowell '01's** mother. It was fun to catch up with Jeff since we had been on the Kent Alumni Council at the same time. I also enjoyed talking with **Alice Huse Tanner '65**, **John Horton '64**, **Debbie Rinehart Fowler '69**, and **Charlie Whitin '68**, all from the Kent 'vintage' years. The high point of the evening was Charlie Whitin's gift to Pebbles of his Kent crew jacket! Weezie is off on a European river cruise from Nuremberg to Amsterdam at the end of September. Meanwhile, I leave today for a visit with friends in County Kerry, Ireland, aka the Irish Riviera. **Lynn Doe Shipway** has moved into

new quarters. She and Francie are happily ensconced in a beautiful condominium in the center of Bath, Maine, right on the Kennebec River. She claims this is her last move ever, but none of us believe that for a minute. **Marty McClintock** writes, "first and foremost, I'm blessed to have my three kids, two daughters-in-law, and four grandchildren living fairly close-by. When I'm not "doing" with/for them, I stay busy volunteering! As a member of Assistance League of the Chesapeake (a service-oriented philanthropic organization) since 2015, in 2021 I found myself the Chair of our Kids in Need (KIN) program. This program distributes school uniforms (pants, polos, sweatshirts, underwear and (donated!) Bombas socks) to needy children in seven Title I schools of Anne Arundel County. As Chair, I coordinate pretty much everything: maintaining our inventory, "sizing" the kids, packing individual bags for each, and distributing them to the schools. Last year we were able to give almost 3,300 uniforms to about 2,900 students! It's a big job for a retired "old lady," but not rocket-science, and I have a

slew of volunteers to help! This is my third year in charge, and I'm now ecstatic to report that I have a named successor to take over in June 2025! I'll be free again to travel, but also to pack up and move to a Baltimore CCRC, sometime in 2025 or 2026. I'll keep you posted! Keep the news coming. I love hearing from all '66ers - G and B! **Judy Keur Toth** is enjoying living near her daughters and four grandchildren in Vermont for five months in spring and summer. Her grandson started his sophomore year at UVM and his sister is in her final year of high school. She is planning on going to Roger Williams University for Architecture and is in talks with the basketball coach there. The two younger grandkids started fourth and second grades this week. Great kids who enjoy Legos, Harry Potter, acting, music and life! Maybe in a different order! We will be in Florida for October and most of November if anyone wants to visit! From **Pippa Bird Whittington**: We are enjoying living in Norfolk and still enjoying our ringing. This year we have taken on an allotment, and have a freezer full of broad and runner beans

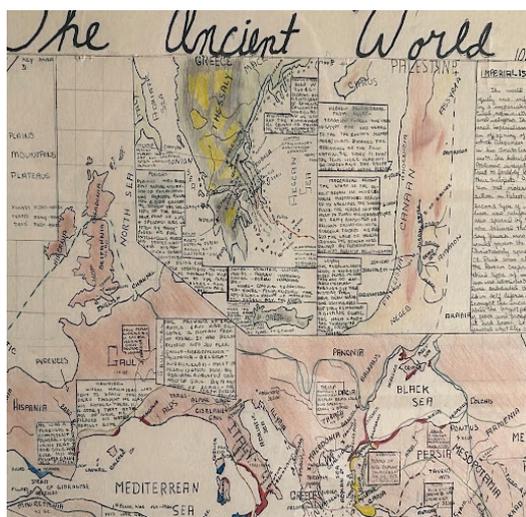
and enough potatoes for the next few months. (The potatoes were planted by the grandchildren (aged 10 and 12) when they were staying with us over Easter!). We have also grown tomatoes and cucumbers and have some broccoli coming soon. We took the caravan to York and Matlock in July. In York we met with many of our ringing friends and rang at York Minster as well as several other churches. In Matlock, we managed to arrange my belated 75th birthday present and went walking with Alpacas. The girl who was running it was very knowledgeable and it was a really fun session. If anyone manages to visit the wilds of Norfolk, we would love to see you. **Holden Humphrey** is still living in Aiken, South Carolina and wishes all the best to the Class of '66 for now and for the rest of the year. **ChiChi Armstrong** shared: Very busy with Ladies Let's Talk (as usual). We've grown five-fold in the last year and now have over 3000 learners and volunteers across the USA. I'm focusing on growing the infrastructure to prepare for me to become a truly retired retiree by 2026. Here's a link to a two-minute PSA broadcast in June 2024 on the local NPR



Peter L. Brown '66, shared in memory by his sister, Lisa Brown Williams '80.



Peter L. Brown '66 with his wife, children, and grandchildren.



"The Ancient World" by Doug Henry '66, Mr. Armstrong's second term project.

station, KUT 90.9 FM: <https://www.kut.org/2024-06-01/get-involved-spotlight-ladies-lets-talk>. I'm joined by Gail Totten, a fellow board member, and two LLT Learners: Muslima Safi from Afghanistan and Kateryna Kishynska from Ukraine. This can give y'all a good picture of what I spend my days working on!

1966 B

Doug Henry shares: the past twelve months have been tough on the 1966 boys' class. Peter Tilghman, Tom Walker, and Peter Brown all passed away. Our thoughts are with their families and friends. Jim Sweitzer and Diana and Bob Fuglestad attended Peter's memorial service. On a happier note, Randy Beach reported that he recently achieved the ripe old age of 77, celebrating his birthday in Waldoboro, Maine with brothers Chris '67 and Murray '72 and their spouses. Bill Trotter checked in to acknowledge the 58th anniversary of Prize Day on June 6, 1966. Some other significantly historical event occurred on that day 22 years

earlier, I believe. Ken Neher contributed an observation of the current election year situation, leaving little doubt about his preference for a blue outcome. Changing gears to a less controversial topic, namely rowing. Gail and Nick Farwell have endowed the head coach position for the women's rowing program at Stanford. They previously endowed the men's head coach position. Ever the proud Stanford alum, Nick pointed out that Stanford Olympians won 39 medals at the 2024 Olympics. While we are on the topic, the Wesleyan University men's varsity eight distinguished themselves at the 2024 IRAs at Princeton, racing in a shell christened in the name of our very own Will Scoggins, a former Wesleyan coach. Williams finished in second, 0.02 seconds behind Wesleyan, narrowly missing a three-peat. It appears Fred and Heather have decamped from Pensacola and are now living in Thomaston, Connecticut. We're not quite done with the rowing bit, had dinner recently at Kate Davies' with Diana and Jim Sweitzer. Long time retired, Jim is still coaching the girls' novice crews at the Connecticut Boat

Club with great success. One of his early rowers, Kelsey Reelick, earned a seat in the women's four at the Olympics. In a change of topics, there was also an impromptu meeting of the Bay Area Alumni Group of 1966 back in October 2023. Nick Farwell, Peter Pervere, Rich Locksley, Ken Miller, and your faithful scribe were in attendance. As a complete surprise to all, RJ Oldnall showed up, having business on the West Coast. RJ, at 6-foot-2 and 185 pounds, was almost unrecognizable to those who hadn't seen him since graduation. Rich Locksley won the bet for the youngest member of the class, but I won the honors as the youngest second former at age 12 when my parents disappeared over the Housatonic Bridge. Muffy Mallory '67 represented George Mallory in his absence at the lunch. Speaking of Muffy, she spearheaded an outreach ministry in the Bay Area to support a local foodbank. Beth Ferree and John Eaton showed up to supplement the dozen or so Kenties who participated. Heard from Ed Souder a while back. He's living in Carson City, California near his son, who is a United pilot. The Souder line remains intact, due in part to Ed's grandson, Edmund V., who is seven years old as of this writing. Pete DeBisschop is still living at The Villages in Florida, where he is enjoying pickleball, golf, and his latest hobby, restoring vintage automobiles. To date, he's nearly restored a 1925 Model T and has a 1950 Model A pick'm up truck in the queue. After an engine rebuild, the Model T started to his great surprise and relief no doubt. Classmates are welcome to stop by. Lastly, while rummaging

around in the attic, I came across a mailing tube that held my cartographic rendition of "The Ancient World." Those of you of a certain Kent era will remember Mr. Armstrong's second term project. I decided to make a present of it to my grandson when he's old enough to hold it in appropriate awe. In the meantime, his parents have custody.

1967

Muffy Mallory shared: In July, I co-hosted with my brother Peter Mallory '65 a Kent Supper Club cocktail party in La Jolla, California. It was great to meet fellow alumni in the San Diego area. Two of the attendees came all the way down from Orange County. If you know SoCal traffic, you will understand that these women must have been motivated! Peter Brooks writes: Peter Brooks, Vic Machcinski, Lee Stewart, and Polly Brooks got together in July to attend James Taylor's 50th summer concert at Tanglewood, in Lenox Massachusetts. Accompanied by Mary Ellen Machcinski and Elizabeth Stewart, all enjoyed a balmy evening "on the lawn," and a champagne picnic. Staying and dining in Stockbridge at the Red Lion Inn, the next day most went on a jaunt to tour Peter's Christmas Tree farm. Beginning to feel fortunate to still be alive and in good health, they agreed to discuss, at their next meeting perhaps, the old adage, "Living well is the best revenge!" Vic Machcinski writes: I had the immense good fortune to meet Seth Ahlborn '76, the eldest son of my Kent teacher, coach, and admired mentor, Lee Ahlborn. As luck would have it, Seth



Muffy Mallory '67, and Dick Ahlborn '59, Sill Society '23.



Seth Ahlborn '76 and Vic Machcinski '67



Muffy Mallory '67 and Lex Lyon '68



Bill Pickard '67



Charlie Pastorfield '68 playing "Mama Tried."



Classmates at Tanglewood, top row: Vic Machcinski '67, Polly Brooks '67, Peter Brooks '67 (no relation) and bottom row: Mary Ellen Machcinski, Elizabeth Stewart, and Lee Stewart '67.

found out that a gift I made to the Alumni Fund earlier this year was dedicated to Lee's memory. He wrote to me, and we exchanged letters filled with memories, musings, and news of his extended family's life over the past 57 years. [Muffy note: coincidentally I was able to do the same thing with **Dick Ahlborn** (Sill Society '25) in July, a certain serendipity here...] Seth visited me and my wife at our home in Stamford. It was a wonderful visit and a blessing to be connected with him and, in a sense, reconnected with his parents. **Bill Pickard** writes: Everything here (Seattle) is good. Children all healthy

and employed. Murph and I are mostly healthy (things start wearing out after 70, but nothing new there). I went on a 40-mile canoe trip around some lakes with some friends up on Vancouver Island, so in one sense I've still got it. Rest of my time is spent volunteering at a local school, working on starting a rowing program in a local park, fixing all the things on my Honey-Do list, painting, gardening, etc. Staying busy. Following the success of his first two books, *Generations: Hastings Fishing Families* and *Sea Dogs*, **John Cole** is putting together a book of the black and white photos he shot in the late 1970's

and early 80's, documenting New York and New Jersey's seedy gyms and boxing venues. *Shadow Boxers* is a celebration of arguably the last great era of club fighting in New York, the world of real-life Rocky's, a hard, cruel world where a man had a chance to fight his way to fame and glory. A world that no longer exists. John plans to publish *Shadow Boxers* in autumn 2025. Wishing you the best of luck, John!

1968

Libby Koponen shared: Even though I haven't had a book published in a long time, I do

still write, at this desk, when I'm lucky enough to be in my shepherd's hut in Scotland. And I'm happy to say that the not-published spell has been broken. A book of mine is now in bookstores in the U.K. (Waterstones!) and U.S. (not just bookstores, but Target and Walmart, a first for me!) and lots of other countries. I hope it's not cheesy to mention this here. And I hope I see some of you when I'm going around New England promoting it with readings. **Charlie Pastorfield** shared: I just want to tell everyone that my daughter's last release and the latest release from my band The Gladstones



Malcolm Poole '69 and Fred Schoch '69 met for lunch in Portland, Maine.



Fred Schoch '69 with the new trophy for the Men's Championship Eight. Formerly the Boston Globe Trophy now the Fred V. Schoch Trophy! This year's winner: Cambridge University.



Julia Littlewood Duval '73 with her family: son Tom (32), husband Jonny, son Alex (40) and Julia Littlewood Duval '73 in the Lake District.



Julia Littlewood Duval '73 with grandchild Laurie.

are both available on most (if not all) streaming services. If you're curious, search for: Emma Pastorfield *End All Be All*, and *The Gladstones...and friends*. Hope everyone had a great fall.

1969

Fred Schoch shared that he has retired after serving as the (first ever) Executive Director of the Head of the Charles Regatta for 35 years. Fred was awarded the U.S. Rowing Medal of Honor in 2025, which was also presented at the Regatta. The Medal of Honor is "bestowed upon a member of the rowing community in the U.S. who

has rendered conspicuous service to, or accomplished extraordinary feats in, rowing." Full article here: www.hocr.org/news/hocr-and-usrowing-honor-fred-schoch. **Janet Stroup Fox** shared: Hi all! We are still in Montana and loving life in Big Sky Country. I'm still writing, and online courses in writing for children, as well as a small group program for writers. My most recent book is a picture book, *Wintergarden*, illustrated by Jasu Hu, and next up is *The Mystery of Mystic Mountain* for ages eight-14 (Simon & Schuster October, 2024). Come visit, especially if you need to escape the heat! **Gary Demack** shared:

I married Tracy Jean Lutz of New Castle, Pennsylvania last December after a whirlwind year-long courtship. With thanks to Janet Fox for encouraging and believing in me, my first novel, *The Broken Fife*, loosely based on my great-grandfather's life, should be out sometime late this year or early in 2025.

1970

Adele Young (Dele Eissler) shared: It is with sadness that I note the death of our classmate **Jane Conklin** on March 27, 2024. Jane died peacefully, surrounded by family after a series of strokes. At Kent she was a quiet but supportive friend with a great sense of humor. She was a very talented musician and performed several concerts and sang in the choir during her time at Kent. That compassion and love of music lasted throughout her life and was demonstrated in her work as a social worker, her activities in her church and her membership in multiple musical groups. She is missed by many. **Jean Neuendorffer Bubriski** shared: We are moving back to the Orlando area from Jacksonville, Florida. Our daughter, Anne, is Department Head at the

University of Central Florida for Women and Gender Studies and is moving back to Orlando also with her two sons. I had a great visit with Adele Young at our Penn 50th Reunion." After a two-year effort, **Jere Fletcher** led a group of about 40 people to the Dominican Republic for an International Sister Cities youth baseball exchange. The boys, ages 11-14, played against a similar team arranged by classmate **Ernest Fair**. Jere immediately followed that by biking the Erie Canal trail, 560 miles from Buffalo to Albany in eight days of pedaling with temperatures often around 90 degrees. On the last evening, he performed two of his signature humor pieces to an audience of about 400. Before the end of the summer, he bicycled around three more Finger Lakes (Owasco, Otisco, and Keuka), completing circumnavigation of nine of the 11 Lakes.

1972

Robert Sanford shared: I retired from academia and now work part-time as a scholar guide with Road Scholar (formerly Elder Hostel) programs in the National Parks and tribal lands of the Southwest.



Members of the class of 1974 enjoying 2024 Reunion Weekend.



Steven Doman '74 skiing in Hakuba Valley, Japan. Note the Burger King slope side, amazing!



Rob Smith '74's mother celebrated her 100th birthday in December 2024. Paul McDonald '74 and his wife, Libby, also attended the celebration in Raleigh, North Carolina.

1973

Julia Littlewood Duval shared: I recently became a grandmother of Laurie Lewis. I have three children Alexander, Katie, and Tom. I have been married to Jonny Duval, a shipping lawyer, since 1985. After gaining my doctorate in neuroscience I retrained as a solicitor (lawyer).

1974

Ross Newland shared: Had a wonderful time at the 50th. We had an unprecedented turnout, and I tried to catch up with people, some of whom I had had virtually no contact with since Prize Day. We have plenty of interesting people in our class, and I'm sorry I missed talking to a few of them. One of the highlights was on Saturday, when the Girls of '74 got us all out on the dance floor. We had a blast. Another highlight was renting the cabin with Al Tyson, Mike Waskevich, and Dave Malin for the weekend. We spent plenty of quality time together, proving once again that the bonds we made at such a formative age last forever.



Anne Brophy O'Grady '76's memorial gathering in June. Back row: Maribeth Milne (Anne's roommate in College), Cornelia Armbrecht Brefka '76, Margy Knight Dudley '76, Anne Bavier '76. Front row: Jane Musser Nelson '76, Tracy Harding Lincoff '76, and Wendy Jeffery Hubbell '76.

1975

Beth Danielson shared: Luke Beermann and I realized that we live 20 minutes away from each other in Northern California and have gotten together for lunch a couple of times. Persis Luke is on her epic U.S. tour on her motorcycle and visited me at our cabin mid-August. Mark Vollmer and I are excited about organizing our 50th reunion that is June 20-22. If you are interested in getting involved with creating plans, just contact us. We would love your input.



Bruce McBarnette '76 after winning the World Masters Track and Field Championships in the high jump for men over 65, at Bjorlanda Stadium in Gothenburg, Sweden.

1976

Anne Bavier shared: Many of Anne Brophy O'Grady's friends traveled to San Francisco to celebrate her life, including: Anne Bavier, Cornelia Armbrecht Brefka, Margy Knight Dudley, Wendy Jeffery Hubbell, Tracy Harding Lincoff, Jane Musser Nelson, and Beth Danielson '75. The memorial was held at St. Francis Yacht Club on June 23, 2024, and we all had a wonderful but teary four-day reunion. Many of Anne's friends spoke and



Nick McBain '76 at Svalbard, the northernmost coffee bistro on Earth, in 2011.

there were several common themes about Anne. She was a dear friend to many people, a fantastic athlete, especially skiing, handled her cancer with grace and never wanted it to define her, was charitable and volunteered on many committees, including being a Trustee and Class Secretary at Kent. Anne kept a positive outlook and kept laughing even on our last Kent Zoom call which was held shortly before her death. Anne touched many lives and will be greatly missed by so many people. Nick McBain shared: Since my year's ESU exchange



1979ers Doug Wilson and Jay Ash, in Casco Bay off Chebeague Island, Maine. Chasing stripers in August 2024.



The Class of 1979 at the reunion in June.



1979ers MaryLee Readyhough Blackwell, Molly Armbrecht Absolon, Jackie Casey McGuinness, Hillary Spizzirri McAtee, Dorsey Weber Gude, Diane deCordova, and Catherine Ericson at the Kent Reunion in June 2024.



Brian McElwee '80 and wife Quinn completed hiking the Appalachian Trail in July 2024.



Lisa Brown Williams '80, Lyn Shultz '78, and Lydia Sealy Hayes '79 in Seattle in October 2023.



Lisa Brown Williams '80 and Lydia Sealy Hayes '79 in Vancouver.



Florida golf trip with Chris '80 and Caroline O'Callaghan, Christine and Michael Hanley '80, Susie and Pete Edmonds '80, and Cliff and BJ Beal '80.

at Kent, I went to Dundee University 1976-1981 including a year near Poitiers and a lot of time with the University's climbing club, and a wild month one summer traveling Europe on an Inter-Rail ticket with classmate **John Bier**. After a few years building an HR/L&D career in London and S. England, my partner Su and I came back up to Scotland for the last 30 years. After several national HR & People Development roles, I went freelance in January 2000 for nearly 20 years of running my own rewarding business doing coach, trainer and

consultancy work. I've hiked, biked, ski-toured, and scrambled upwards in the Rockies, Alps, Scandinavia, Pyrenees, Atlas, plus Indian and Nepal Himalaya (Patagonia next); visited widely in Scotland's beautiful islands; done my Scottish over-5,000 foot "Munros," a Land's End to John o'Groats bike and much else besides. Among other volunteering have been a visiting Hospice counselor and a visiting Prison Chaplain. Now retired, living in Kirriemuir in the county of Angus, still outdoorsy, and regularly visiting bustling vibrant Dundee nearby with partner Su

Baxter where our journey began back in 1981! Cheers all.

1979

Catherine Ericson shared: 26 classmates gathered to celebrate friendship (new and old) and memories at our 45th Reunion. We experienced dorm life in a new dorm, while others enjoyed air conditioning at local Airbnb's, cocktails by the river, dinner at the Fife 'n Drum, great meals on campus, visits to the Girls School and Numeral Rock and a class fav activity - cooling off at Fifth Form Beach - with beer

of course. To see photos from our Reunion, join our private Facebook page, Class of 1979 Kent School. **Charlie Hurdman**: It was wonderful reconnecting, and sharing life stories and experiences, with so many of our Class of 1979 classmates at our 45th reunion last June. Those of us who did participate also recognized how many of our classmates weren't there. I encourage anyone who hasn't been attending our reunions to try to make it to our 50th. A big thank you to **Cathy Ericson**, and any/all others who continue to take the lead in keeping the communications channels open



Abby Tyson Ciambro '81 participating in the Kent Day of OutREACH in Norwalk, Connecticut in May 2024.



Class members of '81 created a LoveKent campaign video together using Zoom. Left to Right: Emilie Christie Burack, Tracy Greene Craighead, Becca Flemer, Emme Miller, Peter Tattersfield, Rich Lindahl, Kathy Kolligan DeTullio, and Mike Oniskey (on the phone!).



Jim Sweitzer '66, Tracy Craighead '81, and Brad Craighead '80 at a cocktail reception at the Norwalk Boat Club in July 2024.

and these now almost 50-year-old relationships and friendships alive and thriving! In December 2024, 19 of our classmates gathered together at the Kent Holiday Party in NYC. Photos can be found on our Class Facebook page. Hope to see you in December 2025 at the Kent Holiday Party!

1980

Ann Munigle shared: **Michica Nomi** and husband Scott McDonald live in Nagano, Japan, one hour by bullet train ride from Tokyo. Michica works for a U.S. accounting firm remotely from home. **Cynthia Schroeder** owns the lovely Spring Street Boutique in Charlottesville, Virginia. She has an Instagram and Facebook presence and website, through which fun apparel and accessories can be purchased. **Carol Hassler Kruse** shared: this is my kind of retirement, no longer working full-time, continuing on the Board of Directors of Valvoline, Inc. and as a Venture Partner for Oregon Venture Fund. And, when I'm not traveling for vacation or visiting my kids/family, I'm splitting my time between Emerald Isle, North

Carolina and beautiful Bend, Oregon! **Chris O'Callaghan** submitted: I was recently with **BJ Beal**, **Peter Edmonds**, and **Michael Hanley** on a golf trip in Florida. BJ and his wife Cliffy have their 9th grandchild on the way. Pete and his wife Susie have a grandchild and my wife Caroline and I have twin boy grandchildren. They and their families are all doing well. BJ & Cliffy live in Midland, Texas where they are surrounded by family and friends and BJ is involved in running BTA Oil & Gas. **Bob Davenport '85** is married to BJ's sister Elizabeth and they were anticipating the birth of a grandchild the night we had dinner together. The Beals and Davenports are great Kent families. Talk to **Mark McEnroe** and **Bob Lincoln** regularly. Linc just had either one or two of his three daughters get married, living in Darien, Connecticut. Mac is living on the Upper West Side of Manhattan with his wife Diane and has three children, the oldest works for Senator Chris Murphy in Washington, D.C. Not sure what the others are doing but both Mac and Diane are high-powered attorneys. Mac left Kent after his sophomore year.

1981

Submitted by **Tracy Craighead**: So what Kenties have I been in touch with since the last update...? Well, there was the February 2024 push for the LoveKent campaign (which feels like eons ago now) where a few of us got together and created a "Why We Love Kent" video. We shared it on our '81 class Facebook page. (It's still there if you missed it.) Thank you again to **Emilie Christie Burack**, **Becca Flemer**, **Kathy Kolligan DeTullio**, **Rich Lindahl**, **Emme Miller**, **Mike Oniskey**, and **Peter Tattersfield** for participating in that effort and explaining why Kent matters to them. In May, I helped coordinate our second Kent Day of Outreach in Norwalk, Connecticut with **Muffy Mallory '67**. We volunteered at Filling-in-the-Blanks, packing over 1,850 weekend meal bags for students in need in the "Fairchester" area. Those who lent a helping hand (around our era) included: **Barbara Vaughn '78**, **Larry Cohen '78**, **Brad Craighead '80**, **Alice Smith Clark '84** and **Chris Perry '87**, and our very own classmate, **Abby Tyson**. Who I should add has now joined the



Leelee Smith Klein '81 and Tracy Moritz Sykes '81 enjoying the 2024 Olympic Games in Paris together.

ranks of "empty-nesters" having had her daughter, Micaela, graduate from Wake Forest University as a psychology major this spring. Others celebrating recent graduations (that I know of): **Erica Hogg-Belden's** son, Julian, graduated from Williston High School, Summa Cum Laude. (wowza and double congrats!) and is headed to Golf Coast Florida University in the fall. I am also proud to say our "baby" has launched in June 2024. Audrey graduated from Dartmouth College and is now working in Real Estate Finance at Starwood Capital in New York City. Congrats to



Adam Peck '82 and Michael Hoberman '82 hiking a section of the Appalachian Trail.



Jennie Cunningham '79 and Lissa Perry Gumprecht '82 at Kent's 2024 Graduation.



Lissa Perry Gumprecht '82 and Harold Orr at Kent's 2024 Graduation.



Lissa Perry Gumprecht '82's son, Oliver Gumprecht '24, on graduation day at Kent.



On their annual Saratoga Springs trip members of the Class of 1983 ran into Kip Elser. Left to right: Graham Motion '83, Kip Elser '69, and Doug Horner '83.



Members of the Class of '83 at Saratoga Race Track in summer of 2024, Kevin Coogan, Graham Motion, and Doug Horner. Two of the horses Graham trains, Summer Whirl and Sun Kissed Soiree, were winners at Saratoga.

all of us who have had recent high school, college or graduate school graduates and best of luck to them! Professional kudos to **David Gow** for being named the newly appointed president and CEO of the Center for Houston's Future, a non-profit organization dedicated to leading Houston into the future. I'd say they certainly made the right choice there. Congratulations, David! Last spring, Brad and I were involved with an effort to "Save the Norwalk River" from a manufacturing plant that wanted to resurrect its asphalt business. Our grassroots campaigning included meeting with different

boat clubs in the area. And in the process, we met **Jim Sweitzer '66**, novice team coach at CBC, one of Connecticut's top rowing clubs. We were also pleasantly surprised to learn that he was not only committed to our cause and a master oarsman but also a Kent graduate! Interestingly, he didn't row at Kent himself but his brother, **Brandon Sweitzer '60**, did and his nieces ('10 and '11) rowed and now his grandniece ('25) is currently stroke on Kent's first boat. So, the Kent rowing legacy continues on for the Sweitzer family! It's safe to assume that many of us enjoyed watching

the Paris 2024 Summer Olympic Games on television and maybe some were even lucky enough to be there in person, but we do know for sure that **Leelee Smith Klein** and **Tracy Moritz Sykes** attended with their families. And in case you missed it, Team USA produced the greatest number of medals of any national team including a tie for gold medals with China at 40 a piece! Tracy's husband, Gene, is the President of the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Committee, and together, they are responsible for working with sports leaders and athletes all around the world who participate in Olympic and

Paralympic sports. They hope to see many Kent friends at the 2028 Summer Games in Los Angeles.

1982

Lissa Gumprecht shared: I had a wonderful weekend in Kent in June 2024 watching my son **Oliver Hartwell Gumprecht '24** graduate. I got to share the experience with my best bestie **Jennie Cunningham '79**. Also incredibly memorable that weekend was watching **Harold Orr** receive his diploma, too! What a wonderful thing for the school to do for such a beloved member of the community. **Michael Hoberman** shared: **Adam Peck** and I (and my dog Babette) put "simplicity of life" to the test in May 2024 and spent a couple of days in the woods. We hiked a 25-mile section of the Appalachian Trail, starting at the Macedonia Brook crossing of Route 541, right by the School, and finishing just south of Salisbury. **Alex Hunger** shared: I've now been retired for six months. Having left corporate controversies behind me, I'm now much more relaxed. After more than a year of practice, our band Yellow Radiation



Class of 1986 reunion in Vermont, left to right, Ted Acworth, Henry Phyfe, Sean Riley, Chris Smith, Luc Lafontan, Bret Lafontan '91, Kate Abrams O'Neil, and Brian O'Neil (married into the family). Not shown: Andrew Preusse.



Members of the class of 1987 catching up over dinner in New York. Chris Pryor '87, Christy Hooper '87, Hollyjean Comer Zapf '87, Chris Perry '87, and Alison Perry.



Matt Burkholder '87 celebrating 28 years in the car business.



Recent Kent graduates currently studying at Trinity College gathered with former Alumni Council member Scott Lister '88 and his wife, Jessica, a Trinity alumna. Left to right: Wyatt Mills '22, Chris Yi '22, Jack Muirhead '23, Lillie Edwards '22, Scott Lister '88, Jessica Lister, and Jake Hall '21.



After 15 years, Michael Schouten '90 (right) finished climbing all 282 Scottish Munros (i.e. "Hills" in Scotland over 3000 ft). This involved getting very wet and lots of stumbling around in the mist, but fortunately there were also moments of great beauty and drama.



1992 Alumni Minki Synn and Dirk Huenink got together in WA for a round of golf and dinner in September.



Class of 1994 at the reunion. Annie Prenner Schmidt, Beth Acly, Nick Kotchoubey, Jacob Gram, John Tuohy, Andy Smith, Richard Farley, Robert DesMarais, Liz Hughes, Alicia Pokoik Deters, Anne Jones Collonge, Drew Saunders, Gavin Flickinger, and Chrissy Nipper Bogal. Photo taken at 13 Ward Road, Robert DesMarais's house.

played its first gig at my huge birthday/retirement party in June, where my closest friends and relatives attended. I also used the time for travel. I did a one-week solo tour of Sweden to visit museums, then the entire family did a three-week tour de France, which we never had time for before. Now I've settled into my role as houseman as my wife Silke returned to work teaching primary school and my daughter is in 7th grade. In between, I manage my little scale model company, Gecko Heavy Industry, and will soon have new products

out on a regular basis. **Jack Piatelli** shared: I moved down to Westerly, Rhode Island, it is a hidden gem!

1983

Liza Vanneck shared: I went to the 2024 New York Yankees Women's Mini-Fantasy Camp in Tampa January 8-11, 2024! It was incredible!

1985

Ned DeJarnette shared: I am

married to Sara Schmidt (New Orleans, Louisiana); three kids, Taylor (18 and headed to University of Alabama in the fall), Colette (14 and headed to high school at St. Agnes in Houston), and Edmund (10 and headed to 5th grade at Western Academy in Houston).

1987

Matt Burkholder shared: 2024 was a great year! My wife, Courtney, and I celebrated our 30th anniversary. After

three kids (27/25/15) and many business-related moves, she is still with me! What is also hard to believe is I am going into my 28th year in the car business. In March, I acquired a Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram dealership in Hillsboro, Texas (in between Dallas and Waco) and I look forward to continuing to grow. It has been great to reconnect with fellow DFW Kent grads **Ernest Franklin**, **Ted Handler**, **Lance Thayer**, **Rick Benners '86**, and **Blake Davenport '86**. **Vinny Dotoli** shared: I'm living in NYC and run a K-8 independent



Meaghan Buckley Holbrook '96 and daughters, Nell and Willa.



Tommy Vitolo '96 and Brendan McGillick '96 at Benjamin's Raw Bar in Newport.



Matt Cushing '99 lives in São Paulo, Brazil, where there is a small but enthusiastic hockey community where he proudly represents Kent.



Alex Jones '00 swimming over the equator.



Alex Jones '00 in the starboard engine compartment troubleshooting the malfunctioning salinity sensor on her watermaker.



Jacqueline Powers Mendelsohn '02 and her husband, Mark, welcomed a son, Luca Winters Mendelsohn, on September 6, 2024. Luca joins big siblings Ava (23), Max (20), Julia (5) and Miles (4).

and Mike and Liesbeth Hirschfeld were voted in as honorary members to the Class of 1994. We welcomed them with adult beverages and grilled sausages. **Robert Wolfson, Sara Renda Grauch, and Kate Kolb Brennan** joined us for the Saturday evening party. I'm beginning to plan the 55th year reunion. Please reach out to me if you plan on attending. See you in 2029! **Evan Hunt** writes: from Caprock Academy in Colorado, I wanted to share that I am the new Head of School at the No. 1 ranked charter school in Mesa County.

1996

Meaghan Buckley Holbrook shared that she and her husband Anthony Holbrook welcomed their second daughter in March 2024. Meaghan, Anthony, big sister Nell, and little sister Willa live across the pond in England. **Tommy Vitolo** shared that he was delighted to run into **Brendan McGillick** this past fall in Newport.

2000

Alexandra Jones shared: I've been doing quite a bit of sailing

school that is focused on driving equity of opportunity for promising students. Two Harlem Academy grads are currently attending Kent and another (from the Class of '21) is now at Hamilton. Last year, **George-Ann Gowan** and some folks from the Episcopal church in town came down to visit. It was nice to share gratitude for what she, Mr. Gowan, and other members of the Kent community had done for me, along with efforts to pay it forward through the ongoing work at HA. **Ted Handler** shared: I joined a

partnership for a new leadership development academy in Dallas based on USMC leadership. Super rewarding and fun! <https://tribeandtrust.com/>. **Stephen Rodocanachi** shared: We were visited by **Heather Kennedy Burgess** and her husband Todd as they dropped off a daughter at college. Our youngest started senior year at Tulane, putting us up for tuition parole!

1994

Gavin Flickinger shared the

following from **Drew Saunders**: A nice turn out from our class for reunion weekend celebrating 50 years since our graduation. We kicked off the weekend's festivities at the Fife 'n Drum. Attendees for the Friday night event included **Craig Culver, Rud Niles, Perrin Berkey Martin, Kay Vorderwuelbecke, and Tate Tucker**. On Saturday afternoon, **Robert DesMarais** hosted a barbeque for our class. **Andy Smith** was the Master of Ceremonies and welcomed three special members of the faculty to our class. **Robert DesMarais**,



Jordan Pyers, Class of 2005, in the Southern Alps in France in May 2024.



Kate Emerson Emerdello '06 and her husband Luke Emerdello welcomed Ben on August 12, 2023.



Vanessa Schwartz '07 with her groom William "Lloyd" Firth.



Emily (Evans) Paszko '08, Sung Min Oh '07, Vanessa Schwartz '07, Alex Johnson '08, and Laurel Hanson '07 celebrating Vanessa's wedding.



Lesea Bourke Berry '11 and Jessica Stedman Guff '78 on Nantucket, where Lesea held a trunk show for her company Lesea Berry.



Lindsey Sweitzer Einhorn '11 (left) is an active Duty officer stationed in Ft. Liberty serving as an embedded psychologist.



The Weaver family in Watch Hill, Rhode Island.

since I left Kent, cruising and racing in various places around the world. Most recently I've been racing J80s in my current home city of Helsinki. Last spring I did my longest crossing yet, sailing 4,751 miles across the Pacific Ocean from Panama City to the Marquesas in French Polynesia. The initial crossing took 32 days with a crew of four others on a 47-foot catamaran sailboat. We experienced storms and squalls, swam off the boat over the equator in 30,000 feet of water, met dolphins, whales, squid, flying fish, red-footed

boobies and gulls, saw nightly bioluminescence, and witnessed amazing sunsets and views of the milky way unencumbered by any sort of light pollution. Once we reached Hiva Oa and had some repairs done to several vital systems onboard, we continued on for another 900 miles to explore the Tuamotus, and then to Tahiti and the Leeward Islands.

2005

Annie Chambers shares that she enjoys working with many Kent

alumni to plan their vacations. Over the past decade, she's planned many honeymoons and family trips. She is the owner of Crafted Escapes, a Virtuoso boutique travel agency. She recently added a team of eight travel advisors, and the company is now bi-coastal. One of her best hires has been the new Operations Manager, fellow classmate **Jordan Pyers '05**. Her passion for travel and exploration began early, leading her to study abroad in Africa during college. There, she lived with the Maasai for three months, studying

archaeology, camping in the bush, and learning from the warriors. Jordan also spent a year in Australia, where she worked and traveled extensively. She has transformed daily operations, optimized sales pipelines, and streamlined client experience, bringing remarkable efficiency and growth to the company.

2007

Vanessa Gabrielle Schwartz wed William "Lloyd" Firth at the Church of Bethesda-by-the-Sea followed by a reception at



Graham Thomas '13, Connor Mitchell '13, Bryan Guidal '13, and Alex Drabik '13 on Alex's wedding day.



From left to right: Meagan Drabik, Roxanne Drabik (previously worked in Dean's office), Alex Drabik '13, Nora Foxx Drabik, Dan Drabik, and Chelsea Drabik (previously worked in Dean's office).



Bridesmaid Mary Westermann '14, bride Sawyer Ryan Strahle '14, and groom Liam Strahle with Father Schell.



Mary Westermann, Sawyer Ryan Strahle, and Lauren Kearney, all from the class of 2014, at Mary's wedding in June. *Photo: Erika Coy Photography*



Members of the class of 2014 pose outside of the dinner dance during Reunion '24. From L to R: Mitch Allen, Drew Torrey, James Ricciardi, Tucker Loflin, Julia Siebert, Teddy Voulgaris, Meghan McSharry, Kate Conway, Cloe Cobbs, Lauren Kennelley, Alex Calabrese, Emma Kendrick, Brendan Soucie, Libby Anderson, Matt Holland, and Will Chynoweth.



Well-known Twitch streamer IShowSpeed wears Will Biondo '22's hat while standing with Kai Cenat.

the Palm Beach Yacht Club in Palm Beach, Florida on June 29, 2024. A celebration for friends was held on August 24 at the Cosmos Club in Washington, D.C. where the couple resides. **Emily (Evans) Paszko '08**, **Alex Johnson '08**, **Sung Min Oh**, and **Laurel Hanson** were in attendance.

2011

In January 2024, **Morgan Weaver** and his wife Makenzie welcomed their daughter Maisie Rose Weaver to the world! She is quite

a tall baby (no shock there) and is such a joy to be around. The Weavers are so excited to bring Maisie to the next reunion to see Kent and maybe inspire some future enrollment! **Lindsey Sweitzer** shared: I decided to become a psychologist during my senior year at Kent while taking AP psych with Mr. Smith and have been on that path ever since! I attended Boston College and commissioned through Army ROTC in 2015. Currently, I am an Active Duty officer stationed in Ft. Liberty serving as an embedded psychologist.

2013

Alex Drabik married Nora Foxx on October 21, 2023, in Massachusetts. In attendance from the Kent class of 2013 were **Connor Mitchell** (best man), **Bryan Guidal**, and **Graham Thomas**, as well as the groom's mother and sister (Roxanne and Chelsea Drabik) both previously from the Dean's office.

2014

Meghan McSharry shared:

Around 20 members of the class of 2014 attended our 10-year reunion. We hope to see even more of our classmates at the 15th! **Sawyer Ryan Strahle** shared: I married Liam Strahle in May of 2025 in a small private ceremony and we celebrated with a large wedding a year later in Napa, California surrounded by family and friends. **Mary Westermann** shared that she married Samir Rahim in Mountainville, New York in June 2024. Sawyer Ryan Strahl and **Lauren Kearney** were in attendance.

2020

Katherine Herrema was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa; has accepted her admittance to the London School of Economics to pursue her Master's degree in Finance and was able to defer her Goldman Sachs (in NYC) job to July 2025, following her study at LSE. She's had two great educational and social experiences, Kent and Davidson, and is pleased and grateful for both.

2022

Will Biondo shared: since my time at Kent, I've been building out my streetwear brand, Arkyve, which really took off with my crochet hats. It's been a wild journey, starting with early struggles and smaller collections, but things have evolved. After a successful NYC popup, I got the chance to do another pop-up in France, bringing my hats and tees to Paris. That experience was incredible, being part of the fashion culture there and seeing firsthand how international customers connect with my designs. Recently, I've also been working with a high-level stylist whom I met with in Japan, which has been another huge milestone for me. She's been helping with seeding my products to NFL and NBA players. The opportunities have been growing, and I'm excited about where Arkyve is heading next—especially with plans to diversify and keep expanding globally. Also, still very focused on college! Don't worry, Mom!

A reminder to our readers and contributors In our Class Notes section, we take great care to edit submissions for style and brevity while preserving the accuracy of the information provided. However, it's important to note that we do not alter factual content. The information shared by our alumni is presented as accurately as it is received. Any discrepancies or inaccuracies should be brought to our attention for verification and correction.



Is there a new cub in the house?

Share the joy of your newest family member with us and we'll ensure that your alumni record reflects this wonderful milestone.

As a token of our excitement, we'll send you a special edition gift from us -

BABY SOCKS

Email
alumni@kent-school.edu
and be sure to include your cub's name and birthdate!



Class Volunteers

Email your class notes to a class volunteer from your year or send your notes to alumni@kent-school.edu

1950

Dick Thompson
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1951

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2022

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Benjamin Michaud Bang
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In Memoriam

1941
J. Edward Bassett III
January 25, 2025

1942
Joseph "Jay" K. Milnor
December 28, 2024

1944
Dwight F. Davis
August 10, 2024

1946
Anthony Cooper
May 25, 2024

1947
Robert Pulford
May 16, 2024

1948
William Lee Pryor III
August 15, 2024

Charles F. Bryan
October 5, 2024

1949
Peter S. Conover
February 5, 2025

1950
Alexander S. McKinney
June 20, 2024

William Halsey Wood III
November 11, 2024

George E. Hoare
December 20, 2024

1952
William G. Carey
December 6, 2024

1955
Peter S. Howell
September 21, 2024

William J. Spall
June 11, 2024

G. Stephen Voorhees II
April 28, 2024

1955
Murray H. Baldwin
August 25, 2024

David L. Thun
October 31, 2024

1956
Richard E. Baiter
November 7, 2024

John T. Detwiler
June 17, 2024

1959
Edward A. Ruckner Jr.
June 15, 2024

John H. Sterne
May 19, 2024

1960
Timothy N. Black
July 15, 2024

David D. Baiter
June 28, 2024

1965
Robert H. Green
October 29, 2024

David P. Symonds '65
January 10, 2024

1965
William H. Barrett
June 24, 2024

Courtland H. Grimm, Jr.
January 22, 2025

1967
Elizabeth Page Berg
December 3, 2024

1968
Elena de Murias
April 8, 2024

1970
Jane E. Conklin
March 27, 2024

1975
James J. McCarthy
December 25, 2024

1974
Susan Taylor Elving
September 5, 2024

1975
Jeanne E. Joyce
May 17, 2024

Cecile Owens Plattner
November 5, 2024

Lisa A. Willemsen
May 28, 2024

1976
Anne Brophy O'Grady
April 24, 2024

Richard Branscomb
June 24, 2024

1978
Roger E. Saucy
October 2024

1979
JoAnn Senter Gracey
January 17, 2024

Amy K. O'Connor
February 2, 2025

1984
Gerald N. Flemma
December 10, 2024

1985
Marian Kimball Eichinger
August 29, 2024

1989
Michael Lehman '89 P'22
September 26, 2024

1996
Todd C. Bacinich
November 15, 2024

2012
Julia Uribe
September 9, 2024

FACULTY/STAFF

Johanna Albrecht
May 14, 2024

Michael A. Wright '81
February 17, 2025 *

TRUSTEE

William G. Carey III 1952
December 6, 2024

**We are deeply saddened to announce the passing of Michael Wright '81. A full tribute honoring Michael's life, accomplishments, and contributions to our community is forthcoming.*

J. Edward Bassett III '41 and Joseph K. Milnor '42 attended Kent when Fr. Sill was Headmaster, and they were both greatly influenced by him. Fr. Sill would be proud of these two alumni, who lived according to Kent's motto, Simplicity of Life, Directness of Purpose, and Self-Reliance.

William G. Carey III 1952

Former Trustee William Gibson Carey III 1952 passed away on December 6, 2024, in Waitsfield, Vermont. Bill is survived by his beloved wife of 67 years, Kate (Kip); his two sons, Gib (Sarah) and Andrew (Liza); and his six grandchildren. Bill graduated from Union College in 1956. There, he met Kip, and together they built a life of adventure, love, and enduring family traditions. Bill had a rich and varied career. After excelling in sales and marketing at Airco in its welding products division, he along with Kip modernized and enhanced his family's ranch business in Throckmorton, Texas. In 1990, he co-founded Newport Hospitality Group, a hotel management company, where he left a legacy of employee-focused leadership. Through each endeavor, Bill cultivated a culture of collaboration, innovation, and care.

Bill was a devoted Kent School alumnus throughout his life. He served on the Board of Trustees from 2010-2021. To recognize and reward the outstanding work of Kent's faculty, he established two teaching chairs: The Clifton K. Loomis Teaching Chair in English and The William G. Carey 1952 Teaching Chair in Math, Science, and History. Bill and Kip attended many Class of '52 gatherings, from on-campus reunions to summer get-togethers hosted by his classmate Jim Bishop.

Bill will be deeply missed by all who knew him. He was a generous guide, a wise mentor, and a loving family man. His commitment and philanthropy will have a lasting impact on Kent School.

J. Edward Bassett III 1941

J. Edward "Ted" Bassett III passed away on January 25, 2025, at the age of 105. Ted credited Kent for helping to shape him into the man he became. "Those five long years along with the Marine Corps were the most formative and determinative of my life. I shall always treasure the memories of the Spartan life, the importance of the Church, the influence of the Masters, the athletic victories, and of course the friendships of our classmates. But above all, a lifetime allegiance to and appreciation for Kent School."

After graduating from Yale, Ted enlisted in the Marine Corps and participated in the Okinawa campaign and the initial landing in Japan. Among his awards for his Marine Corps service were two Purple Hearts and the Presidential Unit Citation. In 2011, he was honored with the Congressional Medal of Honor Society Distinguished Citizen Award, given to those who, through their life's work, have distinguished themselves as Americans dedicated to freedom and the ideals represented by the Congressional Medal of Honor Society.

Ted was a well-known and influential figure in the world of thoroughbred racing, having served as President of Keeneland Association, President of the Breeders' Cup, and of the Thoroughbred Racing Associations. He received numerous awards during his lifetime for his achievements and service to thoroughbred racing.

Ted was inducted into both the Kent School Athletic Hall of Fame and The Rev. Frederick H. Sill, OHC Society.

Joseph "Jay" Milnor 1942

Joseph "Jay" Milnor 1942 passed away on December 28, 2024, at the age of 101. Jay followed in the footsteps of his father Mike, Class of 1915, to Kent. In his Sixth Form year, Jay was appointed Sacristan, was elected President of the Glee Club, and captained the baseball team. Fr. Sill's profound influence and steady tutelage shaped Jay's lifelong values, and whenever he visited campus (his most recent visit was in 2021) he made a point of visiting Fr. Sill's grave in the chapel garden.

During WWII, Jay served courageously in the U.S. Army Air Force as a gunner and member of the 725th squadron of the 15th Air Force. In 2019, the French Consulate General in Boston awarded him the French Legion of Honor in a private, stateside ceremony recognizing his service toward the liberation of France.

Jay had a long and distinguished career in education, teaching at Rectory School and Pomfret School, and serving as Principal of the American School, Robert Academy in Istanbul. In 1961 he was appointed Headmaster of Pomfret School where he served until 1973. During his tenure at Pomfret, Jay built a legacy of character-building, mentorship, inspiration, and innovation. He believed strongly in the power of education and the strength of community to influence and change lives, much like Fr. Sill.

Preserving Our History: A Special Archives Donation

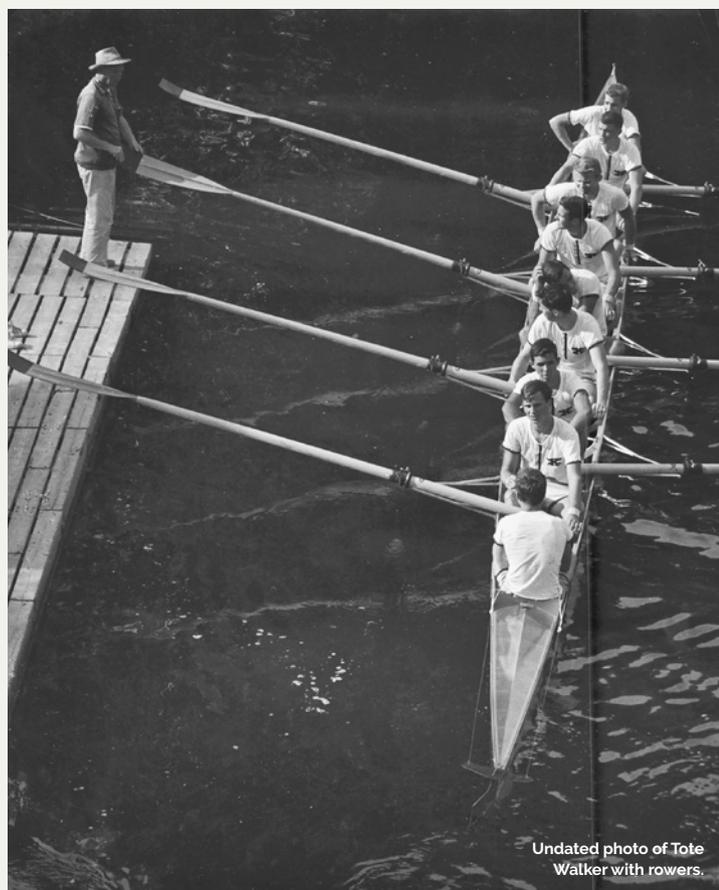
The Kent School Archives recently received a special addition—Tote Walker’s scrapbook—generously donated by his daughter, Marion Walker. This collection offers a fascinating glimpse into the past, preserving moments that connect generations of alumni. We are grateful for this valuable contribution, which enriches our understanding of school history.



Undated photo of Tote Walker in his U.S. Air Force uniform.



Tote Walker and Father Sill, featured in *The New York Times* in 1938



Undated photo of Tote Walker with rowers.



A quiet and peaceful moment on campus as winter comes to a close.



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Help grow our LinkedIn alumni community by inviting your fellow Kent graduates to join our “Kent Alumni Association” group. Our goal is to make this online group a place where connections happen every day—where alumni support each other, share opportunities, and stay engaged.



Scan the QR code for the link to join and for a full listing of upcoming events.